

16.10.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

BERMUDA arrived at the Clyde this morning with gale damage.

NELSON and FORMIDABLE arrived at Scapa this evening after completing repairs at Rosyth. R.A.(A) H.F. in VICTORIOUS with AVENGER and BITER left Scapa this morning for the Clyde.

M.L. patrols have been ordered for tonight 20 miles S.E. of Portland Bill and 20 miles S.E. of the Start.

Operation
E Z

ARGONAUT, INTREPID and OBDURATE left Seidisfiord at 0830 today.(see 13/10.)

Some barges were sunk and damaged and N.A.T. 113 was damaged by enemy air attack in Sharpham Reach, Dartmouth, this morning.

South Atlantic.

With the entry of Brazil into the war greater use will be made of Pernambuco as a coal bunkering port. In view of Pernambuco's limitations the Admiralty are arranging to improve the coaling facilities at Bahia for use as a relief port.

The Master of the Brazilian SS. FARRAPO reported sighting at 2200 local time 16 Oct. a small S/M on the surface with a mast up, 2 miles east of Jurea Point (58 miles S.W. of Santos) The S/M was not Brazilian.

Cape
Area.

As there is every prospect of the U-Boat threat in the Cape area being maintained for some time, the Admiralty consider that escorted group sailing should be instituted as soon as sufficient reinforcements have arrived from the Eastern Fleet.

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Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

The enemy aircraft today employed different tactics and made attacks by many formations on a wide front and approaching from several directions simultaneously. Takali aerodrome was rendered unserviceable by air attack and damage was caused at Luqa, though the aerodrome remains serviceable. In 125 Spitfire sorties today against 206 enemy sorties the enemy lost 7 aircraft destroyed and 20 damaged or destroyed: A.A. also destroyed one. British losses were 6 Spitfires destroyed (3 pilots missing) and 8 damaged.

23 Wellingtons bombed harbour installations at Tobruk last night in bad weather.

America and West Indies.

S.C.104
U/B (U.353)
sunk.
(Ltr: Rowbotham
2 Oct. 1943.)

The destroyer FAME, one of the escorts of S.C.104, this evening sank a U-Boat in 53° 54' N 29° 16' W by ramming and depth charges. FAME is holed and is proceeding direct to U.K., at present steaming at 12 knots. Thirty-nine prisoners were picked up by FAME and ACANTHUS.

U.S. POLARIS was sunk today by internal explosion Davis Strait. (2 Oct. 1942)

O.N.S.
136.

In addition to STORNEST, torpedoed on 13/10, GARLAND reports that EMPIRE TURNSTONE is missing from O.N.S.136.

U.S. WINONA and SS. CASTLE HARBOUR are reported to have been torpedoed at 1720 G.M.T. today in 11° 0' N 60° 10' W, off Trinidad; the latter was sunk: the former arrived safely at Trinidad.

O.N.137

CELANDINE one of the escorts of O.N.137 attacked a U-Boat about 1200Z today in fog, in about 53° 34' N 25° 23' W (approx. 480 miles west of Ireland) It is believed the attack was successful. (Not confirmed by Ltr: Rowbotham 19 Oct. 1943.)

War Diary.

16.10.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

EASTBOURNE,
BUDE.

Are to exchange flotillas.
(D.M.S. 1400A/16.)

p-489-3490

BRIXHAM,
ILFRACOMBE.

A.M. 2218/12 is cancelled. BRIXHAM and
ILFRACOMBE are to exchange Flotillas.
(D.M.S. 1403A/16.)

p-449 7490

Exercises.

"Flaxman" and "Mosstrooper". After consultation with F.O. Force E. and S.O.A.S.C. it has been found necessary to postpone exercises "Flaxman" until 0200/21. Wednesday October 21st. The chief reason for postponing is very bad weather for 3 consecutive days which has prevented all boat and lighter communication to ships, which has delayed work of storing and embarkation in A and B groups. Individual exercises in ships which are ready will take place commencing 18/10. Exercise "Mosstrooper" will take place as arranged at 0100/19, except that ships in X group will not all be present.
(R.A.C.O. 2005A/16 to Admty.)

Movements.

P.555.

p-479
p.506

My 1441A/11th. To avoid O.N.137, request P.555 be re-routed from 48.35 N. 32.05 W. to 49.15 N. 29.00 W. thence (M) omitting (L).
(C. in C. W.A. 1032A/16 to F.O.S. (R) A.I.G.191 (9) N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

PRINCE
CHARLES.

My 1755/12. Request PRINCE CHARLES may be sailed for Southampton as soon as landing craft are delivered.
(C.C.O. 1104A/16 to S.O.A.S.C.)

LAMERTON,
WHEATLAND.

Proceed passing Switha at 1800 today Friday to Greenock. On arrival act as ordered by F.O.I.C. Greenock. 3. Report E.T.A. to me before sailing.
(R.A.D. 1115A/16 to LAMERTON, WHEATLAND.)

My 1115A/16 sailed E.T.A. 1400/17.
(R.A.D. 1805A/16.)

RENOWN,
DUKE OF YORK.

Arrived Rosyth.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1145A/16.)

VICTORIOUS,
AVENGER,
BITER.

Scapa departures. R.A.(A) H.F. in VICTORIOUS with AVENGER, BITER,*MILNE, ORIBI, FORESTER, LEDBURY, OFFA, METEOR.
(A.C.O.S. 1154/16.)

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War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

MISOA, My 1315/12th not to all addressees MISOA.
BACHAQUERO. Messrs. John Brown & Co. report that work entailed in extended derrick for lifting pontoons cannot be completed until p.m. Sunday. Pontoon will have been embarked in meantime and vessel can be sailed 0700 Monday to arrive Wemyss Bay by 1030 to allow of loading tanks etc.

BACHAQUERO. If loading of pontoons is completed on Saturday it is hoped to be able to undock vessel at 0700 on Sunday so that vessel can arrive Wemyss Bay by 1030 Sunday for embarking tanks etc.
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1159A/16 to Admty., C.C.O., R.A.X.F., C. in C. X.F., N.O. i/c Greenock, S.O.A.S.C., MISOA, BACHQUERO, P.R.O.(C) Greenock, Cmdre. Force C. (in LARGS.))

"Grasp" and C. in C. W.A. 1231/13th and F.O.C.N.A. 2318/13th
"Sheik" Groups. not to F.O.C. C.F., MAGNOLIA and BARFLAKE consequent upon delay to "Grasp" Group sailing now intend to include "Sheik" Group comprising BARFLAKE, BARBARIAN and M.L.295 in codeword "Grasp" until the 3 ships for Gibraltar are detached at position (E) when they will re-assume codeword "Sheik".
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1217A/16.)

PHILANTE, Intend sailing PHILANTE escorting BATORY and
BATORY, OTRANTO 1530A/17th for Clyde in accordance
OTRANTO. with C. in C. W.A. 1538A/14th and 1740A/14th
See next page. and N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1816A/14th none to all addressees. E.T.A. 0330A/18th speed of advance 16 knots Codeword Junction help call on 385 k/cs.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1218A/16 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ACTIVITY. My 2026/11 Para 2 and my 1409/15th. Movement postponed a further 24 hours.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1219A/16.)

RHODODENDRON. My 1302/12th. Amend para (c) to read "arrive Greenock 1200A/22nd".
(C. in C. W.A. 1246A/16 to N.O.I.C. Greenock, Cmdre. WESTERN ISLES, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Londonderry, Capt. (D) Greenock.)

ALYNBANK. Is to arrive Greenock 0800A/22nd.
See p. 490.
(K.M.S.I.)
(C. in C. W.A. 1304A/16 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

/LULWORTH ...

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War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.LULWORTH,
DERBYSHIRE,
QUEEN EMMA,
PRINSES
BEATRIX.My 1114A/15. Codeword "Rebel" sailed at 1345.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1459A/16.)*See p. 461*AGASSIZ,
SACKVILLE.Request you sail AGASSIZ and SACKVILLE to
arrive Merville not later than 1200A/24.
(C.T.G. 24.7 1530A/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

→ OTRANTO.

My 1218A/16th not to all addressees. OTRANTO
is to be detached at entrance to Bute Sound to
proceed her anchor berth in Loch Fyne in
accordance with R.A.C.O. 1930/15th (not to you.)
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1558A/16 to PHILANTE (R)
C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Greenock, S.O. Force E.,
S.O.A.S.C., P.S.T.O. North Western Ports,
R.A.C.O., N.C.S.O. Mersey, Admiralty.)HALCYON,
HAZARD, SHARP-
SHOOTER.My 1411A/15. HALCYON, HAZARD, SHARPSHOOTER
left Dvina Bar 1000A/16.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1601A/16.)

P.555.

*See p. 477
p. 506*49° 10' N. 29° 25' W. probably on the surface
speed 9 knots through 49° 15' N. 29° 01' W.
and 56° 01' N. 14° 29' W.
(F.O.S. 1603A/16)

See also F.O.S. 1524A/17.

My 1603/16. (L) 14° 29' W. to read 17° 00' W.
(F.O.S. 1934A/16.)→ OTRANTO,
BATORY.*See previous page.*My 1218/16th, my 1242/16th, my 1558/16th none
to all addressees. OTRANTO and BATORY delayed
24 hours. Weather conditions render it
impossible to undock ship. Further signal will
be made. PHILANTE is to proceed Liverpool taking pilot at
Bar if desired and berthing in Gladstone dock as directed by
Capt.(D) Liverpool.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1736A/16 to N.O.I.C. Greenock, (R) N.O.I.C.
Londonderry, PHILANTE, Admty. S.O. Force E., S.O.A.S.C., C. in
C. W.A., E.A.C.O., N.O.I.C. Belfast, N.C.S.O. Mersey, Capt.(D)
Liverpool, P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports, Groups 9, 82, 13, A.O.C. in C.
F.C. Cdre.X.F.)FAULKNER,
MIDDLETON.*See next page.*Capt.(D) 8 in FAULKNER with MIDDLETON proceed
to pass Switha 1800A tomorrow to Hvalfjord
routed through 058° 50' N. 007° 02' W., thence
through Reykjanes passage.
2. On arrival request ECHO, IMPULSIVE may be sailed to Scapa.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1744A/16.)

/GLASGOW ...

War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

GLASGOW.

My 1825A/15 ^{/p.446} para 3 (not to FERNIE) For
ALBRIGHTON read FERNIE.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1812A/16 to C. in C.
Plymouth.)

STURGEON.

Request you will sail STURGEON when ready for
Portsmouth for onward routeing.
(F.O.S. 1821A/16 to C. in C. Nore.)

DEPTFORD.

p.507

{a) Arrive Greenock 0800A/18th.
{b) Arrive Londonderry p.m. 19th for exercises.
{c) Arrive Greenock 0800A/22nd.
(C. in C. W.A. 1858A/16 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool
etc.)

NELSON,
FORMIDABLE.

Scapa arrivals:- NELSON, FORMIDABLE with
*FAULKNER, PANTHER, MARNE, ESCAPADE and *MIDDLETON.
(A.C.O.S. 2135A/16.) * *see previous page*

Operations.Operation
E.Z.

My 1637/13 not to ARGONAUT, S.B.N.O. North
Russia. In addition to 38 R.A.F. Officers and
203 other ranks there are 37 officers and 130
men service personnel and survivors waiting
passage U.K. total 75 officers, 333 men.
(ii) Propose embarking all providing ARGONAUT and destroyers agree
on arrival this can be done without interference with fighting
efficiency 59 officers, 233 men in ARGONAUT, 8 officers and
50 men in each destroyer.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0809A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

Seidisfjord departure ARGONAUT, INTREPID, OBDURATE at
0830/16th.

(A.C.I.C. 1201A/16.)

C. in C. Home Fleet 1505A/12. Operation E.Z.

Request efforts be made to obtain meteorological data to assist
in forecasting along route. Data from the areas N.E. of Jan
Mayen and to the south of Bear Island are particularly required.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 2211A/16 to H.Q.C.C.)

Your 0809/16th. Concur. S.B.N.O. North Russia pass to
S.B.N.O. Archangel.

(C. in C. H.F. 2356A/16 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Patrols.

Patrol tonight Friday.

1. HAMBLEDON.
 2. EGLINTON.
 3. BLENCATHRA.
 4. MEYNELL.
 5. GARTH.
 6. GUILLEMOT.
- (C. in C. Nore 0952A/16.)

/1. Intend ...

War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Patrols. (contd.)
1. Intend M.Ls 123 (S.O) and 246 to patrol on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 35' W. and 2° 10' W. tonight Thursday/16 leaving Weymouth 1930 and returning from patrol line at dawn.
 4. Codeword Jovial.
 5. Request air protection be arranged.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1131/16 to C. in C. Portsmouth (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)
M.L. Patrol tonight October 16th.
 2. Forces employed M.Ls 181 (S.O) 259 and 180.
 3. Patrol. 7 miles 065° and 245° either side of position 130° Start 20' miles.
 4. Object. To intercept E.Boats.
 5. Information. E.Boats may work from either Guernsey or Cherbourg.
 6. Execution. Proceed at 1830/16 to patrol line. Leave patrol at daylight 17th and return Dartmouth speed to and from patrol is not to exceed 12 knots.
 7. Codeword Nation VI.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1351/16 to M.L.181, M.L.259, M.L.180 (R) N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Portsmouth, Admty., F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
2000 Dispositions.
 2. M.Ls on patrol 20 miles S.E. Portland Bill.
 3. M.Ls on patrol 20 miles S.E. Start.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1555A/16 to A.I.G. 31, Commander A/P Plymouth, 10 Group.)

"Rebel". My 1126A/15th. "Rebel" splitting into 2 parts. *See p. 479*
"Rebel" and "Rebel 1". "Rebel" consisting 2 small Troop ships (Assault ship) E.T.D. Bar L.V. as in my 1126A/15th. E.T.A. Cumbræes and S. of A. may be amended by ships concerned. "Rebel 1" consisting of 1 large Troop ship escorted by 1 sloop. E.T.D Bar L.V. and E.T.A. Cumbræes will be signalled when known. My 1232A/16th refers. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1258A/16 to Fighter Groups, 9, 82, 13 (R) A.O.C. in C. F.C., Admty., N.O.I.C. Belfast, N.O.I.C. Greenock, LULWORTH, QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX.)

Operation "Facsimile". Intend to sail M.G.B. 312 at 1700/16 for operation "Facsimile, returning Dartmouth on completion. Request fighter escort from 1st light 17th and surface bombing restrictions from 1700 16th to 0830 17th 10 miles either side of line joining Dartmouth and Cap Frehel. E.P. 1st light 17th 155° Dartmouth 33 miles. Request "Southern G" chain. Codeword Limited. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1301A/16 to C. in C. Plymouth (R) Admty., C.C.O.)

NORTHERN PRIDE, CAPE PALLISER, NORTHERN SPRAY. Request you will sail A/S Trawlers NORTHERN PRIDE, CAPE PALLISER and NORTHERN SPRAY for Reykjavik as soon as practicable. Two of these are required to leave Reykjavik for an operation about 24/10 and the third a few days later. (D.O.D.(H) 1654A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Operations.

Bombing restrictions. Cancel my 1858/15th. Request total bombing restrictions 25 miles either side of lines joining (A) 047° 50' N. 033° 01' W. through 048° 35' N. 032° 05' W. and 049° 15' N. 029° 01' W. to (B) 049° 32' N. 028° 25' W. from 1200A/16th to 1700A/17th.
From (B) to (C) 052° 04' N. 024° 15' W. from 1100A/17th to 2000A/18th.
From (C) to (D) 054° 33' N. 019° 42' W. from 0800A/18th to 2100A/19th.
From (D) through 056° 01' N. 016° 50' W. to (E) 056° 13' N. 014° 29' W. from 0600A/19th to 2359A/20th.
H.M. S/M P.555 is to report if outside bombing restrictions. (F.O.(S) 1034A/16 to H.Q.C.C. (R) C. in C. W.A., H.M.S. P.555, Capt (S) 3.)

A.C.175 16/10 Serial No.22. S.3's 1611/12. Institute submerged bombing restrictions 20 miles either side of line joining 49° 35' N. 09° 00' W. and 49° 00' N. 12° 15' W. from 1200/17 to 1200/18. Serial No.23 F.O.S. 2321/14. Institute submerged bombing restrictions 20 miles either side of line joining 49° 50' N. 10° 30' W. and 49° 40' N. 09° 45' W. from 1200/17 to 1400/18.

(H.Q.C.C. 1130A/16 to 15, 16, 18, 19 Group, A.C.O.S., F.O.S. S.3.)

A.C.170 16/10 ship. Cancel my A.C.181/12 bombing restrictions.

(H.Q.F.C. 1540A/16 to H.Q. 10 Group.)

R/C of French coast. Request R/C tonight 16th/17th (my 1606/15th) over route Le Havre to Fecamp only. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1144A/16 to H.Q.C.C.)

Bomber Command Report. Night 14/15 October 2 Wellingtons of One Group laid mines in enemy waters.
Day 15th October. Le Havre. 23 Bostons of 2 group set out with fighter cover to attack the NEUMARK reported in the Bassin Bellot. On

arrival the vessel was not in the position reported, but a large vessel later confirmed by photographs to have been the NEUMARK was spotted in the dry dock and attacked accordingly. Many bursts were seen to fall on Quay buildings adjacent to the vessel. No direct hits were actually seen to strike but there were some extremely near misses.

Den Helder. 1 Mosquito dropped bombs on the south end of dock 5 with unobserved results. 9 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. completed anti-submarine patrol, no sightings reported. (H.Q.B.C. 1225A/16.)

/Raider ...

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War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Operations - contd.

- Raider at Havre. A.M. 2310A/14. Air R/C shows that this ship has been docked again in No.7 Dock.
2. Para 2 is therefore cancelled.
3. Ship remains a Class One target but the degree of urgency of her destruction is not so great.
(D.O.D. (H) 1604A/16 to H.Q.C.C. Air Ministry.)
- Air Co-operation in Iceland. Message 1257/13 from C. in C. H.F. to Admty. is passed to you.
2. Request you will furnish information upon which an answer can be based.
(D.O.D. (H) 1631A/16 to H.Q.C.C.)
- Enemy Air Activity.
- 15th M.S.F. 1 enemy A/C shadowing course 030° height 1500 feet my position 65° 25' N. 13° 28' W.
(S.O. 15th M.S.F. 0840Z/16.)
- S.L.124. F.W. Condor sighted at 1325Z on approx. course 65°. My P.C. and S. 1325Z 043° 06' N. 015° 50' W.
(A) 008° 8. Weather report 4672 2123.
(WESTON 1355Z/16.)
- Dartmouth area. At 1115/16 four F.W.190 after Machine Gunning several farms etc. and Stoke Gabriel attacked barges in Sharpham Reach with four bombs, cannon and M/G Fire. Four barges sunk, several barges and Nat 113 damaged. Casualties. Coast crossed re-crossed at Blackpool Sands. Further signal will be made.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1614/16.)
- Iceland. *rec.* One enemy aircraft plotted east of Vattarnes 0931/16th and identified as F.W. and engaged by NORTHROPP over Seidisfiord at 0948. Contact lost in cloud, aircraft disappeared course west cloud 6 10th 2000 feet visibility 10 miles. Aircraft heard over Akureyri at 1240.
(A.C.I.C. 1830A/16.)
- Swanage. P.G.O.4053 at 1720/16 2.3's, 2 Mes approached Swanage 4 bombs dropped in Durlstone Bay but none ashore and no damage. No.386 Battery and No. 243 Troop 46 L. A/A Bty opened fire. C.G. Swanage reports information received of tail plane of one of hostile raiders found near Durlstone Castle. Plane last seen disappearing seawards in smoke but not observed to crash.
(N.O.I.C. Poole 1900/16.)

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War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation Your 1840/15th operation completed. Low
E.Y. visibility in snow storms now improving northerly
wind moderate sea.

(S.O. 15th M/S.F 1051Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)
Your 1051Z/16th. Carry out further searching (?sweep)
in approaches to Seidisfjord if weather permits. Further
signals will be made as to your future operations.

(A.C.I.C. 1331A/16 to S.O. 15 M.S.)

My 1331/16th no further operations were possible today
Friday.

(A.C.I.C. 2350A/16 to Adnty., C. in C. H.F.)

Intend following future programme for operation E.Y.

1. Extend existing swept channel about 5 miles to Northward of position Y to 065° 26' N. 013° 30' W. as North western point.
2. Clearance sweep to extend existing swept channel Eastward to a width of at least 2 miles between 065° 26' N. and 064° 53' N.
3. Further thorough searching sweep in entrance to a series up to Western edge of swept channel with particular attention to area to Eastward of Dalatangi.
4. Report progress of each day's sweeping.
(A.C.I.C. 1935A/16 to S.O. 15th M.S.F.)

Thames
Estuary.

H.M.D. EVENING PRIMROSE reports that at 1225/15 when in $\frac{1}{2}$ cable 180° from Knob Buoy, a very heavy explosion, considered undoubtedly a mine, occurred on a bearing of 280° (the column of water obscured the Mast of wreck of BRADGLEN) and at an estimated distance of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles column of water estimated at about 60 feet, colour white, but black to grey near the surface, the explosion which was heavy shook the ship. There were no minesweepers or other vessels in the vicinity at the time.

(X.D.O. Sheerness 1115A/16.)

Sweeping in
Q.Z.X.771.

(i) 9th M/S F. less SARGASSO is to sail from Portsmouth Gate at 1800/16 by inshore route escorted by 14th M.G.F. to sweep channel through Q.Z.X.771.

(ii) Time Table. E.A.5 2000/16th position NN 50.40 N. 00.04 E. 2230/16th KK. 50.18 N. 00.15 E. 0030/17th. LL. 50.11 N. 00.23 E. 0130/17th. LL.0215/17th. KK. 0315/17th. NN.0515/17th. E A 5 0745/17th.

(iii) Beachy Head light will be shown for 5 mins every quarter hour from 2157 to 2302.

(iv) Southern chain will be on 48.75 m/cs during the night until 0530/7th.

(v) GLAISDALE, ALBRIGHTON are to sail 1900/16th to patrol near position 50.20 N. 00.00 as cover, returning to pass E.A.5 buoy at 0630/17th.

(vi) If destroyers are required to support sweepers or pass Q.Z.X.771 to intercept an enemy they are to pass through positions KK and LL.

(vii) Communications.

(C. in C. portsmouth 1130A/16.)

/Your 1130A/16 ...

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War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Sweeping in
Q.Z.X.771
(contd.)

Your 1130A/16 M.G.B.316 will be unable to operate having developed engine defect S O will proceed in M.G.B.317.
(HORNET 1630/16 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

4th M.S.F. Following intentions of 4th M.S.F. 18/10
Sweep one more lap of area given in your 1153A/17 then start clearance of route M. from Western limit of this area to Dart buoy proceeding Dartmouth p.m./19 onwards continue clearance to depth of 2 miles Southward of route M. operating from Dartmouth until necessary to return to Portland for coal.
(M.S.4 1410A/16.)

Enemy Intelligence.

? Corvette. GFK (?corvette) 48° 0' N. 9° 45' W. Believed enemy N* correct 2 star given.
(A.I.C. XF 172 0315/16) * as received.

M.T.B. M.T.B. Enemy course and speed are 270° 10 knots.
(A/C X 172 0400/16.)

? Merchant ship. 48 N. 6 W. 015 BNX.
(A/C X 172 0445/16.)

Swedish East Coast convoys. Baltic. See my 1659/15. (a) Swedish east coast convoys ceased 15/10 A one.
(b) There had been a declining number of German vessels in these convoys for some weeks past and latterly there have been scarcely any. They have instead been routed independently more often than not without any form of escort. A.2.
(c) Swedish Defence Ministry attributes this change of policy to German's urgent need to complete her shipping commitments before ice period sets in. Please inform Soviet mission.
(N.A. Stockholm 1259/16 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 53° 46' N. 30° 6' W. Submarine was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(? A/C 0805Z/16.)

Off Svyatoi Nos. My 2045A/15th. U-boat observed in 073° 43' N. 039° 20' E. at 1907A/15th by Russian R/C A/C.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0910A/16.)

/U/B ...

War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - contd.

U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 61° 4' N. 24° 9' W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge when first sighted was on course 340° speed 10 knots. (A/C 1045Z/16.)

U/B attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 58° 0' N. 26° 48' W. Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 220°. Speed 10 knots. (A/C HL6J 1112/16.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate no hits at 1113. (A/C HL6J 1143Z/16.)

O.N.137. Enemy S/M sighted. Convoy position 54° 21' N. 25° 20' W. Weather report 0942 1253. (C.T.U. 24.1.14 1215Z/16.)

My 1215Z/15th. CELANDINE sighted S/M 3 miles ahead of convoy in fog and attacked with 50 foot pattern believed successful. *Not confirmed by Com: 7/10/42 or 1.6243.*

(C.T.U. 24.1.14 1241Z/16.)

My 1215Z/16th. For 054° 21' N. read 053° 34' N. (C.T.U. 24.1.14 1616Z/16.)

U/B attacked. Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges. (A/C NLUH 1430Z/16.)
Am over enemy submarine in 55° 45' N. 26° 48' W. enemy when first sighted was on surface and observed to submerge was on course 200° speed 10 knots. (A/C H. 1454/16.)

Navigational.

Rosyth. Both sides of Q.Z.S.175 are now open to traffic. (C. in C. Rosyth 1055A/16.)

Technical.

Detection of Human Torpedoes. A.L. M/L.D 031055/41 of 7.2.42. Section D(i) is to be deleted. Trials have now shown that a Human Torpedo cannot be detected by R.D.F. methods, using a low sited set to provide close cover. (A.C.N.S.(W) 1142A/16.)

War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- BERMUDA. Clyde arrival BERMUDA with gale damage.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0804A/16.)
- LADY MADELINE. Speed reduced to 5 knots. Owing to engine defects. My position 0900/16th Oversay 270° 5 miles. Am proceeding to Oban to effect repairs.
(LADY MADELINE 0905/16.)
- SS GEORGE BALFOUR. My 1144/14. WHITSHED reports that Bow portion of SS GEORGE BALFOUR sank in 53° 18' N. 01° 09' E. This portion extended to about one third the length of ship and did not include Mast or Bridge.
(C. in C. Nore 1051A/16 to Admty.)
- EMPIRE PLANET, Your 1110/16. Convoy is still widely scattered. Will report as soon as possible.
(HESPERUS 1051Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.) *See next page*
- MONKLEIGH. It is possible that ship referred to in my 1410/15 was MONKLEIGH. Report if EMPIRE PLANET is with convoy.
(C. in C. W.A. 1110A/16 to HESPERUS.)
- Following is a repetition of my 1616A/16 begins "Addressed C. in C. W.A. repeated F.O.I.C. Belfast, Admty. NORTHERN SPRAY. From F.O.I.C. Greenock. Intend to sail NORTHERN SPRAY at 1730A/15 to assist EMPIRE PLANET in 55° 30' N. - 15° 20' W. at 1000A/15, drifting eastwards. Constant watch on 1740 k/cs 1616A/15." ends.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1334A/16 to Admty.)
- MILNE. My 0853/16th. Request MILNE may proceed to Fairlee on being detached in order that C.A/S.E.E. may investigate poor asdic results returning to Scapa independently on completion.
(R.A.(D) H.F. 1553A/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
See p. 477 (VICTORIOUS - Fe)
- MALAYA. C. in C. H.F. 1608/6. Basing of MALAYA postponed due to weather until 17/10. Expect reply to signal quoted on 18th after inspection of ship.
(A.S. Rosyth 1635A/16 to Admty.)
- ALECTO. My 1845/15. My 1845/15. Damage sustained during heavy weather temporarily repaired and ALECTO sailed routed in accordance with A.C.O.S. 1904/14. E.T.A. 2000A/17.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1815A/16 to A.C.O.S.)
- INVERCLYDE. H.M.T. INVERCLYDE sank at 1820/16 in approx. 281° Beachy Head 11.6 miles while in tow of tug HAROLD BROWN from Shoreham. Crew taken off by H.M.T. TRANSVAAL from whom tug took tow. The Master - Second Hand and Chief Engineer taken off by tug and landed at Shoreham. H.M.T. TRANSVAAL with crew aboard entered Newhaven.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1950A/16.)

16.10.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

U.S. personnel in N. Russia.	Your 1637A/13. The following has been received from U.S. Naval Authorities in London: "There are approx. 100 enlisted men and 6 officers, all of whom are survivors of P.Q.17 and other Russian convoys, for whom space is requested on earliest fast transportation to United States". 2. Presume you are allocating accommodation for U.S. Naval personnel on same basis as our own. (A.C.N.S. (H) 0004A/16 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
Special tankers.	Your 1744/12. Tankers for this service will be allocated as and when available. General instructions are being issued by Admiralty. (D.T.D., 0040A/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Nation 8.	Pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned. My 1415A/15 sailing Nation 8 postponed 24 hours on account of weather. (N.C.S.O. Weymouth, 0650/16 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth)
T.A.25	Intend sailing passing Clyde boom 0130Z/18th October to R/V DELHI in position (J) at 0630Z/18 thence in accordance with A.M. 2040A/14 codeword Gosling. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1004A/16).
O.N.S.138	Your 1110/16 Convoy is still widely scattered. Will report as soon as possible. (HESPERUS, 1051Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.) <i>in answer to page</i>
Ships routed to Loch Ewe.	During winter months ships routed to Loch Ewe should be supplied with an alternative route outside Minches in accordance with W.A.C's Part 230 Route C. Ships should be instructed to report if weather conditions compel them to use the alternative route. (C. in C. W.A., 1140A/16).
Protection of East Coast Convoys.	My 1430/15th correct para. 3 to read (3). They are to join the convoy at sunset and part company at daylight - proceeding to the Humber. (C. in C. Nore, 1150A/16).

/Convoy...

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War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- Convoy
K.X.4 B. Request you will expedite boiler cleaning of BUDE to enable her to reach Milford Haven by noon/21.
2. BUDE should be stored to capacity with naval and victualling stores.
 3. Ammunition is to be embarked to following scale 3" and 2 pdr. guns practice ammunition to be landed and H.E. shell embarked in lieu. Full outfit of 0.5 ammunition to be embarked.
 4. Foreign charts and necessary C.Bs. and S.Ps. will be supplied at Portsmouth.
 5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail BUDE with K.X.4 B convoy for Gibraltar as additional escort.
 6. BUDE will join 13th M.S.F. in lieu of EASTBOURNE. *see next page.*
(D.M.S., 1340A/16 to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. W.A., (K.X.2) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
A.M. 0110/14 1340/16. Escort BUDE S.O., SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR.
(C. in C. W.A., 2305A/16 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
- O.N.137 */N.T. 21.3.* My 1241Z/16. Commodore says hit by dud torpedo, not making water. If so probably 2 submarines were in vicinity. RESTIGOUCHE, ARVIDA, AMHERST R.D.F. out of order. Weather report 4962 1244. (C.T.U. 24.1.14, 1346Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Convoy
K.X.4 A. Request you will expedite boiler cleaning of BRIXHAM to enable her to reach Belfast by noon/21
2. BRIXHAM should be stored to capacity with naval and victualling stores.
 3. Ammunition is to be embarked to following scale Oerlikon 1800 rounds per gun. 3" practice outfit to be landed and H.E. shell embarked in lieu.
 4. On arrival at Belfast foreign chart folios and foreign C.Bs. and S.Ps. supplied to ILFRACOMBE are to be transferred to BRIXHAM.
 5. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail BRIXHAM to R/V with K.X. 4 A Convoy for Gibraltar as additional escort.
 6. BRIXHAM will join 13th M.S.F. in lieu of ILFRACOMBE.
(D.M.S., 1410A/16 to A.C.O.S., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Belfast).
A.M. 0126/14, 1410/16.
1. Cancel my 2221/12.
 2. Escort (a) From Clyde 10th Trawler Group (b) From Belfast, MALCOLM, BROKE, BRIXHAM. (c) From Londonderry VENOMOUS S.O., WRESTLER.
 3. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange R/Vs for escorts from Belfast and Londonderry.
 4. WRESTLER is to arrive Greenock p.m. /20.
H.M.S. VENOMOUS S.O., WRESTLER are to proceed Londonderry to fuel after convoy conference.
(C. in C. W.A., 2304A/16).

/Convoy...

War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Convoy Pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.
K.M.S.1 The following ships are expected to be ready to undock on or before p.m./19:-
At Swansea for Clyde:- EMPIRE CONFIDENCE, PACIFIC EXPORTER.
At Newport for Clyde:- WILLIAM WIRT (U.S.)
At Swansea for Loch Ewe:- HARPALYCUS.
At Penarth for Loch Ewe:- NAIRUNG, OCEAN ATHLETE.
At Barry for Loch Ewe:- LUTHER MARTIN (U.S.) JOHN P. POE (U.S.) OCENA MERCHANT.

At Newport for Loch Ewe:- CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH.
At Cardiff for Loch Ewe:- RICHARD HENRY LEE (U.S.) OCEAN FAME.
At Avonmouth for Loch Ewe:- REVERDY JOHNSON (U.S.)
2. If any of these ships are ready before 19/10 they should be sailed in the Steward groups.
3. It is most important that the remainder should be sailed p.m./19 in order that the Clyde ships may arrive by dawn/22 and Loch Ewe ships by dawn/23. For the purpose of fighter protection all these ships should be treated as Category I. (D.O.D. (H), 1425A/16 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Cardiff, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven (R) F.O.I.C. Greenock, H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. X.F.)

K.M.S. One. A.M. 1948/15 not to all addressees.

1. VANSITTART is to arrive Londonderry A.M./22nd and is to join convoy after fuelling as arranged by N.O.I.C. Greenock.
2. AUBRETIA will be sailed to overtake if ready.
3. Remaining escorts are to sail from Clyde.
4. (A) S.O. Escort*ALYNBANK. (B) S.O. A/S Escort STORK.
(C. in C. W.A., 1443A/16 to N.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C., Liverpool, N.O.I.C. Londonderry, Admty. Capt. (S) Liverpool).

*S... p.478.

Convoy Intend sailing convoy composed as in A.M.1710A/8
K.X.2 (not to all addressees) escorted by HOY, MULL, INCHCOLM, RYSA, JURA passing Clyde boom 1630A/18 to R/V with BULLDOG, BEAGLE, BOADICEA, RMYL, FELIXSTOWE, ROTHESAY and STORNOWAY at 0900A/19 p.m. position 270° Oversay 6 miles thence in accordance with A.M. 1625A/13. Codeword Keeper.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1504A/16 to C. in C. W.A., Admty. F.O.C.N.A., (R) BOADICEA, RHYL, FELIXSTOWE, ROTHESAY, STORNOWAY, N.O.I.C. Belfast, N.O.I.C. Londonderry, H.Q.C.C., Group 15, BULLDOG, BEAGLE, HOY, RYSA, JURA, MULL, INCHCOLM).
My 2216/12. Delete EASTBOURNE, ILFRACOMBE. *pp 477 & 489*
(C. in C. W.A., 2258A/16).

Convoy Comprising U.S. Army transport MARIPOSA
A.T.26 conveying U.S. troops will leave New York on 20/10 for Liverpool unescorted.
2. Connnav will provide route.
3. Connnav is requested to report estimated S. of A. and E.T.A. Liverpool before sailing. MARIPOSA should amend E.T.A. if necessary 48 hours before arrival.
4. H.Q.F.C. is requested to arrange maximum fighter escort from limit of fighter range. Fighter protection codeword Skunk. (D.O.D.(H), 1603A/16).

16.10.1942.
Friday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

T.A. 25 A.M. 1751/13. Destination is Halifax and not New York.
 2. Route R/V at 0630Z/18 in
 Q. 270° Oversay 6 miles.
R. 55.30 N., 16.21 W. S. 50.02 N., 21.02 W. T. 46.01 N.,
29.03 W. U. 42.29 N., 40.00 W. V. 42.30 N., 61.00 W.
thence to Halifax.
3. A.M. 2040/14 is cancelled.
(D.O.D. (H) 1651A/16).

CATHAY. CATHAY fitting out will not be completed before
 p.m. 21/10. Cannot sail to Tail of Bank before
 0930/22/10.
 (D.S.T.O. Glasgow, 1721/16).

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

P.221 Onward routes for P.221 and P.45.
P.45 (1) P.221 through K. $039^{\circ} 04' 011^{\circ} 31'$ at 0200/19. L. 225° St. Vincent, Cape 15 miles at 1930/19. M. $036^{\circ} 32' 006^{\circ} 54'$ at 0630/20.
N. $035^{\circ} 58' 005^{\circ} 59'$ at 1200/20 to arrive Gibraltar 1530/20.
(2) P.45 through K at 0930/20. L at 1030/21. M at 0200/22. N at 0930/22 to arrive Gibraltar 1330/22.
(3) Both S/Ms proceed on surface at discretion, proceed unescorted from M to Gibraltar and report if unable to comply within 2 hours of these times.
(4) S of A 10 knots for P.221 and 7 knots for P.45.
(5) Total bombing restrictions arranged 20 miles either side route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern estimated position. (F.O.C.N.A. 0936A/16 to S/Ms operating S of 51° N. (R) Admty. F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth. Capt. S.3.)

CHARYBDIS. Left Ponta Delgada 0730 G.M.T./16. E.T.A. given 0615/18.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0945/? to S.O.I. Gibraltar. (R) Admty.)

U/B Following received from Santandar time 1547/15
Santandar (Begins) Repairing S/M near completion.
(CENTURIONE Insistent rumour suggests intention to escape.
REGINALDO (Ends.)
GIULIANI.) (S.O.I) Gibraltar 0956A/16 to Admty. for D.N.I.
See next page. B.N.A. Madrid.)

Navigation Received 0251 G.M.T. 500 K/cs from Horta Radio.
Horta Notice to all ships from Horta. Cape Linhos Lighthouse is not working in good condition being the character of light temporarily a fixed white light.
(Burnham Radio No T.O.O./16.)

P.34. Intend sailing P.34 for U.K. p.m./18 passing $043^{\circ} 01' 012^{\circ} 58'$ at 1900/23 shifting W/T watch at that time.

2. W/T watch on N.A. Station S one/42 section North Atlantic table 2, (1) line 10, on Home Stations S 2/42 table 2, (3).
3. F.O.S. 1149/8/1. (a) 4 mark (2) (b) $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots, surface 110 miles, diving by day. (c) Fit. (d) (1) nil, approx.2.
4. P.34 is painted dark blue.
5. S.Ps carried.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1136A/16 to Admty.)

P.228 Arrival.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1432A/16 to Admty.)

P.552 Intend to sail P.552 for Freetown p.m./19 routed through B. $035^{\circ} 02' 008^{\circ} 02'$. C. $028^{\circ} 30' 015^{\circ} 01'$. D. $027^{\circ} 30' 015^{\circ} 01'$. E. $020^{\circ} 01' 019^{\circ} 20'$ thence as ordered by R.A. West Africa.

War Diary.

16.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

P.552 (2) P.552 painted grey with light grey numbers
Contd. pass E at 1100/25, shifting wireless watch at
that time.
(3) Wireless watch on N.A. Station in accordance
with S One/42 Table 2 (1) line 10 given by S.A. Station in
accordance with Admty. 0243/25/9.
(4) S.Ps. carried.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1540A/16 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

OMEGA Your 1802A/15 destinations:- OMEGA to Mersey
KAOLACK for orders. KAOLACK to Oban for orders.
(D.T.D. 1558A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1802/15. Sailed STELLA CARINA escorting
SS. KAOLACK. SS. OMEGA did not sail owing to defects. CAVA
did not sail.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1856A/16 to Admty. etc.)
My 1802/15. Ships sailed. Codeword "Sawmill", wireless
call sign B K.
2. KAOLACK, OMEGA not keeping wireless watch unless separate
from escort then KAOLACK 2 operators OMEGA single operator
period. S.P. 02272 (20) (21) Admty. message Q.Z.H. 848 (less
844) S 377 Y 352.
3. Following onward route has been given for use in event of
C. in C. W.A.'s route not being received and contact being lost
with escort.
(E) 54 55 14 30. (F) 55 35 08 02.
4. KAOLACK not wiped or degaussed.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1902A/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

NIGERIA Situation 2003/16 NIGERIA 34.59 24.09 through
34.41 30.01 thence 267° 19.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1558A/16 to A.I.G. 65.)

BURDOCK Intend sailing BURDOCK for Freetown p.m. on 16th
routed through (L) 35.52 06.01 (M) 33.01 10.20
(N) 28.02 13.38 (O) 21.30 18.22 (P) 18.01 18.35.
S of A 12 knots.
2. F.O.I.C. West ?Africa is requested to signal
onward route from position (P).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1602A/16 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty.
C. in C. S.A. BURDOCK.)

U/B Consul Santander reports repairs to Italian S/M
Santander. nearing completion and persistent rumours she
(CENTURIONE will leave shortly. Watch maintained. Consider
REGINALDO insufficient (corrupt group) when preparations
GIULIANI) made to flood deck.
See Memoirs
page (N.A. Madrid 1708/16 to Admty.)

Vichy My 1835. French N.A. has handed me Aide Memoire
prisoners in part reply to your 0342A/1. French Admiralty
CANADA. consider last aide memoire (My 1534/12) answers
the rest. Refusal of warrant to U.S. Consul's
visit survivors at Casablanca is because no names
of prisoners taken in Madagascar and sent to U.K.
have been received except 22 from HEROS.

/When...

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.:

Vichy
prisoners
CANADA.
Contd.

When names are received Consul can visit survivors.
They also mention that officers and men from F. sub. AJAX transferred to U.K. April 1941 were only allowed to see French Consul in U.K. February 1942.

French Admty. accept that CANADA should call at control port on passage Djibouti.
Submit names of prisoners from Madagascar could be telegraphed to me en clair as they do not appear to be (corrupt groups) fully in any other way.
(N.A. Madrid 1828/16 to Admty.)

P.51. My 1436/14 sailed P.51.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1908A/16 to C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic.

Cape
Area
Escorted
sailings.

As there is every prospect of the U-Boat threat in Cape area being maintained for some time, it is considered that escorted group sailing should be instituted as soon as sufficient A/S reinforcements have reached you from Eastern Fleet.

2. It is appreciated that only comparatively weak escorts can be provided but it is unlikely that pack tactics will be employed by the U-Boats.

3. In present circumstances it is considered priority should be given to ships westbound from Capetown which have called there for bunkers or other reasons. Should however U-Boats extend their activities to eastward, escorted group sailing between Capetown and Durban may be necessary.

4. Request you will signal your plans for giving effect to foregoing.

(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(T) 0046A/16 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

ILE DE
FRANCE.

1-505

Your 1503/15. ILE DE FRANCE should not sail from Durban for New York until further instructions are received from S of S.T.

2. It is under consideration that she should sail for San Francisco via Australia.

3. Request very urgent report of her range (a) in fuel, (b) in water assuming (1) only about 500 personnel on board (2) full to capacity with troops.

(D.S.T. 0118A/16 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

29th Bde. C.M.34. My 0233/12 and P.S.T.O. India's 1123/14. DUNERA, DILWARA and EASTERN PRINCE are now proceeding from Madagascar to Durban with 29th Brigade and will then be available for inclusion in C.M.34.

2. C.M.34 will now comprise ASCANIUS, EMPIRE WOODLARK, SONTAY, ELIZABETHVILLE, DUNERA, DILWARA and EASTERN PRINCE. Total capacity about 11,000.

3. Further to 6 (ii) of my 0233/12 it is proposed that C.M.34 should comprise 8500 for India and 2500 for Middle East. NIEUW AMSTERDAM personnel will be all for Middle East.

4. P.S.T.O. India's 1123/14 para (ii). Total troops for India are 7000 now in South Africa plus 1500 transshipping ex W.S.23.

5. Agreed.

(D.S.T. 0125A/16 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

Your most secret 72718 (Q(M)2(c)) 15/10, reference 29th Brigade Group.

Desirable keep down numbers as far as possible in I.F.T.C. camp pending completion certain sanitation arrangements being carried out there. Personnel will accordingly be accommodated Pietermaritzburg.

(C.G.S. South Africa 1705/16 to W.O.)

ORONSAY (torpedoed 9/10.) Following received. ORONSAY, torpedoed crew in lifeboats, urgent assistance required, approx. position 7° 29' N 18° 20' W.

(Freetown W/T T.O.R. 0944Z/16.)

1546A/16/10. (ORONSAY survivors - N.T. in W.D.)

(1) 1 destroyer has been searching since a.m. 10/10. Aircraft co-operation has been arranged when Sunderland aircraft is available.

(2) Nine lifeboats sighted by Sunderland in position 07.38 N 17.49 W at 1312Z/16. → BRILLIANT arrives this position 0100Z/17 and → BOREAS at 1100Z/17. Sunderland will co-operate a.m./17.

(3) About 4 more boats estimated to be about 06.30 N 16.30 W. These boats have reported position by W/T as they have drifted east, but have not been sighted although main search has been in their vicinity.

(R.A.W.A. 2009Z/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Dispositions. *ASTURIAS patrol H 34 A west of 27. 2 motor launches between Freetown and 004° 02' 011° 01'. BRILLIANT about 005° 55' 017° 05' searching area.

→ BOREAS 006° 01' (? 011°) 40' to Freetown 18 at 2002Z/16.

WIVERN (?003°) 45' 006° 59' to Freetown 13½.

SABOT MELANTE (?004°) 40' 001° 10' to Lagos 6.

(R.A.W.A. 0949Z/16 to Area P. etc.) * see p.506 (Movement Summary)

U/B
sunk by
ACTIVE
8/10.

Admty. 0151/15 to C. in C. S.A. only. Following is a repetition of last sentence of para 2 of my 1551/9. "Submarine stopped (? on surface) 20 right". (Ends) Para 3 begins "Submarine passed". (C. in C. S.A. 1031X/16 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. R.A.W.A.F.)

/Movement...

War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Movement summary. 2000Z/16. Area Q. ALCANTARA on patrol in L.I.A. ROCKROSE, THYME on patrol about 031° 30' S 016° 58' E. GUARDIAN, CYCLAMEN, COMMANDANT DETROYAT 023° 30' S 012° 30' E to Pointe Noire, 12 knots. Tug PRUDENT with Neth S/M O.21 on passage from Saldanha Bay, E.T.A. Simonstown 0600Z/17. French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT DUBOC with S/M TRUANT about 034° 55' S 020° 53' E to Simonstown 10 knots. (C. in C. S.A. 1044C/16 to S.A.A.)

MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA Cancel my 1644/15. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA arrived. (C. in C. S.A. 1101C/16 to Admty. etc.)

Sinkings, Cape Area, distress reports. Ref. recent sinkings in Cape Area. (2) (A) Out of 15 ships torpedoed only 3 made distress signals (B) Seven ships were torpedoed and 36 hours elapsed before first distress signal was made. (C) Reasons given by ships were that W/T instruments and/or aerials had been destroyed by explosion. (3) 3 of the subsequently torpedoed ships failed to receive diversion orders that had reached others in the vicinity and 2 more received but did not properly conform to them. (C. in C. S.A. 1106C/16 to Admty.) Reply: D.T.D. 1822/17.

DRUPA, CISTULA collision. My 1900/11. Tanker message. M.W.T.R., Lagos, Mast 294 to Shipminder, London, giving principal damage yet ascertained. Full details also being air mailed by M.W.T.R. Lagos to Anglo-Saxon Oil Company. Survey still proceeding. Copy of full details being air mailed by me to R.A.W.A.F. Anticipated time of sailing DRUPA 31st. CISTULA 24/10. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 1126Z/16 to Admty. (R) R.A.W.A.F.)

Relations with Fighting French. During present tension between H.M.G. and General de Gaulle (?word omitted) and most friendly liaison is being maintained. French authorities attitude is that political question is the affair of London but they maintain complete loyalty to and solidarity with General de Gaulle. They would therefore obey any instructions from the General but at the same time they would do all in their power to avoid any interference with your operational programme. For example they would warn me in time to make any necessary dispositions. Very strongly urge utmost endeavours should be made to maintain confidence in good will of R.N. for example by continuing and expediting supplies of naval stores. Arrival S/M chasers LARMOR and LE LEVANDOU at Bathurst has been reported here and their early arrival Pointe Noire would greatly help to increase confidence in our loyalty to our agreements and disprove the contrary belief which is held by the Vichy Navy. Your 859/18 A/381 to Admty. para 2, 2nd part, refers. (B.N.L.O. W.A. 1215/16 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.CARNARVON
CASTLE.

R.A.W.A. 1927/12.

CARNARVON CASTLE can be taken in hand for engine defect only by Harland and Wolff, Belfast.

2. On arrival in U.K. about 27/10 and after disembarkation of survivors F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship accordingly as soon as possible.

3. The return of ship on station is urgently required and F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to signal date of readiness for sea as soon as this can be ascertained.

(D.O.D. F. 1231A/16 to R.A.W.A. etc.)

Use of
Pernambuco
and Bahia.

Please communicate following to Shortland from M.O.W.T. (Begins) With the entry of Brazil into war greater use will be made of Pernambuco as a coal bunkering port. In view of Pernambuco's limitations it is desirable that Bahia also should be available for use as a relief but coaling facilities there are at present poor. Request you to discuss with Managers Wilson Sons and Co. Ltd. and Cory Brothers and Co. Ltd. the possibility of sending to Pernambuco and/or Bahia from Rio de Janeiro floating cranes lighters and if essential tugs to enable coaling to be expedited. After your discussions telegraph what can be done quickly and approx. daily amounts of coal bunkers at Pernambuco and Bahia which (a) can be delivered now and (b) the increase which would be expected with the aid of facilities sent from Rio de Janeiro. For your guidance increased use of Brazilian ports does not envisage any increase in coal bunkerings at Rio de Janeiro. (Ends)

(D.T.D. 1551A/16 to B.R.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

ARMERIA
EMPIRE PAT.Arrival p.m./16 ARMERIA escorting tug EMPIRE PAT.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1637Z/16 to R.A.W.A. etc.)African
Ports.

Your 1559/8 (?1656A/8 intends) Ports which will be affected are Walvis, Saldanha Bay, Capetown, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban, Lourenco Marques, Beira, Mombasa.
(C. in C. S.A. 1841C/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

W.S. 23.

Arrivals 0715/16/10 DESPATCH, DURBAN, QUEEN OF BERMUDA, ANTELOPE, VELOX, PUCKERIDGE and KAMARIS with W.S. 23.
(S.O.I.) Freetown 1946Z/16 to Admty.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LANCE salvage. Your 1548/16/9, request arrangements be made for as much main and auxiliary machinery and main shafting as possible to be salvaged, and despatched to U.K. as opportunity offers for reconditioning as spares for other vessels of this class.

In addition, following items should be removed if in good or repairable condition providing it is convenient to do this under present conditions while the dock is dry:- (list).

Admiralty to be informed in due course as to what items can be salvaged.

(D.of D. Bath, 0327A/16 to A.S. Malta).

W.S.22 A. Convoy W.S.22 A arrived.
(B.C.S.O.Aden, 0547Z/16 to Admty etc).

Cositrep No. 549. Air. 2. 14/10. Beaufighters from Malta attacked a small M/V east of Tripoli. No hits claimed with bombs. Two Beaufighters lost through A.A. fire.

3. Night 14/15. Malta aircraft torpedoed a M/V of 7,000 tons off Khoms. Hit amidships. Vessel left stationary. Subsequently bombed during night. Results obscured by smoke screen.

4. Wellingtons bombed Tobruk Harbour. One fire started jetty area, other fires seen in town and near petrol installations. One fire seen on water outside Harbour, possibly result of attack on ship same area. One Wellington missing.
(C. in C. M.E., 0945 G.M.T./16).

P.212 P.212 will leave 035° 21' 015° 09' about 0159A/17th to arrive 038° 23', 019° 45' about 2331A following day to operate in area L and C.
(Capt. S.10., 1116A/16 to S/Ms on Patrol (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).

Enemy M/V damaged. Aircraft report large merchant ship stopped 032° 54', 014° 24' at 0912A with 2 destroyers and air escort in company and tug approaching from Homs. If destroyers are towing suggest attacking them first but keep one torpedo for merchant ship.
(Capt. S.10 1259A/16 to P.42 (R) P.44., C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).

My 1259A/16. Aircraft will endeavour to locate and drop a flare over target every half hour after moon set to assist you.
(Capt. S.10., 1821A/16 to P.42 (R) P.44., C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).

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16.10.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- P. 247.
1. Proceed as in Capt. (S) 10's 1249/12 making passage Q.B.B. 255 at 120 feet throughout on 18/10 to surface as near position E as possible in my 1159/10th at dusk.
 2. Surface when ordered by sweepers about 1014A/19th about 2 miles S.W. of end of searched channel.? P.35? due same time from $035^{\circ} 32' 014^{\circ} 12'$. Attention is drawn to Capt. (S) 10's 1209?/12.
 3. No British submarines North of $035^{\circ} W.$, of 014° . (V.A. Malta, 1404A/16 to P.247, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, 10th S.F.)

- Black Sea.
1. Night 13/14. 2 destroyers bombarded Feodosyi starting 3 fires.
 2. Air. Captured German pilot states that new general-purpose aircraft, Ju.235, is now coming into use. Speed 600 K/ms. per hour, crew 4.
 3. My 1320/13 para. (5). Intensive bombing still being (?carried) out. (?Strong) land attack began on 13/10. Russians claim all attacks beaten off.
 4. Russians have re-taken the Sancharo Pass. (N.L.O. Black Sea, 1415C/16 to Admty etc).

- French Somaliland.
- Your 5089 (Not received in W.O.)
 2. My commitments elsewhere do not admit of my making any land blockade of French Somaliland really effective. Agree that effective blockade by sea and land even if practicable unlikely to produce any good results in our favour.
 5. I am firmly of opinion that it would be both unwise and premature to make any movement towards French Somaliland until H.M.G. policy in Madagascar is settled. (G.O.C. in C. E.Africa, 1500Z/16 to Minister Cairo (R) War Office, Governor Aden, Minister, Addis Ababa).

- TRAVELLER
- By dawn 18/10 you are to be within 5 miles N.W. corner of your area.
(Capt. S.I., 1643C/16 to TRAVELLER (R)
C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, S/Ms on patrol).

- Turkish S/M
- M.F.A. have (group omitted) Ambassador that it is intended to refloat Turkish Sub. ATILAY now reported $040^{\circ} 00' 24'' N.$, $026^{\circ} 03' 42'' E.$
Enquiries concerning this unexpected decision will be made from Naval Authorities and date of commencing operations will be signalled when known.
(N.A. Ankara, 1650C/16 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty).

- DARICA
- B.N.A. Ankara's 1609/30/9 and D. of S.T's 0252/10. On arrival of EMPIRE DACE you will be able to release DARICA) If not, request you state your full requirements for this type of vessel.
(D.O.D. (F) 1813A/16 to C. in C. Med).

/Benghazi...

War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Benghazi
R/C.I.44 16/10. My I.42 15/10. Part 2 Photo R/C
Benghazi refers to 15/10 not 14th.
(A.H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 2000/16).Malta Air
Report.

I.46 16/10.
C.S.R. Part 1. Night 15/16. 1812 hours, 1
Beaufighter up for raider which approached but
turned away when 20 miles east of Island. 1840
hours, 2 enemy bombers approached Malta. 1
Beaufighter (?word omitted) but raiders dropped bombs in sea and
returned. 2024 hours, 3 raiders crossed coast and dropped few
bombs on land causing no material damage. Partial R.D.F.
interference. 2 Beaufighters up made no interception, 0120
hours, 9 Bombers approached but only 4 crossed coast. Flares
and incendiaries dropped causing no material damage. 3 Beau-
fighters pursued raiders but owing to serious A.I. interference
could not intercept. Heavy A.A. destroyed one enemy bomber, 16th
0601 hours, 8 Ju.88s and 45 Me. 109s and Italian fighters some
of which preceded bombers in high fighter sweep approached at
great height and were intercepted 10 miles North of island by
27 Spitfires who forced Ju.88s to jettison bombs in sea and on
Sliema coast causing damage to houses and injuring 13 civilians.
In combats one Me. 109 was destroyed two Ju.88s and one Me. 109
probably destroyed, and 3 Me. 109s and one Ju.88 damaged for loss
of 2 Spitfires and pilots missing, 1 Spitfire destroyed pilot
wounded, and 2 Spitfires damaged. 0729 hours, 8 Spitfires up,
for 8 high flying Me. 109s which crossed coast on R/C and having
height advantage avoided combat and returned.

(A.H.Q., Malta, 2115/16).

Section 2 of Part 1 of my I.46. 0800 hours, 18 Spitfires
up for approximately 30 raiders which approached Malta but
turned back before nearing Island. 0852 hours, 60 enemy fighters
and 7 Ju.88s took part in bombing raid preceded by 3 high flying
fighter sweeps, 24 Spitfires intercepted enemy 10 miles north
of Island and destroyed 3 Me. 109s and one Ju.88 and damaged
4 Ju.88s for loss of one Spitfire and pilot missing, 2
Spitfires destroyed and 3 Spitfires damaged one pilot injured.
Anti-Personnel bombs were dropped on Hal Far and 1 Spitfire
was damaged but Aerodrome continued serviceable. 1200 hours,
partial R.D.F. interference while 35 Me. 109s including 4 Me.
109 bombers crossed coast at great height but on being
intercepted by 16 Spitfires enemy jettisoned bombs over north
west tip of Island and returned at speed. No material damage
done. 1515 hours, approx. 8 Ju.88s and 60 Fighters including
6 bomb carrying Me. 109s approached in 6 waves and several
formations were intercepted north of Island by 32 Spitfires
who destroyed 2 Ju.88s, probably 2 Ju.88s and 1 Me. 109, and
damaged 4 Ju.88s 1 Me. 109 and 1 Me. 202 for loss of 3 Spitfires
damaged. Bombs at Takali injured 2 civilians and caused craters
on Aerodrome rendering it unserviceable. Bombs at Luqa
destroyed 1 Beaufighter and damaged another but Aerodrome still
serviceable. Today in 125 Spitfire sorties against 206 enemy
sorties 7 enemy aircraft have been destroyed 6 probably
destroyed and 14 damaged for loss in combat of 3 pilots missing
and 2 wounded, 6 Spitfires destroyed and 8 damaged, (some
seriously). Enemy changed his tactics by introducing attacks
by many formations on a wide front and approaching from several
directions simultaneously.

(A.H.Q. Malta, 2141/16).

War Diary.

16.10.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. *wnts.*

Malta Air
Report.
Contd.

Part. 2 my I.46.
15th. Baltimore R/C sighted 0634 hours 090°
Misurata 30 miles M/V 1/2,000 tons probably M/V
attacked by Beaufighters 14th with 1 D/R 1 Tug
alongside M/V 2 lifeboats heading for D/R. Photos
show M/V moving very slowly. Second Baltimore
R/C sighted 1446 hours M/V 2/3,000 tons probably
same M/V 147° Misurata 23 miles course wouth, slow
speed.
(A.H.Q., Malta, 2154/16).

War Diary.

16.10.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Japanese U/Bs. My 1200Z/15. From available information my appreciation of movement of a third Japanese U-boat (C) is as follows.
A. Sank EMIKOYAN at 1230Z/3/10 in 019° 15' N., 084° 54' E., (?had) possibly landed agent previously.
B. Sank Steamship MANON at 2250Z/7/10 in 014° 44' N., 080° 07' East.
C. Was reported by Catalina at 0355Z/11/10 in 007° 27' N., 082° 14' E.
D. Torpedoed SS. MARTABAN at 1022Z/13/10 in 006° 31' N., 082° 03' E.
(F.O. Ceylon, 0552Z/16 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. Ceylon, Admty etc).

Japanese U-boats. On 11/10 1 definite position 002° S., 068° E.
On 13/10 1 definitely off Little Bases.
(C. in C. E.F., 0834Z/16 to E.I. Stn).

Navigation. W.C.144. Floating log, 20 feet long 3 feet diameter is in 1° 11' S., 72° 12' E. dangerous to navigation.
(Coonawarra W/T and Bombay W/T, 0900 Z/16 to Simonstown W/T (R) Whitehall W/T).

Aircraft Disposition. S.199 16/10. Your AX. 954. Return as at 30/9:
(A) Hudsons (B) 33 (C) Cuttack (D) Bay of Bengal.
Hurricanes 4 Ratmalana Local.
Blenheims 18 Colombo Indian Falk Strait.
Beauforts 7 Ratmalana Indian Ocean Falk Strait.
Catalina 31 14 Bay of Koggala, Bengal.
9 China Indian Ocean Falk Bay, Strait.
8 Redhills Strait.
(A.H.Q. India, 1022/16Z to Air Ministry).

Air Report. Intelligence summary for 16/10. No. 215 15th.
1 Catalina sighted torpedoed M/V drifting 078° 36' N., 84° E. 2 Catalinas search survivors nil sighting.
(A.H.Q., India, 1143Z/16.)

Movements Friday 16/10 arrivals NAPIER, INCONSTANT, EMPIRE PRIDE.
(N.O.I.C. Tamatave 1400Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F., Commodore (D)).

See next page - (M.D.1)

War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.BADARPUR
(incorrect
report
29/9).

On 29/9 R.F.A. BADARPUR reported vessel sinking and lifeboats in water in 24° 50' N., 58° 10' E. at 0930Z/29. My 1657/29/9 refers.

2. Search by ships and aircraft failed to find any trace of the alleged sinking.
3. BADARPUR has now arrived Kilindini and interrogation of master reveals that signal quoted in para. 1 was quite unjustified. (C. in C. E.F., 1407A/16 to Admty).

MANXMAN.

Departure p.m./16.
(F.O.E.A., 1445Z/16 to Admty).

TEVIOT BANK.

1. A.M. 2049/10/10. TEVIOT BANK has an outfit of 270 Mk. XVII with 200 fathom sinkers embarked. If suitable these wires could be used for the first lay and be replaced from Mediterranean stocks at end of operation.
2. Depth reels immediately available at Bombay are 30 feet to 150 60 to 139 90 feet to 300.
3. Report of total stock of reels at Bombay is awaited.
4. Com. R.I.N. pass to TEVIOT BANK.
(C. in C. E.F.' 1545Z/16 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. Com. R.I.N)

Convoy
M.D.1.
(29th Bde).

1. Your 1535/15. Intend to sail from Tamatave with DAUNTLESS,*NAPIER,*INCONSTANT and BLACKMORE escorting DUNERA,DILWARA, and*EMPIRE PRIDE at 1400Z/18. E.T.A. Durban 1200Z/24.
2. Dept. C. in C. E.F. please pass to G.O.C. East Africa. Cdre. in C. Durban please pass to Military Authorities.
(Cdre. D. 1612Z/16 to C. in C. E.F., Dept. C. in C. E.F., etc) * *see previous page (Movements)*

Mozambique
defence.

H.M. Ambassador on instruction from F.O. raised question seaward defence of ports in Mozambique with Portuguese Govt. who are willing to co-operate.

I am beginning conversation on naval defence next week and will report in due course.

W.O. is sending Brig. Court Treatt in immediate future to Lisbon and Lourenco Marques to advise on sites of coast defence batteries. As siting of light artillery partly depends on position of booms searchlights etc. suggest Brig. Court Treatt should consult Admty. if time permits before departure and could bring me any instructions and Admty. charges of ports concerned presumably Beira and Lourenco Marques.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1615A/16 to Admty).

/LAUNCESTON...

16.10.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

LAUNCESTON
Report.

Your 1853/16. (Not received in W.R.)
Four lifeboats left ship. Survivors can give
(corrupt groups) whereabouts as boat
(corrupt group) first (corrupt groups).
(LAUNCESTON 20??Z/?16 to F.O.I.C. Ceylon, (R)
ASTER).

~~102205~~
G. AVEROFF,
PANTHER.

C. in C. Med's 1255/5 and C. in C. E.F's 1621/9.
Request you will sail GIORGIOS AVEROFF and
PANTHER for Suez as convenient.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 2153A/16
to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Caspian
R.D.F.,
Screen.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (M.E.) 307.
Ref. C. in C. Persia/Iraq C.S./434, C.S./938
and Middle East K.N./29.

Please say whether, in view of Persia/Iraq No.
C.S./938, Minister of State intends to comment on
General Wilson's No.C.S./434.

2. In any case approach to Russians regarding establishment
warning screen along Caspian shore must await reply now overdue
to telegram to Premier Stalin on major issues.
3. Meanwhile please state whether necessary R.D.F. sets are
available in Middle East - Persia/Iraq Commands.
(Air Min. T.O.O. 2245Z/16, to Cs. in C. M.E. (R) C. in C.
Persian - Iraq).

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War Diary.16.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.*ILE DE
FRANCE,
MAURETANIA.** See p 494*

Ref. Cominch's 2151/14. What route would ILDE DE FRANCE follow across Pacific so that it can be confirmed that she has necessary range?
2. Would MAURETANIA sailing Suez mid-November follow the same route if she also proceeds to San Francisco?
(D.S.T. 0113A/16 to B.A.D.).

GARLAND
search for
lifeboat.

If local situation permits direct GARLAND to search the area indicated in F.O.N.F. 1715Z/(?15th) (Report life boat under sail.) reporting expected time of arrival in area. Thence fuel permitting rejoin convoy.

Your 1715Z/15.
life boat.

(Comtask 0145Z/16, to S.O.P.A. Argentia and Iceland).

Am now co-operating with A/C in search for

(?GARLAND 1745Z/16 to C.C.N.F.). *See next page*

U/B.

S/M sighted by coast watcher 047° 34' N. 058° 53' W. at 0250/16 proceeding towards Port Basque.
(C.O.A.C. 0315Z/16 to GB7A and A.G.C.T.F. 24.).

STORNEST
Survivors.

Keep lookout for survivors SS. STORNEST ex O.N.136 torpedoed in 54.25 N. 27.42 W. 13/10.
(Connav 0739/16 to C.T.U. 24.1.4 (R) Admty, C. in C.W.A.).

While proceeding keep bright look out for survivors from STORNEST sunk to North eastward of your general position.

(C.T.F. 24. 2345/16 to C.T.U. 24.1.4 (R) Cinclant, Cominch, C. in C.W.A. Admty).

U/B
Positions.

C.E.S.F's 1950/15 and 1955/15.
(Comnav, 0816/16, 0817/16. to Admty).

U/B.

My 1453/15th. Aircraft sighted S/M 1120 G.M.T./16 45 miles S.S.E. Grenada proceeding East. 3 rafts, one with survivors, sighted about 10 miles East of S/M.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 0929R/16 to Admty B.A.D. etc).

U/B
Campaign.

Connav's 2050/15. addressed for action to Comnav and for information N.S.H.Q. S.B.N.O. W.A. etc.
informs as follows:-

Connav Serial 15:- On 9/10 at a position 58.18 N. 27.54.W. PENNINGTON COURT, a straggler from S.C. 103, was torpedoed and sunk. In area 54° N. 41° W. on 13/10 or 14/10 were the following sinkings in Convoy.S.C.104. SOUTHERN EMPRESS, NELLIE, EMPIRE MERSEY, SUSANA, SOULIOTIS, NIKOLINA MATKOVIC. Nor.SENTA is missing from the same convoy and possibly torpedoed. A ship, name unknown, was torpedoed and sunk at approx. 48.26 N. 64.08 W. on 10/10 at 1400Z. N.S.H.Q. please identify.
(Comnav 0936/16 to Admty.).

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

*P.555. My 1716/11th not to H.Q.C.C. Amend route
Convoy as follows: from 048° 35' N. 032° 05' W to 049°
O.N.137. 15' N. 029° 01' W. thence M. omitting L. Bombing
restrictions follow.
** See pp 177 179*
(F.O.S. 1012A/16 to P.555 (R) Admty, C. in C.W.A.
Capt. (S) 3. H.Q.C.C. S.B.N.O. W.A.).
Estimated P.C. and S. at 1200Z/17th British P.555 49.50 30.28
042° 9. Estimated P.C. and S. at 1200Z/17th convoy O.N. 137,
51.24 27.37 225° 9.
(Connav, 1601/16, to P.555 C.T.U. 24.1.14. (R) Admty, C. in C
W.A. N.S.H.Q.).

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T./16. Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
	S/M. P.555.	48½° N. 32° W.	044°	9.
	<i>See p.509</i> Dutch S/M.K.15.24	24° N. 47° W.	298°	9.
	ROYAL <i>See p.510</i> SOVEREIGN. 2 Destroyers	31° N. 58½° W.	289°	13½.
	GRIFFIN.			
	<i>See p.495</i> ASTURIAS.	30° N. 48° W.	067°	11½.
	(D.O.D.(F) 1032Z/16 to Opnav (R) Commaveu).	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank.

GARLAND, Your 1715Z/15th. My E.T.A. 052° 12' 044° 15'
O.N.S.136. 1600Z/16th.
See previous paper
O.N.S. 136 0900Z/16th. F.C. and S. 052° 57' 040°
05' 242° 6½ knots. EMPIRE TURNSTONE is missing
from convoy in addition to ship already reported.
(GARLAND 1100Z/16, to F.O.N.F. (R) C.T.F. 24 etc).

*DUNCAN, Your 2021/14th.
*ANTHONY No objection to your offering DUNCAN and ANTHONY
COAMO. as escorts for U.S.ship COAMO to U.K.
** See p.510*
2. It had been intended to use these two destroyers
to reinforce escort of a fast convoy carrying
large numbers of service personnel and survivors,
escorts requiring to refuel at Ponta Delgada about 8/11. Would
U.S.authorities be prepared to delay sailing of COAMO until approx.
30/10 then proceeding via Ponta Delgada to R/V with SHROPSHIRE
and convoy?
(D.O.D.(F) 1153A/16 to B.A.D.).

U/B. Guantanamo W/T reports S/M sighted 1535 G.M.T./16th
in 009.30 N. 059.37 W.
(Kingston, Jamaica 1251R/16 to Admty).

Convoy C.T.F. 24's 0441/12 and N.S.H.Q.'s 2141/12.
Schedules. It is still considered for reasons stated in A.M.
1816/10 that it would be preferable to operate
North Atlantic convoys with 10 groups running
regularly and one spare.
2. In view, however, of objections of C.T.F. 24 and F.O.N.F. to
this proposal it is agreed that the 11 groups shall, for the time
being, be operated in accordance with their wishes.

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Convoy
Schedules.

3. Your 2102/13 and C.E.S.F. 0103/13, to meet requirements of (a) interval between sailing dates from U.K. (b) date of arrival at Westomp of O.N. and O.N.S. convoys in relation to arrival there of H.X. and S.C. (c) interval between arrival dates at New York (d) interval between arrival of westbound and sailing of eastbound convoys (e) arrival dates to suit sailing dates of N.K. and N.G. convoys, it has been calculated that O.N.S. 142 and O.N.141 should sail on 30/10 and 24/10 respectively and thereafter at 8 day intervals. To make full allowance for winter weather, time on passage for O.N. and O.N.S. convoys respectively in these calculations has been estimated at (a) Liverpool to Westomp 11 and 14 days (b) Westomp to New York 7 and 9 days.

4. If you concur it is proposed that C. in C. W.A. should arrange the mid-ocean escort programme, in consultation with C.T.F.24, to conform with paras.(2) and (3) above.

(D.T.D. Approved by A.C.N.S.(T) 1335A/16 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet).
Refer to this as Cinclant 2025/14 action Cominch info C.T.F. 24 and C.E.S.F. (Begins) Your 2102/13, concur C.T.F.24 despatch on 1415/14 that operating requirements of mid ocean escorts are controlling factor in maintenance convoy schedule and that Western local escort schedules must conform.

(C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 1345/16, to Admty, N.S.H.Q.).

Dates given your 2102/13th are very satisfactory for W.L.E.F. but are not so convenient for M.O.E.F.

2. Owing to greater difficulty in fitting in cycle of W.L.E.F. and arrangements at New York consider date given in your 2102/13th should be adopted.

3. Adjustment could be made after experience with new schedule. Consider a conference of U.S.N, R.N., and R.C.N operating authorities would be of value in about a month's time. We should be pleased to hold this in Ottawa if convenient to all authorities addressed.

(N.S.H.Q. 1440Z/16, to Cominch (R) Admty etc).

My 1335A/16. The proposal to reduce the number of mid-ocean escorts to 10 was based on the following appreciation of existing circumstances.

1. Recent experience has shown that a smoother routine is possible with an even number of groups besides facilitating a long lay-over at home bases.

2. Allowing as much as 12 days for fast and 14 days for slow convoys between North Channel and Newfoundland, the use of 10 groups would permit of 26 days seatime and 14 days harbour time which should be satisfactory. We feel that in view of the intensity of the U-Boat was a greater ratio of harbour time cannot be justified at the moment.

3. The results obtained from the recent Reinforcing Group (STORK, ROTHER, SPEY, *DEPTFORD, EXE and TAY) in the North Atlantic are regarded as highly satisfactory and it is felt that if offensive measures are to be developed against U-Boats with the limited resources of escort vessels at our disposal the experiment of using a Reinforcing Group in Mid-Atlantic should be continued. Such a group would become available by reducing the Mid-Ocean Groups to 10 in number.

* See p. 480

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies *with:*Convoy
Schedules.
Contd.

4. Arrangements are being made for a tanker with additional depth charges to accompany convoys and these would also be available for the Special Group.

5. It is our considered opinion that if a reinforcing group is available to attack U-Boats which are known to have reported and to be shadowing a convoy it has a good chance of obtaining definite kills. If for example a Reinforcing Group had been in the vicinity of S.C. 104 when convoy was attacked, there is little doubt that its assistance would have been invaluable.

6. The following cycle shows the working of the 10 Group system:-

D Day.	O.N.S. Convoy sails.
D + 1	B.Group sails to join O.N.S.
D + 4	O.N.Convoy sails.
D + 5.	C.Group sails to join O.N.
D + 14.	O.N.S. arrives Westomp.
D + 15.	B.Group arrive Argentia.
D + 16.	O.N. arrives Westomp.
D + 17.	C.Group arrives St.Johns.
D + 21.	B.Group sails Argentia after 6 days in harbour.
D + 22.	B.Group Westomp with H.X.
D + 25.	C.Group leaves St.Johns after 8 days in harbour.
D + 26.	C.Group Westomp with S.C.
D + 33.	B.Group arrives Base.
D + 39.	C.Group arrives Base.
D + 41.	B.Group sails with new O.N.S. after 8 days in harbour.
D + 45.	C.Group sails with new O.N. after 6 days in harbour.

Since above calculations allow 14 days seetime each way for slow convoys and 12 days seetime for fast convoys, additional time due to weather would necessarily mean a reduction in harbour time. The allowance of 14 and 12 days for both east and west voyages should however, allow for this factor.

7. It is hoped, therefore, that you will give the matter further consideration since it affords a means of taking more offensive action against U-Boats. It is appreciated of course that it entails working the groups harder.

(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(T) 1735A/16 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.W.A. B.A.D.).

Cinclant, C.T.F. 24, C.E.S.F. N.A.D. informed. Your 1816Z/10 and related despatches. Consider number of mid-Ocean groups must be maintained at 11. Recommend sailing dates O.N. and O.N.S. convoys be set considering the following:-

A. O.N. should arrive in New York at least 3 days before S.C. departs and O.N.S. at least 3 days before H.X. departs to ensure readiness of escorts for eastbound convoys.

B. N.S.H.Q. 1912Z/12 and 1721Z/3 given west cycle for western local escort force C. C.T.F. 24, 0441/12, and 1415/14, given requirements for mid-Ocean escorts.

It is evident that a compromise must be reached which will best meet requirements of all concerned. On this basis dates you select will be satisfactory to Cominch.

(C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 1821/16 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.).

/U/B....

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

- U/B. Object believed periscope sighted 047° 36' N. 052° 55' W. at 1125Z/16th by Army observer. (C.O.A.C. 1345Z/16 to GB7A).
- U/B. Coast watchers report subs vicinity 051° 45' N. 055° 25' W. at 2200/15th. (C.O.A.C. 1437Z/16 to GB7A, GB7 A.G.).
- FAME
S.C.104
U/B sunk.
U.353.
*(Cor: Report to them
+ (L) 6443.)*
- FAME rammed and sank U-Boat in 53.54 N. 29.16 W. FAME holed fore and aft, considerable flooding in engine room, engine in action at present. Am proceeding direct U.K. I hope to maintain 12 knots. (FAME 1440Z/16, to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty, C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C, C.T.G. 24.7).
- Well done. Splendid work on the part of B.6. Group. (C. in C.W.A. 1836A/16 to FAME (R) Escorts S.C.104, Capt.D. Liverpool, Admty), My 1440Z/16. P.C. and S. 54.04 N. 27.44 (C) 080° 14. Flooding under control ship seaworthy require docking. Damage stern hole 8 feet long up to 6" wide in engine room at waterline, hole 5' x 2" after magazine at Waterline. Starboard propellor - probably damaged. S/M was U (?289, 353 or 717). 19 prisoners in FAME, 20 in ACANTHUS. (FAME 2100Z/16 to C. in C.W.A.). T.L.congratulate FAME on the destruction of a U-Boat on 16/10/1942. (D.A./S.W. Approved V.C.N.S. 2354A/16th to FAME).
- A.T.26. Route of A.T.26, via points. (J) 39.02 N. 72.05 W. (K) 38.05 N. 55.50 W. (L) 38.45N, 49.20 W. (M) 41.20 N. 37.50 W. (N) 44.30.N. 27.10 W. (O) 52.40 N. 23.30 W. (P) 56.20 N. 14.50 W. (Q) 56.10N, 08.20 W. Chop 1430Z/25th. C.E.S.F.pass to Port Director, New York. (Connav 1445/16 to Port Dir.New York. C.O.A.C. Halifax. F.O.N.F. etc).
- VISCOUNT
(U/B sunk)
U.614.
2-1-464
- T.L.congratulate VISCOUNT on destruction of a U-Boat on 15/10.1942. 2. Capt.(D) Liverpool pass to S.O.Unit B.6. (D.A./S.W. Approved 1st S.L.1525A/16 to VISCOUNT).
- U/B
Positions.
- S/M Situation 16/10. and U.S.S/M notice. (Cominch 1607/16).
- K.15.
*See 12506
(From report by Capt. ...)*
- Onward route Dutch S/M K.15 to Philadelphia via (L) 36.05, 69.40 (M) 38.45 73.55 then 274° to lighted buoy in position of 5 fathom bank light vessel. Advise sailing time and S. of A. (Connav 1648/16 as amended 1412/17, to N.O.I.C.Bermuda (R) C.E.S.F etc).

/ROYAL...

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN, DUNCAN, ANTHONY.
S.A.H. 506
Onward route ROYAL SOVEREIGN via (f) 36.27, 70.30 (g) 38.47, 74.35. thence Philadelphia. BULK OIL and escort DUNCAN and ANTHONY accompanying to breakoff at (g) and proceed via Port au Prince. (h) 39.43, 73.12 (j) 40.05 73.32 to New York. (Connav 1725/16 to U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda (R) C.E.S.F. etc).

IRENE MYRTLE.
My 1927/13. IRENE MYRTLE reported put in New London to relieve Sick Master now due to proceed to Yarmouth, N.S. (N.S.H.Q. 1821Z/16 to Admty Connav).

U/B.
By D/F at 1655Z U-Boat within 40' of 58.30 N. 27° W. (D.D.I.C. 1824A/16 to A.C.I.C.).

FOMALHAUT.
Meter, Casablanca 15/10 C.3 SS.FOMALHAUT reported to be loading thirty or forty tanks large number of rifles and thousand tons of munitions, destined to Dakar. (B. A.D. 1849Z/16 to Admty (R) F.O.C.N.A.).

Floating Dock ZWARTE ZEE.
Admty 1808/14th ^{/N.S.H.Q.} (ZWARTE ZEE to assist with Floating Dock ready to leave for Freetown in December.) Request you arrange Dutch Tug to arrive New Orleans by 10th December. (B.A.D. 2005Z/16 to S.B.N.O.W.A. etc).

Names of M/Vs sunk, Concealment.
Elaborate precautions are at present being taken by Admiralty to ensure that names of Merchant Ships sunk do not reach the enemy.
2. These precautions are to a large extent nullified by use of International Call-signs in distress messages. These messages are re-broadcast on 500 K/Cs Naval Area Waves and in some cases on Rugby W/T. It is therefore probable that they are intercepted by the enemy.
2. It is suggested that Merchant ships except when in convoy, should use their war W/T call-sign when transmitting distress messages. Ships in convoy would continue to use their convoy call-sign.
4. Request Navy Dept's remarks. (D.T.D. 2055A/16 to B.A.D.).

Escort Instruction.
Your 0534/7. (0524A/7 intended, re Instructional unit at Londonderry). An officer with escort experience will be made available. Name and date of arrival in U.K. will be communicated later. (N.S.H.Q. 2201Z/16 to Admty).

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

Sub attack and sighting Summary. (A) STEEL SCIENTIST torpedoed and sunk about 05.21 N. 52.14 W. believed 12/10. CELANDINE attacks S/M about 53.34 N. 25.23 W. 1200Z/16.
(B) SIR HUON diamond shaped insignia C/T.
(C) Plane attacks S/M on surface 57.35 N. 22.25 W. 1410Z/10/8. Planes sight S/M 11.21 N. 61.42 W. 1740Z/15 course southwest alongside Schooner. Coast watcher sights S/M 51.45 N. 55.25 W. 2200Z/15, also 47.34 N. 58.53 W. 0250Z/16 course North B.18B sights S/M 11.10 N. 61° W. 0430Z/16 and Radar contact 11° N. 60.53 W. 0515Z/16. S/M sighted 01.30 N. 59.57 W. 1535Z/16. Army observer sights possible periscope 47.36 N. 52.55 W. 1125Z/16. Plane sights S/M 11.26 N. 61.14 W. 1120Z/16. course East.
(D) U.S.S. SURPRISE attacks sound contact 14.49 N. 70.49 W. about 1500Z/16.
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet 2220/16*td Admty).
* as amended 2145/17.

Australia & New Zealand.

HEEMSKERCK E.T.A. Fremantle with Neth. destrs. VAN GALEN
VAN GALEN and TJERK HIDDES in company p.m./25/10.
TJERK HIDDES. (HEEMSKERCK 0505Z/16 to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C.E.F. N.O.I.C. Diego Garcia).

Situation Serial No.267, 15/10.
Fortress on R/C attacked enemy light cruiser 07° 22' S. 155° 44' E. course 045° 0305Z/15 made two near misses. Vessel stopped appeared seriously damaged.
2. Air R/C reported one cargo vessel one escort vessel 07° 3. 154° 55' E. 0310Z course 300°.
3. One destroyer one transport departed Buka passage 0700Z/15 proceeded south via west coast Bougainville. Vessel reported as cruiser or seaplane tender in Serial 266 identified from photographs as minelayer possibly ITSUKUSHIMA.
4. Reported 15/10 50 fighters based Buka. On 15/10 27 bombers from N.W. were joined by 37 fighters at Buka and continued S.E.
5. Allied Air operations 15/10. 3 B.25s bombed wreck at Solamau later bombed area near Wairopi bridge. 3 Bostons 7 Aircobras attacked enemy positions 2 miles south Templetons Crossing result unknown. 2 Hudsons attacked Ailpu (Timor) damaged several large buildings. No opposition.
6. Ref. serial 263, para.3 photograph shows seaplane tender similar KAMIKAWA MARU type with 13 floatplanes on deck.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 0651Z/16 to Admty etc).

/CANBERRA..

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War Diary.

16.10.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

CANBERRA,
(Sunk
8/8).

A.G.M. 228A of 26/8.

Further information on the loss of CANBERRA has brought to light the following points.

2. Enemy forces had been reported at 400 miles on the previous afternoon but in view of the distance and the high speed necessary for enemy to reach Guadalcanal during dark hours the presence of Japanese was not considered an immediate menace. CANBERRA was at 2nd degree of readiness.

3. The R.D.F.(W.S.) set is known to have been in working order but failed to give warning of approach of enemy. This was probably due to inexperienced operators a number of friendly ships in vicinity, and the fact that there were several islands close to area of patrol.

(D.T.S.D. Approved by V.C.N.S. 2056A/16 to C.in C.E.F., C. in C.H.F. C. in C.Med.(R) B.A.D.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Positions estimated at 1300/16.
(D.D.I.C. 1435A/16, 1515A/16).

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The flag of S.O. Force "H" was ordered to be hoisted in DUKE OF YORK today.

The broad pendant of Commodore T.H. Troubridge (S.O. Force "C") was hoisted in LARGS at 0900A today.

R.A.A/C H.F. in VICTORIOUS with AVENGER and BITER (auxiliary aircraft carriers) arrived in the Clyde today.

Five sloops of the 37th Escort Group (BLACK SWAN, S.O.) will leave Londonderry tomorrow to overtake Convoy O.N.S.140 and thereafter to act as an independent Reinforcing Group in mid-Atlantic.

Aircraft of Coastal Command hit and damaged in the early hours of this morning a vessel which left Boulogne during the night. R/C confirms that a ship is damaged and beached northeast of Calais.

Operation
"E.Y.5."

S.O. 15th M.S. Flotilla considers that enemy A/C which shadowed him at close range yesterday and today, have now obtained accurate information of the channel he is sweeping off Seidisfiord.

Aircraft of Bomber Command laid 66 mines last night in Biscay ports and in the Frisian - Elbe area: 4 aircraft are missing from this operation.

The U.S.S.R. Naval Staff report that SS.SCHORS was mined near Yugorski shar, in position 178° from Greben Light (69° 39' N. 60° 0' E) 2.15 miles, a magnetic mine is suspected.

Mediterranean.

P.211 has reported the result of her patrol, apparently in the Adriatic. On 8/10 she obtained one hit on a 1,200 ton laden southbound merchant ship (result not seen) and on 10/10 she destroyed a 900 ton merchant ship which was beached, and on the same day she obtained 2 hits on a 4,000 ton merchant vessel in ballast but did not see the result.

/The...

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War Diary.

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

The enemy in his air attacks on Malta today continued to use JU.88s and ME.109 bombers and further increased his fighter escort. Some damage was caused at the aerodromes. In 103 Spitfire sorties against 245 enemy sorties 8 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 10 damaged or destroyed: British losses were 3 Spitfires destroyed (2 pilots) and 6 damaged, 2 seriously.

America & West Indies.

S.C.104.

The corvette POTENTILLA, one of the escorts of S.C 104 reported at 0103Z today that she had attacked a U-Boat on the surface with gunfire and when U/B had dived, with depth charges, and considers she damaged U/B, in approx. 53° 50' N. 27° 17' W.

See p. 541.

It is reported that SS.FLENSBURG (Dutch) was torpedoed and sunk at 2400 G.M.T./7 in 10° 15' N, 45° 50' W.

C. in C.U.S.Navy reports a possible refuelling U-Boat in 22° 30' N, 49° 30' W. at 2000Z today. He proposed that K.15 should search, but this submarine has not sufficient endurance to make an effective search.

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- S.O.
Force "C" (1) Broad pendant of Commodore T.H. Troubridge hoisted in *LARGS at 0900A today, October 1942. (S.O. Force "C" 0901A/17 to Admty.) **See next page*
- North Atlantic dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic operating in Northern Waters.
Area Iceland - ARGONAUT, 2 destroyers, ANSON, BERWICK, SUFFOLK, 3 destroyers.
Area Scapa - KING GEORGE V, NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, CUMBERLAND, JAMAICA, LONDON, SCYLLA, SHEFFIELD, SUSSEX, 11 destroyers.
Area Clyde - FURIOUS, VICTORIOUS, AVENGER, 5 destroyers.
Area Belfast - DELHI.
Area Gibraltar - CHARYBDIS.
(D.O.D. (H.) 1122A/17 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)
- Drifters for Aultbea. Rosyth's 1655A/16. Three further steam drifters are being requisitioned from the Fisheries and should be at Aultbea during November, when MORVEN HILL and TRADEWIND will return to Methil.
(D.S.V.P. 1520A/17 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- Coastal Force developments. A meeting will be held at Admty. at 1445/28 to discuss latest technical developments and tactics in M.G.Bs and M.T.Bs.
2. Request you will arrange for a representative from your staff and selected Senior Officers of M.G.B. and M.T.B. Flotillas to attend.
(D.D.O.D. (C.) 1706A/17 to C. in C. Nore. V.A. Dover, C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, R.A.C.F.)
- Defence of U.K.
- Clyde A/A defence. As from 27/10 the N.L.O. at Turnhouse will be withdrawn and the provision of vital advance information to F.O.I.C. Glasgow regarding enemy air attacks from the east will cease, N.L.O. Newcastle becoming then the source. The continuance of this information is of the greatest importance in bringing into effective use the Naval Defence measures formulated for this River. Urgently request immediate approval for a direct telephone line from Naval Offices Glasgow to N.L.O. R.A.F. 13 Group Headquarters Newcastle. In addition certain West Coast plots were also received from Turnhouse and approval is requested to ensure the continued receipt of these plots by extending direct line between R.A.F. Station Ayr and Naval Offices Greenock to Naval Offices Glasgow.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1545/17 to Admty.)

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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

LARGS. Sailed LARGS for Oban. E.T.A. 1430A/17.
See previous page (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0048A/17.)

QUEEN Clyde arrival QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX.
EMMA (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0414A/17.)
PRINSES
BEATRIX

ATALANTA. Sailed ATALANTA southabout for Rosyth in
accordance with Admty. 1727/3. Anchoring as
convenient owing to bad seakeeping qualities.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0819A/17.)

MINERVE. *18th Oct*
Sailed MINERVE for Rosyth to carry out special
trials.
(Capt. S.9. 0931A/17.)

GLASGOW My 1825A/15 and 1812A/16. Sailed Needles 0840/17.
FERNIE (C. in C. Portsmouth 0935A/17 to A.C.O.S.)
C. in C. Portsmouth's 1220/17. FERNIE is to
part company on arrival off The Smalls and proceed
to Milford Haven.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1601A/17.)

VICTORIOUS Request berths in Belfast Lough may be allotted
FURIOUS to VICTORIOUS, FURIOUS, ARGUS, AVENGER, BITER
ARGUS from 18th to 26th October inclusive.
AVENGER It is desired to reserve these berths for carriers
BITER who cannot return to Clyde between exercise
periods.
(R.A.A. H.F. 1003A/14.)
E.T.A. 1700 in VICTORIOUS with BITER, AVENGER and MILNE.
(R.A.A. H.F. 1215A/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
Clyde arrival R.A. A/C. H.F. in VICTORIOUS, AVENGER, BITER.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1734/17.)

LULWORTH. Request you sail LULWORTH to R/V at Bar Light
See p. 528 Vessel 1600A/18.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1006A/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
Comply with F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1006A/17.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1327A/17 to LULWORTH.)
Intend proceed at 2200A today. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel
1600A/18.
(LULWORTH 1602A/17 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
Sailed LULWORTH in accordance with F.O.I.C. Liverpool's
1006/17.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2244A/17.)

DEPTFORD. Intend sailing DEPTFORD 1600A/17 for Greenock in
accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1858A/16. E.T.A.
Cumbraes 0600A/18.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1032A/17.)

/Sailed...

War Diary.

17.10.1942.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.DEPTFORD.
Contd.

Sailed my 1032A/17.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1633A/17.)
Proceed Loch Linnhe and with FARNDALE provide A/S
protection at Southern Entrance to Loch.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1958A/17 to DEPTFORD.)

PRINCE
CHARLES.

PRINCE CHARLES 2027/16. Request you will sail
PRINCE CHARLES to Portsmouth a.m. tomorrow.
(S.O. A.S.C. 1101A/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Intend sailing PRINCE CHARLES at 0715A/18 for
Southampton via Irish Sea standard route and channel route (P).
Speed of advance 18 knots. E.T.A. at Needles 1700A/19.
Codeword EAGER.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1134A/17.)

P.34.

1. Your 1136/16. Onward route diving by day
through P. 043° 01' N 012° 58' W. Q. 049° 05' N
012° 10' W. R. 180° Bishop Rock 8 miles to pass
through position S 180° Lizard Head 10 miles a.m.
29th. thence Portsmouth as ordered by Capt. S.5.
(F.O.S. 1212A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

H.32
P.615

Intend to sail LA CAPRICIEUSE as escort to H.32
from Rothesay at 0930A/20 via searched channel and
Minches for Scapa. E.T.A. Scapa 0800A/22.
A.C.O.S. is requested to sail LA CAPRICIEUSE with
P.615 for Holy Loch as soon after arrival of H.32
as possible.
(Capt. S.3. 1351A/17.)

EMPIRE
SAM etc.

C. in C. W.A. 1830A/14. E.T.A. 25/10.
(1) Horta 5 ships each requiring 70 tons of coal.
(2) Ponta Delgada 1 ship requires 50 tons oil fuel.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1445A/17.)

RENOWN.

Intend sailing RENOWN at 1700/19. Request
destroyer escort may R/V in Firth of Forth before
dark.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1610A/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

ACTIVITY
LOOKOUT
PENN

Your 1220/14 and 1215/16. Intend to proceed at
1530/18. R/V outside Inch Keith Gate with
LOOKOUT and PENN at 1830, passing May Island
2000/18. E.T.A. Pentland Firth 0800/19, Clyde
0900/20. Request fighter protection.
(ACTIVITY 1630/17 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

7th L.C.T.
Flotilla.

Request you will sail 7th L.C.T. Flotilla (L.C.T.
300, 301, 326, 328, 355, 375, 380, 381, 395, 400
and 416) from Toward to Dundrum Bay at 1700/20,
thence in accordance with R.A.L.B's 1510A/17.
S.O.A. 9 knots.
(Capt. L.C.T. 1801A/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/FAULKNER...

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

FAULKNOR Sailed FAULKNOR, MIDDLETON to Hvalfiord, E.T.A.
MIDDLETON 0800A/19. Request ECHO, IMPULSIVE may be sailed
ECHO to arrive Scapa before dark 20th.
IMPULSIVE (R.A.D. H.F. 1810A/17 to A.C.I.C. ANSON.)

CHAMPION My 1304/17. CHAMPION returned to Humber.
Reasons for so doing being investigated.
(F.O. Humber 1835/17 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

TASAJERA TASAJERA has arrived from Belfast with birdge
BACHAQUERO material assembled and secured with an overhang
MISOA as explained.
BACHAQUERO and MISOA are being stowed with all
gear inboard and this appears satisfactory.
(S.O. A.S.C. 1940A/17 to Admty.)

P.311 Cancel my 1008/12. Consequent on further delay
TROOPER with R.D.F. fittings.
THUNDERBOLT (A) P.311 to be sailed from Devonport for Port
HHZ on completion to arrive by 4/11.
(B) TROOPER after completion at Scotts to FORTH
to complete working up, thence Port HHZ to arrive 3/11.
(C) THUNDERBOLT to Port HHZ on completion of working up to
arrive 29/10. If these dates can be improved on so much the
better.
(F.O.S. 1942A/17.)

P.511. Intend sailing P.511 escorted by^xChaser 11 at
1730/18 for Sheerness routed Spithead convoy
route, speed 10 knots, E.T.A. Sandy Head Buoy
0600/19.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2250A/17.)* CHASSEUR 11.

Operations.

Patrols. My 1131A/16. Entered Weymouth.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0830A/17.)
1. Intend M.G.Bs 54 (S.O.) and 52 to patrol on
Lat. 50° 20' N between 1° 35' W and 2° 10' W tonight.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1203A/17.)
Cancel my 1203A/17 owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1825A/17.)
M.Ls 153 (S.O.) 195 and 157 patrolling 7 miles 065° and 245°
either side of 105° Start Point 20 miles, to intercept E-Boats.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1349A/17.)
Cancel my 1349A/17.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1721A/17.)
One R.M.L. patrolling between Scarweather and Lundy Island
at 2001A/17.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1553A/17.)
M.Ls 149 and 150 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton
and North East Spit Buoy S. E.T.D. 1900 E.T.R. 0700/18.
M.Ls 141 and 137 near C One Buoy.
(V.A. Dover 1719A/17.)

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

37th. 37th escort group consisting of BLACK SWAN, S.O.
Escort LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, CARNATION are to
Group. leave Londonderry 18/10 to overtake O.N.S.140.
(2) (?Group) will act as reinforcing group in
mid Atlantic with general instructions as in my
1437/16/9 (?1438/17/9.)
(3) It is intended that the Group should return to base by 31/10.
(C. in C. W.A. 1003Z/17.)
My 1003Z/17. (1) When 37th group has overtaken O.N.S.140
the group is to act as an independent reinforcing group in
vicinity of the convoy till otherwise ordered.
(2) While orders for the groups will be issued as necessary S.O.
is to use his discretion as to the employment of his forces in
the light of any knowledge he may possess, keeping the necessary
authorities informed of any radical movements intended.
(C. in C. W.A. 1104A/17.)

Unknown Your 2024A/16/9. Weather conditions have not
operation. allowed this operation to be carried out during
past dark period but, if it is intended to operate
during the next dark period, one R craft can in
the interval be very usefully employed in Dover
Area.
(F.O.C. Dover 1141A/17 to C.C.O.)

S/M URSULA and GRAPH proceed on the surface forthwith
Patrols. to position 045° 20', 008° 30' and 044° 50', 008°
30' respectively.
(F.O.S. 1239A/17.)
A. Estimated position P.45 and P.221 at 1500/17, 045° 25',
012° 30' and 044° 34', 012° 30' respectively.
B. P.45 and P.221 remain on patrol in your present position.
C. Estimated position P.54 at 1500/17 049° 32', 009° 32'.
P.54 proceed with despatch forthwith toward 047° 01', 011° 59'.
Total bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.S. 1324A/17.)

Position of submarines at 0800A/18 and movements for following
24 hours. (A) JUNON in Zone K.9. (B) UREDD in Zone K.5.
(C) UNIQUE in Zone K.502. (D) SEALION in Zone K.506. (F) P.54
47° 20' N 11° 30' W probably on surface to patrol vicinity 47°
N 12° W. (G) P.45, vicinity 45° 24' N 12° 30' W. (H) P.221
vicinity 44° 34' N 12° 30' W. (J) GRAPH vicinity 44° 50' N
08° 30' W. (K) URSULA vicinity 45° 20' N 08° 30' W.
(F.O.S. 1809A/17.)

Wreck Intend sailing VALESCA and escort at 0630/18.
clearances. To resume work on Y.93.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1810A/17.)
My 1810/17. E.T.A. Y.93 1100/18. Night anchorage
Sheringham.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 2051A/17.)

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.R/C of
French
Coast.Cancel my 1606A/15.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0940A/17 to H.Q.C.C.)
A.M. 1604A/16. Request daily R/C of Havre.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1451A/17 to 16 Group.)Enemy
M/V
damaged.One large and 5 or more smaller vessels from
Boulogne plotted by R.D.F. at 2045, eastbound at
8 knots. Large vessel stopped and turned towards
shore at 0030 when in Q.Z.X. 844 N.E. of Calais,
the smaller vessels having continued eastwards.
16 Group A/C attacked and made direct hit on a vessel at 0041.
Jim Crow reports this morning confirm a ship damaged and beached
northeast of Calais.
(V.A. Dover 1048A/17.)Bombing
restrictions.Request total bombing restrictions 25 miles either
side of a line joining 049° 32' 009° 32' and 047°
01' 011° 59' forthwith until 1200/18.
(F.O.S. 1356A/17 to H.Q.C.C.)Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland.

One enemy A/C plotted 24 miles north of Vattarnes
at 0955, course S.W. Unidentified two engine
enemy aircraft circled Hofen 64° 15' N 15° 13' W
at 1045, disappeared course S.E.
(A.C.I.C. 1220A/17.)One enemy A/C unidentified sighted from Skala 066° 20',
014° 43', at 0930, course West. From Vopna 065° 45' 014° 49'
1030. From Ker 065° 46' 014° 20' 1045. Plotted bearing E.N.E.
from Vattarnes at 1105. Sighted from Thorhofen^{66° 15' 20'} at 1142, course
north. Sighted from Hofn 064° 15' 015° 13' at 1259. Sighted
from Djupivogur 064° 40' 014° 14' at 1305, course west.
(A.C.I.C. 1327A/17.)R/C of
operation
E YIt now seems certain that enemy A/C have obtained
accurate information of my operation and exact
position of channel being swept. Yesterday and
today shadowing took place at close range until
Northrop drove him off.
(15th M/S 1414Z/17 to A.C.I.C. (R) C. in C. H.F.)Mining.Convoy
sweep.Departure ROWAN and FIR sweeping ahead of "Review"
to Dartmouth.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0745A/17.)

S.N.3 E

My 0920/30. Weather permitting intend to carry
out S.N.3 E, with E amended to read Harra Butt of
Lewis 7 miles, at 1000/18. L to read 1640/18,
and other paras amended accordingly.
(R.A.M. 0906/17.)

War Diary.

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining-~~cont.~~

S.N.3 E Contd. My 0906/17. Owing to defects in ^{*}BRIGHTON (?only) 3 destroyers are now (?available) as screen for S.N.3. One destroyer to R/V with me in 090° Butt of Lewis 7 miles at 1000 tomorrow. She would be released on return to same position about 0200/19. As operation has already been delayed for a fortnight I am loth to miss any chance of carrying it out. (R.A.M. 1054/17 to C. in C. H.F.) *S... P-526
Comply with R.A.M.'s 1054/17. (C. in C. H.F. 1339A/17 to R.A.D. H.F.)
R/V R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE in 090° Butt of Lewis 7 miles at 1000/18. You will be required to provide additional escort for operation S.N.3 E.
(2) When released return to Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 1530A/17 to LEDBURY.)

Norwegian Coast. My 1322/13. No further information available at present. (F.O.S. 1058A/17 to S/Ms.)

Harwich. At 0903A/17 one magnetic mine exploded by sweepers. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1119A/17.)

Enemy M/V damaged. Last night R.D.F. plotted one large vessel with five or more smaller leaving Boulogne N.E.wards at 8 knots, presumably 380 ft. ship reported by P.R.U. Plot showed that the ship entered Q.Z.X. 844 (N L 61A) 4 miles N.E. of Calais at 0030, when it stopped, turned, and closed the shore towards Calais. Confirmation that the ship was damaged, presumably by mine, and beached is provided by Jim Crow report this morning of a ship with back broken and decks awash. Plot showed smaller vessels continuing eastwards. 16 Group had arranged to attack between Calais and Gravelines with Hudsons and an Albacore dropping flame floats. One of Hudsons claims direct hit on a vessel at 0041 an M.T.B. and M.G.B. Unit sent to wait at Nieuport Bank had to return owing to rough weather. (V.A. Dover 1134A/17.)

Sweep in Q.Z.X.771. My 1130/16. Operation successful. No mines swept. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1210A/17.)

Lyme Bay sweep. Intend sailing BRECON CASTLE and LOCH BUIE at 0700/18 sweeping route "P" to Portland. Codeword "Ounce V". Request they be sailed back to Dartmouth sweeping ahead of P.W.235.
2. Request FINESSE, NIGHT HAWK and CONCERTATOR be sailed for Dartmouth a.m./18 sweeping ahead of P.W.234 but steaming if weather unsuitable for sweeping. Codeword "Ounce VI". (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1529/17 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

/Intend...

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War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. *en 13:*Lyme Bay
Sweep.
Contd.Intend sailing trawlers FINESSE, NIGHT HAWK and CONCERTATOR for Dartmouth at 0700/18 sweeping route to Dart Buoy, but steaming if weather unsuitable. Codeword "Ounce VI".
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1610A/17.)SCHORS
mined.
HALCYON
to sweep
channel.Soviet Union Naval Staff reports Russian ship SCHORS mined near Yugorski Shar in position 178° from Greben Light 2 point 15 miles. Magnetic mine suspected.
As HOPEMOUNT and (?icebreakers) are anchored at Khabarrova awaiting passage to Archangel it is of first importance this channel should be cleared. Sweeper should not remain with O.B. and O.H.T.A. but proceed to Yugorski Shar at best speed and sweep channel one quarter mile each side between (a) 209° Greben Light 2.7 miles (b) 205° Dyakonov Light 3.2 miles. (c) 166° Dyakonov Light 1.1 miles. On completion fuel from HOPEMOUNT at Khabarrova and proceed to Matochkin Shar as arranged.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1909A/17 to HALCYON.)

Humber.

Following two mines detonated today by sweepers. Details.
(F.O.Humber 2210A/17.)Operation
E Y(1) Swept channel about 5 miles northwards of position Y to 065° 26' N 013° 30' W as North Western Point cleared to 1 mile width.
(2) Approach channel extended by close search in K formation. Southern limit now a line 072° from 065° 18' decimal point 04, 013° 40' decimal point 09 west for 7.5 miles. Both operations negative results.
(3) Minesweepers Group 15 report that it seems enemy aircraft have obtained accurate information of operation and position of channel being swept. Yesterday and today shadowing at close range.
(A.C.I.C. 2345A/17.)Enemy Intelligence.Unknown
ship.One PL type unknown bearing 270° course 126°, 5 miles distant from 60° 58' N 12° 53' W.
(NORTHERN FOAM 0920/17.)ELSA
ESSBERGER.My 1239/17 and 1324/17. ELSA ESSBERGER was seen in Roads at St. Nazaire at 1115/16, and may have sailed.
(F.O.S. 1428A/17 to S/MS.)

/Enemy...

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.- Contd.Enemy
situation.The following is from reliable sources and is
graded generally B.3.

1. German casualties summer campaign estimated 2½ million of which 900,000 permanent.
2. German losses in pilots considered serious and N.C.Os are being promoted to officer rank without usual examination formality.
3. Quality German manpower shows noticeable decline. Comb out extensive and recent decree stipulates that Bau building and similar formations must not exceed 10% German, remainder prisoner labour.
4. Projected German offensive on (?Leningrad) and island definitely off. 200 invasion barges being laid up (group indecipherable) Talinn.

No additional German formations have so far been sent to Finland since 5th Mountain Div. pulled out.

5. German shipping intensively employed getting stores Finland and North Norway before ice sets in. Finnish ports completely choked through lack of rolling stock. This work is estimated to be two months behind schedule.

(Mil. Attache, Stockholm, No. T.O.O. War Office. Recd. Admty. 1707/17.)

N.I.D. Comment:- 4. Reports about offensive on Leningrad have decreased lately, but this is the first report that is is it off. It may well be a postponement during the autumn rains and until the winter frost sets in.

The para re 5th Mountain Div. is not quite correct, as only a few elements of this division were in Finland.

5. Probably correct.

U-Boats.U-Boats
reported.D/F bearings at 0939Z/17 indicate U/B in your
vicinity. May possibly have reported you.

(D.D.I.C. 1147A/17 to P.555.)

SSSS de GT 73. Sub in convoy.

(GT.73 T.O.R. 1651/17.)

A.M. 1311A/17. Further D/F bearings including transmission at 1315Z. indicate at least one U-Boat in your vicinity. You may have been reported.

(D.D.I.C. 1722A/17 to Escorts O.N.137.)

DR DE ZP13. Periscope seen port side of convoy 1727 G.M.T.

(Lyness 1731/17) (C. in C. Plymouth 1831/17.)

D/F bearings at 1835Z/17 indicate U-Boat in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C. 2025A/17 to Escorts H.X.211.)

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

NURJEHAN. Departure at 0710 DISCOVERY II and NEWSLADE to assist SS. NURJEHAN foul of moorings of Humber L/F.
(F.O. Humber, 0807A/17.)

→ EMPIRE PLANET. If not with convoy report your P.C.S, and whether you still require assistance.
(C. in C. W.A., 1008Z/17 to EMPIRE PLANET.)

BRIXHAM. Your 1249A/14. BRIXHAM read B.N.922 but failed to identify D.G. or decypher. Ship recently commissioned has very inexperienced operators. Disciplinary action taken. Ship also used incorrect recognition due to very incomplete series of A.G.M.
2- p 527
(A.C.O.S., 1039A/17 to Admty.)

M.G.B. 107, When exercising in the Downs p.m. yesterday
M.G.B. 322. M.G.Bs 107 and 322 were involved in a collision causing considerable damage to both.
(V.A. Dover, 1138A/17.)

M.M.S. 113. Request immediate assistance engine broken down 49° 46' N. 14° 18' W.
(Ship 5000F, 1145/17.)

Sail CHERBOURGEOIS escorted by HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to assist M.M.S. 113 broken down in 49° 46' N. 14° 18' W. at 1145A/17.
(C. in C. W.A., 1437A/17 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Your 1145/17. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN escorting tug CHERBOURGEOIS ~~is~~ proceeding to your assistance.
(Milford Haven, 1457A/17 to Ship 500F.)
On reaching latitude 049° N. detach one escort proceed to assist Motor Minesweeper 113 broken down in 049° 46' N. 014° 18' W. at 1145A/17. Tug CHERBOURGEOIS escorted by HUDDERSFIELD TOWN is being sailed from Milford Haven to assist.
(C. in C. W.A., 1834A/17 to WESTON.)

VESTLAND. Intend to sail VESTLAND in tow of FREEBOOTER escorted by ST. ELSTAN at 0915Z/18th routed through Reykjanes passage to (A) 062° 10' N. 016° 10' W. (B) 059° 05' N. 010° 25' W. (C) 359° Butt of Lewis 6 miles, thence through Pentland Firth to Scapa in accordance with A.M. 1755/5. S.O.A. 7 knots.
(A.C.I.C., 1208A/17 to A.C.O.S.)

→ EMPIRE PLANET. Following received from EMPIRE PLANET. Rudder broken, require assistance immediately. Your 2 previous messages said assistance was on way. Dead reckoning position noon G.M.T. 17th 55° 38' N. ?(11°) 40' W, drifting east 2 knots.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1320 G.M.T./17.)

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- READING. READING on passage North developed hot bearings. Admiralty representative was on board. Present speed limited 18 knots. Bearings are being lifted and cleaned on board by ship's staff as opportunity occurs.
READING has full outfit of torpedoes, depth charges, and hedgehog ammunition.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1515A/17.)
- DEXTEROUS. F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1240A/17. Intend to sail DEXTEROUS to Glasgow for repairs at 0900/18. E.T.A. Gourock for Pilot 1330/18.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1550A/17.)
- INVERCLYDE. Wreck of INVERCLYDE in approx. 138° 4 miles from Brighton East Pier Light is visible at low water and is a danger to navigation. Request Q.Z.H. message.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1610A/17.)
- HUNDA. My 1857/16. ^{/N.T.N.D.} HUNDA has fractured main discharge pipe. Anticipate repairs will be complete for ship to proceed a.m. 18th.
(A.C.O.S., 1712/17.)
- STORNEST. Have made unsuccessful search in vicinity, now foggy poor visibility. Request orders.
(ADHERENT, DRANGEY, 1800Z/17 to A.C.I.C.)
My 2322/13. Following received from ADHERENT and DRANGEY.
Repeats 1800/17. Request reply may be sent.
(A.C.I.C., 2025A/17 to Admt.)
- CHARLES CARROLL torpedoes. One U-Boat torpedoed SS. CHARLES CARROLL. No trace of wreckage or survivors. Approx. position 054° 38' N. 023° 50' W. Time 1700Z.
(POTENTILLA, 1805A/17 to C.T.F. 24.)
W.D. Note: Not torpedoed, see 0830Z/18.
- ROYAL EAGLE. M.M.S. 12. Collision between ROYAL EAGLE and M.M.S. 12 took place in Oban Bay at 1256/17 causing damage to both vessels. ROYAL EAGLE has stem and bow plating buckled and is holed on starboard side below water line which necessitates docking. Compartment can be isolated and ship made seaworthy for passage in good weather. F.O.I.C. Glasgow is requested to provide private docking facilities.
M.M.S. 12 is holed on port quarter above water line. Temporary repairs can be effected at Oban to enable vessel to continue her present duties.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1820A/17 and 1215/18.)

/BRIGHTON ...

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

BRIGHTON. My 1056/17. Raise steam and proceed to Greenock
see p. 521 so as to pass Clyde Boom at 0800/19.
(R.A.M., 1825/17 to BRIGHTON.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.S. 1. PHILANTE is to proceed to Barry Roads.
2. PHILANTE, POPPY are to act as escort to ships mentioned in A.M. 1425/16.
3. N.O.I.C. Cardiff to arrange escort as necessary.
4. On completion of escort PHILANTE, POPPY are to proceed to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 1043A/17 and 1347A/17.)
My 1043/17 and 1347/17. Request you will sail PHILANTE to Cardiff on completion of present escort duty.
(C. in C. W.A., 1509A/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
A.M. 1425/16. Intend sailing all ships concerned (except J.P. POE, already sailed) in convoy p.m. 19th, escorted by PHILANTE and POPPY.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1543A/17.)
Convoy K.M.S.1 consisting of 47 merchant ships will leave the Clyde p.m. 22nd.
2. Route as follows: R/V in position (A) 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1100Z/23, through (B) 55° 28' N. 13° 01' W. (C) 53° 30' N. 19° 59' W. (D) 50° 36' N. 24° 25' W. (E) 42° 43' N. 26° 00' W.
3. Speed of advance 8 knots.
(D.O.D.(H), 1755A/17 to H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.)
Cancel my 1509/17. → PHILANTE will not proceed Clyde.
2. N.O. in Charge Liverpool is requested to sail PHILANTE to Cardiff a.m. 18th.
(C. in C. W.A., 2052A/17.)
C. in C. W.A. 2052A/17. Intend sailing PHILANTE at 1000A/18 for Cardiff, speed 12 knots, E.T.A. 1030A/19.
Codeword "Manual".
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2352A/17.)

BATORY. Cancel my 1218A/16, my 1242A/16 and my 1756/16.
see p. 528. → Intend sailing PHILANTE escorting BATORY 1830A/17 for Clyde, E.T.A. 0700A/18.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1124A/17.)

K.X. 3. Intend sailing LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE escorted by ACHATES passing Clyde boom 2200A/18 to R/V with VANOC from Londonderry in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0800A/19, thence in accordance with A.M. 1610A/13.
Codeword "Sultan".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1126A/17.)
My 2218/12. Delete AMAZON.
(C. in C. W.A., 1615A/17.)
My 1126A/17 and 1134A/17. Codeword "Sultan". ACHATES proceed to Londonderry to complete with fuel on completion of conference. Will join convoy in company with VANOC in position (H).
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1728A/17.)
My 1126A/17. Codeword "Sultan" sailing delayed 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1824A/17.)

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War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

S.C. 104. Your 1835/8. Circumstances of S.C. 104 are excellent example of difficulties of present "Chop" and support our views as to value of air cover from Iceland. Had matter been in our hands we should have left convoy on north-easterly course to latitude 59° to facilitate gaining air cover, whereas it was diverted by Connav to easterly course on latitude 54°. Despite this a Liberator from Iceland made contact with convoy on 15th at over 700 miles from base and carried out two attacks on U-Boats in vicinity of convoy. Liberator again harassed U-Boats in vicinity of convoy on 16th. It will be appreciated that time aircraft should remain with convoy during past two days was much curtailed by great distances from base.
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1351/17 to B.A.D.)

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. Sheerness departure CALPE at 1225 as escort to SS. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE in accordance with my 1550/16. *N.T. m.w.d.*
(C. in C. Nore, 1420A/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
DUNNOTTAR CASTLE escorted by CALPE on passage North by A.M. Q.Z.S. 287, speed 17 knots, due number 4 buoy 1800. F.S. 435 speed 7 knots due Sheringham 1830. F.S. 436 due 20 C buoy 2130 speed 6½ knots. Navigation lights are to be burning when passing.
(C. in C. Nore, 1440A/17 to CALPE, WALLACE, WOOLSTON, WESTMINSTER, VICEROY.)

Convoy K.M.F.1. Sailed for Loch Linnhe ULSTER MONARCH, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, SAMPHIRE, GARDENIA, CONVULVULUS, and SS. REINA DEL PACIFICO, WARWICK CASTLE, ETTRICK, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1644A/17.)

K.X. 4A. A.M. 0126/14.
1. Para. 5 add *BRIXHAM and JURA. * *see p. 524*
2. Route as follows:- R/V in position P. 270° Oversay Light 6 miles at 0800Z/22 through position Q. 55° 10' N. 10° 02' W. R. 54° 01' 15° 03'. S. 50° 01' 17° 31'. T. 40° 03' 17° 29'. U. 36° 15' 10° 00' thence to Gibraltar.
3. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered A to F, with instructions that if straggling ships are to open out and keep 30 miles to starboard of route ordered.
4. Fighter protection codeword "Conifer".
(D.O.D. (H.), 1910A/17.)

K.X. 4B. A.M. 0100/14.
1. Para. I delete INVERCLYDE, add Water Boat MORAY. Para. 4 add BUDE.
2. Convoy is to be sailed p.m. 24th.
3. Route as follows: by Q.Z.X. 18 through position F. 180° Fastnet 20 miles, G. 49° 00' N. 14° 00' W. H. 46° 00' N. 15° 00' W. J. 41° 00' N. 14° 00' W. K. 36° 20' N. 10° 00' W. thence to Gibraltar.

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys... cont.:

K.X. 4B. 4. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered
(Contd.) A to E with instructions to open out and keep
30 miles to starboard of route if straggling.
Ships which straggle before reaching G should
if returning conform to M.A.R.I. Sect. I Para. 5 (F).
5. Fighter protection codeword "Sparrow".
(D.O.D.(H.), 1916A/17.)

Loch Na Keal, During gale of 14th and 15th the 3 ships in
Scridain, anchorage dragged badly. EMPRESS OF CANADA
and Salen. lost an anchor on 14th and dragged ashore on
Proposed use. 15th, but refloated with minor damage if any.
Major dangers of using Mull anchorage are
navigational rather than from enemy action. In
order to reduce such danger consider that all Mull anchorages
should be brought into use, thereby limiting number of ships in
any one and giving room to drag or up anchor and proceed to sea.
Beside Loch Na Keal others available are Scridain and Salen.
Visited Scridain finding good accommodation, telephone and
landing facilities available. Intend to carry out minesweeping
search in anticipation of approval to use. Consider no extra
A/S trawler or minesweeping craft required at present.
Consider Oban requires, 4 tugs, 3 of adequate power, seagoing
quality, and reliability to be used in Mull anchorage. Final
picture, R.N.O. with small signal staff at Killiemore Farm,
with assistant and one signalman at Kilfinichen House on Scridain.
Loch Na Keal 14 ships, Scridain 20 ships, Salen 10 ships.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1933A/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DURBAN Intend sailing DURBAN CASTLE, BATORY, OTRANTO
CASTLE, escorted by LULWORTH for Clyde 1600A/18.
BATORY, OTRANTO to be detached at entrance to Bute Sound
OTRANTO. for anchor berth in Loch Fyne, E.T.A. 0600A/19.
S.O.A. 14 knots. Codeword "Master".
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2124A/17.)

* See p. 516

War Diary.

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

KAOLACK, My 1856/16 SS KAOLACK returned to harbour with
OMEGA. defect. Escorted by H.M.T. STELLA CARINA.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0752A/17 to Admty. etc.)
Cancel my 1902/16th. Both ships returned with defects.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0951A/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

U/Bs. One British trawler on patrol within 50 miles
Lisbon. (ii) Possibly 2 U-Boats on patrol
between Lisbon and Cape St. Vincent.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1106A/17 to S/MS operating south
of 051° N.)

Convoy My 1217A/16. (A) Sailed under codeword "Grasp".
"Grasp". Routed C. in C. W.A. 1231/13th and 1117/15th and
F.O.C.N.A.'s 2318/13th.
(1) MAGNOLIA (S.O) and ~~ORFSAY~~ escorting tug
EMPIRE SAM, EMPIRE MINOTAUR and EMPIRE GNOME and Ferry steamer
TUZLA. Speed 7½ knots to Azores.
(2) B.D.V. BARFLAKE and M.L. 295 to be detached from you at
position (e) thence BARFLAKE S.O. speed 8 knots, codeword
"Sheik" to Gibraltar.
(B. C and D) "Q" messages, S.Ps etc.
(E) Request mail be diverted.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1451A/17 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

South Atlantic.

X BRILLIANT, Have on board 267 survivors. Six other well
ORONSAY. found and well provisioned boats containing 183
X survivors. survivors still adrift not seen since 0001/10th.
X *See p. 531* Master states all crew and passengers embarked in
X *See p. 531A* boats except five killed when ship torpedoed.
(BRILLIANT 0230Z/17 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty., C.
in C. S.A., BOREAS, D.18.)

Troopships, Several cases recently of troopships being held
delays for up on West African coast discharging or loading
cargo. cargo.
2. So far as W.S. ships are concerned this cannot
be accepted as the ships are always urgently re-
quired and a few days' delay may entail missing next outward
convoy from U.K. Such cases make us reluctant to agree further
diversions and it is in your own interest to avoid hold ups.
3. Some East Coast ferry ships have also been held up discharging
e.g. HAI LEE and LAFONIA vide your 1155/15. Essential that
these ships be employed primarily as troopships so as to
minimise the calls on W.S. ships for coastal voyages.
(D. of S.T. 0544A/17 to D.S.T.O. W. Africa.)

/AQUITANIA ...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

→ AQUITANIA.

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Sailed 0628Z/17th E.T.A. Aden p.m. 27th. Route. S. of A. 19.25 knots endurance 12½ days books held; requirements at Aden; shift to W/T organization N U on crossing 045° E. at 1700Z/20th. Escorted by ARROW and ACTIVE to position (Q).

(N.C.S.O. Capetown 0636Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

Capetown departure 0925C/17 ARROW, ACTIVE escorting AQUITANIA to 021° 30' E.

(C. in C. S.A. 0945C/17 to Admty. etc.)

Your 1945/30. Amount of smoke depends on weather conditions but ship capable of 21½ knots in temperate latitude without smoke. Work carried out at Boston consisted of treeing ventilating cowls to facilitate trimming, a very minor factor. Forced draught fans are ample but in warm climates efficient air control of furnaces is difficult resulting on excessive smoke. Chief Engineer keenly interested in smoke abatement and constantly experimenting to achieve it. Ship is still capable of her designed speed of 22½ knots and can probably make this without smoke when heavy oil is available.

(C. in C. S.A. 0701C/17 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

ZOUAVE
aground.

My 1951/16 to R.A. W.Af. only. ZOUAVE still aground intend using BACTRIA or EGYPTIAN to take approx 1000 tons of cargo to final (?float) ship. ZOUAVE appears safe and has not made any water but services of Salvage Officer appreciated. M.W.T.R. agreed.

(N.O.I.C. Bathurst Gambia 0840Z/17 to R.A.W.A. (R) M.W.T.)

Your 0840/17. Salvage Officer arrives Bathurst by air p.m./17. Tug AIMWELL with salvage gear E.T.A. Bathurst 0800/19. (R.A.W.A. 1525Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia (R) M.W.T.)

Range of ILE
DE FRANCE.

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Your 0118/16. Fuel range at 20 knots with clean bottom 5700 miles. In present state 5000. These ranges allow for margin of 1000 tons fuel in reserve. 2. Water range (1) unlimited (2) 13 days. Both subject to rationing. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 0931C/17 to D.S.T. (R) D.S.T.O. Durban.)

Movement
Summary.

2000Z/17 area Q. ALCANTARA on patrol in L I A. GUARDIAN, CYCLAMEN, COMMANDANT DETROYAT 019° 30' S. 010° 30' E. to Pointe Noire 12 knots. COMMANDANT DUBOC with S/M TRUANT about 034°

55' S. 020° 30' E. to Simonstown 10 knots E.T.A. 0700Z/18th. NORMAN 035° 05' S. 021° 20' E. to Simonstown, 17 knots, E.T.A. 0600Z/18th. → ARROW, ACTIVE, AQUITANIA about 037° 10' S. 020° 55' E. to the East, 20 knots.

(C. in C. S.A. 1141C/17 to S.A. Stn.)

War Diary.

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

BOREAS,
(search for
ORONSAY
survivors.)

See p. 529 + next page

Returning to base at 0001Z/18th owing to fuel
E.T.A. 1800Z/18th. Weather report.
(BOREAS 1235Z/17 to R.A. West Africa.)

P.552.

See p. 538

Your 1540A/16. (1) Onward route through
(F) 014° 30' N. 019° 58' W.
(G) 010° (?01') N. 017° 01' W. thence to Freetown.
(2) F.O.C.N.A. pass to P.552.
(R.A.W.A. 1247Z/17 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

C.F.7.

Your 1228/15. Escorted convoy C.F.7 is being
assembled to sail from Capetown on Tuesday 20/10
consisting of HIGHLAND BRIGADE with 900 R.A.A.F.,
MALOJA and SAMARIA with service and Mercantile Marine personnel all
for U.K., ANTENOR with 650 U.S.A. Air Corps for Takoradi and
service personnel for U.K.

2. Position regarding accommodation available from Freetown
onwards is rendered difficult as regards cabin space owing to
large number of Mercantile Marine survivors waiting passage at
Capetown. There is however plenty of troop space.

3. Details of accommodation.

4. Suggested that disembarkation of Americans at Takoradi might
be hastened so that ship can rejoin convoy at Freetown.

(P.S.T.O. Capetown 1251C/17 to D.S.T.)

Dispositions. Weekly State 17/10.

(R.A.W.A. 1313Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

See Lion Copy.

Use of
Accra.

A.M. 1940/15th. Concur desirability ships
discharging at Accra particularly as U.S.
Authorities wish to disembark fighter aircraft
? there. Screening by A/S vessels will be
essential as for ships at Liberia Port. M.Ls have proved
unsuitable for this work under inshore sea conditions and
Trawlers must be used. This will present no difficulty if
Trawlers referred to in C. in C. U.S.A.'s 1845/14 are to be
retained at Freetown.

(R.A.W.A. 1414Z/17 to Admty.)

FARRAPO,
U/B.

See p. 532

Master Brazilian ship FARRAPO at Santos has
reported sighting small S/M on surface with mast
up at 2200 local time 16/10, 2 miles east of
Jurea Point (which is 58 miles S.W. from Santos)
S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro please ascertain if
S/M was Brazilian.

(S.O.(I) Montevideo 1440Z/17 to Admty. (R)
B.A.D. etc.)

Your 1440Z/17. Submarine not Brazilian. No confirmation
report yet received here by C. of N. Staff who is inclined to
regard it with reserve.

(S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro 1815Z/17 to S.O.(I) Montevideo (R)
Admty., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

/My 1815Z/17 ...

SECRET

531A.

SECRET M E S S A G E 1313Z/17th Oct. IN
From R.A. West Africa. Date 18.10.42.

Recd 0255.

Naval Cypher (M)3 by W/T CORRECTION

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic,
F.O.C. North Atlantic, S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic,
Comsolanfor 24, B.A.D. Washington.

620 Weekly State 17th October 1942.

Bathurst H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, H.M.S. ARMERIA, CHASSEURS
42 and 43.

Freetown H.M.S. EDINBURGH CASTLE, H.M.S. VINDICTIVE,
H.M.S. *AURORA, H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE, H.M.S. CATHAGE,
H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, H.M.S. DURBAN, H.M.S. DESPATCH,
PUCKERIDGE, H.M.S. VELOX, H.M.S. ANTELOPE, H.M.S. AVON
VALE, H.M.S. CORINTHIAN, H.M.S. PHILOCTETES,
H.M.S. TAMARISK, ROBERTS, KANARIS.

* see p. 533.

Freetown Area H.M.S. MILFORD, H.M.S. *BRILLIANT, H.M.S.
*BOREAS, H.M.S. WIVERN, H.M.S. DECOY, H.M.S. PETUNIA,
H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, (? SNOWDROP), F.S.
COMMANDANT DROGOU, H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRIDE, COWSLIP,
KELANTAN.

* see p. 529.

* see previous page.

Takoradi H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, H.M.S. SOUTHERN GEM, COMMANDANT
D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES.

Lagos H.M.S. AMARANTHUS.

Freetown from Gibraltar BURDOCK.

On passage Pointe Noire from Cape H.M.S. CYCLAMEN,
H.M.S. GUARDIAN, F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT.

Cape H.M.S. ROCKROSE, BELLWORT.

U.K. H.M.S. VANSITTART, H.M.S. VIMY, H.M.S. VIOLET,
H.M.S. AUBRETTIA.

On patrol H (?34) A H.M.S. ASTURIAS. *see p 541.*

1313Z/17

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

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.P.S.

Capt. Pim

M. (2)

Ops. (3)

Mails

O.D. (5)

Movts.

O.D. 8.

I.P. (3)

D.A/S.W.

W.D.

D.M.S. Citadel

O.I.C.

D.M.S.

D.S.V.P.

jf

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - ~~conts.~~

FARRAPO,
U/B
(sunk) ~~conts.~~
see p. 531

My 1815Z/17. Secret sources have now obtained independent confirmation Master's report from individual members of crew.
(S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro 1931Z/17 to S.O.(I) Montevideo (R) Admty., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

SIRIUS,
PHOEBE.

Intend sailing SIRIUS and PHOEBE p.m. 18/10 for Freetown calling Pointe Noire for fuel.
E.T.A. Pointe Noire 23/10.
2. Route A 034° 30' S. (?017°) 30' E.
B. 025° 00' S. 011° 00' E.
C. 018° 00' S. 010° 00' E.
D. 008° 00' S. 010° 00' E.
E. Pointe Noire.
F. 001° 00' S. 005° 00' W. thence as routed by R.A.W.A.F.

3. Request you signal onward route from position F direct to SIRIUS.
(C. in C. S.A. 1518C/17 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

French
Corvettes.

1. From now on, the 2nd Group of Corvettes is constituted by the corvettes operating in South Atlantic under the command of the Senior Commanding Officer.

2. The 2nd Group of Corvettes remains for operations at the orders of C. in C. S.A. and is placed in all other respects under the authority of Senior French Officer Commanding F.N.F.L. in A.E.F.

3. Demands concerning personnel and crew lists to be made out in two copies: one to be sent to S.F.N. O.C. F.N.F.L. in A.E.F. the other to be sent to C. in C. F.N.F.L. London.

4. Create at Pointe Noire an available crew for relief of 2nd Group of Corvettes composed of 35 men to be taken out from A.F.L. exceeding personnel. Officer commanding F.N.F.L. A.F.L. will do the necessary personnel movements in order to always have complete the Corvette crews, and will send monthly by wire to F.N.F.L. London numerical list, ranks, as well as personnel demands and crew adjusted lists of all ships when personnel movements have been affected.

(Duty Signal Officer H.Q. F.N.F.L. 1700A/17 to Cdt. Marine Pointe Noire, Cdt. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES Cdt. DETROYAT, Cdt. DROGOU, F.N.F.L. Freetown, F.N.F.L. Capetown, Durban (R) Admty.)

Sinkings,
Cape area,
diversion
orders.

Your 1106/16 last para. Request you will investigate reasons for this. In this connection your 1302/16 (N.T. in W.D.) was received in Admiralty, addressed to Call Sign OZAP which is undecypherable.
(D.T.D. 1822A/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

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War Diary.

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

AURORA.

Imp. 531A

Request you will sail AURORA to arrive
Gibraltar p.m. 23/10.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. 1853A/17 to
R.A.W.A.)

CISTULA,
DRUPA.

Request CISTULA on completion discharge
Matadi and DRUPA (tanker message) be sailed
Freetown for orders.
(D.T.D. 1921A/17 to R.A.W.A.)

GRIFFIN.

It may be necessary for you to arrive Ponta
Delgada later than? reported in your 2201Z/15.
Report latest you can arrive.
(R.A.W.A. 2338Z/17 to GRIFFIN.)

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War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- UNA. Keep North east of 038° 24' 016° 38' until 1231A/18th. (Capt.S.10. 0526A/17 to UNA (R) C. in C.Med.Capt. S.1.).
- Landing Craft for India. From D.C.O. Middle East. LCA 146, 150, 157, 173, 199, 201, 202 shipped in SS.MODASA for India with 4 officers, 4 petty officers and 50 ratings. LCA. 165, 194, 203, and 210 shipped in SS.MOUNT HELIKON 1 officer, 1 petty officer and 4 ratings. Above personnel includes flotilla maintenance staff. LCA 203 fitted for one Oerlikon and two 5 M.Gs. Guns not sent. War Office pass C.C.O. (C. in C.M.E. 0630 G.M.T./17 to C. in C.Med.(R) C.C.O., F.O.C.R.I.M SAUNDER)
- Cositrep No.550. 3. Air. Night 15/16. Tobruk harbour bombed. Damage unobserved. 16/10. British Liberators and American Liberators and Fortresses despatched to attack shipping in Benghazi and Tobruk. Owing to bad weather only two aircraft reached Benghazi and bombed with unobserved results. Fighter-bombers attacked a landing ground Daba area and M.T.Central Sector. Sandstorms prevented operations after midday. (C. in C.M.E. 0900 G.M.T./17).
- FELIX ROUSSEL. D.S.T's 2329/15/10. On completion disembarkation Suez FELIX ROUSSEL should be sailed to Aden to embark personnel ex MENDOZA for Basrah. 2. D. S.T. requested advise D.S.T.O.P.G.disposal instructions on completion Basrah. (P.S.T.O.E. 0913/17 to D.S.T.O. Suez).
- P.212. Patrol vicinity 038° 11' 019° 34' from 0601A/19th. (Capt.S.10. 0920A/17 to S/M. P.212).
- CELENO (Italian). My 1635C/15. CELENO entered Aegean a.m./Eth. (S.O.(I) Istanbul 0935C/17 to S.O.(I) Med. S.1.(R) D.N.I.). My 1901/15th. This ship has probably been delayed by weather (Capt.S.1. 1020C/17 to THRASHER (R) C. in C.Med).
- Bi-Weekly Opsum No.65. Night 13/14. 2.A.S.V. Liberators searched for enemy shipping West of Crete. 1 Liberator bombed 2 southbound unidentified ships with 3 escort vessels about 215 miles N. of Benghazi explosion seen near 1 unidentified ship. Second Liberator did not sight ships owing to cloud.

/14/10....

War Diary.

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Bi-Weekly
Opsum No.65
Contd.

14/10 3 B.17s bombed shipping in Tobruk scoring probable hits or very near misses. A Blenheim on patrol off Levant coast attacked S/M about 30 miles S.E. Samur with 4 250-lb bombs.

Night 14/15. 31 Wellingtons bombed shipping and harbour installations Tobruk. Many bombs burst in dock area starting a fire at jetties. 1 fire seen near petrol installations N.W. of harbour and another in town were not claimed by aircraft. 1 Wellington attacked a ship outside harbour with unobserved results. A fire was subsequently seen burning on water in same area. 2 Wellingtons unable to reach? Tobruk. 1 bombed Sollum starting 3 fires, 1 accompanied by explosions. Second bombed M.T. east of Sidi Haneish.

15/10. 24 Hurricanes 2 Fulmars protection of shipping off Delta and in Gulf of Suez. A Baltimore on anti-submarine patrol between Haifa and Port Said crashed East of Port Said. 1 enemy aircraft shot down by A.A. fire by H.M. Ship off Delta coast. Enemy air activity on moderate scale but included 4 attacks by small numbers fighter bombers Southern Sector.

Night 15/16 23 Wellingtons bombed Harbour installations Tobruk. Damaged unobserved. 8 Wellingtons unable to reach Tobruk owing to bad weather en route. 6 bombed Sollum, 1 Bardia, 1 Sidi Barrani landing ground. Results unobserved.

16/10. B.24s (Number unknown) and 10 Liberators despatched to bomb shipping in Benghazi. Bad weather with severe icing prevented all but 1 Liberator and 1 B.24 from reaching target. Harbour was partly obscured by cloud and a ship alongside one converted wreck was bombed with unobserved results.

Aircraft also bombed warehouses at Coefia near Benghazi scoring near misses, 5 Liberators bombed railway sidings and barracks Matruh. No hits claimed. Remainder returned B.17s (Numbers unknown) despatched to bomb shipping in Tobruk also prevented from reaching objective by bad weather.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1112Z/17).

P.42
Enemy
M/V.

If practicable fire one torpedo at large vessel reported aground off Khoms. Comply with my 1251/17th.
(Capt.S.10. 1159A/17 to P.42 (R) P.44,C. in C.Med., Capt.S.1.).

P.37, P.42, P.44, *UTMOST. Previous orders for P.37, P.42, P.44 UTMOST are cancelled. Proceed to be in following positions by dawn 19th.

S/M.	Through.	Position.
UTMOST.	036.47, 013. 10.	036. 16, 011.58.
P.37.	035.40, 012. 54.	035. 45, 011.58.
P.42.	033.20, 013. 55.	035. 25, 012.21.
P.44.	033.20, 014. 35.	035. 12, 012.33.

P.44 if unable comply proceed through 033.41 013.03 and steer 343° keeping South of 035.10.

→ (Capt,S.10. 1251A/17 to 10th S/M.F.(R) C. in C.Med. Capt.S.1.).

/Attacks...

War Diary.

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Attacks by
P.211.

C.A.F.O. 1278/41.				
A.	B.	C.	G.	J.
10.10.42.	900 ton M/V beached after G.N. action.	P.211	One Mk.VIII two star	Hit and destroyed.
4.10.42.	South- bound 4000 tons M/V off Gargano Head.	P.211	Four Mk.VIII two star.	Missed.
15.10.42	600 ton M/V aground after gunning.	P.211	One Mk.VIII two star.	Missed torpedo ran slightly to starboard.
8.10.42.	1200 laden southbound M/V	P.211	3 Mk.VIII two star.	1 hit, result unobserved.
10.10.42	4000 ton M/V in ballast.	P.211	3 Mk.VIII 2 star.	2 hits, results unobserved.

(Capt.S.10. 1537A/17 to Admty (R) C. in C.Med.etc)

Enemy
Units,
*UNA, P.212.
**UNA P.534.*

One large southbound tanker and two destroyers
north of Messina 9 to 10 knots.
(Capt.S.10. 1715A/17 to UNA, P.212, (R) C. in C.
Med. Capt.(S) 1).

AQUITANIA.
UNA P.530

D. of S.T's 1944/13. Request E.T.A. Suez
AQUITANIA.
(P.S.T.O.Egypt 1817C/17 to P.S.T.O.Simonstown (R)
Admty for D. of S.T.).

E/Boats.

E.Boats patrolling in vicinity position B at
0230A today Saturday.
*(UTMOST 1901A/17 to Capt.(S) 10.(R) P.247).

**See previous page.*

Malta Air
Report.

I.46 17/10 C.S.R. Part 1.
Night 16/17. 2222, 2 raiders crossed coast at
height and dropped flares and incendiaries on
land but caused no material damage; 2
Beaufighters up could not intercept owing to partial R.D.F. and
serious AI interference. 0148 6 raiders approached Malta at great
height, partial R.D.F. interference, 2 Beaufighters up but
raiders dropped bombs in sea and returned.
17th. Today enemy continued to use JU.88s and ME.109 bombers
and further increased his fighter escort. 0548, 7 JU.88s escorted
by 60 ME.109s and MC.202 stepped up to 30,000 feet approached and
were intercepted 12 miles N.E. of Island by 25 Spitfires who
forced all JU.88s to jettison bombs in sea and turn back.

/Spitfires...

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta Air Spitfires destroyed 3 Ju.88s and 1 Me. 109
Report. probably destroyed, 2 Ju.88s and damaged 1
Contd. Ju.88 and 1 Me. 202 for loss of 1 Spitfire and
pilot missing and 1 Spitfire slightly damaged.
No raiders crossed coast; 0700, 13 Spitfires
up for 30 enemy fighters which approached but turned back before
reaching Malta. 0838, 8 Me. 109s made search N. of Island for
missing enemy crews. 4 Spitfires up but raiders returned at
speed.

(A.H.Q., Malta, 2050/17).

1100 hours. 7 Ju.88s 9 bomb carrying Me. 109 and 64 enemy
fighters approached Malta; Ju.88s came in from N.E. while Me.109
bombers approached from N.W. but both formations were intercepted
and broken up by 30 Spitfires who forced many bombers to
jettison bombs in sea and destroyed 3 Me. 109s and 1 Ju.88;
probably destroyed 1 Ju.88 and 1 Me. 109. and damaged
3 Ju.88s and 1 Me. 109 for loss of 1 pilot missing 1 pilot
injured and 2 Spitfires destroyed and 2 damaged. Bombs at Takali
aerodrome caused craters but no other material damage; elsewhere
3 civilians were killed 6 wounded and several houses damaged.
H.A.A. damaged 1 Ju.88 and 1 Me. 109 and L.A.A. damaged 1 Me. 109
1302 hours, 4 Spitfires up for 8 enemy fighters which approached
on search but returned at speed without nearing the coast. 1552
hours, several fighter sweeps totalling 50 plus Me. 109s converged
on Island from several directions at great height as cover for
another 10 Me. 109s carrying bombs which were intercepted by 31
Spitfires who forced bombers to jettison bombs in sea and on N.W.
tip of Island causing no material damage. Enemy had height
advantage and 3 Spitfires were damaged.
Today in 103 Spitfire Sorties against 245 enemy sorties 8 enemy
aircraft have been destroyed 4 probably destroyed and 6 damaged
for loss of 2 pilots missing and 1 wounded and 3 Spitfires
destroyed and 8 Spitfires damaged, 2 seriously.

(A.H.Q., Malta, 2114/17).

TEVIOT
BANK.

A.M. 2049/10th. Request that TEVIOT BANK
may arrive at Massawa by 25/11 to load first lay.
2. All depth reels can be provided by Haifa, but
it is requested that any unwound (?reels) or wire

that can be spared from Colombo may be sent in TEVIOT BANK to
replace stocks.

(C. in C. Med., 2145C/17 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admtly etc).

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

MARTABAN Ref. torpedoing of SS. MARTABAN. Crew immediately
(torpedoed abandoned ship. Evening 13/10 aircraft sighted
13/10.) 3 lifeboats and ship on fire. Intensive air
search 14/10 failed to locate lifeboats but
MARTABAN sighted p.m. no longer on fire.
Extended air search 15/10 failed to locate boats and ship not
relocated until evening having been drifting far to N.E. 16/10
ASTER took MARTABAN in tow in 008° N. 085° E. One lifeboat
located by aircraft from which LAUNCESTON picked up 4 English
10 Indian survivors.
(2) Present situation. (a) LAUNCESTON due Trincomalee 0530Z/17
with survivors. (b) ASTER towing MARTABAN westwards at one to
2 knots. (c) Air search for remaining lifeboats continuing.
(3) As there are no suitable tugs at Trincomalee N.O.I.C. has
been ordered to send EMPIRE DEFIANCE escorted by NETRAVATI to
assist in bringing in MARTABAN.
(F.O. Ceylon, 0340Z/17 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.L.O. Delhi,
Admty., etc.)

DAUNTLESS. 0400Z/17 sailed DAUNTLESS E.T.A. Tamatave
0400Z/18.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 0437Z/17 to Admty., etc.)

MENDOZA. Your 1251/15. MENDOZA is en route to Durban as
she has proved herself unfit for service in very
hot weather.
2. Therefore considered most undesirable for her to be used for
Women and Children to Berbera.
3. Subject to D.S.T.O. Aden confirming this view MENDOZA should
continue to Durban.
(D.S.T., 0542A/17 to D.S.T.O. Kilindini, D.S.T.O. Aden.)

P. 552. Your 1210A/8/9. Request anticipated date of
*arrival Submarine P.552.
See p. 531. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0545Z/17 to Admty.)

**Bombay.*

M.B. 15, Arrivals 0230Z D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN with
W.S. 22B. M.B.15; 0540Z HAWKINS with W.S. 22B.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0643Z/17 to Admty., etc.)

U/B Your 1200Z/15th. According to statements of
Intelligence. 5th Columnists a (? Japanese) (? U-Boat) left
A/S Op. Penang on 18/9. F.O. Ceylon pass to A.O.C.
cancelled. Ceylon.
(F.L.O. Delhi, 0710Z/17 to F.O. Ceylon, (R)
F.O.C.R.I.N., Admty., etc.)

F.L.O. Delhi's 0710Z/17th. My calculations were based on
statement now proved incorrect in report of interrogated
Officers at place of capture that agent embarked U-Boat on 1/9.
Appreciation must now be considered without foundation and
operation referred in my 1200Z/15th has been cancelled.
(F.O. Ceylon, 1143Z/17 to C. in C. E.F., etc.)

/Shipping ...

War Diary.

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Shipping Cape Area. Ships proceeding to South Africa.
1. All ships are to keep outside a distance of 70 miles from Green Point Light Capetown during dark hours. Speed is on no account to be reduced to conform, but if necessary to kill time zigzag should be increased or course reversed along the prescribed route.
2. All South African coast lights are extinguished. Navigation lights are not to be shown west of 020° E.
3. Ships are to zigzag by daylight and by moonlight when east of 010° E.
(Admiral Mombasa, 0928Z/17 to B.A.M.S. 3C, 7A, 7B, 7C.)

LAOMEDON. My 1502/3/8. ^{N.T. in N.S.} Date of sailing of LAOMEDON is now about 2/11. Delay due to priority of other docking.
(F.O. Ceylon, 1050Z/17 to Admty.)

Convoy M.D.1 29th Bde. S.O. Force M's 0704/4, C. in C. E.F.'s 09947/3rd and 0804/5th and my 1612/16th. Commodore (D) leaves Madagascar waters with 29th Brigade in convoy M.D.1 on 18/10.
2. Intend W/T watch as follows:-
1200Z/20th shifting from group U to broadcast J.
1200Z/22nd close down on group NU.
3. Special K table and East Africa special cypher will be returned on arrival Kilindini.
4. C. in C. E.F. and N.O.I.C. Tamatave please pass to G.O.C. East Africa and (? Madagascar) area respectively.
(Cdre. (D) 1106Z/17 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., etc.)

Landing Craft from Tamatave. Situation Tamatave.
(1) For Bombay. Sailed 13th OCEAN VIKING with 4 L.C.M., 4 L.C.A., 2 L.C.S., 2 L.C.P. Sail 17th GASCONY with 4 L.C.M. and 29th Brigade M.T. and Armoured vehicles.
(2) For Durban. Sailing 18th DUNERA, DILWARA, with 8 L.C.A., 2 L.C.P. and Naval Beach Parties also EMPIRE PRIDE. All in escorted convoy.
(N.O.I.C. Tamatave, 1115Z/17 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., etc.)

LISMORE. Your 1153Z/17th ^{N.T. in N.S.} understood. ^{Lomboro} E.T.A. 0500/18th.
(LISMORE, 1300Z/17 to F.O. Ceylon.)

Shipping in Bay of Bengal. My 2115/14/9 (862C) cancel paras. 1 and 5. Substitute para. 1.
(A) following lanes are established terminating in vicinity of Little Basses. For southbound ships within 15 miles of the coast. For northbound ships between 20 and 25 miles from coast.

War Diary.

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. *contd.*

Shipping
in Bay of
Bengal.
(Contd.)

(B) ships are to be given route in these lanes and masters are to be informed that as a guide they should be on these routes whenever visibility is less than 3 miles.

(C) in daylight or on bright moonlight nights with visibility of 3 miles or more North and

Southbound ships are to keep as close to coast as safe navigation permits. Northbound ships are to regain their route by darkness and remain on it until it is light enough to close to the coast again.

(D) only two or three positions in these lanes are to be included in route signals and authorities who make their Vescas by Naval Shore Code are to omit position altogether in signals sent to Admiralty and Connav.

(C. in C. E.F., 1914Z/17 to E.I. Stn.)

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B attacked. Attacked U-boat on surface with gunfire and when dived attacked with depth charges. Much oil on the surface, consider him damaged, approx. position 053° 50' N., 027° 17' W.
(?POTENTILLA 0103Z/17 to C.T.24 (R) Admty etc).
See p. 546

U/B Guantanamo W/W/T reports submarine sighted 0230 G.M.T./17 in 021° 18' N., 075° 52' W.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 0125R/17 to Admty).

U/B (?Aircraft) sighted possible S/M vicinity of 044° 47' N., 066° 56' W., at 2200Z/16.
(C.O.A.C., 0440Z/17 to Admty).

U/B Positions. C.E.S.F's 1830/16 informs as follows:
(Comnav, 0816/17 to Admty).

WINONA Curacao W/T reports U.S. WINONA torpedoed 1720 (torpedoed 16/10).
G.M.T./16 in 011° 00' N., 060° 10' W.
(Kingston, Jamaica 0941R/17 to Admty).
See pp 545 & 546

Movements Summary. 1800 G.M.T./17.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
S/M P.555	50½° N. 27° W.	048°	9
Dutch S/M			
<i>See p. 543</i> K.15	25½° N. 50½° W.	297°	9
ROYAL			
SOVEREIGN	} Arriving Bermuda from S.E.		13½
(2 destroyers)			
NIGERIA	34½° N. 32½° W.	267	19
<i>See p. 531</i> ASTURIAS	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank.
(D.O.D. (F) 1030Z/17 as amended 1225Z/17 to Opnav (R) Comnav).			

A/S Trawlers for Cape. Following has been made by C.E.S.F. (begins).
On departure British Trawlers from Service with this Command, it is desired to express to them appreciation for duty well done and all good wishes for their continued success. T.O.O. 2155/16 (Ends). Message was addressed N.O.B. Bermuda, Com 5, Com 6, Com 1, Com 3 (R) Cominch B.A.D., B.A.M.R.
(B.A.D., 1251Z/17 to Admty) See also 1945/17.

U/B O.N.137 D/F bearings at 1114Z/17 indicate U-boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 1311A/17 to Escorts of O.N.137).

War Diary.

17.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B attacks
14/10.

S/M contact attacked, 049° 19' N., 067° 22' W.
0045Z/14, counter and deliberate attack made
7 depth charges dropped, echoing reliable, result
indefinite.
(BROCKVILLE, 1346Z/17 to C.T. 24 (R) Connav, Admty
C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., etc)

DUNCAN,
ANTHONY,
COAMO,
BORINQUEN
(A.T.27).

Your 1153/16.
1. See QO/176 of 16/10 to War Office.
2. B.A.S. assume Eisenhower will require
both COAMO and BORINQUEN in U.K. by about 8/11.
3. In view of above propose to sail these ships
from New York direct to U.K. as soon as DUNCAN
and ANTHONY are ready. Convoy to be designated
A.T.27.
4. U.S. request urgent confirmation of para. 2.
5. Pass to War Office.
(B.A.D., 1417Z/17 to Admty (R) R.A.W.A.)
Concur para. 3. (D.O.D. (F) 1624A/18).

U/B
Positions.

S/M estimate 17/10 and U.S. submarine notice.
(Cominch, 1526/17, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530/17).

WANDERER.

Your 1628/15. Request WANDERER be sailed to
New York to join Task Unit 24.18.2 for S.C.107.
2. C.E.S.F. is requested to take necessary action
on WANDERER arrival at New York. Commandant 5th Naval District
(Hampton Roads) please pass to Port Director Norfolk (Virginia).
(C.O.A.C., 1601Z/17 to Connav).

Overdue
Ships.

Overdue Guantanamo Honduranian WANKS, overdue
Trinidad Panamanian MOTORCARLINE, overdue
Paramaribo U.S. STEPHEN HOPKINS.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1632R/17 to Admty. S.B.N.O.
W.A., B.A.D).

Convoy
Schedules
and Escort
Groups.

We are naturally most anxious to pursue the
Battle of the Atlantic in the most offensive way
possible. The results of last winter however
made it apparent that it is a physical impossibil-
ity to work mid-ocean groups beyond a very definite
limit of sea time/harbour time ratio. We consider
this limit is 11 groups in an 8 day cycle.
2. Suggest however that this whole subject be reviewed at
the Conference suggested in my 1440/16. It would be extremely
valuable if suitable representatives from Admty and C. in C.
W.A. could be spared to attend this conference and opportunity
could be taken at the same time to discuss other operational
and trade problems with them.
(N.S.H.Q., 1640Z/17 to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A.)
Request position of Westomp and speeds allotted for various
convoys in calculations in your 1335A/16. (re Operating North
Atlantic convoys with 10 group and 1 spare).
(N.S.H.Q., 1641Z/17 to Admty (R) Cominch).

War Diary.17.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

GARLAND. Comnav 1726/2/9 and associated despatches. GARLAND has been directed proceed Boston on relief present escort duties. Now appears that due to adverse weather she will have maximum one day at Boston. In view of foregoing is it still desired she proceed as directed?
(C.T.F. 24., 1645Z/17 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., B.A.D.)
C.T.F. 24 despatch 1645Z/17. Affirmative unless visit cancelled by Admty.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2138/17 to Cinclant (R) C.T.F. 24 etc).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Bermuda arrivals ROYAL SOVEREIGN, DUNCAN, ANTHONY, U.S. Tanker BULKOIL.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1719P/17 to Admty).
See p. 541 9 542.

STEEL SCIENTIST, FLENSBURG. Paramaribo reports: (A) landing in French Guiana of survivors from U.S. STEEL SCIENTIST, further details awaited.
(B) Dutch FLENSBURG torpedoed 2400 G.M.T. 7/10 010° 15' N., 045° 50' W. all crew 47 landed Albina.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1726R/17 to Admty etc).

EMPIRE DAWN. Have you any news of EMPIRE DAWN due Charleston 6/10 from Durban?
(D.T.D., 1730Z/17 to Connav) Reply: 1843/19.

K.15 *See p. 541. (Movement summary.)* Believe it would be profitable if TCH KING 15 (Dutch S/M K.15 intended) proceeded to area 22.30 N., 49.30 W., to attack U-boats believed refuelling on surface from depot submarine that (?was in) area, continuing search consistent with (?its) fuel endurance.
(Cominch, 1745/17 to Admty (R) Cinclant, S.B.N.O.W.A. R.A.W.A., K.15) Reply; Admty 1646A/18).

THETIS overdue. S.B.N.O.W.A. reports non-arrival THETIS (Grk) due Bermuda 15/10 from Baltimore.
(N.S.H.Q., 1747Z/17 to Connav).

Shipping Delays, Trinidad. Request you will pass following from M.W.T. for M.W.T.R.
2. (Begins). Following ships have been waiting at Trinidad presumably for onward convoy - TORFINN JARL since 16/9 and APPLIEDORE since 4/9 also other vessels recently sailed from Trinidad have suffered serious delays.
3. We are very concerned at these repeated delays and request that you will keep us advised in future of all British controlled ships unduly held up at Trinidad East or Westbound.
4. Please advise position of two ships mentioned in para. 1. also whether you are receiving all the information you require

/from...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Shipping delays, Trinidad. Contd. from local Naval authorities to enable you to handle shipping expeditiously. (Ends).
5. Admty. is also concerned at recurring necessity for enquiring into reasons for delays which become apparent only through non-appearance of ships' names in expected sailing telegrams.
6. An organization is urgently needed for providing prompt information of actual or anticipated delays to British controlled shipping. It is requested that BR.O. in close conjunction with M.W.T.R. should be responsible for making a daily "delay report" to Admty.
7. Para. 6 is nothing more than an extension of A.M. 2316/24/7 to include ships other than tankers.
8. Request your early remarks.
9. Request you will arrange for M.W.T.R. reply to para. 4 to be passed by you to Admty. only.
(D.T.D., 1801A/17 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad (R) B.R.O. Trinidad B.A.D.)

→ SEVERN On passage New London to Plymouth keep W/T watch as follows (details)
2. Before sailing you are to report to B.A.D. your estimated time of passing 035° W.
3. You should shift watch from (a) to (b) at time reported vide para. 2 regardless of ship's actual position.
4. Books held are in accordance with form A 2 C para. 44 (a) with U.S. British books included in S.P. 02436 in addition.
(B.A.D., 1935Z/17 to SEVERN (R) Cominch Admty. etc).

Orders to "Action ST. ZENO, LADY (?ELSA), COVENTRY CITY, A/S Trawlers. NORWICH CITY, NORTHERN ISLES, Info. Comestseafon. Comcaribseafon, Comten, Cominch, Washn, R.A.W.A. from Comfive. Several enemy submarines Crooked Island and Windward passage as well as westward and eastward Trinidad. When in all respects ready for sea about 1600Q/17 proceed in company via swept channel to point P thence by most direct route to Freetown, West Africa, via Windward passage to Trinidad, B.W.I. reporting to R.A.W.A. at 040° W. in accordance Cominch confidential dispatch 1845/14. Stop. Fuel and provision Trinidad. Guard 4155 k/cs key at 3000 k/cs voice scene of action, frequencies while in waters of Eastern sea frontier. Attack and destroy all enemy submarines encountered. M.O.P.A. in ST. ZENO. 1408/17".
(Radio Washington 1945/17 to R.A.W.A.).

→ SEVERN S/M notice. SEVERN departing Montauk Point 2330 Z/18. Unescorted. Destination Portsmouth. Via positions indicated C. in C. U.S. Fleet reference 1627/15 at following estimated times. (D) 0050Z/20. (E) 1200Z/22 (F) 0001Z/24. (G) 1400Z/25. (H) 0030Z/27. From Point of departure to (D) will make 14 knots on the surface during the night, 2 knots submerged during daylight. From (D) to position $039^{\circ} 30' N.$, $062^{\circ} 53' W.$, 12 knots on the surface during the night 2 knots submerged during daylight. Thence S. of A. (E) to (H) 300 miles per day, diving at discretion. From (H) to destination diving during daylight, S. of A. approx. 180 miles per day adjusting speed to arrive Portsmouth dawn 1/11.

/SEVERN...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. *contd.*

SEVERN.
Contd.

SEVERN painted dark green. C/T camouflaged and has pendant N.57 on side. To H.M.S. SEVERN by hand.

(Cdr. S/M U.S. Atlantic Fleet, 2031Z/17 to C.E.S.F. Commandant 3rd U.S. Naval District New York, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. U.S. C.T.24 and C. in C. U.S. Fleet who is requested to pass to Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A.)

LORD
KELVIN.

Your 2000Z/13. No U.S. escort available for LORD KELVIN.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2036/17 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., B.A.D.)

WINONA,
CASTLE
HARBOUR.

Connav Serial 17. WINONA torpedoed 16/10 11° N., 61° 10' W. CASTLE HARBOUR 16/10 torpedoed sunk off Trinidad.

See next page

(Connav, 2036/17 to Comnaveu).

M.A.C.
Ships.

Your 2303/10 (N.T. in W.D.) para. 2 12th line. 1. Request the further information to be sent may include all arguments necessary to present our case to Naval Staff. Please see B.A.D.2225/15/9 personal to D.T.D. para. 2 (N.T. in W.D.)

2. We shall need to know: (a) How many of 30 M.A.Cs to be constructed in U.S.A. should be grain ships and how many tankers. (b) With which convoys will these ships be employed observing their slow speed.

(c) Details of manning. We presume they will be manned by Merchant Navy with naval personnel for aircraft on similar lines to D.E.M.S.

(d) How these M.A.C. ships will fit in with ships carrying Helicopters or Autogiros, presumably the latter would be used for close escort and M.A.C. T.B.Rs. for search and (?striking).

3. In view of Navy Dept.'s well known antagonism to operating aircraft from slow ships we should have to have a very strong case specially if aircraft would have to be provided from U.S.

4. We can anticipate Navy Dept. opposition to idea if they have to supply Arrestor Gear. Request information if Admty. could supply simplified type required for these ships.

(B.A.D., 2047Z/17 to Admty).

FOMALHAUT.

Following from U.S. Consul Casablanca, 15/10. Steamer FOMALHAUT stated loading at Casablanca 30 - 40 tanks, quantity rifles, 1000 tons ammunition, and war material, all for Dakar. (B.A.S. Washington, 2100/17 G.M.T. to W.O.)

/S/M...

17.10.1942
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

S/M ^{See previous page} Para. A. WINONA torpedoes and CASTLE HARBOUR ^{See previous page} torpedoes and sunk 11° N., 61° 10' W. 1720Z/16. POTENTILLA attacks submarine on surface 53.50 N., 27.17 W., 0100Z/17. ^{See p. 541.}

Para. C. SS. THORSTRAND sights submarine on surface 44.31 N., 29.50 W., 0800Z/19/9. U.S.S. DAVIS attacks Sound contact 03.42 S., 36.08 W.

2243Z/27/9.

Navy plane sights Submarine 10.40 N., 61.45 W. 1250Z/16.
 Submarine sighted 21.18 N., 75.52 W., 0230Z/17. Army Transport plane sights submarine surfacing 11.30 N., 61.30 W., 1635Z/17.
 Submarine sighted 10.15 N., 58.42 W., 1525Z/17. Attack on S/M 1410Z/10, my 2220/16, read 57.35 N.
 Para. D. Surface craft attack submarine on surface 40.18 N., 73.05 W., 1900Z/3. Submarine contact by surface craft 32.45 N. 78.30 W., 2220Z/16.
 (Cominch, 2145/17 to Admty).

Convoy Schedules. Your 1335A/16. See my 1921/16. (1821/16 intended) (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2208/17 to Admty).

Escort of Tankers Trinidad. Your 1951/15 and Cominch 2124/15. Effort is being made to get Tankers with white oil cargoes into position at Trinidad on assumption that 2 or 3 opportunities of trawler escort to Freetown Capetown will occur end October early November.
 2. If full advantage is to be taken of these opportunities following information is required earliest possible. (a) Expected sailing dates from Trinidad of each group. (b) Number of trawlers in each group. (c) Whether it may be assumed that tankers mentioned will receive precedence for escort.
 (D.T.D., 2250 A/17 to B.A.D. (R) Connav).

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 268. 16/10. Air R/C Buin Faisi Tonolei Harbour Area noon 16/10 from 26,000 feet reported approx. 40 vessels including 3 possible battleships, 2 possible aircraft carriers, 3 heavy cruisers, 5 light cruisers, 11 destroyers, 2 possible seaplane tenders, 15 merchant ships. Further R/C 3 1/2 hrs. later report no aircraft carriers this area but confirms approx. total shipping.
 (2) 1 battleship, 1 aircraft carrier, 2 heavy cruisers, 3 destroyers reported by air R/C approx. 10 miles off Kieta course 135° at 0001Z/16.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand

- Situation (3) 4 medium transports and 2 destroyers reported
Contd. off East End Buka Passage morning 16/10 proceeding
south. Enemy aircraft reported practicing night
landings Buka aerodrome night 15/16.
(4) Air R/C. Ukavyeng area morning 16/10 revealed
22 medium bombers, 3 fighters on aerodrome, 2 medium, 1 small
merchant ship. Other small craft in harbour.
(5) 1 possible heavy cruiser, 2 destroyers, 1 possible aircraft
carrier reported by air R/C 2° 20' S., 149° 40' E. morning 16/10,
course 135°.
(6) R/C Lorengau from 23000 feet same day reported 13 aircraft
on aerodrome but no confirmation from photographs.
(7) 18 vessels including 3 large reported air R/C Rabaul Harbour
morning 16/10. Also 1 heavy cruiser, 1 light cruiser, 2
destroyers, 1 seaplane carrier 4° 50' S. 152° 37' E. course 360°
(8) 1 5,000 ton merchant ship observed 6° 15' S. 150° 58' E.
course 185°.
(9) Allied patrols report enemy supply bases and troop
concentrations at Komiatum and Logui (Salamaua area).
(10) 3 Bostons attacked villages and tracks Buna Kokoda area
morning 16/10. No activity observed between Kokoda and Wairopi.
(11) Allied patrols continue pressure enemy positions near
Templeton's crossing. Natives report enemy crossing Kumusi river.
(12) Possible enemy positions Goodenough Island strafed by
Hudson morning 16/10. No activity observed.
(13) 200 Japanese reported entered Maobisse (Timor) 14/10.
(14) 3 Hudsons attacked enemy positions Dilli area afternoon 16/10
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0801Z/17 to Admtly etc).

* ILE DE FRANCE. Your 1609/16 (N.T. in W.D.) para. 1. Auckland
MAURETANIA. is the only suitable port for these ships.
* *See p. 530.* (N.Z.N.B., 1131M/17 to B.A.D. (R) A.C.N.B.,
Comsoupac, D. of S.T.)

ONDINA oiling F.O. Ceylon's 1117/24/9. Request brief details of
at sea. oiling at sea gear fitted in tanker ONDINA on this
occasion.
(D. of Stores, 2021A/17 to A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Indefinite positions at 1200Z/17.
(D.D.I.C., 1441A/17, 1507A/17).

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

C.T. 24.1.14 reports Convoy S.C. 104 widely scattered as the result of a gale. If the present weather continues stragglers will have to proceed to the Azores or return to Londonderry. There have been no further attacks on the convoy, but H/F D/F bearings at 0537Z indicated submarines still in the neighbourhood.

Convoy K.X.2, consisting of merchant ships and small Admiralty tankers, sailed from the Clyde at 1818A today for Gibraltar.

Operation
S.N. 3E.

R.A.(M) sailed today from Port ZA in SOUTHERN PRINCE with ADVENTURE, AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS and 3 destroyers, and carried out minelaying operation S.N. 3E, after being delayed for several days by the weather.

A trawler exploded acoustic mines at 0800C today in approx. 69° 36' N. 60° 5' E.

Operation
E.Y.

S.O. 15th M/S Flotilla suspects that his dan buoys are being sabotaged. He observed 2 suspicious fishing vessels at 0900Z today in approx. 65° 14' N. 13° 9' W., where enemy aircraft fly daily.

Mediterranean.

Today, after 2 abortive aircraft raids the enemy resorted to continuous waves of high fighter formations, some carrying bombs. No damage other than craters on the aerodromes is reported. Losses of aircraft on both sides were smaller than of late.

Two Swordfish and an Albacore torpedoed at 2340 a 4000 ton merchant ship in 25° Pantellaria 38 miles steering 240° and left the ship circling and down by the stern. Torpedo aircraft at 2130A attacked a tanker escorted by 2 destroyers in 38° 20' N. 17° 40' E. (Ionian Sea), report one hit with torpedo which brought the tanker to a

/stop. ...

18.10.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

stop. The 7000 ton ship torpedoed by Malta aircraft late on 14/10, 78 miles from Khoms and found beached yesterday was attacked by an aircraft from Malta last night, but results were not seen.

East Indies.

Convoy M.D.1 left Tamatave for Durban today escorted by DAUNTLESS and 3 destroyers.

America and West Indies.

SS. ANGELINA a straggler from O.N.137 was torpedoed and sunk about 0130Z today in 49° 39' N. 30° 20' W. The convoy is scattered as the result of the gale.

Australia and New Zealand.

At dawn today 22 Fortresses in 4 waves attacked the aerodrome, flying boats and shipping in the Buin area, where a considerable concentration of warships and merchant ships had been seen. It is believed that a heavy cruiser was damaged, 2 other cruisers possibly hit, a small cargo vessel set on fire and damage caused to flying boats. Only 3 Zeros opposed the Fortresses. Fortresses attacked Rabaul last night; a large explosion was seen on an unidentified vessel. Other targets in the Bismarck Archipelago - Solomon Is. - D'Entrecasteaux Is. area were attacked.

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Force
"J".

C.O. Units and vessels in C.C.O's service at present allotted for Force "J" are:-
 LOCUST, M.G.Bs. 14th Flotilla Nos. 312, 316, 317, 326. M.Ls. 297 and 347, "A" L.C.T. Squadron comprising Nos. 4th and 5th L.C.T. Flotilla, and 1st L.C.F. (L) Flotilla.

→ Raiding Squadron H. comprising L.S.I. (H) BRIGADIER, BIARRITZ, CANTERBURY, DUKE OF ARGYLL, with PRINCE CHARLES attached. M.T.B. 344
 All L.C.P. (L) Flotillas based on TORMENTOR.
 (C.C.O., 1815A/18 to Admty).

Movements.

→ P.45,
 P.221. *see p.561*

P.45 and P.221 proceed forthwith on surface to Gibraltar through 043° N., $012^{\circ} 30'$ W. thence as in F.O.C.N.A. 0929/9.
 (F.O.S., 0001A/18).

SAN
 AMBROSIA.

A.C.I.C.? 1325/17. Intend sailing SAN AMBROSIA escorted by CHIDDINGFOLD for Seidisfjord at 1800/18, speed 9 knots, E.T.A.1300/21.

2. Routed through A. $58^{\circ} 44'$, $03^{\circ} 25'$.

B. $59^{\circ} 04'$, $03^{\circ} 51'$. C. $62^{\circ} 20'$, $06^{\circ} 02'$.

D. $62^{\circ} 50'$, $06^{\circ} 02'$. E. $66^{\circ} 04' 12''$, $40' 13''$. X. $65^{\circ} 36' 13''$, $30' 13''$. Y. $65^{\circ} 21.5'$, $13^{\circ} 27.5'$. Z. $65^{\circ} 18.2'$, $13^{\circ} 43.5'$.

3. N.O.I.C. Iceland is requested to arrange for minesweepers to meet force in position X at 1030/21 and arrange air escort during daylight 21st.

4. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide A/S air escort to as far North as possible.

5. On arrival H.M.S. CHIDDINGFOLD is placed at disposal N.O.I.C. Iceland (Reykjavik) for escort MURENA to U.K.
 (A.C.O.S., 0021A/18 to A.C.I.C.)

URSULA,
 UNIQUE,
 P.54,
 → P.45,
 P.221.

URSULA and UNIQUE leave patrol forthwith on the surface for Gibraltar routed as follows:

URSULA through $44^{\circ} 40' 09''$, $59' 43''$, $02' 11''$, $15'$

UNIQUE through $44^{\circ} 10' 09''$, $01' 43''$, $01' 10''$, $30'$.
 thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.

P.54 proceed forthwith on surface through $47^{\circ} 01' 12''$, $01'$ and $43^{\circ} 01' 12''$, $10'$ thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.

(F.O.S., 0021A/18).

My 1809A/17. Amend as follows.

Following submarines are proceeding to Gibraltar probably on the surface: UNIQUE, P.54, P.45, P.221, URSULA. Details.
 (F.O.S., 0202A/18 to Admty).

→ PRINCE
 CHARLES.

Sailed PRINCE CHARLES in accordance with my 1134A/17.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0724A/18).

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

- P.511 P.511 escorted by Chasseur No.11 leaves Portsmouth 1730/18 for Sheerness. E.T.A. 1030/19. (F.O.S., 0841A/18 to Admty)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1510A/18).
My 2250A/17. Sailed 1710/18.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1730A/18).
- DEPTFORD Cancel my 1958A/17. Return to Greenock forthwith. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1018A/18 to DEPTFORD).
- LONDON Request you will proceed in LONDON for Hvalfjord on 19/10.
(C. in C. H.F., 1146A/18 to C.S.1).
C. in C. H.F. 1146/18. Intend proceeding in LONDON passing Hoxa Gate at 1145 tomorrow Monday for exercises, sailing on completion about 2000. E.T.A. p.m./21st on conclusion X.C.E.
(C.S.1., 2312A/18).
- PROTEUS F.O.S. 1951/12 and Admiralty's 1945/17. RUBY is to be sailed from Falmouth to R/V with PROTEUS in 180° Lizard 10' at 0800A/19 and escort PROTEUS to Plymouth. Codeword "Wheel".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1157A/18).
My 1157/18. Route from 180° Lizard Head 10 miles through 50° 09' N., 04° 20' W., and by Q.Z.S. 278 to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1627A/18).
- P.555 Your 1716A/11 para. (C) (3). 1400Z/21. My P.C.S. 052° 45', 023° 30' W., 049° 9.
1455g 4
7560 (P.555 1203Z/18 to F.O.S.)
My 1716/11. Amend route as follows: from 053° 45' N., 021° 10' W., through X. 055° 45' N., 015° 01' W., thence to N omitting M.
(F.O.S., 1229A/18 to P.555) (C. in C. W.A., 1245A/18 to F.O.S.)
- ESKDALE. Leave convoy at junction A.M. Q.Z.S. 293 and 295 and proceed with all convenient despatch to anchor at Yarmouth (I.O.W.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1400A/18 to ESKDALE).
- L.C.P.(L) 154, Your 1141/17. Request L.C.P.(L) 154 be sailed to TORMENTOR. L.C.P. (L) 201 may be retained at Dover and employed as required.
L.C.P.(L) 201. (C.C.O., 1440A/18 to V.A. Dover).
- BLUEBELL, Request you will sail BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA as soon as convenient to Yugorsky Straits to provide A/S escort back to Archangel for any Soviet Union ships awaiting onward passage. (?Traffic Staff Officer) is to be embarked before sailing to co-ordinate arrangements in conjunction with Captain of LIDITE now at Yugorsky. Corvettes are not to await arrival of

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

BLUEBELL ,
CAMELLIA.
Contd. (?detailed ships) not already there. Suspected magnetic mines exploded by (corrupt group) in position 144° Cape Greben 3.7 miles. (?Corvettes group missing) should approach Yugorsky during daylight. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1444A/18 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

H. 32
LA LAPRICIEUSE. Cancel my 1351/17. (Capt. S.3., 1452A/18).

FARNDALE.
See 17/10. p. 517. When relieved a.m./19 by STAFNES, FARNDALE is to proceed at best speed to Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1736A/18 to S.O. Force "C").

ALECTO.
18.10.1942 Your 2013A/17. Arrived 1800, sailed 1815. (N.C.S.O. Thurso, 1850/18 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).

FAULKNOR. My P.C.S. at 1800Z, 062° 19' N., 017° 54' W., 302° 18 knots. (FAULKNOR, 1900A/18).

STORK,
MARIGOLD,
VETCH,
VIOLET. Sail so as to R/V with MARIGOLD, VETCH, VIOLET in 140° Garoch Head 3 miles at 0900A/19 and proceed to Londonderry. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2008A/18 to STORK).

GLASGOW. My position 1900/18 056° 12' N., 007° 20' W. ORWELL in company. Intend steering 316° at 12 knots until 0215, returning to 180° Barra Head 10 miles at 0740/19. (GLASGOW, 2108A/18).

ECHO,
IMPULSIVE. Hvalfjord departure ECHO, IMPULSIVE at 2137/18 routed through Reykjanes passage and 058° 40' N., 007° 38' W. to Scapa. E.T.A. 1300/20. (A.C.I.C., 2156A/18).

Operations.

Patrols. Weather permitting intend M.G.Bs. 54 (S.O.) 57 and 50 to patrol on latitude 50° 20' N., between 1° 35' W., and 2° 10' W. tonight leaving Weymouth 1930 and returning from Patrol Line at dawn. 4. Codeword "Service". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1058/18). *See next page*
Weather permitting M.T.Bs. 49, 50, and 56 will patrol near 50° 25' N., 00° 10' W. tonight. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1150A/18). *See next page.*

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations--am 13:--

- Patrols. M.L. patrol tonight October 18th.
Contd. 2. Forces employed. M.Ls. 181 (S.O.) and 259
3. Patrol. 7 miles 065° and 245° either side
of 110° Start 22 miles.
4. Object. To intercept E-boats.
5. Information. E-boats may work from either Guernsey or
Cherbourg.
6. Execution. Proceed at 1830/18 to patrol line. Leave
patrol at daylight 19th and proceed to Falmouth, passing through
180° Start 4 miles and then by normal route. Speed to and from
patrol not to exceed 12 knots.
→7. Code word "Sapper".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1323A/18).
2. M.T.Bs. 49, 50, 52 and 56, E.T.D. EA 5 Buoy 1900 /18,
patrolling to S.E. E.T.A. EA 5 Buoy 0645/19. *See previous page.*
3. M.G.Bs. 54, 57 and 50 leaving Weymouth 1930/18 patrolling
south of Anvil Point, E.T.A. Weymouth dawn 19th. *See previous page.*
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1504A/18).
M.Ls 148 and 150 from Ramsgate patrol between Dumpton and
N.E. Spit Buoy, E.T.D. 1855, E.T.R. 0705/19.
M.Ls. 143 and 138 near C one buoy.
(V.A. Dover, 1801A/18).
→"Sapper" sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1842/18).

S/M After dark tonight GRAPH is to move to zones
Patrols. K.501 and K.505 and is to patrol vicinity of 044°
10' N., 007° 59' W.
(F.O.S., 1539A/18).
Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/19 and movements for
the following 24 hours.
JUNON in zone K.9. UREDD in zone K.5. GRAPH in zones K.501 and
K.505. SEALION in zone K.506.
(F.O.S., 1809A/18).

7th L.C.T. R.A.L.B. 1510/17. Subject to arrival of first
Flotilla lifts of tanks at Liverpool on 23/10, following
BODO. programme is proposed. Details.
(U.S. Tanks (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1554A/18).
to New
Brighton).

Allied Air Activity.

Interception With reference to P.R.U. Bordeaux and St. Nazaire,
of Enemy Admiralty attack great importance to intercepting
M/Vs. and attacking the one or two enemy merchant
vessels who may have sailed from Ports in the Bay
of Biscay. Request striking force may be held
available and that targets may be regarded as
Class one.
(A.C.N.S. (H.), 0220A/18 to H.Q.C.C.)

/Bombing...

War Diary.

18.10.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Bombing restrictions. Institute total submarine bombing restrictions as follows. Details. (H.Q.C.C., 0230A/18 to R.A.F. Gibraltar).

Iceland. Air organisation. Your 1631A/16 and C. in C. H.F. 1257A/13. It is assumed that these questions relate only to aircraft employed over the sea. The answers to para. 2 are as follows -
(A) 269 Squadron Hudsons Establishment 20 + 4
330 Squadron { 6 Catalina
 { 6 Northrop

1 Met Flight.

In addition a Detachment of up to 6 Liberators of 120 Squadron are located in Iceland.

No. 73 (U.S.N.) Squadron 12 PBY5A due to be replaced by No. 84 U.S.N.) Squadron: See B.A.D. Washington 1529Z/10 no further expansion is anticipated but reinforcement will be made if particular circumstances demand this.

(B) Iceland is a Normal Coastal Command Group operated by the A.O.C. (Under the General Control of the A.O.C. in C). in consultation with A.C.I.C. when Trade Protection is in force and by C. in C. Coastal Command in collaboration with Admiralty and/or C. in C. Home Fleet when Fleet Reconnaissance is in force. 15 Group and Iceland inform each other of operations which are of mutual concern.

(C) Naval Authority Washington.

(D) U.S. Aircraft escort U.S. Convoys to and from Iceland. This is the full extent of their Mandate. In fact owing to the excellent co-operation between the R.A.F. and U.S. Navy in Iceland the latter are always willing to put the widest interpretation on this instruction and to help as necessary in meeting a current situation. It would be most inadvisable to raise any questions regarding the duties of U.S. Navy Squadron which might jeopardise a relationship which is working satisfactorily.

(E) C. in C. Coastal Command in collaboration with the Admty. as necessary.

(H.Q., C.C., 1040A/18 to Admty).

Bomber Command operations. On day 17/10, 94 Lancaster A/C bombed the works at Le Creusot. (H.Q.B.C., 1515A/18).

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. A/C heard East line joining Erenberg at 0935/17, going Northwards. (A.C.I.C., 1039A/18).

Iceland. Reconnaissance Flight at 5,000 feet carried out by one Ju.88 over Reykjavik and Hvalfjord at 1430/18 from south to north. Aircraft departed course east after short engagement with Fighter over Thingvellir 046° 15' 020° 06'. (A.C.I.C., 1805A/18).

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.Mining.

- S.N.3 E. R.A.(M) sailed in SOUTHERN PRINCE in accordance with his 0906/17. ADVENTURE, AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, CHARLESTOWN, CASTLETON, WELLS in company (TRELAWNEY 0350/18).
Operation S.N.3 E completed.
(R.A.M., 1820A/18).
- Lyme Bay sweep. 4th M.S.F. sailed with KINGS GREY and PATTI, less LYDD and KELLET who sail to join at 1000.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0845A/18 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).
Programme for 18/10 in my 1410A/16 completed.
Continuation of route M.swept to a depth of three cables to southward.
(M/S 4 1801/18).
- North Russia operations. Sweep by HALCYON. Your 1909/17. This drastic diversion in an operation ordered by me in my 1731/13 should not have been made without my (?prior) (?approval), particularly as there was time for obtaining it. My permission should also have been sought before agreeing to Russian request for slower consumption of (?stocks of oil fuel) to (?O)BA and ONTA, vide your 1411/15. I have asked Golovko that when operations are initiated (?here) any further request by Soviet Union Naval Authorities should be made from him to me. Reply: p. 613
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1002A/18 to S.B.N.O. Archangel)-
Acoustic mines exploded by Trawler 32 in approx. 069° 36' N., 060° 05' E. at 0800C/18.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1003A/18 to HALCYON).
My 0851/18. On completion of sweeping Yugorsky Strait in accordance with my 1731/13, after sweeping approaches to Matochkin Strait return to Yugorsky and escort any Soviet Union ships awaiting onward passage to Archangel. You should sail as soon as possible after arrival at Yugorsky and not await arrival of M.Vs. not already there. Suspected magnetic mine exploded in 144° Cape Greben 3.7 miles.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1434A/18 to HALCYON).

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

Humber Mine detonated at 1327 in 005° 57' E Buoy 8 cables. Details.
(F.O. Humber 1412A/18 and 2004A/18).

Operation E.Y. Suspect that my (?Dan buoys) are being sabotaged 3 within about 3 miles position 065° 22' N., 013° 27' (?017°) (?W) were adrift this morning having been certainly (corrupt group) at dusk on 17th. One was (?loaded) dan buoy with special moorings and down since commencement of operation now missing altogether. Other 2 found drifting a few miles away. Night 17/18 almost flat calm and very fine. Also 2 fishing vessels observed at 0900Z/18 in approx. 065° 14' N., 013° 09' W. where daily enemy A/C flies, seemed suspicious. If repetition occurs request permission to maintain a night patrol on dan buoys.
(M/S 15. 2336Z/18 to A.C.I.C.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious Ship. Contacted unidentified merchant ship in 055° 46' N., 011° 24' W. at 0900A/18. Ship did not answer satisfactorily to challenge, disappearing into fog, course and speed 045° 15 knots.
* (NORTHERN SPRAY 0910A/18). * *See next page.*

Ship at Tromso. Tromso Raider A.12 present in Roads. Aircraft seen on Catapult.
(R.A.F. Medmenham 1530A/18).
O.I.C. Comment. There is no reason to suppose that this is a Raider. Vessel referred to is a merchant ship which has previously been seen at Oslo with an old type of aircraft on deck. She is not fitted with a catapult.

U-Boats.

U-boats reported. Poor D/F Bearings at 0257Z/17 indicate U-boat possibly in vicinity of 60° N., 10° W.
(D.D.I.C., 0737A/18 to FAULKNOR).
D/F bearings at 0834Z/18 indicate U-boat in your vicinity probably reported you.
(Admt. 1046A/18 to Escorts O.N.137).
D/F bearings at 1135 Z suggest U-boat in your vicinity which may have reported to you.
(D.D.I.C., 1358A/18 to Escorts H.X.211).

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- EMPIRE
PLANET. My position 2400 dead reckoning 055° 40' N.,
011° 40' W. In W/T communication but cannot
contact yet. Searching 5 miles each side of
latitude EMPIRE PLANET R.D.F. out of action,
visibility 1 mile, sea rough with heavy swell.
Request A/C assistance in daylight if possible.
*(NORTHERN SPRAY 0020/18).
Still unable to locate EMPIRE PLANET. Maximum visibility
today 3/4 mile. Sea moderate with heavy swell. My position by
D R at 2200/18, 55° 44' 09° 01' W.
*(NORTHERN SPRAY 2245A/18). * *See previous page.*
- CHARLES
CARROL
(S.C. 104). My 1805Z/17. CHARLES CARROLL not torpedoed.
(POTENTILLA, 0830Z/18).
- BROADWAY. My 1515/17. BROADWAY and POLYANTHUS arrived ⁴⁷⁰⁰
with defects. Appears POLYANTHUS will be able
to sail on 18th to overtake. Plan for BROADWAY
dependent on further examination.
(C.T.G.24.7., 0904A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)
- STORNEST Your 1800/17. Continue search.
Position of STORNEST at 0427Z/14, 54° 34' N.,
26° 39' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 0954A/18 to DRANGEY, ADHERENT).
- BRIGHTON Request you will sail BRIGHTON to be off Ardrossan
at 0930/21 for docking.
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 1255/18 to Capt. D. Greenock).
- PATHFINDER Owing to steam joint having blown on trials
cannot proceed as arranged today. Anticipate will
complete 20/10.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1436/16).
- BUDE. Ship will be completed and ready for sailing in
accordance with your 1340A/16 with exception of
additional ventilation fans and trunking, awnings
and stanchions and P.H.P. and P.I.P. sliding rod
covering guide bushes being renewed. Request
instructions whether these items should be
completed before sailing.
(BUDE, 1527/18 to Admty).
Your 1340A/16. My 1845/18. BUDE is delayed at
least 48 hours by defects.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2308A/18 to Admty).

18.10.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

MALAYA.

C. in C. H.F., 1608/6 and my 0635/16.

MALAYA will be taken in hand for refit on 19/10 and date of completion of essential defects is 21/11. From this date ship will be at 7 days notice for sea which allowing for ammunitioning means 48 hours notice for unbasining. Date of completion of refit is 30/11 which will permit of completion of numerous important defects and also numerous alterations and additions the list of which is being reported separately.

(A.S. Rosyth, 1530/18).

M.M.S.113

Report without delay your P.C.S.
(C. in C. W.A, 2254A/18 to M.M.S.113).

FORT LAMY

2 grade bearing 167° of FORT LAMY.
(Port Patrick Radio, 2321/18).

559

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.O.N.138.
*P.555.*Estimated speed and course*P.555 0800A/18 051°
40' N 024° 50' W 045° 9 knots. Do not get to
starboard of your route.
(C. in C. W.A. 0011A/18 to C.T.U. 24.1.16.)**P.555 next page*T.A.25
(QUEEN
ELIZABETH)T.A.25 sailed. Routed as in A.M. 1651A/16.
Chop 2100Z/19. E.T.A. Halifax 2000Z/22.
Codeword "Gosling"
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0244A/18) (D.S.T.O. Greenock
0300/18.)C. in C. W.A. 1455A/15. Sailed DELHI.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 0257A/18.)
Estimate you will overtake O.N.139 about 1400A/18.
(C. in C. W.A. 0844A/18 to DELHI, T.A.25.)

K.M.S.1.

My 1543/17. Intend to sail from Barry Roads at
0001/20 Clyde ships escorted by PHILANTE, E.T.A.
1400/21, Loch Ewe ships escorted by POPPY, E.T.A.
0600/22. Codeword "Wiseacre". Escorts to
Londonderry on completion. Standard route
throughout.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1124A/18.)DURBAN
CASTLE
BATORY
OTRANTO
LULWORTHSailed in accordance with my 2124A/17 and my
2126A/17.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1600A/18 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)O.N.141
O.N.S.142My 1335/16. O.N.141 and O.N.S. 142 will sail
Liverpool on 24th and 30th October respectively
and thereafter on 8 day cycles.
Both these convoys will include O.S. ships and
thereafter every alternate O.N. and every
alternate O.N.S. convoy will include O.S. ships.
(D.T.D. 1618A/18.)

K.X.3.

My 1249/7. Sailing of LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE is
delayed 24 hours.
(D.O.D.(H.) 1653A/18.)

K.X.2.

My 1504A/16. Sailed. ANTIGONE and CROMARTY
did not sail. Codeword "Keeper"
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1818A/18.)Sailed RHYL, ROTHESAY, FELIXSTOWE and STORNOWAY for Merville,
E.T.A. 0600A/19, subsequently to join K.X.2.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1908A/18.)

War Diary.

18.10.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- H.X.211. Do not get to starboard of your route. P.C.S. of
~~P.555~~ *P.555 at 1203Z/18 was 052° 45' N 023° 30' W, 049°
9 knots. ~~5519554~~
(C. in C. W.A. 2002A/18 to C.T.U. 24.1.11.)
Subject to satisfactory exercises tomorrow Monday and in
view of many outstanding requirements of ships intend sailing all
ships and escort vessels of Z group now in Loch Linnhe for Clyde
p.m./20 to arrive Clyde 21st.
Request routing instructions for convoy.
(S.O. Force "C" 2147A/18 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- K.M.F.1. Following 39 M/Vs will be ready to leave Clyde on
26/10. Names. Escort as follows.
(D.O.D. H. 2209A/18.) See Lion Copy.
- D.S.33. D.S.33 sailed 2256/18.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 2300/18.)
My 1206A/17. Sailed. Codeword "Product".
Calling Loch Ewe in accordance with A.M. 1707A/18. E.T.A. Loch
Ewe 1900A/19.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2306A/18.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 2209A/18th October

OUT

TO: C. in C. Western Approaches 602. DATE: 18.10.42
 F.O.I.C. Greenock.
 F.O.C.N.A. 24
 Repeated C. in C. Home Fleet (Basegram) 912
 N.C.S.O. Clyde
 F.O.I.C. Liverpool
 SHEFFIELD.

Naval Cypher (Admiralty Cypher Out)

FROM: Admiralty.

1. The following ships will be ready to leave Clyde as convoy K.M.F.I. on 26th October:-

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| H.M.S. KARANDA | S.S. VICEROY OF INDIA |
| BULOLO | MARNIX VAN ST. |
| KEREN | ALDEGONDE |
| QUEEN EMMA | WINCHESTER CASTLE |
| PRINCESS BEATRIX | SOBIESKI |
| GLENGYLE | AWATEA |
| ROYAL SCOTSMAN | DEMPO |
| ULSTER MONARCH | CATHAY |
| ROYAL ULSTERMAN | STRATHNAVER |
| LARGS | MONARCH OF BERMUDA |
| U.S. SAMUEL CHASE | LLANGIBBY CASTLE |
| THOMAS C. STONE | REINA DEL PACIFICO |
| LEEDSTOWN | WARWICK CASTLE |
| ALMAACK | DUCHESS OF BEDFORD |
| EXCELLENT | DURBAN CASTLE |
| S.S. BATORY | DERBYSHIRE |
| ETTRICK | TEGELBERG |
| LETITIA | ORBITA |
| MOOLTAN | S.S. NIEUW ZEELAND |
| OTRANTO | LEINSTER. |

2. Speed of advance 11½ knots.

3. Escort will be provided by H.M.S. SHEFFIELD, BITER, ROTHER, SPEY, EXE and TAY. IBIS, ABERDEEN, ENCHANTRESS, HARTLAND, WALNEY and CLARE.

4. Admiralty will promulgate route.

5. Orders as to destination etc., will be communicated at Convoy Conference.

/6. Convoy ...

2.

6. Convoy Conference will be held on board H.M.S. BULOLO at 1430 25th October.
7. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to make necessary arrangements for escorts.
8. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange Convoy Conference and to sail ships to R/V as requisite.

2209A/18

D.O.D.(H)

1st Lord
 1st S.L.(2)
 C.N.A.S.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.A.S.
 A.C.N.S.(H)
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 A.C.N.S.(T)
 A.C.N.S.(W)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 Capt. Pim.
 D.O.D.(H)(2)
 D.O.D.(F)(2)
 Duty Capt.(2)
 D.N.A.D.
 D.A.C.D.
 C.C.O.(2)
 D. of P.(2)
 D. of P.(Q)
 C. in C. X.F.(2)
 D.N.E.(C.O.)
 D.T.D.(2)
 D.T.D.(M)
 D.T.D.(C)
 Head of M.(13)
 D.A/S.W.
 D.D.I.C.(2)
 D.M.S.
 Admiral Blake
 U.S.N.
 I.P.(2)
 W.D.

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War Diary.

18.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- P.221 *comp 550* F.O.S. 0001. Onward routes as in my 0936/16.
P.45 (2) P.221 at average speed $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots passes
K. at 1600/19. L. at 1300/20. M. at 0200/21.
N. at 0830/21, arrive Gibraltar 1200/21.
(3) P.45 at average speed 7 knots passes K. at 0500/20.
L. at 0700/21. M. at 0001/22. N. at 0830/22, arrive Gibraltar
1230/22.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0306A/18 to S/Ms operating South of 51° N. (R) Admty.
C. in C. Plymouth. F.O.S.)
- Bombing Request total bombing restrictions in area G.26
restrictions. and G.27 until further notice.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0308A/18 to Admty. H.Q.C.C. (R) F.O.S.)
- URSULA (1) F.O.S. 0021/18. Onward route through position
UNIQUE as in my 0936/16 S of A 8 knots from position K.
P.54 (2) URSULA passing through K at 1630/20, L at
1500/21, M at 0430/22, N at 1130/22, arriving
Gibraltar 1500/22.
(3) UNIQUE passing through K at 1900/20, L at 1730/21, M at
0700/22, N at 1400/22, arriving Gibraltar 1800/22.
(4) P.54 passing through K at 1330/21, L at 1200/22, M at 0130/22,
N at 0830/23, arriving Gibraltar 1230/23.
(5) Total bombing restrictions on North Atlantic Station arranged
20 miles either side of these routes, from 35 miles ahead to 35
miles astern estimated position.
(6) S/Ms are to report if unable to comply within regular hours
of time stated.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0406A/18 to S/Ms operating south of 51° N. (R) Admty.
C. in C. Plymouth. F.O.S.)
- Situation (1) P.34. 36.02 onwards 18 $286^{\circ} 8\frac{1}{2}$. *see next page*
1955A/18. → (2) ?P.221. 41.58 12.12 through 39.04 11.31 at
1600/19 thence $140^{\circ} 8\frac{1}{2}$.
(3) ?P.45, 42.53 12.27 $170^{\circ} 7$.
(4) URSULA 43.43 10.40 through 43.02 11.15 at 0200/19 thence
 $183^{\circ} 8$.
→ (5) UNIQUE 43.53 09.20 through 43.01 10.30 at 0600/19 thence
 $191^{\circ} 8$.
(6) SCOTTISH patrolling off Cape Roca.
(7) ARCTIC RANGER R/V with 2 merchant ships off Tagus (Tego)
2001/18 and escort coastwise to Cape St. Marys thence direct
Gibraltar 8.
→ (8) BURDOCK 29.34 12.37 through 28.02 13.38 thence $214^{\circ} 12$.
(9) POLRUAN, CLACTON, 7 motor launches, 44.35 15.04 through
42.57 15.01 thence $162^{\circ} 8$.
Addition to para (6) add: R/V one merchant ship off Oporto
0900/19 thence coastwise to Cape St. Marys.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1158A/18 to A.I.G. 63.)
GRIFFIN 33.22 38.24 $067^{\circ} 11\frac{1}{4}$. *see p. 570*
→ (2) BURDOCK 29.34 12.37 through 28.02 13.38 thence to $214^{\circ} 12$.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1326A/18 to Area Z.)

Bombing Request total bombing restrictions in following
restrictions. areas: -

Area.	From.	Until.
G.16.	0500/19	Further notice.
G.15.	0730/20	Further notice.
G.14.	1000/20	Further notice.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1306A/18 to Admty. etc.)		/Coaling...

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Coaling
Horta.

My 1445A/17 para (1) (Ships at Horta each requiring coal) for five ships read four ships.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1333A/18 to B.C. Ponta Delgada for C.S.A. B.V.C. Horta. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon. Admty. etc.)

P. 34.

See previous page (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34) (35) (36) (37) (38) (39) (40) (41) (42) (43) (44) (45) (46) (47) (48) (49) (50) (51) (52) (53) (54) (55) (56) (57) (58) (59) (60) (61) (62) (63) (64) (65) (66) (67) (68) (69) (70) (71) (72) (73) (74) (75) (76) (77) (78) (79) (80) (81) (82) (83) (84) (85) (86) (87) (88) (89) (90) (91) (92) (93) (94) (95) (96) (97) (98) (99) (100)
P. 34 leaves Gibraltar p.m./18 proceeding on surface through 225° Cape St. Vincent 20 at 2100 19th thence diving by day through 039° 01' 012° 01' W at 0800/21 043° 01' 012° 58' West at 1900/23 to 049° 05' 012° 10' W.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1336A/18 to S/Ms operating south of 51° N.)

My 1036/16 (?1136/16 intended) Departure 1500 A.m. S/M P. 34.

Only such Q messages affecting passage port of destination carried.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1558A/18 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

FAVOURITE.

Sailed H.M. Tug FAVOURITE Kilindini routed as in my 0643/11/8 S of A 10 knots E.T.A. 0500Z/26.
(2) Shift to W/T organisation V at 1415Z/23.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0501Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

ILE DE
FRANCE.*L p. 573*

H.M.T. ILE DEFRANCE sailed. Route R.6 S of A 17 knots, E.T.A. 1300C/19.
(N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth 0843C/18 to Cmdre. I.C. Durban. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

Movements.

Arrived WARSPITE, NEPAL, FORTUNE, EXPRESS, CATTERICK.

(Cmdre. I.C. Durban 0906Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

Sailed EXPRESS and CATTERICK for Simonstown by route R.9.

(2) E.T.A. 0900Z/20 speed 20 knots (?3) Shifting to W/T organisation S L at 2300Z/18.

(Cmdre. I.C. Durban 1126Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

Simonstown arrivals. 17th, TRUANT, COMMANDANT DUBOC, *ARROW,

*ACTIVE. 18th, NORMAN.

(C. in C. S.A. 1047C/18 to Admty. etc.)

Arrival a.m./18 DECOY escorting CHRISTIAN HUGENS.

(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1540Z/18 to R.A.W.A.)

** See next page*

AURORA.

A.M. 1853/17.

1. Sailed AURORA at 0800/18 for Gibraltar route -
(A) 009° 31' N 014° 28' W. (B) 010° 04' 017° 28'.
(C) 015° 00' 019° 41'. (D) 029° 04' 019° 38'.
(E) 035° 54' 006° 04'. thence Gibraltar, S of A 24 knots to about 020° N and subsequently 15.5

/knots...

War Diary.

18.10.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - ~~in R.~~

AURORA knots E.T.A. Gibraltar 1600Z/23.
Contd. 2. AURORA shifting to N. Atlantic W/T organisation at 2000Z/19.
(R.A.W.A. 1217Z/18 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

ORONSAY ORONSAY attacked by U-Boat at 0530Z/9/10 in 4° 29' N
(torpedoed 20° 52' W. First torpedo boiler room starboard
9/10.) stopped ship. Second at 0630, third at 0745,
fourth at 0800, all port side. 0805 ship sank.
Visibility poor occasional showers. At 0600
changed zigzag from 9 to 37, speed 17½ knots. No tracks or
U-Boat seen. Master and 266 survivors picked up 17/10 from nine
boats. Six boats with 150 survivors still adrift. Believed two
engineers and three oilers killed.
(S.O.I.) Freetown 1235Z/18 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

CISTULA Following from M.W.T.R. (Begins) CISTULA (Tanker
DRUPA Message) Can proceed Matadi to discharge thence
Capetown after local repairs to bows which are
being arranged. DRUPA is being temporarily
repaired sufficiently to proceed Capetown, anticipate CISTULA
repairing about 24/10, DRUPA about month end.
CISTULA degaussing gear unworkable and not possible to repair
Lagos (Ends)
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 1325Z/18 to M.W.T. (R) R.A.W.A.)

Movements 2000Z/18, Area Q.
summary. SIRIUS, PHOEBE leave Simonstown p.m./18 for Pointe
Noire.
ALCANTARA 031° 30' S 005° 20' E to 031° 20' S 014°
30' E 15 knots.
GUARDIAN, CYCLAMEN, COMMANDANT DETROYAT 016° 20' S 010° 20' E to
Pointe Noire, 12 knots.
AQUITANIA 034° 15' S 031° 30' E to the east, 20 knots.
NIZAM, FOXHOUND from Capetown to patrol about 036° 00' S 016°
30' E.
(C. in C. S.A. 1337C/18 to S.A. Stn.)

*ARROW Your 1939/15 para 2 (b) approved.
*ACTIVE 2. ARROW and ACTIVE are required to escort
GUARDIAN SHROPSHIRE, HIGHLAND BRIGADE and SAMARIA to U.K.
HECLA 3. Regret it is impossible to defer date of
VINDICTIVE arrival of destroyers of 18th Flotilla.
* *See previous page* 4. Request your revised intentions for GUARDIAN,
HECLA and VINDICTIVE. My 2253/15 refers.
(D.O.D.(F.) 1632A/18 to R.A.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A.
F.O.C.N.A.)

WIVERN WIVERN has struck submerged object with starboard
damaged. propeller. 12 inches of one blade broken off and
platform bent back. On completion of present
escort duties intend sailing her from Bathurst for
Gibraltar for docking. E.T.A. 25/10.
(R.A.W.A. 1747Z/18 to Admty.)

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.BENRINNES
U/B.Following received SSSS 31.41 S 16.42 E BENRINNES
sighted object like sub.
(Simonstown W/T No T.O.O. Recd. 1749/18.)Mediterranean.Enemy
Units,
TRAVELLER.*see next page*At 0105 this morning A.S.V. A/C reported 2 large
merchant ships, 5 escorts, P.C.S. 038° 38' 019°
32' 160° 13½. Move to intercept.
(Capt. S.1. 0215C/18 to TRAVELLER (R) C. in C.
Med. Capt. S.10. S/Ms on patrol.)Following received. Addressed: 9 NG. P.C.S. of enemy, 2
medium merchant vessels, 6 destroyers 180° 10 knots 37° 05' N
19° 58' E.

(A/C Call sign RQIB 0728/18.)

U/B

Following has been read. Am over enemy submarine in
36.52 N 20.00 E course 170° speed 12 knots.
(Med. A/C 0838/18.)

U/B.

Periscope sighted at about 990 yards 031° 39' N
032° 29' E.
(?CEPHALOTUS 0950C/18 to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C.
Port Said.)P.211
UTMOST*see p.567*P.211 leaves searched channel sunset 18th direct for
036° 18' 011° 53'. My 1251/17 UTMOST shift patrol
ten miles south.
(Capt. S.10 1017A/18 to 10th S/M Flotilla (R)
C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)Enemy
Units,
P.212
UNA*see next page*Aircraft reports 1 tanker, 2 destroyers 180° Cape
Spartevento 1 miles 037° 8½ knots at 0901A.
(Capt. S.10 1029A/18 to P.212. UNA (R) TRAVELLER,
C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)MERANO
(Italian)My 1201C/13. MERANO expected Istanbul in 8 - 10
days. B.4.
May arrive with ALBA JULIA.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1120C/18 to S.O.I. Med. (R) S.I,
Beirut, D.N.I.)CÖETLOGON
(French)Arrived Barcelona.
(M.O.W.T. 1257/18 to Admty.)

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War Diary.

18.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Units, P.212. *See previous page.* A/C reports 1 tanker, 2 destroyers 038° 29' 016° 49' 080° 8½ knots at 1501A/18. Torpedo A/C will attack tonight.
(Capt. S.10 1706A/18 to P.212. (R) TRAVELLER. UNA. C. in C. Med. S.O. S/M Alexandria. Capt. S.1)
Aircraft report (?1) large tanker, 3 merchant ships, 7 destroyers 038° 15' 012° 39' 200° 8 knots at 1615A/18.
(Capt. S.10 1736A/18 to 10th S/M Flotilla. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)

THRASHER Proceed to patrol by dawn 20th Western Approaches to Rhodes Channel.
(Capt. S.1. 1805C/18 to THRASHER. (R) C. in C. Med.)

A route followed by Axis shipping in the past from Piraeus to Rhodes was as follows - Thermia channel north of Albania then either north of Mykoni or close to east of Syra to north of Amorgo and Stampalia to position 3 - 4 miles south of Symi thence to Rhodes.

(Capt. S.1. 1814C/18 to THRASHER. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Units, UNA *See previous page.* Aircraft report at 1410A, 3 merchant ships 1 tug, proceeding southwards slowly 2 miles S of Messina.
(Capt. S.10 1834A/18 to UNA. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)

TRAVELLER *See previous page.* By noon 19th be in position 320° 44 miles from position given in my 1643/16.
(Capt. S.1 1843C/18 to TRAVELLER (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.10. S/M on patrol.)

Situation report No. 277. Submarines. P.43 at 1424/10/10 in 37° 11' N 21° 26' E sank 8,000 ton southbound merchant ship escorted by destroyer.
2. In amplification of para 2 of my 1814C/14, P.46 at 1032/11 in 40° 29' N 14° 15' E torpedoed and sank 2500 ton fully laden merchant ship. At 1833/13 in 38° 14' N 13° 14' E. torpedoed and sank 1500 ton eastbound merchant ship in ballast.
3. In addition to above P.46 fired nine rounds at a southbound passenger train on Northern shore of Gulf of Eufemia. Fourth round hit and stopped train, probably hit again.
4. TURBULENT sank a small eastbound M/V north of Ras el Hilal at 0735/8.
5. GLOXINIA shot down Me.109 with Oerlikons off Alexandria 1620/16 (Statement being issued to press)
(C. in C. Med. 1916C/18 to Admty.)

Malta Air report. I.40 18/10 C.S.R. Malta.
Night 17/18. 1710 hours, 15 enemy bombers approached Malta and 9 crossed coast. Incendiary bombs at Kalafrana penetrated engine repair section Hangar but caused some damage. Bombs at Hal Far caused craters on aerodrome and damaged 1 Spitfire. 3 Beaufighters up made no interception.
1800 hours, 1 Intruder Beaufighter over Catania aerodrome intercepted and destroyed 1 He.111.

/2324 hours...

War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. *cont.*

Malta Air report. Contd. 2324 hours, 3 raiders approached at height 1 dropped flares on North of Island and 1 D.A. Bomb near Takali but caused no material damage. 1 Beaufighter up made no interception. 0215 hours, 4 raiders approached Malta at height. 1 Beaufighter up but enemy jettisoned bombs in sea and returned. 18th. Today after 2 abortive bomber raids enemy resorted to continuous waves of high fighter formations some carrying bombs. 0601 hours, 9 enemy bombers escorted by approx. 70 Me.109s and Mc.202s approached Malta at great height. 23 Spitfires were airborne. On nearing 15 miles N of Island bombers turned back to Sicily and Spitfires intercepted enemy. Fighters destroyed one Me.109 and probably destroyed one Me.109 for loss of 1 Spitfire destroyed, pilot unhurt. 0906 hours, 5 formations totalling approx. 50 enemy A/C approached Malta. 1 formation probable Ju.88s turned back to Sicily before reaching Island. 8 Me.109s dropped bombs on Takali from great height causing 6 craters on A/D. 27 Spitfires airborne but Me.109s gaining height advantage avoided combat and returned at speed. 1024 hours, enemy fighters in 4 formations 1 carrying bombs approached Malta. 6 bombs were dropped on Luqa from great height causing craters on aerodrome. 7 Spitfires up lacked sufficient height for interception. 1255 hours, 25 enemy fighters including Me.109 bombers approached at great height but only the fighter escort crossed coast and were intercepted by 9 Spitfires who destroyed 1 Me.109 and damaged another Me.109 without loss to themselves. 1447 hours, partial R.D.F. interference was experienced as 7 formations totalling 90 Me.109s some carrying bombs approached at great height and were intercepted north of Island by 26 Spitfires who damaged one Me.109 without loss to themselves. Few bombs fell near Luqa causing no material damage and 1 bomb falling on aerodrome damaged 1 Wellington. 1 Spitfire crashed possibly owing to engine trouble, aircraft destroyed, pilot killed. Today in 102 Spitfire sorties against 264 enemy sorties ?2 enemy aircraft have been destroyed 1 probably destroyed and 2 damaged for loss of 2 Spitfires destroyed and 1 pilot killed in flying accident. Night 17/18. 1 Swordfish, 1 Albacore despatched to attack beached M/V at Khoms. Swordfish returned early owing to engine trouble. Albacore attacked 2215 hours with torpedo duplex contact depth setting 10 feet dropped from 30 feet range 500 yards. No results observed owing to bad visibility. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2058/18.)

Enemy Units. Following has been read. Am over 4 enemy Class unknown course 150° speed 13 knots in 34.05 N 21.02 E. (A/C using call sign 8WCZ 2330C/18.)

/Orders...

War Diary.

18.10.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Orders
to S/Ms.

After passage of convoy on 19th S/Ms are to proceed as follows to arrive end of searched channel 1031A on dates given:

P.211 direct to arrive 20/10. *See p. 564.*

UTMOST through 035° 46' 012° 56' and 035° 40' 014° 06' *See p. 564.*
P.37 direct to 035° 32' 014° 12' both to arrive 21/10.

P.42 and P.44 to spend daylight hours 20/10 vicinity Kuriat and 035° 24' 012° 24' respectively leaving as requisite, P.42 north of Lampedusa to 035° 41' 014° 05' and P.44 direct to 035° 31' 014° 11' to arrive 22/10.

No submarine encountered is to be attacked unless definitely identified as hostile.

(Capt. S.10 2349A/18 to 10 S/M F. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)

War Diary.

18.10.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- LOVSTAD. Your 2210/15th. LOVSTAD (Norwegian) is due to leave Mogadishu 19/10 for Kilindini. (S.O(I) Kilindini 0635Z/18 to Admty.)
- Catalinas. (i) I have been informed that the majority of the new flying boat squadrons being sent to Indian Ocean will be equipped with Catalina amphibious and that these aircraft are inferior in range and endurance to the flying boats Catalina. (ii) On account of the great distances which have to be covered in Indian Ocean, the major operational (?requirement) for G/R aircraft is long range. (iii) Request I may be given details of the performance of Catalina amphibious and, if they are inferior to Catalina flying boats in range and endurance, request that Air Ministry be asked to reduce number of this type to be supplied to this station. (C. in C. E.F. 0821Z/18 to Admty. (R) 222 Group.)
- M.D.1. 18th, departure. Convoy M.D.1 and escort for Durban. (N.O.I.C. Tamatave 1405Z/18 to Cdre. Durban (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)
- U/B. Following has been read. Submarine warning 31° 25' S. 16° 36' E. Sighted object like submarine T.O.R. 1514Z/18 De ZSC. (Slangkop W/T No T.O.O. Recd 1625/18.)

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War Diary.18.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

O.N. 137
attacked.
ANGELINA
torpedoed.

Convoy attacked, pendant (? 11) torpedoed.
Convoy position 049° 39' N. 030° 20' W.
(C.T.U. 24.1.14, 0150Z/18 to C.T.24, (R) Connav,
Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)
My 0150Z/18th. ANGELINA, pendant II, torpedoed
and sunk. She was a straggler. Convoy somewhat scattered
as result of gale. Weather report. CELANDINE out of contact
with convoy with engine trouble.
(C.T.U. 24.1.14, 0321Z/18 to A.I.G. 302.)
Convoy widely scattered result of gale. RESTIGOUCHE and
10 stragglers 15 miles astern. ARVIDA rejoining with rescue
ship. ST. CROIX and ARVIDA 5 days fuel remaining. Will have
to leave convoy tomorrow. If present weather continues
stragglers have to proceed to Azores or return Londonderry. No
further attacks on convoy but H/F D/F bearings at 0537Z indicate
submarine still in the vicinity. Other escorts about 7 days
fuel remaining. Position 049° 46' N. 030° 14' W.
(C.T. 24.1.14, 1129Z/18 to Comtask 24.)
My 1129Z/18th. Fuel remaining CELANDINE 5 days, AMHERST
6 days, SHERBROOKE 7 days. SHERBROOKE's A/S dome gone.
AMHERST's oscillator dead and dome leaking.
(C.T.U. 24.1.14, 1459Z/18 to C.T.F. 24.)
Intend escort to remain with convoy as long as possible
if refuelling at Azores can be arranged. Destroyers could
refuel and rejoin convoy. Request immediate reply.
(C.T.U. 24.1.14, 2101Z/18 to C.T.F. 24.)

A/S Trawlers
for Cape.

Sailed Norfolk 2330/17 Trawlers ST. ZENO,
COVENTRY CITY, LADY ELSA and NORTHERN ISLES.
(N.S.H.Q., 0515Z/18 to Admty.)
My 0515/18. Delete NORTHERN ISLES.
(N.S.H.Q., 1933Z/18 to Admty.)
My 0515/18 Add NORWICH CITY. (N.S.H.Q. 1436Z/18 to Admty.)

U/B.

Coast watcher report sighting submarine 0600/17
in 047° 33' N. 059° 09' W.
(C.O.A.C., 0531Z/18 to G.B. 7A and G.B. 7AG.)

SAGITTAIRE
(French)

Cable Ser. 137 from Caracas T.O.O. 1637/16
arrival 16th SAGITTAIRE.
(Vesca Rm. 16 M.H., No T.O.O./18 to Admty. Recd.
0712/18.)

THETIS.

Your 1747/17 (Non-arrival THETIS [Greek]).
Ship arrived 17/10.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 0959P/18 to N.S.H.Q.)

O.N. 135,
MANSFIELD,
WANDERER,
WITCH.

MANSFIELD sailed 1013Z/18th to rejoin O.N. 135.
(C.O.A.C., 1020Z/18 to C.T. 24.18.3, C.T. 24.18.2,
(R) Admty., Connav, N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., C.T.24,
(D) Halifax, F.O.N.F.)

/Comply ...

War Diary.

18.10.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

O.N. 135, MANSFIELD, WANDERER, WITCH. (Contd.)
Comply with C.O.A.C. Halifax 1601Z/17 routing ships direct (? for) New York. My 1628/15 cancelled. Advise speed and time of departure. (Connav, 1641/18 to Port Director Norfolk, (R) Com. 5, C.E.S.F., Cinclant, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.T. 24.) My 1606/16th and my 1020/18. MONCTON returned with defect. (2) Provided WANDERER joins Task Unit No. 24.18.2 for S.C. 107 in accordance with my 1601/17, request MANSFIELD may be boiler cleaned on arrival and join T.U. 24.18.1 for S.C. 108, otherwise request MANSFIELD returns with S.C. 107 and WANDERER sails with S.C. 108. Would appreciate early advice of (? action) taken. (4 corrupt groups) request WITCH may join group B.5 in accordance with Admiralty 1856/21/9 (? which) is being passed to you. (C.O.A.C., 1857Z/18 to C.E.S.F., (R) Cinclant, Admty., etc.)

Movements Summary. 1800 G.M.T./18.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
NIGERIA	34° N. 42° W.	266°	19
GRIFFIN	33½° N. 37½° W.	068°	11½
S/M K.15	27½° N. 54° W.	297°	9
ASTURIAS	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank

(D.O.D.(F), 1126Z/18 to Opnav, (R) Commaveu.)

SEWALL'S POINT. My 0929/16 (re sighting of S/M). Schooner searching found only oar marked SS. SEWALL'S POINT 40 miles from South Bissao. No information whereabouts of this ship at this centre. (S.O.I.) Kingston, 1258R/18 to Admty., S.B.N.O.W.A., B.A.D., Comcarib, Connav.)

Convoy Schedules, Westomp. Following 1641/17 addressed Admty. has been received from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (begins): Request position of Westomp and speed for various convoys incalculations in your 1335/16 (ends). (D.T.D., 1334A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

- Your 1641/17.
- (A) Westomp in 49° W.
 - (B) North Channel to Westomp, O.N. and O.N.S. 7½ and 5½ knots respectively.
 - (C) Westomp to New York, O.N. and O.N.S. 7½ and 5¾ knots respectively.
 - (D) Liverpool to North Channel, one day in both cases.
 - (E) Length of route varies considerable depending on circumstances and is unpredictable within 300 miles. An arbitrary figure of 1,750 miles from North Channel to Westomp has therefore been adopted.
 - (F) Experience may show that above speed estimates are too low. Resulting earlier arrival New York would be beneficial but earlier arrival Westomp would not suit W.L.E.F. schedule and O.N. and O.N.S. sailing dates might require revision later on. (D.T.D., 1341A/18 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Cominch, C. in C. W.A.)

/Escort ...

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Escort of Tankers, Trinidad. Your 2250/17. (A) and (B). Cominch's 1845/14 is at present best basis for estimate required. Actual dates of arrival Trinidad depend on employment for merchant ship escort en route (your 1937/14 para. 5 refers). All should arrive between 26/10 and 5/11. (C) Comcarib and N.O.B. Trinidad have been informed that trawlers will be used for this service. (B.A.D., 1545Z/18 to Admty., (R) Cominch C. and R.)

U/B Positions. 18/10 S/M Situation and U.S. S/M Notice. (Cominch, 1610/18, 1611/18, 1631/18, 1632/18, 1633/18.)

Convoy A.T. 27. Your 1417/17, para. 3. Concur. Para. 2. General Eisenhower is signalling separately about figure service of these two ships. (D.O.D.(F), 1624A/18 to B.A.D., (R) R.A.W.A.)

U.S. WINONA (torpedoed 16/10.) My 0941/17, ships returned Port of Spain under own steam. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1624R/18 to Admty., B.A.D.)

CASTLE HARBOUR (sunk 16/10) Trinidad report British CASTLE HARBOUR torpedoed and sunk 1720Z/16, 011° 00' N. 061° 10' W. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1626R/18 to Admty., etc.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN, DUNCAN, ANTHONY, BULKOIL, TOLTEC. (1) Leave Bermuda at (?2100Z) (?18th) taking BULKOIL and TOLTEC under your orders and proceed through the following positions: *Book 3 - see next page*
(f) 036° 27' N. 070° 30' W.
(g) 038° 19' N. 074° 25' W.
(h) 038° 46' N. 075° 01' W.
(2) TOLTEC is to proceed into Delaware River unless other instructions are received from (? Connav).
(3) DUNCAN, ANTHONY and BULKOIL are to be detached at position (h) and are to proceed in company under orders of Capt. (D) 2 via North Channel through positions:
(j) 038° 47' N. 074° 36' W.
(k) 039° 43' N. 073° 12' W. and
(l) 040° 05' N. 073° 32' W. to New York.
(4) Your S. of A. should be 13½ knots and E.T.A. at position (g) is to be signalled to me before leaving Bermuda.
(5) ROYAL SOVEREIGN on arrival in Delaware Bay is to signal to C.E.S.F. and Com. 3 E.T.A. at position (l) of ships mentioned in para. (3).
(6) Wireless watch as ordered in R.A.W.Af. 1603/7th para. 6 with addition of guard on 355 k/cs for 12 hours before arrival. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1632Z/18 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN, (R) DUNCAN, ANTHONY, Connav, Admty., B.A.M.R., Cinclant, N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Kingston, C.E.S.F., N.O.B. Bermuda.)

/My ...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - ~~with~~

ROYAL My 1632Z/18. Essential that DUNCAN and ANTHONY
SOVEREIGN, boiler clean on arrival New York. Request
DUNCAN, boiler cleaning party be available as early as
ANTHONY, possible a.m. on day after arrival. If possible,
BULKOIL, DUNCAN requires 24 hours in dock to examine
TOLTEC. (? leaky) dome.
(Contd.) (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1642Z/18 to B.A.M.R., (R) Admty.,
etc.)
Bermuda departure at 2100Z/18 ROYAL SOVEREIGN,
DUNCAN, ANTHONY with BULKOIL and TOLTEC in accordance with my
1632/18.
(11) E.T.A. position (g) 1800Z/20.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 2142Z/18 to Admty.)

K. 15. Your 1745/17.
see p. 570
Regret K.15 has insufficient endurance to enable
[~~the~~ her to carry out an effective search.
(D.O.D.(F), 1646A/18 to Cominch, (R) Cinclant, etc.)
E.T.A. entrance to swept channel Bermuda Wednesday 21/10 1300Z.
Owing to fuel shortage could not act on C. in C. U.S. Fleet's
1745/17th.
(K.15, 1830Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Bermuda, (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet,
C. in C. S.A., R.A.W.A., Admty.)

OZARK, Following has been read:- S O S de OZARK
distress. 60.50 N. 41.15 W. OZARK boats gone, rudder
washed away at 1536 G.M.T./T.O.R. 1537.
(Reykjavik W/T, No T.O.O., Recd. 1649/18.)

Commodores, Complaints have been received from Commodores
New York. regarding lengthy stay in New York. Request you
will arrange as far as possible stay should not
exceed ten days. When N.C.S.O. Mersey indicates
that a Vice-Commodore has sailed for the round voyage in a west-
bound convoy he should return as Vice-Commodore, not as Commodore
of an eastbound convoy. If the number of Commodores at New York
is surplus to requirements this should be reduced by sending
some home as Vice-Commodores or passengers. Understood that
accommodation for Commodores is seven miles from your office.
Request confirmation and whether transport is available.
(D.T.D., 1743A/18 to B.R.O. New York, (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax.)
Reply: 1532/20.

GARLAND. GARLAND sailing St. Johns for Boston at 24 knots
routed through (A) 046° 33' N. 052° 57' W.
(B) 044° 31' N. 061° 45' W. (C) 043° 05' N.
065° 32' W. thence Boston. E.T.A. first light 20/10.
C.E.S.F. pass to B.R.O. Boston.
(F.O.N.F., 1752Z/18 to Cdr. 1st U.S. Naval District Boston, (R)
Cominch, C.E.S.F., etc.)
My 1752/18. Corrected T.O.O. to read 2022Z/18th.
(F.O.N.F., 2358Z/18 to Com. 1.)

/Torpedo ...

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

Torpedo Explosion, Cape Gaspe. (false). A.D.C. Observer from Gaspe reported a (? torpedo) exploded on beach off Cape Gaspe at 1115Z/18th. (C.O.A.C., 1754Z/18 to G.B. 7AG, (R) C.T.F. 24 etc.) Cancelled by 1217Z/19, q.v.

JOHN WINTHROP. Have you any news of JOHN WINTHROP (U.S.) due New York 4/10 ex O.N. 131. B.R.O. New York's 1531Z/5 refers. (D.T.D., 1807A/18 to N.S.H.Q.) Reply: N.S.H.Q. 1819/19.

30 M.L. Flotilla. F.O.N.F. 1239/7, 0014/15. Sailing of 30th Motor Launch Flotilla delayed due to adverse weather conditions. (N.O.I.C. Sydney (C.B., 1835/18 to B.A.D., C.O.A.C. (R) Admty., etc.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. A. FLENSBURG torpedoed sunk 10.15 N. 45.50 W. 2400Z/7. ANGELINA torpedoed sunk 49.39 N. 30.20 W. about 0130Z/18. Hudson plane attacks sub. on surface 10.36 N. 58.53 W. 2018Z/17 course 185° also radar contact.

Para. B. WEST CHETAC, U.88 type. ALIPORE one torpedo hit 30 shells. ALCOA MARINER, two torpedo hits. PATRICK J. HURLEY 35 rounds.

Para. C. Surface craft attack sub. on surface area 06° N. 15.30 W. 20/8. Surface craft attacks sound contact 49.19 N. 737.22 W. 0045Z/14. Coast watcher sights sub. 47.33 N. 59.09 W. 0600Z/17. Army transport plane sights sub. course N. 15.30 N. 64.40 W. 1925Z/17. Subs sighted 07.40 N. 58.20 W. 1250Z/18, 11.57 N. 67.10 W. 1443Z/18. Picket boat sights periscope 32.07 N. 80.20 W. 0715Z/18. (Cominch, 2050/18 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

* ILE DE FRANCE, MAURETANIA. SS. ILE DE FRANCE speed 20 radius 5700 miles (? proceeding at) that speed draft 36 feet length 800 expected sailing Durban in near future for Esquimalt via Freetown and Auckland. Advise best onward route from Auckland (corrupt group) (? Cape of Good Hope) and arrangements you can make for fuelling. On completion of docking at Esquimalt ship will proceed to San Francisco to embark U.S. troops and civilian personnel for Middle East, again proceeding via Pacific. MAURETANIA sails Suez mid-November via same general route to San Francisco and will require similar fuelling arrangement. These movements will be unescorted. N.B. Wellington pass to Alusnob Wellington. (Cominch, 2153/18 to C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.), (R) C.W.S.F., Alusnob Wellingtons, Commander S.W. Pacific Force. Commander S. Pacific Force, Admty., B.A.D., N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B.)

/BUTTERMERE ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

BUTTERMERE, Request when Cominch issues route for BUTTERMERE
WASTWATER. and WASTWATER the following may be taken into
consideration.

(A) Endurance of WASTWATER at 12 knots in
favourable weather with present dynamos is limited to about
2,500 miles.

(B) Strong head wind and sea seriously reduces S. of A.
2. It would appear necessary for these ships to be routed
southward of N.E. Trades refuelling at either St. Thomas or
Trinidad and at Pernambuco.

(S.B.N.O.W.A., 2232P/18 to B.A.D., (R) Admty.)

Reply: B.A.D. 1619Z/19.

Australia and New Zealand.

Troops Cancel my 0826Z/29/9 and previous relevant
for M.E. signals. All A.I.F. reinforcements to Middle
East have been cancelled.

(A.C.N.B., 0136Z/18 to Admty. for D. of S.T.,
N.Z.N.B., C. in C. E.F.)

NIEUW Your 0025/14, escort arrangements in my 0909/8
AMSTERDAM. confirmed.
(A.C.N.B., 0306Z/18 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.,
F.O.I.C. Ceylon.)

Situation. Digest No. 269, 17/10.
Reports Buin Faisi Tonolei Harbour area morning
17/10. 23 ships including 2 heavy cruisers, 4
destroyers, 13 cargo ships, 1 tanker, 2 unidentified vessels;
photographs aerial R/C 3½ hours later reveal 28 ships including
1 probable heavy cruiser, 1 possible light cruiser, 4 possible
destroyers, 9 merchant vessels, 13 unidentified vessels. In
addition 4 cargo vessels sighted general area. 6 B.17s attacked
Buin aerodrome and dispersal area. R/C shows no apparent
damage runway. No aircraft visible on aerodrome Buna area.
During night 16-17/10, 1 M/V arrived Buka passage making total
1 probable minelayer, 2 destroyers, 1 M/V in passage afternoon
17/10. 4 cargo vessels, 1 destroyer, 1 possible torpedo boat,
4° 40' S. 153° 53' E. stationary morning 17/10. 5 Catalinas
attacked Buka passage aerodrome night 16-17/10 starting large
fires. Later report estimated considerable damage including
fuel dumps and aircraft destroyed. Nil activity reported
airdome day 17/10 6 new A.A. guns installed.

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

- Situation. (3) 2 destroyers, 2 transports, 2 cargo ships anchored Kavieng noon 17/10. 2 destroyers, 3 cargo vessels 1° 57' S. 148° 47' E. Course 100° approx. same time.
- (Contd.) (4) 7 B.17s attacked Vunakanau aerodrome early morning 17/10.
- (5) Nil activity Gasmuca (sic) aerodrome morning 16/10.
- (6) Local estimate enemy strength Salamaua area Mubo 500 Komiatum 500 Logui 200.
- (7) 3 B.25s twice attacked Salamaua and Mubo areas 17/10 results not assessed.
- (8) Small enemy detachments with labour Corps 16/10 at Wairopi Sangara Soputa Buna. Small patrols from Buna visit Oro Bay. Large guns installed Buna area.
- (9) Allied patrols continue pressure enemy positions near Templeton's crossing forward parties evening 16/10 near Eora Creek Village.
- (10) Indications enemy S/M 15/10 24° S. 153° E.
- (11) 3 enemy aircraft attacked Same (Timor) morning 17/10. Nil casualties. 11 enemy aircraft reported 17/10 based Dilli Aerodrome.
- (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0758Z/18 to Admty., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1417A/18, 1454A/18.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

FERNIE, KRAKOWIAK and 3 M.T.Bs sailed from Dartmouth at 2305 today to attempt to intercept two enemy vessels southbound between Alderney and Cap la Hague at 2100. The enemy were not sighted.

F.S/M JUNON, patrolling off N.W. Norway sank a merchant ship today in Saltenfiord and hit a supply ship yesterday in Tennholm Fiord and caused it to run aground. JUNON was ordered to return from patrol on 20/10: UREDD was on 21/10 ordered to remain on patrol near 61° 15' N. 4° 22' E.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft at the entrance to Seidisfiord this evening is suspected.

Commencing with C.E. 125 sailing on 21/10 it is intended to revert to a 4 day cycle for Channel convoys.

Convoy K.X. 3 (LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE) sailed for Gibraltar at 2208A today, from the Clyde.

The German Ferry DEUTSCHLAND with German leave troops on board was wrecked today, torpedoed, it is reported, by a Soviet S/M. There now remain only the two Swedish ferries to operate the Trelleborg - Sassnitz service which is temporarily suspended. The Swedish Government have not given any assurance that German troops will not in future be carried in these Swedish vessels.

North Atlantic.

An aircraft from Gibraltar made a promising attack on a U-Boat which was straddled when on the surface (550 miles W. Lisbon). A large oil patch with floating wreckage in the middle resulted.

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War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

SS. NESTOR reported a suspected submarine at 0810 G.M.T. in 33° 23' S. 17° 54' E.

SS. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS reported being attacked by a submarine at 1017Z in 34° 25' S. 13° 34' E. At 1023Z she reported that one or two torpedoes had missed her. At 2329 G.M.T. she again reported being chased by a S/M in 35° 34' S. 15° 24' E., and at 0004 G.M.T./20 she reported that she was clear of the enemy.

Mediterranean.

A few bombs were dropped on the Malta aerodromes today, but no serious damage was caused. The daylight attacks were carried out principally by enemy fighters and fighter bombers, but a large formation of bombers which approached at dusk were successfully intercepted and most of the bombs were jettisoned. In 113 Spitfire sorties against 266 enemy sorties 2 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 4 damaged or destroyed: one Spitfire was damaged in combat and 2 Hurricanes on the ground.

Attack on
convoy.

A southbound enemy convoy consisting of a large tanker and 3 merchant vessels, escorted by 7 destroyers was sighted by UTMOST at 1000/19 and by aircraft near Pantellaria p.m. yesterday. P.211, P.44, P.42, UTMOST and P.37 were moved to intercept. It seems probable that the 4000 ton merchant ship torpedoed by Naval aircraft at 2340/18 in 25° Pantellaria 38 miles was in this convoy. P.37 fired a salvo of torpedoes at the leading ship, at 1148/19 in 35° 45' N. 12° 4' E. and obtained hits with 2 torpedoes: Capt. S.10 considers she sank one merchant ship and one destroyer.

S/M P.42 reports that about 1510A she fired 4 torpedoes at a convoy consisting of one tanker and 2 or 3 merchant ships escorted by 3 or 4 destroyers steering 160° in approx. 35° 21' N. 12° 13' E. (40 miles W.S.W. of Lampedusa I.) P.42 claims 2 hits, but the result was not seen, but half an hour later air R/C showed one tanker one merchant ship and 4 destroyers southbound, and one merchant ship and one destroyer steering north-eastward. Capt. S.10 considers P.42 hit a merchant ship which later turned and rejoined the convoy.

/P.42 ...

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. *contd.*

Attack on
Convoy.
(Contd.)

P.42 was counter attacked and had to return to Malta with damaged main batteries. At 2110 one merchant ship was hit with a torpedo by Naval aircraft from Malta and was stopped in 34° 37' N. 12° 34' E., and at 2210 a tanker and a merchant ship, or 2 merchant ships, were seen proceeding southward and were attacked by 3 Wellington 8s. (2 bombing and one torpedo carrying) in 170° Lampione 47 miles and a merchant ship was hit with a 1000 lb. bomb.

U.S. Liberators report a successful bombing attack on shipping in Tobruk harbour today.

S/M P.211 has returned from patrol in the Adriatic, during which she torpedoed 3 ships and shelled and caused a third to be beached. P.211 was herself slightly damaged in counter attack on 8/10.

Red Sea.

There was a recrudescence of enemy air activity in the Red Sea tonight. An oil tanker SCALARIA was bombed or torpedoed and set on fire at 2315 today at Ras Gharib, and went aground and became a total wreck. The Greek CHIOS was attacked in Sofaga Harbour at 2345 but was not damaged.

East Indies.

Whilst on patrol off the end of the Colombo channel at 1400Z today OKAPI obtained hydrophone contact on a vessel proceeding at high speed, which was never seen. It is thought the vessel may have been a submarine on the surface.

America and West Indies.

SS. STEEL NAVIGATOR reported being attacked by a submarine at 1112 in 49° 45' N. 31° 20' W. Later she reported being crippled by ballast shifting.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

PRINCES^S
JOSEPHINE,
CHARLOTTE. On completion of refit and trials request
PRINCES^S JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE may join Force J.
(R.A.L.B. 1540A/19 to C. in C.Portsmouth).

North Atlantic, My 1122/17.
dispositions. Area Iceland. For 3 read 2 destroyers,
Area Scapa. For 11 read 14 destroyers.
Area Clyde. For 5 read 1 destroyer.
(D.O.D.(H) 1850Z/19 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet).

Defence of U.K.

A/A Guns may engage A/C from seaward. First light 21/10 add Ramsgate, Broadstairs,
Sandwich, Felixstowe, Harwich, Yarmouth,
Lowestoft, Orfordness, Brightlingsea, Walton-on-
the-Naze, Southwold, Sheringham, Cromer. Request
you warn all concerned.
(Air Ministry 1747A/19) (See also D. of L.D.
1225A/20).

Movements.

LADY OF MANN, Your 1201A/18. OAKLEY will provide escort
PRAGUE, and will be sailed to arrive Invergordon 1800
OAKLEY. today.
(A.C.O.S. 0935/19 to N.O.I.C.Invergordon).
Intend sailing transport PRAGUE escorted
at 0500/22nd, speed 17 knots, routed 5 miles East of Fair Isle
058° 56' 30 " N. 002° 27' W. E.T.A. 1015, thence in company
with LADY OF MANN to Invergordon. E.T.A. 1615/22. Routed
Admiralty messages QZS.324, 352, and 150. Request fighter
protection.
(N.O.I. C.Lerwick 1531A/19 to A.C.O.S.).

P.555. (1) Intend to sail JAN VAN GELDER from
Campbeltown at 2230 A/20 to R/V P.555 in 180°
Barra 5 miles at 1500A/21 for passage to
Rothesay. E.T.A.Rothesay 1000A/22.
(Capt.S.3. 1015A/19 to MARGAREE)
(Capt,S.3. 1017A/19 to P.555).

PROTEUS. Escort not met. Estimate am 10 miles South of
Lizard. Proceeding for Eddystone 8 knots,
visibility 2 miles.
(PROTEUS 1101A/19 to C. in C. Plymouth).
M.L.186 as well as RUBY is endeavouring to meet you. M.L.
1027 now proceeding to outer end of Admiralty Z.S. 278 to meet
you.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1447A/19 to PROTEUS).
Arrived PROTEUS.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1703A/19).

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

9th M/S. Sailed.
Flotilla. (C. in C, Portsmouth 1140A/19 to N.O.I.C.Newhaven)

BUDE. Your 2308A/18 and BUDE's 1527/18. Request every effort may be made to complete BUDE to enable her to reach Milford Haven in time to embark awnings and stanchions ex EASTBOURNE and to fuel at Milford Haven prior to sailing p.m./24/10. (D.M.S.1235A/19 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

LONDON. Scapa departure C.S.1. in LONDON. E.T.A. p.m./21st. (A.C.O.S. 1532/19 to A.C.I.C.).

PRINCE Your 1134A/17. Arrived Needles 1545/19.
CHARLES. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1604/19 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

HARRIER, GLEANER, BRYONY and BERGAMOT sailed Dvina Bar 1730C/19. E.T.A. Kola Inlet 0800C/21. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1610A/19).

BACHAQUERO My 1159/16. BACHAQUERO completed loading of
MISOA. pontoons p.m./17th and proceeding in accordance with instructions A.M./18th. MISOA completed loading p.m./18th and proceeded as above A.M. /19th. (F.O.I.C.Glasgow, 1642A/19 to Admty).

RENOWN. Departure RENOWN. ^{/Scapa.} E.T.A. 0645/20.
(C. in C.Rosyth 1725/19).

FURIOUS. Previous orders are cancelled. H.M.S.FURIOUS
BLYSKAWICA. is returning Greenock. BLYSKAWICA proceed to Greenock.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock 1746A/19 to BLYSKAWICA).
Cancel my 1746/19. Proceed with all despatch Londonderry and top up.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock 1924A/19 to BLYSKAWICA).

MARNE On arrival off Cumbrae detach MARNE to
ASHANTI. Londonderry at best speed to fuel and await further orders. ASHANTI proceed in accordance with R. A.(D) H.F's 1123/18, para 3. ~~ACTIVITY~~
(C. in C.H. F. 1748A/19 to ACTIVITY.).

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols. Destroyer duty tonight. Patrol A. QUORN, B WALPOLE, 1 WINDSOR, 2 ATHERSTONE, 3 MEYNELL, 4 MENDIP, 5 GUILLEMOT, 6 WIDGEON.
(C. in C. Nore 0952A/19).

→ Intend M/Ls 123 (S.O) and 246 to patrol on lat. 50° 20' N. between 1° 35' W. and 2° 10' W. tonight leaving Weymouth 1930 and leaving Patrol line at dawn.
Code word "Service".
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1101A/19).

→ Tonight. M.G.B. 317 and 326 patrolling near 50° 10' N. 01° 15' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1300A/19).

→ 1. M.G.Bs 317 (S.O), 326 patrolling 23 miles south of St. Catherines Point.

→ 2. M.Ls 123 (S.O), 246 patrolling 15 miles south of St. Albans Head.

3. Chasseurs 41 (S.O), 5 patrolling in vicinity of E.A.5 Buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1516/19).
2000 situation.

3 M.Ls on patrol 24 miles S.E. Start. 2 M.Ls on patrol 20 miles S.E. Portland Bill.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1602A/19).
Departure M.G.Bs 58, *60, 64, and 65. * *p. 568*
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1716A/19).

M.Ls. 149 and 148 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and N.E. Spit buoys. E.T.D. 1855. E.T.R. 0705/20.

S.G.Bs 9 and 8 near "C" 1 buoy.
M.G.Bs 108, 46, 10, and 6 from Ramsgate at "V" Buoy from 0030/20.
(V.A. Dover 1811A/19).

Departure M.G.Bs 77, 74, and 80.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2010A/19.).

37th E.G. Sailed BLACK SWAN, CARNATION, MALLOW, and LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, delayed by defects.
(Cdre, Londonderry 1320A/19).

S/M patrols. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/20 and movements for following 24 hours.

*JUNON in Zone K.9. UREDD in Zone K.5.

GRAPH in Zones K.501 and K.505. SEALION in Zone K.506.
(F.O.S. 1747A/19). * *p. 576.*

Interception of Enemy Vessels. FERNIE take KRAKOWIAK and M.T.Bs 235, 240, 203, under his orders and sail immediately in company at 23 knots to Southward. Codeword "Stencil".
(C. in C. Plymouth 2127/19.)

My 2127. For 23 knots read 25 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2149/19 to FERNIE, etc).

See over -

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War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Interception
of Enemy
Vessels.
Contd.

p. 576

Two medium vessels were between Alderney and Caplahague at 2100 bound south at 12 knots. They may pass south of Barnouic Light and then westward. FERNIE with KRAKOWIAK, M.T.B. 203, 235, and 240 proceed to pass through 000° Septiles light 4 miles at 0230/20, and then sweep eastward at 15 knots. If nothing met by 0400 return to Dartmouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth 2209/19 to FERNIE, etc).

Your 2209/19. Sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2305/19 to C. in C. Plymouth).

If ordered to proceed in execution of previous orders proceed to patrol in area north of Clearance light. Object to support FERNIE, KRAKOWIAK, 203, 235, and 240 who are sweeping from Sept Isle to eastwards and then returning to Dartmouth. Enemy convoy passing southwards through Alderney Race at 2130. Return to arrive Needles 0700/20. Codeword "Device."

(C. in C. Portsmouth 2334A/19 to PYTCHLEY).

Exercises.Exercise
X.C.E.

Following lettered positions are established and are to be used when making enemy reports. (C.S.1 1011A/19 to A.C.I.C, ANSON, SUFFOLK, BERWICK).

SUFFOLK will now return Hvalfjord on completion exercise. (C.S.1. 1250 A/19 to SUFFOLK).

Exercise
"Mosstrooper"

Exercise "Mosstrooper" satisfactory. Intend informing my 2147A/18. LARGS sails independently to arrive Clyde a.m./21st. (S.O.Force "C" 1748A/19 to C. in C.Force "X")

Allied Air Activity.Bomber
Command
Operations.

On day 18/10 and night 18/19 there were no operations. (H.Q.B.(C.) 1350A/19).

Iceland Air
organisation.

Your 1257/13. para.2.

(a) (i) 269 Squadron Hudsons (Establishment 20 plus 4). (ii) 6 Catalinas. (iii) 6 Northrops. (iv) 1 Met. Flight Hudsons (4 plus 2).

(v) In addition a Detachment of up to 6 Liberators of 120 Squadron are located in Iceland.

(vi) No. 73 (U.S.N) Squadron 12 P.B. Y.5A, one to be relieved by No. 84 (U.S.N) Squadron.

(vii) No further expansion is anticipated but reinforcement will be made if particular circumstances demand this.

(b) Iceland (c) is a normal Coastal Command Group operated as follows:-

(i) When trade protection is in force - by the A.O.C. (under general control of A.O.C. in C. in consultation with A.C.I.C.)

/(ii)...

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War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity. *cont.*Iceland Air
organisation
Contd.

(ii) When Fleet Reconnaissance takes precedence by A.O.C. in C. in collaboration with Admiralty and/or C. in C.Home Fleet.

(iii) Any difficulties which A.O. C. in C. is unable to resolve are referred to Admiralty.

(c) Naval Authority, Washington.

(d) U.S. Aircraft escort U.S. convoys to and from Iceland.

This is the full extent of their mandate but in fact, owing to the excellent co-operation between the R.A.F. and U.S. Navy in Iceland, the latter are always willing to put the widest interpretation on this instruction and to help as necessary in meeting a current situation.

(e) See para.(b) above.

(A. C.N.S.(H) 1959 A/19 to C. in C.H.F.).

Enemy Air Activity.R/C of
Operation
"EY."

1 A/C bearing 070° distant 0.5 miles. My position 65° 18' N. 13° 42' W.

(M/S 15th 0758Z/19 to Seidisfiord W/T).

See next page.

1 A/C shadowing bearing 270° distant 1 mile.

My position 65° 26' N. 13° 35' W.

(M/S 15th 0934Z/19).

Unknown
Ship.

Intercept 0712 G.M.T. bearing 027° from unknown station begins:-

S.O.S. - AAAA. At 0714 require a Tug. 0716 Sheigra Radio advises call sign of Station is G4ST.

(Wick Radio 0818/19).

Intercept at 0743 G.M.T. from unknown station begins:-
AAAA engine broken.

(Wick Radio 0845/19).

Intercept at 0813 G.M.T. D E G4ST begins AAAA Require a tug Ends.

(Wick Radio 0915/19).

Great
Yarmouth
bombed,

Great Yarmouth bombed at 0716 today. 3 UXBs. No Naval damage or casualty. (F.O.I.C.Gt.Yarmouth 0845/19.)

A/C shot down
at Lowestoft
by LOVANIA
M. G.B.100 &
A/A Gun.

One enemy aircraft shot down by Navy over Lowestoft at 0843. Fell inland and exploded. (N.O.I.C.Lowestoft 0926A/19).

At 0843A/19, visibility 1/2 mile. One JU.88 crashed in field by St.Margarets Road, Lowestoft after hits. Crew, believed four, all killed.

Bomb exploded 5 minutes after crash, two still remain unexploded. A/C came out of clouds to seaward, fire opened by ships in Roads and Harbour and by fixed defences, direct hits observed, A/C fell. Hits claimed By:- (a) H.M.T.LOVANIA from Lowestoft Roads.(b) M.G.B.100. From dock. (c) 2-pdr. gun on dockside. (N.O.I.C.Lowestoft 1825A/19 to Admty).

/Jan Mayen...

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War Diary.

19.10.1942.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Jan Mayen on 18/10. Following from Jan Mayen. JU.86s crossing defence area several times 1035/1125 on 18/10. Opened fire and aircraft probably hit. Returning southerly direction. (A. C.I.C. 1015A/19).

Sheringham bombed. Sheringham bombed by single aircraft at 1045 today. No Naval damage or casualty. (F.O.I.C. Gt.Yarmouth 1127A/19).

Sheerness bombed, Report of attack on Sheerness at 1023/19. No Naval damage or casualty. In foggy weather one Dornier 17 or M.E.110 at 1023 came up the river from the North at about 200 ft. Turned East at Flagstaff, opened machine gun fire towards Admiralty House, passed over Dockyard clock, rising and disappeared to the East. By M.G.fire Garrison Point Fort hit below signal station. Only superficial damage to guttering and one hit on granite stone. No guns opened fire. (Cdre-in-Charge, Sheerness 1226A/19).

Mining.

Operation "EY". My 1935/16 para.3. Area enclosed by following positions.
see previous page.

1. 065° 12' . 4, 013° 26' .5
2. 065° 15' . 7, 013° 32' .5
3. 065° 24' . 4, 013° 35'
4. 065° 26' . 7, 013° 31' (all N and W) closely searched.

B. 2 mines exploded in sweep in following positions. 065° 23' .2 N. 013° 30.5' W. 065° 23.5' N. 013° 32.3' W.

C. M. S. 15 reports he was shadowed by enemy aircraft today.

D. BEAUMARIS has proceeded to Akureyri to have propeller cleaning by diver escorted by LLANDUDNO. (A.C.I.C. 0004A/19 to Admty).

No appreciable progress today, owing to low visibility.

S.O.15th M/S reports being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft at 0858 and 1034/19. (A.C.I. C. 1701A/19).

N.T.M.S. Your 2336/Z/18. last sentence. Your proposal is approved. (A.C.I.C. 1710A/19 to M/S 15th).

S.N.3E. R.A.(M) arrived in SOUTHERN PRINCE, with ADVENTURE, AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, CHARLESTOWN, CASTLETON, WELLS in company. (TRELAWNEY 0830/19).

Lyme Bay. Intend sailing BRECON CASTLE and LOCHBUIE for Dartmouth at 0700 tomorrow sweeping route P. to Dart Buoy. Codeword "Ounce VI". (F.O.I.C.Portland 1727A/19 to N.O.I.C.Dartmouth).

My 1801A/18. Depth swept southward of route "M" increased to seven cables. Negative result. (M/S 4th 1808A/19).

/My...

War Diary.

19.10.1942.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Lyme Bay.
Contd.

My 1727A/19. ^{1/11/42 page} Amend to read sweeping route "p" until 4th M. S. F. are met but not west of 3° W. returning to Portland on completion.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 2345A/19 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Enemy Intelligence.

BATAVIER.

Press reports wreckage and lifeboats of BATAVIER 3 have been driven ashore in Laholm Bay. Vessel has been recently employed as a transport between German Ports and Norway.
(N. A. Stockholm 1515/19).

U-Boats.

U-Boats
reported.

By D/F at 1009Z. U/ Boat within 60' of 62° 30' N, 30' N. 3° 30' E.
(D.D.I.C. 1211A/19 to UREDD).
Estimated one U-Boat within 60 miles 056° 59', 015° 30' Southbound.
(F.O.(S) 1549A/19 to P.555).
U-Boat position by D/F at 1241Z/19 within 150 miles 049° N. 023° W. ENIGMA, 30 Group, C. T.F. 24 informed.
(Cominch 1608/19 to QUEEN ELIZABETH). ~~1~~ p 544
S/M on starboard bow 1715
(Origin undecypherable 1716/19).
From Land's End Radio. Intercept 1716 G.M.T. bearing westwards
D E Z P 102 (undecypherable) SSSS S/M on starboard bow 1715.
Controlling station G.L.D.
(C.C.O. Plymouth 1817/19 to Admty).

War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.FORT
LAMY

Intercept at 2321 G.M.T. de FORT LAMY to G P K begins.

In collision 3 miles 273° position 4, steering gear disabled, ends.

At 2323 G.M.T. FORT LAMY to G P K begins. Master requests towing, ends.

(Wick Radio 0028/19.)

Request you will sail tug MARAUDER with despatch to assist FORT LAMY damaged in collision with steering gear disabled in approx. 55° 40' N 06° 44' W at 0024A/19.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0148A/19 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

Your 0148/19. Sailed MARAUDER at 0745/19 from Loch-Na-Keal.

(N.O.I.C. Oban 0835A/19.)

Following from FORT LAMY. Advise owner been in collision, sustained considerable damage to poop, steering gear disabled, require tug assistance, position 55° 40' 25" N 5° 42' 30" Master.

(Port Patrick Radio 1110/19 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

FORT LAMY in tow, proceeding toward Clyde. E.T.A. Cumbrae 0800A/20. Vessel not steering, assistance of harbour tug will be required.

(MARAUDER 1615A/19.)

Your 1615A. Proceed with tow to Belfast.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1845A/19 to MARAUDER.)

EMPIRE
PLANET

Following from NORTHERN SPRAY. My position from

D/F Station 6 hours 24 minutes G.M.T. 56.03 N

08.54 W. Get into touch D/F Station.

(Unknown origin 0700Z/19.)

Following from EMPIRE PLANET. My position 0624/G.M.T. by coast station is 56.03 N 08.(54?) W, drift 080° 2 knots. Vessel that has been trying to contact us has no D/F neither have we. Request immediate towage else vessel will be ashore within 28 hours.

(Port Patrick Radio 0830 G.M.T./19.)

NORTHERN SPRAY is endeavouring to contact EMPIRE PLANET broken down in vicinity 009° W. If either ship is sighted report their position.

(C. in C. W.A. 1155A/19 to BULLDOG.)

Proceed forthwith to assist EMPIRE PLANET.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1245A/19 to SCHELDE.)

Sailed SCHELDE.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1510A/19.)

Am in company EMPIRE PLANET and preparing tow. My position 055° 54' N 008° 34' W.

(NORTHERN SPRAY 1615A/19.)

EMPIRE PLANET with NORTHERN SPRAY preparing to tow at 1615A/19. Tow is to be taken to Belfast.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1829A/19 to NORTHERN SPRAY, SCHELDE.)

BOADICEA.

BOADICEA delayed Moville with wire round propeller.

Have sent diver to assist.

(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0730A/19.)

MIST.

Intercept at 0828 G.M.T. bearing 028° de MIST begins SOS followed by dash several times, MIST, ends.

(Wick Radio 0930/19.)

War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- M.M.S.113. My 1834/17. Report name of ship detached and position.
(C. in C. W.A. 1016A/19 to WESTON.)
- S.L.124. Your 1016A/19. HONEYSUCKLE detached (?at) (?0800)Z/18 in 049° 06' N 014° 30' W.
(WESTON 1040Z/19 to C. in C. W.A.)
- My 2220A/18. Have taken M.M.S.113 in tow. Estimated P.C.S. 050° 46' N 014° 23' W, 082° 6 knots.
(HONEYSUCKLE 1630A/19.)
- My position is 049° 46' N 014° 18' W in company with tugs. Endeavouring to overtake HONEYSUCKLE. Request his position.
(HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 2130A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)
- TIMMINS. Port anchor lost in 8 fathoms 5 cables north of Shutin Island St. Margaret Bay. Approx. position buoyed. Request diver be sent to recover it.
(TIMMINS 1107Z/19.)
- AMARAPOORA. My 0950/16 and 1005/17. Further delay caused by refrigerating repairs. Time of completion unknown.
(N.C.S.O. Glasgow 1145/19.)
- DANEMAN. DANEMAN refloated and proceeding Archangel. I should like to pay a special tribute to Colonel Petrov who has been in charge of salvage operations and who has been successful in refloating and bringing safely into port not only H.M.S. DANEMAN which at one time looked like being a total loss but also the American ships LAFAYETTE, SAHALE and CAMPFIRE which grounded at Dvina Bar and were salvaged and brought safely into port.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1147A/19 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- DASHER Your 2155/18. It is necessary for ships to proceed out of harbour A.M. 22nd. October in order to comply with C. in C. H.F's 1830A/2 and Admty. 2317A/8.
(DASHER 1158A/19 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
- A.M. 1304/28/9. Owing to late arrival of bottle racks (18/10 instead of 10/10) work cannot be completed in magazines until p.m. 22/10. To be ready to sail on date specified in A.M. 1636 23/9, commanding officer of ship requested that all workmen should be off the ship by 21st p.m. I hope to complete work p.m. 22nd. Report if you anticipate inability to be ready to sail as ordered in A.M. 1636/23/9.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2155/19 to DASHER.)
- Unknown ship. Received at 1232 G.M.T. de Gallon Head R begins: Heard station sending SOS on Spark Q S A 4. End Wick.
(C.G. Wick 1336/19.)

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19.10.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.NORTHERN
PRIDE
CAPE
PALLISERC. in C. W.A. 1511A/17. ^{/N.T.W.D.} Both ships delayed with boiler defects. Estimated time of completion p.m. 22nd.
(Capt. D. Greenock 1501A/19.)

BEN URIE.

My 1314/19. ^{/N.T.W.D.} H.M.T. BEN URIE unable to sail owing to engine defects.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1539A/19.)

STORNEST

Request you will recall ADHERENT and DRANGEY.
(D.T.D. 1615A/19 to A.C.I.C.)Unknown
ship.260°, 2 grade, distress ZP 102.
(Tiree Radio 1715 G.M.T./19) (Gallon Head Radio 1715/19) (Portrush Radio 1715/19.)

M.G.B.60.

My 1716. ^{p. 581} M.G.B.60 returned to harbour, defective engine.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2108A/19.)Unknown
ship.D/F bearing grade 156°, third distress signal.
(Gallon Head Radio 2329 G.M.T./19 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)Shipping and Convoys.

CATHAY.

My 1924/14. CATHAY will now embark at Tail of the Bank on 23/10.
(D.S.T. 0104A/19.)S.S.
QUEEN
ELIZABETHFrom S steer new W 46° 01' N 23° 00' W, then to U omitting T.
(D.T.D. 0908A/19 to QUEEN ELIZABETH.) ^{p. 585}

K.M.F.1.

A.M. 2209/18. Amend para 3 to read C.S.10 in SHEFFIELD.
(D.O.D. (H.) 1003A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Landing craft in L.S.Is are dangerously near sea level when secured for sea. It is understood these ships have heavy roll in seaway. Request arrangements be made forthwith to remove main mast in ROYAL ULSTERMAN and main top mast in ULSTER MONARCH on return Clyde, 21/10.

Fitting modified W/T aerial presents no difficulty. Main mast in ROYAL SCOTSMAN has been already removed and understood approval given for all 3 ships.

(S.O. Force "C" 2143A/19 to S.O. Assault ships.)

D.S.33.

My 1035/14. Amend route. P. 270° Cape Wrath 16 miles. Q. 059° 59' N 009° 58' W. R. 062° N 015° W. S 063° 08' N 022° 01' W thence Reykjavik.
(C. in C. W.A. 1003A/19 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

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War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- EN Programmes. A.Ms 1618A/18, 2011/5 and 1805/20/9. Propose following changes and additions. Details. (D.T.D. 1141A/19 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- Channel Convoys cycle. My 1730/21/9. It is intended to revert to a 4 day cycle for Channel convoys commencing with C.E.125. Para 2. Follows in Cypher T.O.O. 1236/19/10. 3. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to limit number of ships in C.E.125 to 22 retaining overflow for C.E.126.
4. N.C.S.O. Thames is requested to promulgate time-tables for C.W. convoys so as to pass Sand Head Buoy at 1910/23. 1900/27. 1850/31.
5. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to promulgate time-table for C.E. convoys so as to pass Sand Head Buoy 0620/22. 0625/25. 0635/29. 0640/2. (C. in C. Nore 1234A/19.)
- Paravanes. Pass to N.C.S.Os. All merchant ships should stream paravanes when inside 100 fathoms line to westward of British Isles if west of a line joining Dunnet Head, Fair Head and Mine Head and thence 180° from Mine Head, except when passing through following areas.
- (1) bounded by lines joining positions
(a) 59° 14' 07" 10'. (b) 59° 14' 06" 30'. (c) 59° 07' 06" 09'.
(d) Butt of Lewis. (e) 58° 31' 07" 10' W.
- (2) bounded by lines joining positions
(a) 56° 38' 09" 04'. (b) Oversay Lighthouse. (c) Rathlin Island Lighthouse. (d) Malin Head. (e) 55° 23' 09" 39'.
- All positions north and west.
(D.T.D. 1255A/19 to Cs. in C. etc.)
- U.S. survivors in North Russia (P.Q.18.) Your 0004/16. Following are the only American survivors now in North Russia and will be embarked if possible. My 0809/16 refers.
(a) 7 officers 34 men ex KENTUCKY.
(b) 2 men ex AFRICANDER.
(c) 8 officers 11 men ex CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT.
(d) one cot case ex SS. CAMPFIRE.
Total 15 officers and 48 men.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1616A/19 to Admty.)
- Anti U-Boat tactics. Pass to N.C.S.Os. There is evidence that Masters of ships sailing independently are not universally practising the tactics for avoiding U-Boat attack as laid down in Articles 79 and 80 A.M.S.I. (42)
2. The object should be to bring the U-Boat right astern and proceed at utmost speed. It should be strongly emphasised that when once this has been achieved a wide zigzag will only present the enemy with a better torpedo target.
3. Full use should be made of gunfire to keep the enemy away or force him to dive and remain submerged.
(D.T.D. 1719A/19.)
- K.X.3. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE sailed. Codeword "Sultan". (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2208A/19.)

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

2340A/19th October.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE OUT.

To: A.I.G.13 (Negative Date: 19.10.42.
 S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic
 and Navy Office Bombay)
 C. in C. Western Approaches
 F.O.S.
 B.A.D.
 A.C.I.C.

Repeated: R.A.A. Home Fleet
 R.A.A. Eastern Fleet
 S.S.E.
 R.A. West Africa

Naval Cypher (D)

From: ~~Admiralty.~~ A.S.V. Receivers in U/Boats.

BASEGRAM NOTWT.

Information received indicates that Germans are fitting U-Boats with a search receiver for detecting British A.S.V. Mark II. It must be assumed that set will also receive on 214 Mc/s Graded A2.

2. Present extent of fitting is unknown.
3. Coastal Command aircraft in Home Area have been instructed to switch off A.S.V. when actually in company with unshadowed convoys.
4. Although it is unlikely that German set has D/F facilities and range of surface interception is unlikely to exceed 20 miles emphasis must now be placed on undesirability of switching on WC R.D.F. sets unnecessarily, e.g. by day when there is little probability of air attack and convoy or unit is not being shadowed. It is not at present recommended that any additional restrictions should be placed on any other R.D.F. sets.
5. Early information is required of cases of suspected use of search receivers by U-Boats.

- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.A.S.W.
- D.G.D.
- D.D.O.C.
- D.S.D. (4)
- C.A.O.R.
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.T.S.D.
- D.A.C.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- A.L.O.

2340A/19.10
D.S.D. (51)

WD

(Received 16-2-1943, in response to request. D.S.D.'s 1700/14/2 refer)

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War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CLYDE,
cargo to
Malta. Your 0735/14. There has obviously been a misunderstanding somewhere. I will have matter fully investigated on return of CLYDE.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0920A/19 to V.A. Malta (R) Admty. F.O.S.)

LE TRAIT.
(French). Arrived.
(Oporto, 1011A/19).

U/Bs Estimated that up to 5 German U/Bs outward bound may be between $39^{\circ} 00' N.$, and $44^{\circ} 00' N.$ $10^{\circ} 00' W.$ and $12^{\circ} 30' W.$
(D.D.I.C., 1052A/19 to P.54. URSULA, UNIQUE, P.45, P.221, (R) F.O.S., F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

Fuel,
P. Delgada. My 1445A/17. Para. (1) for four ships read three ships.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1233A/19 to B.C. Ponta Delgada (for C.S.A.) B.V.C. Horta, (R) N.A. Lisbon C. in C. W.A., R.A.W.A.F., F.O.C.N.A., Admty. C. in C. Plymouth).

→AURORA On reaching $020^{\circ} N.$ alter course for new position (P) 28.01 13.30. (Q) 32.58 09.55 (R) 35.53 06.01 thence to Gibraltar omitting (D) and (E).
2. S. of A. of 20 knots is to be maintained, weather and fuel permitting.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1302A/19 to AURORA).

P.552 My 1540/16. Sailed P.552 to Freetown. Q.G.A.106, Q.G.B. 127.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1516A/19 to R.A.W.A.)
My 1410.—(N.T. in W.D.)→AURORA after crossing $020^{\circ} N.$ has been re-routed through P. $028^{\circ} 01' 013^{\circ} 30'$.
Q. $032^{\circ} 58' 009^{\circ} 35'$. R. $035^{\circ} 53' 006^{\circ} 01'$.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1710A/19 to P.552).

CORRIENTES
(German)
Las Palmas. My letter 3/9 against rumour, grade B.3. that submarine went alongside German CORRIENTES last week. German launch often goes alongside night time without lights and has been seen, grade A.3., proceeding out to sea. Strongly recommend steps should be taken to move CORRIENTES inner harbour.
(Las Palmas, 1615/19 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty).

/A/C...

War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.A/C attack
on U/B.

At 1615A/19 Catalina attacked U/B in 040°
16' N., 021° 27' W., course 180° 8 knots.
No result. U-boats dived on sighting.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1759A/19 to Admty as amended 1945A/19)
See also 2002/20.

CAUDEBEC

Arrived.
(Lisbon 1815/19).

NORTE,
suspicious.

Spanish sailing vessel (NORTE) reported about
to sail to Ferrol with 10 tons of equipment trans-
shipped today from German ship (DIVERSSEL)
(?BESSEL) and believed intended for German ship
at Ferrol.
(R.A. Vigo, 1927/19 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R)
Admty. etc).

Vichy
Exchange of
Prisoners.

French N.A. has received letter from French Admty.
who express a wish to exchange interned British
personnel with interned French personnel in
equivalent number. But not possible to include
British whose names known to Germans. Admiral
Esteva reports that American consul Tunis
foolishly telegraphed names of MANCHESTER survivors en clair so
Germans now know them. There are however many others of whom
Germans do not know. He is obtaining list.
Conditions of exchange that negotiation is between French and
British Admty. and not via French Foreign Office which (? reports
names of) everything to Germans at once.
Madagascar prisoners are in special case in view of Ad. Syfret's
terms of capitulation.
(N.A. Madrid, 2002/19 to Admty).

P.219

P.219 sailed 2200/19 to eastward on surface.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2006A/19 to 8th S/M F).

ST. CROIX.

*See p. 600
(O.N. 127)*

Following is a repetition of my 1838A/19
addressed B.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada from C. in C.
W.A. ST. CROIX proceeding Ponta Delgada requires
380 tons of fuel. E.T.A. 1900Z/20 (Ends).
(C. in C. W.A. 2123A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.

19.10.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ILE DE FRANCE. My 0118/16. ILE DE FRANCE should sail Durban as soon as ready for San Francisco proceeding via Fremantle and Auckland to Esquimalt where N.S.H.Q. is requested to arrange for her to be drydocked. After drydocking she should continue to San Francisco. P.S.T.O. Capetown should promulgate date of sailing from Durban.

2. 321 German prisoners of War plus guard are embarking in South Africa for passage to U.S.A.
3. B.A.D. should confirm that bunkering and watering arrangements after Auckland will be made by U.S. authorities.
4. ILE DE FRANCE will embark U.S. personnel to capacity at San Francisco and will proceed via Auckland and Fremantle to Bombay.

(D.S.T. 0106A/19 to P.S.T.O. Capetown).
ILE DE FRANCE arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 0907Z/19).

M.V. NESTOR
U/B.

Following has been received:-
S/M attack signal. NESTOR. Suspect sighting submarine. Position 33.23 S., 17.54 E. at 0810 G.M.T.
(Slangkop W/T, T.O.R. 0822Z/19 to Admty).

NEPAL

Sailed (NEPAL) to Simonstown by route R (?)
2. E.T.A. 0700Z/21 Speed 20 knots.
3. Shifting to W/T organization S.L. at 2100Z/19.
(Cdre. I/C Durban, 0921Z/19 to Admty etc).

S/M Report,
Loanda.

Lighthouse Keeper at Quicombo near Novo Redondo reports sighting 10 Small Submarines and one large Submarine on the night 8/9 about 300 metres from beach. Chief Lighthouse Keeper considers this man reliable.
(C.G. Loanda, 0951/19 to Admty. (R) Freetown S.O. (I) Capetown).

STEPHEN A.
DOUGLAS,
U/B.

Following received. SSSS American Steamer STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS chased by submarine 36.25 S., 13.34 E., one torpedo missed stern of ship.
(Slangkop W/T, 1023Z/19).
Following read from STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS. Chased by submarine 36.32 Z., 13.33 E. 2 torpedoes missed ship.
(Colombo W/T T.O.R. 1104Z/19) (Slangkop W/T, 1104Z/19).

Following received from STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ? Position correct one torpedo fired at us went under stern. T.O.R. at ZSC
(Slangkop W/T) 1019Z/19.

(T.O.R., 1140/19).

Intercepted 2329 G.M.T. de ZSC. SSSS STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS chased by submarine 22.50 S., 15.34 E.

(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O.)

Intercepted 0002 G.M.T. De ZSC SSSS STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS position is now corrected to 35.34 S. 15.24 E.

(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O.)

The U-boat was #68 (Mexico)

/Intercepted...

19.10.1942
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic

STEPHEN A. Intercepted 0004 G.M.T. De ZSC SSSS STEPHEN A.
 DOUGLAS, DOUGLAS cancel my SSSS O.K., all clear.
 U/B. Contd. (Burnham Radio, No T.O.O.)

Vichy Convoy. Report from Fighting French source. (begins).
 Convoy 5 ships and escort vessel left Tabou
 for Dakar 10/10. Deschamos, Governor of Ivory
 Coast, on board BELLE ISLE in convoy. (Ends).
 (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1145Z/19 to Admty (R)
 F.O.C.N.A.)

BRIDGEWATER BRIDGEWATER in 11° 49' N., 19° 34' W., at 1837Z/18
 U/B. reported D/F bearing of U-boat 030° first class.
 Frequency unknown.
 (R.A.W.A., 1153Z/19 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A.)

→ SIRIUS, Simonstown Departures 1800Z/18th.
 PHOEBE. SIRIUS, PHOEBE for Freetown calling Pointe Noire
 for fuel. S. of A. 20 knots. Supplied as in my
 1518/17th. E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0600Z/23 E.T.A.
 Position F. 2000Z/25. E.T.A. Freetown 1500Z/27.
 Shift to W/T organisation for Area P at 1600Z/21.
 (C. in C. S.A., 1225C/19 to Admty. R.A.W.A. B.N.L.O
 Pointe Noire).

WEST POINT, C. in C. U.S. Fleet has notified following sail-
 MARIPOSA. ings:- (A) WEST POINT from New York about 1/11
 to Bombay with 5500 transportation troops for
 Persian Gulf.
 (B) MARIPOSA from New York about 15/11 to Suez
 with approx. 4000 Air Corps for Middle East.
 2. Both ships are able to reach destination from Rio without
 further calls for fuel and water.
 (D.O.D. (F) 1240A/19 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., (R)
 F.O.C.R.I.N. etc).

Shipping Some of the recent sinkings by submarines in
 Diversions Cape area might have been avoided if ships had
 ignored. acted on diversion signal. Present situation
 makes it essential all ships should listen
 carefully to B.A.M.S. routines.
 (C. in C. S.A., 1305 G.M.T./19 to B.A.M.S. Area 3
 Area 4).

Movement → 2000Z/19th area Q. SIRIUS, PHOEBE 028° 30' S.,
 Summary. 013° 00' E. to Pointe Noire 20 knots. ALCANTARA
 031° 20' S., 013° 20' E., to 031° 20' S., 014° 30'
 E. 17. NIZAM, FOXHOUND searching about 036° 20'
 S., 018° 20' E. EXPRESS, CATTERICK, searching about 036° S.
 024° E. * NEPAL about 033° S., 028° 40' E. to Simonstown 20.
 SPLINLIMON (sic) on patrol off Dassen Island then to R/V with
 ALCANTARA. ROCKROSE, THYME on patrol between Saldanha Bay and
 Capetown.
 (C. in C. S.A., 1504C/19 to S.A.S.)

* See previous page.

/ARMERIA...

War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

ARMERIA. My P.C. and S. at 2000Z 010° 08' N., 020° 09' W. 107° 13 $\frac{3}{4}$. Consider unlikely that ESSO MANHATTAN can be located.
(ARMERIA, 2000Z/19 to R.A.W.A.)

U/B attacked by ACTIVE 8/10. (U.179
~~U.K. 2. P. 102~~) My 1551/9 para. 4 Government analyst reports quantity of oil in sample is insufficient to determine viscosity, specific gravity or grade of oil.
(C. in C. S.A., 2135C/19 to Admty (R) ACTIVE, ARROW).

Mediterranean.

Tanker escorted by 2 destroyers. My 1706/18. At 2130A, 038° 20' N., 017° 40' E. course 100° speed 8 knots. One torpedo hit claimed*
(Capt. S.10., 0118A/19 to P.212 (R) TRAVELLER, C. in C. Med., S.O. Subs. Alexandria, Capt. (S) 1)
* By Wellington A/C ? See A.H.Q. Malta, 2144/19.

Enemy Units. Convoy 037° 24' 011° 53' 180° 8 knots at 0058A/19 (Capt. S.10., 0210A/19 to 10th S/F (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).
My 0210/19. 1 Convoy unknown, course 180.
My position 310 Lampedusa 35.
(Capt. S.10. 1130A/19 to 10th S/M F. (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.)

Following received. Am over 1 M/V 2 destroyers position 33.40 N., 21.49 E.
(A/C using call sign 8 W C P 0300/19).
Convoy sighted 036° 08' 012° 01' 180° 8 knots.
(UTMOST, 0840A/19 to Capt. (S) 10, 10 S/M F).

Cositrep No. 552. 5. Ref. Cositrep 549 para. 3. The 7,000 ton M/V torpedoed by Malta aircraft on night 14/15 Oct was found beached near Khoms on 17/10. An aircraft from Malta attacked the ship during the night 17/18 with unobserved results.
(C. in C. M.E., 1050 G.M.T./19).

/UNA...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. 2131Z/19th Oct. IN.

From. R.A. West Africa. Date. 20.10.42.
Recd. 2220.

NAVAL CYPHER PLUG BY W/T.

Addressed. Admiralty. Repeated A.O.C. West Africa.
657.

Please see A.O.C.W.A's A-722 16th Oct.

to Air Ministry, repeated R.A. West Africa. (No trace in W.D.)

I strongly support this proposal as it would enable offensive action to be taken against U boats and might well achieve surprise in these waters where U boats must remain long periods on the surface.

2131Z/19.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
C.N.A.S.
A.C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
N.L. 1st S.L.
D.C.D. (H) (2)
D.C.D. (F) (2)
D.D.I.C. (3)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q)
D.C. (2)
Hd. of M.
D.A/S.W.
D.N.A.D.
D.N.I. (5)
D.A.C.D.
C.C.L.S.
Ad. Osborne.
Ad. Blake.
I.P. (2)
W.D.

Recd in W.D. 29.10.42.

War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

UNA

ump 598

Leave patrol as requisite through 035° 21' 015° 09' to make R/V with sweeper 1016A/23. (Capt. S.10., 1115A/19 to UNA (R) 10 S/M F. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).

U/B

At 0420S/19th Italian S/M probably within 30 miles N.E. Lampedusa. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1148C/19 to V.A. Malta (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med). Possibility of U-boat between Lampedusa and Linosa. (Capt. S.10., 1225A/19 to 10 S/M F).

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

Sailed 0725 G.M.T. E.T.A. Durban 31/10. A.M. route G.A.S. through Guardafui Channel. (B) 10° 0' N., 53° E. (C) 3° N., 51° 30' E. (D) 7° S., 51° E. (E) 11° S., 52° 30' E. (F) 15° S., 53° E. (G) 21° S., 51° E. (H) 26° S., 43° 30' E. (J) 28° 30' S., 40° E. (N.C.S.O. Suez, 1200C/19 to Admty etc).

P.212

Cancel my 0920/17 (P.212 to patrol in vicinity of 038° 11' 019° 34'). (Capt. S.10 1350/19, to P.212).

Enemy Reports. P.C. and S. of enemy is XDNH 28261 Course 190. Orders to Speed 10 knots. S/MS. (U 9 C.D. 1540B/19 to 9 N.G.)

W.D. Note XD = 12° E. NH = 35° N. Aircraft report one merchant ship two destroyers 035° 28' 012° 16' 075° at 1540A. At same time two merchant ships four destroyers 035° 26' 012° 28' 190° 10 knots. P.42 close to northbound ships. P.44 endeavour to shadow southbound ships which torpedo aircraft will attack during night.

(Capt. S.10., 1817A/19 to P.44., P.42 (R) 10th S/M F. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).

My 1817/19. S. of A southbound ships unknown but worth trying to intercept at southernmost point outside 100 fathom line which you can reach on line 163° from Lampion if conditions favour you.

(Capt. S.10., 1844A/19 to P.211 (R) 10th S.F. C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1).

Malta.

G/4418/R cipher 19 Oct. 079141. Military situation report week ending 17/10/42. (1) Enemy air offensive during daylight resumed great suddenness 11/10. Tactics 6 - 8 Ju.88s escorted 30 - 50 fighters making average four raids daily aerodromes. These tactics same as beginning 1942 but with much increased fighter support. Latter proved most necessary but did not prevent heavy losses G.A.F. Spitfires made magnificent interceptions many 15/20 miles north of Gozo and

/destroyed...

War Diary.

19.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - 1942.

Malta destroyed 49 Ju.88s, 59 fighters, probably
Contd. destroyed 27 Ju.88s, 21 fighters, damaged 67 Ju.88s,
64 fighters. Heavy A.A. destroyed one Ju.88,
damaged another. As week progressed determination
to force home attacks grew weaker and bombs fell further and
further from aerodromes, e.g. Warrea Ridge, Mellieha and sea.
G.A.F. towards end of week forced use fighter bombers. Our
casualties only 24 Spitfires lost (11 pilots safe) but many
damaged. Little damage to aircraft onground or aerodromes.
Photo R/C shows that numbers of aircraft in Sicily continue to
increase now total 660 including 196 German bombers 238 fighters.
(2) During darkness approx. 100 bombers of which only 34 crossed
coast. These attacks not characterised by same determination
daylight attacks early in week. Bombs scattered localities
little damage. Beaufighters destroyed 4 He.111s probably
destroyed another. Heavy A.A. destroyed one bomber. Approx. 33
per cent illuminations by searchlights.
(3) Own air attacks on convoys by small number Beaufighters,
Albacores and Wellingtons resulted in one M/V 7000 tons hit.
(Govr. Malta 1700/19 to C. in C. M.E.)

Malta. Proposal re evacuation of Service families by air.
(Govr. Malta ?1700/19 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

U/B. Aircraft report enemy submarine 031° 55' 034° 23'
at 1527/19.
(Capt. S.1. 1812C/19 to PAPANICOLIS (R) C. in C.
Med.)

Situation P.211 at 1107/2 gunned 900 ton steamer which
report, beached itself in 42° 57' N 17° 17' E. Ship then
278. torpedoed and observed still on fire 11 hours
P.211. later.
2. At 0744/4 attacked Italian SS. VALENTINO CODA
southbound off Gargano Head with torpedoes, missed, but
subsequently scored one hit by gunfire at range of 5,500 yards.
3. At 1121/5 gunned 600 ton steamer 7 miles south of Sibenik
scoring 20 hits out of 20 rounds, ship being beached on Tara.
4. At 1729/8 hit southbound 1,200 ton fully laden merchant ship
with torpedo in 43° 30' N 15° 58' E. Ship sustained slight
damage in counter attack by escort and shore batteries.
5. At 1100/10 in 42° 32' N 18° 13' E hit largest of three ships
in convoy in ballast estimated 4,000 tons with two torpedoes.
(C. in C. Med. 1819C/19 to Admty.)

P.42 Convoy of 1 tanker, 2 or 3 merchant ships and 3 or
attack on 4 destroyers P.C.S. 035° 21' 012° 13' 160° 8 at
convoy 1510A. Attacked with four torpedoes, result
unknown, counter attack materialised.
(P.42 1844A/19 to Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med.
10th S.F.)

Many batteries damaged on returning to base through 035° 15'
012° 10' and 035° 15' 012° 40' at full speed 1000A/20 on surface
by day Tuesday.

(P.42 1931A/19 to Capt. S.10. P.44. (R) 10th S/M.F. C. in C.
Med.)

/Your 1931/19...

SECRET

596 H.

MESSAGE.

(? 1700)/19th October.

IN.

From Gov: & C. in C. Malta.

Date. 20.10.42.
Recd. 0500.

CYHER.

Addressed The War Office (pass to Sec. of State for Colonies)
Repeated C. in J. Middle East: Gov: & C. in C.
Gibraltar.

IMPORTANT.

Air Transport To + from Malta.

079142. 13/Gen/206.

HE/4419 cipher 12 October. MOST SECRET

Your 54704 (Q.M.1a) 30 July.

Colonial Office 80613/42. 3 July.

First. I consider the time has now arrived to use to the full air transport accommodation offering either East or West and so reduce the demands on our food supplies Winter accommodation and other services. Therefore excluding women employed on full time essential war work who will remain it seems politic to evacuate compulsory British Service families and also to take all possible steps, as no compulsory powers exist, to persuade British civilian families to leave. There can be no question of discrimination so if any Maltese wish to be included they will be given the opportunity to leave but obviously this will be rare and for some special reason. Everyone will be allotted places on a general roster after a careful review of the claims and as the drain out can never be more than a trickle I do not anticipate it will produce unfriendly comment.

Second. I recognise the difficulties of accommodation at Gibraltar and the Governor will always be consulted beforehand to ascertain the dates when he can accept passengers for onward journey to W.K. and the numbers.

Third. I will be grateful if you can obtain early agreement to the compulsory evacuation of the families of the three services and also if I may be empowered to encourage British civilian families to leave as well as any Maltese

/ who

596^B

SECRET

Page 2.

who have urgent reasons for doing so.

(? 1700)/19th.

Received from War Office 1000/22nd October.

War Office circulation:-

A. C. S.

M. C. 1. 2.

A. G. 3. (Lt. Col. E. Sachs)

Q. 1.

Q(W) 1.

F. 1. 4.

Q. M. G. F.

Admiralty (Mr. S. F. Lewis)

Air Ministry (Wing Commander C. F. Goatcher)

Dominions Office (Mr. R. A. Wiseman)

Colonial Office (Major J. A. Holt)

Foreign Office (Mr. I. L. Henderson)

Home Office (Mr. L. W. Clayton)

India Office (Mr. J. A. Simpson)

Ministry of Health (Mr. H. E. James)

Ministry of Pensions (Mr. Newble)

Ministry of War Transport (Miss. J. Hall)

Treasury (Mr. A. Mackay)

1st Lord.

1st S. L. (2)

Deputy 1st S. L.

2nd S. L.

V. C. N. S.

A. C. N. S. (T)

A. C. N. S. (H)

A. C. N. S. (F)

Sec.

Naval Sec.

N. A. 1st S. L.

P. A. S. (3)

D. N. I. (5)

C. D. (5)

Ops (3)

M. (2)

D. of P. (3)

O. I. C. (2)

L. P. (3)

W. D.

Admiral Blake.

D. of E.

D. T. D. (2)

D. of S. T. (2)

N. A. 2nd S. L. (2)

C. W. (2)

N. (2)

D. P. S. (2)

C. E. I.

C. E. II.

L. Br.

S. W. R.

} Bath by courier.

War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con'ts.

P.42
attack on
convoy.
Contd.

Your 1931/19 acknowledged. M.L. will R/V 252° 40 miles from end of searched channel at 0601A/19 (as received ? 20th intended) and escort you in. Fighters will be available if air raid develops. (Capt. S.10 2230A/19 to P.42.)

EURYALUS.

Proposed E.T.A. Suez 0900C/21, sailing again 1400C for Anchorage B, E.T.A. 1700C/21. Request sleeve target for long range H/A firing (at?) position U at 1500/21, details to be arranged with co-operation unit on arrival Suez. (EURYALUS 2030C/19 to A.O.C. Red Sea Force. (R) N.O.I.C. Suez.)

Enemy
Units.

Following has been read by Alexandria W/T. P.C.S. of enemy 2 merchant vessels, 3 destroyers, 140° 12 knots. 180° 7 knots 34.48 N 12.25 E. (A/C using call sign TZZ 2135/19.)

Following has been read via Alexandria W/T. P.C.S. enemy 34.44 N 12.30 E. 2 merchant vessels, 3 destroyers. 180° 10 knots. (A/C using call sign 8TZZ 2200/19.)

Malta Air
Report.

I.51 19/10 C.S.R. Night 18/19. 1756 to 0340 hours, serious R.D.F. interference was experienced as 20 enemy bombers attacked Malta at great height dropping anti-personnel and incendiary bombs on land and sea. Slight damage was done to houses and two civilians were killed and two slightly injured. 3 Beaufighters up had partial A.1 and V.H.F. interference. 1 Beaufighter chased 2 raiders but made no interception. 1 intruder Beaufighter attacked and damaged one Ju.88 over Gerbini aerodrome. 19th 0523 hours, 18 Me.109s including 6 carrying bombs approached Malta at great height using cloud cover and were intercepted by 8 Spitfires who damaged 1 Me.109 without loss to themselves. Bombs on Hal Far aerodrome damaged 2 Hurricanes and 160 gallons petrol were burnt out. 0626 hours, 25 Me.109s in 3 formations approached Island at great height and were intercepted by 12 Spitfires but enemy having height advantage avoided combat and returned. 0857 hours, 50 enemy fighters including fighter-bombers approached at height and were intercepted north of Island by 23 Spitfires. Enemy had height advantage but Spitfires probably destroyed 1 Re.2001 without loss to themselves. Few bombs were dropped on land caused no serious damage. 0931 hours, 3 enemy fighters on R/C crossed coast at great height were engaged by A.A. and returned at speed. 1100 hours, 25 Me.109s including some carrying bombs approached Malta were intercepted by 16 Spitfires but enemy had height advantage and escaped in cloud. 2 bombs dropped on Takali aerodrome caused no serious damage. 1222 hours, 25 Me.109s some carrying bombs approached at height and were intercepted 10 miles north of Island by 8 Spitfires; enemy had height advantage but Spitfires damaged 2 Me.109s for loss of 1 Spitfire damaged pilot unhurt. 1357 hours, 34 fighter Me.109s and 6 Me.109s carrying bombs were intercepted north of Island by 19 Spitfires but enemy escaped in cloud. Bombs around Takali aerodrome caused no serious damage.

/1553 hours...

598

19.10.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - conti.

Malta 1553 hours, 40 Me.109s some carrying bombs
Air approached Malta at height. 24 Spitfires
Report. intercepted but enemy escaped in cloud. Bombs
Contd. dropped on land and sea, but no damage yet
reported.

1659 hours, 3 Spitfires and 2 Beaufighters made highly successful interception of dusk raid by 40 enemy bombers in 2 main formations. 1 formation approaching from west was intercepted 25 miles west of Island by 3 Spitfires who forced raiders to jettison bombs in sea. Same Spitfires then intercepted the other main formation 15 miles east of Island forcing nearly all bombers to jettison bombs in sea. Only 3 bombers crossed coast and 1 A Ju.88 was pursued and destroyed by Spitfires. Bombs dropped near Luqa and Hal Far aerodromes caused no material damage. Meanwhile one Ju.88 approaching Island from N.E. was destroyed by Beaufighter. Today on 113 Spitfire sorties against 266 enemy sorties 2 enemy aircraft were destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and 3 damaged for loss of 1 Spitfire damaged in combat and 2 Hurricanes damaged on ground.

Night 18/19. 2 Swordfish 1 Albacore despatched to attack convoy photographed by Spitfire 1515 hours failed to locate convoy but attacked 2340 hours M/V 4/5,000 tons 025° Pantellaria 38 miles course 240° 12 knots. One torpedo duplex contact depth setting 14 feet released from 50 feet range 500-600 yards scoring hit on stern of M/V large red glow and tall column of water observed, M/V left circling and down by stern.

Two bombing, one torpedo Wellingtons 8 attacked 2038 - 2115 hours 100° Point Stilo, 50 miles, tanker 8,000 tons photographed by Spitfire 0800 hours. 1 torpedo duplex contact depth setting 14 feet released from 70 feet range 800/1,000 yards scored hit on port bow of tanker 4,500 (?300) lb. 2 1,000 lb. bombs dropped but no hit observed, tanker seen to be stationary for 2 hours after torpedo strike.

(A.H.Q. 2144/19, 2218Z/19.)

UNA.

sup. 595

Patrol vicinity Colonne until necessary to comply with my 1115/19. My 0118/19 refers.
(Capt. S.10. 2339A/19 to UNA. (R) P.212. C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)

War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

TRINITY. Following received (Begins) :-
Request present position of U.S. Naval Oiler
TRINITY due Bahrein 11/10 from Albany Australia.
T.O.O. 1806A/18 (Ends)
Request that in future route and S of A be signalled to Admty,
N.B. Melbourne, C. in C. E.F. (R) S.O.I. Colombo. observing that
ship is a naval vessel.
(S.O.I. Colombo 0600Z/19 to N.O.I.C. Bahrein (R) Admty.)
Your 1806A/18. Ship left Bahrein 12/10 due Melbourne 9/11.
(S.O.I. Colombo 0605Z/19 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Bahrein.)

Movements. Arrived 0630Z MASTIFF, 1030Z/19 EREBUS.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 1101Z/19 to Admty. etc.)
Departure 19/10 ALBATROSS 0200Z.
(N.O.I.C. Tamatave 1331Z/19 to N.O.I.C. Diego
Suarez (R) C. in C. E.F. Admty.)

R.D.F. Your 1210/11. Having recently visited area I
Hormuz doubt if a second R.D.F. position would be good
value. Jezirat Larak is too far (?west) and
Biyaban coast is so inaccessible that to erect
and maintain a station there would involve disproportionate
effort if there is adequate alternative.
2. Providing patrol vessels are fitted with R.D.F. at an early
date consider this will cover eastern side of Straits where land
is low and navigation difficult.
3. In any case would like to wait until quota of R.D.F. is
(?erected) and operating and until my (?large) building commitments
for W/T plan R at Khor Kuwait are well in hand before diverting
resources to another R.D.F. station, as practical problems in
that barren and waterless area are very great.
4. Recommend therefore decision be deferred until R.D.F. is
fitted patrol vessels specially (corrupt group) SEACBELLE,
PANGKOR and that this may be expedited. If cover is then
inadequate matter would be reconsidered.
(?S.N.O.P.G. 1200Z/19 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)

Catalina Your 1445/15/9. Strong action had been taken by
spares. Air Ministry with Rafdel Washington to expedite
despatch of Catalina spares to Indian Ocean.
Delivery of airframe spares from U.S. Manufacturers
started in August and shipping instructions have
been issued.
(D.A.C.D. 1324A/19 to C. in C. E.F.)

Sullage Ref. A.M. 2345A/12. In this climate hopper sullage
Kilindini barge essential. Dumb wooden lighters mentioned
most acceptable as ammunition and stores lighters.
Request supply of two for erection locally.
(F.O.E.A. 1751C/19 to Admty.)

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U/B Positions. C.E.S.F. 1841/18 containing 0800Q/19 submarine estimates.
(Commaveu 0035/19 to Admty.)

T.A.25. Convoy T.A.25 sailed from U.K. 17/10 for Halifax. 2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by War Office.
(D.S.T. 0103A/19 to N.S.H.Q. etc.)

O.N.137. Make every effort to refuel escort as practicable from ships of convoy. Detach individual ships of escort to St. Johns N.F. when fuel on board make this essential. F.O.N.F. directed to sail Western local escort to relieve at earliest opportunity notifying C.T.U. 24.1.14 direct estimated time of relief.
(C.T.24 0145Z/19 to C.T.U. 24.1.14, F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet etc.)
Your 0145Z/19th. ST. CROIX has not sufficient fuel to return to St. Johns so am proceeding Ponta Delgada, Azores. Weather at present unsuitable for refuelling from convoy. CELANDINE, ARVIDA and AMHERST fuel situation much the same as ours. Have ordered them refuel from convoy if weather moderates but if unable and insufficient fuel get to St. Johns proceed Azores thence St. Johns. Request necessary authority be informed. Fuel required 380 tons, E.T.A. 1900Z/20th. Will rejoin Convoy as soon as possible. Convoy position 048° 04' N. 030° 54' W. Weather report.
(C.T.U.24.1.14 1025Z/19 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connnav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

SAGITTAIRE Arrived.
(French) (Guiria 0930/19.) *p 603*

Diversions S. Atlantic. Following received from R.A. W.A. (begins) Owing to present U-boat situation propose diverting following ships to Takoradi unless they have cargo urgently required at Freetown.
BESHOLT (Nor.) FERNGLEN (NOR.) WEST HUMHAW (U.S.) PRINCE ALBERT PARK. My 1035/19 to Admiralty only, JOHN LANGDON (U.S.) diverted to Lagos. Request immediately reply. (Ends.)
2. Request you will reply direct to R.A.W.A.
3. JOHN LANGDON has been diverted from Freetown to Lagos by R.A.W.A. 1035/19.
(D.T.D. 1028Z/19 to Connnav.)

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T./19.			
	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
	NIGERIA.	33½° N.	265°	19
		50½° W.		
	ROYAL SOVEREIGN)	35½° N.		
	2 Destroyers.)	69° W.	311°	13½
	Dutch S/M K.15.	29° N.	297°	9
		57½° W.		
	GRIFFIN	35½° N.	068°	11½
		32½° W.		
	ASTURIAS.	08° N.	Patrol	Blank
		28° W.		
	(D.O.D.(F) 1037Z/19 to Opnav (R) Commaveu.)			
	/STEEL ...			

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

STEEL NAVIGATOR, U/B. (O.N.137.)
p.604
Following received. S/M attack signal STEEL NAVIGATOR attacked by submarine 49.45 N. 31.20 W. Crippled by ballast shifting. (Lands End Radio 1112/19, Port Patrick Radio, 1118/19, 1126/19, 1127/19, Valentia Radio 1204/19, Plymouth C.C.O. 1219/19, 1227/19, 1232/19, 1238/19, 1300/19, STEEL NAVIGATOR, 1306/19, St. Johns N.F. 1122Z/19 to Cominch etc, C.O.A.C. 1305Z/19 to C.T.F. 24.)

Explosion Report, Cape Gaspe. Cancel my 1754/18th, explosion apparently Rock slide. (C.O.A.C. 1217Z/19 to G.B.7 AG.)

A/S Trawlers for Cape Area. Cominch 1845/14. Sailed Norfolk 2330/17. COVENTRY CITY, LADY ELSA, NORWICH CITY and ST. ZENO. NORTHERN ISLES did not sail. (N.S.H.Q. 1402Z/19 to S.B.N.O. W.A. R.A.W.A. (R) Admty.)

A.T.26. Estimated S. of A. 18.85 (sic) knots. E.T.A. Liverpool Bar Light Vessel 1300Z/28th. (Port Director, New York 1434Z/19 to Admty.etc.)

INDIANA (French) Arrived. (Cristobal, T.O.O. 1515/19.)

"S" Report. PPPP BT Submarine attack 49.45 N. 31.20 W. at 1128 GCT/19. (Cominch 1520/19 to Admty.)

U/B Positions. S/M situation 19/10 and U.S. Submarine notice. (Cominch 1603/19 to Admty.)

WASTWATER, BUTTERMERE. Your 2232/18. In view of ships being unable to proceed to Freetown direct consider delay involved in fitting dynamos now acceptable. (2) Request you sail ships to Norfolk (Va) as soon as possible. (3) Anticipate trawlers will be able to sail from Norfolk seven days after their arrival. (4) This would mean a further opportunity to escort tankers from Trinidad to Freetown. See Admty. 2250/17. (B.A.D. 1619Z/19 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty., S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)
Cancel my 1634/13th to C.E.S.F. Sail BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER when ready to Norfolk. Available for escorting dredger*ROSS(?EL) L, C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2209/17th. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2128/19 to N.O.B. Bermuda (R) Com.5 Com 4. S.B.N.O. W.A. etc.)

*ROSSALL in/india.

/Barbados ...

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Barbados protection. Grateful if approval could be given to lay an anti-torpedo baffle 280 feet long for protection dry dock Barbados using portion of damaged net and flotation together with 2 spare A class buoys now in Barbados. Netlayer would not be required. Baffle to be laid under supervision of Lieut. Conder Lavelle. I am advised that dock is vulnerable to attack by torpedoes. (Govr. Barbados 1638/19 to Admty.)

U/B attacks on S.C.104. Preliminary report of S.C.104. S.O. of escort FAME. Convoy first sighted by U-boat p.m. 12/10. Many H/F D/F bearings during the night. One R.D.F. contact by FAME lost owing to very heavy weather. 2 and possibly 3 ships torpedoed and sunk. During daylight 13/10 several U-boats shadowed convoy. At nightfall escort reduced tow, 2 being detached to hunt U-boats and one picked up survivors. Heavy attack developed during night. 6 ships sunk. An R.D.F. contact followed sighting obtained by FAME but lost due to very bad weather. VISCOUNT straddled U-Boat sighted on surface with 11 charges shallow pattern. During daylight 14/10 many U-Boats still in contact. Advantage taken of decreased visibility to make evasive alterations after dark. Escorts kept well closed in. No attack during the night but six R.D.F. contacts obtained, one led to 3 inconclusive depth charge attack by FAME and one resulted in a U-boat being rammed and sunk by VISCOUNT. Weather considerably better. U-Boats still in contact during daylight 15/10 but no day or night attack developed. At 1400/16 FAME ahead of convoy obtained unsound contact at 2000, attacked with 10 charges shallow pattern. U-Boat surfaced and was engaged by gunfire. Engines were stopped before ramming and U-Boat was struck a glancing blow and received a 5 charge shallow pattern as she steamed down side. Crew abandoned ship and (?FAME) sent over boarding party but U-Boat sank. No further attack on convoy but POTENTILLA carried out promising attack on U-Boat during night 16th/17th October. **U.353.
 (Capt. D. Liverpool 1730/19 to C. in C. W.A., Commodore Londonderry, Capt. D. Greenock, C.T.F. 24, C.T.G. 24.7.)

JOHN WINTHROP. Your 1807/18. No further news of JOHN WINTHROP U.S., vide B.R.L.O. New York's 1531/5th. (N.S.H.Q. 1819Z/19 to Admty.)

JOHN T. WINTHROP (U.S) due New York 4/10 ex O.N.131 is overdue. (N.S.H.Q. 1829Z/19 to Admty., Connav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

ILEX. My 2205/21/9. Request destination of ILEX after working up at Guantanamo. (B.A.D. 1829Z/19 to Admty. (R) ILEX, S.B.N.O.W.A.) Reply: 1327/20. 1829/19 cancelled, see B.A.D. 1851/20.

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War Diary.19.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

EMPIRE DAWN. Your 1730Z/17. Regret no further news.
(Connav 1843/19 to Admty.)

RENONCULE. Intend to sail RENONCULE for St. Pierre at
1030Z/20 carrying passengers and stores routed
through (a) 46.36 N. 52.50 W. (b) 46.28 N.
53.10 W.
(F.O.N.F. 1904Z/19 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Admty. etc.)
Amended 1020Z/20, q.v.

?GARLAND. My P.C. and S. at 2000Z/19 045° 00' 060° 37'
242° 10 knots. Weather report.
(?GARLAND 1930Z/19 to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

Shipping, British controlled ships bound for U.K. which
D/G defects. disclose degaussing defects while in convoy
assembly ports abroad should normally be sailed
in convoy notwithstanding the defects. They
will be dealt with as follows.

2. If for Clyde, ship is accepted. If for West Coast U.K.
temporary repairs are effected at Belfast. If for East Coast
U.K. ship is accepted in Oban and temporary repairs are effected
in Methil.
3. Any proposed exceptions to the above procedure should be
referred to Admiralty for concurrence.
4. A.F.O. 2540/42 section 5 will be amended.
(D.T.D. 1946A/19 to C.O.A.C. etc.)

It is requested that you will allow British Controlled
ships to sail in convoy from New York as suggested in my
1946/19, d.g. defects which might otherwise cause a ship to
miss convoy can be taken care of at this end.
(D.T.D. 1939Z/19 to Connav.)

ITCHEN, Your 2015/15. It is confirmed that ITCHEN and
LAGAN. LAGAN will be manned by R.N.
(D.O.D.(H) 1951A/19 to N.S.H.Q.)

Shipping Organization, policy.
Intelligence. (D.T.D. 2037A/19 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.
Reply: B.A.D. 1131/21.

SAGITTAIRE. Departure Caripito 0945/19 SAGITTAIRE French for
See p. 600 Fort de France Martinique due 20th.
(Caracas 2045/19 to Fairmiss.)

MEADOWSWEET. Your 1859/19. ^{INT. X.D.} Anticipate MEADOWSWEET will be
ready for sea 30/11.
(C.O.A.C. 2141Z/19 as amended 1944Z/20 to C.T.F.
24 (R) C. in C. W.A.)

/Sub. attack ...

SECRET

SECRET

2037A/19 Oct.

OUT

TO. B.A.D. Washington. 335.
Repeated. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 961.

Date. 19.10.42.

Naval Cypher 'X' Plug.

From. Admiralty.

After full discussion between Admiralty and M.O.W.T. Divisions concerned the following suggestions are made for joint consideration of yourselves Salter and Sparks and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

1. That Sparks should set up in his office a central shipping Intelligence Division to cover East Coast North America, Gulf and Caribbean Areas including Trinidad and Panama. This Division should be supplied with all the information relating to the movement of shipping which (a) reaches Sparks from various sources and (b) is available in U.S. Navy Department. With such an organisation in being and provided that the information under (b) above is available, Sparks's Directors should be more fully posted of all movements of ships which are bound for or are loading in or are in transit through the U.S.A. area and this should enable them to make the best use of shipping in relation to convoy cycles and also assist them in eliminating delays arising out of routeing and convoy difficulties.

2. Working in conjunction with this Intelligence Division, suggest that Sparks should have one or two persons on his staff who in co-operation with Trade Division representative on B.A.D.'s staff could concentrate on minimising delay to British controlled shipping and advise Sparks B.M.S.M. and B.A.D. from time to time what representations to the U.S. Navy Department or to London might be made for improving arrangements.

3. The difficulties that at present exist in getting the U.S. Navy Department to impart the required information to a civilian organisation is fully realised on this side but it is hoped that the personnel required for the Shipping Intelligence Division and for the posts referred to in para. 2 can be found on your side and of such a status that U.S. Navy Department would agree to supply necessary information as to the movements of shipping extracted from Mercos Vescas convoy and routeing messages. In London these extracts are passed by Admiralty to the Shipping Intelligence Section of the Ministry omitting all portions of such messages graded most Secret which indicate the actual routes.

4. Suggest further that an organisation as set out in paras. 1 & 2 would facilitate the despatch of agreed messages dealing with broad policies of convoys or routeing or bunkerage. Messages from Washington to London would be agreed between B.A.D., B.M.S.M. and Sparks, and conversely messages from London to Washington would be agreed between Admiralty and M.O.W.T. for information B.A.D., B.M.S.M. and Sparks.

/5. It is

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- 2 -

5. It is understood that new Marco system of feeding all messages through New York for distribution will be effective about 1st December and possibly this will assist in implementing the foregoing proposals which in the first instance would only apply to British Controlled Shipping.

2037A/19.

for D.T.D. (983)

1st Lord.
1st S.I. (2).
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H).
A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
A.C.N.S. (T).
Genl Secy.
Secretary.
P.A.S. (S).
P.A.S. (O).
N.A. 1st S.I.
O.D. (5).
O.P. (3).
D.T.D. (4).
D. OF S.T.
M. (2).
D.H.T. (5).
D. OF P. (3).
T.P. (3).
W.D.

M20

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19.10.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Sub. attack & sighting summary.

A. STEEL NAVIGATOR attacked 49.45 N. 31.20 W. about 1120Z/19. ~~---~~ P 601.

B. HERANGER attacked about 51.10 N. 29 W. 2330Z/10/9 and about 48.51 N. 33 W. 2313Z/11/9. 4 torpedo misses. EMPIRE OIL, two torpedo hits one miss. HEKTORIA, two torpedo hits. EMPIRE TENNYSON, U.88 type.

C. Y P 466 sub. on surface 33.38 N. 77.37 W. 1915Z/17. SS FARRAPO sights sub on surface 34.30 S. 47.08 W. 0100Z/17.

D. Surface craft sights periscope about 32 N. 80.30 W. 1505Z/18. (Cominch 2159/19 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No.270, 18/10.

2 heavy cruisers departed Buin Area noon 17th.
3 light cruisers 16 destroyers arrived noon 18th

when total force indicated comprising 1 heavy cruiser, 3 light cruisers, 20 destroyers, 3 large unidentified vessels possibly Seaplane tenders, 2 tankers. Other merchant ships reported my Serial No.269 para 1 not reported and apparently missing.

2. 22 Fortresses in 4 waves attacked aerodrome flying boats shipping Buin Area dawn 18/10. 1 heavy cruiser believed damaged. 2 other cruisers possibly hit. 1 small cargo vessel set on fire, at least 1 flying boat destroyed, 6 others damaged, air opposition from 3 zeros only.

3. 1 destroyer departed Buka Passage over night 17/18. 12 Zeros departed Buka aerodrome 0602Z/18 course south, only 3 observed returning.

4. Air R/C Kavieng Area reported 2 destroyers, 1 8000 ton merchant ship near Kavieng also 2 tenders with 2 possible submarines 3° S. 150° 25' E. afternoon 18/10. 1 tender appeared to catapult 2 seaplanes.

5. Allied troops encircled enemy force north of Templeton's crossing and attacked front and rear throughout 17th. 41 Japanese killed in several unsuccessful enemy counter attacks, much enemy equipment captured.

6. Allied air operations 18/10. Fortresses attacked Rabaul during night 17/18 large explosion observed on unidentified vessel. 3 B.25s attacked Pilelo Is. (74 miles West Gasmata) scoring direct hits on 1 Seaplane and causing fires in village. Same force bombed and strafed Mubo causing fires and casualties. 3 B.25s attacked Wairopi Bridge area. No shipping sighted Buna Lae Vitiaz Strait Gasmata Area. 1 Hudson strafed small launch Goodenough Is. Fortress attacked small weather reporting vessel Lorengau Harbour setting fire to vessel. Aerodrome this Island reported not in use. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0607Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

/AQUITANIA ...

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War Diary.

19.10.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - contd.

AQUITANIA.

Your 0025/14th (Re sending of AQUITANIA to New Zealand for transport of troops to Suez, instead of NIEUW AMSTERDAM) Escort proposal confirmed (?subject) to Cdr. South Pacific Force concurrence which is being obtained. (N.Z.N.B. 1636M/19 to Admty.)
ACHILLES to escort, see 1137M/20.

ACHILLES,
LEANDER,
Refits.

My 1429/25. Both ACHILLES inner propeller shafts have been grooved by displacement of Cone Plates at forward end of 'A' brackets to a maximum of 9/32nds inches with consequent reduction of strength and power of these shafts of 20%. New tail shafts required to be fitted in U.K.
2. Consequently it is desirable that ACHILLES should proceed to U.K. before LEANDER. Latter is however in need of 8 weeks refit and former is required for Escort Duties at reduced full speed until this refit is completed.
3. Proposed therefore that ACHILLES shall proceed to U.K. about mid January, LEANDER to follow on her return. (N.Z.N.B. 1637M/19 to Admty. (R) A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Indefinite positions at 1200Z/19.
(D.D.I.C. 1325A/19, 1336A/19.)

War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

BLYSKAWICA, COWDRAY and BRAMHAM sailed from Londonderry this morning for Gibraltar.

An aircraft reported at 1632 having attacked with depth charges and hit an enemy submarine on the surface about 500 miles N.W. of Cape Finisterre. The aircraft was damaged, apparently by debris from the depth charges, one or more of which exploded on impact.

Three more mines were detonated in the Humber area today and one yesterday.

North Atlantic.

It is reported that the French cruiser GLOIRE which arrived at Casablanca from Dakar on 25/9, sailed from Casablanca at 1030/17 for Dakar. The battleship JEAN BART which has not been at sea since her arrival at Casablanca in June 1940 is reported to be able to raise steam and sail from Casablanca within 40 minutes. A Sunderland in transit sighted a Vichy cruiser at 1650Z today steering 190° at 12 knots in 19° 32' N 17° 17' W.

Five aircraft, one of which was identified as Italian, dropped bombs in Spanish territory near Gibraltar and in the sea near the Eastern Beach at 1955 today. The Gibraltar A.A. defences opened fire. There were some Spanish civilian casualties.

Mediterranean.

Air attacks on Malta were on a much smaller scale today and were abortive, except that Luqa Aerodrome was rendered temporarily unserviceable. In a total of 26 Spitfire sorties made against 70 enemy sorties one Spitfire was damaged.

Attack on
convoy
(continued)

A merchant ship (presumably one which remained undamaged when the convoy was attacked 40 miles S.W. of Lampedusa I. yesterday) was attacked by a bombing Wellington 8 at 0210 but no result was seen) At 0330A today the tanker in the convoy was torpedoed by a Swordfish from Malta, and the merchant ship was successfully bombed in 340° Tripoli 76 miles. (Note: This bombing of the merchant ship is not, however, reported in the Air Staff Operational Summary.)

War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean-~~conts~~:Attack on
convoy
(continued)

P.211 and P.44 were instructed to get between the enemy and Tripoli, if they are not already in contact. P.211 had followed the convoy during last night and at dawn today she sighted a stopped merchant ship and two destroyers in 150° Lampione 70 miles. The merchant ship, which had much M.T. on deck was slightly down by the stern; P.211 torpedoed and sank it.

Allied heavy and medium bombers attacked shipping and harbour installations at Tobruk last night, causing explosions among ships.

G.S/M PAPANICOLIS in 33° 16' N 34° 14' E at 0900C today is proceeding to Beirut with a damaged hydroplane and cannot dive.

America and West Indies.

SS. ROSE CASTLE reported being attacked by a submarine at 0729 G.M.T. in 46° 30' N 55° 15' W: she was missed by torpedoes.

The Admiralty are not in agreement with the policy of drastic alterations of route of convoys ordered by the U.S. Convoy and Routeing Section in order to avoid U-Boats. The Admiralty view is that in general the soundest policy is the shortest route to safer waters, i.e. waters where additional air and/or surface escort can be provided.

Australia and New Zealand.

Seven Catalinas bombed shipping and the aerodrome in the Buin Faisi area early this morning. Several bombs hit the aerodrome but there were ~~no~~ hits on shipping.

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War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- BLEAN. BLEAN is expected to join Nore Command on 23/10 and is allocated to (D) Flotilla 21 at Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore, 1008A/20.)
- QUERCIA, YTHAN BRAE. Request you will signal immediately report of condition of converted trawlers QUERCIA and YTHAN BRAE with special regard to their seaworthiness and capability of making ocean passage. (D.O.D.H., 1319A/20 to F.O.I.C. London.)
Your 1319/20. QUERCIA and YTHAN BRAE structurally are considered seaworthy. Visibility from bridge is however poor and a compass platform on roof of wheel house is very desirable. Reference Admiralty Bath's 1610/9 to F.O.I.C. London minimum freeboard of one foot appears small for this class of vessel. Provided this is acceptable, and stability is satisfactory, vessels are considered seaworthy and capable of making an ocean passage.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1759A/20 to Admt.)
- 25th E.G. WOODSTOCK S.O., NASTURTIUM, WEYBURN, PRESCOTT, LUNENBURG are to form 25th Escort Group based Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 1531A/20.)
- Training S/Ms at Londonderry. N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1843A/17. The urgent requirement for training escort makes it essential to maintain 2 submarine at Londonderry for A/S practices.
Further training value will be gained if a third submarine can be made available for the period requested by Commodore Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 1803A/20 to F.O.S.)
- RIPLEY. RIPLEY is now allocated to B.7 permanently.
(C. in C. W.A., 1806A/20.)
- Movements.
- RENOWN. Scapa arrivals RENOWN with*ONSLow, TARTAR and FORESTER.
(A.C.O.S., 0759/20.) * p. 616. (v. 5. 24)
- BOOTLE. Scapa departure 0755 BOOTLE. E.T.A. Seidisfiord 1300/22.
(A.C.O.S., 0814A/20.)

/BRYONY ...

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War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

BRYONY,
BERGAMOT,
HARRIER,
GLEANER.

Lights and radio beacons have been requested for your passage. Arrival BRYONY and BERGAMOT are to enter Polyarno, BRYONY alongside and BERGAMOT anchoring. HARRIER and GLEANER proceed Rosta for fuelling. Pilots with detailed instructions for operation will board each ship off Sedlovaty Island.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0945A/20 to M/S. 6.)

→ P. 614. My 1316/9. Intend sailing P.614 from Holy Loch 23/10 direct to Freetown without calling at Gibraltar. Owing to endurance request shortest practicable route on N.A. Station and S.A. Station may be arranged. Estimated S.O.A. after crossing 043° N. 9 knots. Request F.O.C.N.A. and R.A.W.A. may be so informed. (F.O.S., 1156A/20 to Admty.)

SHEFFIELD,
JAMAICA. Scapa departure C.S.10 in SHEFFIELD, JAMAICA. (A.C.O.S., 1402/20.)

H. 33. Intend sail H.33 ^{/from Sheerness} to Portsmouth p.m. 22nd escorted by destroyer to be detailed by Capt. (D) 21st in accordance with my 1048/20. *N.T. n. r. d.* (C. in C. Nore, 1610A/20.)

→ P. 614, UNBEATEN. Intend sail P.614, UNBEATEN escorted by CUTTY SARK at 1730A/23 from Holy Loch to position (A) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 1900A/25. 3. From (A) submarine southward for patrol. (Capt. S.3, 1621A/20.)

BLUEBELL,
CAMELLIA. BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA sailed Dvina Bar (? 1600 or ? 0900)A/20th in accordance with your 1444A/18. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1624A/20 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

My 1624A/20th. Ships delayed at Bay by snow storm. Sailing at daylight. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 2105A/20.)

SALADIN,
SCIMITAR. C. in C. W.A. 1811A/20. SALADIN, SCIMITAR left U.R. 46 at 1915A/20 for Aultbea, E.T.A. 1900A/21. (SALADIN, 2030Z/20.)

See p. 619

War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

1 Enemy supply ship torpedoed on 18/10.
1 Enemy M/V sunk on 19/10. (JUNON).

Patrol report.
1. In Saltfiord one merchant ship missed 16/10 and one merchant ship sunk on 19/10.
2. In Tennholm Fiord one supply ship hit and run aground 18/10.
3. Two bow and one small torpedo remaining.
4. Present position $066^{\circ} 55' N.$ $010^{\circ} 15' E.$ (JUNON, 0202A/20.)
(F.O.S., 0527A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

Your 0202/20. Well done. Leave patrol forthwith as routed by Captain (S) 9th S.F. proceeding on surface by day at C.O.'s discretion after passing $007^{\circ} E.$
(F.O.S., 0456A/20 to JUNON.) *See next page.*

Leave patrol forthwith passing through (a) $066^{\circ} 30' N.$ $007^{\circ} 01' E.$
(b) 091° Out Skerries 5 miles thence Lerwick on the surface at C.O.'s discretion after passing $007^{\circ} E.$
(Capt. S.9, 0531A/20 to JUNON.)

Patrols. Your 2209/19. Returned.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0745/20 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Arrivals M.G.Bs 77, 74, 80.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0815A/20.)
My 1101A/19. "Service" returned 0810/20.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0816/20.)
Arrivals M.G.Bs 58, 64, 65.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0909A/20.)
My 1603A/16. M.L. patrol tonight.

2. Forces employed. M.Ls 184 (S.O.), 186 and 488.
3. Patrol 7 miles 065° and 245° either side of 105° Start 20 miles.
4. Object. To intercept E-Boats.
5. Information. E-Boats may work from either Guernsey or Cherbourg.
6. Execution. Proceed at 1430/20 and passing through 180° Start Point 4 miles proceed to patrol lines. Leave patrol at daylight 21st and proceed to Dartmouth. Speed on passage is not to exceed 12 knots.
7. Codeword "Obstacle".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1229A/20.)
Tonight M.G.Bs 316, 312, M.T.Bs 49, 50, 54 proceeding to carry out sweep of enemy coastal route eastward from longitude $001^{\circ} 30' W.$ and passing to westward and southward of mined areas given in C. in C. Portsmouth's 1400/30/9.
Force is to pass F Buoy 1900 and 0645 on return. Codeword "Advent".
If weather is unsuitable force is to cruise near $50^{\circ} 10' N.$ $01^{\circ} 00' W.$, or return if necessary to St. Helens Road.
3 M.G.Bs from Portland patrol $50^{\circ} 20' N.$ between $02^{\circ} 10' W.$ and $01^{\circ} 35' W.$
2 Chasers patrol near E.A.5 Buoy.
ESKDALE stand by at Yarmouth (I.o.W.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1610A/20.)
M.Ls (?) and 149 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and N.E. Spit Buoys, E.T.D. 1855, E.T.R. 0710/21.
M.Ls 143 and 138 from Dover near C.1 Buoy, proceeding to Newhaven at daylight.
(V.A. Dover, 1722A/20.)

/Patrol ...

611

War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. *conts.*

Patrols. Patrol tonight.
(Contd.) (1) M.G.Bs 88, 83, 21 vicinity 53° 20' N. 02° 10' E.
(2) M.G.Bs 610, 603 at Z.21.
(3) M.G.Bs 321, 334 at Z. 18.
(C. in C. Nore, 1801A/20.)
Departure GARTH and COTTESMORE 1717 for patrols A and B respectively.
(F.O. Humber, 1830A/20.)

E.Z. Return route from Kola Inlet through positions MX 032° Cape Teriberski 18.5 miles, Q 071° 52' N. 040° 57' E., E 074° 58' N. 040° 009' E, thence as in C. in C. H.F. 1505/12.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0951A/20 to ARGONAUT.)
Russian destroyers SOKRUSHITELNI (S.O.) and GREMYASHCHI will meet you in 069° 45' N. (?041°) (?03') E. at 1100C/22.
(ii) Expect air escort by 2 Russian P.E.S. from position G.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1635A/20 and 1855A/20 to ARGONAUT.)

Unknown Your 1141/17. Request further attempt during Operation. next dark period.
2. Please retain one craft meanwhile as you may require.
(C.C.O., 1149A/20 to F.O.C. Dover.)

S/M Patrols. UREDD is to be recalled so as to arrive Lerwick p.m. 22nd.
(F.O.S., 1456A/20 to Capt. S.9.)
1. Leave patrol p.m. 21st and proceed diving by day to position A. 061° 06' N. 002° 01' E, thence on the surface at C.O.'s discretion through B. 061° 02' N. 000° 01' E. C. 090° Out Skerries 5 miles to Lerwick. E.T.A. 1600A/22.
You may meet JUNON between position B. and Lerwick.
(Capt. S.9, 1641A/20 to UREDD.)
Position of submarines at 0800A/21 and movements for the following 24 hours.
*JUNON approx. 65° 57' N. 06° 10' E., probably on the surface, speed 10 knots for Lerwick. GRAPH in zones K.501 and K.505.
UREDD in zone K.5. SEALION in zone K.506.
(F.O.S., 1703A/20 and 2224A/20.)

* See previous page.

Allied Air Activity.

A/S Air X.C.E. para. 10.
Cover for Individual A/S cover cannot be provided but the ANSON, etc. area required 063° 00' N. 064° 30' N. 025° 00' W. 028° 30' W. will be swept continuously throughout daylight hours by Hudsons until 1330 approx.
followed by Catalinas.
These aircraft will take no part in exercise.
(A.C.I.C., 1937A/20 to C.S.1.)

War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. Unidentified A/C reported circling in vicinity of Seidisfiord about 2130 to 2230 this evening. (A.C.I.C., 0100A/20.)

One enemy A/C plotted from Lensmann at 0925 course West. Aircraft proceed via Keflavik 064° 00' 022° 33' northward over Akranes 064° 19' 022° 05' at 2000 feet and was identified as F.W. A/C turned South in position 10 miles north of Akranes and returned over Akranes and Grotta and disappeared course indicated East. Cloud 9 tenths, one - 2000 feet, visibility 6 miles. (A.C.I.C., 1241A/20.)

ST. MAGNUS attacked. ST. MAGNUS attacked 5 S.W. Fair Isle. (ST. MAGNUS, 1639/20.)
Heinkel 111 attacked ST. MAGNUS with machine gunfire off Fair Isle at 1735. No casualties. Superficial damage only. (A.C.O.S., 1935A/20.)

Mining.

Off Seidisfiord. Unidentified aircraft reported circling in vicinity of Seidisfiord about 2130 to 2230 this evening. Minelaying may have taken place in (Operation E.Y.) entrance to fiord. Information requested whether instances are known of moored mines having been laid by aircraft.

(A.C.I.C., 0100A/20 to Admty.)

Your 0100/20. Only suspected instances are from seaplanes on surface.

(D.M.S., 1037A/20 to A.C.I.C.)

Is it possible to increase the fighter cover for a short period. If an enemy aircraft could be shot down it might act as a considerable deterrent.

(C. in C. H.F., 1106A/20 to A.C.I.C.)

A.C.O.S. 0012A/18 paras. 2 and 3.

(A) Minesweepers are to sweep out along the route to R/V with Force at 1030A/21 in position X and sweep it into Seidisfiord.

(B) Keep CHIDDINGFOLD informed of your movements.

(A.C.I.C., 1125A/20 to M/S. 15.)

Humber. My 2009/19 and 2117/19. Following mine detonated by Sweepers at 1750/19. Details. (F.O. Humber, 1130A/20 and 1635/20.)

Following three mines detonated today by Sweepers. Details. (F.O. Humber, 2120A/20, 2250A/20, and 1230A/22.)

LANCASTER.

Anticipate you will be required to sail on S.N. operation on the night of 26/10. Before leaving Iceland report probable date and time of arrival Port ZA.

(R.A.M., 1420A/20 to LANCASTER.)

War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

North Russian operations. Your 1002A/18. Regret making any alteration in minesweeping operations which I should naturally have referred to you for your approval in normal circumstances. The A.C.N.S. (Soviet Union) called here and reported the mining of Yugorsky Shar where HOPEMOUNT, upon whose safe arrival in Archangel critical fuel situation here is dependent, and 3 Icebreakers now so vital to this Port, were awaiting passage. Position of minesweeping in easterly gale and serious situation at Yugorsky Shar called for quick action which I was confident would have your support. I was pressed to give immediate decision by Stepanov and in view of delay in communication between us I submit you will approve that in the circumstances I took only possible course.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1521A/20 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.) *Repl: p. 649.*

Search of North Minch. Request available ships of 47th and 48th Auxiliary M/S Groups be sailed to carry out a search of convoy route in North Minch between M.2 Buoy and Lock Eribol commencing dawn tomorrow.
(D.M.S., 1728A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

Off Hammond Knoll on 14/10. At 1603/14 one mine exploded by Sweepers in 290° Hammond Knoll Buoy 2 miles. Details.
(MIRANDA, No T.O.O., Recd. 1740/20.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Intercept at 0758 G.M.T. de Gallon Head radio begins:- Following intercepted from unknown station at 0752 G.M.T. SSSS Submarine attacked bearing V CE 264 VAX 73.5 VGS 102 all approx. 0715 G.M.T./20.
(Wick Radio, No T.O.O., Recd. 0942/20.)
By D/F at 0716Z U-Boat within 60 miles of 50° 30' N. 25° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 0929A/20 to Escorts O.N. 138.)
Am over enemy submarine, position 44° 47' N. 16° 18' W. Enemy on surface and observed to submerge, course 225°, speed 8 knots.
(A/C 9NYZ, 1545/20.)
Have lost touch with enemy submarine, last seen in position 44.47 N. 16.18 W.
(A/C 9HYZ, 1641/20.)
D/F bearings at 1609Z/20 place U-Boat in approx. 44° 30' N. 3° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 1828A/20 to SEALION, GRAPH.)
Am over 2 enemy submarines in 46° 49' N. 15° 32' W. Enemy on surface and observed to submerge, course 100°, speed 8 knots.
(A/C 9FLU, 1313/20.)
My (?1313) 2 U-Boats in company. Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 9FLU, 1325/20.)
Distress position 48.21 N. 19.25 W. Elevators blown away. Am over enemy sub. Enemy on surface. Have attacked with depth charges, estimate 6 hits.
(A/C 3DCN, No T.O.O./20, Recd. 1632/20.)

U.216
Junk.

War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Beacon at Admiralty's 1326/10/9 and 0045/13/10. Further to my 2034/12/9. R/C of Hvalsbakur proves that erection of reflector could not be undertaken during winter months.
(A.C.I.C., 1946A/18 to Admty.)

Dvina. North Dvina light vessels withdrawn today for the winter.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 2235A/20.)

Casualties and Defects.

EMPIRE Commenced towing at 1930A/19th. Tow parted
PLANET. 2045. Resumed tow 2200. P.C.S. 055° 56' N.
008° 14' W., 131°, 3½.
(NORTHERN SPRAY, 0020A/20.)

Tow parted at 0705, resumed towing 1000, position 055° 46' N. 007° 36' 30" W.

(NORTHERN SPRAY, 1015A/20.)

When relieved by SCHELDE return at best speed to base.

(C. in C. W.A., 1131A/20 to NORTHERN SPRAY.)

Your 1131A/20.

Tow parted again at 10(18?). Have lost spring board now. My position 311° Inishtrahull 6½ miles, course 090°.

(NORTHERN SPRAY, 1200A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

Tow parted. (No?) gear strong enough to hold EMPIRE PLANET. Endeavouring to get further (Line) aboard. Position 320° Inishtrahull 10 miles. Please expedite arrival tug if possible.

(NORTHERN SPRAY, 1405A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

EMPIRE PLANET in tow.

(NORTHERN SPRAY, 1615A/20.)

NORTHERN SPRAY with EMPIRE PLANET in tow in 335°

Inishtrahull 10 miles at 1615A. Report P.C.S.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1755A/20 to SCHELDE.)

Sailed MARAUDER to join SCHELDE.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 2320A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

FORT LAMY. Arrived MARAUDER with tow.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0030A/20.)

STORNEST. Following from ADHERENT. Search unsuccessful. Strong S.W. gale, high seas. Request orders. Request reply may be sent.
(A.C.I.C., 0215A/20 to Admty.)
Abandon search. Return to base.
(A.C.I.C., 0315A/20 to ADHERENT, (R) DRANGEY.)

War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- M.M.S. 113. Your 2130/19.
HONEYSUCKLE's P.C. and S. 50° 46' N. 14° 23' W.
082°, 6 knots at 1630/19 with M.M.S. 113 in tow.
(C. in C. W.A., 0307A/20 to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN.)
- Off Lizard. The following signal has been received from RUBY.
Begins at 1250/19. A buoyancy-tank from a
merchant service type lifefloat was inspected
but not recovered in 49° 49' N. 05° 08' W. The tank has the
following inscription Lt. St. Lonbent Bie, 24 personnes
Dunkerque 2000/19. Message ends.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1451A/20.)
**? LIEUTENANT ST LOUBERT BIE - S.S. 6126 - The Fish.*
- CHILLIWACK,
BATTLEFORD. Your 0942A/20. Ships can be taken but impossible
to commence work before 24th on completion of
GALT and WETASKIWIN.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1541A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)
- BUDE. My 1527A/18. Engine defects completed. Basin
trial satisfactory.
(BUDE, 1815A/20 to Admt.)
- HUNDA,
FOULA,
WESTRAY
(K.X. 4A.)
See p. 617
F.O. Greenock 1024/20. Main circulator
discharge pipes of HUNDA fractured. FOULA and
WESTRAY have similar fittings. Observing same
breakdown occurred in all ships of 5th trawler
group FOULA and WESTRAY are also being taken
in hand for strengthening pipes. Every effort
is being made for early completion, estimate latest time
completion 1800/22.
(Capt. D. Greenock, 1944A/20.)
- TAY. My 2010A/20.
TAY's port engine H.P. casting has a flaw,
and engine cannot be used until this has been
made good.
Am sailing her 0730 for Greenock. E.T.A.
noon 21st.
(M/S 10, 2215A/20.)

615A

MOST SECRET

1810/20 October.

~~MOST SECRET~~ ~~M E S S A G E~~ IN

From: F.O.C. Force E

Date: 20.10.42.

Recd. 2330

NAVAL CYBER (A1) by T/P

Addressed: C. in C. Western Approaches, repeated Admiralty,
N.O. in Charge Greenock.

(?8) Admiralty's 1927/18ⁿ. Request 5 suitable anti submarine vessels may be detailed to Rosyth anti submarine screen for KMS 1 and subsequently for KMF 1 through this area, as it will be necessary for fleet minesweepers of present screen to be detached to sweep ahead.

1810/20

ⁿ Discovery of minefield.

- 1st S.L.(2)
- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D. of P.(2)
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.C.(2)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D. of P.(Q)
- D.M.S.
- D.A./S.W.
- D.T.D.(3)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D. of L.D.
- C. in C. X.F.(2)

- Ad. Blake
- D.D.O.D.(M)
- Hd. of M.
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.

PA

616

War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- K.M.S.2 Following 54 ships will be ready to leave U.K. on 25/10. Names and Escorts.
(D.O.D. (H.), 0058A/20) See Lion Copy.
R/V 270° Skerryvore 10 miles 1600Z/26. R/V 1200Z/27 055° 53' N., 011° 45' W. R/V 1200Z/28, 055° 00' N., 016° 35' W. Squares reserved for Clyde ships 55, 75, 84, 85, 95, 105. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1242A/20 to N.C.S.O. Clyde).
My 1532A/20. Intend to sail VIZALMA and 6 M.T. ships 0930A/22 for Loch Ewe, E.T.A. 0900A/24.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1536A/20)
- K.M.F.1 Convoy K.M.F.1 consisting of 39 ships carrying troops will leave Clyde p.m./26.
2. Route as follows:- R/V in position K.270° Oversay 6 miles at 0800Z/27 through
L. 54.45 N., 15.01 W. M. 52.50 N. 20.00 W. N. 49.26 N., 25.36 W.
O. 42.20 N., 26.32 W.
3. Speed of advance 11½ knots.
4. Fighter protection codeword "Damson".
(D.O.D. (H.), 0102A/20 to H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.)
S.O. Force "C" 2143A/19. Have no knowledge of approval ever being given for removal of ROYAL ULSTERMAN main mast. In view of time now available and your 1239/12 request decision. (S.O. Assault Ships, 2020A/20 to Admtly).
- W.S.24 The following ships will be ready to leave the ports stated on the undermentioned dates.
see p. 220 Except when stated all ships have a speed of 15 knots.
Avonmouth ARAWA Speed 14 knots, TAMAROA Speed 14½ knots
LARGS BAY speed 14 knots
Newport INDO-CHINOIS. Liverpool ATHLONE CASTLE, STIRLING CASTLE ANDES. Clyde EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.
2. Bristol Channel ships will be ready to leave 27/10. Clyde and Mersey ships on 28/10.
3. TAMAROA will be routed to Freetown and remainder to Cape via Bahia.
4. Admiralty will promulgate route.
5. Ocean escort (a)* DESPATCH from as far North as endurance permits to Bahia, and from Bahia to P.L.E. (b) One A.M.C. from vicinity of Azores to the Cape. *see p. 608* * *see p. 626*
6. Destroyer escort (a) ONSLOW, ORIBI and OFFA to the vicinity of the Azores. (b) ROTHERHAM to the Cape (c) HOLCOMBE to Freetown with TAMAROA for onward sailing in accordance with A.M. 2247/8 as convenient. (d) 2 destroyers from U.K. to P.L.E.
7. ROTHERHAM and HOLCOMBE are to be detached to fuel at Ponta Delgada.
8. ORIBI, ONSLOW and OFFA will leave convoy when ROTHERHAM and HOLCOMBE rejoin and proceed to Ponta Delgada for fuel.
9. C. in C. W.A. is requested to (a) arrange sailing of all ships to R/V Oversay a.m./29 (b) detail two destroyers mentioned in para. 6 (d). (c) arrange fuelling at Ponta Delgada.
10. C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail destroyers mentioned in para. 6 (a) as requested by C. in C. W.A.
11. R.A.W.A. is requested to detail A.M.C. mentioned in para. 5 (b) and to sail A.M.C. and DESPATCH to R/V as requisite. (D.O.D. (H.), 0104A/20).

/K.M.S.1

Home Comments 1

616A S
Shipping

474) Wt48360/0584 3/40 5,000 pads JC&SLtd 51-6397

MESSAGE.

OUT

OCTOBER

To C in C Western Approaches 658

DATE A.M. 0058/20 October

NO 1/c Loch Ewe
N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe
F.O. 1/c Greenock

N.C.S.O. Clyde

Repacked F.O. 1/c Liverpool

F.O.C.N.A. 47

C in C Home Fleet 939

C in C X.F.

~~Message to (100)~~

From: ~~Administration~~

The following ships (except as in paragraph 9) will be ready to leave Loch Ewe as convoy H.M.S. 2 on 25th October.

17 S 2

Section A

SS LORIGA

JOHN DAVENPORT

TOW HEAD

OCEAN VENGEANCE

WEST POINT

LAMBROOK

DORELIAN

EMPIRE SPLENDOUR

JUNE CREST

MAHSUD

OCEAN VIRTUE

OCEAN STRENGTH

OCEAN TRADER

S.S. OCEAN VETERAN

CALUMET

MELMORE HEAD

FORT AUGUSTUS

EMPIRE BAXTER

DERWENTHALL

OCEAN VISTA

CITY OF NORWICH

ARTEMUS WAARD

GUDRUN MAERSK

LEWANT

PRINS DE LIEBE

MESSAGE.

OUT

To

DATE

Section 0.

S.S. BERNARD CARTER

EMPIRE BUCKLER

BROWNING

BAYON CHICO

OCEAN LIBERTY

OCEAN VISCOUNT

EMPIRE RUSKIN

HARDINGHAM

THOMAS HOOKER

REVERDY JOHNSON

RICHARD W. LEE.

OCEAN FAME

S.S. ANDREW HAMILTON

CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH

LUTHER MARTIN

JOHN P. POE

NAIRUNG

OCEAN MERCHANT

OCEAN ATHLETE

HARPALEUS

US HORACE BURKEY

THOMAS PICKNEY

LEWIS MORRIS

JOHN SERGANT

MESSAGE.

OUT

To

DATE

Gibraltar Section

S.S. EMPIRE DAY
FORT CHIPEWYAN

S.S. BRITISH LADY
TENSIS

2. speed of advance $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots
3. Destination etc. will be communicated at coming conference.
4. Admiralty will promulgate Route
5. N.O. 1/c Loch Ewe is requested to arrange coming conference to be held p.H. 24th October and to send ships to rendezvous as requisite.
6. Escorts will be provided by
H.M.S. LONDONDERRY, BIDEFORD, LANGUARD, SWALE,
LULWORTH, BRADFORD and H.M.C.S. LUNENBERG
WOODSTOCK, and PRESCOTT.
ROCHESTER, SANDWICH, LEITH, EARNE and SCARBOROUGH.
7. Destination of LONDONDERRY, BIDEFORD, LANGUARD,
SWALE, LULWORTH, BRADFORD, LUNENBERG,
WOODSTOCK, and PRESCOTT is Gibraltar.
Remainder will proceed in accordance with Ton 6
paragraph 6.
8. C in C Western Approaches is requested to make
necessary arrangements for escorts who must be

MESSAGE.

OUT

To

DATE

prepared to fuel at sea and to arrange air protection.

9. OCEAN VETERAN, ARTEMUS WARD, FORT AUGUSTUS
JOHN DAVENPORT, HARDINGHAM + FORT CHIPEWYAN
will not proceed to Loch Linn. F.O. 1/2 Greenock is
requested to sail them as requisite to rendezvous
with convoy off Skerryvore at 1600Z/26.
Arrangements are being made for masters to
attend conference

(0058A/20 to

(D.O.D. (H))

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE 1845A/20th October OUT.

To. C. in C.W.A. 690.

Date 20.10.42.

F.O.i/c Greenock.

N.O.i/c Loch Ewe.

N.C.S.O. Clyde.

N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.

Repeated F.O.C.N.A. 67.

C. in C.X.F.

C. in C. Home Fleet. 959

Naval Cypher A.C.O.

From Admiralty.

A.M. 0058/20 / not to F.O.i/c Glasgow.
Convoy K.M.S. 2.

1. Para. 1 Gibraltar Section add oiler VINGA.
Delete ENSIS. Section 'O' add ENSIS. and
U.S. MATTHEW P. DEADY. delete THOMAS PICKNEY.
2. VINGA has been instructed to proceed to Loch Ewe
for orders. She will discharge at Gibraltar.
3. F.O.i/c Greenock is requested to sail oiler
BRITISH LADY at present loading at Clyde to
arrive Loch Ewe by a.m. 24th October at latest.

1845A/20.
for D.O.D. (H)

/ Re ships ready to leave Loch Ewe as convoy K M S 2.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. P.M.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
L.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.C. (2)
I.P.
D.T.D./S.P. 4.
L.A/S W.
Hd. of M.
C. in C.X.F. (2)
D. of L.D.
D. of S. (2)
W.D.
Admiral Blake.

JR.

617

20.10.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.S.1 My 1124/18 "Wiseacre" sailing delayed owing to fog.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0225A/20).
My 1124/18. "Wiseacre" sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0735/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
You will be required to transport 61 rounds of 4" American shrapnel ammunition to AVENGER. If AVENGER is not met land this ammunition at Greenock.
(C. in C. H.F., 1104A/20 to SHEFFIELD).
- W.S.24 P. Your 1150/17. Confirmed P.27 ^{not 2/M.} will embark in dock on 24/10. She should sail 25.10 so as to arrive Tail of the Bank by a.m. 26/10. Master should arrive Greenock a.m. 25/10 to attend W.S.24 P. Convoy conference.
(D.S.T. 0453A/20).
- D.S.33 Sailed. Codeword "Product". Routed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1003A/19 after embarkation of H/F gear in accordance with A.M. 1707A/18.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 0820A/20).
- F.N. and F.S. Convoy Escorts. A/S Trawlers and Rescue Tugs from Harwich detailed as escorts for F.N. and F.S. convoys will be signalled at 1000 on day previous to sailing on days when there is no southbound convoy escorts will enter Humber and and F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to sail then to join F.S. convoy that sails on day that no F.N. convoy sails.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0051A/20).
- DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. Arrived SS. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE escorted by CALPE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1014A/20).
- K.X.4 A. Intend sailing convoy as in A.M. 0126A/14 ^{INT 2012} escorted by *FOULA, *HUNDA, KINTYRE, and *WESTRAY passing Clyde boom 1600A/21 to R/V with VENOMOUS and WRESTLER from Londonderry and MALCOLM, BROKE, and BRIXHAM from Belfast in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0900A/22, thence in accordance with A.M. 1910A/17. Codeword "Conifer".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1024A/20). * ^{see p. 615.}
- Oban N.O.I.C. Oban 1933/17 penultimate paragraph. Arrangements have been made for another tug and a water boat.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1029/20).

/N.O.I.C...

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Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - *conts.*Oban
Contd.

N.O.I.C. Oban 1933A/17. Congestion in Clyde should be relieved after sailing of K.M.S.1 and K.M.F.1. Having regard to problems of local defence it is not considered advisable at this stage to utilise other emergency anchorages. (A.C.N.S. T., 1552A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

EMPIRE
MINOTAUR.
EMPIRE
GNOME.
(K.X.4 B).

A.M. 1240/16/9 and 2052/10/10. Tugs EMPIRE MINOTAUR and EMPIRE GNOME have returned to harbour due to stress of weather. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail them to Gibraltar with K.X.4 (b). F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail them onward as convenient when opportunity occurs. (D.O.D. (H.), 1124A/20).

P.W.235

KRAKOWIAK is to escort P.W.235 from Dartmouth until relieved and then proceed to Plymouth. CLEVELAND on completion of loading is to proceed to escort P.W.D.235 or P.W.235. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1129A/20).

F.S.438

Capt. (D) Rosyth's 1310/18/10. Part company from F.S.438 at daylight tomorrow and proceed to Southend. (C. in C. Nore, 1152A/20 to SLEIPNER).

S.C.104

Liverpool portion is not to split until convoy reaches 270° Skerryvore 14 miles. (C. in C. W.A., 1155A/20 to C.T.U. 24.1.4)

S.L.124,
BULAN.

Convoy is not to split until reaching 55° 35' N. 07° 00' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1206A/20 to Escorts). Your 1012/20. BULAN arriving in S.L.124 is required to proceed to Cardiff to discharge cargo. After discharge of cargo ship should proceed to Penarth to be taken in hand for conversion. (D.O.D. (H.), 1918A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

K.X.5

Army Port Repair Ship PROGRESS manned by Military personnel has been instructed to proceed to the Tail of the Bank for inclusion in convoy K.X.5. The ship has been ordered to arrive Clyde on 28/10 ready to all respects for sea and the C.O. instructed to report to you. The ship will then come under the orders of the Admiralty. (D.O.D. (H.), 1308A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

U.S. Ships
for Kirwall.

The following U.S. ships now at Belfast are to be sailed so as to arrive Kirkwall a.m./24. JEFFERSON MYERS, EXECUTIVE, VERMONT, YORKMAR, ELOCEANO, WINDRUSH, WEST GOTOMSKA, DYNASTIC, EL ORIENT, BEAUREGARD, CALOBRE, RICHARD BLAND.
2. Request you will arrange escort accordingly. (D.T.D., 1545A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

R.U.45

Reykjavik departure SPINET in R.U.45 to Scapa in accordance with A.M. 0145/10. (A.C.I.C., 1701A/20).
?Reykjavik departure ARAB in R.U.45 for Aultbea thence Belfast. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1702A/20).

K.M.S. and
K.M.F.
Convoys.

1. Special Instructions to Commodores, Vice Commodores, and Rear Commodores will be forwarded by Admiralty to N.C.S.Os for distribution.
2. Sealed Instructions to the Master of each ship will also be forwarded by Admty. for distribution at the Conference.
3. Ships for Gibraltar should be stationed in the rear of columns as far as possible.
4. Reference to T.O.N. orders or to T.S.G.Os. in Admiralty signals should be ignored. (A.C.N.S.(T), 1720A/20).

PRINCESS
MAUD.

SS. PRINCESS MAUD will be used to transport U.S. troops from Belfast to Liverpool, crossing night of 23/24. Request you will sail ship accordingly. (D.O.D.(H.), 1731A/20 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

O.N., S.C.
and H.X.
Convoys.

Propose following assignments. Details. (C. in C. W.A., 1742Z/20 to C.T.F.24).

U.R.46

in p.609

(1) SALADIN, SCIMITAR are
(a) to leave convoy forthwith (b) fuel permitting proceed to Aultbea (c) otherwise proceed to Reykjavik to fuel thence to Aultbea.
(2) All movements at best speed. (C. in C. W.A., 1811A/20 to A.C.I.C.)

O.N.S.
Convoy
Escorts.

My 1724/9. Proposed that O.N.S.142 should sail on October 28th and subsequently O.N.S. convoys at 8 day intervals. This was calculated to 5B groups of a minimum layover of 4 days in Newfoundland.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - conts.

O.N.S.
Convoy
Escorts.
conts.

2. Admty 1335/16 delayed sailing date of O.N.S. Convoys by 2 days, thus reducing minimum layover in Newfoundland to 2 days and pinching where the shoe was already tightest.
3. It is intended that B groups only should have this short layover, but it is hoped that the whole matter may be raised again shortly with a view to the finding of a compromise between the conflicting requirements.
4. Reference N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1959/19. Intend sailing B.7 with O.N.S.142 and H.X.215. (C. in C. W.A., 1844A/20 to Admty).

W.S.24

p. 616

- A.M. 0104/20. (i) A/S escort
- (a) Bristol channel portion, SKATE.
 - (b) Liverpool portion, SARDONYX.
 - (c) Clyde portion, ROTHERHAM, HOLCOMBE.
- (d) Joining from Londonderry at Oversay R/V. ONSLOW, ORIBI, OFFA.
(ii) S.O. ROTHERHAM.
(iii) On joining main convoy SKATE, SARDONYX are to proceed to Londonderry to fuel and rejoin. They are subsequently to leave convoy at prudent limit of endurance and return to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 2231A/20).

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War Diary.

20.10.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

Intelligence. AM.1921A/14.

- (1) Absence of reports of confirmed raider activity in Indian Ocean since 20/7 suggests that Raider "E" may have proceeded to a Japanese controlled Port.
- (2). EMPIRE DAWN and AMERICAN LEADER both considerably overdue would have both been in vicinity of 34° S. 2° E. about 11/9. Both ships may have been sunk or captured by Raider "H" or Raider "J" near this position and date.
- (3).STEPHEN HOPKINS overdue at Paramaribo since 9/10 from Capetown. Ship reported "submarines on surface jamming" in 24° 55' S. 21° 51' W. on 27/9. No U/Boats are suspected in this area. Ship may therefore have been attacked by M.T.Bs from Raider "H" or Raider "J".
- (4).Possible positions of Blockade Runners (based only upon sailing date and probable speeds).
- (a) Outward bound .ERMLAND off Cape Horn. PIETRO ORSEOLO and CATARACTE between 5° and 25° S, 12° and 30° W. BELGRANO, BURGENLAND, and SILVA PLANA, between 10° and 30° N. 25° 35° W.
- (b) Homeward bound. One between 25° and 40° N. 30° and 40° W. Up to 5 others may be on passage between East Indies and Europe. Southbound German ship of 8,000 tons reported to have been sunk in Sunda Straits on 12/10.
- (5) A.M. 1921A/14 para.5. Add PERSEE ex PIERRE L.D. (D.D.I.C. 2051A/20 to A.I.G. 13 etc).

North Atlantic.

Vichy
Prisoners.
CANADA.

Your 1835/12. For your personal information, only we strongly suspect that SS.CANADA will be used to smuggle gold and supplies into Jibuti. We have always been ready to risk this for a general exchange but Vichy has made no reply to our

numerous requests.

We cannot overlook many of our own Service personnel are suffering from effects of long internment in unhealthy conditions in French African territories.

You should therefore inform French N.A. that we are not prepared to allow CANADA to go to Jibuti except in connection with a general exchange of British and French personnel. We are, however, prepared to consider possibility to transporting a reasonable number of sick French personnel at Jibuti from that port to Aden and thence to Lourenco Marques and of permitting CANADA to go to Lourenco Marques to embark them. Lourenco Marques is the port where exchange of British and Japanese nationals has taken place, and necessary facilities are available.

/If.....

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War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. -conts.Vichy
Prisoners,
CANADA.
Contd.

If such an arrangement is acceptable to them we should expect that in return, French Admty. should see their way to embark on CANADA a number of British Service personnel and merchant seamen from West Africa, more particularly those whose health, as French Authorities are well aware, has suffered seriously through their long residence in unhealthy conditions. We are naturally anxious to come to an amicable agreement with French Naval Authorities but we are entitled to expect a reasonable measure of reciprocity.
(M.Branch, Approved A. C.N.S.(F) 0121A/20 to N.A.Madrid).

Vichy
Prisoners
from
Madagascar.

Your 1700/14. Officers have been separated from men purely for administrative reasons and primarily for purpose of giving officers greater comfort since the camp in which they are held is especially designed for officers. They live in large comfortable houses and are well satisfied with the change.
2. We are considering arrangement to enable officers to visit their men from time to time.
3. For your information there is nothing unusual in officer prisoners being separated from their men and we should not regard ourselves as having any ground for complaint if Vichy adopted the same policy.
(M.Branch 0224A/20 to N.A.Madrid).

French
S/Ms.

2 French S/Ms will pass Straits of Gibraltar westbound on 21st.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0935A/20 to S/Ms on patrol.
0937A/20 to 8th S.F.).

Oran
R/C.

My 1216/3. Photographic R/C Oran 19/10 showed increase of two S/Ms and decrease of one "Alcyon" or "Simoun" destroyer.
(V.A.C.N. A. 1004A/20 to C. in C.Med. V.A. Malta, (R) Admty).

ST.CROIX.

ST.CROIX arriving Ponta Delgada 1900 /20 requires 380 tons fuel.
(D.T.D. 1024A/20 to B.C. Ponta Delgada, C. in C. W.A. 1039Z/20, to C.T.F.24).

BLYSKAWICA,
COWDRAY,
BRAMHAM,

A.M. 1720/19. (Hush Distribution) sailed BLYSKAWICA, COWDRAY, BRAMHAM, S. of A. 16 knots, arriving 1900A/24th.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1110A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.).

/Patrols....

War Diary.

20.10.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- Patrols. Trawlers CAVA and KERRERA leave Gibraltar 1400 /20th for patrol within 30 miles Lisbon and Huelva respectively.
(2) Trawler EDAY on patrol in Western Approaches to Straits. (F.O.C.N.A. 1156A/20 to S/Ms on Patrol).
Departure, 1637 CAVA for Y. 1 patrol; 1715 KERRERA for Y.3. patrol.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1759A/20 to Admt, (R) SCOTTISH).
- Bombing Restrictions. My 0508/18 cancel total bombing restrictions in areas G.26 and G.27 after 1000/21. (V.A. C.N. A. 1140A/20, to Admt etc).
- Fuelling P. Delgada. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 1445/17th and 1255/19. (re 5 ships to fuel at Ponta Delgada). Are any of these ships H.M. Ships? If so request names.
(N. A. Lisbon 1202A/20th to Admt). Reply 0020/21.
- Italian Repatriations. Spanish M.F.A. in Note Verable states Italian Government Communicated following. 1. Italian tankers ARCOLA and TAIGEE which are to refuel Italian repatriation ships arrived Las Palmas 9/10.
Tankers have to effect small repairs and consequently will be delayed for a few days before sailing for Curacao. Please inform F.O.
(N.A. Madrid, 1520/20, to Admt).
- Minesweepers. etc. POLRUAN, CLACTON one motor M/S and 7 M/Ls in 058° 25' 015° 10 at 2000 A/20 proceeding through 058° 01' 015° 02' thence 116°, 8 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1638A/20 to S/Ms on patrol).
- Italian Repatriations. Spanish M. of F. A. states Italian Government desire to communicate following movements Italian repatriation vessels. VULCANIA, SATURNIA, DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE. (Programme.)
(N.A. Madrid 1808/20 to Admt).
Reply: M. Branch 1930A/22.
- NORTE. suspicious. 19th. Sailing Vessel NORTE Expected to sail midnight tonight for Noya and to arrive Ferrol 22nd. Equipment carried is apparently for degaussing.
(R.O. Vigo 1810/20 to S.O. (I) Gibraltar, (R) Admt for D.N.I. B.N.A. Madrid.).

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

GLOIRE, Following is from American sources (A)
JEAN BART. cruiser GLOIRE sailed from Casablanca 1030/17
for Dakar.

(B) JEAN BART reported now capable of raising
steam and sailing from Casablanca within 40 minutes.
(V.A. C.N.A. 1818A/20 to Admty etc).

Comment by N.I.D.:-

(A) GLOIRE arrived Casablanca from Dakar on 25/9, and her return
there is not unexpected.

(B) JEAN BART has not been to sea since her arrival at
Casablanca in June, 1940.

French Gibraltar 1502. Armed trawler LA SERVANNAISE
Shipping. ships CAPITAIN LUIGI, laden. ALGERIE, light
deck cargo wine barrels, LINOIS, light deck cargo
cork and wine, JAMAIQUE, light, few mixed passengers, eastbound.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1845A/20 to Admty).

A/C attack AC.362 20/10.
on U/B. My AC.358/19/10. (N.T. in W.R.).
Attack promising, U-Boat straddled when on
surface. Large oil patch with floating wreckage
in middle. Poor photographs confirm wreckage
present.
(Gibraltar 1915/20 to Air Min.).

LLANGIBBY Your 1854/15/7. What is present position
CASTLE. regarding Reardon?
Boatswain. (M.Branch 1953A/20 to N.A.Lisbon).
Reply 1431/21.

A/C attack My 1759/19. 750 tons, 250 foot, slate grey
on U/B U-Boat, large gun forward small aft, sighted
19/10. 5 miles from 2,000 feet. Light A/A fired as
A/C dived to attack. 8 depth charges dropped
straddling U-Boat abaft C/T. A/C fired 200
rounds hitting C/T, U-Boat dived 15 seconds after attack
leaving large patches of oil 10 ft. diameter. Photographs show
box (as received) only. Photographs show
(F.O.C.N.A. 2002A/20 to Admty, etc).

Gibraltar 079243. 17780 Cipher 20th October.
Air Raid. Sitrep. Preliminary Report. At 1955 hours 20/10,
scale 2 air raid warning sounded. 2010 hours,
planes were fired at, 2017 bombs fell in Spanish Territory.
Total aircraft employed 5. No bombs dropped Gibraltar area.
Ammunition expenditure and full report later.
(Govr.Gib. 2130A/20 to W.O.).

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War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.CARNARVON
CASTLE.

My 1621/18/9. Decided that CARNARVON CASTLE is to be returned to M. of W.T. Request her programme may be arranged so that she arrives in U.K. by 31/3/1943.
(Hd. of M. 0010A/20 to C. in C.S.A.).

AQUITANIA.

Your 1315/17. Before AQUITANIA left New York it was established and Master agreed that she could proceed from Capetown to Suez with only a call at Aden for fuel for stability.
2. Do not therefore understand requirement for 1,000 tons of water and 5,500 tons of fuel. No water should be needed and fuel considerably reduced. Request further report.
(D. S.T. 0454A/20 to P.S.T.O. Capetown).

Your 0454/20/10. AQUITANIA will reach Aden with only 1½ days fuel remaining, using route ordered by C. in C.E.F.
(2) She could not complete to full stowage of water alongside at Capetown owing to draft. She could have completed to full stowage at anchor in Table Bay from a tanker but this would have involved delay.
(3) As ship had to call at Aden in any case it was decided to let her take water there as well as fuel.
(4) Suggest exact requirements are verified at Aden.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown 1638C/20 to D.S.T.).

BRILLIANT,
ORONSAY,
survivors.

Your 1654Z/19(N.T. in W. R.) 1 boat containing 30 survivors from ORONSAY found in 009° 25' N. 015° 001' W. Am continuing search.
(BRILLIANT, 0600Z/20 to R.A.W.A.).

ILE DE
FRANCE.

Your 0106/19th. ILE DE FRANCE leaves Durban for Fremantle to-day 20/10.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown 1002C/20 to D.S.T.) Sailed.
(D.S.T.O. Durban 1708C/20.) Sailing telegram and route. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0843Z/20).

Free French
West Africa.

Your 1147Z/19 (N.T. in W. D.).
Reason for advance arrival of Chasseurs is fully understood by French authorities who are kept informed of U-Boat situation.

Urgency or otherwise of situation is entirely dependent on political events in London.

My 1215/16 was sent on return of Commandant Charrier from conference at Brazaville from which he was summoned by air
(B.N.L.O.W. Africa 1016/20 to F.O.I.C. West Africa. KELVIN, Admty, C. in C. S.A.).

Dispositions. ^{12 p. 436} ASTURIAS patrolling H. 34 A west of 27° HYDRANGEA, ~~COMMANDANT~~ D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 3.45 7.05 to 3.39 7.49 thence 301° 12 (?26). AMARANTHUS about (?0) 40 S. 5.50 E. to Pointe Noire. 12½. GUARDIAN, CYCLAMEN, DETROYAT, 6.50 11.05 E. to Point Noire. 12.
(R.A.W. A. 1039Z/20 to A.I.G.150).

W.S.23...

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War Diary.

20.10.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

- W. S.23. *sailed* Intend sailing Convoy W.S.23 at 1800Z/20. by following route.
See next page A. 007.50 N. 014.15 W. B. 007.00' N. 014.18.W.
C. 002.40 N. 008.08 W. D. 001.50 N. 001.41 W. E. 003.06 S. 005.34. E
F. 008.54 S. 010.00 E. G. 016.35 S. 008.28 E. H. 031.23 S. (?014°)
00' E. Thence as ordered by C. in C.S. A. Estimated S. of A. 12 knot
2. Escort from Freetown DURBAN, *CHIDDINGFOLD, CARTHAGE, MILFORD, TAMARISK, KANARIS, AVON VALE. * *In Home Water - DESPATCH intended.*
3. SOUTHERN GEM from Takoradi joining escort (? a.m.) 23/10.
4. After SOUTHERN GEM joins AVON VALE will be detached for Bathurst.
5. TAMARISK escorting HAI LEE and TAMESIS for Takoradi will be detached p.m./23/10.
6. DURBAN and KANARIS p.m./25/10 to refuel at Pointe Noire rejoining convoy.
7. AMARANTHUS from Pointe Noire joins escort p.m./25/10.
8. AMARANTHUS and SOUTHERN GEM will be detached p.m./26/10 to R/V with SHROPSHIRE.
9. After DURBAN rejoins DESPATCH will be detached for Pointe Noire.
10. MILFORD will be detached for Pointe Noire at limit of prudent endurance.
11. Ships shift to area (?Q or ?F) W/T organisation at 2000Z/28/10.
12. C. in C.S.A. is requested to pass orders for splitting convoy and to augment escort in (?Cape) area.
(R.A.W.A. 1113Z/20 and 1450Z/20 to Admty, C. in C. S. A.).

Movement Summary. 2000Z/20 Area Q.
SIRIUS, PHOEBE 021.00 S. 010.25 E. to Pointe Noire 20 knots.
EXPRESS, CATTERICK, *ABOUKIR, 035.05 S. 020.30 E. to Simonstown.
NEPAL, 035.05 S. (?023°) 00' E. to Simonstown E.T.A. 0700 (?21st).
SHROPSHIRE, HECLA, ACTIVE, ARROW with C.F.7 *ABOUKIR, 033.12 S. 017.37 E. to the North. *See next page - (C.F.7)*
(C. in C.S.A. 1321C/20 to S. A. Stn.). * *not intended.*

TEWERA. Sailed TEWERA to Diego Suarez, thence Seychelles and Colombo routed as follows:-
(a) 024° 07'S., 035° 44' E.
(b) 016° 30'S., 040° 20' E.
4. S. of A. 7½ knots, E. T. A. Diego Suarez 0900Z/29.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1323Z/20 to Admty etc).

→ DESPATCH. My 0104/20 (See Home Command, Shipping) para.5(a) not to DESPATCH. On completion of this duty DESPATCH is to come under the orders of Comsolantfor.
(D.O. D.(F) Approved A. C.N.S.(F) 1340 A/20 to C. in C.S.A., Cominch (R) R.A.W.A. etc).

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War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

CITY OF CAIRO passengers. Your 2320/18/7. CITY OF CAIRO at Bombay declared her speed 12 knots and embarked 96 passengers there for U.K. On arrival Durban now declared speed $10\frac{3}{4}$ knots due to poor coal, firemen and foul bottom. Having obtained better coal they anticipate maintaining $11\frac{1}{2}$ or better rest of voyage. Permission is requested in view of above to retain the 96 passengers on board for U.K.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1404Z/20 to Admty) Reply 1305/21.

→ MAURETANIA. At 1101Z/20 MAURETANIA sailed for Durban making 21 knots. At 0501Z/22 is estimated time arrival Cast and estimated arrival Jig is 0602Z/30. 3 hours later at Durban. Requirements at Durban; (Alusna Rio 1459/20 to Admty)
W.R. Note. Received from Rio but undecipherable in W.R. Paraphrase received from U.S.N.

U /B 16/10. Following is a repetition of my 0931/20 (Undecipherable.) (begins): Admiralty (R) C. in C.S.A. from R.A.W.A. " S.P. EMALOJA (Swiss) since arrived Takoradi reports having been stopped by German U-Boat in 01.10 N. 02.43 E. at 1915Z/16. U-Boat estimated 350 feet long, painted light grey, two guns". (Ends).
(R.A.W.A. 1521Z/20).

C.F.7. Sailing telegram. Escorts SHROPSHIRE, ARROW, ACTIVE.
See previous page - (Movement Summary)
(N.C. S.O. Capetown 1558Z/20 to Admty etc).

BURDOCK. Proceed Bathurst Salient (As decoded(?through) intended) position 014° N. 019° W.
(R. A. W.A. 1623Z/20 to BURDOCK).

WIVERN. Reference WIVERN's 1027/20 to R.A.W.A. only, intend reducing S. of A. to $12\frac{1}{2}$ knots in order that WIVERN may remain as escort to position B. in view of her reduced endurance.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia. 2227Z/20 to R. A. W. A.).

W.S.23. Departures, 20th, DURBAN, DESPATCH, CARTHAGE, MILFORD, AVONDALE, TAMARISK, KANARIS, with W.S.23 Q.G.B.13, Q.G.A.106.
See previous page.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 2232Z/20 to Admty, etc).

→ MAURETANIA. Serial No.4 Rio de Janeiro departure 20th 1110Z MAURETANIA, Durban, 30th.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2233Z/20 to Admty).

/Shipping...

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War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Shipping
Routes.

Coloured routes and Kapruts refer.
Routes as allocated by N.C.S.O's are passed to
R.A.W.Af and C. in C.S.A. giving name of
ship, route number, speed and first route letter.

No other letters or reference positions are signalled as these
ships can be addressed in Outcon. To avoid the possibility of
duplication of letters by diverting authorities, the following should
not be lettered on the ship's route form:-

- (1) Approach route positions.
- (2) Ports.
- (3) Southern and Alarm.
- (4) R.8 Route which already has numbers. Routes should be lettered
consecutively throughout except as in A.M. 1045B/26/6.*
(D.T. D.2325A/20 to N.C.S.O's Mersey etc (R) C. in C. S.A., R. A.W.A
C. in C.W. A.)

* re 5th Position of Silver Route.

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War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

→ P.211.

See next page.

Should you decide to abandon pursuit and arrive tomorrow make E.T.A. as soon as possible. Do not arrive after 1600A/20th.
(Capt. S. 10 0019A/20 to P.211 (R) 10th S/M F. V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med. Capt.(S) 1.)

Enemy
Units.

At 2210, 1 merchant ship stopped 034° 37' N. 012° 34' E. 1 tanker, 1 merchant ship course 178° 10 knots.
(V.A. Malta 0033A/20 to 10th S/M F.)

Enemy
Tanker,

→ P.211

P.44.

*see pp 620
630
631*

At 0330A tanker torpedoed and merchant ship successfully bombed in position 340° Tripoli 76. (W.D. Note.- See 2115/20) If not in contact endeavour to place yourself between enemy and Tripoli. R/C report following about noon.
(Capt. S.10 0748A/20 to P.211, P.44 (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1.)

Malta
Evacuations.

HE/4431. My HE/4419, 19/10. Gibraltar can accept up to 200 males and 100 females before 28/10. I propose to take such advantage of this as I am able. Troopers pass Colonial Office.
(Govr. Malta 0830Z/20 to W.O. etc.)

PAPANICOLIS.

Steer straight for Beirut at maximum speed, report your position at 1000, air and surface escort is being sent by S.N.O.L.A.
(Capt. S.1 0904C/20 to G.S. PAPANICOLIS.)

Following is a repetition of my 0913/20 (begins):

PRIMULA repeated G. S/M PAPANICOLIS, N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, C. in C. Med. etc. From S.N.O.L.A. Proceed to G/Sm PAPANICOLIS in 033° 16' N. 034° 14' E. at 0900C/20 steering 056° 9 knots and escort her to Beirut. She has damaged hydrophane and cannot dive. (Ends.)

(S.N.O.L.A. 0929C/20 to PAPANICOLIS.)

Cositrep
No.553.

4. Air. Night 18/19. Aircraft from Malta torpedoed a 4000 ton M/V southbound off south coast Sicily and an 8000 ton tanker northbound in Ionian Sea. Explosion seen on M/V which was left down by stern. Tanker brought to a stop. Torpedo aircraft from Egypt attacked a southbound M/V with destroyers N.W. of Derna. Results unobserved. Tobruk harbour bombed. Some small fires started.
19/10. Beaufighters sank a schooner south of Crete and shot down a Ju.52 damaging one Me. (?116 or 110) American Liberators bombed Tobruk harbour claiming hits on shipping. Second formation unable to reach Benghazi owing to bad weather.
(C. in C. M.E. 1140Z/20.)

/Axis ...

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20.10.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Axis Escort
of Turkish
Ships.

My 1553C/12/9 and my 1722C/15/10. Now confirmed Turkish Ships METE and SINOP escorted by Axis Motor Torpedo Boats, Aircraft, between Turkish Territorial Waters and Bourgas. (N.A. Istanbul 1255C/20 to S.O.(I) Med. (R) D.N.I., N.A. Ankara, N.L.O. Black Sea.) W.D. Note. No trace of former.

→ Enemy Units,
Orders to
S/MS.

Aircraft reported sighting only 1 Merchant Ship, 3 Destroyers, 340° Tripoli (Libia) 25 miles at 1030A. P.37 remain vicinity Lampedusa, P.211 and P.44 in present position until p.m. (?R/C) received. UTMOST return to Malta as previously ordered. (Capt. S. 10 1416A/20 to 10 S/M F. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Black Sea.

(i) Naval.

(a) Oct 7th, Russian submarines off Sulina Canal sank one dredger and two hoppers.

Area was patrolled by 4 R-boats and one destroyer.

(b) Oct 10th, in 44° (?57) N. 29° 56½' E. Tussian submarine sank 1 M/V of 6,000 tons.

(c) Oct 17th Russian marines landed behind Novorossisk front carried out small but successful raid on Roumanian garrison.

(d) Night Oct 18th, R-boats shelled vessels at Anapa.

(ii) Novorossisk. Enemy have had some success on S.E. side of Abin river (corrupt group) efforts to widen wedge formed by their earlier drive on Shapsugskaya.

(iii) Maikop Tuapse road. Enemy continues to bomb road and railway. Russian (?reserves) exposed. (?Moscow) front appears unchanged.

(iv) Between (ii) and (iii) enemy units endeavouring to filter up into Caucasus mountains.

(N.L.O. Black Sea 1420C/20 to Admty. Adm. Miles, N.S.O.(I) Istanbul.)

P.35,

P.247.

UTMOST.

P.37

P.211.

→ P.35 reports 0802/10 in 37.53 18.54 fired 3 torpedoes at Westbound "Navigatore" range 2000, unestimated speed, missed. Closed Brindisi forenoon of 14th, no traffic or patrols observed, three small merchant ships in outer harbour. P.35 patrol off harbour for three hours night of 14th/15th to within 3½ miles, no patrols encountered. P.247 report blank. (Capt. S. 10, 1544A/20 to Capt. S.1 (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1416/20th. Torpedoes expended. Propose to (?return) (P.37 1655A/20 to Capt.(S) 10, (R) UTMOST.)

Return to Malta to R/V sweeper at 1016A/21 through following position:

UTMOST 035° 41' 014° 05'.

P.37 035° 36' 014° 09'.

P.211 035° 31' 014° 13'. *in previous page*

Communicate by supersonic telegraphy on reaching sanctuary and surface in above order when ordered by sweeper, if unable to comply make E.T.A. which must be before 1601A.

/P.44 ...

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War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - conts.

P.35, P.247 *etc.* (contd.) P.44 return through last position given above to arrive same time following day. (Capt. S.10, 1726A/20 to 10th S/F (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1.)

Supply Ships for 8th Army. Your 1021/9, (0021/9 intended) only received after repetition at 2045/18. Primarily cause of delay signal sent in cypher not held by P.S.T.O. Egypt. (2) Need is increasingly urgent and time (?particular) problem. (3) Both points mentioned in your para 3 and 5 already covered by full consultations Murrant. In view of losses experienced in past unlikely any balance of cased petrol carriers will remain available for use as store ship. (4) Agreed M.W.T. M.E. and C. in C. M.E. Forces. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1635C/20 to Admty., for D.S.T.)

EURYALUS oiler fire. Oiler heavily on fire, a total wreck and aground, fouling outer oiling berth. Impossible to clear berth or extinguish flames. Marine Superintendent of Oil Company concurs.

Returning Abu Zemina, E.T.A. 1930. Have ordered tug ST. MONANCE to Abu Zemina, E.T.A. 2100 and to sail *MOONSET for Suez. (EURYALUS 1740C/20 to F.O.C. Red Sea Force (R) C. in C. Med.) W.D. Note. Oiler apparently bombed or torpedoed by A/C. See C. in C. Med. 1249C/21 para 3. **not identified.*

Enemy Convoy. Grade D.73. A convoy of five ships ? expected to form Piraeus 21/10. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1855C/20 to S.O.(I) Med. (R) S.1, D.N.I.)

Malta Air Report. I.53 20/10 C.S.R. Night 19/20. 0125, 1 enemy bomber approached Malta at great height. 1 Beaufighter up but raider turned back when 20 miles north of Island having jettisoned bombs in sea. 20th. Enemy employed high flying formations of fighters and fighter bombers using cloud cover in attacks on Takali and Luqa aerodromes. 0540, (?) 30 Me.109s some carrying bombs crossed coast at height using cloud cover and dropped bombs on Takali aerodrome causing no serious damage. 14 Spitfires up but enemy escaped in cloud. 1005. Partial R.D.F. interference was experienced as 32 high flying Me.109s in 5 formations approached Malta above cloud. 8 Spitfires intercepted but enemy had height advantage and 1 Spitfire was damaged, pilot unhurt. Bombs on Luqa aerodrome caused craters on runway rendering aerodrome temporarily unserviceable. 1315. 8 Me.109s approached Malta and partial R.D.F. interference was experienced. 4 Spitfires up but raiders found insufficient cloud cover and turned back 18 miles north of Island. Today in a total of 26 Spitfire Sorties made against 70 enemy Sorties, 1 Spitfire was damaged.

/Night 19/20 ...

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20.10.1942.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-contd.

Malta Air
Report
(contd.)

Night 19/20. 1 special Swordfish, 1 torpedo Swordfish, 2 Torpedo Albacores despatched to attack convoy photographed a.m. by Spitfire found 2110 182° Lampedua 53 miles 2 M/V 6000, 5 D/Rs, course 220° speed 8/10 knots. 3 torpedoes Duplex contact released from 50 foot range 500 yards scoring 1 hit on M/V flash and large cloud of black smoke seen. Smoke obscured results of other torpedoes. (Air H.Q. Malta 2055Z/20.)

3 Wellingtons 8s 2 bombing, 1 torpedo carrying despatched to attack same convoy found (2205 ? hours ?) 170° Lampione 47 miles, 2 M/Vs, 3 D/Rs course 180° speed 7 knots. 1 torpedo duplex contact depth setting 14 ft. released from 85 ft range 1250 yds but no results seen. Four 1000 lb four 500 lb G.P. instantaneous bombs dropped scoring hit on 1 M/V with 1 1000 lb bomb, cloud of black smoke seen. 1 bombing Wellington 8 despatched to attack same target found 0210 hours 180° Lampedusa 60 miles, 1 M/V 5/6000 tons, 1 escort vessel 2 1000 lb instantaneous bombs dropped but no results seen. 1 special Swordfish, 1 torpedo Swordfish, 1 (corrupt group) found 0238 hours 340° Tripoli 76 miles 1 tanker 5/6000 tons, 3 D/Rs course 190° speed 8 - 9 knots. 2 torpedoes duplex contact depth setting 14 ft aimed at tanker released from 40-50 ft range 400-600 yards scored direct hit on tanker causing large green flash. (Air H.Q. Malta, 2115Z/20.)

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20.10.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

MANON H.D. Clark, Master of MANON, reports following. At 1100 G.M.T. on 7/10 in 015° 00' N., 080° 30' E. ship was sunk by one torpedo in vicinity of engine room. No S/M or periscope seen prior or after attack. C.Bs. and Codes thrown overboard and seen to sink. Casualties 5 missing including (?2nd) Engineer, 3 died of wounds, 4 injured. Crew landed in 3 boats at Iskupalli vicinity N(?el)-lore and are now proceeding to Calcutta. Vessel was loaded with 7,100 tons of coal for Colombo. Report on I.D. Form 791 A follows.
(N.C.S.O. Madras, 0459Z/20 to ?S.O.(I) Colombo (R) S.O.(I) Bombay)

HOPESTAR Overdue shipping. HOPESTAR due Bombay 16/10 from Durban not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 0508Z/20 to Admty).

Italian Repatriations. Your 0542/17 (undesirable to use MENDOZA) Propose Italian women and children be embarked in SALWEEN with troops to Suez or can you suggest another ship.
(D.S.T.O. Kilindini, 0658Z/20 to D.S.T.) Agreed SALWEEN. (D.S.T. 0431A/22).

Movement Summary No. 20. 20/10. 1. DAUNTLESS, NAPIER, INCONSTANT, BLACKMORE left Tamatave 18/10 escorting convoy M.D.1. - 3 ships due Durban 24/10 speed 10 knots.
2. HAWKINS left Bombay 20/10 due Colombo 23/10 routed west of Laccadives and via 8° channel.
3. GIORGIOS AVEROFF and PANTHER left Bombay 19/10 for Aden calling at Khorya Morya Is. 23/10 speed approx. 10 knots.
4. HEEMSKERCK, VAN GALEN, TJERK HIDDDES left Diego Garcia 17/10 due Fremantle 25/10.
5. ATHENE left Kilindini 16/10 due Port Elizabeth 23/10.
6. CAIRNS left Fremantle 16/10 escorting one tanker due Diego Garcia 28/10 thence Kilindini due 7/11.
(C. in C. E.F., 0914Z/20 to Admty etc).

*AQUITANIA, DEVONSHIRE. Your 0025/14 and my 1307/6. Propose following amended arrangements. DEVONSHIRE to proceed to Fremantle whence she will be available to escort AQUITANIA at 20 knots to Colombo for fuel and thence to Aden.
2. DEVONSHIRE's endurance does not give sufficient margin for direct passage at high speed from Fremantle to Aden and relief escort in mid-Indian ocean cannot at present be guaranteed. If however AQUITANIA is not herself calling at Fremantle she will presumably require to refuel at Colombo.
3. Request AQUITANIA's intended programme may be communicated. (C. in C. E.F., 0921/20 to Admty (R) A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., F.O. Ceylon). Reply D.O.D. (F) 1105A/22.

Persian Gulf, Dhows, Striking Force. Reply to F.O.C.R.I.N. 1013/29/8. Force to be known as "Patrol Force N.A." Details of motor dhows. (D.A/S.W., 1207A/20) See Lion Copy.

/Colombo...

633A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1207A/20th October
Date 20.10.42 OUT

To F.O.C.R.I.N.211,
Repeated C. in C. Eastern Fleet, 162,
Deputy C.in C. Eastern Fleet,
F.O.I.C. Delhi,
S.N.O. Persian Gulf.
Naval Cypher Flag Out

From Admiralty

Your 1013/29th August.

Para. 1, this is being dealt with separately.

Para. 2, motor dhows only.

Para. 4, T.W.12 sets supplied are self-contained for power. Owing to other more urgent requirements no generating sets are available.

Para. 6. (a) No 250 H.P. Diesel engines can be supplied in less than 12 months. 20 in No. 225 H.P. Gray Marine Diesels could be supplied in U.S.A. and January 1943. These engines would be rated at not more than 145 B.H.P. at 1,800 r.p.m. continuous rating and are fitted with 3:1 reduction gear giving propeller speed of 600 r.p.m. In emergency 225 B.H.P. could be developed. Earlier delivery could be obtained by diversion of some of the engines being supplied to India for 'Z' craft. These are similar engines, except they are fitted with 2:1 reduction gear. If these engines considered suitable, please advise immediately by signal and forward full particulars of stern gear and other associated equipment required by air mail direct to Engineer-in-Chief, Admiralty, Bath, at earliest possible date to enable supply to be arranged. 8 in number 7½ k.w. generators and 16 in No. 7½ cu.ft. electrically heated Electrolux refrigerators can be despatched in approximately 8 weeks. Request consigning instructions for all the above equipment.

(b) Asdic sets Type 134B are not repeat not in production, and consider it unlikely either Type 134 or 134A suitable for dhows. However, sets of these latter types or Type 123A could be made available immediately. One Type 128 for Depot ship

will/...

will be sent forthwith. Report requirements for dhows after further consideration. C.B.4130 may assist.

(c) 9 20" incandescent searchlights, complete with reflectors and lamps, together with 9 spare reflectors, pattern 3938, and 18 spare lamps of 110 volts, pattern 16023, are being supplied.

(d) It is noted that depth-charge gear will be provided from current stock, replacement will be arranged as soon as details are known as to what gear has been used.

Para. 11, Force to be known as "PATROL FORCE N.A."

1207A/20

D.A/S.W. (Tdl. No. 698)

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

1st Lord	D.T.M.	
1st S.L.(2)	E.in C.	
D.F.S.L.	D. of D.	
2nd S.L.	D.N.C.	
3rd S.L.	D.T.S.D.	
Vice Controller	I.P.(2)	
4th S.L.	W.D.	
V.C.N.S.	Dep. Controller)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	E. in C.)
A.C.N.S.(T)	D. of D.)
A.C.N.S.(W)	D.N.C.)
N.A.1st S.L.	D.E.E.) Bath
D.O.D.(F)(2)	D.A/S.W.)
Duty Capt.(2)	R.I.N.L.O.)
D. of F.(2)	D.T.M.)
Hydrog.(2)	D.G.D.)
D. of S.	Hd. of S.W.R.)
D. of F.(Q)		
D.N.I.(4)		
D.S.D.		
D.D.I.C.(2)		
Hd. of M.		
D. of L.D.(2)		
Admiral Blake		
D.D.O.D.(C)		
D.A/S.W. (2)		
D.G.D.		
D.S.V.F.		
D. of S.		
D. of S.T.		

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20.10.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Colombo
Minefield.

Further to A.M. 1655A/14 and F.O. Ceylon's 0501Z/15, provided traffic control over the minefields at Colombo can be enforced there is no objection to Plan B being adopted. It is emphasised that in shallow water which exists in area even the smallest craft may register a crossing over minefield.

Essential therefore that both local craft and larger ships should always use same channel over mineloops.

(D.T.M. 1241A/20 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O. Ceylon).

S/Ms for
A/S Trng.

Your 1346/15/7 my 1210/8/9 and 1944/9/10 and F.O.C.R.I.N's 0545/17/10.

P.552 is the only additional training submarine that will be available before the Spring, 1943. Request information whether you desire P.552 to be based at Kilindini and whether Dutch K.11 can continue at Bombay without refit until about April, 1943.

Request A.M. 1944A/9 be passed to F.O.C.R.I.N. (D.A/S.W., 1729A/20 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.R.I.N. etc).

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War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

SEVERN. B.A.D. Washington pass to all necessary Authorities.
Proceeding direct with all despatch to Halifax to land cases seriously burned.
My P.C.S. at 2300Q/19 039° 27' N 066° 50' W 035° 18 knots passing through 042° 50' (?N) 063° 20' W (?126°)
Request total bombing restrictions may be imposed throughout route. Acknowledge.
(SEVERN 0301Z/20 to B.A.D. (R)C.O.A.C.)
Your 0301/20 to B.A.D. Restrictions arranged, 50 miles ahead and astern 15 miles each side of confirmed course or routing point.
(C.O.A.C. 0625Z/20 to SEVERN (R) B.A.D.)
SEVERN at 2300Z/19 039° 27' N 066° 50' W 18 knots (?through) 042° 50' N 063° 20' W to Halifax.
(C.O.A.C. 0630Z/20 to GB7A.)
Your 0301/20 acknowledged.
(B.A.D. 0735Z/20 to SEVERN.)
U.S. S/M Notice. SEVERN from position 39.27 N 66.50 W at 0300Z/20 proceeding on surface direct to Halifax 18 knots through point 42.50 63.20 W. Modify my 1531/19.
(Cominch 0824/20.)
Your 0625Z/20 (?0630 intended) Confirmed course and speed 035° (?18) knots through 039° 27' N 066° 50' W by 2300Q/19 based on dead reckoning from (corrupt group) Montauk Point. Next fix will be signalled.
(SEVERN 0829Z/20 to C.O.A.C. (R) B.A.D.)
At 0930Q/20 P.C.S. 041° 53' N 065° 12' W 056° 18 knots.
(SEVERN 1335Z/20 to C.O.A.C. (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. Admty.)

O.N.137. C. in C. W.A. please pass C.T.G.24.7, O.N.137.
In view of weakness of escort and existing weather conditions, refer RESTIGOUCHE 2031Z/19, recommend consideration advisability dispersing convoy.
(C.T.F. 24. 0305Z/20 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C & R) (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7.)
Your 0305/20. Intend sailing COBALT, MIDLAND, ORIL&IA a.m. today Tuesday and ROXBOROUGH, MACHINE a.m. tomorrow Wednesday to join O.N.137 if convoy is not dispersed. ~~MARINE~~
(F.O.N.F. 1201Z/20 to C.T.F. 24. (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet. C. in C. W.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.)
C.T.F. 24's 0305Z/20. Recommend ships of 12 knots and over disperse and proceed best speed to New York by straggler route. Remainder to continue in convoy.
(D.T.D. 1211Z/20 to Connav.)
Your 0305Z/20. Do not consider it advisable to disperse convoy O.N.137.
(Connav 1415/20 to C.T.24.)
Your 1211Z/20. Do not concur. Escorts being sailed to augment.
(Cominch C & R 1937/20 to Admty.)

ROSECASTLE Intercept 0729 G.M.T. SSSS 46° 30' N 55° 15' W
U/B. SS. ROSECASTLE attacked by sub. de VCE.
(Valentia Radio, 0730, C.O.A.C. 0804Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

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20.10.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B C.E.S.F's 2046/19. S/M estimate 0800Q/20.
Positions. (Comnaveu 0751/20 to Admty.)

Attacks Cominch's 2129/19 addressed for action to Admty.
on U/Bs. and for information to B.A.D. and Comnaveu,
informs as follows:
This refers to Admty. 1059B/22/7. 17/10. An
incomplete report of a mousetrap attack off Charleston, South
Carolina, was received. Three hits were reported and no further
details. In U.S. Strategic Area the only other attacks of interest
were by VISCOUNT, FAME and POTENTILLA. We assume that you have
full account of these. In week ending October 18/2400Z, 36
attacks were reported.
(Comnaveu 0934/20 to Admty.)

Trawler Cominch's 2134/19 informs as follows:-
Escort of Referring to my 2124/15. (reference not received
Tankers. by Comnaveu) Desire employment of trawlers as
escort for special tanker movements from Trinidad
to Freetown. This movement is to be given
precedence over all others.
(Comnaveu 0937/20 to Admty.)

W.I.M.R.I. Amendment number 235. Para. 35, Capetown, line 9,
add after to make position (1). All ships are
keeping outside a circle radius 70 miles from
Green Point Light during dark hours. Ships should not reduce
speed in order to conform but should if necessary increase
zigzagging or reverse ?course. Such action should be taken well
before ship arrives in Cape Victoria and without departing from
prescribed route.
(Bermuda 1002Q/20 to A.I.G. 129, 130.)

RENONCULE My 1904/19. For 1030/20 read 1630/20. E.T.A.
for St. Pierre a.m./21.
St. Pierre. (F.O.N.F. 1020Z/20 to C.T.F. 24.)

Movements 1800 G.M.T./20.
Summary. Ship. Position. Course. Speed.
NIGERIA 33° N 59½° W 265° 19
ROYAL }
SOVEREIGN } 38½° N 74½° W 319° 13½
2 destroyers)
Dutch S/M.K.15 30½° N 61½° W 297° 9
GRIFFIN 37° N 27° W 068° 11½
ASTURIAS 08° N 28° W Patrol Blank
T.A. 25. 44° N 35½° W 250° 25
(D.O.D. (F.) 1110Z/20 to Opnav. (R) Comnaveu.)

STEEL My 1726/17. Georgetown reports STEEL SCIENTIST
SCIENTIST. sunk 1912/10 005° 48' N 051° 40' W. Master and
W/T operator landed New Amsterdam, 3 other boats
away. N.O.B. and A.B.N.O. Trinidad, Comcarib and
Washington informed.
(S.O.I.) Jamaica 1116R/20 to Admty. etc.)

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War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B
O.N.137. By D/F at 0912Z U-Boat in vicinity O.N.137.
(D.D.I.C. 1121A/20 to Escorts O.N.137.)
D/F bearings at 0912Z/20, 1009Z and 1110Z
indicate at least one U-Boat is shadowing and
reporting you.
(D.D.I.C. 1251A/20 to Escorts of O.N.137.)

U/B
Campaign. Connav's 2035/19 informs as follows:-
Connav Serial 19.
FLENSBERG on 7/10, 10.15 N 45.50 W was torpedoed
and sunk.
U.S.S. POLARIS on 16/10 was sunk by internal explosion in Davis
Strait.
ANGELINA on 18/10, 49.39 N 30.20 W was torpedoed and sunk.
OZARK on 18/10, 60.50 N 41.15 W was adrift without rudder.
(Comnav 1212/20 to Admty.)

POTENTILLA
survivors
of sunk
ships. ^{Liverpool} E.T.A. 0800Z/21.A.F.O. 2901/41.
(A) POTENTILLA. (B) (1) SOUTHERN EMPRESS.
(2) FAGERSTEN. (3) NELLIE.
Also transferred 71 survivors to SS. SUDEROY
destination Clyde.
ACANTHUS in company with 20 German submarine
survivors.
(POTENTILLA 1215Z/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

H.X.210. Average speed 8.86 knots. Strong head winds day
after leaving New York. Gales on 13th and 14/10
causing damaged deck cargoes. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 1223A/20 to Connav. N.S.H.Q.)

Attacks on
U/Bs. D.A/S.W. 1235A/20 to Cominch etc.
See U-Boat Campaign.

ILEX. Your 1829/19. On completion of working up ILEX
should be sailed for Freetown via Trinidad.
2. She may be employed as escort but only if not
appreciably delayed thereby.
(D.O.D. (F) 1327A/20 to B.A.D.)
Cancel my 1829/19. Your 1548/22/7 will be complied with.
(B.A.D. 1851Z/20 to Admty.)

CHURCHILL Request CHURCHILL may be taken in hand for annual
refit in accordance with my 2019/19/9: that name
of refit port be communicated and ship sailed as
requisite.
Admty. 1856/21/9 refers. C.E.S.F. pass to
CHURCHILL.
(C.O.A.C. 1517Z/20 to B.A.M.R. C.E.S.F. (R) B.A.D.
etc.)

/Commodores...

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War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Commodores Your 1743/18.
New York. 1. Propose send Comdre. Watson and Comdre. Mackay as Vice Comdre in S.C.107, Comdre. Manners and Comdre. Wakeman Colville as Vice Comdre in S.C.108. This will reduce average stay New York to 7 days providing O.N. Commodores arrive regularly.

2. Only case of Vice Comdre returning as Comdre was Woodward. This officer stated on arrival New York that he had instructions to return as Comdre in view of experience as Captain of A.M.C.

3. Arrangements were made accommodate Comdres New York Athletic Club next door B.R.L.O's office but majority Comdres requested arrangements be made Barbizon Plaza which hotel is situated mid-way between town Manhattan 5 miles from B.R.L.O's office.

4. Transportation available 1 station wagon delivered few days ago by purchasing commission.
(B.N.L.O. New York 1532Z/20 to Admty.)
Para 1 concur.(D.T.D. 1749A/21.)

U/B S/M estimate 20/10 and U.S. S/M Notice.
Positions. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1537/20, 1621/20, 1622/20, 1623/20.)

A.T.27. Now that COAMO and BORINQUEN are not sailing, SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH sailing from Halifax 29/10 will be known as A.T.27.
(B.A.D. 1701Z/20 to Admty.)
Cancelled by B.A.D. 0023Z/22. q.v.

Convoy Personal for B.A.D. We are much concerned over
Diversions some of the drastic alterations of route which
by Connav. Connav has given to convoys in his area such as O.N.113 and O.N.115.

2. It is our opinion that :-
(a) since escorts are allowed to carry out evasive steering at their discretion, shore authorities should not attempt to divert a convoy solely to throw off U-Boats known to be in contact.
(b) The effect of alterations of course after dark may be to shake off a shadower, but such action will not get the convoy out of the particular area in which U-Boats are operating and may result in the destroyers of the escort being obliged to leave the convoy before the local escort joins.
(c) If several U-Boats are operating in the area, the value of evasive steering is reduced, as in evading one U-Boat the convoy may well run into another.
(d) In general, the shortest route to safer waters is the soundest policy, and by safer waters is meant those nearest where additional air and/or surface escort can be provided.

3. Request you will, when opportunity occurs, represent our views as above to Connav.
(D.T.D. Approved by A.C.N.S.(T.) 1911A/20 to B.A.D.)

/30 M.L. Flotilla...

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

30 M.L. Departure 1930Z/20, 30th M.L. Flotilla to Halifax
Flotilla. passing through following positions
(l) 046° 30' N 060° 06' W. (m) 046° 31' N 059°
42' W. (n) 046° 03' N 059° 19' W. (o) 045°
49' N 059° 29' W. (p) 044° 59' N 060° 59' W. (q) 044° 29' N
062° 27' W. W/T guard on 425 K/cs and 2410 K/cs E.T.A. 1500Z/21.
(N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B. 1935Z/20 to B.A.D. etc.)

MEADOWS My 2141/19, for Oct. 30 read Nov. (?30)
SWEET (C.O.A.C. 1944Z/20 to C.T.F. 24.)
(ready (Amended in 19/10.)
for sea)

U/B Connav's serial 20. WINONA returned Trinidad
Campaign. (?under) own power, serial 17 refers. STEEL
SCIENTIST serial 16 corrected, torpedoed sunk 11/10
05.48 N 51.50 W. POLARIS serial 19 not U.S.S.
Was U.S. flag less than 1,000 tons.
(Connav 1955/20 to Connaveu.)

Coastal Coastal convoy daily summary 1900Z/20.
Convoys. Spec convoy GTMO 1300/19 E.T.A. San Juan 0630/22.
B.R.N.2. U.S.A.T. COL. JOHNSON, DELISLE, JONATHAN GROUT,
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, all San Juan.
G.Z.8 arrived 1640/19.

W.A.3 1100/19 arrived Aruba 2100. One ship BIRKENHEAD.
B.R.N.2* Brazilian northbound convoy sailed Recife 2200/18. E.T.A.
Trinidad 1000/30. 12 Trinidad - COURAGEOUS, FELIX TAUSSIG,
VACUUM, NEWTON ASH, LINDENHALL, ST. CLEARS, OTINA, LEDA ARACAJU,
PIRAILOIDE, BAALBEK, TERCERO. EMILIA, Georgetown.
Spec convoy from Curacao 2200/19. E.T.A. Puerto La Cruz 1000/21.
4 Puerto La Cruz and return - JEAN EMERY, GLITTRE, BRITISH
INDUSTRY, TARIA. Two La Guaira - MALANG, CACIQUE. LARA, Puerto
Cabello. KONINGIN EMMA for Trinidad joining from La Guaira.
N.G.315, delete Alexandria.
G.N.12, GEO. WASHINGTON redestined New York.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C & R 2011/20 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)
* W.D. Note: No trace of B.R.N.1 in W.D.

Corvette N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1726Z/?12 and 1706Z/25.
groups. 2nd Canadian corvette group will consist of VILLE
DE QUEBEC, S.O. Lieut. Cdr. (?A) R. (?E) Coleman,
R.C.N.R. PORT ARTHUR, BADDECK, ALBERNI (?and)

SUMMERSIDE.
3rd. Canadian Corvette group will consist of REGINA, S.O. Acting
Lieut. Cdr. H. Freeland, R.C.N.R. CALGARY, KITCHENER, CAMROSE,
MOOSEJAW and ALGOMA.
(2) Request group numbers and call signs be allocated first
second and third Canadian Corvette Group.
(N.S.H.Q. 2057Z/20 to Admty.)

/Sub attack...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- Sub. attack and sighting summary. ^{see p. 635} Para A. ROSECASTLE, torpedoes miss 46.30 N 55.15 W. 0715Z/20.
- Para B. R.A.F. Plane attacks sub. 58 N 26.48 W. 1113Z/19.
- Para C. Patrol craft sights sub on surface in moonlight 33.28 N 78.10 W 0705Z/20. Coast Guard and Fisherman report sub 43.52 N 69.15 W. 1810Z/19. U.S.S. TURQUOISE attacks contact 14.50 N 67.25 W 1000Z/19.
- Para D. CCP Plane sights oil slick 40.44 N 72.07 W. 20/10. Army Plane attacks swirl 33.57 N 77.08 W 1607Z/20. Army Plane sights persicope 23.30 N 82.22 W 2018Z/19. Fisherman sights sub on surface 30.30 N 81.25 W 2152Z/19. BUTTERCUP attacks sound contact about 40.05 N 73.43 W 19/10. Sub reported about 15.10 N 83.20 W 1430Z/18.
(Cominch 2120/20 to Admty.)
- 37 Escort Group. Your 1003Z/17 (?C. in C. W.A.'s 1003/17 intended. Re. 37th Escort Group.) Suggest 37th Escort Group remain under Admty. control when operating west of Chop. Request U.S.A. Authorities concerned be kept fully informed of operations.
(Cominch 2150/20 to Admty.)
- A.S.8. Connav's 1446/20 informs as follows:
Estimated P.C.S. 1900Z/20. 30.40 S 27.45 W. 114° 18.
(Comnav 2209/20 to Admty.)
- U/B. Coast Watcher report submarine sighted on surface 047° 35' N 058° 53' W at 2230Z/20 later submerged.
(C.O.A.C. 2255Z/20 to G.B.7. A.G.B.7. A.G. C.T.F.24.)
- U/B. S/M reported sighted on surface 3 miles S.W. of channel Head approx. 047° 32' N 059° 12' W at 2230Z/20.
(C.O.A.C. 2321Z/20 to G.B.7. A.G.B.7. A.G. C.T.F. 24.)

War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 271, 19/10.
Photographic R/C Buin Faisi Area afternoon 19/10 indicated 41 vessels including one possible battleship or heavy cruiser, one possible converted aircraft carrier or large seaplane tender, Tonan Maru type, two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, probably 17 destroyers and patrol craft, one seaplane tender Chiyoda Type, 12 merchant vessels, 5 unidentified vessels, principally small craft, ten probable fighters, visible dispersal Bays Buin Aerodrome.

2. Air R/C 19th Vella Lavella Gizocrendova Is. Area reported nil shipping from 25,000 feet.
3. Air R/C Aroe Is. same day reported six small craft Dobo, thirteen tugs or barges Oedjir Is. Area.
4. Allied R/C aircraft sighted one enemy fighter patrolling off Buna and three off Finschafen but nil interception.
5. Gasmata aerodrome considered possibly serviceable for fighters.
6. Allied troops maintained constant pressure enemy positions near Templetons Crossing 18/10. Three enemy counter attacks repulsed this day causing enemy fifty casualties. Increased enemy patrols and mortar activity reported this area.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0602Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

AQUITANIA My 1632/19 (?1636/19 intended, re escort proposals escort. for AQUITANIA.) (?South Pacific Force) approves
see p. 633 ACHILLES (?commuting) this duty. F.O.C. Red Sea Force pass to P.S.T.O. Egypt.
(N.B. Wellington 1137M/20 to Admty.)

P.S.T.O. Egypt has reported that there are about 1100 Military for Australia and New Zealand for embarkation in AQUITANIA, sailing from Suez about 2/11.

2. Request confirmation that in view of the high speed of this ship and difficulty of providing escort you have no objection to these numbers being carried unescorted.

(D.O.D. (F.) 2305A/20 to A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1432A/20, 1508A/20.)

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War Diary.20.10.1942.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.Weekly
Summary.

My 1059/22/7.

On 12th a Liberator H.120 attacked a U-Boat near O.N.136 with six 270 lbs. Torpex tail and nose spoiler depth-charges and straddled her amidships, three or four minutes later a white cylinder 18" in diameter and then a green object 1 ft. in diameter with bolts on top and down sides were seen. This same aircraft attacked a U-Boat in 53° 58' N 33° 43' W which is the longest distance from base at which an attack so far has been recorded.

On 15th VISCOUNT rammed and sank a U-Boat and on the 16th FAME followed her example and took 39 prisoners. On the next day POTENTILLA attacked a U-Boat with gunfire and then depth-charges. These three ships were escorting S.C.104.

CELANDINE escorting O.N.137 sighted and attacked a U-Boat with a 50 ft. pattern and reported attack believed to be successful. (D.A/S.W. 1235A/20 to Cominch. B.A.D. etc.)

*U.353

*U.614

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21.10.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

KRAKOWIAK and TYNEDALE, who with 3 M.T.Bs were endeavouring to intercept 2 enemy T.Bs expected to leave Le Havre came under fire from the Guernsey batteries at 2142 today at ranges up to about 40000 yards. The ships were straddled but not hit.

R/C of Narvik at 1245 today showed 3 destroyers, SCHEER and TIRPITZ in line ahead moving eastward in Ofotfiord and HIPPER unescorted off the mouth of Skjommenfiord on a westerly course. The possibility of the main units moving south is indicated, and F.S/M. JUNON, returning to Lerwick from patrol has been ordered to proceed to patrol near 61° 45' N 4° 5' E (where she will be able to stay only 3 days, owing to shortage of lubricating oil), and UREDD was ordered to remain on patrol near 61° 15' N 4° 22' E.

An aircraft of Coastal Command reports having attacked and severely damaged a submarine at 1055 in 58° 3' N 24° 5' W.

Sixty Fortresses and 24 Liberators took off about noon to attack Lorient, accompanied by 9 Squadrons of Spitfires and 2 Squadrons of Lightnings.

One of 7 Stirlings returning from minelaying off the Frisian Is. and Elbe was shot down by L.A.A. at Yarmouth at 2140 today. At 2053 hostile aircraft dropped 2 bombs on Yarmouth and Roads; there was no naval damage.

North Atlantic.

Three enemy aircraft dropped bombs in the sea near Gibraltar at 2035 today.

South Atlantic.

The Master of the SS. BARON OGILVY (British) which was sunk by a U-Boat on 29/9 in 2° 30' N 14° 30' W, states that he received a diversion signal, acted upon it and found the U-Boat lying in wait for his ship. He is of the opinion that the U-Boat intercepted and understood the diversion signal.

War Diary.

21.10.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

There were no enemy air attacks on Malta last night. Today, the enemy continued to use formations of high flying German and Italian fighters escorting bomb carrying Me.109s using cloud cover to attack Luqa and Takali Aerodromes. Some damage was caused at Luqa. There were 195 enemy sorties and 56 Spitfire sorties; losses were very small on both sides.

In addition to her attack on a convoy on 19/10 (q.v) P.37 returning from her first patrol from Malta reports that at 1520/8 she sank the southbound coaster LUPA in 33° 41' N 11° 14' E and at 1900/9 in 34° 8' N 11° 0' E a southbound schooner, the former by demolition, the latter by fire after the vessels had been abandoned following the use of P.37's gun. At 2225/9 she torpedoed a southbound ship, apparently a tanker in 34° 2' N 11° 5' E. The surrounding sea was alight for some hours.

East Indies.

SS. MARTABAN, which was torpedoed on 13/10 and was taken in tow by ASTER on 16/10 arrived at Trincomalee at 0030Z today, having been in tow of ASTER, stern first since 16/10.

America and West Indies.

N.O.I.C. St. John N.B. reports that SS. GATINEAU PARK reports severe damage to her port A.N.D. at 1415P/7 and it appears probable that the vessel was attacked by a U-Boat, 5 of which are known to have been within 60 miles of the ship 12 hours previously.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN (Eastern Fleet) arrived at Philadelphia today, to refit.

War Diary.

21.10.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

S/Ms for A/S Training. Your 1803/20. Regret that no more subs are at present available for A/S training in home waters. The number should however increase at early date when P.555 and P.556 join and D.S. 0.9 and D.S.

O.10 rejoin the 7th Sub. Flotilla.

(F.O.S. 1109A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

(a) Owing to acute shortage of S/Ms for A/S training in northern waters it is regretted that H.33 cannot be spared for A/S training in your command on her way north.

(b) It is hoped P.34 will be made available about mid November for a period of some 3 weeks for A/S training and R.D.F. trials. (F.O.S. 2206A/21 to C. in C. Plymouth.) ** See next page*

North Atlantic dispositions.

Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic. Operating in Northern Waters: ARGONAUT

Area Iceland (C)

Two destroyers.
ANSON
BERWICK
SUFFOLK
LONDON

Area Scapa:

Two destroyers.
KING GEORGE V.
NELSON
REOWN
RODNEY
FORMIDABLE
CUMBERLAND
SCYLLA
SUSSEX

Area Clyde:

12 destroyers.
VICTORIOUS
JAMAICA
SHEFFIELD
AVENGER

Area Belfast:

Two destroyers

Passage to Gibraltar

DELHI
FURIOUS

Area Gibraltar.

Two destroyers
CHARYBDIS.

(D.O.D.(H.) 1203Z/21 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Irish Sea Escort Force.

A.M. 2117/23/3, my 1231/24/3, your 2139/20. It is strongly stressed that the present allocation of KIHNA may stand in order to maintain an already reduced Irish Sea escort force at Holyhead.

(C. in C. W.A. 1311A/21 to Admty.)

N.P. Trawlers.

1. The agreement of the Air Ministry has been obtained to the withdrawal of Northern Patrol trawlers from Air Sea rescue work for operation "Knocker".

2. They may now revert to their normal duties. (D.O.D.(H.) 1443A/21 to A.C.O.S.)

War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - contd.31st
M.L.F.

The 31st M.L. Flotilla consisting of M.Ls 554, 555, 556, 557, 560, 561, 564 and one other boat to be nominated later is allocated to Plymouth until required for foreign service.
(DD.O.D. (C.) 1449A/21 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Landing
Craft.

The following is the provisional allocation of landing Craft for training purposes in the North. The figures will be altered as more craft become available. Details.
(R.A.L.B. 1915A/21 to S.O. A.S.C.)

Movements.BLUEBELL,
CAMELIA.

My 2105A/20. BLUEBELL, CAMELIA sailed 0530A/21.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 0735A/21.)

HARRIER,
GLENER,
BRYONY,
BERGAMOT.

/Kohler Subst
Arrived 0800/21. HARRIER, GLENER, BRYONY,
BERGAMOT.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0808A/21.)

SHEFFIELD.
JAMAICA.

Clyde arrival F.O.10th C.S. in SHEFFIELD and
JAMAICA.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0844A/21.)

* H.33. Your 1043A/20 and your 1610A/20. MEYNELL detailed.
FEE DES EAUX. Ship will pass Medway Gate at 1415/22.

(Capt. D.21 1046A/21 to C. in C. Nore.)
* *from previous page* MEYNELL is to take H.33 under her orders and
leave Sheerness to pass Medway Gate at 1415/22. Speed to be
adjusted to arrive Sandhead buoy at 1910/22, E.A.5 buoy at
0930/23, thence to Portsmouth.
2. N.C.S.O. Thames is requested to pass route in the vicinity of
J.buoy and also to sail motor fishing vessel FEE DES EAUX for
Dover and onward passage as necessary so that MEYNELL overtakes
her in the vicinity Elbow buoy.
3. MEYNELL is to be stationed ahead and is to keep finely on
seaward bow of H.33 and is to operate S.A. gear while on passage.
(C. in C. Nore 1208A/21.)

BLYSKAWICA,
COWDRAY,
BRAMHAM for
Gibraltar.

Situation report at 2000. BLYSKAWICA, COWDRAY,
BRAMHAM 48° 58', 13° 30' to 39° 01', 13° 30',
16 knots.
(C. in C. W.A. 1359A/21.)

P.614.

Intend sailing H.M. Submarine P.614 at 1900A/25
from (a) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, dive by day
through (b) 049° 40' 013° 01'. (c) 046° 30'
013° 20' to (d) 043° 01' 013° 30', E.T.A. 0100A/30, and then as
routed F.O.C.N.A. and R.A. W. Africa to Freetown.
(Capt. S.3 1421A/21.)

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21.10.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

UNBEATEN. Intend sailing UNBEATEN at 1900A/25 from
 (A) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles give by day through
 (e) 050° 01' 008° 01'. (f) 050° 01' 013° 01'
 (g) 045° 01' 013° 01'. (h) 043° 30' 012° 01'
 E.T.A. 0600A/30. Thence dive by day to patrol as ordered in
 F.O.(S)'s S M 04318 of 20/10/42.
 (Capt. S.3 1509A/21.)

→ JUNON. E.T.A. Lerwick 0900/22. My position is 062°
 30' N. 002° 08' E.
 (JUNON 1602A/21.)

SCYLLA. Proceed to Rosyth passing Hoxa gate at 2100A/21.
 (2) While at Rosyth ship is to be at four hours
 notice from 0600 to 1600 and at 12 hours notice
 from 1600 to 0600 daily.
 (3) Be ready to leave Rosyth on 24/10.
 (C. in C. H.F. 1617A/21 to SCYLLA.)

RODNEY. My 1906/5. Request you will sail RODNEY
 escorted by PANTHER, PENN, and LOOKOUT for
 Gibraltar p.m. on 23rd.
 2. Route. Southbound through the Minches to F. 180° Barra
 Head 10'. G. 5525 1101. H. 54° 16'. J. 52° 20'.
 K. 4605 2130. L. 39° 19'. M. 37° 15'. N. 3610 0945. thence
 to Gibraltar.
 (D.O.D. (H.) 1922A/21 to C. in C. H.F.)

BERMUDA. BERMUDA 1232/19. ^{/N.T. - N.D.} Is BERMUDA ready for service.
 (C. in C. H.F. 2357A/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operations.

S/M Cancel Capt. (S) 9 1641/20. Remain on patrol
 Patrols. in vicinity 061° 15' N. 004° 22' E. Attention
 is called to my 1219/9 para 7.
 (F.O.S. 0856A/21 to UREDD.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/22 and movements for follow-
 ing 24 hours. UREDD in zone K.5. D. GRAPH in zones K.501
 and K.505. E. SEALION in zone K.506.

(F.O.S. 1702A/21.)

→ JUNON proceeding forthwith diving by day to patrol
 vicinity 061° 45', 004° 05' E.

(F.O.S. 1839A/21.)

(A) P.R.U. (Corrupt Group) 1230/21 indicates possibility
 of main units moving South. (B) Your object is cruisers and
 above. (C) JUNON patrolling North of 061° 30' N. and UREDD
 South of 061° 30' N.

(F.O.S. 1921A/21 to S/Ms.)

Owing to shortage of lubricating oil can stay only 3 days
 on patrol.

(JUNON 1947A/21.)

/Operation ...

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War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.

Operation E.Z. Cancel my 1635A and my 1855A/20. Russian destroyers SOKRUSHITELNI and *GREMSHCI will now meet you at 1600C/21 in 069° 48' N. 036° 12' E. If not met they will avoid encounter after dark.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0945A/21 to ARGONAUT (R) INTREPID, OBDURATE.) *GREMYASHCHNI.

Patrols. Intend M.G.B's 54 (S.O) 52, 50 to Patrol on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 35' W. and 2° 10' W. tonight, leaving Weymouth 1930/21 and leaving patrol line at dawn. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1202A/21.)

Information 2 T.Bs may leave Le Havre at 1730 tonight proceeding westwards and probably passing east of Guernsey. Gussed speed 25 knots.

2. Object to destroy both the T.Bs.
3. Execution KRAKOWIAK take TYNEDALE and M.T.Bs 203, 235, and 240 under his orders and leave Dartmouth in company at 25 knots at 1815/21. *See P 643.*
4. Proceed through positions (A) 216° Les Hanois 10 miles and (B) 141° Les Hanois 16 miles, then sweep to N.E. at 15 knots as far as position (C) 49° 30' N. 02° 10' W.
5. If contact is not made on reaching (C) return to (B) at 25 knots. Then repeat sweep at 15 knots.
6. If contact is not made on again reaching (C) proceed north of Guernsey, destroyers to Plymouth, M.T.Bs to Dartmouth, parting company in 180° Start 10'. Speed to be adjusted to reach this position at daylight.
7. If not in the position at daylight or if forces are separated S.Os are to signal probable daylight position for fighter cover stating intended route.
8. S.O. has discretion either to abandon the operation altogether or to abandon the second sweep from (B) to (C) or to detach the M.T.Bs at anytime, if weather conditions prove unsuitable.
9. Codeword for operation "Limited".
(C. in C. Plymouth 1611/21.)
Cancel my 1202A/21 owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1708A/21.)
M.Ls 150 and 148 from Ramsgate Patrolling between Dumpton and N.E. spit buoys. E.T.D. 1850. E.T.R. 0710/22.
(V.A. Dover 1814A/21.)

E.G.37. Passing through 056° 21' N. 014° 46' W. 271°, 12½ knots. Steering to position B. Anticipate meeting a.m. 23rd.
(MYOSOTIS 2200A/21 to BLACK SWAN.)

War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

Exercise. On completion of bombardment join FORMIDABLE exercising in B.C.D.E. and relieve METEOR on her screen. METEOR return Scapa on release. Serial 84 cancelled.
(R.A.D. H.F. 0705A/21 to ASHANTI.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Lyme Bay. 1 A/C shadowing. My position 50° 21' N.
3° 08' W.
(M/S 4 1634A/21.)

Iceland. F.W. sighted from Skalar 066° 20' 014° 43' at 0800, course N.W. and from Raufarhofn 066° 27' 015° 56' at 1205, course E.
(A.C.I.C. 1815A/21.)

Iceland. F.W. sighted from Skalar 066° 20' 014° 43' at 0800, course N.W. and from Raufarhofn 066° 27' 015° 56' at 1205, course E.
(A.C.I.C. 1815A/21.)

Mining.

Convoy sweep. Departure ROWAN and ENSAY sweeping ahead of "Skipper".
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0725A/21.)

Operation E.Y. On 20/10 Channel 4 cables wide ?with centre line 093° from position 0.7 miles Gullsteinseyri Beacon 113° for 2.055 miles, thence 064° for 2.9 miles, thence 3 cables either side to position Y. Swept. My 2345/17 para 1. Channel swept. Negative result.
(A.C.I.C. 1114A/21.)

North Russian operations. Your 1521/20th. Can well appreciate your difficulties, but please do not allow urgency or importunity of requests from Russian Staff in operations outside the White Sea to force you into altering plans.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1325A/21 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Explosion. Investigating explosion 59° 53' N. 6° 20' W.
(A/C 6 VUE 1401/21.
My 1401. Nothing more.
(A/C 6 VUE 1435/21.)

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War Diary.

21.10.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by Sweeper in 209° B 6 A Buoy 4 cables at 2109/20. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1450/21 and 1520/21.)

Lyme Bay. Intend sailing BRECON CASTLE and LOCH BUIE for Dartmouth at 0700 tomorrow sweeping route 'P' to Dart Buoy. Codeword "Ounce VI". (F.O.I.C. Portland 1720A/21.)

My 1808A/19. Depth swept southward of route M. increased to 16 cables with negative results. Intend sailing five ships of 4th M.S.F. and two trawlers at 0730 tomorrow to complete clearance, proceeding to Portland on completion for coaling. Codeword "Scent".

(M/S 4 2019A/21 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Swedish Coast and Baltic. (a) With the torpedoing of German Ferry DEUTSCHLAND with German leave troops on board off Trelleborg by Soviet S/M yesterday, there now remain only the two Swedish Ferries to operate Trelleborg - Sassnitz service which at present moment is temporarily suspended.

(b) I asked Chief of Naval Staff this morning to give me an assurance that German troops would not in future be carried in these Swedish vessels instead but this he could not do because he said it was mainly a matter for his Government to decide.

(c) Normally German troops from Norway proceeding on leave use almost entirely the Helsingborg - Helsingor route via Denmark which resumed its full service on 14/10 when Danish Ferry SVEA had replaced the DAN after it had been mined. Troops began to use this route again on 17/10 and still continue to do so each day by two ferries and it seems probable that all German troops proceeding on leave will once more avail themselves of this route.

2. Soviet S/Ms.

(a) Two are believed to be operating in lower Baltic and 2 or 3 in Bothnian Gulf. They are now believed to be due to return to base. Graded A.2.

(b) The Finns have mined the passage to westward of Aalands some three weeks ago. Graded B.1.

(c) Recent extensive claims to have sunk German vessels cannot be substantiated in responsible Swedish quarters.

3. Large number of mines now being washed ashore on Swedish west coast as reported in Press is a seasonal event after westerly gales. I learn from Director of Mining that these mines are evenly apportioned between British and German origin and that no new types have been observed. (N.A. Stockholm 1717/20.)

/TIRPITZ ...

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - contd.

TIRPITZ, Visual R/C of Narvik 1245/21 shows TIRPITZ
HIPPER, stationary out of her berth. KOLN inside boom.
SCHEER. HIPPER and four destroyers under way steering
into fjord. SCHEER leaving town steering down
fjord.

(D.D.I.C. 1821A/21.)

My 1821A/21. Photographic interpretation shows 3
destroyers, SCHEER and TIRPITZ in line ahead moving E. in
Ofotenfjord. HIPPER unescorted off mouth of Skjommenfjord on
westerly course. Vessel previously reported as KOLN is yacht
GRILLE alongside at Narvik.
(Admiralty 2205A/21.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat Am over enemy submarine in 58° 3' N. 24° 5' W.
attacked. Periscope only sighted. Submarine submerged on
a course 270°, speed 6 knots.
(A/C BO.206 1052/21.)

Enemy submarine has been severely damaged by (? air attack)
(A/C 206 1055/21 to 15 Group.)

By D/F at 1830Z/21 U-Boat probably inward bound was anywhere
within 20 miles of 45° 20' N. 9° 40' W.

(D.D.I.C. 2038A/21 to GRAPH, SEALION.)

By D/F at 2211Z/21 U-Boat was in approx. 44° 30' N. 5° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 2358A/21 to SEALION.)

Casualties and Defects.

WEDGEPORT. Have run aground.
(WEDGEPORT 0635A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My position now is 054° 50' N. 005° 20' W.
(WEDGEPORT 0640/21.)

Your 0640/21. Check position.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0655A/21 to WEDGEPORT.)

My 0640/21. My position 4 miles North of South Rock Light
Vessel.

(WEDGEPORT 0720A/21.)
Arrived WEDGEPORT with grounding damage.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1340A/21.)

BRIXHAM. BRIXHAM 1100/20. BRIXHAM unable to comply with
your 1410A/16. Completion date noon 24th.
see p. 653 (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1258A/21 to Admty.)

EMPIRE Arrived SCHELDE with tow.
PLANET. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1700A/21.)

MENESTHEUS. Your 1825A/20. *INT. 21.3.* Approved to be taken in hand
by Messrs. Harland and Wolff, North Woolwich.
(D. of D. 1819A/21 to F.O.I.C. London.)

War Diary.

21.10.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

SOLANDA. N.A.B. SOLANDA completely burnt out at Port Bannatyne today following severe petrol explosion.
(VARBEL 2047A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

W.S. FARISH. Following received from Lands End Radio. Received at 2156 G.M.T. from W.S. FARISH 0230 Standard Time of 0 G.M.T. 22nd. Require assistance manoeuvre in engine, request tug and pilot meet me as soon as possible. 2100 G.M.T/21. Ends.
(C.C.O. Plymouth 2256/21.)

Shipping and Convoys.

S.L.124. Sailed Norwegian Whaler MOLDE to meet S.L.124.
(Cdre. Londonderry 0010/21.)

A.T.26. Convoy A.T.26, comprising U.S. MARIPOSA is due Liverpool 28/10 with approximately 4,000 U.S. personnel on board.
(D.S.T. 0230A/21.)

U.S. ships for Kirkwall. A.M. 1545/20. (1) CAMPION, STONECROP are to escort convoy from Belfast to Kirkwall.
(2) SALADIN, SCIMITAR are to R/V from Aultbea as arranged by N.O.I.C. Belfast and act as additional escort.
(C. in C. W.A. 1032A/21.)
C. in C. W.A. 1032A/21. R/V for SALADIN and SCIMITAR in 057° 54' N. 006° 00' W. at 1500A/23.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1807A/21.)

W.S.24. My 1232/8. Request you will sail Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW with ORIBI and OFFA to Londonderry to arrive a.m. 28th and refuel.
(2) Destroyers are required to escort convoy W.S. 24.
(C. in C. H.F. 1131A/21 to R.A.D.)

K.M.S.1. "Wiseacre 1" and PHILANTE E.T.A. Toward Point 1830A today.
(PHILANTE 1207A/21.)

Your 1810/20. Regret no additional escort available
K.M.S.I. Consider A/S escort 11 ships apart from minesweepers is sufficient.
(2) It is hoped additional escort 4 ships will be available for K.M.F.I. to 100 fathom line.
(C. in C. W.A. 1308A/21 to S.O. Force "E".)
Intend sailing convoy composed and escorted as in A.M. 1948A/15 passing Clyde boom 1900A/22 to R/V in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1200A/23, thence in accordance with A.M.1800/17. Codeword "Subsoil". (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1616A/21.)
/Codeword ...

War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- K.M.S.1
(contd.) Codeword "Wisecre" arrived Clyde. PHILANTE sailed for Londonderry. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1834A/21 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff.) Sailed ALYNBANK in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1304A/16. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2315A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- K.X.4. Sailed VENOMOUS and WRESTLER to Londonderry to fuel, E.T.A. 1900A/22, thence joining K.X.4. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1504A/21.)
- K.X.4 A. My 2304A/16. Delete BRIXHAM. (C. in C. W.A. 1541A/21 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)
My 1024A/20. Sailed escorted by KINTYRE. Codeword "Conifer". FOULA, HUNDA and WESTRAY sailing to overtake on completion of defects. Add to convoy SS ANTIGONE. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1806A/21.)
Your 1944/20. HUNDA, FOULA and WESTRAY should be sailed in company as soon as ready to overtake convoy K.X.4. (C. in C. W.A. 1931A/21 to Capt. D. Greenock.)
K.X.4 A sailed 1830/21. (D.S.T.O. Greenock 2000/21.)
- K.X.4 B. A.M. 0120/14 and 1916/17. K.X.4 (B) Request you will sail BRIXHAM as additional escort to K.X.4 (B).
(2) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to arrange R/V but, if not ready in time, BRIXHAM is to join convoy at daylight 25th. (C. in C. W.A. 1542/21.) *p. 651.*
- U.R. Convoys. U.R.47 will sail from Oban 27/10 and thereafter U.R. Convoys will sail every Tuesday. (D.T.D. 1545A/21.)
- K.X.3. Adverse weather. It is improbable that VANOC will reach Gibraltar. Fuel situation in ACHATES will also be tight. Neither in consequence can be efficient escort if reduced to economical speed. Propose we be relieved in 040° N. and proceed independently to Gibraltar or Ponta Delgada as necessity dictates. (VANOC 1731A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
p. 657
- K.X.2. Situation 2000A. N.O.I.C. Greenock 1818/18. FLOWERGATE did not join. 16 ships and all escorts present. My P.C.S. 052° 28' N. 014° 54' W. 207°, 5½.
(BULLDOG 1800A/21.)

War Diary.

21.10.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - contd.

NIEUW ZEELAND. A.M. 2209/18. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested
MOOLTAN. to sail NIEUW ZEELAND and MOOLTAN from Avonmouth
for Clyde on 23/10.
2. Both ships will be fully loaded with
personnel.
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange escort
as requisite.
(D.O.D.(H.) 1903A/21.)

DEMPO.

A.M. 2209/18. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested
to sail DEMPO for Clyde on 25/10.
2. Ship will be fully loaded with personnel.
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide escort
as requisite.
(D.O.D.(H.) 1948A/21.)

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War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Fuelling,
Ponta
Delgada. 1. Your 1202/20.
3 ships for Horta: H.M. Trawlers MAGNOLIA and
ORFELY, Ferry Steamer TUZLA. 1 ship for Ponta
Delgada Tug EMPIRE SAM.
2. Only the first two are H.M. Ships.
(D.O.D.(H), 0020A/21 to N.A. Lisbon.)

GRIFFIN. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1800Z/21st.
(GRIFFIN, 0415Z/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

O.N.S. 138. Your 1358/20, para. 6, O.N.S. 138. Request
route.
(V.A.C.N.A., 0932A/21 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty.)

Gibraltar Alert Gibraltar, 1955/PM, aircraft approached
Air Raid. from N.E. about (corrupt group). Engaged by
A/A at 2930 (sic). No bombs on Gibraltar,
some fell in La Linea and Capamento area and in
sea to eastward of Eastern Beach. 1 aircraft illuminated
identified as Italian Piaggio 108. Total number of aircraft
believed 5 but all did not approach Rock.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0944/21 to Admty.)
3 Italian P.108 approached Gibraltar between 1950 - 2105
at between 15,000 to 18,000 ft. 2 Hurricanes up. 1 made
interception, enemy flew over Spain, Hurricane did not follow.
A.A. fired, no claims, no bombs on Gibraltar, some fell in La
Linea and Capamento Area and in sea off Eastern Beach. 1
aircraft illuminated.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 1840Z/21 to Air Min.)
During air raid last night (? at least) 4 bombs dropped
by Italians between La Linea and Capamento. Spanish civilian
casualties 1 dead 14 wounded. Bombs appear to have been
cannisters containing anti-personnel and incendiary bombs.
(Govr. Gib., No T.O.O./21 to W.O.)
Full report as follows. 1950 hours first target located
north-east. Air raid warning sounds 1954 hours while target
at range 43 miles. Target illuminated at 17,000 feet identified
as Piaggio P.108 and engaged by Hy. A.A. 2010 hours. Second
target engaged by unseen fire at 2227 hours being turned away at
10,000 yards. Other targets possible but did not approach
within 15 miles of Fortress. 2 sticks bombs dropped. First
in sea off Eastern beach. Second on cottages in Capamento area.
Spanish civilian casualties one killed fourteen wounded.
Ammunition expenditure - Hy. A.A. 203 rounds, Z projectors 16
rounds.
(Govr. Gib., 2000A/21 to W.O.)

ST. CROIX. ST. CROIX arrived Ponta Delgada 2330 G.M.T./20
left 0730/21.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0950/21 to S.O.(I)
Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

/CARMELITA ...

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War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

CARMELITA, GALIANA. CARMELITA left dry dock this morning, meantime await orders. GALIANA arrived Cadiz 6 a.m. 21/10, entering dry dock immediately.
(Cadiz, 1345/21 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, A.L.M. for D.N.I., Fairmiss London, B.N.A. Madrid, R.O. Seville.)

LAVORO, LORD HOTHAM. Italian repatriation Tanker LAVORO leaves Gibraltar for Genoa at about 1600/21 escorted by Spanish Merchant Ship, routed through 180° Cape de Gata 20 miles. Tanker not to be molested if encountered on this route.
(2) Trawler LORD HOTHAM and one Merchant Ship leaves Gibraltar p.m./21st for Melilla. LORD HOTHAM then remain on patrol off Melilla to await merchant ship and escort her back Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1406A/21 to 8 S.F.)
Sailed LORD HOTHAM escorting BLAIRESK to Melilla.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1633A/21 to Admty.)
LAVORO left Gibraltar 1800/21st for Genoa (route).
(F.O.C.N.A., 1829A/21 to Admty., etc.)

Bombing restrictions. My 1306/18. Cancel bombing restrictions at following times - G.16 2359/21st, G.15 1600/22nd, G.14 2359/22nd.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1408A/21 to Admty., A.O.C. in C. C.C., (R) F.O.S.)

LLANGIBBY CASTLE boatswain. Your 1953/20. Reardon still in Naval Hospital but broken bone has now united. Expect he will be in hospital for some time.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1431A/20 (?21 intended) to Admty.)

P. 51. P.51 is to leave patrol so as to pass through 036° 20' 004° 10' W. at 0500/23rd proceed thence direct to Gibraltar on the surface at C.O's discretion to arrive 1200/23rd. P.51 is not to cross 004° 30' W. before 0700/23rd.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1438A/21 to Capt. S.8.)

PORT STANLEY. Trawler PORT STANLEY constructed at Aveiro leaves Aveiro tomorrow flying Portuguese Flag with Portuguese crew for trials and passage to Lisbon. Will spend tonight Figueira Da Foz. Report grade C states German A/C was off Aveiro on Saturday which was original date of sailing. No other reports of German A/C on coast.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1640A/21 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty. for D. of S.V.P.)

/K.X. 3 ...

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War Diary.

21.10.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

K.X. 3. Adverse weather. Impossible that VANOC will reach Gibraltar. Fuel situation in ACHATES will also be tight. Neither in consequence can be efficient escort if reduced to economical speed. Propose we be relieved in 040° N. and proceed independently to Gibraltar or Ponta Delgada as necessity dictates. Weather report.
See p. 653
(VANOC, 1731A/21 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

DUNCAN, DUNCAN and ANTHONY will be calling at Ponta Delgada for fuel about 7/11. Ships will signal E.T.A. and fuel required 24 hours before arrival. (D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1920A/21 to B.C. Ponta Delgada (for C.S.A.), (R) N.A. Lisbon, F.O.C.N.A.)
ANTHONY.
See p. 670

South Atlantic.

ANTENOR. H.M.T. ANTENOR sailed in C.F.7, 20/10, E.T.A. Takoradi 30/10. Requirements. (S.T.O. Capetown, 0635/21 to Admty.)

Convoy Sailed 20/10, E.T.A. Freetown 3/11 HIGHLAND C.F. 7. BRIGADE, SAMARIA, MALOJA. Requirements. (S.T.O. Capetown, 0646Z/21 to Admty., etc.)

Dispositions. ASTURIAS patrolling H.34A west of 027° *See next page*
DURBAN with W.S.23 05.10 11.42 to 02.40 08.08 *7/2*
thence 098° 12½ *669*
AMARANTHUS 00.40 S. 08.20 E. to Pointe Noire 10 at 2002Z/21.
GUARDIAN, CYCLAMEN, DETROYAT about 04.25 S. 10.25 E. 287° 12.
SIRIUS, PHOEBE 13.40 S. 10.01 E. to Pointe Noire 20.
HYDRANGEA, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 05.55 11.30 to Freetown 12½.
SPANIARD from Grand Bassa to Freetown 8.
(R.A.W.A., 0957Z/21 to Area "P".)

Chasseurs. Your 1140Z/19 (N.T. in W.D.) (Re employment of Chasseurs 42 and 43 on escort duties.) Reason for (? delay in) arrival of Chasseurs is fully understood by French authorities who are kept informed of U-Boat situation.

/(? Urgency) ...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.:

- Chasseurs. (Contd.) (? Urgency) or otherwise of situation is entirely dependent on political events in London. My 1115/16 was sent on return of Commandant Charrspin from conference at Brazzaville. (B.N.L.O. W.A., 1016/21 to R.A.W.A.)
- WIVERN. Your 1845Z/19th. ^{1017 W.A.} E.T.A. Gibraltar 1700A/27th. Intend shifting to North Atlantic W/T organisation at 1200Z/23rd. (WIVERN, 1033Z/21 to R.A. West Africa, (R) F.O.C.N.A., Admty.)
- Vichy Cruiser. V.A.C.N.A's 1818A/20/10. Sunderland in transit sighted one Vichy cruiser at 1650Z/20 in 19° 32' N. 17° 17' W, course 190°, speed 12 knots. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1051Z/21 to Admty.)
- Movements. Arrival Capetown 20th ALCANTARA, Simonstown 21st EXPRESS, CATTERICK, NEPAL. (C. in C. S.A., 1103C/21 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., Com. Durban.)
- ASTURIAS. Return Freetown through 010° N. 020° W. (R.A.W.A., 1115Z/21 to ASTURIAS, (R) Admty., ^{see previous page - (Dispositions) C.} in C. W.A.)
p. 669.
- DECOY. My 1237/14. Now intend DECOY to arrive Ponta Delgada about 1200 G.M.T./24/10. (R.A.W.A., 1151Z/21 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, Admty., F.O.C.N.A., N.A. Lisbon.)
- Movements Summary. 2000Z/21st, Area Q. SHROPSHIRE, HECLA, ARROW, ACTIVE with S.C.F.7 029° 10' S. 014° 00' E. to the north 12 knots. THYME and TRUANT off Cape Point to the North. (C. in C. S.A., 1235C/21 to S.A. Stn.) My 1235C/21 add NORMAN leaves Capetown 1900C/21st to patrol about area 033° 30' S. 017° 00' E. (C. in C. S.A., 1747C/21 to S.A. Stn.)
- Landing Craft for India. D. of S.T's 2210/3 (re landing craft to be lifted from Durban.) 3 L.C.Ps 1 L.C.S. 2 L.C.Ms shipped DRAVA to Bombay E.T.A. 17/11. Embarked 2 R.N. ratings. 2. Remaining 8 L.C.Ms being shipped YANKEE ARROW sailing about 26th. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 1237C/21 to P.S.T.O. Bombay.)
see p. 671

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- W.S. 23. N.C.S.O. Freetown's 2001/20 para. 12. Port in S. Africa for W.S.23, including RIMUTAKA is Durban. See my 1805/6 para. 13, and my 1152/12, latter not to N.O.I.C. Durban. (D.O.D.(F), 1301A/21 to C. in C. S.A., (R) N.C.S.O. Freetown, N.O.I.C. Durban.)
- CITY OF CAIRO, passengers. Your 1404/20, not to C. in C. S.A. Numbers sailed in CITY OF CAIRO should be in accordance with my 2320/18/7. (D.O.D.(F), 1305A/21 to N.C.S.O. Durban, (R) C. in C. S.A.) Reply: 1252/22.
- OXFORDSHIRE. Is required for duty elsewhere for approx. 6 months. Further signal will be made concerning naval hospital arrangements at Freetown. (4th S.L., 1348A/21 to R.A.W.A., (R) C. in C. S.A.)
- C.M. 33. Sailed WORCESTERSHIRE escorting convoy C.M. 33 routed as N.C.S.O. Durban 1542/21. *N.T.N.W.3*
p.662 (2) WORCESTERSHIRE will not enter Aden but proceed to Suez.
(3) E.T.A. Aden p.m. 4/11 E.T.A. Suez 0600Z/8/11, speed to Aden 10½ knots, speed between Aden and Suez 14½ knots.
(4) Shifting to group V at 1415Z/27/10 and broadcast R at 1800Z/4/11.
(Com. i/c Durban, 1458Z/21 to Admty., etc.) Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1542Z/21, ~~1603Z/21~~)
- Liberia Lights. Lighthouses in Liberia will be extinguished as from 23/10. Naval Intelligence Centre, Freetown, has been informed. (Monrovia, Liberia, 1546/21 to Admty.)
- BARON OGILVY (sunk 29/9) U/B alleged interception of diversion signal. MOUZINHO (Portugal) has landed Master and 31 others ex BARON OGILVY (British) sunk by two torpedoes 29/9 002° 30' N. 014° 30' W. 2. U-Boat which surfaced was large type, new appearance, painted grey, raked stern, round C/T, no number, no wire cutter or W/T aerial. Armed with one 4-inch, one 3-inch and A/A gun on C/T. Officers of U-Boat were dressed in No. 10 uniforms.
3. Captain named ship sunk and asked for Master and Chief Engineer. Was told they were both dead. On request for cigarette U-Boat Captain said "No - it is time you British realized you are at War with Germany". 4. Master states he received diversion signal, acted on same and found U-Boat lying in wait for ship. He is of opinion U-Boat intercepted and understood diversion signal. (S.O.I.) Capetown, 1626C/21 to Admty., etc.)

/DUNCAN ...

War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

DUNCAN, Admty., 1933A/21. See America and West Indies.
ANTHONY,
SHROPSHIRE.

A/S Trawlers Following 18 White Ensign A/S Trawlers and A/S
from U.S.A. Whalers with R.N.P.S. Crews which have been
temporarily operating under C. in C. U.S. Fleet,
and referred to in A.M. 1937/14 have been
released for service in your Command and are being

sailed for Capetown -

(a) Whalers BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER.

(b) 16 large coal burning Trawlers as in Cominch's 1845/14.

Escorting speed about 10 knots.

2. These vessels are suitable for Ocean Escort.

3. A.M. 1838/18 refers to officers and personnel sent from
U.K. to U.S.A. for administration of these vessels and for
maintenance of Asdics and depth charges. Other maintenance was
undertaken by U.S. Authorities.

4. In view of prompt release of these 18 vessels the 12 A/S
trawlers referred to in A.M. 0021/11 will now be allocated as
follows:-

(a) The 8 "Hill" class to Freetown.

(b) The other 4 to Capetown. These are suitable for Coastal
Escort.

5. Your views are requested regarding Port or Ports in the
South Africa area at which you intend to base these 22 vessels
so that the provision of the balance of Base staffs for Trawler
maintenance can be considered. Bunkering facilities will
require your consideration.

(D.A/S.W., 1956A/21 to C. in C. S.A., (R) R.A.W.A.)

Reply: 1437/23.

ELG. Overdue shipping, C. in C. S.A.'s 2105C/7, ELG,
Norway, due Pernambuco 16th approx. not yet
arrived.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2107Z/21 to Admty., etc.)

CORINTHIAN. No ships met. My P.C. and S 007° 41' N. 019°
50' W. "A" 090° 11 knots. Propose R/V with
S.T.39 a.m./23rd. Request convoy speed.
Weather.
(? CORINTHIAN, 2201Z/21 to R.A.W.A.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

AQUITANIA
MAURETANIA Your 1040/6. My 1944/13 refers regarding AQUITANIA.
2. MAURETANIA after disembarkation at Suez should proceed to San Francisco via Colombo, Fremantle and Auckland. At San Francisco she will embark U.S. personnel to capacity for movement to Suez.
3. P.S.T.O. Egypt should promulgate anticipated date of sailing ex Suez.
(D of S.T: 0225A/21 to P.S.T.O. Egypt) Reply: 0919/23.

Enemy
Units. Following has been read GBXZ:- Am over one enemy merchant vessel and one destroyer in 38° 40' N 20° 0' E course 140° speed 12 knots.
(A/C call sign X9XH 0940A/21.)

ARCA
(Italian) My 1206C/12. ARCA arrived from Constanza in transit for Aegean. No indication yet when will continue voyage.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 0943C/21 to S.O.I. Med. S.1.)

TRAVELLER
to be kept If A/S activity is too great proceed to 035° 40' 022° 43' keeping N.E. until 2030C tonight.
(Capt. S.1. 1008C/21 to TRAVELLER (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.10. S/Ms on patrol.)

THRASHER
Rhodes. Indication troops are expected Rhodes shortly.
(Capt. S.1. 1010C/21 to THRASHER. (R) C. in C. Med. Fleet subs on patrol.)
See also 1057/22.

TAKU TAKU passes through (1) 033° 40' 029° 17' at 0400C/23.
(2) 035° 48' 027° 33' thence within 10 miles of Cape Papas to operate in Aegean North of latitude 038° 30'.
(Capt. S.1. 1135C/21 to Subs on patrol. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.10.)

P.212. Patrol line Maria Di Leuca - Dukata from 0001A/21 until further orders.
(Capt. S.10. 1143A/21 to P.212. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)

Cositrep
No.554. 3. Air. Night 19/20. Malta aircraft attacking southbound convoy 3 M/Vs, 1 tanker north of Tripoli claim torpedo hits on tanker and 1 M/V, causing an explosion on each. 1 M/V hit by bomb.
Wellingtons and Halifaxes attacking shipping in Tobruk claim probable hit on one ship followed by smoke, near misses on 4 other ships. Explosion seen near one of these. One Wellington missing. Bostons bombed landing ground at Sidi Haneish starting fires. Albacores bombed landing ground near Daba. About 3 enemy aircraft operated over Gulf of Suez. One tanker attacked and sunk. Night fighters up, but no interceptions.
(C. in C. M.E. 1150/21.)

War Diary.

21.10.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

* C.M.33
C.M.34

* *see p. 659*

C.M.33 and C.M.34 on completion Suez will be sailed to Durban unless instructions to contrary received.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1157C/21 to Admty. (R) P.S.T.O. Simonstown.) Agree (D.S.T. 0349A/24.)

Relief ships.

Swedish relief ships YARRAWONGA and ARRA anticipate approx. position noon/21, P.C.S. 035° 30' 021° 40' 295° 12 knots. Ships will be illuminated at night and are not to be molested on this route.
(Capt. S.10. 1237A/21 to S/Ms on patrol. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)

P.37 success, see pp. 726, 758

Situation Report
No. 279.

see p. 664

Southbound enemy convoy of 1 large tanker and 3 M/Vs escorted by 7 destroyers sighted by aircraft in vicinity of Pantellaria p.m./18. P.211, P.44, P.42 UTMOST and P.37 were moved to intercept. P.42 attacked with 4 torpedoes but owing to accurate counter attack results were unobserved. Her main batteries were damaged and she was forced to return to harbour. On night 19/20 Swordfish and Albacores attacked with torpedoes. 1 M/V hit but results of other aircraft obscured by smoke screen. Wellington Eights with bombs then attacked, 1 M/V hit with 1000 pound bomb and much smoke seen. Final attack by Swordfish scored direct hit on tanker. (See A.H.Q. Malta's 2144/19/10 and 2045/20/10.)
(2) Night 18/19 Swordfish torpedoed 8000 ton tanker forward at 50 miles east of Ssilo* which was seen stationary two hours later.
(3) Red Sea. Recrudescence of air activity. An oil tanker (name not yet known)** bombed or torpedoed and set on fire 2315/19 at Ras Gharib. EURYALUS was sent to investigate and reported ship a total wreck and aground fouling outer oiling berth.
**(W.D. Note: Name SCALARIA, see 0913C/22.)
(4) Greek CHIOS attacked in Sofaga Harbour 2345/19 but no damage.
(5) Greek destroyer PINDOS (Hunt Class) has joined Mediterranean Station.
(C. in C. Med. 1249C/21 to Admty.) W.D. Note: Presumably this is the tanker attacked at 2130A/18 in 38° 20' N 17° 40' E.
*(As received.)

CELENO
(Italian)

My 0935C/17, Report B.3. Believed CELENO entered Aegean 0850 G.M.T. 20/10.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1258C/21 to S.O.I. Med. S.1. (R) D.N.I.)

MAURO
CROCE
(Italian)

Arrived Barcelona 21st.
(Barcelona 1313/21 to Admty.)

War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Bi-weekly WX.1462. A.669 October 21 Secret.
Opsum Night 18/19. 28 Wellingtons bombed harbour
No.66. installations Tobruk. Bombs burst on docks
starting 4 small fires main jetty area. Remainder
damage unobserved. 1 Wellington also machine
gunned M.T. on road East Tobruk. 2 Wellingtons unable to reach
Tobruk bombed Fuka landing ground and Sollum respectively.
Results unobserved. 1 Wellington crash landed near Ismailia on
return. Crew safe. 8 A.S.V. 9 (?torpedo) 4 bomber Wellingtons
despatched to locate and attack southbound shipping north west
of Tobruk. Convoy of 1 M/V 3 destroyers located about 35 miles
N.W. of Apollonia. 3 torpedo Wellingtons only sighted ships owing
to cloud and effective smoke screen. 1 torpedo fired with
unobserved results. On return journey 1 Wellington bombed a
camp north of Bomba. Results unobserved. 2 A.S.V. Wellingtons
co-operated with H.M. Ships in S/M hunt N.E. Port Said, no
sightings.
19/10. 8 Beaufighters on offensive sweep south of Crete attacked
a schooner S.W. of Gavdos Island believed carrying petrol.
Vessel left on fire and sinking. B.24 (number unknown) despatched
to attack shipping north of Tobruk did not locate and bombed
shipping in Tobruk claiming hits. 8 B.24 despatched to attack
shipping in Benghazi were unable to reach objective owing to bad
weather. One B.24 bombed Tobruk on return journey. Result
unobserved. 8 Hurricanes 3 Fulmars protection of shipping off
Delta and in Gulf of Suez.
Night 19/20. 28 Wellingtons 5 Halifaxes bombed shipping and
harbour installations Tobruk claiming probable hit on 1 ship
followed by black smoke near misses on 3 ships. Explosion seen
near another ship. Damage in dock area unobserved. 1
Wellington attacked small ship west of Tobruk. Result unobserved.
1 Wellington bombed road south of Tobruk and another bombed
Sollum. Results unobserved. About 3 enemy aircraft operated
over Gulf of Suez during night one He.111 attacked tanker off
Ras Gharib. Vessel set on fire and sunk. Another ship attacked
in Sofaga Harbour. No damage. 2 Beaufighters 3 Hurricanes up.
No sightings.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1458Z/21.)

TRITON. Delayed indefinitely.
(Capt. S.1. 1527C/21 to THRASHER. (R) TAKU.)

P.247 *imp. 665* P.247 leaves 180° Filfola Is. 3 miles about
P.35. 1930A/21 course 255° and P.35 leaves 035° 32' 014°
12' one hour later, course 180°.
(Capt. S.10. 1709A/21 to 10 S/M.F.)

Petrol My 2338/15. Request you will report progress of
for Malta modification as they are carried out.
in S/Ms. (A.C.N.S. F. 1828A/21 to C. in C. Med.)

/Enemy...

664

21.10.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Enemy
Units,
TRAVELLER.*See p. 661*

Air R/C about 1431A/21. 1 large merchant ship
038° 44' 020° 47', speed unknown, 1 merchant ship
2 escorts, 038° 17' 020° 58' 7 knots, 1 merchant
ship and 1 M.T.B. 038° 12' 020° 10' 9 knots all
on course 180°.
(Capt. S.10. 1920A/21 to TRAVELLER.)

Reports
of S/M
Patrols.
P.211.
P.42.
UTMOST.
P.37.*See p. 662*

(1) P.211 reports convoy air escort sighted
0650/19 indicating enemy passed east of Pantellaria.
Submarine followed southward during night and
sighted stopped M/V and two destroyers at dawn 20th
in position 158° Lampione 70 miles W, much M.T.
on upper deck, ship slightly down by stern. Fired
two torpedoes, one hit amidships, observed to sink
two hours later. Ineffective counter attack,
no asdic.

(2) P.42 reports at 1500/17 sighted beached ship off Khoms with
PARTENOPE T.B. and aircraft patrolling to seaward, three
torpedoes fired individually, all missed and none exploded,
consider this due to inshore current and soft shore. No counter
attack.

236° see 1437/23.

(3) At 1519/19 in position 35.22 12.15 fired salvo at southbound
convoy, torpedoes fanned, two at leading ship, one at tanker,
one at rear ship, range 8000 track angle 110. Two hits claimed,
7' 10" and 7' 4.5", from time of firing. Counter attack by three
asdic fitted destroyers most accurate 20 charges dropped in 18
minutes doing much damage, inspecting shows about 60 cracked
containers but estimate defects can be made good in ten days.

(4) UTMOST reports "Blackbird" carried out night of 8/9. About
half hour after landing some rockets and flares observed ashore
conditions for operation were ideal. At 2000/11 in position
41.54 11.20 fired two torpedoes at northbound M/V. small
passenger type missed. At 1351/13 in position 41.03 09.43 fired
four torpedoes at tanker escorted by small A.M.C. one hit, one
torpedo circled, counter attack 19 charges ineffective. Three
quarters of hour later A.M.C. in position of attack and a Flying
boat circling tanker either sank or possibly beached but not seen.
At 1003/19 in position 3604/1158 fired two torpedoes at tanker
in southbound convoy, range 6000 yards, 135 track, missed, no
counter attack.

(5) P.37 reports 1520/8 in position 3341/1114 fired two torpedoes
at southbound coaster LUPA range 800 yards torpedoes ran under.
Submarine surfaced and engaged with gun causing enemy to abandon
ship without bloodshed, enemy was then boarded and sunk with
demolition charge, some papers captured, cargo wine and foodstuffs.

(6) At 1900/9 in position 3408/1100 use of gun caused crew to
abandon southbound schooner which was demolished by use of can of
shale oil, and box of matches, cargo appeared to be fodder.

(7) At 2225/9 in position 3402/1105 fired two torpedoes at
southbound 3000 ton M/V one hit, cargo apparently petrol ship and
surrounding sea alight for some hours.

(8) At 1148/19 in position 35.45 N 12.04 E fired salvo at
leading ship of southbound escorted convoy range 1000 track 116.2
torpedoes hit 1' 15" and 2' 5" from firing inaccurate counter
attack. No asdic heard, three hours later one destroyer seen
stopped (W.D. Note: Considered sunk, see 1438/22.) near position
of attack. This is P.37's first patrol from Malta. Request
publicity A for all. C. in C. pass to S.1.

(Capt. S.10. 2007A/21 to Capt. S.1. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)
W.D. Note: Amplified by 1438A/22, q.v.

/Malta...

*Comments
23/10 -
p. 726*

War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta I.54 21/10. C.S.R.
 Air Night 20/21. No enemy activity.
 Report. 21st. Enemy continued to use formations of high flying German and Italian fighters escorting bomb carrying Me.109s using cloud cover to attack Luqa and Takali aerodromes. 0603 hours, 25 high flying Me.109s, some carrying bombs, approached using cloud cover and were intercepted by 8 Spitfires who damaged 1 Me.109 without loss to themselves. Bombs dropped on dispersal area at Luqa aerodrome caused no serious damage. 0747 hours. Thirty Me.109s and Mc.202s including bomb carrying Me.109s approached at height and were intercepted by 8 Spitfires but enemy had height advantage and escaped in cloud. 14 bombs dropped on Luqa aerodrome caused craters and damaged 1 Beaufighter and 1 lorry. Bombs elsewhere caused no serious damage. 0830 hours, 50 Me.109s and Mc.202s including Me.109 bombers approached at great height and were intercepted north of island by 8 Spitfires who destroyed one Mc.202 without loss to themselves. Fighter bombers using cloud cover dropped bombs on Luqa aerodrome causing no serious damage. 1026 hours, 20 high flying Re.200ls and Me.109s fighter and fighter bombers approached Malta. 8 Spitfires up forced raiders to jettison bombs in sea and on north of island causing no material damage. 1154 hours, 40 enemy fighters including bomb carrying Me.109s crossed coast at height and were intercepted by 8 Spitfires but escaped in cloud. Bombs dropped from great height fell in sea and round Takali aerodrome but caused no serious damage. 1430 hours, 30 enemy fighter and fighter bombers approached Malta at great height. 16 Spitfires up but raiders jettisoned bombs in sea 15 miles north east of island and turned back at speed. Today in 56 Spitfire sorties against 195 enemy sorties 1 Mc.202 had been destroyed and 1 Me.109 damaged for loss of 1 Beaufighter damaged by bombing and no losses in aerial combat.
 (A.H.Q. Malta 2033/21.)

P.247.

See p.663

You are to carry out sweep from Kerkenah to Kuriat and then return to Malta. You are not to close any Tunisian Ports. Instructions re time of arrival at Malta will be signalled.
 (Capt. S.10. 2311A/21 to P.247 (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

666

War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Tamatave. Following underwater defences are proposed:
 (A) Single line A/T baffles (details).
 (B) Indicator loops from Northern end of Great Reef in direction 350° for 1.5 miles thence in direction 250° to shore.
 (C) A/T Patrol craft to moor close to northward of most northerly A/T Baffle.
 2. Preliminary survey has been carried out by B.D.O. (East Africa).
 3. E.A. Command have stated that they intend to use Tamatave as supply Port for British Forces in Madagascar.
 4 Request your remarks.
 (C. in C.E.F. 0232Z/21 to Admty (R) F.O.E. A.).

Catalinas. Your 0821/18.
 Air Ministry anticipate that all Catalinas for R.A.F. Squadrons in Indian Ocean will be Flying Boat Type not repeat not Amphibian Type. Dutch Squadron will have some Amphibians.
 Request source of your information.
 (D.A. C. D. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 0304A/21 to C. in C.E. F.).

MARTABAN, My 0340/17. SS.MARTABAN arrived at Trincomalee salvage. 0300Z/21 having been in tow of H.M.S.ASTER (torpedoed since p.m. Friday 16/10. EMPIRE DEFIANCE proceeded 13/10). with 6 survivors and salvage party but was not required to tow and has now returned safely to Trincomalee.

2. 61 survivors out of total complement of 62 have been rescued from 4 lifeboats. NETRAVATI rescued two lifeboats in approx. position 40 miles N. E. of original position of torpedoing and about 200 miles distant from position of other two lifeboats.

(F.O.I.C.Ceylon. 0400Z/21 to C. in C.E.F., Admty, etc).

I congratulate you on the fine seamanship displayed in taking MARTABAN in tow after she was abandoned in rough weather 240 miles from port and towing her stern first for 5 days to a safe anchorage in Trincomalee.

(F.O.I.C. Ceylon 0418Z/21 to ASTER (R) C. in C. E.F. Admty, N.O.I.C.Trincomalee).

ELIN K. Overdue shipping. ELIN K.(Nor.) due Aden 15/10 from Dunedin not arrived.
 (S.O.(I) Colombo 0409Z/21 to Admty).

Salvage Vessel. Consider Salvage Vessel at Colombo is essential. Request information if and when one may be expected.
 (F.O.Ceylon 0543Z/21 to Admty for Dir. of Salvage).

/Troops..

666 " E1

MOST SECRET. **MOST SECRET** M E S S A G E T. C. O. / N I L. IN.

From: C.in C.India. Date 21.10.42.
Recd. 0500

Cipher.

Addressed: The War Office repeated Brisbane (Melbourne pass) Kilindini.

287947. 25943/I cipher 20th October.

First of two parts.

For J.I.C. London D.M.I. Brisbane C.O.I.S. E.F. from J.I.C. India.

Following is summary of conclusions reached in revision my J.I.C. India on DMI/253 of 10/6 in light of events since June.

One. These events must tend to make Japan look more towards India but until situation Caucasus and Egypt clearer she will probably wait upon events rather than act in immediate future.

Two. Attacks on Ceylon or South India still ruled out owing inability provide aircraft carriers and offensive against Bengal seems only feasible alternative.

Three. Position about Bengal will depend on Japans appreciation of internal situation as this unlikely objective unless she feels success in Bengal would be decisive of war in India.

Four. Present indications are Japan does not consider that success would be decisive or that attack would receive support of Indian parties or would even be certain of limited success.

Five. Indications. Only present indications of attack is increased air forces Burma but this could be defensive and aimed against our bases.

Six. If Japan did undertake Bengal operation she could provide 400 aircraft and transport 10 divisions.

Seven. Warning of operation would be slight but possible signs might be (A) increase in air strength in Burma over 300. (B) Increased activity Tenasserim and Andaman aerodromes. (C) Possible identification torpedo and dive bombers Burma aerodromes. (D) Air attack on our aerodromes but this could also be part of defensive programme. Warning under (A) (B) depends on availability adequate PRU resources.

Eight/.....

(S)

666^B

Eight. Irrespective larger issue Japanese move against For Hertz and Chin Hills possible and air attack on our bases in Assam and Bengal likely. Summary ends.

Second and Last Cipher part.

Part Two.

Nine. Three above brings out importance of keeping under review Japan's appreciation of internal situation in India. Impression European Axis powers anxious encourage belief British position in India becoming increasing critical and would like see Japan make serious attack India in near future.

Ten. C.in C. seen and agreed to issue of appreciation. He again asks that special efforts be made to obtain any intelligence American submarines operating in South China Sea may get of Japanese troop transport movements in this direction. Intelligence and other sources of information available here make it very doubtful whether we can unaided obtain warning of any major sea movement prior to entry into Bay of Bengal.

T.O.O /Nil.

Received from War Office at 1250/22.

W.O. Circulation.

- S. of S. for F.A. (Personal) } Foreign Office.
 - Mr. Cavendish Bentinck } Foreign Office.
 - D.N.I. } Admiralty.
 - War Registry } Admiralty.
 - A.C.A.S. (I) Air Ministry
 - A.M.C.S.
 - Col. Vickers (M.E.W.)
 - Sec. (JIC) } War Cabinet Offices.
 - Col. Jacob. } War Cabinet Offices.
 - C.I.G.S.
 - V.C.I.G.S.
 - D.M.O.
 - D.D.M.O. (O)
 - D.P. (2)
 - D.M.I.
 - D.D.M.I. (I)
 - M.I. 2. 2a. 2c. (JIC)
 - M.O. 1. 2. 8. 12.
 - India Office (War Staff)
 - M.L.O. Australia House.
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- 1st Lord.
 - 1st S.L. (2)
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 - V.C.N.S.
 - A.C.N.S. (H)
 - A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
 - A.C.N.S. (T)
 - A.C.N.S. (W)
 - Naval Sec.
 - N.A. 1st S.L.
-
- C.W.R.
 - D.P.D.
 - D.S.W.
 - A.C.N.A.S.
 - D.N.A.D.
 - D.A.C.D.
 - Hd. of M.
 - D.O.D. (H) (2)
 - I.P. (2)
 - D.S.D.
-
- Admiral Bellair
 - D.O.D. (F) (2)
 - D.C. (2)
 - D.N.I. (6) and
 - for D.N.L.O.
 - U.S.N. (3)
 - D.D.I.C. (2)
 - D. of P. (2)
 - E. of P. (2)
 - W.D.
 - Admiral Blake.

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War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Troops. H.Q.121 Force and 29 Indep.Inf. Bde.left
Tamatave. Tamatave for Durban 18/10. 3/4 K.A.R. arrived
Tamatave 17/10.
See p.666. (G.O.C. in C. E.A. 0635Z/21 to W.O).

Dispositions. Ceylon Summary No.21.
21/10.1942. Ref. Summary No.20,2 and 3,
ASTER and LAUNCESTON arrived Trincomalee 21/10.

Summary No.21.

- 1.SHOREHAM and PUNJAB escorting P.B.7 left Bandar Abbas 19/10 due Bombay 25/10.
- 2.SUTLEJ escorting P.B.8 due to leave Hormuz (Approx.) 22/10 and arrives Bombay (approx) 27/10.
3. JUMNA escorting A.B.2. left Aden 16/10 due Bombay 21/10.
- 4.SONAVATI escorting P.A.7 due to leave Bandar Abbas (Approx) 22/10.
- 5.MARGUERITE left Colombo 20/10 escorting 2 M/Vs to Trincomalee thence returning Colombo.
- 6.MADRAS, *AYDKA, SMORE due to leave Addu Atoll (Approx) 24/10 escorting KUTSANG, TAIPING, and VARSOVA to Colombo.
(F.O.Ceylon 0750Z/21 to Admty).

* movements of H.M. Sloop 24/10

EARL
KITCHENER.

EARL KITCHENER sailed 0400Z/21st^{try} Colombo via Seychelles routed as follows:-
(F) 010.30 S. 052.03 E. (G) 006.01 S. 054.40 E. Seychelles. (K) 001.55 S. 063.00' E.
(L) 000.10 S. 069.32 E. (M) 002.28 N. 075.36 E. (N) Colombo reference position (OO) Diego Garcia approach (PP) Addu Atoll approach E.T. A.Seychelles 0400Z/25th.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0801Z/21 to Admty etc).

OKAPI
? U/B.

While on patrol off end of Colombo swept channel at 1400Z/19 OKAPI obtained hydrophone contact on vessel proceeding westward at considerable speed, vessel proceeding westward at considerable speed, OKAPI increased to full speed (11 knots) but vessel was too fast for her, and contact faded. Vessel was never seen. C.O. considers it may have been U-Boat on surface. If so it never came inside hundred fathom line. Full anti-midget precautions. (F.O.Ceylon 1105Z/21 to C. in C. E. F.(R) Admty. etc).

Liaison with
U.S.N.

C. in C.U.S. Fleet 2047/21. See America & West Indies.

Japan
Policy.

J.I.C. India appreciation.(C in C.India, 25943/I No.T.O.O.(21) See Lion Copy.

War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U/B Following intercepted at 2325 G.M.T. de Trinidad Radio. Warning. Sub. sighted 12.15 N., 55.56 W. at 1710Z/20. Niton Radio timed 0025/21. (Niton Radio T.O.R. 0044/21 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

U/B C.E.S.F.'s 1906/20. S/M estimate 0800Q/21.
Positions. (Comnaveu, 0052/21 to Admty).

Convoy Schedules. Do not yet have information as to definite sailing Schedule O.N. and O.N.S. Convoys. Will submit comments when this information is available (C.T.F.24 0255/21, to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty etc) Your 0255/21. My 1742/20 was based on following sailings: (i) O.N.141, Oct. 24th. O.N.S. 142 Oct. 30th then at 8 day intervals in accordance with A.M. 1335/16 (ii) H.X.211 Oct. 8th. H.X.212 Oct. 18th. S.C.105, Oct. 10th. S.C. 106, Oct. 16th then at 8 day intervals in accordance with Cominch 2140/30/9. (C. in C. W.A., 0931Z/21 to C.T.F.24 (R) Admty. etc). On basis of convoy sailing date assumed in your 0931Z/21 consider that escort schedule proposed in your 1742Z/20 is best that can be made. Therefore concur. (C.T.24 1825Z/21 to C. in C. W.A., Admty etc).

SEVERN. Propose sailing SEVERN p.m./21 from Halifax surfaced routed south Sable Island to position (F) thence lettered position as in Connav's 1627/15 Speed 14 knots 1st 12 hours then proceeding 12½ knots. Request your concurrence. (C.O.A.C., 0339Z/21 to Opnav (R) Admty etc). My 0339/21. SEVERN delayed by defects on oil fuel compensating system. Date of sailing will be communicated when known. (C.O.A.C., 1514Z/21 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty). My 1935/17 amend para. 1 (A) to read normal watch on broadcast L shifting to read Rugby W.S. repetition WS. routines. (B.A.D., 1727Z/21 to Admty etc).

MATHEW LUCKENBACH. Following received at 0845 G.M.T. "S O S MATHEW LUCKENBACH position 44.06 N., 62.15 W. rammed". (Halifax, 0905Z/21 to C. in C. W.A., E.C. Londonderry).

Shipping Trinidad. Your 1801/17 (re ships waiting at Trinidad for onward convoy). The organization proposed to deal with para. 6 is
1. A signal will be sent by B.R.L.O. after each convoy sailing giving reason for any ship not sailing in that convoy, this will apply to T.A.G. and Trinidad convoys.
2. A report will be made by B.R.L.O. on ships for other destination giving reason for any delay including lack of escorts.
3. M.W.T.R. receiving all information required.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1051Q/21 to Admty (R) B.A.D.)

/Movements...

War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.Movements
Summary.

1800 G.M.T./21.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
NIGERIA	32½° N., 68½° W.	269°	19
ASTURIAS	08° N., 28° W.	Patrol	-
T.A. 25	42½° N., 49° W.	270°	25
A.T. 26	38½° N., 62½° W.	094°	19

(D.O.D. (F) 1106Z/21 to Opanav (R) Comnav.)

Barbados,
A/S
defence.

Governor Barbados 1638/19 (re request approval for anti-torpedo baffle) S.B.N.O. Trinidad considers attack on dock is impossible and that material would be better employed as spare for main net in event of further damage.
(S.B.N.O.A., 1112Q/21 to Admty).

Shipping
Intelligence.

Your 2037/19. At a meeting between Sparks, Salter, and B.A.D. held at New York on 14/10 it was decided to set up a Mercantile Operations Room at M. of W.T. New York forthwith.
2. Objective and mechanics decided on were identical with your suggestions.

3. We have already sent diagram of layout to M. of W.T. and Staff is being selected.

4. Your para. 3 Initially information from Navy Dept. will be relayed by B.A.D.

(B.A.D., 1131Z/21 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.)

GARLAND.

Polish destroyer GARLAND has been directed to sail to Halifax to arrive St. Johns, N.F. 23rd. for fuelling. F.O.N.F. requested sail her to overtake.
(C.T. 24 1135Z/21 to F.O.N.F. C.T.U. 24.1.17, etc)

STEEL
SCIENTIST
(sunk 11/10)

STEEL SCIENTIST U.S. torpedoed 2212 G.M.T./11 005° 48' N., 051° 39' W. Master states all books were in weighted bags and went down in ship. Depth 43 fathoms.
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 1247/21 to Admty).

Convoy
Schedules.

This is a repetition of Comtaskfor 1941/20, action Connav passed to Admty for action. Request early decision Admty regard sailing dates Convoys. Ref. Cominch 1821/16. Information necessary to permit arrangement escort schedule.
(Connav, 1435/21 to Admty).

T.A. (?G)
15 fast.

Sailing telegram. Escort. U.S. destroyer BLAKELEY, SAUCY, SPRY, P.C. 489, 493.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1512Q/21, 1517Q/21 to Admty).
T.A.G. 15 10 knots sailed 1300Q/21.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1617Q/21 to Admty).

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War Diary.

21.10.1942.

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

U/B Positions. 21/10 S/M estimate and U.S. Submarine notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1532/21, 1533/21, 1610/21, 1611/21, 1612/21).

O.N.135 MANSFIELD. My 1857/18. Ref. MANSFIELD group Task Unit 24.18.1, read T.U. 24.18.5. (C.O.A.C., 1544Z/21, to C.E.S.F. (R) Admty etc).

ILEX defect. ILEX reports a slow leak at lower joint of stay-brite steel panel A/S dome, operation of set not affected. She has been instructed to proceed in accordance with your 1327/20. (B.A.D., 1557Z/21 to Admty (R) ILEX).
When ready about 27/10 route and sail ILEX to Trinidad for onward routing to Freetown via positions:-
(D) 10.59, 60.40 (E) 11.04, 51.05 (F) 10.50, 41.10
(G) 10.15, 30.55 (H) 09.53, 23.07.
May be used for escort on not to delay basis. Advise sailing time and S. of A.
(Connav 2017/21 to N.O.B. Guantanamo (R) S.B.N.O. W.A. etc).

BOLD Leave Bermuda at 1330Z/22 with battle practice targets in tow and proceed through position (J) 018° 35' N., 063° 38' W., thence direct Trinidad. S. of A. estimated as 10 knots. (2) Wireless watch 2 operators periodically on B.A.M.S. schedule. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1702Z/21 to BOLD (R) Admty etc).

Convoy Vice-Commodores. Your 1532/20 para. (1), concur. (D.T.D., 1749A/21 to B.R.O. New York).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Philadelphia arrived 1500Z/21. (N.S.H.Q., 1802Z/21 to Admty (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

U/B Aircraft sighted S/M 049° 31' N., 062° 22' W. at 1730Z/21. (C.O.A.C., 1804Z/21 to G.B. 7 A.G. (R) C.T.F.24 etc).
My 1804/21, for 049° 31' N., read 048° 31' N. (C.O.A.C., 1923Z/21 to G.B. 7 A.G.

*DUNCAN,
*ANTHONY,
SHROPSHIRE.
* See p 657
B.A.D. 1725/20. not to F.O.C.N.A. Admty will make necessary notifications regarding fuelling of DUNCAN and ANTHONY at Ponta Delgada in accordance with C.A.F.O. 1924/42.
2. Request ships be instructed to report, via F.O.C.N.A. or Admty. their E.T.A. and fuel required to B.C. Ponta Delgada (for C.S.A.) 24 hours before arrival.
3. R.A.W.Af. is requested to arrange R/V with SHROPSHIRE direct with B.A.D.
(D.O.D. (F)*1933A/21 to B.A.D., R.A.W.A. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
*Approved A.C.N.S. (F).

/Liaison...

War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Liaison with U.S.N. Leslie departs 24th by air for Pearl Harbour. He will give you certain information relative to liaison with Eastern Fleet. You will instruct Cdr. Greene that he is to be your representative in Eastern Fleet and that as a general rule exchange of information will be direct between you and Adm. Somerville.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2047/21 to C. in C. Pacific Fleet U.S.
(R) C. in C. E.F., Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces in Europe).

Landing Craft. Amast 3478. Further Amast 3367. As result of urgent British Admiralty request (see 2026A/12 from Admiralty to B.A.D.) American authorities have released 20 L.C.M.3s and 50 L.C.F.Rs. for Suez and 31 L.C.O.Rs. for Bombay.
sup. 658
Immediate shipment is held up because there is no priority for landing craft to this area. If priority can be given over existing priorities advise British M. of W.T. R. as soon as possible.

2. Above craft are to be considered part of allocation referred to in para. 1 of cable under reference consequently 126 L.C.M.3s 96 ex British orders and 30 ex American and 143 L.C.O.Rs. now total number craft these types for U. K. by end of 1942.
3. Owing to shortage of engines American and British production is held up and forecast given Amast 3367 does not hold good now and we cannot indicate when craft will be ready.
4. Now understood that up to 150 L.C.T5s are to be shipped south coast U.K. and possibly some assistance can be expected from American vessels provided shipment of these craft does not interfere with other priority deck cargo.
5. Ref. Amast 3380 it is now probable that only one L.S.T. will be proceeding to U.K. this year.
6. British M. of W.T. Reps. now have been asked by B.A.D. to provide merely as ballast about 73 tons of cargo for each of 8 L.C.I.Ls. expected ready within the next few days. Many difficulties are being encountered not the least being that L.C.I.Ls. have only one 2 feet 6 inch hatch.
(British Merchant Shipping Mission, Washington, via Sparks, New York, T.H.I. 2102/21 to Shipminder, London).

ARVIDA Proceeding independently. Observed position (ex O.N. 137). 1800Z/21 P.C. and S. 047° 32' N., 044° 01' W. 271° 9 knots. Fuel remaining 24 tons at 2000Z/21 St. John's N.F. 1000Z/23. Boiler hours. Weather report.
(ARVIDA, 2137Z/21 to F.O.N.F.)

GATINEAU PARK, damage, possibly attacked. Following from Capt. Currey, SS. GATINEAU PARK, Reported severe damage to Port A.N. D. at 1415 P. 7/10. Port forward boom jumped three feet and shock was felt on bridge and in crow's nest. Damage to net investigated at Saint John, N.B. and indicates heavy object struck net well forward, breaking luff and about six meshes. Five enemy S/Ms known to have been within 60 miles of vessel's position 12 hours before. Vessel received no damage and will have defences renewed whilst at St. John. Officers and crew

/interrogated...

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War Diary.

21.10.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. *cont.*

GATINEAU PARK, damage, possibly attacked. Contd. interrogated. Report and photographs follow by Air Mail. It appears probable that vessel was actually attacked. (N.O.I.C.St.John, N.B. 2156Z/21 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q. etc).

Aircraft Allocations 1943. Request following information on aircraft requirements for 1943 may be sent to B.A.D. as soon as possible in order that we may be fully prepared to confirm or change present tentative forecast of allocations which may be subject of revision in near future.
(A) Estimated of aircraft on hand at 31/12/1942 by types and models.
(B) To what employment aircraft in (A) are being put, quoting ship names, training squadrons, reserves etc.
(C) Requirements by types from British production for period January 1st - December 31st, 1943.
(D) Employment envisaged for (C).
(E) Estimated deliveries by types from British Production to meet (D).
(F) Requirements from U.S. production giving aircraft types and models for same period.
(G) Employment envisaged for aircraft in (F).
(G) Rates of attrition anticipated on all types.
2. Above information is needed urgently with as much operational background as possible to meet what is believed to be an imminent and determined effort to reduce allocations at present forecast for Royal Navy in 1943. A.N. A.(Air) has been informally warned in this sense by the U.S.N.
3. For your information Vice Adm. Towers has been relieved as Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics, which factor is unlikely to operate in our favour at any future discussions. Please see para. 10. of N. 1997/42.
(B.A.D.2205Z/21, to Admty) Reply 1540/23.

NEWCASTLE. Will NEWCASTLE return to Eastern Fleet via England on completion of refit in U.S.A? (B.A.R.M. 2214Z/21 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F. etc).

PETER C. GALLAGHER. Re. A.M. 1924/14/9. Please state when tug PETER C.GALLAGHER is expected ready to sail. (D.of S.T. 2230A/21 to S.B.N.O.Curacao).

U/B attacked. (?Aircraft) attacked S/M. 046.00 N. 050.33 W. at 1944Z/21st. (C.O.A.C. 2255Z/21 to C. in C.W.A., E.C. Londonderry. Admty).

Fuelling at Sea. Your 1525/7, detailed reply is being forwarded by air. (Director of Stores. 2301A/21 to N.S.H.Q.).

/Sub.....

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War Diary.21.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Sub. attack
& Sighting
Summary.Para.A. PBM attacks Sub. on surface 1215 N. 55.56
W. 1710Z/20.Para.B. JOHN CARTER ROSE, three torpedo hits six
shells. B-18s attacks Sub. on surface 09.02 N.
60° W. 0015Z/01 course 345 and 08.53 N. 55.51 W.

0121Z/01 course 060°.

Para.C. U.S.S. NOGAK attacks periscope 57.24 N. 51.17 W. 2227Z/19

August. US.S. JOUETT, attacks sound contact 04.08 S. 34.44 W.

1720Z/18 September. (? Aircraft) reports sound contact 41.04 N.

71.47 W. 2120Z/4. Attack on contact 14.50 N. 67.25 W. 1000Z my

2120/20 read 17 Oct. HALIFAX attacks sound contact 19.45 N.

75.59 W. 1632Z/20. Coast watcher sights sub. on surface 47.35 N.

58.53 W. 2230Z/20. Plane sights S/M 49.31 N. 62.22 W. 1730 Z/21.

SS.NORLUNA reports S/Ms patrolling Frobisher Bay and Gabriel
Straits 20th September.Para D. PC. 589 attacks sound contact 10.50 N. 61.19 W. 2025Z/6
patrol plane sights periscope and oil slick 25.19 N. 74.28 W.1930Z/20 W. Escort plane reports Radar contact 27.47 N. 74.02 West
2120Z/20.

(Cominch 2312/21 to Admty, for O.I.C.(R) N.S.H.Q.).

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation

Digest Serial No.272 21/10.

Photographic R/C Buin Shortlands Area noon 20/10
indicated 32 vessels probably as follows:-1. "Atago" Class Heavy Cruiser, 4 Light Cruisers 17 Destroyers,
1 Seaplane tender, 1 Minelayer, 4 Merchant vessels 2 unidentified
vessels 2 small craft.(2) Photographic R/C Rabaul Harbour afternoon same day revealed
1 Light Cruiser, 3 Destroyers, 3 Seaplane tenders 1 Minelayer, 2
Tankers 41 Merchant vessels including 35 between 3,000 and 10,000
tons aggregating approx.250,000 tons also 6 under 3,000 tons and
approx 40 small craft.(3) Two possible Cruisers reported 5° 40' S. 153° E. morning 19/10
course 110°.(4) Probable minelayer departed Buka midday 20th proceeded South
leaving one small M/V Buka passage.

(5) Enemy S/M indicated 12° S. 155° E., 19/10.

(6) Enemy troops appear consolidating three miles North Templetors
crossing. Our patrols maintaining pressure.

/(7)....

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War Diary.

21.10.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Situation. (7) Heavy A.A.Fire reported from Kokoda Area 20 /10.
Contd. (8) Enemy air R/C over Port Moresby Area night
20/10, by 1 possibly 2 aircraft.
(9) 8 Fighters reported Dilli Aerodrome 19/10. One
M/V reported arriving this area same day.
(10) Enemy patrol activity continues Dilli Maobisse Area.
(11) Unconfirmed report 600 Japanese Bobonaro (55 miles S.S.W.Dilli)
(12) 5 Enemy aircraft bombed and strafed allied positions Turiscai
(21 miles S.S.E. Dilli) 18/10 negligible.
(13) Seven Catalinas bombed shipping and aerodrome Buin Faisi
Area early morning 20/10. Several bombs aerodrome nil hits
shipping.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0719Z/21 to Admty etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

At 1200Z/21 indefinite positions of U-Boats
estimated as follows
(D.D.I.C. 1338A/21, 1400A/21).

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.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy K.M.S.1 (46 ships) sailed from the Clyde at 2240 today. Escort includes auxiliary carrier AVENGER, A/A ship ALYNBANK, 12 destroyers and corvettes (S.O. STORK) and 12th Minesweeping Flotilla (5 ships).

South Atlantic.

No. 209 Squadron of R.A.F. Catalinas is now based on Laangebaan, Saldanha Bay and is under the operational control of C. in C. S.A.

TRUANT on passage from Simonstown to Freetown is to investigate possible enemy units near 11° 0' S. 11° 0' E.

Mediterranean.

An unidentified ship reported being attacked by enemy aircraft in 29° 25' N. 32° 35' E. at 0214C today.

S/M CLYDE reports 2 possible torpedo hits on an Italian U-Boat on 10/10 in approx. 34° 52' N. 19° 15' E.

The Malta aerodromes were attacked again today by bombers escorted by formations of high flying fighters. Luqa was rendered temporarily unserviceable. In 68 Spitfire sorties against 165 enemy sorties the enemy lost 3 aircraft destroyed and 8 damaged or destroyed. No British machines were lost.

Red Sea.

The minesweeper CROMARTY on passage from Massawa to Suez was unsuccessfully attacked by a single aircraft last night, about 35 miles south of Suez. The dredger RONALDSHAY was torpedoed and sunk by aircraft last night at Sofaga.

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22.10.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

At 1300 G.M.T./22 SS. KARAGOLA reports that at 2100 G.M.T./21 she sighted a suspicious 20,000 ton vessel in a rain squall near 5° 20' N. 63° 5' E. (580 miles W. of Maldive Is.)

SS. OCEAN VINTAGE was torpedoed at 1607 G.M.T. today in 21° 37' N. 60° 6' E. (45 miles east of Ras Jibeh - entrance to Gulf of Oman) and is presumed to have sunk.

America and West Indies.

Convoy O.N.139 was attacked at 2011Z today in 49° 51' N. 27° 58' E. and tanker DONAX and SS. WINNIPEG II were torpedoed. The latter sank, but DONAX can be salvaged and C. in C. W.A. sent tugs to bring her in.

Australia and New Zealand.

Seven Catalinas attacked shipping in the Buin Faisi area early this morning, but no hits were seen.

War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- Force "J". A.M. 1732/29/6 is cancelled in view of A.M. 1803/20.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 0059A/22.)
- BERMUDA. Your 2357A/21. Yes.
(BERMUDA 0749A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)
Your 2357A/21. Ship is now at 4 hours notice.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1209A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)
- INVICTA. If you concur propose INVICTA and DUKE OF
DUKE OF WELLINGTON. WELLINGTON should come under the orders of S.O.
Force J forthwith.
(C.C.O. 1110A/22 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Your 1110A/22. Concur.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1700A/22 to C.C.O.)
- 30 Mission. Cancel my 1001C/21/9. R.A. Miles will re assume
duties as Head of 30 Mission.
(30 Mission 1214C/22.)
- WAYLAND. A.M. 1910/14. It is suggested that WAYLAND could
be well employed at Scapa pending her sailing
from U.K. Request your views.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1237A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)
Admty. 1237A/22. Full use can be made of WAYLAND at Greenock
and in view of present very heavy pressure of repair work on the
Clyde her services would be of special value.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1842/22.)
- Transfer of destroyers. It is necessary to reinforce A/S craft in South
Atlantic Command.
2. The following transfers are therefore to take
place:-
(A) On relief by ST. ALBANS about mid-November
and LEAMINGTON about end November respectively, C.O.A.C. Halifax
is requested to sail 2 of the remaining Vees in W.L.E.F. to
Freetown via the Azores. The ships selected should be the 2
most recently refitted.
(B) In order to compensate W.A. for the loss of the two destroyers
from W.L.E.F. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to transfer
VERSATILE and LAUDERDALE from Rosyth Escort Force to W.A. Command
early in November.
3. Owing to the reduction of numbers in Rosyth Escort Force,
escorts for F.N. and F.S. convoys between Methil and Tyne may if
desired be reduced to 1 destroyer.
4. On joining W.A. Command VERSATILE will be required to act
temporarily as Gunnery Firing Ship in the Clyde during refit of
CARDIFF.
5. Actual date of transfer in para. 2B will be communicated
later.
(D.O.D.(H) 2130A/22.)
- Destroyers of 17th Division. During refits of ships of First Minelaying
Squadron it is intended to reinforce A.C.O.S.
Command temporarily with destroyers of 17th
Division thus released from escort duty.

War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

STURGEON Intend to sail STURGEON and H.33 escorted by
H.33. GUILLEMOT to Portsmouth p.m./24.
(C. in C. Nore 2144A/22.)

Operations.

S/M GRAPH and SEALION are to be recalled from patrol
Patrols. so as to R/V an escort off Lizard Head a.m./27,
thence Holy Loch. Submarines are to return by
approx. their outward route.

(F.O.S. 1026A/22 to Capt. S.3.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/23 and movements for the
following 24 hours.

JUNON and UREDD in Zone K.5.

GRAPH in Zones K.501 and K.505.

SEALION in Zone K.506.

(F.O.S. 1741A/22.)

Patrols. Patrol not required tonight. Escort for F.N.46
VESPER, CAMPBELL.

(C. in C. Nore 0958A/22.)

M.T.B. 55 (S.O.), 54, 56, M.G.B. 326, 312, carry out patrol
tonight as ordered in my 1610/20. Codeword "Advent". 2 Chasseurs
patrolling near E A 5 Buoy. ESKDALE stand by at Yarmouth.

M.Ls 123, 246 on same patrol from Portland.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1116A/22.) *p. 610.

Intend M.Ls 123 (S.O.) 246 to patrol on latitude 50° 20' N
between 1° 35' W and 2° 10' W tonight, leaving Weymouth 1930/22
and leaving patrol line at dawn. Codeword "Jovial".

→ (F.O.I.C. Portland 1155A/22.) Portsmouth Night Movements 22/23.

2 Chasseurs on patrol off E A 5 Buoy.

3 M.T.Bs and 2 M.G.Bs on patrol to the southward.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1514A/22 and 1909A/22.)

→ My 1155A/22 cancelled owing to weather.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 1704A/22.)

M.Ls 149 and 148 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton
and N.E. Spit Buoys, E.T.D. 1850, E.T.R. 0715/23.

(V.A. Dover 1707A/22.)

Northern Trawlers Norther Patrol are to be withdrawn from
Patrol "Knocker" line forthwith and transferred to
T R 1 (one) to 5 line.

(2) Lines are to be manned by as many trawlers
as possible commencing with 5 A at N.W. end and

working downward.

(3) Report (A) number of line you anticipate being able to man.

(B) Expected time and date that trawlers will have taken up this
patrol.

(A.C.O.S. 1105A/22 to S.O.N.P. Kirkwall.)

KRAKOWIAK My 1611A/21. KRAKOWIAK and TYNEDALE came under
TYNEDALE fire from Guernsey batteries at 2142/21 when in
shelled. 200° Les Hanois 7.2 miles, and fire was ceased
by shore batteries when destroyers were in 247°
Les Hanois 16 miles.

Fire appeared to be from 6 inch which ceased after first 10
minutes maximum range about 24000, and from 9 inch or bigger
(comparable with fire viewed from Gris Nez) which ranged up to
/36000...

War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations--cont.KRAKOWIAK
TYNEDALE
shelled.
Contd.36000. One battery in middle of Island appeared to range about 40000. Fire ceased at 2205. No illuminants were used. Both ships were straddled with first salvos and fire was accurate both for range and line. Same batteries appeared to be using flashless propellant. Ships were not hit.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1315A/22 to Admty.)Allied Air Activity.Yarmouth.
Own A/C
shot down.Unidentified aircraft approached Yarmouth from east flying low at 2140/21, was held by searchlights and engaged by all light A.A. aircraft turned out to sea and force-landed $\frac{1}{2}$ mile off shore. No survivors found. Aircraft subsequently identified as 4 engine British bomber. No recognition signals were fired at any time.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0003A/22.)A/C for
BITER and
AVENGER.833 Squadron arrived at Machrihanish and ready to embark.
(Machrihanish 1231A/22 to BITER, AVENGER.)Bombing
restrictions.My 2149A/22. Request following submerged bombing restrictions.
1. Area enclosed by - A. $043^{\circ} 40' 005^{\circ} 00'$.
B. $044^{\circ} 40' 009^{\circ} 01'$. C. $045^{\circ} 45' 004^{\circ} 35'$.
D. $045^{\circ} 12' 004^{\circ} 04'$. From 1900A/23 till 0001A/26.
2. 20 miles either side of line joining - E. $045^{\circ} 12' 004^{\circ} 04'$ and $047^{\circ} 00' 005^{\circ} 38'$. From 0400A/24 till 2000A/26.
F. $046^{\circ} 55' 005^{\circ} 30'$ and $(?048^{\circ}) 16' 006^{\circ} 45'$. From 2000A/25 till 0700A/27.
3. In sphere bounded by lines joining - $050^{\circ} 00' 007^{\circ} 00'$ and $050^{\circ} 00' 004^{\circ} 30'$ and $048^{\circ} 01' 006^{\circ} 00'$ and $048^{\circ} 00' 007^{\circ} 00'$. From 0001A/26 till 1200A/27.
(Capt. S.3. 2313A/22 to H.Q.C.C. (R) ROVER. C. in C. Plymouth. SEALION. GRAPH.)Enemy Air Activity.Yarmouth
bombed.Great Yarmouth bombed at 2053A/21. Two bombs dropped on Yarmouth and Roads. No naval damage.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0003A/22 and 0825A/22.)Operation
E Y.Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft steering 090° , height 1000 feet. My position $65^{\circ} 38' N$ $13^{\circ} 30' W$.
(M/S.15 1143Z/22.)

/Iceland...

MOST SECRETMOST SECRET. MME S S A G E 1731A/22nd October 1942From: S.B.N.O. North
Russia.Date 23.10.42.
Recd. 1032.

I.D.C. O.T.P.(45) by W/T

Addressed: Admiralty repeated 30. Mission, Air
Ministry, H.Q.C.C. 18 Group.563. Your 2240~~4~~: October 10th referring to
Air Ministry's A X 822/10.Golovko agrees generally subject to
following remarks with which I concur.Corridor number one should not be used
as it is close to enemy aerodrome and on route very
frequently used by enemy aircraft. This danger is
accentuated by fact that British aeroplanes sometimes
arrive without prior warning or with incorrect E T A.Corridor number 4 should only be used by
aircraft approaching from South or East and not
from seaward in which latter case corridors 2 or 3
to be used.

Admiralty pass Air Ministry H.Q.C.C. 18 Group.

1731A/22.

* Passing action being taken by War Registry for
18 Group H.Q.C.C.

* 2240/10 repetition of 1715/10.

Advance copy D.C. D.O.D.(H)

1st Lord.
1st S.L.(2)
D.F.S.L.
4th S.L.
C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.A.S.
N.A.1st S.L.
D.N.A.D.
D.A.C.D.
D.A.M.R.
D.C.(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
C.C.L.S.
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.of P.(2)
Head of M.(4) and for Air Ministry
D.N.I.(4)
I.P.(2)
W.D.

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War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.- Contd.

Iceland. 2 enemy aircraft plotted east of Vattarrpares 064° 56' N 013° 40' W at 0846, courses S and W.
At 1030 R/C of Reykjavik area and possibly Hvalfiord was carried out by one F.W. and 1 He.111 from 11 to 14 thousand feet, aircraft departing course S.E.
At 1220 one enemy aircraft was sighted from Raufarhofn 066° 27' N 015° 56' W course S, and at 1255 Dornier 17 circled entrance of Seidisfiord departing west over town.
(A.C.I.C. 1613A/22.)

Mining.

Convoy sweep. Departure ROWAN and ENSAY sweeping ahead of W.P.236.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0718A/22 to F.O.I.C. Portland)

REMMAREN sunk. Swedish Authorities report that homeward bound Gothenburg traffic ship REMMAREN 3775 tons was mined and sunk 0722/22 off Stavanger. Position 2200/21 was 60° 02' N 03° 24' E.
(N.A. Stockholm 1216/22.)

Operation E Y My 0004/19 para D. BEAUMARIS, LLANDUDNO have to rejoin S.O. 15th M/S.
(A.C.I.C. 2230A/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F. A.C.O.S. F.O. 2 I/C H.F.)
** ?/leave*
** ... / 584*

Enemy Intelligence.

ATLANTIDES. My 1649/12. Tanker ATLANTIDES has reached Abo and discharged 3000 tons petrol. She is about to return to Stockholm without visiting Bothnian ports. Graded A.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 1214/22.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. By D/F at 2122Z/21 a U-Boat was in your vicinity, and may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C. 0052A/22 to BARFLAKE, M.L.295.) *see p. 687*
By D/F at 0718Z/22 U-Boat, probably inward bound, was in approx. 44° 00' N to 45° 30' N, 4° 30' W to 5° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0916A/22 to SEALION. GRAPH.)
Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in 48° 47' N 8° 10' W steering (4?)1
(A/C (?) JGUG 1035/22 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 48° 46' N 08° 07' W.
(A/C 1038/22 to 19 Group.)
D/F at 0855Z/22 places U-Boat in your immediate vicinity which may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C. 1101A/22 to BARFLAKE. M.L.295.) *see p. 687*

War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- M.M.S.113. Arrived HUDDERSFIELD TOWN and CHERBOURGEOIS III towing M.M.S.113. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0359A/22.)
- VIVACIOUS. My 1722/17/9. ^{1/11.24.2.} Revised completion date is now 21/11/42. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1046/22.)
- ST. USK. Received 1319 G.M.T. from ST. USK. Hit submerged object making water rapidly. Immediate assistance required off Sully Is. (Burnham Radio No T.O.O./22. Recd. 1455/22.)
Received 1410 G.M.T. from ST. USK. Trying to beach her Penarth Beach. Tow to westward. (Burnham Radio 1510/22 to Admty.)
Received 1518 G.M.T. from ST. USK water increasing very slowly. Now contemplating beaching on Cardiff Flats. Awaiting instructions from shore. If dock available think could make it. (Burnham Radio No T.O.O./22.)
ST. USK grounded on wreckage off Barry. Was in danger of sinking. Now beached on Cardiff Flats on even keel. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1832A/22 to Admty.)
- SHROPSHIRE. On arrival in U.K. mid November SHROPSHIRE is to be taken in hand for refit at Chatham. (D.O.D.(H.) 1751A/22 to SHROPSHIRE.)
See pp 491-702-704
- Unknown ship. Grade 4, 238°, distress, unknown ship. (Tiree Radio 1958/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Torpedoed 1959/22. T.O.R. 2143. (Lands End No T.O.O./22. Recd. 2150/22.)
Intercepted at 2016 G.M.T. from Valentia Radio. SSSS from unknown station heard Q S A 2. Engine room aflood. (Port Patrick Radio 2004/22.)
Following from Lands End Radio begins: Intercept 1959 G.M.T. de NUZP 94 SSSS NUZP 94 torpedoed. (C. in C. Plymouth 2100/22.)
Intercepted 2015 G.M.T. SSSS unknown station heard Q S A 2. Engine room aflood. (Valencia 2015/22 to Admty.)
- Shipping and Convoys.
- K.X.3. Your 1731/21. Alter course to pass through position (p) 040° 02' N 013° 01' W thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. Omit positions (l) (m) and (n). (C. in C. W.A. 0022A/22 to VANOC.)
See p. 686 764
- U.S. Ships for Kirkwall. C. in C. W.A. 1032A/21. CAMPION unable to sail and will be replaced by FOXTROT. FOXTROT returns Belfast when destroyers have joined. Convoys sails from Belfast Lough 0600A/22. N.O.I.C. Aultbea is requested to sail SALADIN and SCIMITAR as early as possible on reverse route. *See next page.* (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0042A/22.)

/K.X.4A...

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War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.X.4A. Sailed MALCOLM and BROKE.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 0125A/22.)
Intend sailing FOULA (S.O.) WESTRAY and HUNDA
at 1400A today to overtake K.X.4A. S.O.A. 10 knots. C. in C.
W.A. 1931/21 and my 1806/21 refer.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1128A/22.)
Sailed FOULA (S.O.) WESTRAY and HUNDA at 1830A in accordance
with my 1128/22.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1834A/22.)
- K.X.2. Your 1800/21. FLOWERGATE returned to Clyde with
defect.
(C. in C. W.A. 0127A/22 to BULLDOG.)
- NIEUW ZEELAND. Your 1903/21. AMAZON detailed.
MOOLTAN ^{p.654} (C. in C. W.A. 0417A/22.) ^{/N.T. in R.D.}
A.M. 1903/21 and C. in C. W.A. 0417/22. Intend
to sail AMAZON so as to arrive at Barry Roads
1800A/23. ^{see next page}
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1034A/22.)
Sailed H.M.S. AMAZON in accordance with my 1034A/22.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1638A/22.)
- W.S.24Q. Following is proposed embarkation programme for
convoy W.S.24Q. Details.
2. My 0215/21 refers regarding DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.
3. P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports should advise D of S.T. as to date he
considers U.S. vessels URUGUAY and BRAZIL should arrive Liverpool.
P.S.T.O. Scottish Ports should arrange with P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports
regarding sailing of NARKUNDA from Liverpool to Clyde.
(D.S.T. 0428A/22.)
Your 0040/22. Sailed SALADIN and SCIMITAR. ^{see previous page.}
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0837A/22 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)
Your 0428/22. *P.40 should arrive Mersey a.m./27 and *P.39
a.m./28.
(P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports 1745/22 to D of S.T.) *not 2/176.
- P.W.236. ^{/N.T. in R.D.}
My 1225/21 and my 0834A/22. Have returned to
harbour owing to weather. Escorts and BUDE have
proceeded.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0950A/22.)
- K.X.4B. Admty. 1124A/20. Tugs EMPIRE MINOTAUR and EMPIRE
GNOME will not have completed necessary
alterations and repairs to enable them to sail
with K.X.4B.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1105A/22.)
Admty. 1916A/17. Movements relative to assembly of convoy
and state of various units to be included in it ? point to
postponement till 25/10 at least and thereafter from day to day,
till weather is suitable for ocean passage of these small ships.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1647A/22 to Admty.)

/K.M.S.2...

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War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

K.M.S.2. My 1536A/20 and my 1538/20. Codeword "Coupling"
 VIBALMA delayed.
 KAIA (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1116A/22 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)
 KNUDSEN My 1845/20. KAIA KNUDSEN being diverted to Loch
 Ewe to take place of VINGA, cargo of latter
 vessel to be transferred to KAIA KNUDSEN.

Remaining space in KAIA KNUDSEN to be loaded with any furnace
 oil which can be spared from WAR PATHAN.

(D of Stores 1640A/22.)

A.M. 0058/20.

1. Para 1. Loading of following ships at Liverpool will not be
 completed in time for ships to proceed to Loch Ewe:-
 OCEAN VIRTUE EMPIRE DAY HORACE BINNEY LEWIS MORRIS MATTHEW
 P. DEADY JOHN SERGANT

Note: HORACE BINNEY was incorrectly spelt BURKEY.

2. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail ships to R/V with
 convoy at 1600Z/26 in accordance with A.M. 0057A/20.

3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for part of escort
 already detailed to accompany these ships.

4. Masters will not attend Conference at Loch Ewe.

6. A special envelope for each ship is being forwarded to
 N.C.S.O. Liverpool. N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe is to destroy the
 envelopes addressed to these ships which have been forwarded to
 him for distribution.

7. Paras 6 and 7 for LUNENBURG read LOUISBURG.

(D.O.D.(H.) 1741A/22.)

W.S.24P. Intend to sail Bristol Channel portion of W.S.24P
 escorted by AMAZON to Clyde, leaving Barry Roads
 0100/24. E.T.A. Greenock 0500/25. Codeword
 "Synthetic"
 (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1327A/22.) *see previous page*

Mull anchorages. N.O.I.C. Oban 1933/17. Recent experience indicates
 on account of poor holding ground not more than 8
 large ships should berth in Loch Na Keal. Loch
 Scridain not suitable for large ships. Salen or
 Ballachulish Bay as suggested as alternative
 temporary anchorages.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1608A/22 to Admty.)

D.S.33. D.S.33 arrived.
 (S.S.T.O. Iceland 1924A/22.)

Convoy O.N.139 Convoy attacked. My Position 049° 51' N 027° 58'
 DONAX and WWINNIPEG ~~H~~ still afloat but crew have abandoned. ~~MORDEN~~ reports they could
 probably be salvaged if tugs sent. DRUMHELLER
 standing by pending decision.
 (C.T.U. 24.1.12 2344Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- W.S.24. A.M. 1014/20. R/V in J 270° Oversay 6 miles at
0730Z/29 thence through (route) to Bahia.
2. Stragglers route:
3. Estimated S of A 12 knots.
4. H.Q.F.C. and H.Q.C.C. have been informed separately of the
route to M.
5. Fighter protection codeword "Muster".
6. TAMAROA is to part company at R through G 15° N 27° W.
H 10° N 11° W. thence to Freetown. S of A 13 knots.
(D.O.D.(H.) 2032A/22.)
- K.M.S.1. Sailed RHODODENDRON. E.T.A. 0700A/23,
subsequently joining K.M.S.1.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2134A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1616A/21. *Sailed 2240/22. Codeword "Subsoil".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2248A/22. D.S.T.O. Greenock
2342/22.) *K.M.S.1.

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22.10.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

VANOC. (K.X.3.) C. in C. W.A. 0022/22nd. Onward route from
See p. 682
next page
 position (P) to (Q) 36.32 09.23 (R) 35.52 06.11,
 thence to Gibraltar.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 0252A/22 to VANOC (R) Admty., C. in
 C. W.A. FURIOUS, BULLDOG.)

LLANSTEPHAN
 CASTLE. Ref. Admty. signals 1249/7 and 1653/18,
 LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE sailed from U.K. on 19/10.
 For details of personnel on board see War Office
 signal 73660 of 20/10 to Governor and C. in C.
 Gibraltar.
 2. Vessel should return to Clyde.
 (D.S.T. 0426A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LAVORO. Arfar 504 for Contraband Control arrivals LAVORO,
 Italian, Algeciras. Departure LAVORO Genoa.
 (Conband Gib. 0900/22 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

Gibraltar Alert Gibraltar 2035/21. Three aircraft, two
 Raid 21/10. approached from north east, one turned back.
 One identified as Piaggio 108. No bombs on
 Gibraltar. Some in sea and San Roque area.
 Two Hurricanes up, no interception. A/A fired,
 no claims. All clear 2124.
 (V.A.C.N.A. 1004A/22 to Admty.)

17817 Cypher 22/10. Sitrep. Further my 17806 (2130/21)
 Full report as follows. 2030 hours three targets located N.E.
 Air raid warning sounded 2034 whilst targets at range 60 miles.
 Two targets attacked and engaged by A.A. 2056. First target
 illuminated 17000 feet and identified Piaggio P.108. Second
 target engaged unseen fire turned away. Third target did not
 approach. Four sticks bombs fell in areas Guadarranque,
 Campamento, off east of Rock and in Bay off North Nole.
 Damage and casualties Spain unknown. Ammunition expenditure
 H.A.A. 482 "Z" 128. Bofors 32.
 (Govr. Gib. 1650/22 to W.O.)

Italian Your 1321/14/9 para 3. My 1302/16/9 para 1,
 Repatriations. and B.N.A. Madrid's 1808/20 para 3. Request
 immediate reply as to which route is to be
 followed.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1102A/22 to Admty.)

AURORA. Arrived.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1204A/22 to Admty.)

Dispositions. F.O.C.N.A. 1228A/22. See Lion Copy.

/U/B ...

6867.

M E S S A G E 1228A/22nd Oct.

MOST SECRET.

MOST SECRET I N.

From F.O.C.N.A. ~~Date. 22.10.42.~~

Recd. 2040.

Naval Cypher "A1" by W/T.

Addressed N.A. Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation report in Area "X".

S/M's P.34, 41 10 12 31 dived by day two surface by night seven. Course 350 degs.

2. P.54, 36 38 07 46 on surface eight through 36 32 06 54 to Gibraltar.

3. P.552, 28 21 15 01 on surface nine through 27 30 15 01 thence 208 degs.

4. K X three, H.M.S. ACHATES, H.M.S. VANOC 47 20 15 53 164 degs. 12.

5. CAVA patrolling off Cape Roca.

6. KERRERA patrolling Huelva Bight.

7. H.M.S. LOCH OSKAIG, 37 03 06 57 coastwise to patrol off Cape Roca 10.

8. IMPERIALIST sailing 0900 23rd to assume patrol Huelva Bight.

9. BARBARIAN, BARFLAKE, one M.L., 40 25 16 01 through 39 01 16 01 thence 117 degs. eight.

10. H.M.S. JONQUIL, H.M.S. GERANIUM, 33 45 10 10 through 32 43 11 40 thence 251 degs. 11'. *see next page*

11. O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA, H.M.S. BRAMHAM, H.M.S. COWDRAY, 42 37 13 30 through 39 01 13 30 thence 142 degs. 16.

12. Fleet unit D.S. ISAAC SWEERS, H.M.S. MARNE, H.M.S. ESCAPADE 45 36 18 01 through 40 01 18 01 thence 128 degs. 17½. *FURIOUS - *see p.769*

13. Spanish training ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCAN cruising in area between Canary Islands and (?Point) 036 degs. 01' 030 degs. 02'.

1228A/22

Advance copy sent D.C.,
D.O.D.(F) & D.T.D.

686 B

- 1st S.L. (2)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. to 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.C. (2)
- U.S.N.
- D./S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.T.D. (M)
- C. in C., X.F. (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.B.D.
- D. of L.D.
- D.D.O.D. (C)
- Admiral Blake.
- D. of P. (Q)
- C.C.O. (2)

MG.

War Diary.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

- U/B. Sub. at 38° 16' N. 09° 22' W. 1230 G.M.T.
(A/C (?Gib local) 1245Z/22.)
Aircraft sighted U-Boat in 038° 16' N. 009°
22' W. at 1330A/22. No course or speed stated.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1525A/22 to Admty.)
- BARFLAKE,
M.L.295
U/B. *see p.681*
Following is a repetition of Admty 1101 (begins)
BARFLAKE, M.L.295 (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A.
H.Q.C.C. from Admty. D/F at 0855Z/22 placed
U-boat in immediate vicinity which may have
reported you (ends). BARFLAKE pass to M.L.295.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1317A/22 to BARFLAKE, M.L.295.)
- ESSO
GETTYSBURG. Expect ^{*}JONQUIL and ^{*}GERANIUM meet you during
daylight hours 25/10 for onward escort to
Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1331A/22 to ESSO GETTYSBURG (R)
Admty.) *see previous page*
- Oil Fuel,
P. Delgada. Special oil fuel tank will be full p.m./23rd.
Tanker E.W. SINCLAIR will have remaining on
board approx. 4000 tons special oil fuel.
Request instructions. Diesel oil completely
discharged p.m.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1605/22 to Admty.)
- GRIFFIN. Left Ponta Delgada 1730 G.M.T./22nd. Course
160° speed 10 knots.
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada 1650/22 to S.O.(I)
Gibraltar (R) Admty.)
(GRIFFIN 1759Z/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- P.614. Capt. (S) 3rd 1421A/21. Owing to endurance
request you will arrange shortest practicable
route through your station. Estimated S. of A.
after crossing 43° N. 9 knots.
(D.O.D.(H) 1720A/22 to F.O.C.N.A. R.A.W.A.)
- Relief
Ships. Onward route for Swedish relief ships YARROWONGA
and ARRA is through 120° Cape Spartivento 20
miles thence direct to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1736A/22 to 8th S.F.)
- KAOLACK,
OMEGA,
STELLA CARINA. Intend to sail KAOLACK and OMEGA escorted by
STELLA CARINA for U.K. 1700/23 routed through
A. 35.59 06.01, B. 36.01 09.02, C. 38.15 13.01,
D. 44.59 18.01, S. of A. 6 knots. 2. Admty.
is requested to signal destination and C. in C.
W.A. onward route.
3. KAOLACK and OMEGA are only armed with machine guns.
 4. KAOLACK is not degaussed.
 5. Local escort will be provided to 40° N.
 6. Admty. are requested to signal refitting port for STELLA
CARINA. (V.A.C.N.S. 1802A/22 to Admty.) Reply: Admty.1314/23.
/Italian ...

War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

Italian U/B Santander. Special observer report (? confidential) hull repairs (? completed).
(2) New parts needed for both electric motors. Ordered from Bordeaux but not available.

Observer accompanied chief engineer repairers to S.E.C.N. Works at Reinososa who refuse to make non-confidential parts without express authority from Minister of Marine. They then visited Maquinaria Terrestre Y Maritima at Barcelona who have agreed to make non-confidential parts though officially ignorant of purpose.

(3) Damage to C/T and periscope due to be made good end of October including special periscope lenses ordered from Italy.

(4) Only two Italian experts present now.

(5) Spanish Govt. has hinted at offer to buy submarine but Italian Govt. refuse, (this is not confirmed).

(6) Chief Engineer to Repairers? has agreed to ensure that S/M will not be able to leave before time is up.

(7) C.O. largely recovered wounds.

I am not satisfied with this but am following it up.

(N.A. Madrid 1822/22 to D.N.I.)

W.R. Note. Message passed to H.Q.C.C. C. in C. Plymouth F.O.S. at request of D.D.I.C.

UNIQUE. Report your E.T.A. Gate. Set additional watch on 4900 k/cs.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1836A/22 to UNIQUE.)

Report P.C. and S.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2006A/22 to UNIQUE.)

BESSEL, MAX ALBRECHT, (German) Vigo's 1927/19 and 1820/20 and previous report. It appears fairly clear that degaussing gear is to be fitted BESSEL and tankers at Vigo and to MAX ALBRECHT at Ferrol. This can only mean they will leave sooner or later. Diplomatic representations re searching of BESSEL have so far produced nothing but promise of investigation.
(N.A. Madrid 1847/22 to D.N.I. (R) ? F.O.C.N.A.)

Italian Repatriations. Your 1808/20. Request you will inform M.F.A. that all communications between Italian and British Governments respecting repatriation voyages are made through Swiss. Communication through other channels leads to confusion and we are obliged to disregard such communications.
2. Full routes for outward voyage have now been agreed between the two Governments and we cannot see any need at all for present communication. For your information, routes are as stated by you except that point D should read 035° 01' N. 010° 30' W.
3. Ref. para 4 and 5, liners not expected to stay in Gibraltar for more than a few hours. Their movements are controlled by us and Italian Govt. have no right to try and lay down a programme.
(M.B. 1930A/22 to N.A. Madrid.)

/Huelva ...

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War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

Huelva.

P.R.U. at 1225 hrs.
(P.R.U. Gibraltar 2040Z/22.)

U/B.

Transit Wellington reports S/M sighted at
1105 43.50 N. 09.20 W. today, course easterly.
(V.A.C.N.A. 2157A/22 to Admty.)Vichy
Prisoners.

Your 0121/20 and my 2002/19. French D. of N.I. will press reply to French Admty. He read me part of a letter from Chief 2nd Bureau "Please impress on Capt. Hillgarth that it is useless dealing through French M.F.A. via Americans. Everything goes to Laval and is at once known to Germans. I have under my hand many British of whom Germans know nothing. These we can easily exchange. If that Cretin, American Consul at Tunis, had not telegraphed names en clair I could have included all MANCHESTER survivors. Any exchange (?must be) secretly agreed between both Admiraltys". Naval (?Attche) is expecting list and (?suggests) if exchange agreed Lisbon might be suitable place. He said Germans would be bound to know afterwards but that did not matter.

(N.A. Madrid 2050/22 to Admty.)

Your 1828/16. Full list of Madagascar prisoners held in U.K. was sent to Vichy weeks ago, both through Vichy Consul in U.K. and through Red Cross. It therefore looks as if Vichy F.O. are not informing Naval Authorities.

2. We feel that French Admty. might have taken advantage of offer made in para 2 of my 2346/28/8 before visiting the default of Vichy F.O. upon LACONIA survivors. Nevertheless, we are now transmitting to French Admty. a full list of Naval prisoners held in U.K. through the U.S. Naval Attache in Vichy, and offer in my 2346/28/8 still remains open.

3. We have also requested our authorities in South and East Africa to forward by air mail list of the few Naval personnel still held in those territories. Number in East Africa is known to be 4 officers and 9 other ranks.

4. So far as we know Vichy Consul made no request for permission to visit AJAX personnel until January 1942 and then, although we had no official status, permission was at once given.
(M. Branch 2233A/22 to N.A. Madrid.)

War Diary.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ATHENE. Arrived and sailing ATHENE to Port Elizabeth, route R.9, E.T.A. 1300/23. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0937Z/22 to Admty. etc.)
See p. 691.

C.M.33. Convoy C.M.33 sailed for Aden 21/10 E.T.A. 4/11. Personnel on board for Middle East. (D.S.T.O. Durban 0943C/22 to D.S.T.O. Aden (R) P.S.T.O. Egypt etc.)

ELG. Your 2107Z/21st. ELG Norwegian 120 Freetown BOSWORTH. 17/10. C. in C. S.A.'s 1705/7th. BOSWORTH arrived Freetown 21/10. (S.O.(I.) Freetown 1032Z/22 to S.O.(I) Montevideo (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A. S.O.(I) Kingston (Jamaica) Connav.)

AQUITANIA. P.S.T.O. Capetown's 1638/20 para 1. AQUITANIA. Is estimation of fuel remaining correct? (A.C.N.S.(F) 1045A/22 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply: 1235/23.

COMMANDANT DUBOC. Serious fire in one compartment, cause of which is being investigated. She is being towed from Simonstown to Capetown for repairs. Estimated to take approx. 2 months. Further signal will be made. Admty. pass to F.N.F.L. (C. in C. S.A. 1113C/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

TRUANT. Departure 1528Z/21 TRUANT escorted by THYME to THYME. 030° 00' S.
See p. 691.
2. Route A. (?033°) 12' S. 017° 37' E.
B. 032° 40' S. 017° 37' E.
C. 030° 00' S. 016° 30' E.
D. 015° 00' S. 011° 00' E. thence to investigate possible enemy units in vicinity of 011° 00' S. 011° 00' E. (TRUANT has been given copies of A.T. 1031/21/7) thence to R/V with Dutch S/M K.14 in 11° 00' S. 007° 00' E. at 1200Z/30th and proceed in company through position E, 008° S. 004° E. F, Equator 008° W. thence as ordered by R.A.W.A. to Freetown.
3. S. of A. 10½ knots.
4. Changing to W/T organisation for area P. at 1500Z/26th.
5. Request R.A.W.A. communicate route from F direct to TRUANT and arrange surface escort. (C. in C. S.A. 1117C/22 (as amended 1521C/22) to Admty., R.A.W.A.)

Dispositions. R.A.W.A. 1243Z/22, 1307Z/22. See Lion Copy.

690^A

Sa

M E S S A G E 1243Z/22nd Oct.

MOST SECRET. I N.

From R.A. West Africa. Date. 22.10.42.

Recd. 1649.

Naval Cypher "M" by W/T.

Addressed A.I.G.149.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. PETUNIA with S.L. 125 017 degs.
59' 026 degs. 05' 022 degs. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

H.M.S. *SNOWDROP, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU
18 40 21 55 to join S L 125 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. * *p.492*

H.M.S. WIVERN 17 50 19 01 358 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ at (04?)02Z
22nd.

H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER 15 15 25 05 to Freetown 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

COPINSAY 13 (01?) 17 20 to Freetown 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS about 09 30 (22?) 01 to
Freetown through 10 02 20 01 15.

1243Z/22

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)
- N.A. to 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.C. (2)
- U.S.N.
- 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)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E. 1307Z/22nd Oct.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From R.A. West Africa.

Date. 22.10.42.

Recd. 1640.

Naval Cypher "M" by W/T.

Addressed A.I.G.150.

IMPORTANT.H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRIDE, H.M.S. ST. WISTAN with
S T off Freetown to South East 8.H.M.S. CORINTHIAN about 07 20 15 25 to join
S T #7391 ll. *see 21/10 - p.660.*

SPANIARD about 05? 59 10 45 to Freetown 7.

CANNA from Robert's Port to Freetown 7.

FANDANGO at Robert's Port.

12½. H.M.S. DURBAN with W S 23 02 37 07 40? 098 degs.

SOUTHERN GEM about 03 10 02 30 to join W S 23. *see next page 9.10.42 see next page*AMARANTHUS 04 10 South 10 30 East to Point
Noire 10 at 1958Z 22nd.GUARDIAN, F.S. COMMANDANT DESTROYAT, CYCLAMEN,
03 15 South 05 40 East 287 12.H.M.S. SIRIUS, H.M.S. PHOEBE 07 30 South 10
30 East to Pointe Noire 20.

1307Z/22

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)

N.A. to 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim.

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

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

D.C. (2)

U.S.N.

D.A/S.W.

Hd. of M.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.M.S.

D.T.D. (3)

D.T.D. (M)

D.N.I. (4)

War Diary.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

CITY OF
CAIRO,
passengers.

Your 1305/21, CITY OF CAIRO, owing to additional firemen, better coal, and engine adjustments, Master has now guaranteed in writing to maintain 12 knots in normal weather. In view of this intend sailing ship noon 23/10 to Capetown with unrestricted number of passengers. (N.C.S.O. Durban 1252Z/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

S.L.125.

ANGLO MAERSK straggled at 2300Z/19th in 010° 47'N. 023° 03' W. P.C. and S. of S.L.125 at 2359Z/21 was 014° 48' 025° 57' 345° 7. My P.C. and S. at 1900Z, 016° 39' 025° 06' 149° 9½. BARON NAPIER ?in company. E.T.A. 0900Z/26. Weather report.

* (WOODRUFF 1408Z/22 to R.A.W.A.)

** confirmed by Convoy Report.*

Movement
Summary.

2000Z/22nd area Q. U.S. Destroyer DICKERSON, → HECLA, ARROW, ACTIVE with C.F.7 025° 10' S. 011° 20' E. to the North 12 knots. *THYME with S/M*TRUANT 030° 54' S. 016° 53' E. to the North, 10½. NORMAN, EXPRESS, CATTERICK about 034° 22' S. 017° 47' E. *ATHENE leaves Durban 0937Z/22nd for Port Elizabeth route R.9 speed, 14 knots. E.T.A. 1300Z/22nd. (C. in C. S.A. 1613C/22 to S.A. Stn.)

** see p. 690*

** see p. 690*

Convoy
C.F.7.

Detach AMARANTHUS and SOUTHERN GEM from convoy W.S.23 as necessary to (?R/V) with *SHROPSHIRE, → HECLA, ARROW, ACTIVE escorting convoy C.F.7 at position (x) 005° 39' S. 010° 12' E. at 0800Z/27th. Approach course of convoy C.F.7 320°. S. of A. 12½ knots. * see p. 682 (R.A.W.A. 1616Z/22 to DURBAN, DESPATCH (R) Admty., SHROPSHIRE, AMARANTHUS, C. in C. S.A. (?Escort) W.S.23. SOUTHERN GEM, Escort C.F.7.)

Route of convoy C.F.7.

- D. 006° 00' S. 010° 30' E.
 - X. 005° 39' S. 010° 12' E.
 - E. 003° 00' S. (008°) 00' E.
 - F. 001° 33' N. 004° (?03') E.
 - G. 001° 32' N. 008° 29' W.
 - H. 007° 52' N. 014° 13' W. thence (?Freetown) S. of A. 12½ knots.
2. SILVERCASH from Matadi will R/V with SHROPSHIRE escorting convoy C.F.7 at position X. 005° 39' S. 010° 12' E. at 0800Z/27th.
 3. SILVERCASH is to be detached at position F. to proceed independently to Lagos (Nigeria.)
 4. N.O.I.C. Takoradi sail TAMARISK escorting HAI LEE to join C.F.7 position T (?001°) 33' N. 000° 55' W. at 0800Z/30.
 5. After TAMARISK joins escort SHROPSHIRE detach AMARANTHUS for Takoradi.

(R.A.W.A. 1717Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, SHROPSHIRE (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty., N.O.I.C. Lagos, Escorts C.F.7.)

War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.209 Sqn.
R.A.F.

No. 209 Squadron of R.A.F. Catalinas now based Laangebaan, Saldanha Bay, is under operational control of C. in C. South Atlantic and is attached R.N.A.S. Wingfield, Capetown, for administrative details as required.
(C. in C. S.A. 1737C/22 to No.207 Group Nairobi, Com i/c Durban, C. in C. E.F., C.G.S. Pretoria.)

GULLPOOL.

Have you any news of GULLPOOL due Paranagua 11/10 from Pernambuco?
2. No movements reported from Paranagua since Vescas discontinued in August.
(D.T.D. 1800A/22 to S.O.(I) Montevideo.)
Reply: 1805/23.

W.S.23.

Departure 22nd SOUTHERN GEM to R/V with W.S.23. / *pp 690^B 7691*
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1855Z/22 to Admty., R.A.W.A.)
Convoy W.S.23 sailed 20th. Details.
(D.S.T.O. Freetown 1945Z/22.)

SNOWDROP.

pp 690^A

Part company as necessary to arrive Bathurst at 1830Z/25 refuelling on arrival. You will be required to leave Bathurst at daylight 26/10. Orders follow.
(R.A.W.A. 1951Z/22 to SNOWDROP (R) F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, PETUNIA, N.O.I.C. Bathurst Gambia)

BRILLIANT.

Arrival 20th.
(S.O.(I.) Freetown 2235Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

A/C attack Gulf of Suez. Following has been read. Am being attacked by enemy aircraft 29° 25' N. 32° 35' E. 325° 7. (Via Kilindini W/T, 0214C/22.)
W.R. Note: Message incompletely received.

Tanker on fire, 19/10. Ref. situation report number 279, para. 3. Tanker was British SS. SCALARIA. (C. in C. Med., 0913C/22.)

Cositrep No. 555. 4. Air. Night 20/21 Oct. Wellingtons bombed Tobruk harbour, starting a fire on docks. Remainder results obscured by cloud.
21/10. American B.24s despatched to attack Benghazi shipping found harbour completely obscured by cloud and returned. Enemy air activity restricted to defensive role except for isolated attacks on our forward landing grounds and in southern sector.
(C. in C. M.E., 0943/22 G.M.T.)

Supply of Stores to 8th Army. Request reply to my 1300/8. (P.S.T.O. E., 1045C/22 to Admiralty for D. of S.T.)

THRASHER, Rhodes. My 1010/21st (troops expected Rhodes). Probable within the next 36 hours.
(Capt. S.1, 1057C/22 to THRASHER.)

Black Sea. KING FERDINAND sunk. 1. Naval. 14/10, Russian submarine sank Roumanian Destroyer KING FERDINAND near Cape Burnas.
2. Enemy continue to press attack on Tuapse but has gained little ground.
3. Russians gradually clearing the main Caucasus ridge of enemy units.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 1147C/22 to Admty., Adm. Miles)

P. 212 Enemy Units. Leave Patrol as requisite by reverse of outward route to R/V with Sweeper at end of searched Channel at 1016/26th.
(Capt. S.10, 1250A/22 to P.212, (R) C. in C Med.)

Investigate position 038° 44' 020° 08' from sunset until further orders.
(Capt. S.10, 1325A/22 to P.212, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.)

/Aircraft ...

22.10.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- P. 212
Enemy
Units.
(Contd.)
- Aircraft report 1 large tanker 2 destroyers in 039° 10' 018° 30' at 1200A/22nd course 110° 9 knots. Attacks from submerged by moonlight have proved most successful in Mediterranean. Target justifies full salvo. Own air attack may coincide.
(Capt. S.10, 1831A/22 to P.212, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.)
- P. 247.
- Leave Kuriat vicinity as requisite to arrive 1015A/24th.
(Capt. S.10, 1305A/22 to P.247, (R) 10th S/M.F., Capt. S.1, C. in C. Med.)
- UTMOST,
P.42, P.37,
P.211.
- My 2007/21. UTMOST carefully counted exact constitution of convoy at 1000/19. It was one tanker, three M/Vs, and seven fleet destroyers. At 1540/19 after P.42's attack air reconnaissance showed tanker, one M/V and four destroyers southbound, one M/V and one destroyer north-eastbound. Towards Lampedusa at this time P.37 reports one destroyer near his attack position. Consider submarine results were, P.37 sank one M/V and one destroyer, P.42 possibly obtained one hit but presumably ship later turned and rejoined convoy. P.211 sank one M/V lying stopped due to torpedo bomber attack.
(S.10, 1438A/22 to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A.M., F.O.C.N.A., S.1.)
- TRAVELLER.
- If nothing has been sighted by dusk proceed with despatch to patrol off Candia.
(Capt. S.1, 1545C/22 to TRAVELLER, (R) C. in C. Med., Subs. on Patrol, Capt. (S) 10.)
- Cancel my 1545/22nd, proceed forthwith to patrol off Candia.
(Capt. S.1, 1921Z/22 to TRAVELLER, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, Subs. on Patrol.)
- Malta Air
Report.
- I.60, 22/10, C.S.R.
Night 21/22. 0335 hours 4 raiders approached Malta at height 1 He.111 was intercepted and damaged by Beaufighter. Others turned back 20 miles north of Island having dropped bombs in sea. 22nd. Enemy continued to employ formations of high flying German and Italian fighters escorting Me.109 and possible Re. 2001 bombers using cloud cover in attacks on Luqa, Ta Kali, and Hal Far aerodromes. 0614 hours, 15 enemy fighters including Me.109 bombers approached Island at height. 8 Spitfires up but raiders escaped in cloud. Bombs killed 4 civilians wounded 9 others and caused damaged to houses. 0715 hours, 4 Spitfires up for raiders which turned back before reaching Malta. 0855 hours, 40 Me.109s and Mc.202s including bomb carrying Me. 109s approached at height and were intercepted 5 miles North of Island by 16 Spitfires who destroyed two Mc.202s and 1 Me.109 probably destroyed 1 Mc.202 and damaged 2 Me.109s and 1 Mc.202

/without ...

War Diary.21.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Malta Air Report. (Contd.) without loss to themselves. Bombs dropped round Ta Kali aerodrome caused no serious damage. 1020 hours, 30 enemy fighters including Me.109 bombers approached at great height in 3 waves and were intercepted by 8 Spitfires but enemy had height advantage and no combat resulted. Bombs on Ta Kali and Luqa aerodrome caused craters and Luqa was temporarily unserviceable. Bombs round Hal Far aerodrome caused no serious damage. Light A.A. destroyed 1 Me.109. 1243 hours, 15 enemy fighters approached Malta at great height. 8 Spitfires up but raiders turned back North of Island without crossing coast. A.A. fired pointer rounds. 1412 hours, 24 Spitfires were up to intercept 65 enemy fighters approaching Malta at height in 2 waves. First wave consisting of Me.109 fighters and fighter bombers were intercepted but had height advantage and escaped in cloud. Bombs on Luqa aerodrome caused craters and made aerodrome temporarily unserviceable. Second wave comprising Mc.202 and reported Re.2001 bombers were intercepted by Spitfires North of Island where bombers were forced to jettison bombs in sea and turn back and four Mc.202 were damaged without loss to ourselves. Today in 68 Spitfire sorties against 165 enemy sorties 3 enemy aircraft have been destroyed 1 probably destroyed and 7 damaged without any loss to ourselves. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta, 2050/22.)

Malta Evacuation. 89613/42. No. 583. Your telegram to War Office. No. H.E. 4419 of 19/10. You will recollect this question was considered in June by War Cabinet whose decision was communicated to you in my telegram No. 386. I appreciate that situation has subsequently changed to some extent, and I am quite ready to consult Cabinet again regarding revision of decision. But I do not think that action which is not in accordance with decision referred to can be taken without Cabinet authority. I am therefore arranging to bring your proposals before Cabinet at first opportunity. Press reports that a party of 19 English children have already reached Cairo from Malta. Grateful if you would arrange for any further action on lines you have suggested to be suspended pending reference to Cabinet. (S. of S. for Colonies, 2100/22 to Govr. Malta.) Reply: Govr. Malta 1100Z/23.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

GLENEARN. GLENEARN delayed by defect developed during trial leaves Colombo p.m./22 for Durban. E.T.A. 1/11. *Sailed, see next page. (Thru-Tank)*
 2. Route P. 003° 20' N. 077° 22'. Q. 1½° Channel. R. Equator 069° 05'. S. 021° 01' S. 059° 02'. T. 029° 05' S. 048° 03'. thence direct Durban. S. of A. 16 knots. Endurance 31 days. (F.O.I.C. Ceylon, 0522Z/22 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty., Cdre. Durban.)

ELIN K. Overdue shipping, cancel my 0409/21. ELIN K. (Norway) arrived Aden 21st. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 0528Z/22 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B., S.O.(Is.) Aden, Kilindini, Bombay.)

MASTIFF. Sailed MASTIFF, E.T.A. Tamatave p.m./24th. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 0902Z/22 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., etc.)

Persian Gulf Striking Force; Base Ship, Gulf of Oman. Your 0335/9. It is now two months since proposals on this subject were made and a decision is urgently necessary. 2. Dhows are ready to operate and M.Ls will shortly be available.
 3. My 1013/29/8 para. 1. BLINJOE is being used but is on T.97 Charter Party which is unsuitable. If ship could be put on T.98 Charter much more use could be made of her and I could fit her with Asdic. Dutch authorities in Bombay do not agree to any of their ships being on T.98 Charter.
 4. As BLINJOE is now in dock and Asdic could be fitted now request immediate decision whether ship can be taken over on T.98 basis.
 5. A second ship is essential for scheme and will be fitted out as base ship for M.Ls, without which they cannot operate in Gulf of Oman.
 6. WUSUEH and MELCHOR TREUB are both suitable but use of former would obviate difficulties with Dutch crews. This ship has now been laid up for ten months and I therefore propose to put in hand for fitting out forthwith. PERAK mentioned in my 1013/29 is definitely unsuitable and cannot be used for this purpose.
 7. Request immediate decision (A) On transferring BLINJOE to T.98 Charter. (B) On use of WUSUEH as M.L. Base Ship. (C) Failing WUSUEH a use of MELCHOR TREUB and her transfer to T.98 Charter. (D) Failing MELCHOR TREUB request you suggest another ship (11 corrupt groups).
 (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0947Z/22 amended 0535Z/24 to Admty., (R) Com. R.I.N.)

/AQUITANIA ...

War Diary.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

*AQUITANIA,
DEVONSHIRE.

* ~~2~~ p. 703

Your 0921/20.

AQUITANIA will call both at Fremantle and Colombo, and proposals that DEVONSHIRE should provide escort is concurred in.

2. Approximate programme is:- Port. Dep. Suez 1/11. Arr. Colombo 9/11. Arr. Fremantle 19/11. Return Fremantle 10/12 thence to Suez as in para. 1.

(D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1105A/22 to C. in C. E.F.)

Convoys

P.B. 8,

P.A. 7.

Sailing telegrams.

(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 1200Z/22, 1205Z/22.)

Amended 0610Z/23, q.v.

U.S. Forces.

A.M. 1500/14. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in the Pacific.

CHICAGO at San Francisco refitting. RALEIGH left San Francisco 19th October with convoy to South Pacific.

LOUISVILLE on passage to San Francisco from Alaska.

PORTLAND in South Pacific area.

SOUTH DAKOTA, ENTERPRISE at Sea from Pearl Harbour.

QUINCY, ASTORIA, VINCENNES sunk.

(D.O.D.(F), 1220A/22 to C. in C. E.F.)

Suspicious Ship.

Following has been read:- F.O.I.C. Ceylon. Under cover of rain squall sighted 9 miles distant almost stationary suspicious vessel tonnage 20,000 in vicinity 5° 20' N. 63° 5' E.

at 21 hours G.M.T. 21/10.

Broadside outline whale backed suggesting stepped deck funnel and masts invisible moonlight.

My position now 7.30 N. 65° E. course and speed 026° 13 knots.

(KARAGOLA, 1300 G.M.T./22.)

GAMBIA.

Sailed GAMBIA 1336Z/22nd E.T.A. Kilindini

0630C/24th. Request Gate 0715C.

(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 1338Z/22 to Admty.,

C. in C. E.F., etc.)

OCEAN

VINTAGE

torpedoed.

Following has been read from Karachi W/T.

S S S S 21.37 N. 60.06 E., OCEAN VINTAGE BDRG torpedoed T.O.R. 1607.

(N.O.I.C. Colombo, 1615 G.M.T./22.)

(S.N.O.P.G., 1710Z/22 to SUTLEJ, POOLE.)

(C. in C. E.F., 1715Z/22 to E.I. Stn.)

A.F. Message. (Adm. Mombasa, 1749Z/22 to B.A.M.S. 7A.)

British, 7174 tons, New York and Durban to Aberdeen and Bandar

Shahpur. (D.S., 1144.)

Movements.

Colombo departures 22/10. 1205 GLENEARN. 1310 OKAPI.

(S.O.I.) Colombo, 1639Z/22.)

Previous page

War Diary.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Trawlers
for
South
Atlantic. Cominch 1845/14. Norfolk arrived 2200 Z/20.
LADY ROSEMARY, WELLARD, ARCTIC EXPLORER, and
NORTHERN CHIEF.
(N.S.H.Q. 0015Z/22 to Admty).
Cominch 1845/14. Boston sailed 2043Z/20
H.M.Trawlers CAPE WARWICK, LE TIGER.
(N.S.H.Q. 1621Z/22 to Admty).

A.T.27. *See next page* Cancel my 1701/20th. COAMO or BORINQUEN will
A.T.28. now sail and will be known as A.T.27.
(2) SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH will be A.T.28.
(B.A.D. 0023Z/22. to Admty).

U /B C.E.S. F's 1917/21.
Positions. (Comnav 0031/22, 0956/22 to Admty).

Trawler BRITISH ENDURANCE has been diverted to
Escort of Trinidad for Trawler escort. Ref. Masta 3881,
Tankers, we estimate that only BRITISH UNITY and BRITISH
Trinidad. POWER can make the connection at Trinidad
without delaying Trawlers.
My 1545/18. Estimated Trawlers arrive
Trinidad approximately - Group 2 (4 Trawlers) 29/10. Group 1
(3 Trawlers) 30/10. Group 3 (5 Trawlers) 3/11. Group 4 (4
Trawlers) 5/11. Group 5 (2 trawlers) 10/11.
(B.A.D. 0033Z/22 to Admty (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, S.B.N.O.W.A.).

Convoy Your 1959Z/18 A.M. 1335A/16 established sailing
Cycles. dates on the agreed 11 Groups basis whereas A.M.
1735A/16 was meant to illustrate the complete
cycle if working with 10 groups.
2. O.N. and O.N.S. cycle in A.M. 1335/16 is calculated.
(a) To fit in with N. G. and N.K. cycle with minimum delay at
New York.
(b) To allow the 3 to 4 days required for W.L. E. F. between
arrival at Westomp of H.X. and S.C. and corresponding O.N.S.
or O. N. It is not possible to satisfy (a) and (b) above
and at the same time ensure ideal length of lay-over for mid-
ocean escort both ends.
(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(T) 0058A/22 to N.S.H.Q.).

CELANDINE My 2205Z/20 (N.T. in W. D.) CELANDINE and
AMHERST AMHERST position by D/R at 0159Z/22nd 047.50 N.
045.06 W. course and speed 269° 9.
Situation unchanged. Weather report. Request
further weather report.
(CELANDINE 0201Z/22 to F.O.N.F.(R) C.O.A.C. C.T.24
Connav).

Your 0131Z/22nd (N.T. in W.D.) If weather (?still) favourable
consider should reach St.Johns N.F. under own steam. AMHERST
reports having sufficient fuel to assist me if required and weather
conditions permit. ARVIDA not in company,
(CELANDINE 0231Z/22, to F.O.N.F.).

War Diary.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

K.15. Leave Bermuda at 1830Z/23 for Philadelphia proceeding through following positions:
L. 036.05 N. 069.40 W. M. 038.45 N. 073.55 W.
Then steer 274° after passing light buoys in charted position of 5 fathoms Bank **Light vessel.**
2. S. of A. 10 knots. Owing to defects to main motor clutches you (?are not) to dive except in an emergency.
3. Wireless watch continuous on Washington Fox and additional on (corrupt group) K/Cs per second for 4 hours before arrival.
4. S.P. 02380 and S.P. 02319 are held.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 0219Z/22 to K.15 (R) C.E.S.F. Admty, etc).
Delayed, See 1432/23.

A/C attack on U/B. A.471 22/10 Z. 853 Ops. 21/10. Times G.M.T. Sights 2 Hudson Oboe 113 Det Chatham N.B. sighted U-Boat 1730 posn. 49.31 N. 62.21 W. Hudson Baker 145 Sqn. Torbay Nfld. attacked U-Boat on surface 1944 posn. 46.00 N. 50.33 W., first U-Boat too far away for attack.
(H.Q.E.A.C. 0923Z/22).

NORSEMAN Cables. Cable Ship NORSEMAN arrived 21/10 will work moving St. Thomas cable landings from West Gregorie to Lindberg Bay.
NORSEMAN will forward tracing to S.O.(I) Kingston (Jamaica) on completion of work.
Ship will be covered by air patrol from Bournefield.
(B.R.L.O. St.Thomas 1113/22 to Admty).

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T/22/10.			
	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
	NIGERIA.	32½° N. 76½° W.	269°	19.
	T.A.25.	45° N. 61½° W.	321°	25.
	A.T.26.	38½° N. 52½° W.	085°	18.85
	(D.O.D.(F) 1219A/22 to Opnav (R) Comnav).			

O.N.Convoy, Calls at Trinidad, It is possible that ships for South Atlantic included in O.N. convoys may have to remain in convoy as far as the United States east coast if the convoy is being shadowed or attacked by

U-Boats.
2. In this event ships would require to top up bunkers in a United States or Caribbean port.
3. To make up time lost on voyage it is for consideration that such of these ships as are capable of 12 knots minimum and have the necessary endurance after topping up should proceed independently to their southern destinations instead of sailing in coastal convoy to Trinidad.

War Diary.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

O.N. Convoys,
Calls at
Trinidad.
Contd.

4. With the object of further reducing the number of ships calling at Trinidad for convoy to New York propose that the provisions of para.4 of my 2349/22/9 should be applied to ships of 12 knots minimum from all South American ports North of River Plate. My 2330/1/9, para.A and my 1627/20/10.
(D.T.D. 1248 A/22 to Connav (R) B.A.D. C. in C. S.A etc.)(Reply: Connav 1447/23).

DUNCAN
ANTHONY.
See p.702

New York arrived a.m./21st DUNCAN ANTHONY.
(N.S.H.Q. 1335Z/22 to Admty (R) B.A.D. C.O.A. C. F.O.N. F.).

U/B.

Guantanamo W/T reports S/M sighted 1659/23 in 011.54 N. 062.18 W.
(Kingston, Jamaica, 1431R/22, to Admty).

Collision.

HX.212 U.S. MATHEW LUCKENBACH and U.S. ZACAPA arrived Halifax with collision damage. Escort pass to Commodore.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 1438Z/22 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q. C.T.U. 24.18.1.).

Escort of Tankers.

My 1430/19 U.S. authorities now expect to have 2 escorts for Puerto La Cruz about 3/11 6 vessels will be acceptable for convoy. LAURENT MEEUS, BRITISH INDUSTRY, DEAN EMERY, TARIA, GLITTRE, E.D.A. Curacao from Puerto La Cruz 24/10 and after discharging cargo and ballasting should be ready for return voyage if required about 27/10.
(Willemstadt. 1454QR/22, to Admty).

→ A.T.27. *See previous page.* Route of A. T.27 composed of BORINQUEN escorted by ANTHONY, DUNCAN sailing New York 26/10 to U.K. via Halifax, ocean route:-
(p) 045.05, 051.10. (q) 049. 35. 043.20. (r) 053.45, 034.15.
(s) 056.02, 024. 50. (t) 056.40, 015. 30. (u) 056.05, 008.40.
Chop Com.3 pass to Port Director, New York.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet C. and R. 1536/22, to Port Director, New York, (R) C.E.S.F. etc).
Cancelled, See 1625/23.

IROQUOIS,
SAN GASPAR.

Your 1446/22 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad see my 1031/13.
(2) IROQUOIS (U.S. A.) loading from UNITED BRITISH tomorrow. SAN GASPAR will be ready proceed in next slow convoy, MOV TWO on tow. Will hold IROQUOIS.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 1609Q/22 to Admty).
Reply: Admty. 1925/24.

/U/B.....

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War Diary.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B
Positions.

October 22nd S/M estimate and U.S.S/M notice.
(Cominch, 1615Z/22 to Admty).

U/B.

D/F at 1430Z suggests U/Boat may possibly have reported O.N. 138 or O.N.139.
(D.D.I.C. 1630A/22 to Escorts O.N.138, O.N.139).

SARNIA.
STRATFORD.

R/V with BUCTOUCHE off Shutin Island St. Margarets Bay at 2000Z/23 coming under his orders and proceed to (?New York) routed through A. 043.50 N. 064° (corrupt group) West. B. 040.45 N. 067.50 W. C. 039.55 N. 072. 57 W. thence by Q.J.A. 637 to destination. Speed 14 knots, E.T.A. New York 1900Z/25th. My 1936/21st refers. On sailing set watch on 105 K/Cs and 2410 K/Cs. Guard 41.(?94) K/Cs when West of 066° W.
(C.O.A.C. 1706Z/22 to SARNIA, STRATFORD. (R) C. E.S.F. etc).

Movements.

Arrival 21st WALKER,* COLUMBIA, BUCTOUCHE, FENNEL, *COWICHAN ex HX.212; 30th M.L. Flotilla from St. Johns N.F; 22nd THUNDER from Shelbourne.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 1755/22, to Admty etc).
** see below - (T.A. 25)*

Convoys,
request
for R/V.

When convoys are in B. A.M.S. area 1A, to eliminate delay caused by relay of B.A.M.S. to Admiralty for transmissions by Rugby W/T suggest that on receipt of a request from an Escort for a R/V to be broadcast Admiralty should take immediate action if convoy is East of 40° W. irrespective of whether convoy is under British or American control.
(D.T.D. 1826Z/22 to Connav) Reply: 1917/24.

T.A.25.

Departure and arrival ANNAPOLIS,* COLUMBIA, UNGAVA, *COWICHAN, escorting T. A.25.
(N.O.I. C. Halifax 2027Z/22 to Admty, etc).

** see above (Movements)*

U/B
Campaign.

Connav Serial 21 and 22. WITCHITA overdue St. Thomas from Takoradi since 19/9 presumed lost. MATTHEW LUCKENBACH bammed 21/9*44.18 N. 62.15 W. in convoy H.X. 212. Under tow for Halifax. POLARIS Serial 20. now reported Nor. flag chartered to U.S. Army Engineers. Serial 19 included Serial 18.
(Connav 2034/22 to Connaveu).
*(21/10 intended).

U/B.

Fishermen sighted S/M 047.33 N. 058.36 W. headed East at 0630Z/22nd.
(C.O.A.C. 2040Z/22, to G.B.7A & A.G. (R) C.T.F.24, etc.).

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Landing Ref.C.M.T. 41st Meeting held 8/10 Item 2. Use of
 Craft L.C.M.3 as Lighters in South Sea Islands etc.
 deliveries. We have kept all our demands for L.C.M.3 down to
 lowest figure for operations and have not
 allowed any requirement for administrative purposes to be
 included.
 2. War Office have large and immediate requirements for
 this purpose and orders have been placed in Canada for
 Ramped Cargo Lighters, see War office 68379 of 26/9, and
 subsequent cables.
 3. It appears that deliveries of these will not start before
 February, 1943. Request you will claim equal priority with
 South Sea Islands etc, for 100 LC.M.3 for Middle East and India.
 4. Agreed with War Office.
 (D. of P. 2045A/22 to B.A.D.).

BOLD. My 1702/21st, BOLD delayed about 23 hours.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 2132Z/22 to Admty).

Sub attack A.Plane attacks S/M 46° N. 50.33 W. 1944Z/21.
 and B.U.S.S. ROE 4 torpedo misses about 00.13 N. 47.45
 sighting W. 2211Z/27 September, ANTONICO 30 Shells. PBY 5
 Summary. A.attacks S/M on surface 57.25 N. 25.15 W. 1200Z/21
 September and 57.20 N. 25.20 W. 1304Z/21 September.
 C.CGC 604 reports sound contact 34.12 N. 76.58 W.
 1720 Z/22. Plane sights S/M 27.17 S. 48.23 West about 22 October.
 (C. in C.U.S. Fleet 2154/22 to Admty for O.I. C. N.S.H.Q.).

AP 642-691-704
 SHROPSHIRE, Your 2201 /21.(Hush - N.T. in W. D.).
 DUNCAN, SHROPSHIRE's convoy now consists of 3 possibly
 ANTHONY, 4 personnel ships which are urgently required for
 operational purposes. Ships carry 840 R.A.A.F.
 for whom A.C.N.B. has requested special escort as they are
 irreplaceable, in addition to many service personnel and Mercan-
 tile Marine survivors. Other opportunities from West Africa to
 U.K. for this personnel in the near future will be few, and
 accommodation at Freetown to await other oncarriage is very
 restricted.
 2. Only escort now available other than DUNCAN and ANTHONY are
 2 destroyers which must fuel at Azores. Escort of 2 destroyers
 only is very weak and unacceptable while fuelling.
 3. As it is understood that the personnel which it is proposed to
 embark in COAMO and BORINQUEN are not of high priority but that
 the punctual arrival of the ships is essential, request you
 investigate whether personnel in excess of Rules for unescorted
 sailings could not be disembarked to release destroyers for
 SHROPSHIRE's convoy. (L.F.7)
 (D.O. D.(F) 2236A/22 to B. A.D. (R) R.A.W. A.) Reply: B.A.D.
 1709/23.

/A.S.8.....

War Diary.

22.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

A.S.8.

Connav's 1438/22, informs as follows:-
Estimated P.C. and S. 1900Z/22nd. 32.20 S.
23.55 W. 115° 21.
(Comnaveu 2251/22 to Admty).

A.T.26.

Connav's 1439/22. informs as follows:-
Estimated P.C. and S. 1900Z/22nd: 38.33.
52.30, 085° 18.85.(sic) Altering in 49.20 W. to
074°
(Comnaveu 2252/22 to Admty).

AQUITANIA.

see p. 697

C. in C.S.A's 0701/17. Since ship is now in
Eastern Area and therefore presumably burning
thinner fuel, M.W.T. New York and Cunard
request report on difference in performance if
any.
(B.A.D. 2307A/22 to Admty.D.S.T.).

Stragglers
Route.

Amend Stragglers route from new T.48.00 N. 28.15 W.
to new U. 42.01 N. 35.00 W. then southbound to A,
westbound ships to Q.
(D.T.D. 2312Z/22 to B.A.M.S. Area 1 A, N.X.D. 9.
N.X.D.3.(R) C. in C.W.A. R.A.W.A. Connav).

Australia & New Zealand.

Movement
KAPUNDA.

Arrived Newcastle 20/10 ROCKHAMPTON.
Departure Nil. KAPUNDA (A.M.S.vessel)
commissioned at Sydney N.S.W.21/10.
(A.C.N.B. 0217Z/22 to Admty. etc).
Arrival Auckland LEANDER, and U.S.S.
FARRAGUT escorting convoy P.W.2150.
(D.N.I.Wellington 0431Z/22 to Admty).

/Situation...

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War Diary.22.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 273, 21/10.
Reports indicate enemy force Buin Shortlands area noon 21/10 included 2 heavy cruisers 3 light cruisers 1 seaplane tender approx. 22 destroyers and patrol craft probably 14 M/Vs 2 possible S/MS, 3 unidentified vessels.

2. Air R/C morning same day reported following vessels (A) 1 destroyer, 1 passenger cargo type vessel 6° S. 153° 55' E. course 130°.

(B) 1 destroyer 4 medium M/V 2° 30' S. 149° 25' E. course 350°

(C) 3 destroyers, 4 M/Vs (3 medium 1 large) 1 possible seaplane tender 3° S. 150° 25' E. course 270°

(D) Nil shipping Queen Carola Harbor Buka Passage Kieta.

3. Intense fighting reported Templeton's crossing area throughout 20/10. Strong enemy positions on high ground endeavouring check allied advance. Allied forward patrols now in N.W. Templeton's crossing.

4. Indications increased enemy air activity Lae area where 4 bombers reported departing morning 21/10, and A.A. defences being developed.

5. 3 B.25s strafed and sank enemy launch 14 miles west Gasmata 21/10.

6. 3 Hudsons destroyed houses Tobisse area (Timor) 21/10.

7. Native report indicates possible preparation aerodrome Manatuto area (N.E. Coast Timor).
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 0725Z/22 to Admty etc).

Oiling at Sea. Your 2021A/17. (gear fitted in tanker ONDINA)
Flange adapter and 2 number 30 feet by 3½ inch hose supplied tanker to be used in conjunction with 3 number 20 feet hose in each MADRAS and LAUNCESTON for fuelling in accordance with C.B.4020 plate 8. (A.C.N.B. 1412Z/22 to Admty).

SHROPSHIRE. A.M. 1751/22 ^{1/D.482} addressed SHROPSHIRE repeated C. in C. Nore, etc, re refit of SHROPSHIRE, has been passed for information to A.C.N.B. at request of D.O.D.(H).
(War Registry 23/10.).
2. 14682-691-702

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1415A/22, 1420A/22).

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War Diary.

23.10.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

01
Photographic R/C of all major Biscay ports on 15, 16 and 17 October shows that the BELGRANO, BURGENLAND, SILVAPLANA, and PIETRO ORSELO have probably all left Biscay on passage to the Far East. ANNELIESE ESSBERGER also was not present in any port and may have left.

JUNON was recalled this evening from patrol off Nordfiord.

RODNEY and 5* destroyers left Scapa at 1703 today for their operational area.

* PANTHER, PENN, LOOKOUT. (See 21/10. p. 647)

A mine was detonated this morning in the approaches to Liverpool in an area swept frequently during the past 7 months. It is not known when it was laid.

Eleven Stirlings laid mines last night at Biscay ports.

North Atlantic.

P.552 (Eastern Fleet, on passage from Gibraltar) sighted a suspicious tanker steering North at 14 knots in 25° 37' N. 16° 28' W.

A Northbound cruiser, assumed to be MONTCALM on passage from Dakar to Casablanca was sighted today to Southward of the Canary Islands

South Atlantic.

PHOEBE was torpedoed by a submarine at 0553Z today, 4 miles West of Pointe Noire and proceeded into harbour, SIRIUS who is with her is keeping clear but must enter Pointe Noire as soon as possible as oil shortage prevents her proceeding to Lagos.

SS. CITY OF JOHANNESBURG was torpedoed, and sunk at 2100Z today in approx. 33° 10' S. 29° 20' E. (22° Durban 212 miles).

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23.10.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

100 Lancasters from the U.K. bombed Genoa last night. The attack is reported to have been most successful. All the aircraft returned safely.

High flying enemy fighters and fighter bombers made several attacks on Takali Aerodrome today. No serious damage was caused and losses were small on both sides.

The Eighth Army began an offensive in Egypt at 2200 today.

East Indies.

SS. ELEAZAR WHEELLOCK sighted a submarine at 1755 G.M.T. in 6° 31' S. 57° 35' E. (S. E. of Seychelles).

America & West Indies.

SS. REUBEN TIPTON was torpedoed at 0730 G.M.T. in 14° 33' N. 54° 58' (753') W. (71° Barbados 270 miles) and sank.

A ship was attacked at 0635 G.C.T. in 14° 39' N. 55° 2' W.

The Blue Star Liner EMPIRE STAR (12,656 tons) was reported torpedoed at 1715 G.M.T. today in 48° 14' N, 26° 22' W. (about 550 miles north of the Azores) and sunk.

Australia & New Zealand.

Attack on
Rabaul.

Two separate groups of 6 Fortresses made successive low level attacks on enemy shipping in Rabaul Harbour (where a large concentration of Japanese warships and transports was seen on 20/10,) early this morning and report one

/light...

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War Diary.

23.10.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.- Contd.

Attack on
Rabaul.
Contd.

light cruiser, one destroyer and two large
merchant ships believed sunk, and one large
merchant ship severely damaged and 5 other
merchant ships damaged.

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23.10.1942.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.M.T.Bs &
M.G.Bs.
for
A. C.O.S.

Understand 30th M.T.B.F. will join A. C.O.S. apparently mid-November. Request information when the other M. T.B.Flottilla and the two Flotillas of motor gun boats may be expected. (C. in C.H.F. 1606A/23 to Admty).

Defence of U.K.2nd
Maunsell
Tower.

Weather permitting 2nd Maunsell Tower will leave Bromborough at 1045A/24 to be in position for grounding 1615A. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1022A/23).

Movements.

RESOLVE.

*See p. 710
(M/S. 2/23)*

A.M. 2106A/22 and 2111A/22. Intend to sail RESOLVE from Needles 1130 /23 for Milford Haven routed Q.Z.S. 293 and routes P. and A thence standard route speed 12 knots. E.T.A. 1600/24.
2. 2 operator watch on 2300 K/Cs. Code word "Befoul".
3. Request provision for passage be got ready to embark on arrival.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0830 A/23 to F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty, C. in C.W. A.).

RESOLVE sailed Needles at 1130/23. Standard route for Milford Haven 12 knots. Proceed to meet and escort her to Milford Haven. Code word till met "Stencil" then "Befoul."
(C. in C.Plymouth 1141A/23 to *TYNE DALE, (R) RESOLVE, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C.Dartmouth, C. in C.Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, Admiralty, C. in C. W.A.).

** See next page.*

BLUEBELL.

Completed with fuel and sailed again escorting 4 Russian Merchant Ships and 3 Trawlers. LIDKE not YUGORSKI S.HOPEMOUNT remaining. Weather report.

(BLUEBELL 0900A/23 to S.B.N.O.Archangel. (R) S.B.N.O. North Russia, CAMELIA, HALYCON.)

ANSON.

C. in C.H.F. 1127A/22nd and 1427A/22nd not to all addressees.

Take FAULK NOR, ONSLAUGHT and MIDDLETON under your orders and proceed Scapa passing Hvalfjord Gate at 1300A/24, pass position 000° Butt of Lewis 10 miles and arriving Orkneys practice area 0700A/26th.

Request you will signal practice requirements, direct.
(C.S.L. 0950A/23 to H.M.S.ANSON (R) C. in C.H.F. V.A.2 R.A. D. H.F. A.C.I.C. A. C.O.S. C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.Capt.(D) 8th Admiralty).

On sailing 0950/23rd intend to cross longitude 004.30.W. at 0700/26th request (?A) L.T. followed by sleeve target for H.L.B. If former impracticable intend dawn encounter using Stack Skerry as target.

(ANSON 1936A/23 to C. in C.H.F.).

/BRIXHAM...

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War Diary.23.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

BRIXHAM. Your 1603A/22. Request she be sailed to
See next page
(Main envelope) Milford Haven.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0955A/23 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

MUSKETEER. Orders for proceeding to join C.S.1.
(S.O.(D) H.F. 1024A/23 to MUSKETEER).

TYNEDALE. Proceed towards Portland orders following
See previous page - (RESOLTA) Codeword "Stencil"
(C. in C. Plymouth 1122/23 to TYNEDALE
(R) ULLESWATER).

TUNA. Sailed TUNA, H.32 escorted by F.S. LA
H.32. CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with Capt.(S)
3's 2131A/22. Codeword "Bucket."
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1124A/23).

FORMIDABLE. Intend to sail FORMIDABLE for Clyde on 25th
Oct.
(ii) FORMIDABLE report intended time of
sailing and E.T. A.
(iii) R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to detail 2 destroyers as
escort to Clyde then to return to Scapa.
(iv) C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C. W. A. are requested to
provide A/S air escort fighter protection will be requested.
(C. in C.H.F. 1126A/23 to C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C.W.A.
FORMIDABLE N.O.I.C. Greenock, R.A.(D) H.F. (R) Admty, A. C.O.S.
R.A.(A) H.F. H.Q.C.C. H.Q.F.C.).
My 1126/23. Subject to R. A.(A) H.F.'s concurrence intend
to sail FORMIDABLE Clyde 24/10 owing to present unfavourable
conditions at Scapa.
2. FORMIDABLE report intended time of sailing and E.T.A.
(3) FORMIDABLE to make arrangements for onward passage of
such 820 Squadron Albacores as are being retained at Hatston
for fleet exercises arranged for p.m./24th.
(C. in C.H.F. 2217A/23 to FORMIDABLE, C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C
W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, R.A.(D) H.F. R.A.(A) H.F.(R)
Admty, A.C.O.S. R.N.A.S. Hatston H.Q.C.C. H.Q.F. C.).

RAMSEY. Intend sailing RAMSEY at 0930CA/24 to comply to
See p. 717
H.T. in W.D. C. in C.W.A. 1704A/22nd. S. of A. 15 knots
E.T.A. Azores 1700Z/28.
My 1138A/23rd not to all addressees refers.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1144A/23).

/?.....

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23.10.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

- ? My 2149A/22.(N.T. in W.D.) para. 1 (E) for 180° Lizard Head 3 miles read 180° Lizard Head 8 miles paras. (2) and (3) for 0700A/27th/10 read 0800A/27/10.
(Capt.(S) 3 1207A/23 to S/Ms Operating S. of Lat. 51° N.(R) Admiralty, F.O.(S) C. in C. Plymouth H.Q.C.C. C. in C.H.F. Capt.(S) 5, N.O.I.C. Falmouth).
- PETERHEAD. Request you will sail PETERHEAD to Portsmouth to operate temporarily with 9th M.S.F. (D.M.S. 1452A/23 to C. in C. Plymouth). Admiralty's 1452A/23. Anticipate PETERHEAD will be ready to sail from Plymouth on 27/10. (C. in C. Plymouth 1701A/23).
- HARRIER and GLEANER. Kola Inlet departure S.O. M.S.F.6.with HARRIER and GLEANER. (Received from Murmansk.1530A/23).
- Minesweepers, A.M.2111A/22nd and my 1647A/22nd.
2/2: Intend sailing "Sparrow 1 (One)" consisting of escort SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR with BARBARIAN and CROMARTY FIRTH, and AQUILLA with *RESOLVE including if available, at 1300/25th. * see p.704
2. Intend sailing "Sparrow 2" consisting of escort BUDE, *BRIXHAM with AQUILLA and RESOLVE if not repeat not already included in "Sparrow 1 (One)", together with TRITON, TRANSVAAL, LAPERGERIA if available, at 1300/26th. * see previous page
3. If weather delays sailing of "Sparrow 1" thus enabling "Sparrow 2" to be sailed in company with it, then intend to sail both sections in company under codeword "Sparrow," escorts BUDE, BRIXHAM, escorts SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, having been sailed alone 25th.
4. Intend sailing an additional group for which escort codeword and route is required, consisting of TRITON, TRANSVAAL, LAPERGERIA if not already included in "Sparrow 2", with EMPIRE MINOTAUR and EMPIRE GNOME, on 30/10. approx. see 11231/10-4970
5. Ref. paras.1 and 2, it is assumed routes will be identical. (N.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1619A/23).
- SCYLLA. C. in C.H.F. 1617A/21st. Intend to sail for Scapa at 1830A/24th. 1/p.647 18/10/42
(SCYLLA 1728A/23).
- SUFFOLK. My 1728 /22. Sailed. see p.801. Expected time of arrival 0800A/25th. Request sleeve targets and marking aircraft at that time in position (LL). Gate on completion of practice. Request A/S air escort A.C.O.S. acknowledge.
(C.S.(1) 1734A/23 to C. in C.H.F. A.C.I. C. A. C.O.S. C. in C. W.A. Admiralty, H.Q.C.C. H.M.S. SUFFOLK.)

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War Diary.23.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.P.614.
UNBEATEN.

Sailed P.614, UNBEATEN, escorted by CUTTY SARK.
Codeword "Innocent" in accordance with Capt.S.
3rd 1621A/20th*
(N.O.I.C.Greenock 1814A/23).
*re sailing of P.614, UNBEATEN escorted by
CUTTY SARK. (from Holy Loch.)

ALECTO.

ALECTO is to proceed to Lunna Voe with Cdre.
Fell and party as soon as ready.
(F.O.(S) 1919A/23 to ALECTO, TITANIA, Training
Cdre. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C.Greenock, A.C.O.S.
Sn.O S/Ms Lerwick).

BERMUDA.

Intend sailing BERMUDA at 0830A/23 to Plymouth
E.T.A. 0900A/25. Codeword "Sultan."
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 2248A/23 to C. in C. Plymouth).

HALCYON.

You are to leave Millochkm Strait loading on
arrival Archangel not later 1/11 proceeding
direct and not via Yogorsky.
You may at your discretion leave area at any time should ice
threaten.
(S.B.N.O.North Russia 2332A/23 to HALCYON).

Operations.

Patrols.

Patrol cancelled. ATHERSTONE, EGLINTON,
proceeding to anchor off Humber as ordered
by N.O.I.C.Humber remainder anchored off Rough.
(C. in C.Nore 0004A/24 to HAMBLEDON, WHITSHED, ATHERSTONE,
EGLINTON, BLENCATHRA, HOLDERNESS, (R) N.O.I.C Humber,
N.O.I.C.Yarmouth, N.O.I.C.Harwich, S.E.E.C.C.D.)

ESKDALE and FERNIE are to carry out a patrol near latitude
50.20 N. between meridians of Greenwich and 1° W. Destroyers
are to pass E.A.5 at 1900/23 and 0700/24. Codeword "Match."
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1305A/23 to ESKDALE, FERNIE (R)
Admty, C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C.Newhaven, F.O.I.C.
Portland, Dl, XDO E, Thorney Island, Tangmere V. A.Dover).
Dover dispositions for night of 23/24th October. M.Ls.185
and 207 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and North East
Spit Buoys. E.T.D. 2100. E.T.R. 0715/24.

(V.A. Dover 1748A/23).

In view of weather return to anchorage off Rough.

(C. in C.Nore 2156A/23 to SHELDRAKE, WIDGEON, (R) N.O.I.C.
Harwich, N.O.I.C.Yarmouth, S.E.E.C.C. D.Operation
E.Z.Kola Inlet arrival ARGONAUT, INTREPID, OBDURATE
at 1630A/22nd and sailing 0200A/23rd.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia. 0323A/23 to C. in C.H.F.)

- Operation E.Z. Estimate ARGONAUT left Kola Inlet on 23/10.
2.Return passage will be made at best speed and ARGONAUT will
signal E. T. A.Seidisfjord on reaching longitude 010° W. My
estimate of E. T. A.is 1200A/26th.
3.Request 15th M/S F. may sweep ARGONAUT in and out.
4.Return route from Seidisfjord to Scapa reverse of outward.
(C. in C.H.F. 1216A/23 to A.C.I.C.(R) A.C.O.S.ARGONAUT, Admty
S.O.M/S.F.15.).

/Following...

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War Diary.

23.10.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - *W.N.F.*

Operation Following embarked.
E.Z. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1026A/23).
Contd.

JUNON. Recall JUNON to Lerwick forthwith.
(F.O.(S) 1944A/23 to Capt.(S) 9th S. F.(R)
Admty, C. in C. H.F. A. C.O.S. C. in C. Rosyth,
A.O.C.C.C).
Leave patrol forthwith through position. A. 061.31 N. 003.01
E. B. 061.01 N. 000.01 E. C. 091° Out Skerries 5 miles.
thence Lerwick dive by day until West of 002° East.
(Capt.(S) 9. 1959A/23 to JUNON).

Allied Air Activity.

Bombing Request total bombing restrictions in area 14 N
Restrictions. of 060° N. forthwith until further notice.
(Capt.(S) 9th 2001A/23 to H.Q.C.C.).

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. F.W. sighted from Vattarnes bearing East at
1127 course West and from Hafnarnes 064° 52' 013°
46' at 1130 course South West at 1240 F.W. sighted
North of Reykjaskoli 065° 15' 021° 08' flying
from West to East.
(A.C.I.C. 1350A/23).

A BV 138 Flying Boat was sighted by 18th Group aircraft
waterbourne on a calm sea at 1111/21 90 miles S.E. of
Seidisfjord. Enemy A/C opened fire, took off, and climbed into
cloud. The same A/C was sighted at 1122/21 by another of our
A/C within 25 miles of this position.
(D.D.I.C. 1828A/23 to C. in C.H.F. (R) A. C.O.S. A.C.I.C.).

Mining.

Operation Intend to carry out as follows:-
S.N.3.F. (A) Surface minefields from East to West.
(D) 1st M.L.S. screened by BRIGHTON, LANCASTER,
CASTLETON, WELLS.
(E) A/S air escort is requested when outside the North Minch.
Initial R/V 180° Sulisker 4 miles at 0900/27. Codeword "Crocodile"
from 059.55.48"N. 007.18.12"W. to 060.07.24" N. 007.48.48" W.
(G) 0001/27.
(J) Through 180° Sulisker miles 4.
(K) 12 knots.
(L) 1400/27.
(N) through 090° Butt of Lewis 10 miles (O) and (P) Port Z.A.
0815/28.
(R) 2200/25. (V) Port Z.A. a.m./28. (W) 19.2 miles at 12 knots.
(R.A.(M) 1152A/23).

/Liverpool...

713

23.10.1942.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Liverpool.

Magnetic mine detonated, 1010A/23 by SATA in
53° 29' 45" N. 03° 21' 50" W.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1506/23, 1555A/23).

Mining of
REMMAREN.

My 1216/22. Gothenburg traffic.
Swedish REMMAREN was mined in 58.30 N. 3.47 E.
whilst in company with other 2 vessels all
steaming about 12 knots. She apparently
exploded 2 moored mines at an interval of 2 mins.
(2) Swedish authorities have meanwhile postponed sailing of
their outward bound vessel TEMNAREN, until they can be
satisfied that this vessel can sail with reasonable safety.
(3) As REMMAREN was following prescribed route Swedish
Authorities have asked me whenever we can renew assurance that
same conditions regarding safety of this route still hold good.
I understand they are also asking Germans for a similar
assurance.
(N.A. Stockholm. 1741/23 to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Norway,

Ships sighted 20/10 off Stadt. All 6 believed
to be merchant ships no tankers, no trawler
escort, continuous air escort of bombers fighters
and seaplanes. Air escort seemed to have been between
Oldervaeggen 61.51 N. 04.49 east and 2 miles west of
Kraakenes Light. A warship patrolled up and down 2 miles to
westward of Stadt, believed to be a T/B.
(A.C.O.S. 1231/23 to Admty).

Blockade
Breakers.

A.M. 1946A/12 and 1955A/13.
Photographic R/C of all major Biscay ports on
15th, 16th and 17th October shows:
1. Tanker SPICHERN (See A.M. 1955A/13 Para.1)
present at St. Nazaire.
2. Following ships not present in any port: BELGRANO, BURGENLAND,
SILVAPLANA, and PIETRO ORSEOLO. (See A.M. 1205A/4). These
ships have probably all left Biscay on passage to the Far East.
3. ANNELIESE ESSBERGER not present in any port and may also
have left.
(Admty 1729A/23 to A. Message Home & Abroad, Cominch, Comnavu,
H.Q.C.C.).

U-Boats.EMPIRE
STAR.

Intercepted at 1719 G.M.T. De Valentia Radio.
SSSS EMPIRE STAR torpedoed 48.14 N. 26.22 W.
1715/23.
(Port Patrick Radio 1819/23).

U/B,

Am over enemy S/M in 63.54 N. 11.04 W. Enemy
S/M reported was sighted on surface and observed
to submerge. When first sighted was on course
045° estimated speed 8 knots.
(A/C 415 Sqn. 2135/23).

714

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.Use of
D/F
and
A.S. V.2.

It is now probable that some U-Boats can detect and possibly D/F types 286 290 and 291 up to a range of about 20 miles. These sets should therefore not normally be used unless there is probability of air attack or the convoy is being shadowed by U-Boats or aircraft.

2. There is no further restriction on the use of other RDF sets or on type 252.

3. It is also probable that some German aircraft are now fitted with a replica of British A.S.V. mark 2. It is important therefore that 251 and 251 M should not be switched on longer than is absolutely necessary for operational requirements.

4. Coastal Command are restricted to the use of A. S.V. in aircraft to conditions of bad visibility and actual homing. (C. in C.W.A. 1504Z/23 to S & A W.A.).

Casualties & Defects.

O.N.139 My 2544/22. For ANCYLUS read WINNIPEG II, MORDEN
WINNIPEG has about 200 survivors from her and is proceeding
II.DONAX. direct to St. Johns N.F. DRUMHELLER has some
survivors from DONAX.
(C. in C.T.U. 24.1.12. 0025Z/23).

NIMBLE now at immediate notice.

(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0345A/23.).

F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail NIMBLE from Stornoway to join MARAUDER from Campbeltown and escorted by VIZALMA to proceed to assistance of DONAX and WINNIPEG II torpedoed but still afloat in 049. 51 N. 027.58 W. at 2011Z/22nd with DRUMHELLER standing by. N.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail VIZALMA to Belfast to top up with coal if necessary and proceed to R/V with tug as arranged by N.O.I.C. Greenock.

(C. in C.W.A. 0533A/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Liverpool (R) Admty, N.O.I.C. Stornoway F.O.I.C. Belfast, C.T.U. 24.1.12. H.M.C.S. DRUMHELLER.)

C. in C.W. A's 0533A/23. Intend to sail VIZALMA to Belfast forthwith to top up with coal. E.T.A. will be signalled later. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to signal R/V to F.O.I.C. Belfast who is requested to sail VIZALMA accordingly.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0739A/23 to F.O.I.C. Belfast, F.O.I.C. Greenock (R) Admiralty, C. in C.W.A. N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

WINNIPEG II has sunk. DONAX can be salvaged but engines and steering useless. Can stand by for 2 days only owing to fuel.

(DRUMHELLER 0750Z/23 to C. in C. W. A. (R) Connav C. T.F.24, Admty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. C.O.A. C. Halifax, C. T.G. 24.7. C.T.U. 24.1.12.).

MYOSOTIS is to proceed at best speed to relieve DRUMHELLER standing by DONAX torpedoed and drifting in 049.51 N. 027.58 W. at 2011Z/22nd. WINNIPEG II has sunk. Tugs may be expected about 28th.

(C. in C.W.A. 1345Z/23 to MYOSOTIS, (R) 37th E.G. DRUMHELLER. VIZALMA, Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa F.O.N.F. C.O.A. C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7. N.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Liverpool, N.O.I.C. Belfast, C.T.U. 24.1.12, C.T.U. 24.6.5.)

/H.M.T.MARIA....

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War Diary.23.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. - contd.

- H.M.T. MARIA. ^{10.11.22} My 1204/22 did not sail owing to defect.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1146A/23.)
- LOUISBURG,
PRESCOTT. Amend E.T.A. to 2100 G.M.T/23 LOUISBURG and
PRESCOTT in company. WOODSTOCK will require
boiler cleaning. LOUISBURG has urgent defects
plommer block running hot, ventilating fan motor
to be repaired. PRESCOTT general check electrical
equipment.
(WOODSTOCK 1200Z/23 to F.D.I.C. Greenock.)
- EMPIRE STAR. 37th Escort Group less ^{10.11.22} MYOSOTIS carry out A/S
sweep to this position and search for survivors.
(C. in C. W.A. 1754Z/23 to BLACK SWAN (R) C.T.U
24.1.18, Connav, C.T.F. 24, Admty., N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7.)
** See previous page (O.N.139)*
- ROCKINGHAM. My 1545/20. Owing to further defects which have
arisen on trials, ship will not be able to sail
before 29/10.
(F.O.I.C. London 1830A/23.)
- DANEMAN. Your 0514A/23. Sailed NORTHERN PRIDE with spare
propeller for DANEMAN on board.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2030A/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- AUBRETIA. ^{10.11.22} My 1228/22 and ^{10.11.22} 0002/23. Sailing of AUBRETIA
delayed approx 48 hours owing to leaky boiler
tubes. Ship being basined Sheerness a.m./24.
(C. in C. Nore 2048A/23.)
- VESTLAND. My P.C. and S. at 2000A/23rd 061° 31' N. 014°
32' W. 125° 6 knots tow leaking badly proceeding
Stornoway.
(ST. ELSTAN 2150A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
Admty. 1910/22 para B. ST. ELSTAN having been delayed by
weather left Reykjavik escorting VESTLAND in tow of FREEBOOTER
p.m./21 for Scapa. Vide my 1208/17. Request she may be
directed to return forthwith to Reykjavik on arrival of tow.
(A.C.I.C. 2301A/23 to A.C.O.S.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- K.M.S.2. A.M.1741/22nd not to Londonderry. ERNE is
required to escort Liverpool portion sailing 25/10.
N.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to arrange R/V
and N.O.I.C. Londonderry to sail ERNE as necessary.
(C. in C. W.A. 1110A/23 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.
N.O.I.C. Liverpool (R) Admty., N.C.S.O. Mersey,
N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, N.O.I.C. Aultbea, N.C.S.O. Clyde,
N.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C. H.F.)

/Intend ...

War Diary.

23.10.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

K.M.S.2.
(contd.)

Intend sailing ERNE escorting 6 M.T. ships 1000Z/25th for R/V 270° Skerryvore 10 miles in accordance A.M. 1741A/22nd and C. in C. W.A. 1110A/23rd neither to all addressees. E.T.A. R/V 1600Z/26th. S. of A. 8 knots. Codeword Donkey 1 help call on 385 k/cs. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail ERNE to R/V Bar L.V. 1000Z/25th.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1622Z/23 to C. in C. W.A.
(R) C. in C. E.F. LONDONDERRY; N.O.I.C. Londonderry; C. in C. H.F., Admty., N.O.I.C. Belfast; N.O.I.C. Greenock, Capt.(D) Liverpool, H.Q.F.C. H.Q.C.C. N.O.I.C. Aultbea, ERNE.)

(A) 1500/25th. (B) LONDONDERRY (S.O) BIDEFORD, BRADFORD, ROCHESTER. (C) 37.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1730A/23.)

→K.M.F.1.

Ships addressed will be fuelled at sea from DEMPO and ORBITA through 5 inch buoyant hose over stern, or from SHEFFIELD by trough method. If necessary Diesel fuel for use in boiler will be supplied MARNIX, VAN ST. ALDEGONDE and TEGELBURG by trough method through 5 inch rubber hose. Diesel fuel should if possible be taken in empty tanks and burnt at about 90° F at sprayers.
(Force E. 1346A/23 to CLARE, IBIS, EXE, ABERDEEN, ROTHER, SPEY, TAY, ENCHANTRESS (R) STORK.)

→DEMPO,
DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE,
NARKUNDA.

DEMPO or DUNNOTTAR CASTLE for K.M.F.1 and NARKUNDA for W.S.23 Q will be leaving Mersey a.m./25 for Clyde. Request escort.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1614A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
T.O.O amended to 1618A/23.
My 1624A/23 correct to read W.S.24 Q and amend T.O.O to read 1618A/23.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2150A/23 to C. in C. W.A.(R) Admty.)

→K.M.S.1
K.X.2.
K.X.3.
K.X.4.A.

Situation 1957A/23rd. K.M.S.1 STORK 055° 38' 008° 15' 055° 28' 013° 01' 6.
K.X.2 BULLDOG 047° 49' 017° 30' 039° 50' 017° 30' 7.
K.X.3*VANOC 043° 58' 014° 19' 040° 02' 013° 01' 11.
K.X.4 A. VENOMOUS 054° 34' 012° 49' 054° 01' 015° 03' 6.
(C. in C. W.A. 1718A/23.)

P.C. and S. 054° 51' 011° 04' A (?335°) 6. FLAMINIAN never joined, ARLESFORD straggler, PENDEEN turned back, Weather report.
(VENOMOUS 1801Z/23.) * *2-1717A*

→K.M.S.1

My 2248/22 amend one ship held by DERWENTDALE to read 521.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2216A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

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War Diary.23.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- French shipping. Passings 22/10. AUORCERGNE laden deck cargo barrels and baskets, OUERCHA full 24 horses and fruit baskets on deck, BRESTOIS laden deck cargo barrels, RHEA in ballast eastbound.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1027A/23 to Admty. for M.E.W.)
- U/B. Catalina aircraft sighted U-Boat in 40.06 N 18.20 W 040° 8 knots at 1030A/23. U-Boat dived on being sighted.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1046A/23 to FURIOUS. (R) Admty.)
- RAMSAY. For C.S.A. RAMSAY E.T.A. Azores 1700Z/28 will require approx. 230 tons oil fuel.
See p 709
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1138A/23 to B.C. P. Delgada.)
- Bombing restrictions. Institute following submerged bombing restrictions. Serial No. G/286 from 0500A/24 until 2000A/25. 20 miles each side of line from 44° 34' N 12° 46' W to 46° 24' N 12° 32' W.
Serial No. G.287 from 0400A/25 until 2200A/26. 20 miles each side of line from 46° 24' N 12° 32' W to 48° 13' N 12° 18' W.
(H.Q.C.C. 1205A/23 to R.A.F. Gibraltar. F.O.C.N.A. S.8.)
- KAOLACK OMEGA Your 1802A/22, para 2 (Destination and onward routeing of KAOLACK and OMEGA.) A.M. 1558A/16 refers.
(D.T.D. 1314A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- Dispositions. Situation 1958A/23. (F.O.C.N.A. 1320A/23, 1328A/23, 1330A/23.) See Lion Copy.
- WIVERN. Your 1033Z/21 to R.A.W.Af. (WIVERN to arrive at Gibraltar 27th.) Acknowledged.
See pp 717 & 713
(F.O.C.N.A. 1431A/23 to WIVERN.)
- U/B. Following received: Am over enemy submarine in 40° 3' N 17° 45' W. Submarine observed to dive.
(A/C call sign UM9F 1450/23.)
- P.54. use of flare. F.O.S. 1504/19. Only flare fired by P.54 was red and was fired at 1221/18 in 46° 51' N 11° 57' W.
(2) Flare was fired by C.O. personally and was observed to burn red by him and officer of the watch.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1506/23 to F.O.S. (R) A.O.C. in C. C.C.)
Former:- British aircraft reported sighting S/M at 1208A/18 which may have been P.54. S/M used green recognition flares. Attention is called to fact that time for change over recognition is G.M.T.
(F.O.S. 1504A/19 to P.54. (R) H.Q.C.C. F.O.C.N.A.)

/Suspicious...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1320A/23rd October

IN

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 23.10.42
Recd. 1615

N/V/L CYPHER C BY W/T

Addressed: A. I. G. 63.

IMPORTANT

Situation 1958A 23rd.

(1) KX 3 H.M.S. ACHATES H.M.S. *VANOC 042 degs. 41' 014 degs. 02' through 40 02 13 01 thence 141 degs. 12.

(2) BARBARIAN, BARFLAKE, 038 degs. 11' 013 degs. 58' (?121 degs. or 117 degs.) 8. * p. 716

(3) O-R, P. BLYSKAWICA, H.M.S. BRAMHLM, H.M.S. COWDRAY 036 degs. 47' 011 degs. 17' through 35 40 10 10 thence to Gibraltar 16.

(4) LOCH OSKAIG patrolling off Cape Roca.

(5) CAVA 038 degs. 09' 010 degs. 01' through 35 01 12 20 thence Gibraltar 10.

(6) H.M.S. IMPERIALIST on patrol in Huolva Bight.

(7) H.M.S. JONQUIL H.M.S. GERANIUM 31 47 14 46 251 11 1/2.

(8) *Fleet Unit D.S. ISAAC SWEERS H.M.S. MARNE H.M.S. ESCAPADE 39 09 16 36 through 35 54 06 15 thence Gibraltar 17 1/2. *FURIOUS.

(9) KERRERA leaves patrol in Huolva Bight 2000/23 to pass through 35 01 12 20 thence to Gibraltar 10.

(10) H.M.S. ST. NECTAN 36 01 05 48 to rendezvous with one merchant ship off Guadalquivir at 0400/24 and escort coastwise to Gibraltar 8.

(11) Spanish training ships *JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO (?cruising) in area between Canary Islands and point 036 degs. 01' 030 degs. 02'. * p. 717c

(12) H.M.S. *WIVERN one merchant ship 22 30 19 45 through 23 55 19 56 thence H.M.S. WIVERN proceeding alone 030 degs. 12 1/2. * p. 717 171713

(13) H.M.S. STELLA CARINA, H.M.S. LEYLAND, 2 merchant ships off Tarifa through 35 59 06 01 thence 270 degs. 6. * p. 718

1320A/23

V.C.N.S.	Advance Copies	D.C.,	D.O.D. (H)	D.T.D.
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.A/S.W.	W.D.	
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.O.D. (F) (2)	Hd. of M.	D.T.D. (3)	
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.C. (2)	D.D.I.C. (2)	D.T.D. (M)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	U.S.N. (3)	I.P. (2)	D.T.D. (C)	

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1328 /23rd October IN

MOST SECRET

Date 23.10.42
Recd. 1624

From F.O.C.N.A.

N/V/L CYPHER A(1) BY W/T

Addressed: A.I.G. 65.

IMPORTANT

Situation 1958A 23rd.

(1) H.M.S/M P.552 26 15 16 19 on the surface 208 degs.
9.

(2) S.L. 125. H.M.S. PETUNIA, H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. COWSLIP, H.M.S. CROCUS, H.M.S. JULIET, H.M.S. ~~MEYNELL~~ 19 12 24 41 through 22 01 24 20 thence 021 degs. 7½. *In Home Waters

(3) H.M.S. *WIVERN one merchant ship 22 30 19 45 through 23 55 19 56 thence H.M.S. WIVERN proceed alone 030 degs. 12½

1328A/23
Advance Copies D C., D.O.D.(H), D.D.I.C.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.C.(2)
- U.S.N.
- 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.T.D.(C)
- F.O.S. by courier

* 1 - 717 717A

NMB

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE 1330A/23rd October IN

From: F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date 23.10.42.
Recd. 1640.

Naval Cypher A.1 by W/T

Addressed: A.I.G.64.

IMPORTANT.

Situation 1958 23rd.

(1) ^{H.M.S.} ~~ORFASY~~ H.M.S. MAGNOLIA one tug
one *ferry steamer 40 44 25 46 227° 7½*TUZZLA (2) H.M.S. CARNARVON, CASTLE H.M.S. GRIFFIN,
one merchant ship 34 33 23 52 through 35 01 24 01
and 37 31 21 29 thence 318° 14½(3) Spanish Training ship *JUAN SEBASTIAN
DE ELCANA cruising in area between Canary Islands
and Port-Au-Prince 36 01 30 02. * P-717^A(4) H.M.S. DECOY 34 18 23 59 to Ponta
Delgada 13. P-719.

1330A/23.

Advance copy D.C. D.O.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.
 Capt. Pim.
 D.O.D. (H) (2)
 D.O.D. (F) (2)
 D.C. (2)
 U.S.N.
 D.A/S W.
 Head of M.
 D.D.I.C. (2)
 I.P. (2)
 V.D.
 D.T.D. (3)
 D.T.D. (M)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.O.F. (2)

JR.

War Diary.23.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Suspicious Tanker. Sighted suspicious tanker P.C.S. 25° 37' N 16° 28' W 000° 14 knots.
(P.552 1556A/23 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt. S.8.)

Enemy Blockade Runners. Some of following are likely to be on passage to Europe from Far East at present or in near future. REGENSBURG, DRESDEN, TANNENFELS, HAVELLAND, RAMSES, RHAKOTIS, KULMERLAND, PERSEE, URSULA RICKMERS, SPEYBANK, RAMB II.
2. Estimated that one of these can have already reached a position between the Azores and Cape Finisterre.
(D.D.I.C. 1728A/23 "A" Message 571.)

KAOLACK OMEGA My 1802/22. Sailed STELLA CARINA escorting SS. KAOLACK and OMEGA. Local Escort H.M.T. LEYLAND.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1738A/23 to Admty.) *p. 717^*

Convoy K.X.4A. Adjust speed of advance so as to pass through 36° 53' N 11° 16' W at 1400Z on 2/11.
(D.O.D. (H.) 1752A/23 to Escorts of Convoy K.X.4A.
(R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A.)

U/Bs. A.C. 368 23/10. Resume for 23/10.
Catalina F.202 sighted U-Boat on surface in position 40.03 N 17.45 W 050° 8 at 1450 and submerged.
Catalina H.202 sighted U-Boat in position 40.06 N 18.20 W 040° 8 at 1030, was on surface and submerged.
(A.H.Q. 1804A/23.)

P.556. Intend to sail P.556 for U.K. p.m./24 passing 43.01 12.02 W at 2300A/28, shift watches at that time.
(2) W/Twatch on similar station S.1/42 section N.A. Table 2.
(1) line 10, on home station S 2/42 table 2 (3)
(3) F.O.S. 1149/8/1. (A) 12 American Mark 10 torpedoes.
(B) 9 surface dark hours diving by day. (C) (Corrupt group)
(D) 1. Nil. 2.2.
(4) P.556 is painted dark blue.
(5) (A) S.P. carried 02319 (30) and (31) (B) S Y K O card not carried.
(6) F.O.S. 1202/18 P.556 does not carry this list as S.42 part 4 section 55 has not yet been received.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1838A/23 to Admty.)

Bombing Restrictions. Request total bombing restrictions in following areas.

Area.	From.	Until.
G.14.	0600/25	2130/25
G.15.	1330/25	0500/26
and submerged bombing restrictions in following areas.		
G.16.	2100/25	0800/27
G.275	0001/17	0300/29
LG.26	1800/22	0300/29

All times zone minus 1. (F.O.C.N.A. 1908A/23 to Admty. etc.) /K.X.3...

719

War Diary.23.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

K.X.3.

E.T.A. 2200Z/25.
S of A $12\frac{3}{4}$ knots. Crossing meridian 11° W 2100Z/24.
VANOC has Condolitis and trouble with Type 286.
Passengers in VANOC and ACHATES. Request all
passengers and 2 tons of gear from VANOC be landed
on arrival.
(VANOC 2015A/23 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

CARNARVON By L/T following addressed Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.
CASTLE F.O.C.N.A. from CARNARVON CASTLE (begins) Intend
DECOY *see p. 717^e* to shift to homestation W/T (E) at 1600Z/25.
T.O.O. 1100Z/23. (ends.)
CARNARVON CASTLE expects to be in position 040°
 $00' N 026^{\circ} 00' W$ at 2145Z/24 course 000° . DECOY expected to
rejoin during daylight 25th. My P.C.S. are $035^{\circ} 12' N 024^{\circ} 30' W$
 $337^{\circ} 15$ knots. Weather report.
(DECOY 2301Z/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.N.A. CARNARVON
CASTLE.)

South Atlantic.

PHOEBE PHOEBE hit port side forward by S/M torpedo 4 miles
torpedoed. west of Pointe Noire at 0553Z today, Friday, and
proceeding at 6 knots into harbour, AMARANTHUS in
company. SIRIUS keeping clear but must enter
Pointe Noire as soon as possible as oil shortage prevents
proceeding to Lagos.
(SIRIUS 0721/23 to R.A.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A. PHOEBE,
Admty. B.N.L.O. Brunet.)
Pointe Noire arrived PHOEBE 1140A/23, *SIRIUS 1400A/23,
*AMARANTHUS arrived but patrolling outside. * *see p. 720 & 722*
(B.N.L.O. W.A. 1540Z/23 to R.A.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A. Admty.)
* *see p. 723. (N.S. 23.)*

CORIOLANUS. A.M. 1743A/24/9 and 0110A/10/10. In order to
employ CORIOLANUS as escort to GRYFEVALE to
Gibraltar can delay in arrival of CORIOLANUS at
Gibraltar until about 12/11 be accepted?
(R.A.W.A. 0953Z/23 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. etc.)
Reply: Admty. 1700A/24.

VELOX VELOX and PUCKERIDGE escorting BERGENSFIORD and
PUCKERIDGE LEOPOLDVILLE arriving Bathurst 1815Z/24.
see p. 720^A
722 (2) VELOX and PUCKERIDGE are to be sailed to
arrive Gibraltar on 31/10.
(3) (?Destroyers) should escort BERGENSFIORD and/or LEOPOLDVILLE
both for U.K. as far (?north) as practicable.
(R.A.W.A. 1023Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst. (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C.
S.A. Admty. VELOX. PUCKERIDGE.)

/ANTENOR...

720

23.10.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

ANTENOR C.F.7. Pass to Cdre. ANTENOR is to remain with convoy to Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A. 1050C/23 to SHROPSHIRE (R) R.A.W.A. B.N.L.O. W.A. D of S.T.)

→ COMMANDANT DETROYAT *See p. 720^c & 723 (W.S. 23)* Detach COMMANDANT DETROYAT to proceed to Pointe Noire at best speed forthwith.
(R.A.W.A. 1100Z/23 to GUARDIAN. (R) CYCLAMEN. Admty. C. in C. S.A. SIRIUS. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire.)

Dispositions. R.A.W.A. 1105Z/23. See Lion Copy.

DURBAN DESPATCH. *See p. 720^c & 723* Have leaking tubes in both condensers. Expect to be able reach Pointe Noire as arranged but may be delayed there repairing (?and) testing. Request (?revised) orders for DESPATCH be given her in case of delay of DURBAN. DURBAN must clean boilers on arrival at Capetown.
(DURBAN 1116Z/23 to R.A.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A. DESPATCH. CARTHAGE.)
Your 2116/23 (?1116/23 intended - re damaged condensers.) passed to Admty. B.N.L.O. W.A. and N.O.I.C. Takoradi. DURBAN proceed forthwith to Takoradi to effect repairs. Report expected sailing when known. If practicable DURBAN will overtake convoy. Orders (?follow) for DESPATCH.
(R.A.W.A. 1551Z/23 to DURBAN (R) C. in C. S.A. etc.)

CORINTHIAN. N.A. Rio's 1933/28 to Admty. only. It is desired to dock but not refit CORINTHIAN in Brazil. R.A.W.A.F. is requested to communicate date of arrival direct to N.A. Rio.
(Head of M. 1205A/23 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro. R.A.W.A.F. (R) C. in C. S.A. B.A.D.)

*SIRIUS
*CARTHAGE
W.S. 23. *See pp 719 & 722*
See p. 720^c CARTHAGE could be detached if necessary from W.S. 23 to give you sufficient oil at Libreville to reach Takoradi.
Screen while oiling provided by F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT if this is required, report immediately.
(R.A.W.A. 1221Z/23 to SIRIUS. (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi CARTHAGE. PHOEBE. DURBAN. Admty. C. in C. S.A. etc.) See also 1733/23.

AQUITANIA. Your 1045/22. Estimate AQUITANIA will have about 1300 tons remaining on arrival Aden and 5500 tons was asked for by Master in case he had to return to Aden from Suez without refuelling.
(C. in C. S.A. 1235C/23 to Admty.)

Movement summary. 2000Z/23. (C. in C. S.A. 1301C/23., R.A.W.A. 1313Z/23.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1105Z/23rd October IN

From R. A. W. /f.

Date 23.10.42
Recd. 1745

NAV/L CYPHER (M) BY W/T

Addressed: Ships in Area "P" of South Atlantic Station
N of 8 degs. N., Admiralty C. in C. South
Atlantic, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.

IMPORTANT

H.M.S. PETUNIA, H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS,
H.M.S. JULIET, COWSLIP, KELANTAN, with SL 125, 19 05 24 45
to 22 01 24 20 thence 022 degs. 7.

H.M.S. *SNOWDROP, H.M.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, 18 45 24
20 126 13. * *see p. 722. (Kodě ATB - u - u - u)*

H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER 13 35 21 40 122 9½ at 1958Z 23rd.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS about 09 10 16 15 to Freetown 15.
H.M.S. VELOX, H.M.S. PUCKERIDGE, (?09) 30 16 01 to Bathurst
14. *see 170 719 7 723*

2 M.L.'s off Freetown to Bathurst 9.

COPINSAY 2 M.L.'s about 13 01 17 17 to Freetown 10½

1105Z/23
Advance Copies 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.
Capt. Pim
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.C. (2)
U.S.N.
D.L/S.W.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1301C/23rd Oct. IN.
 From: C. in C.S.A., Date 23.10.42.
 Recd: 1351

Naval Cypher (M) by W/T.

Addressed: South Atlantic Station Squadron. repeated
 Admiralty Cdre. i/c Durban N.L.O Port Elizabeth
 N.L.O. East London.

IMPORTANT.

621

Movement summary 2000Z/23 Area Q.

H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE, HECLA, ARROW, ACTIVE, 020° 20' South
 010° 25' East to the North knots 12.

H.M.S. TRUANT 027° 00' South 014° 40' East to the
 North 10½.

THYME about 033° 10' South 017° 30' East to
 Simonstown 12. *see p 721.*

H.M.S. EXPRESS, CATTERICK about 036° 00' South 018°
 40' East.

H.M.S. ROCKROSE and Netherlands S/m K 14 with 2
 tankers 032° 40' South 017° 37' East to the north 9 knots.
see p 721.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA 034° 55' South 022° 30' East to
 Port Elizabeth 15.

1301C/23.
 Advance Copy sent Duty Capt.,
 D.O.D. (F) D.T.D.,

V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 Capt Pim
 D.O.D. (H) (2)
 D.O.D. (F) (2)
 Duty Capt (2)
 U.S.N.
 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.T.D. (C)
 D.N.I. (4)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1313Z/23rd October IN

MOST SECRET

From R.A. W. Af.

Date 23.10.42
Recd. 1720

N.V/L CYPHER M BY W/T

Addressed: A.I.G. 150.

IMPONTANT

H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRIDE, ST. WISTAN, 4 M.L's, 2 Chasseurs, with ST 39, 06 40 12 30 to 05 54 11 26 thence 133 7½

H.M.S. CORINTHIAN about 06 10 13 50 to join ST 39 (?11)

H.M.S. FANDANGO off Roberts^{note} then through to join ST 39.

(?H.M.S. AVONVALE) (?about) 03 35 (?07) 55 to Marshall 15 at 1957Z 23rd.

H.M.S. *DURBAN, H.M.S. *DESPATCH, H.M.S. *CARTHAGE, H.M.S. *MILFORD, H.M.S. *SOUTHERN GEM, *(?KANARIN) with WS 23 (?01) 59 02 54 to 01 (?50) 01 41 thence 124 12½. *KANARIS. *22 p.720

H.M.S. TAMARISK 02 10 02 50 to Takoradi (?12)½.

H.M.S. GUARDIAN, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, 01 50 south 00 55 east (?270) 12.

H.M.S. SIRIUS (?H.M.S. PHOEBE) Pointe Noire Area.
F.S. *COMMANDANT DETROYAT 02 52 south 04 12 east to Pointe Noire 13. *22 p.720, 723

H.M.S. KELT off (?Lagos (Nigeria)) to Pointe Noire.

1313Z/23

Advance Copies 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.
- Capt. Pim
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.C.(2)
- U.S.N.
- 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.T.D.(C)

721

War Diary.23.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

A/S Trawlers, Capetown area. A.M. 1956/21/10. At present there are 5 destroyers ex Eastern Fleet and 2 corvettes operating from Capetown and Simonstown and remainder of coast has (?been) left bare.

2. Allocation of 22 vessels mentioned will not be static but will depend on how long I can retain Eastern Fleet destroyers and other factors.

3. Probable allocation will be 2 whalers and 12 coal burning trawlers to Simonstown for use in vicinity of Simonstown, Capetown and Saldanha Bay, and for group sailings from those ports.

4. 4 coal burning trawlers and 4 A/S trawlers referred to in A.M. 0021/11 to Durban for similar duties.

5. Requirements of intermediate port will be supplied by trawlers on passage with groups and as the situation demands. (C. in C. S.A. 1437C/23 to Admty. (R) R.A.W.A.)

U.S. Movements. My 0955Z/21.

1. Cruisers MILWAUKEE and CINCINNATI and destroyer SOMERS pass through following positions:-
(A) 05 S 33 W at 0800Z/23. (B) 05 S 30 W at 0001Z/24. (C) 05 S 14 W at 0001Z/28. (D) Ascension at 1400Z/28. (E) 11 S 14 W at 1000Z/29. then TK west.

2. Cruiser OMAHA and 5 destroyers escorting northbound convoy to Trinidad arriving 30th October. (R.A.W.A. 1513Z/23 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. QUEEN OF BERMUDA.)

ROCKROSE escorting Neth. S/M K.14 and tankers
*THYME OLTENA II and *MYDRELAWT estimated to be in position
K.14. 033° 12' 30" S 017° 37' E at 2000C/24 steering for
* *previous p.* 032° 40' 017° 37' E and 030° 00' S 016° 30' E at
9 knots. * *Not identified.*

(2) THYME is to R/V with convoy and THYME and ROCKROSE are to escort OLTENA to Pointe Noire. *MYDRELAWT is to be detached to Walvis Bay. * *MYDRECHT at 13.00 p. 783.*

(3) U-Boats are operating off (?Pointe Noire).

(4) Corvettes are to fuel at Pointe Noire.
(C. in C. S.A. 1531C/23 to THYME. ROCKROSE. (R) Admty. K.14. R.A.W.A.)

Simonstown departure 0500Z/23 Dutch S/M K.14 escorted by ROCKROSE and subsequently R/V with tankers MYDRELAWT and OLTENA II off Capetown and thence routed as in my 1117/22.

(2) THYME has been ordered to join escort. MYDRELAWT is being detached in the vicinity Walvis Bay. K.14 leave escort in position D.

(3) THYME and ROCKROSE then continue as escort to OLTENA to Aden. (C. in C. S.A. 1646C/23 to Admty. R.A.W.A.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. If possible QUEEN OF BERMUDA leaves patrol through position. A. 010° N 025° W. B. 009° (?22') 029° 59'. C. 008° 025°. D. 005° 030°. E. 006° 026°. F. 009° 029° S of A 14 knots.

(2) Patrol to commence at Position A at 2100Z/26. (R.A.W.A. 1533Z/23 to Admty.)

23.10.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

- RUGELEY. Overdue shipping, British RUGELEY due Capetown 17/10 not arrived.
(C. in C. S.A., 1549C/23 to Admty., etc.)
Cancelled 1252C/24.
- C.F. 7 Escorts. In view of S/M activity at Pointe Noire request you will consider ordering escort C.F. 7 to fuel from SHROPSHIRE. If successful C.F. 7 can than be routed clear of Pointe Noire to Freetown, escort refuelling at Takoradi if necessary.
(R.A.W.A., 1709Z/23 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty., etc.)
- SIRIUS. C. in C. S.A. 1518C/17.
*Sum p 719
720.*
Onward route from position (F) (G) (H) 011° 30' W., H, 007° 40' N. 014° 10' W., thence Freetown.
(R.A.W.A., 1733Z/23 to SIRIUS, (R) PHOEBE, Admty., C. in C. S.A., B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire.)
- ROBERTS, escorts. (i) Intend to sail ROBERTS for Gibraltar escorted by ANTELOPE and HYDRANGEA at 0700Z/24 by following route.
(A) 009° 17' N. 016° 58' W.
(B) 013° 01' N. 018° 01' W.
(C) 013° 43' 018° 58'
(D) 023° 55' 018° 09'
(E) 027° 22' 014° 58'
(F) 028° 49' 014° 58'
(G) 035° 50' 008° 07'
(H) 035° 50' 006° 02' thence Gibraltar. S. of A. about 10 knots. E.T.A. 2/11.
(ii) BURDOCK from Bathurst will relieve ANTELOPE in position 013° 14' N. 018° 59' W. at 0800Z/26th. *SNOWDROP from Bathurst will relieve HYDRANGEA in position 014° 29' N. 018° 52' W. at 1700Z/26th. ANTELOPE and HYDRANGEA proceeding Bathurst on relief. (iii) Ships will shift to North Atlantic W/T organisation at 0200Z/28.
(R.A.W.A., 1751Z/23 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty., etc.)
** Sum p. 720*
- GULLPOOL. Your 1800A/22. British GULLPOOL arrived Santos 22nd from Paranagua. There is no U.S. Reporting Officer at Paranagua neither for the present is there a British R.O. My 2124/12/7 refers.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1805/23 to Admty.)
- A.S. 8. Request route being followed by A.S. 8 to Durban.
(D.O.D.(F), 2000A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

723

War Diary.23.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

W.S. 23. A. Intend to amend routes as follows:- from position (d) to new position (k) 001° 21' N. 002° 02' E. (1) 002° 49' S. 005° 08' E. (m) 005° 48' S. 008° 42' E. thence to (f).

B. Air cover will be provided along this route by 1 Sunderland flying from Lagos to Pointe Noire and operating from Pointe Noire and by 2 Hudsons operating from Pointe Noire.

C. Stragglers route unchanged.

D. *AMARANTHUS and *COMMANDANT DETROYAT join escort in position 002° 01' S. 004° 34' E. at 1800Z/25. * *see p. 719. * *see pp 720 & 720^c**

E. After AMARANTHUS and COMMANDANT DETROYAT join, G.S. KANARIS and *SOUTHERN GEM proceed Pointe Noire to refuel rejoining convoy on completion. * *see p. 720^c*

F. SOUTHERN GEM remain with convoy until TAMARA, *MENDIP in Gape area, then returning Pointe Noire. * *see Home Watch*

G. MILFORD return to Pointe Noire to refuel at limit of prudent endurance. *see p. 720^c*

H. Orders for DESPATCH refuelling to be passed later. Above will not permit escort of C.F. 7 being augmented from Pointe Noire.

(R.A.W.A., 2001Z/23 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty., etc.)
My 2001Z/23rd. Every endeavour to be made to fuel escort from CARTHAGE at sea, situation being reported through covering aircraft.

(R.A.W.A., 2005Z/23 to DESPATCH, (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., Escort W.S. 23.)
My 2001Z/23rd. Alternately if weather permits is for CARTHAGE to fuel escort at sea and to re-route convoy farther west direct to Walvis Bay, to meet oiler if this can be sent from Cape. My 2005Z/23 refers. *see p. 720*

(R.A.W.A., 2133Z/23 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty., DESPATCH.)

DURBAN. E.T.A. Takoradi 0530/24th.
see p/p 720 & 720^c (DURBAN, 2300Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) R.A.W.A.)

Movements. Departure 23/10 *VELOX, *PUCKERIDGE, M.Ls 290 and 305.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 2321Z/23 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia.) * *see pp 719 & 720^A*

724

War Diary.23.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- ISIS. Subject (?to) successful completion of trials programme propose to proceed to Mediterranean station after (? 11)days working up. Expected date of sailing 30/11.
(ISIS 0453Z/23 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)
Approved. (C. in C. Med. 1401C/25)
- RORQUAL. RORQUAL left position 000° Ras Beirut 5 miles at 1830C/22 routed direct to 033° 57' 018° 56' thence as ordered by you. Diving by day, daily advance 145 miles.
(Capt. S.1 0905C/23 to Capt.(S) 10 (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Malta, S/Ms on Patrol.)
- MAURETANIA. Your 0225/21 para (3). About 11/11. B.A.D. pass to C.O.P.C., Esquimalt. N.B. Melbourne pass to Cdr. South Pacific Force.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 0919C/23 to D.S.T.)
- Cositrep No.556. Air. Single enemy aircraft attacked shipping at Port Sofaga in Red Sea. One dredger torpedoed and sunk. Night fighter up but no interception.
(C. in C. M.E. 1005 G.M.T/23)
- P.212. You have freedom of action in your area complying with my 1250A/22nd.
(Capt. S. 10 1051A/23 to P.212 (R) C. in C. Med. Capt.(S) 1.)
- Malta Evacuations. Your telegram 583. Evacuation. Action will be suspended until I hear further from you. This will mean losing the opportunity referred to in H.E.4431 of 20/10. I much regret I have not fully complied with instructions in your 386 of 2/7 as I consider the deteriorating situation here permitted me to make a broad interpretation of "very special cases" and to take advantage of such few opportunities of air passage as offer. I sincerely hope that favourable reconsideration will be found possible as I am convinced it would be in the best interests of Malta.
(Govr. Malta 1100Z/23 to S. of S. for Colonies.)
- P.35, Enemy M/V. Photographs indicate ship is being prepared for towing in immediate future and towing vessels on the spot. Obviously advantageous to attack and sink in deep water therefore wait close N.W. of target. But if vessel still ashore night 24th/25th attack if possible and return to Malta.
(Capt. S. 10 1213A/23 to S/M P.35 (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

/Situation ...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Situation Levant. Schooner sunk by U-Boat 2330/20 off Report No.280. Chekka, all crew saved.
 2. Red Sea. CROMARTY on passage from Massawa to Suez attacked by single aircraft night of 21/22 about 35 miles S. of Suez. No casualties or damage.
 3. Dredger RONALDSHAY torpedoed and sunk by aircraft night 21/22 at Sofaga.
 4. CLYDE reports two possible torpedo hits on Italian U-Boat 10/10 in approx. position 34° 52' N. 19° 15' E. (see also S.1/1834/21/10 not to all addressees) (N.T. in W.D.) (C. in C. Med. 1303C/23 to Admty.)

TRAVELLER. Leave patrol as necessary to pass through
 (i) 035° 17' 026° 38' at 0500C/24th.
 (ii) 031° 49' 032° 35' thence direct to arrive Port Said searched channel 0630C/26th.
 You may run on surface during daylight 25th to comply.
 (Capt. S.1 1515C/23 to TRAVELLER (R) C. in C. Med. Capt.(S)10, Capt. Coastal Forces, S/Ms on Patrol.)

P.A.6. Convoy P.A.6 arrived.
 (N.C.S.O. Aden 1611Z/23 to Admty.)

Enemy Units. Following read by Alexandria W/T: Position of 1 M/V 3 liners? stationary 31.30 N. 27.20 E.
 (A/C Call sign X6CF 1639C/23.)

Air attack on Genoa. Night 22/23 11 Lancasters from the P.F.F. and 101 Lancasters from 5 Group set out to attack town of Genoa. In condition of bright moonlight and excellent visibility, 100 aircraft identified target visually and with assistance from P.F.F. flames, streets and buildings were easily picked out. Large and well concentrated fires were observed in town and others in port area. Several large explosions also seen. 1 aircraft which did the whole Sortie on 3 engines arrived late over target; crew found many fires burning well with a dull red glow, indicating that they had got a good hold. A smoke screen was observed in full blast, but was blowing over sea instead of over town. Photographs so far examined confirm that attack most successful. 1 aircraft arrived late, bombed Turin. Bursts were observed in a built up area. Only light inaccurate flak and S/L opposition was encountered. All Lancasters returned safely. Italian High Command Communique: Last night the enemy carried out raids on the towns of Turin and Genoa. In Turin there were small fires which were promptly brought under control in Genoa the enemy attack, carried out by several waves of aircraft which dropped H.E. and I.Bs assumed considerable proportion, causing heavy damage to civilian buildings. The number of casualties is being ascertained. The behaviour of the population was exemplary. 2 enemy aircraft were brought down by A.A. defences.
 (H.Q. B.C. 1700A/23.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

P.247.
Enemy M/V.

If within 65 miles of number 4 buoy Kerkenah Bank proceed there with all despatch. Air R/C shows 1 small merchant ship southbound on coastal route, 1 (? torpedo boat) ahead on A/S patrol.
(Capt. S. 10 1933A/23 to P.247 (R) 10th S/M F. C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1.)

Situation
Report No.281.

see next page
P. 211 sank fully laden southbound merchant ship previously damaged and stopped in position 158° Lampione 70 miles dawn 20/10. *amended to 1619/19*

P.42 claims 2 hits on M/V at 1619/19 in 36° 22' N. 12° 15' E. during close attack on convoy. Estimated damage repairs will complete 30/10. See para 1 of Situation Report No. 279.

(2) Delete first sentence of Situation Report No.276 and substitute "UTMOST scored one hit on A.M.C. at 1451/13/10 in 41° 03' N. 09° 43' E. Ship either sank or possibly beached." *1814/14*

(3) P.37 on conclusion of a very successful first Mediterranean patrol reports:-

(A) At 1620/8 in 33° 41' N. 11° 44' E. engaged small Coaster by Gunfire. Enemy abandoned ship which P.37 sunk with demolition charge. Cargo was wine and foodstuffs.

(B) At 2000/9 in 34° 08' N. 11° 00' E. repeated operation on south-going Schooner whose cargo was Fodder. Schooner destroyed by can of Shale Oil and a box of matches.

(C) At 2325/9 in 34° 02' N. 11° 05' E. torpedoed and hit 3,000 ton M.V. Ship caught fire and was still burning some hours later. Cargo apparently petrol.

(D) At 1248/19 in 35° 45' N. 12° 04' E. estimated two hits on leading ship of southbound convoy as in my 1249/21 first para. (C. in C. Med. 1937C/23 to Admty.) *see also next page*
(Amplified, see 1704C/24.)

THRASHER.

You have freedom of action in Aegean South of 037° 20'. You are to leave patrol as necessary to pass through

(1) 035° 58' 027° 40' at 0630C/25th.

(2) 035° 35' 027° 45'.

(3) 034° 24' 032° 25' thence direct to arrive Beirut 0630C/28. Estimate daily advance 145 miles.

(Capt. S.1 1947C/23 to THRASHER (R) C. in C. Med. TAKU, TRAVELLER.)

/Malta ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Malta Air Report. I.62 23/10 C.S.R. Malta. Night 22/23. No enemy activity. 23rd. Today high flying enemy fighters and fighter Bombers mostly Me.109s used cloud cover in several attacks on Takali Aerodrome.

0537. 45 German and Italian Fighters and Fighter Bombers in 2 waves approached Malta at great height, first wave consisting of Me.109s was intercepted North of Island by 20 Spitfires who destroyed 1 Me.109 and damaged 1 Me.109. 1 Spitfire and Pilot were lost, cause being investigated. Second wave consisting of Mc.202s turned back 20 miles north of Island, bombs dropped near Takali Aerodrome caused no serious damage. A.A destroyed 2 Me.109s. 0730 16 Me.109s approached using cloud cover on search for enemy aircraft lost in previous raid and were intercepted North of Malta by 8 Spitfires but raiders immediately entered cloud and returned. 0910. 40 Me.109s Fighters and Fighter Bombers approached at height and were intercepted north of Island by 16 Spitfires who climbed to attack and damaged 2 Me.109s without loss to themselves. Bombs fell near runway at Takali aerodrome causing craters and elsewhere injured 1 Civilian and caused some damage to houses.

1140. 20 Me.109s some carrying bombs approached at great height and were intercepted by 8 Spitfires but enemy had height advantage and no combat resulted. Bombs on Takali aerodrome caused craters in Dispersal Area. 1210. 4 Spitfires up for raiders which turned back before reaching Malta. 1459. 50 enemy Fighters approached Malta at height, 16 Spitfires up forced raiders to jettison bombs in sea N.W. of Island and return at speed. Today in 75 Spitfire Sorties against 171 Enemy Sorties, 1 Me.109 has been destroyed and 3 Me.109s damaged by Fighters. 1 Spitfire pilot was killed and 1 Spitfire destroyed, cause being investigated. Light A.A. destroyed 2 Me.109s. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2111/23.)

M/V sunk by P.211. *See previous page* C.A.F.O. 1278/41. 20/10/1942. Stationary merchant ship previously torpedoed by aircraft escorted by destroyers. P.211 fired 2 Mark VIII 2 star A W 10 36 A W 10 59. One hit, sank 2 hours later. (Capt. S. 10 2245A/23 to Admty.)

Enemy Hospital ship. Following has been read. P.C. and S. of enemy, 1 hos. ship 31.46 N. 26.36 E. 290° 4 knots. (Med A/C 2307C/23.)

P.37 M/Vs sunk. *See previous page* C.A.F.O. 1278/41. (A) (B) (C) (G) (J) 8/10/42. South-eastbound coaster LUPALAD wine & foodstuff. P.37 24 rounds 2 hits, later boarded and sunk with charges. H E D A 3 inch 22 rounds 3 inch H E T F.

9/10/42 100 tons Schooner laden fodder. P.37 3 rounds 3 inch practice 4 rounds 3 inch H E D A. No hits, later boarded and fired.

(Capt.S.10 2359/23 to Admty)

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Convoy P.A.7. (?My) 1200Z/22 para 2, amend to read 8 (?knots) and E.T.A. P.A.7, 055° E. (?13)00Z/27. (N.C.S.O. Hormuz 0610Z/23 to Admty.)

LURCHER. C. in C. E.F. 1556Z (? 15th or 19th)/LURCHER sailed for Kilindini 0900Z/23rd. (N.O.I.C. Tamatave 0902Z/23 to F.O.E.A. / (no trace in War Reg.)

Movements. Colombo 23/10 arrivals: HAWKINS, MARGUERITE. (S.O.I. Colombo 1234Z/23 to Admty. etc.)

U/B. Japanese U-Boat. One definitely 022° N. 060° E. 22/10. (C. in C. E.F. 1508Z/23 to E.I. Stn.)

Raider situation No.12. ^{p 761}
_{p 798} 1. No further information regarding Japanese or German raider "E". Absence of activity suggests Raider "E" may have proceeded to Japanese controlled port. Large unidentified ship sighted in approx. 005° N. 063° E. at 2100Z/21st. EMPIRE DAWN overdue Trinidad and STEPHEN HOPKINS overdue Paramaribo, may be victim Raider "H" or "J".
2. Altmark Type tanker may be operating in South Atlantic with U-Boat. ERMLAND left Bay of Biscay 9/9 probably for Far East. SPEYBANK probably laid mines off Capetown in March may have since proceeded to Far East. (C. in C. E.F. 1615Z/23 to E.I. Stn. etc.)

UNICORN, ILLUSTRIOUS. UNICORN will carry 6 Swordfish and 3 Martlets for operational use on passage. Flying and maintenance crews of Swordfish Squadron to form nucleus of first Barracuda Squadron on your Station. To provide ILLUSTRIOUS with nucleus of ratings familiar with Barracuda one Barracuda special maintenance party augmented by one Air Mechanic of each trade will embark for passage. Intend ship should ferry Barracuda and aircraft awaiting shipment up to capacity. (Head of Air Branch approved by C.N.A.S. 1709A/23 to C. in C. E.F.)

U/B. ELEAZAR WHEELLOCK report sighting submarine at about 1800Z/23rd in 006° 31' S. 057° 35' E. (C. in C. E.F. 1815Z/23 to E.I. Stn. Admty.) A.F. Message. (Adm., Mombasa 1817Z/23.)

/Force D. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Force D.

"Demcat". H.M.S DEVONSHIRE, ENTERPRISE, MAURITIUS designated Force D. with Catalinas aircraft operating from Seychelles and Addu Atoll will search area between Equator and 006° 40' N. and between Meridian 059° 10' E. and 067° 00' E. on 27th to 30/10 inclusive for ships reported in KARAGOLA 1300Z/22 or any other enemy supply ships or raiders.
(C. in C. E.F. 2007Z/23 to Admty.)

EREBUS.

Sailed EREBUS 0446Z/23rd for Durban via Majunga. E.T.A. Majunga 1000Z/25th.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0502Z/23 to Cdre I/C Durban, Admty. etc.)

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WANDERER. Norfolk sailed 1425Z/22 WANDERER.
(N.S.H.Q., 0047Z/23 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.,
C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

U/B Positions. Comeastseafon's 221912 informs as follows.
(Commaveu, 0201/23 to Admty.)

Trawlers for Cape Area. Ref. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 141845. Group 2 less
NORTHERN ISLES departing Norfolk 2240Q/17 10
knots. Group 4 less S. T LOMAN departing
Norfolk my 2200Q/22 10 knots. Radio Washington
pass for information to Admty., F.O.C.N.A., S.A.
Station, S.B.N.O.W.A.
(Com. 5, 0218Z/23 to N.O.B. Trinidad, (R)
C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty., S.A. Station, F.O.C.
N.A., S.B.N.O.W.A.)

WASAGA,
TENACITY,
ARVIDA. Position 047° 28' N. 051° 35' W. TENACITY towing
ARVIDA. Speed 6 knots. E.T.A. 0930Z/23.
(WASAGA, 0245Z/23 to F.O.N.F.)

DONAX and
WINNIPEG
survivors. Your 2344/22nd and 0025/23rd. Tugs are being
sent. DRUMHELLER should continue to stand by.
(C. in C. W.A., 0345Z/23 to C.T.U. 24.1.12, (R)
Connav, Admty., F.O.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7, DRUMHELLER,
C.T.F. 24, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)
See pp 714-731

SS. QUEEN
ELIZABETH. Halifax arrived 1954Z/22.
(N.S.H.Q., 0353Z/23 to D.S.T.)

REUBEN
TIPTON
torpedoed. Following has been received. From REUBEN TIPTON.
S O S position 14.33 N. 54.58 W. torpedoed.
(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O., Recd. 0701/23.)
U.S., 6829 tons, Colombo to Trinidad and New
York.
(D.S., 1144.)
Following received from REUBEN TIPTON. Now 260 miles 71°
from Barbados.
(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O./23 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
Barbados Radio reports REUBEN TIPTON torpedoed 0730 G.M.T.
in 14.33 N. 54.58 W. 270 miles 71° from Barbados.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 0430R/23 to Admty.)
Following received from REUBEN TIPTON. Vessel torpedoed
hold. Crew standing by, endeavouring to save vessel.
(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O., Recd. 0710/23.)

"S" Report. Intercept de NAU S. Juan Puerto Rico Radio (begins)
From Radio Trinidad, sub. attack 14.39 N. 55.02 W.
at 0635 G.C.T./23 (ends).
(Valentia Radio, 0716/23 to Admty., Adm.Devonport)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0816/23 to Admty.)

/Movements ...

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Movements summary. 1800 G.M.T./23rd.
 Ship Position Course Speed
 A.T. 26 40° N. 43½° W. 072° 18½
 (D.O.D.(F), 1015Z/23 to Opanav, (R) Connaveu.)

BRITISH UNITY. Your 0033/22 not to Connav. Request expected sailing date (tanker message) and E.T.A. Trinidad of BRITISH UNITY. Is it proposed that trawlers shall escort her direct to Trinidad?
 (D.T.D., 1101A/23 to B.A.D., (R) Connav, etc.)

O.N. 139. Request reinforcements. DRUMHELLER, MORDEN detached. WINCHELSEA, SHERWOOD, Asdic out of action. SHERWOOD very short of fuel.
 (C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1141Z/23 to C.T.24, (R) Connav, Admty., etc.)
 Your 0014Z/23rd (N.T. in W.D.) (? Consider) detaching escort ship for sole purpose of transporting survivors is not warranted. Under normal circumstances survivors should be transferred to merchant ship in convoy. Your 1141Z/23rd. Make every effort to fuel escort from appropriate vessel in convoy. F.O.N.F. will sail Western Local Escort as soon as possible.
 (C.T.24, 1757/23 to C.T.U. 24.1.12.)
 (C.T.U. 24.1.12 1141/23rd. Reinforcement of RIMOUSKI and EDMUNDSTON sailing 2100/23rd to join O.N.139 in 045° 54' N. 040° 48' W. 1700/25th. C.T.U. 24.1.12 amend R/V if necessary.
 (F.O.N.F., 1844A/23 to C.T. 24.)
 My 2744Z/23rd (1844/23 intended).
 RIMOUSKI, EDMUNDSTON belong to T.U. 24.18.3 designated local western escort for O.N.139 and are to remain with convoy after you detach at W.O.M.P. Remainder 24.18.3 WITHERINGTON, MELVILLE making good defects.
 W.O.M.P. will be signalled later.
 (F.O.N.F., 1846Z/23 to C.T.U. 24.1.12, (R) C.T.24, etc.)
 By D/F at 0945Z, U-Boat still in vicinity O.N.139.
 (D.D.I.C., 1142A/23 to Escorts O.N. 139.)

O.N. Convoys. Your 1248A/22 (Re ships for South Atlantic included in O.N. convoys may have to remain with convoy as far as U.S. East Coast if convoy is being shadowed or attacked by U-Boats.)
 Concur with para. 3. Vessels from O.N. convoys will be sailed independently after bunkering if S/M situation warrants. Do (? not) desire to make change in routing from South America as proposed in para. 4. Ships may be diverted direct to destination by Connav when conditions are considered favourable.
 (Connav, 1447/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., etc.)

K.15. My 0219/22nd. Delay departure from Bermuda 24 hours.
 (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1432Z/23 to K.15, (R) Admty., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Kingston, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, N.S.H.Q.)
 My 1537/23rd and 1602/23rd (S/M Estimates). Dutch K.15 departure delayed 24 hours.
 (Cominch, 1744/23 to A.I.G. 304 etc.)

/ U/B ...

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- U/B Positions. S/M Situation 23/10 and U.S. S/M Notice. (Cominch, 1536/23, 1537/23, 1601/23, 1602/23, 1603/23 to Admty.)
- Aircraft Allocation, 1943. Your 2205Z/21. Complete information in regard to sub-paras. (a) to (g) inclusive in your para. 1 is being brought to you by Capt. (A) Huskisson, Director of Air Material, Admty., who is proceeding to Washington by air in a few days accompanied by Capt. John, R.N. Director-General of Naval Development and Production at M.A.P. This information will make it quite clear to U.S. Authorities that it is imperative that we receive every single aeroplane, the delivery of which has been promised to us by U.S. Authorities. In addition we are about to ask for 1,500 T.B.R. type and 1,000 single seater fighters to be produced for us in U.S.A. during 1943 in order to fill a large gap in our requirements. (C.N.A.S., 1540A/23 to B.A.D.)
- A.T. 27. Action P.D. New York information C.E.S.F., Cinclant, C.T.F.24, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F. Cancel my 1536/22. There will be no A.T. 27. (Cominch C. & R, 1625Z/23.)
- SHROPSHIRE, DUNCAN, ANTHONY. Your 2235/22 (2236 intended). (1) BORLINGUEN and COAMO will be sailed independently and unescorted. *See p. 734* (2) DUNCAN and ANTHONY will comply with my 1725/20 and your 1933/21. (3) This will enable essential remetalling of DUNCAN's "A" bracket bushes to be carried out whilst in dock in New York. (B.A.D., 1709Z/23 to Admty., (R) R.A.W.A.)
- EMPIRE STAR torpedoed. R.A.F. Rudloe. Intercepted 1717 G.M.T./23, SSSS de EMPIRE STAR, torpedoed 48.14 N. 26.22 W. (Burnham Radio, 1713/23 to Admty., Adm. Liverpool.) S/M attack 48.14 N. 26.22 W. at 1713 G.C.T./23rd. (Cominch, 2056/23, amended 2137/23 to Admty., B.A.M.S. 1A.)
- ROSE CASTLE. My 1436/21. ROSE CASTLE now arrived Habana from Argentinia. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1726Z/23 to Admty., (R) Connav, etc.)
- U/B. Indefinite D/F bearings at 1454Z/23 and 1555Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 1737A/23 to Escorts of O.N. 138.)

/NORSEMAN ...

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NORSEMAN, Your 1335/16/9.
Cables. Cable ship NORSEMAN has now been immobilised awaiting escort in San Juan Porto Rico since 23/8. Imperative that the most important repairs in my 1153/15/9 and Cominch's 2236/18/9 to C.E.S.F. should be completed before ship is detailed to repair loop at Trinidad. Request you will impress on Navy Dept. the necessity for early action, as prolonged interruption of these cables is becoming increasingly serious.
(D.S.D., 1804A/23 to B.A.D.)

U/B. U-Boat estimated in your vicinity has made a sighting report of a convoy or important unit at 1554Z/23rd.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1806/23 to C.T.U. 24.1.16, C.T.U. 24.1.12, (R) C.T.24, Admty.)

Chilean W.J.(?C) 511. Concepcion, Chile.
S/Ms. A submarine exercise area has been established by Chilean Government between coastline and 073° 40' W. and between 036° 30' and 037° 10' S.
(C.N.S. Canada, 1814Z/23.)

BURY, Rescue ship BURY arrived, heavy weather, request
ANGELINE. sailing orders, ex O.N. 137. 8 survivors ex ANGELINE.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1850Z/23 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

SEVERN. Intend to sail SEVERN at 1000Z/25th to pass through following positions at time given.
A. 044° 44' N. 062° 09' W. 1500Z/25th.
B. 045° 05' N. 049° 07' W. 1000Z/28th.
C. 045° 26' N. 040° 00' W. 1700Z/29th.
G. 046° 30' N. 036° 40' W. 0500Z/30th.
H. 048° 40' N. 025° 50' W. 1700Z/31st. thence in accordance with Connav's 1627/15. SEVERN on surface with escort to position A speed 12 knots. From A to B will make 14 knots on surface during night, 2 knots submerging during daylight. From B to H S. of A. 300 miles per day, diving at discretion. From H to destination, diving during daylight, S. of A. approx. 180 miles per day, adjusting speed to arrive Portsmouth at dawn 6/11. SEVERN painted dark green. C/T camouflaged and has pendant 57 on side.
(C.O.A.C., 1930Z/23 to Cominch, Admty., (R) C.T.F. 24., etc.)
My 1930Z/23. Request total bombing restrictions 15 miles ahead and astern and 10 miles either side of track. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange bombing restrictions East of 035° West.
(C.O.A.C., 1932Z/23 to A.O.C. E.A.C., C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A., (R) SEVERN, F.O.S.)

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- A.T. 27, My 0023/22, Cancel para. 1.
A.T. 28. COAMO and BORLINQUEN now sailing independently;
there will be no A.T. 27. *See p. 732*
(2) SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH will still be known as
A.T. 28.
(B.A.D., 1951Z/23 to Admty.)
- IRENE My 1821/16 (re IRENE MYRTLE reported put in
MYRTLE. New London to relieve sick Master.)
IRENE MYRTLE reported anchored in Western End
Cape Code Canal engine defects.
(N.S.H.Q., 2027Z/23 to Admty., Connav.)
- U/B. Sub. sighted 39.09 N. 74.18 W. at 1730 G.M.T./23.
(C.O.A.C., 2030Z/23 to G.B. 7A, C.T.F.24, (R)
Connav, Admty., etc.)
- U/B. U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has
made sighting report of convoy or important
unit at 1729Z/23rd. Another at 1634Z/23rd.
(Cominch, 2031/23 to C.T.U. 24.1.16, (R) C.T.24.)
- B.R.Os, Request you will impress on all B.R.Os under
duties. your jurisdiction that, except when action as
agents of Navy Dept. under B.U.S.R.A. para. D
(C), their duties entail no responsibility for
routeing or control of Merchant Shipping.
2. B.R.L.Os duties are confined to acting as liaison between
U.S.R.Os and British interests, furnishing Admty. with information
as to local movements of British controlled ships when asked to
do so and when it appears desirable, and having direct contact
with British Masters.
(D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S.(T), 2041/23 to N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.W.A.)
Cancelled. See Admty (854A/9/11.
- Sub attack Para. A. REUBEN TIPTON torpedoed 14.33 N. 54.58
and sighting W. 0529Z/23.
summary. Para. C. P.C. 545 attacks sound contact area
24.13 N. 81.53 W. 1523 and 2237Z/12/8. S.C.450
attacks sound contact 24.19 N. 82.12 W. 1810Z/14/8.
P.C. 465 attacks sound contact 19.30 N. 75.13 W. 1640Z/4/9.
P.B.Y.5 attacks sub. on surface 12.05 N. 59.30 W. 0457Z/29/9.
S.C. 504 attacks sound contact 24.24 N. 82.28 W. 1700Z/9.
Fisherman sights sub. course East 47.33 N. 58.36 W. 0630Z/22.
Sub. sighted 11.54 N. 62.28 W. 1659Z/23.
(Cominch, 2059/23 to Admty. for O.I.C.)
- ST. CROIX. (? Group missing) unable O.N.137 due to engine
defects. Proceeding St. Johns N.F.
(ST. CROIX, 2245Z/23 to C.T.F. 24.)
- E.T.A. 1030/24th. Urgent defects. Crack in main deck plate.
Leaky condenser. Feeding and oil heaters to be cleaned. Leaky
(? system) valve bulkhead joints (corrupt group) 2 required
lifting. Boiler hours.
(ST. CROIX, 2321Z/23 to F.O.N.F.)

/Area ...

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War Diary.23.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Area of British Control, N. Atlantic. Personal for A.C.N.S.(T).
My 1835/8th. A long and difficult but friendly and amusing discussion with Assistant Chief of Staff, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Convoy and Routeing, and C.T.24 took place today. After a great deal of opposition they were more or less prepared to move "Chop" to 035° W. but Connav approval still has to be obtained.
We will continue to keep up pressure.
(B.A.D., 2315Z/23 to Admty.)

BOLD. My 1702/21st and my 2132/22nd departure Bermuda H.M.R.T. BOLD at 2100Z/23rd.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 2323Z/23 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 274, 22/10. Probable composition enemy force sighted by air R/C Buin Faisi area 22/10, 2 heavy cruisers, 3 light cruisers, 18 to 22 destroyers and small patrol craft, 1 seaplane tender, 1 possible aircraft carrier, probably 3 submarines, 7 merchant vessels, 2 small unidentified vessels, total 49.
2. Photographic R/C Rabaul area 0315Z/22, 1 light cruiser, 1 seaplane tender, Nissin Maru type, 4 torpedo boats, 2 small tankers, 26 merchant vessels 3,000 to 10,000 tons aggregating 170,000 tons. 4 merchant vessels under 3,000 tons 75 small vessels, 25 to 175 feet long, 1 unidentified vessel in harbour, 10 bombers, 36 fighters Lakufai aerodrome. 1 seaplane tender leaving harbour, 1 unidentified 8,000 ton vessel, 3 miles west Rabaul course 270° were also sighted.
3. Small merchant ship reported Buka passage 22/10, 20 Zero fighters on aerodrome.
4. Flanking action by our troops forced enemy to retire from position near Eora 22/10. Engagement continued north of village.
5. Enemy air R/C reported Wanigela (Collingwood Bay) area 21/10.
6. 3 enemy aircraft attacked 2 aerodromes Port Moresby late 22/10. No damage.
7. 7 Catalinas attacked shipping Buin Faisi area early morning 22/10. No hits observed.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0845/23 to Admty., etc.)

/Berthing ...

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War Diary.

23.10.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Berthing Facilities. Your 1055A/7 para. (a). It is confirmed that intended berths indicated in para. 3 of my 0200/12/9 are 2 battleships alongside at Walsh Bay, 1 battleship alongside number 7 berth Woolloomooloo, 1 battleship in refitting berth at new dock, 2 carriers alongside at Woolloomooloo at numbers 2 and 8 berth. (2) With regard to depth of water at number 2 berth, Woolloomooloo dredging to 41 feet is already under way but cannot be completed to this depth closer than 20 feet from face of wharves. This involves provision Catamarans. My 1127/7 (? 1122/7 intended) para. 4 (b) refers. (3) Ref. para. (b), proposal for berthing destroyers not yet fully examined. Under consideration (a) to berth all destroyers at Sydney (N.S.W.) or (b) to berth 12 at Sydney and 12 at Newcastle. (4) My 0200Z/12/9 para. 9 and 10, request remark re provision of tugs. (A.C.N.B., 1029Z/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimate at 1200Z/23.
(D.D.I.C., 1412/23, 1453A/23.)

24.10.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The Russians reported this morning an intensification of W/T from Narvik, Trondheim and Bardufoss which they consider probably due to enemy main units being at sea.

About 20 enemy aircraft operated in the Humber area between 2030 and 2230; bombs were dropped at Hull and Skegness, but naval damage was very slight. Minelaying is not suspected.

The Soviet Naval Staff state that 9 acoustic mines were detonated by British minesweepers in Yugorski Strait: HAZARD was slightly damaged.

Eight Wellingtons laid mines last night off La Pallice and 6 Wellingtons off Karmsund.

South Atlantic.

SS. ANNE HUTCHINSON reported a suspicious craft, possibly a submarine at about 2012 today in 26° 16' S. 34° 43' E. (115 miles E. of Lourenco Marques.)

As a result of revision of convoy policy S.L. convoys are temporarily suspended and shipping for the U.K. is routed to U.S.A. for convoy.

Mediterranean.

Aircraft of Bomber Command from the U.K. bombed Genoa again last night.

/Several ...

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24.10.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Several attacks were made on Luqa and Ta Kali aerodromes today by high flying formations of fighters and fighter bombers. No serious damage was caused. Losses of aircraft on both sides were very small.

Enemy aircraft operated west of Alexandria last night. No naval damage is reported. Two ships are reported to have been unsuccessfully attacked.

Feint at
Ras-el-
Kanais.

To assist the military operations, a feint seaborne landing was made west of Ras-el-Kanais last night. A force of 12 L.C.Ts escorted by 2 Fairmiles, 8 M.T.Bs, EXMOOR, HURWORTH and BELVOIR was sailed from Alexandria to the westward in daylight. A convoy of 4 merchant ships continued westward after passing Alexandria astern of this force. The M.T.Bs simulated landings whilst the remaining forces returned to harbour after dark. Enemy aircraft attacked the M.T.Bs on the return passage but the only damage was to one M.T.B from cannon fire; there were no casualties and all boats returned safely.

P.35 reports having torpedoed a merchant ship aground previously damaged by air attack near Khoms yesterday and that salvage is impossible.

A Blenheim attacked a submarine off Gaza, depth charges falling near the periscope; oil and air bubbles were seen rising for half an hour after the attack.

N.L.O. Black Sea reports that on 21/10 a Russian S/M sank a 5000 ton merchant vessel escorted by 3 R-Boats off Sulina Canal and attacked and probably sank a 5000 ton tanker off Sulina on 7/10.

Red Sea.

SS. JALADURGA was attacked by enemy aircraft at 0330 today in 27° 14' N. 34° 21' E.

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24.10.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Operation
"Demcat".

DEVONSHIRE, ENTERPRISE and MAURITIUS designated Force D, left Kilindini this afternoon. With Catalina aircraft operating from Seychelles and Addu Atoll they will search the area between the Equator and 6° 40' N. and between the meridian 59° 10' E. and 67° 0' E. on 27 to 30 October inclusive for the 20,000 ton ship reported to have been sighted by SS. KARAGOLA at 2100 G.M.T./ 21 580 miles West of the Maldiv Islands, or for any other enemy supply ships or raiders.

Australia and New Zealand.

Four Fortresses were over Rabaul Harbour early this morning and set on fire by direct hit a vessel believed to be a tanker.

24.10.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

F.O. Force "E". S.O. Force "C".	R.AXF. has now been appointed F.O. Force "E" and Commodore XF has been appointed S.O. Force "C". The titles R.AXF. and Commodore XF are in abeyance and should no longer be used. (Head of M. 0359A/24).
--	--

WAYLAND.	My 1237/22. WAYLAND will remain in the Clyde for the present. (D.O.D.(H.) 1058A/24).
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Destroyers of 17th Division.	Admty 2147/22. Anticipate refit of converted minelayers of 1st M/L Squadron will commence on 7/11 and be of about 2 months' duration. Destroyers will be released as follows during this period. While 17th Division is under the operational control of A. C.O.S. intend to control their administration from Port ZA when my staff will be transferred to their offices in TRELAWNEY until the return of SOUTHERN PRINCE. (R.A.M. 1130A/23 and 0930A/25 to Admty).
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L.C.T. Craft for Scapa.	On Admty instructions it is probable that some 54 L.C.T. will be required for close-defence duties at Scapa as soon as craft can be made available.
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2. As a first action two L.C.T.(3) fitted for close-defence equipment are to be at the disposal of B.D.O. Greenock A.M/26th/10

3. A further two craft similarly equipped will be required by B.D.O. Greenock shortly afterwards. Remaining eight craft to complete one flotilla are to be ready to sail for Scapa on 1/11 if required.

4. Craft allocated to Force J are not available for this duty. (C. C.O. 1405A/24 to Capt.L.C.T.).

3rd L.C.T. Flotilla.	Your 1311/23. Concur. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1650A/24 to C. C.O).
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Asdic Repair Unit at Scapa.	A proposal has been received that a small drifter or other suitable craft be allocated permanently to R. A.D. and fitted out with a workshop and self-contained electric power generator, storeroom etc., for use as a floating and mobile Asdic and echo sounding maintenance and repair unit for Fleet and Destroyer commitments at Scapa.
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2. I concur with this proposal and request the matter may be discussed with the A/S Officer on Staff of R.A.D. who is visiting Admiralty on 27/10. (C. in C.H.F. 1711A/24 to Admty). *See 2/11 - p. 38*

/LUDLOW.....

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War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy. - Contd.

LUDLOW. On completion of refit in mid-December LUDLOW is allocated for duty as Target ship for Naval T/B aircraft in Cape Area.

2. For this purposes ship will be placed under the orders of C. in C.S. A.

3. She should accordingly be prepared for her new duties. (D.O.D.(H) 1902A/24 to C. in C. Rosyth).

30th M.T.B. Flotilla. Your 1606/23. Confirmed that 30th M.T.B. Flotilla will join A.C.O.S. mid-November, No forecast can yet be given regarding date of arrival of remaining flotillas.

These flotillas are not yet completed and their allocation will depend on the circumstances prevailing at the time of their completion and on the results achieved by the 30th M.T.B. Flotilla.

(D.D.O.D.(C) 2250A/24 to C. in C.H.F.).

Defence of U.K.

Liverpool. My 1022A/23. Laying of 2nd Maunsell Tower delayed indefinitely owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0705A/24 to Admty).

My 0705A/24/10. Earliest day on which tide and daylight will now permit laying of second Maunsell Tower is 5/11. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1850A/24 to Admty).

Movements.

BERMUDA. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0848A/24 to C. in C. Plymouth).

STURGEON. STURGEON is to be sailed for Gibraltar as soon as practicable after arrival Portsmouth. H.33. (F.O.S. 1034A/24).

Sheerness. Departure STURGEON and H.33 escorted by GUILLEMOT at 1327. E.T. A, E. A.5 0930/25. (C. in C. Nore 1525/24, to C. in C. Portsmouth).

ANSON. My 0950A/23. Sailed. Request air escort. ONSLAUGHT. (C.S.1.1147A/24 to C. in C.H.F.). FAULKNER. F.O. 1st C/S 0950/23. Sailed. MIDDLETON. (A.C.I.C. 1519A/24 to C. in C.H.F.).

H.32. 1. Detach H.32 forthwith independently to Watersay TUNA. Bay where she is to anchor until further orders. 2. Proceed in company with TUNA at best speed to Lerwick keeping west of Orkneys as routed by Capt. S.3. (F.O.(S) 1309A/24 to LA CAPRICIEUSE).

My 2131A/22. Request you sail escort to meet H.32 at

/Watersay Bay....

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War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

H.32 Watersay Bay (056° 55' 007° 32') and escort her
 *TUNA . Scapa arranging fighter co-operation.
 Contd. (Capt.S.3. 1435A/24 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).
 * see next page. F.O.(S)'s 1309A/24. Proceed by most
 direct route to Lerwick.
 (Capt.S.3.1735A/24 to LA CAPRICIEUSE.TUNA)
 Your 1309A/24. H.32 detached at 1720A in 057° 21' N.
 006° 53' W./E.T.A. Lerwick 1300A/25.
 (LA CAPRICIEUSE 1742A/24 to F.O.(S))
 H.32 anchored Watersay Bay 2200A/24.
 (H.32 2205A/24).

FORMIDABLE. Scapa departure FORMIDABLE, ICARUS, FORESTER.
 E.T.A.0800/25.
 (A.C.O.S. 1336A/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

P.556. 1.Onward route dived by day through Q.043° 01',
 012° 03' at 2300/28.
 see pp. 750^A, 751
 R.044° 20', 012° 10' S. 049° 01', 012° 05' to
 R/V in (T) 180° Lizard Head 10 miles. A.M./3rd as ordered by
 Captain (S) 5.
 (F.O.(S) 1409A/24 to P.556).

MUSKETEER. Scapa departure 1806 MUSKETEER for Hvalfiord.
 (A.C.O.S. 1840/24 to A.C.I.C.).

SCYLLA. Rosyth departure SCYLLA for Scapa.E.T.A.
 0700/25.
 (C. in C.Rosyth 1901/14).

SEALION,
 GRAPH. My 2149/22 and my 1207/23. Omit position
 (C).
 2. After passing (B) SEALION pass through (K)
 047° 30' N. 005° 15' W.(L) 048° 01' N. 005° 50' W. and thence
 (D), adjusting speed so as to arrive at (E) at 0800A/27.
 3. GRAPH pass through (B), (K), (L), and thence direct to (E)
 arriving 0800A/27.
 (Capt.S.3.2117A/24).

MASTADONTE. Request you will sail MASTADONTE from Falmouth
 independently to Gibraltar to take the place
 of *RESOLVE who has broken down.
 (D.O.D.(H.) 2242A/24 to C. in C. Plymouth).

* see p. 747
 P.615. 1. Intend to sail F.S.LA CAPRICIEUSE for Scapa
 2130A/25. Route E.T.A.0730A/26.
 (2).A.C.O.S. is requested R/V P.615 at Switha Gate for onward
 passage to Clyde. S.O.A. to Scapa 12 knots.
 (S/O. S/M Lerwick 2309A/24).

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24.10.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "KH".
*(Table op: n
21-1)* Operation "KH" postponed further 24 hours due to weather.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0955A/24 to ALERT).

Patrols. 1. Intend M.Ls. 123 (S.O) and 303 to patrol on Lat. 50° 20' N. between 1° 35' W. and 2° 10' W. tonight, leaving Weymouth at 1930/24 and leaving patrol line at dawn.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1127A/24).

My 1127A/24. Cancelled owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1452A/24).

→ MENDIP, GLAISDALE and FERNIE proceed to patrol latitude 050° 00' N. between longitude 002° 20' W. and 002° 40' W. passing Needles at 1845 and 0700. Codeword "Advent." Important enemy merchant ship is expected to arrive at Cherbourg from westward. Ships are not to proceed west of line joining Start Point to Roches Douvres. Torpedo bomber aircraft from Plymouth Command are operating west of this line.

Guernsey heavy batteries have recently opened fire on destroyers by R.D.F. at 36,000 yards range to Southward and Westward and may be able to do so on other bearings. Air R/C of Westward approaches to Cherbourg has been requested. *M/Ls 123 and 303 from Portland patrolling 050° 20' N. between 001° 35' W and 002° 10' W. 2 chasers patrolling off E.A.5 buoy. * *cancel 1127 - see above.*

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1531A/24).

2. Chasseurs on patrol in vicinity of E.A.5 Buoy *M.Ls. 123 and 303 on patrol 15 miles south of Anvil Point, E.T.D. Weymouth 1930/24, E.T.R. 0830/25. * *cancel 1127 - see above.*

→ MENDIP, GLAISDALE and FERNIE patrolling to S.W., passing Needles 1845/24 and 0700/25.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1535A/24).

U.S. Tanks from Dundrum Bay. My 1554A/18. Programme for 24/10 and subsequent days postponed 24 hours due to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1128A/28 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

Operation "EZ." My 1216/23. para.4. When clear of approaches to Iceland proceed independently of destroyers to Scapa at best speed.
(C. in C.H.F. 1451/24 to *ARGONAUT). * *see p 745*

S/M Patrols. (A) O.15 and *TUNA are required to proceed on patrol in ~~Stadlandet~~ area before proceeding on operation F.B.

(B) S/Ms are to speed minimum time at Lerwick

O.15 is to top up with fuel. TUNA is not to do so.

(F.O.(S) 1502A/24 to S.O.S/M Lerwick). * *see pp 741 742*

/From....

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24.10.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M From 1200/25 your patrol zone is zone K five
Patrols North of 061. 05 N. Patrol vicinity 061.15 N.
Contd. 004.22. Object is still cruisers and above.
(F.O.(S) 1644A/24 to UREDD)
My 1502/24. (A) 0.15 is to proceed to
zone K.6. between parallels 062.12 N. and 062.50 N. Attention
is called to Notice to Mariners 905 (T) and QZX.471.
0.15 is to patrol vicinity of 062° 38' N. 005.34, to cover
exit from Bredsun.
(B) TUNA is to proceed to patrol zone K.5. South of 061.05 N
and is to patrol vicinity 060.58 N. 004.20 E. to cover
northernmost approach to Feje Fiords.
(C) On passage to patrol zone submarines are to proceed
with despatch to C.O.'s discretion diving by day when East
of 003° E.
(D) Object of submarine is cruiser and above.
(F.O.S. 1646A/24, and 2316A/24 to S.O.S/M Lerwick).
1. Request you will sail D.S.0.15 at 0200A/25 from Lerwick
with despatch at C.O.'s discretion dive by day East of 003° E.
Routed as follows:-
A. 089° Out Skerries 5 miles.
B. 061° 05', 000° 05' E.
C. 062° 22', 004° 30' E. thence patrol as ordered in F.O.(S)
1646/24.
2. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange total bombing restrictions.
A. In area 14 North of 060° N. from 0200A/25th until further
notice.
B. In area 101 from 1400A/25 until further notice.
(Capt.S.9 2045A/24 and 2227A/24 to S.O.S/M Lerwick).

Exercises.

A/C and Capt.(S) 3's 2301A/20. 19 Group wish to carry
UNBEATEN. exercises with UNBEATEN at 1000/25th in position
Y. 250° Trevoise Head 10 miles. Three A/C of
407 Squadron from St.Eval will take part at
1000. At 1030 any other available A/C of 407 Squadron will
arrive R/V to familiarise crews with appearance of S/Ms but will
not carry out exercises.
CUTTY SARK pass to UNBEATEN and P.614.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1607A/24 and 0233A/25).

Allied Air Activity.

R/C of Request P.R.U. R/C as early as possible of
French Cherbourg and St.Malo.
Coast. (C. in C.Plymouth 0021A/24 to H.Q.C.C.).

Operation "Knocker" delayed 24 hours due
"Knocker." weather. E. T.D.Prestwick now 0845Z/25.
(T.A.C.Prestwick.1205Z/24).

/Signalling...

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War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - contd.Operation.
"Knocker."
Contd.

Signalling re "Knocker" has again become most unsatisfactory, Cancellation received after Sea Rescue Craft had been over 5 hours at sea. This cancellation came from R.A.F. and not from Naval sources.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1336A/24 to C. in C.W. A.).

Bomber
Command
Operations.

On night 23/24, 74 A/C bombed Genoa and Savona.
(H.Q.B.C. 1700A/24).

Largs
Proposal
A/C
Reception
Base.

Air Ministry wish to form an Atlantic Ferry Reception Base for flying boats at Largs in an area formed by a rectangle from Largs Pier to Fairlie Pier to Clashfarland Point to Tornontend.

2. C.A/S E.E. Fairlie and C.C.O. have been consulted and subject to certain minor restrictions have no objection to this proposal.
3. Request your views, observing that with near approach of winter the Air Ministry are anxious to begin construction of this Base at an early date.
(D.O.D(H) 1804A/24 to C. in C.W.A.).

Bombing
Restrictions.

My 2313/22nd. Delete para.(2) and (3) and substitute:-
(2) 30 miles either side line joining 045.12 004.04 and 048.30 006.00 W. from 0400A/25 till 0400A/27.
(3) Area 52 East of 007° W. and area 51 E. of 007° W. and South of 050° N. from 0400A/26 till 1200A/27.
(4) My 2117/24 refers.
(Capt.S.3. 2209A/24 to H.Q.C.C.).

Enemy Air Activity.

ARGONAUT.

See p. 743.

Am being shadowed by enemy aircraft and reported. P.C.S. 75.18 N. 15.09 W., (? 285°), 19 knots.
(ARGONAUT 0930A/24 to C. in C.H.F.).

Your were probably reported by enemy aircraft at 0942A/24.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1005A/24 to ARGONAUT).

Iceland.
One F.W.
shot down.

One enemy aircraft plotted from Vattnes course S.W. at 0735. At 0940 one A/C plotted south of Reykjanes and flew over Reykjavik course N.E. to vicinity of Thingvellira 064.14 N. 021. 06 W, thence N.W. to Borgarnes 064. 32 021.55. Identified as F.W. and pursued and shot down on land by U.S. fighter north Borgarnes. Second aircraft (JU.88) in Borgarnes Area at 1017 course S.E. over Akranes and disappeared S.E.
(A.C.I.C. 1859A/24).

746

War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

North Russia HAZARD damaged. Soviet Staff state 9 acoustic mines were detonated by British Minesweeper in Yugorsky Strait. HAZARD (?) slightly damaged. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1531A/24).

Lyme Bay Sweep. Your 1810/23. Arrived "Ounce VI". (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1624A/24).

Humber. Mine detonated at 1458 in 033° 62 Buoy 1.4 miles Details. (F.O.Humber 1656A/24 and 1840A/24).

F.O.I.C.Humber 2130/8. 2nd. Mine. BASSET reported that this mine exploded one mile astern of her position 240° 57 E. Buoy 3 1/4 cables. BASSET was with two stragglers from F.N. Convoy. QUANTOCK was in position three miles astern of rear of main part of convoy and two miles ahead of BASSET and was operating S.A.gear.

(C. in C.Nore 1958A/24 to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Main Unit. Russians reported at 0910A/24 intensification of W/T from Narvik Trondhjem and Bardufoss which they consider probably due to enemy main unit being at sea. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1245A/24 to Admty).

Plots off Bergen. At 2000A in 059. 49 N. (?010°) 15' W.(?plotted) R.D.F. contact steering 120° 15 knots. A second and separate contact obtained 30 minutes later in 059° 49' N. 009° 32' W. Shortly afterwards homing signal and reply heard on 424 K/Cs. A.C.O.S. pass to C. in C.H.F., C. in C.W.A., and Admty. (SUFFOLK 2144A/24 to A.C.O.S.).

U-Boats.

U/Boats reported. Received 2309 G.M.T. DE unknown station SSSS. Strength 3. Nothing further heard. No bearing obtained. (Burnham Radio T.O.D. 0100/24).

Inconclusive D/F at 1846Z/24 indicates U-Boat in your vicinity and which may possibly have reported you. (D.D.I.C. 2149A/24 to Escorts O.N.140).

U-Boats attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 47.49 N. 13.02 W. S/M was on surface, 360° 10 knots. (19th Group 1220/24).

Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate 2 hits. (A/C 3DGH. 1230/24 to 19th Group).

Am over enemy S/M in 46.07 N. 16.20 W. Enemy on surface, course 090° speed 10 knots.

(A/C Duty G. 1640/24 to 19th Group).

Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges, estimate 2 hits. (A/C 224 Sqdn. 1641/24 to 19th Group).

War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- TRITON. Following received from 5 J J W Begins.
"5 J Z O leaking badly. Trying to make Padstow."
Ends.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0645A/24.)
H.M. Trawlers TRITON and TRANSVAAL entered Padstow 0725/24
owing to serious leak in TRITON.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0847A/24.)
- MALRIX. Cancel my 1740A/18/8. Wreck of MALRIX approx.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cables west of Number One Sea Reach Buoy has
been raised and beached in the foul ground area
to the eastward of Southend Pier.
(F.O.I.C. London 1130/24.)
- ITHURIEL. My 1619A/23. ^{/N.T. n. x. d.} Movement postponed due to machinery
defect.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1209A/24.)
- NICOLENE
PAXIDANE My 0008/15. Request full report on defects of
Danish M.F.V.S. NICOLENE and PAXIDANE from 29/9
to present date.
(D.S.V.P. 1531A/24 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- TOR. Naval Control Service Steam Drifter RAMBLER ROSE
caused slight damage to SS. TOR in Methil Roads
at approx. 1730/23. No apparent damage to
RAMBLER ROSE.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1636/24.)
- RESOLVE. 0815/24. Arrived TYNEDALE and RESOLVE. Latter
with defects.
See /s-742
(C. in C. Plymouth 1815A/24.)
- VESTLAND
sunk. P.C.S. 060° 15' N 011° 45' W 125° one knot, at
2000A/24. Tow sinking rapidly and cannot remain
afloat without additional salvage pumps.
(ST. ELSTAN 2030A/24 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 2030A. VESTLAND sunk.
(ST. ELSTAN 2230A/24.)
All crew of VESTLAND picked up. Proceeding to
Butt of Lewis FREEBOOTER in company. Request
instructions.
(ST. ELSTAN 2251A/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

24.10.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- K.X.4(B) Ships referred to in A.M. 1951/5 will not now be loaded prior to sailing.
(D.O.D.(H.) 0001A/24 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- W.S.24P. W.S.24P sailed "Synthetic" less MOOLTAN which is delayed 12 hours. MOOLTAN requires compass adjustment, NIEUW ZEELAND requires D/F to be calibrated. Request arrangements may be made for this on arrival at Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 0105A/24 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- LARGS BAY My 0200/15. LARGS BAY will now embark 27/10. She should be ready to sail on p.m. tide 27/10.
(D.S.T. 0830/24.)
- Convoy F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to sail VIZALMA
*O.N.139. when ready to R/V with tugs NIMBLE and MARAUDER
DONAX. off Lough Foyle buoy at 2100A and proceed with
* *Emp 749 767* despatch in company to assist DONAX in 49° 51' N
27° 58' W at 2011Z/22. MYOSOTIS has been ordered
to stand by. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail the tugs
to conform.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1028A/24.)
Sailed VIZALMA.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1245A/24.)
The Master boarded DONAX and reported situation worse but salvage still possible. My 2000/24 position 049° 31' N 026° 18' W. Amend my 0750Z/23. Have 18 white and (?30) Chinese survivors on board.
(DRUMHELLER 1730Z/24.)
Sailed tugs NIMBLE, MARAUDER.
(Cdre. Londonderry 2035A/24.)
- DEMPO PHILANTE from Londonderry is to R/V at Bar Light
DUNNOTTAR Vessel at 1500A/25 with DEMPO, H.M.S.* DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE and NARKUNDA and escort to Clyde.
NARKUNDA 2. PHILANTE to Londonderry on completion.
(C. in C. W.A. 1226A/24.) ** returns to trade.*
- See next page* { K.M.S.2. My 1037/21. WOODSTOCK is to be given a quick boiler clean and sailed p.m./27 to overtake.
(C. in C. W.A. 1246A/24 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- K.M.F.1. My 1530/20. IBIS, ABERDEEN, ENCHANTRESS, CLARE are to arrive Greenock 0800A/25.
(C. in C. W.A. 1257A/24 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

MOST SECRET

748^A

~~1222/24~~ October..

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

I N

From: C. in C. Western Approaches Date: 15.11.42.

Recd. 1239

O.T.P. (RR) by T/P

Addressed: N.O.'s in Charge Greenock, Belfast,
Liverpool, Aultbea, Oban, Londonderry.

K.M.S. 1 to 3 and K.M.F. 1 and 2.

Any ship returning from these convoys
are to be boarded on arrival and no one is
to be allowed ashore pending further orders.

Outward sailing orders are to be collected
and retained by H.C.S.O.

1222/24

Advance copy sent D.C., D.O.D.(H)
& D.T.D.

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased
version of a secret cypher or
confidential code message, and
the text must first be paraphrased
if it is essential to communicate
it to persons outside British
or Allied Government Services.

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. of P.(2)
D. of P.(Q)
D.N.I.(4)
D.D.I.C.(3)
D.C.(2)
Hd. of M.
Ad. Blake
Admiral Ramsey (4)
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(M)

U.S.N.(3)
C.C.O.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.

BA

War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.Murmansk
discharging
facilities.

Your 2022/8. Russians confirm that by end of October the following will be available at Murmansk.

- (A) 10 berths to unload 10 ships simultaneously.
 - (B) Full supply of competent labour.
 - (C) Railway facilities and suitable wagons.
- (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1348A/24 to Admty.)

Rosyth
Escort
Force.

Your 2130A/22. Withdrawal of VERSATILE and LAUDERDALE from Rosyth Escort Force will reduce number remaining below that necessary to carry full protection of convoys as at present afforded.

- (2) The suggestion in your para 3 will be adopted, but this by itself will not be sufficient.
 - (3) I therefore intend also to withdraw A.A protection vessel from E N/W N convoys, leaving only trawler close escort. Exceptions will be made in cases of these convoys which have high percentage of special ships.
 - (4) Normal running will be resumed on arrival of further promised escorts.
- (C. in C. Rosyth 1553A/24 to Admty.)

O.N.S.138

Cancel dispersal of southbound ships tonight.

*O.N.139

(D.T.D. 1645A/24 to Escorts O.N.S.138 and O.N.139)

* 2- / 748.

N.K.

Alter route from (L) to (O) 041° N 027° W, thence to (M).

(C. in C. W.A. 1808A/24 to CARNARVON CASTLE.)

S.D.33.

My 0130/24. Further delays on account of weather and foul anchors. Embarkation completed S.D.33 will sail as soon as anchors are cleared, probably a.m. tomorrow.

(A.C.I.C. 2030A/24 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

K.M.S.1.

Estimate you may meet MUSA homeward bound independent during the night.

K.X.4A.

(C. in C. W.A. 2052A/24 to STORK. VENOMOUS.)

MURENA.

Admty. 1815/14. Intend sailing MURENA escorted by CHIDDINGFOLD to Kirkwall for onward routing to Tyne at 0830/25.

Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. 2030/27.

Codeword "Bollard".

(A.C.I.C. 2235A/24.)

750

War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- CAVA. Your 1129A/20. Breakdown makes exercises impossible. Am returning to harbour. My position 37° 00' N. 9° 10' W. Weather report. (CAVA, 0600/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- LAVORO. Italian tanker LAVORO entered Cartagena noon/23 with defect.
(2) N.O.I.C. Malta pass to A.O.C. Malta and Capt. (S) 10.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0957A/24 to Admty., etc.)
My 1859/10th, LAVORO arrived Cartagena 23/10 with engine defects. (N.A. Madrid, 1309/24 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)
- DECOY. Arrived Ponta Delgada 0930 G.M.T./24th.
See p. 750^B (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1015/24 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)
Left Ponta Delgada 1630 G.M.T./24th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1535/24.)
- CARMELITA. My 1345/21st. CARMELITA left for Seville 3 a.m. 23/10 in ballast.
(Cadiz, 1030/24 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, Admty., (for D.N.I.), B.N.A. Madrid, R.O. Seville.)
- LE TRAIT Departure Viana 1605A/23rd for Lisbon.
(French) (Oporto, 1032/24 to Fairmiss.)
- KAOLACK. KAOLACK Oban (corrupt group) Mersey sailed 1700A/23 speed of advance 6 knots. Convoy will hold S.P.2405, S.P.02272 20 21, Q.R.S.353, H.873, Y.379, one operator.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1127A/24 to Admty.)
- Dispositions. Situation 1958A/24.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1430A/24, 1442A/24, 1504A/24.)
See Lion Copy.
- FURIOUS. E.T.A. 0900A/25th. Intend to fly off 8 A/C at this time, remaining 16 A/C will be flown off South of Gibraltar before entering harbour about 1100. Request Q.K.A.67, last message held Q.K.A. 64.
See next page (FURIOUS, 1624/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- U/B. U-Boat sighted 8 miles South of Western Coast San Miguel, Azores, course W., on surface at 1235A/24.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1757A/24 to S. & A. N.A.)

/Air ...

MOST SECRETMOST SECRET. ~~SECRET~~ 1430A/24th October IN.From: F.O.C. North
Atlantic.Date 24.10.42.
Recd 2249

Naval Cypher A.1 by W/T

Addressed: A.I.G. 63.

IMPORTANT. Situation 1958A 24th.

(i) H.M.S. P.556.35 56 05 37 escorted until daylight hours 25th on surface through 35 59 06 02 at 2200 24th. 36 32 06 53 at 0400 25th 225 Cape St. Vincent 12 at 1600 25 38 02 10 01 at 0100 26th 9 knots. *See p. 742 & 751*

(ii) K X 3, H.M.S. ACHATES, H.M.S. VANOC. (E) 38 25 11 19 through 36 32 09 23 and (? 35) 52 06 11 to Gibraltar 12 $\frac{1}{2}$

(iii) H.M.S. BARBARIAN, BARFLAKE, one Motor Launch, 36 45 10 28 through 36 11 09 01 to Gibraltar 8.

(iv) H.M.S. LOCH OSKAIG patrolling off Cape Roca.

(v) CAVA 36 11 06 30 to Gibraltar 10. *See previous page*

(vi) H.M.S. IMPERIALIST Patrolling Horn Bight. *? Huelo*

(vii) H.M.S. JONQUIL, H.M.S. GERANIUM, 30 20 19 36 to r/v with one (? tanker) in position 29 34 22 05 at 0600A 25th and escort 71 12 *See next page p. 751*

(viii)* Fleet Unit, D.S. ISAAC SWEERS, H.M.S. MARNE, H.M.S. ESCAPADE, 35 57 09 14 through 35 54 06 15 to Gibraltar 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ ** FURIOUS. See previous page*

(ix) KERRERA 35 20 11 23 through 35 01 12 20 thence Gibraltar 10.

(x) H.M.S. WIVERN 26 42 17 30 through 30 55 14 12 thence 54 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ *See p. 750c*

(xi) H.M.S. STELLA CARINA, H.M.S. LEYLAND, 2 merchant ships, 36 01 08 35 through 36 01 09 02 thence 305 6

(xii) Spanish training ship JUAN SEBASTION DE ELCANO cruising in area between Canary Islands and point 36 01 30 02

(xiii) K X 2 H.M.S. BULLDOG, H.M.S. BEAGLE, H.M.S. BOADICEA, H.M.S. RHYL, H.M.S. FELIXSTOWE, H.M.S. ROTHESAY, H.M.S. STORNOWAY, HOY, RYSA, JURA, MULL, INCHCOLM, 45 01 17 30 155 7.

(xiv) Italian repatriation ships VULCANIA, SATURNIA, 32 15 12 35 to Las Palmas 18 $\frac{1}{2}$

(xv) Italian repatriation ships DUILIO, GIULIO CESARE, leaving Gibraltar 1700 24th through 35 10 30 thence to Las Palmas 17.

1430A/24.

Advance copy D.C. D.O.D. (H) D.T.D.		
1st Lord.	Capt. Pim.	I.P. (2)
1st S.L. (2) N.A. 1st S.L.	D.O.D. (H) (2)	W.D.
V.C.N.S. Admiral Blake.	D.O.D. (F) (2)	D. of P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H) D.D.I.C. (2)	D.C. (2)	D.D.O.D. (M)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2) D.B.D.	D.A/S W.	D.T.D. (3)
A.C.N.S. (T) D.T.D. (C)	Hd. of M.	D.T.D. (M)
D.D.O.D. (C) (2)		

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1442A/24th October

IN

From F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date 24.10.42.
Recd. 1720.

NAVAL CYPHER 'A.L.' BY W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities North Atlantic.

IMPORTANT

Situation 1958A/24. Situation report for Area Y.

1. H.M.S. JONQUIL, H.M.S. GERANIUM, 030 degs. 20' 019 degs. 36' to rendezvous one tanker in position 29 34 22 05 at 0600 25th and escort 071 degs. 12. *See previous page - 10.751*

2. OREASY, (corrupt group) one tug, one ferry steamer, 38 48 28 38 to Horta sailing pm. 25th 150 degs. 72.

3. H.M.S. CARMARVON CASTLE, H.M.S. GRIFFIN, one Merchant Ship, 39 47 25 48 through 40 01 26 01 thence 000 degs. 142.

4. *(H.M.S. DEUCY)* re-fuelling Ponta Delgada, sailing to rejoin H.M.S. CARMARVON CASTLE during daylight 25th. *See p. 750*

Confirmed by 23/10-p. 719.

1442A/24

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.

V.C.H.S.
A.C.H.S. (H)
A.C.H.S. (F) (2)
A.C.H.S. (T)
N.A. Lt S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
Capt. Pine
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.L./B.W.
D.D.L.C. (2)
Duty Capt. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Head of M.
U.S.N.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1504A/24th Oct. IN.

From: F.O.C.N.A.,

Date 24.10.42.

Recd: 1620.

Naval Cypher (A.1) by W/T.

Addressed: North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report for Area 'Z' at 2002A 24th.

- (1) H.M.S/m P 552 021° 59' 018° 12' (?thence) 208° 9.
- (2) H.M.S WIVERN 026° 42' 017° 30' through 030° 55' 014° 12' thence Ewe 12½. *See p. 750A*
- (3) S.L. 125, H.M.S PETUNIA, H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S COWSLIP, H.M.S. CROCUS, H.M.S. JULIET, H.M.S. SALVONIA, ~~H.M.S. KALANTANI~~, 022° 12' 024° 15' 022° 7½. *See p. 752^c*
* confirmed by 23/10-10720^A

1504A/24.

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt.,
D.O.D. (H) 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.
 Capt Pim
 D.O.D. (H) (2)
 D.O.D. (F) (2)
 Duty Capt (2)
 U.S.N.
 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.T.D. (C)

War Diary.

24.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Air Report.

Resume for 24/10.
At 0924 1 Ju.88 approached at 12,000 feet, 2 sections Spitfires up, no interceptions, A.A. fired, no claim.
(Gibraltar, 1800A/24 to Air Min.)

P. 556.

See pp 742 & 750A.

My 1838/23. Departure 1718.P.556. Only Q messages affecting passage to port of destination carried.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1822A/24 to Admty.)

U/B, attacks
by JONQUIL,
GERANIUM.

U 203

See pp 750A & B.

Submarine dived in 030° 36' 019° 56'.
(JONQUIL, 1830A/24 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1830A/24. Periscope sighted, JONQUIL, GERANIUM carried out one attack each producing diesel oil. Both ships lost contact.

(JONQUIL, 1952A/24 to Admty., etc.)

Your 1952/24th. Hunt for 12 hours then proceed in accordance with my 1746/19, if not in contact.

(F.O.C.N.A., 2251A/24 to JONQUIL, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Your 2251A/24 received.

2 further attacks carried out. Contact lost at 2040 and not since regained. Weather report.

(JONQUIL, 2357A/24 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Spanish
Shipping.

Sailed H.M. Trawlers LORD NUFFIELD, ARCTIC RANGER to intercept Spanish Schooners RECHOU, VILLA GARCIA from Las Palmas and escort ships to Gibraltar.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1850A/24 to Admty.) *see p. 750*

French
Shipping.

Gibraltar 1635/24 Armed Trawler SERGEN7 GOUARNE, ships, CONGO full, MARECHAL LYAUTEY laden, CARIMARE light, ARIZONA light, Trawlers MONT CASSEL, JOSEPH ELISE eastbound.

(S.O.(I) Gib., 1959A/24 to Admty.)

U/B.

Transit Wellington reported U-Boat stationary on surface in 028° 02' N. 012° 40' W. at 0954A/24.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2351A/24 to WIVERN, (R) Admty.)

Air Raid
21-22/10.

Evidence is coming in that one Italian aircraft in raid on night of 21st/22nd, was hit by A.A. fire and crashed near Guadacorte in the Campo.
(Govr. Gib., T.O.O. Nil/24, Recd. 1850/24.)

War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- SHROPSHIRE, fuelling destroyers. Your 1709/23rd. Unless SHROPSHIRE (? indicates) to the contrary it is not considered that, with her reduced endurance, she can fuel destroyers. (C. in C. S.A., 0037C/24 to R.A.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)
- M.D. 1. Arrived NAPIER, DAUNTLESS, INCONSTANT, BLACKMOOR with convoy M.D. 1. (Cmdre. 1/c Durban, 0621Z/24 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., etc.)
- Vichy Cruiser. 1 Vichy cruiser sighted by R.A.F. aeroplane in transit in 020° N. 017° W. course 360° at 1300/23rd. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0721Z/24 to Admty., S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)
- SIRIUS. *see pp 752A & C* Pointe Noire departure 24th SIRIUS E.T.A. Freetown 1700Z/28th. (B.N.L.O. W.Africa, 0930/24 to Admty.)
- SNOWDROP. *see pp 752B & C* Report earliest time you can arrive Bathurst. (R.A.W.A., 0937Z/24 to SNOWDROP, (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)
- O.N.5.138. Request information if Cape and West Africa ships have been dispersed. (F.O.I.C. W.Africa, 1031Z/24 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)
- ALCANTARA. *see p. 752D* Capetown departure 0800C/23rd ALCANTARA for Port Elizabeth by route R.8, E.T.A. 1100C/24th. (C. in C. S.A., 1045C/24 to Admty., N.L.O. Port Elizabeth.)
- Dispositions. R.A.W.A. 1107Z/24, 1207Z/24, 1417Z/24. C. in C. S.A. 1115C/24. (See Lion Copy.)
- *TAMARISK C.F. 7. TAMARISK is to be sailed immediately after fuelling to join escort of convoy C.F. 7 routed as in my 1717/22nd. Report R/V. * *see next page p. 752A & C* 2.*SOUTHERN PRIDE is to be sailed to escort HAI LEE to join C.F. 7 at position Y 001° 33' N. 000° 55' W. at 0800/30th. (F.O.I.C. W.Africa, 1111Z/24 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty., SHROPSHIRE, Escort C.F. 7.) *continue p 753*

/Your ...

La

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1107^Z24th October. IN

From: R.A. West Africa. Date: 24.10.42.
Recd: 1740.

NAVAL CYTHER (M) BY W/T.

Addressed: Ships in Area 'P' of South Atlantic Station
South of 8 degs. N. Admiralty, C. in C. South
Atlantic, N.O.i/c. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT.

TURCOMAN off Freetown to Robertport 8.

H.M.S. AVONVALE from Marshall to Freetown 15.

ST WISTAN about 006 degs 50' 013 degs 01' to Freetown 9
at 1959z 24th.

CORINTHIAN, FANDANGO, 4 M/Ls, 2 Chasseurs, (?M) S. T. 39,
004 degs (?42) 010 degs 10' 133 degs 8.

SOUTHERN PRIDE about 004 degs 50' 010 degs 05' to
Takoradi 14. *See previous page p. 752c also p. 754*

H.M.S. GUARDIAN, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, 000 degs 25' South
003 degs 55' to (?Freetown) 005 degs (?01') thence
308 degs 12.

CARTHAGE / p. 752c
H.M.S. DESPATCH (?H.M.S. MORETON BAY) H.M.S. MILFORD
SOUTHERN PRIDE (H.M.S. ? undecypherable) 000 degs 59'
002 degs 15' East 144 degs 12 $\frac{1}{2}$. ** W.S. 23.*

** GEM p. 752c*
H.M.S. TAMARISK off Takoradi to East 12 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See previous page p. 752c*

H.M.S. KELT from Lagos to Pointe Noire 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

H.M.S. SIRIUS about 002 degs 50' South 002 degs 55'
East 282 degs 20. *See previous page p. 752c*

H.M.S. AMARANTHUS 002 degs 45' South 007 degs 25' East
join W S 23, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See p. 752c & 753*

COMMANDANT
F.S. DETROYAT about 003 degs 50' South 008 degs 25' East
to Pointe Noire 13. *See p. 752c & 754*

Friendly Naval Unit about 005 degs 01' South 025 degs
45' patrol to East.

1107z/24

Advance copy to Ops. O.D. Trade

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| V.C.N.S. | D.A/S.W. | D.T.D.(M) |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | D.D.I.C.(2) | D.T.D.(C) |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | Duty Capt.(2) | |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | I.P.(2) | |
| N.A.1st S.L. | W.D. | |
| Capt.Pim | Hd. of M. | |
| D.O.D.(H)(2) | U.S.N. | |
| D.O.D.(F)(2) | D.T.D.(3) | |

MOST SECRET

1207Z/24 October.

~~MOST SECRET~~~~M E S S A G E~~I N

From: R.A. West Africa

Date: 24.10.42.

Recd. 1600

NAVAL CYpher (M) by W/T

CORRECTION

Addressed: Situation Report.

IMPORTANTH.M.S.*SNOWDROP, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, 015 degs.
45' 019 degs. 59' to Bathurst 13. *See pp 752 752c*H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER 011 degs. 35' 018 degs. 30' to
Freetown 9½ at 2001 24th.

COPINSAY 010 degs. 25' 016 degs. 40' to Freetown 8½.

Two Motor Launches 009 degs. 55' 016 degs. 35' to
Bathurst 9.ROBERTS, H.M.S. ANTELOPE, H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, 008 degs.
56' 015 degs. 19' to 009 degs. 17' 017 degs. 01' thence
345 degs. 10½. *See p. 754*H.M.S. BCREAS off Freetown 283 degs. 14.

1207Z/24

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.
 Capt. Pim
 D.O.D. (H) (2)
 D.O.D. (F) (2)
 D.C. (2)
 U.S.N.
 D.A./S.W.
 Hd. of M.
 D.D.I.C. (2)
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 D.T.B.
 D.T.D.
 D.T.

MOST SECRET

~~MOST SECRET.~~ M E S S A G E 1417Z/24th October IN

From: R. A. West Africa.

Date 25.10.42.
Recd. 0807

Naval Cypher M by cable.

Addressed: Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic F.O.C.N.A.
S.P.N.O. Western Atlantic COMSOLANT For. 28.
B.A.D. Washington.

733. Weekly state 24th October.

948. H.M.S. BURDOCK.

Bathurst area. H.M. Ships SNOWDROP, VELOX, PUCKERIDGE,
BRIDGEWATER, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU. * see p. 754.

Freetown H.M. ships EDINBURGH CASTLE, VINDICTIVE,
BRILLIANT, PHLOETTES, ARMERIA, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES.

Freetown area H.M. ships ASTURIAS, QUEEN OF BERMUDA,
ANTELOPE, BOREAS, AVONVALE, HYDRANGEA, ROBERTS, CORINTHIAN,
* SOUTHERN BRIDE, Chasseurs 42 and 43. * see p. 754

* see pp 752, 752A, 754

Takoradi. H.M.S. DUREAN. * see p. 754

Takoradi area. H.M. ships GUARDIAN, CYCLAMEN,
DESPATCH, CARTHAGE, MILFORD, TAMARISK, SOUTHERN GEM,
Greek destroyer KANARIS.

Pointe Nore (? H.M.S. PHOEBE). * see p. 755

Pointe Noire area. H.M.S. SIRIUS,
H.M.S. * AMARANTHUS, F.S. COMMANDANT DESTROYAT. * see pp 752A, 754
* see pp 752A, 753

On passage Freetown from Cape H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE,
H.M.S. * HECLA, H.M.S. * ARROW, H.M.S. * ACTIVE, H.M.S. TRUANT,
H.M.S. * ROCKROSE, Netherlands * submarine A14, * THYME,
Cape ~~CAPE~~ BELLWORT. * see next page.

On passage to U.K. H.M.S. PETUNIA, H.M.S. WOODRUFF,
H.M.S. CROCUS, COWSLIP. (S.L. 125.) * see p. 750c

On passage to Gibraltar H.M.S. WIVERN.

U.K. H.M.S. VANSITTART, VIMY, VIOLET, AUBRETIA.

1417Z/24.

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

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
Deputy 1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim.	Hd. of M.
D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.D. I.C. (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)	I.P. (2)
D.C. (2)	W.D.
U.S.N.	D. of P. (2)
D.A/S W.	D.G.D.
	D.N. I. (4)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN.

1115C/24th October.

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date. 25.10.42.
Recd. 1344.

NAV/L CYPHER D by W/T.

Addressed C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Deputy C. in C. Eastern Fleet, R.A.W. Af. F.O.C.N.A., F.L.O. India, S.B.N.O. W. Atlantic.

Simonstown. H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM, H.M.S. CERES, H.M.S. NEPAL, H.M.S. NIZAM, H.M.S. FOXHOUND, D.S. 019, and *023, MEAD. Capetown. H.M.S. NORMAN, F.S. LEOPARD, M.L. No. 109, SPINDRIFT, PRUDENT, EMILE BAUDOT. Port Elizabeth. H.M.S. ALCANTARA, ENGADINE, ATHENE, KHETI (ASIS), STORMWRACK. East London. COLOMBIA, H.M.S. NIGELLA, SARKA R.F.A. OLWEN. Saldanha Bay. FERNSMOOR, BARGROSS. Durban H.M.S. REVENGE, H.M.S. GENISTA, H.M.S. DRAGON, H.M.S. WARSPITE, H.M.S. FORTUNE, H.M.S. DAUNTLESS, H.M.S. INCONSTANT, H.M.S. NAPIER, *BELWORT, BLACKMOSE, CECILE, MAPLESON. Off Capetown. H.M.S. EXPRESS, H.M.S. CATTERICK, H.M.S. TRUANT. Off Walvis Bay to the north. *H.M.S. ROCKROSE, *H.M.S. THYME, *K 14. Off Port Nolloth to the north. H.M.S. *SHROPSHIRE, *H.M.S. *HECLA, *H.M.S. *ARROW, H.M.S. *ACTIVE with C F 77 about 016 degs. south 010 degs. east.

* let Cape - see previous page.
+ * see previous page

1115C/24.

** 0.23 attacked enemy off Penang, Malaya 25/10.
see 7/11 - 12.7.227
7 258

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- 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.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- Duty Capt. (2)
- U.S.N.
- 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.T.D. (C)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.N.T. (5)
- A. Blake.

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

War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.- Contd.-

- TAMARISK,
C.F. 7.
(Contd.)
- Your 1111Z/24. TAMARISK sailing 2200Z/24 for position (F) thence steering to position (E) thence on reciprocal course to R/V at 003° 55' S. 008° (?42') E. approx. at 1500Z/27, S. of A. 13 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1831Z/24 to R.A.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)
- AMARANTHUS,
C.F. 7.
- Detach AMARANTHUS from Convoy W.S. 23 as necessary to R/V with convoy C.F. 7 at R/V given in my 1616Z/22.
(R.A.W.A., 1151Z/24 to DESPATCH, (R) Admty., SHROPSHIRE, AMARANTHUS, C. in C. S.A., Escort W.S.23, HURWORTH, Escort C.F. 7.)
- W.S. 23.
- My 2001Z/23rd, para. E. Delete ref. to SOUTHERN GEM.. Ship will have sufficient (endurance) refuelling at Pointe Noire.
(R.A.W.A., 1235Z/24 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty., Escort W.S.23, B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, DESPATCH.)
- RUGELEY.
- Cancel my 1549/23 (SS. RUGELEY not arrived.)
(C. in C. S.A., 1252C/24.)
- EMPIRE
PRIDE,
FORTUNE.
- EMPIRE PRIDE escorted by FORTUNE expected time of sailing 1100C/25 due Capetown 1600C/27, route R.9 amended and Capetown searched channel, Q.G.A. 109, C.D. Durban, D.E. East London, E.F. Port Elizabeth, F.G. Simonstown, G.H. Capetown, knots 16, days 20 (20) (21), one ship, 482 H/F transmission Q.G.A. 109 Q.G.B. 130.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 1317C/24 to Admty., etc.)
- Comsolant
Boundary.
- B.A.D. 1601Z/24.
See America and West Indies.
- S.L. 124.
- Successful.
(D.T.D., 1604/24 to R.A.W.A., F.O.C.N.A.)
- CITY OF
JOHANNESBURG
(torpedoed
23/10.)
- Following received from FORT GEORGE. Have (picked up) 54 survivors CITY OF (?JOHANNESBURG) position 033° 24' S. 028° 31' E. believe another 2 (corrupt group) in vicinity, now proceeding Port Elizabeth (corrupt group), send her (? orders), expect to arrive a.m. 25th Oct.
(Colombo W/T, 1605 G.M.T./24 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty.)
Following from FORT GEORGE. CITY OF JOHANNESBURG was torpedoed by S/M 21 hours G.M.T. 23/10 approx. position 033° 10' S. 029° 20' E. have picked 54 survivors position 033° 24' S. 028° 31' E. 2 lifeboats still missing, proceeding Port Elizabeth.
(Burnham Radio, 1750 G.M.T./24 to Admty., Adm. Liverpool.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.

24.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements. Arrival 24/10 DURBAN, ^{see p. 752} TAMARISK. ^{see pp 752, 753}
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1611Z/24 to R.A.W.A., Admty.,
N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

COMMANDANT My 2001/23, para. (D) F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT
DETROYAT. reports defects, speed reduced to 11 knots, and
^{see pp 752A & C} estimate 4 days to make good.
(R.A.W.A., 1631Z/24 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.,
DESPATCH, SHROPSHIRE, B.N.L.O. W.A.)
C. in C. S.A. 2305/20. It is most urgent that F.S. COMMANDANT
DETROYAT should now join escort of convoy C.F. 7 while
destroyers are fuelling. Temporary repairs should be effected
to enable ship to sail. PHOEBE pass to B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire.
(R.A.W.A., 1643Z/24 to PHOEBE, B.N.L.O. W.Africa, (R)
SHROPSHIRE, Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

CORIOLANUS. Your 0953/23.
Delay to CORIOLANUS cannot be accepted. She
should be sailed for Gibraltar at best speed as
soon as possible.
(D.O.D.(F), 1700A/24 to R.A.W.A., (R) F.O.C.N.A.
etc.)

Ref. A.M. 1700/24 CORIOLANUS is to be sailed for Gibraltar
forthwith by following route - A. 014° N. 018° W. B. 015° 020°
C. 020° 020°. D. 030° (012°). E. 036° 007° thence Gibraltar.
Report E.T.A. on sailing.
(R.A.W.A., 2323Z/24 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) (F.O.C.N.A.?),
C. in C. S.A., Admty.)

Movements. Arrivals p.m. 24/10 VELOX and PUCKERIDGE
escorting LEOPOLDVILLE, BERGENSFJORD.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1830Z/24 to R.A.W.A.)

Departures 24/10 ROBERTS, ANTELOPE, HYDRANGEA. ^{see p. 752B}
(S.O.I. Freetown, 2058/24 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)
E.T.A. Takoradi 1400Z/26th.
(SOUTHERN PRIDE, 2102Z/24 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi.) ^{see pp 752, 752A}
Departures 24/10 *QUEEN OF BERMUDA, BOREAS on patrol. ^{see}
Arrival *ASTURIAS.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2150/24 to Admty.) * ^{see p. 752C}

S.L. As a result of revision of convoy policy S.L.
Convoys, convoys are temporarily suspended and shipping
suspension. for U.K. is routed to U.S.A. for convoy.
2. Ships under 15 knots which can take sufficient
bunkers to make a direct passage from South Africa
to U.S. east coast ports may do so provided they can maintain
not less than 12 knots.
3. M.W.T. requests their representatives may be informed
confidentially of foregoing and instructed to load ships in
this category so that they can leave South Africa with bunkers
for 7,500 miles plus safe margin instead of 5,500 miles as
hitherto.
(D.T.D., 1920A/24 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med., F.O.C.R.I.N.,
A.C.N.B., C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- U/B. T S S AL GARNA reports sighting (? submarine) at 0605Z/24th in 004° 23' S. 011° 18' E. (B.N.L.O. W.A., 1955A/24 to R.A.W.A.)
- "Q" Report. Following has been read. Addressed Admiralty. Q Q Q Q 26.16 S. 34.43 E. Sighted suspicious craft, possibly submarine. (ANNE HUTCHINSON No T.O.O./24.)
- BELGIAN FIGHTER, survivors. Following from OCEAN JUSTICE addressed C. in C. S.A. Rescued 2 survivors from steamer BELGIAN FIGHTER, 035° 06' S. 019° 11' E. (Burnham Radio, 2110/24 to Admty., etc.)
- Vichy Convoy. Vichy convoy 4 merchant ships and 1 destroyer sighted by aircraft at 1304Z/24 in 011° 19' N. 017° 51' W. course 192° 8 knots. (S.O.(I.) Freetown, 2220Z/24 to Admty.)
- MALOJA, U/B, 16/10. Following is a repetition of my 0931Z/20 (begins): Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. from R.A.W.Af. SS. MALOJA (Swiss) since arriving Takoradi reports having been stopped by German U-Boat in 01.10 N. 02.43 E. at 1915Z/16. U-Boat estimated 350 feet long, painted light grey, two guns. (Ends.) (R.A.W.A., 2325Z/24 to C. in C. S.A., Admty.)
- PHOEBE. Your 1844Z/24 (N.T. in W.D.) Ship was berthed alongside yesterday evening. Diving operation today reveals a jagged hole in port side abaft B turret (corrupt group) 37 length 66 feet from 3 feet above lower deck down to keel but keel is intact. Longitudinal bulkhead abreast hole is collapsed. All flooding has been (? stopped). Co-operation of French good but their resources very limited. Signal C.A.F.O. 889/40 is being made. Living conditions of ship's company are bad. Intend commence temporary repairs to make ship watertight above lower deck only. (PHOEBE, 2347/24 to R.A.W.A.)

War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

P.35
Enemy
M/V.
p.758
Your 1223/23 (?1213A/23) have already torpedoed ship, consider salvage now impossible. Expect usual place 0959A/25.
(P.35 0327A/24 to Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

C.M.33
C.M.34
Your 1157/21. Agree.
(D.S.T. 0349A/24 to P.S.T.O. Egypt. (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

Army
Advance,
Egypt.
Joint War Communique 24/10.
The 8th Army with strong air support attacked last night. Fierce fighting developed and is continuing.
Allied Air Forces during the night of 22/23 October and yesterday continued their pressure on enemy landing grounds in the forward area. In combat yesterday we destroyed 8 enemy fighters and damaged many others.
The enemy continued their fighter-bomber tactics over Malta with negligible results. Our fighters shot down one aircraft and two others were destroyed by ground fire.
From these and other operations four of our aircraft failed to return but one pilot is safe.
(Mideast T.O.O. 0900Z/24.)

Cositrep
No.557.
1. Concentration of 8th Army completed without incident dawn 23/10.
2. Day 23. Quiet on whole front. Army offensive started 2200 hrs. preceded by 20 minutes intense counter-battery bombardment. Our attack continues.
3. Air follows as Part 2.
(C. in C. ME. 0930/24.)
Part 2. Air.
6. Night 23/24 Oct. Enemy aircraft operated west of Alexandria. Preliminary reports indicate some bombs dropped Amriya where slight damage resulted.
(C. in C. ME. 1045/24.)

Movements.
23/10 Port Said. Arrivals GLOXINIA, SOUTHERN MAID, PROTEA, ISLAY.
Departures DULVERTON, ALDENHAM, PALADIN, CROMARTY, PETARD, KLO, ACHIOS GEORGIOS.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 1031C/24 to Admty. etc.)

ARCA
My 1044C/22. ARCA (formerly HAUGAR) sailed for Aegean 0800 G.M.T. description 2222 G.R.T. ex sailing vessel converted into tanker. Hull grey prominent clipper ?bow counter stern funnel and donkey funnel aft bridge midships 2 masts. Speed 5.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1115C/24 to S.O.I. Med. S.1. D.N.I.)

MANXMAN
Suez arrival 23/10.
(C. in C. Med. 1121C/24 to Admty.)

War Diary.

24.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Bi-weekly A.673 24/10 Secret. WX.2152.
Opsum R.67 Night 20/21 October. 30 Wellingtons bombed shipping and harbour installations Tobruk. Results mainly obscured by low cloud but one fire started in jetty area. 77,000 lbs H.E. dropped. 4 Wellingtons unable to reach Tobruk bombed Capuzzo Sollum and Matruh. Results unobserved.

21/10. 18 B.24s despatched to attack shipping in Benghazi found harbour completely obscured by cloud and returned. A Spitfire intercepted a R/C Ju.88 north of Alexandria scoring hits. Enemy escaped in cloud. 2 Beaufighters provided cover for H.M. Ship north east of Port Suez, one Baltimore strategical R/C 2 Spitfires 3 Hurricanes photographic R/C 1 Sunderland 3 Walrus A/S patrol. Enemy air activity confined to defensive role except for isolated attacks in southern sector and on our forward landing grounds.

Night 21/22. A He.111 torpedoed dredger in Sofaga harbour Red Sea. Vessel sunk. 1 Hurricane up did not sight enemy. Another ship attacked with torpedoes in Gulf of Suez. No damage.

22 October. 10 Beaufighters 16 Hurricanes protection of shipping north east of Delta. One Baltimore strategical R/C 5 Spitfires photographic, 4 Hurricanes tactical R/C 2 Sunderlands 4 Blenheims 2 Wellesleys one Hudson one Walrus A/S patrols. Enemy air activity again confined to defensive patrols.

23/10. 40 Hurricanes protection of shipping off Delta. One Baltimore strategical 5 Spitfires photographic one Maryland shipping R/C 8 Bisleys 3 Blenheims 2 Walrus A/S patrols. 6 B.17s despatched to attack shipping in Heraklion harbour returned owing to 10/10 cloud south of crete. Enemy air activity again confined to defensive role.

Night 23/24. 3 B.24s despatched to Benghazi returned owing to bad weather. About 7 enemy aircraft operated over Arabs Gulf area. Some bombs were dropped on Amiriya. Preliminary reports indicate slight damage to railway. 2 Beaufighters up. One enemy aircraft intercepted but contact lost.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1239Z/24.)

Black (1) Naval (A) 7/10 submarine attacked 5000 tons
Sea. tanker off Sulina. Tanker probably sank.

(B) 21/10 off Sulina Canal submarine sank 5,000 M/V which was escorted by 3 R-Boats.

(2) Novorossisk front relatively quiet. Enemy preparing defence works.

(3) Maikop front. Enemy reported to have received reinforcements of Infantry and 70 tanks. Attack on Tuapse continues to have little success.

(4) Reported that the enemy is rebuilding railway bridge over the Kuban river near Krasnodar.

(N.L.O. Black Sea 1248C/24 to Admty. Adm. Miles.)

COETLOGON
(French)

Departure Sete.
(Barcelona 1330/24 to M.W.T.)

Enemy
Units,
P.212.

A/C report at 1345/24 1 merchant vessel 1 T.B.
010° Santa Croce ? 6 miles course 150° 8 knots.
(Capt. S.10 1635A/24 to P.212 (R) C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No. 282. 8th Army began an attack in Western Desert at 2200/23. To assist Military operations, a feint sea-borne landing was made west of Ras-el-Kanais during the night. A force of 12 L.C.Ts escorted by 2 Fairmiles, 8 M.T.Bs, EXMOOR, HURWORTH, and

BELVOIR was sailed from Alexandria to westward in daylight. Convoy of 4 merchant ships from Port Said continued westward after passing Alexandria astern of this force. M.T.Bs simulated landings whilst remaining forces returned to harbour after dark. Enemy aircraft attacked M.T.Bs on return passage, one M.T.B. was hit by cannon fire. There were no casualties and all boats returned safely. Press communique issued (see my 1229C/24 to Admty. only) (N.T. in W.D.)

2. Submarines. My 1937C/23/10 para 3 (D). Now consider P.37 sank one M/V and one destroyer. My 1249C/21/10 first para and my 1937C/23 first para. P.42 obtained only one possible hit on M/V. P.35 reports having torpedoed M/V aground previously damaged by air attack near Khoms on 23rd October and that salvage is impossible. Ref. para 3 (A) of Situation Report No. 281. Coaster was Italian LUPA. *see p. 756.*

3. Red Sea. British SS. JALADURGA attacked by enemy aircraft 0330/24 in 27° 14' N 34° 21' E. Further details unknown. (C. in C. Med. 1704C/24 to Admty.)

U/B. 6. Baltimore reports one S/M 037° 41' N 003° 16' E course 090° speed 10 knots at 1135/24. S/M dived on being sighted. (V.A. Malta 1715A/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

AQUITANIA. Pass to Master of AQUITANIA - M of W.T. New York and Cunard Company request further report on difference of performance if burning thinner fuel and as regards elimination of smoke. 2. Report should be repeated to Admty. (D.T.D. 1907A/24 to F.O.I.C. Aden.)

Malta Air Report. I.64 24/10. Night 23/24. 2110 hours, 1 Beaufighter up for raiders which turned back before reaching Malta. 24th. Today several attacks made on Luqa and Takali aerodromes by high flying formations of fighters and fighter bombers mostly Me.109s. 0536 hrs. 40 fighters and fighter bombers approached Malta at great height. 12 Spitfires airborne but enemy had height advantage and avoided combat. Bombs dropped at Takali aerodrome causing no serious damage and at Luqa damaging 1 Spitfire and injuring 3 Airmen. Light A.A. destroyed 1 Me.109. 0720 hrs. 4 Spitfires airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 0911 hrs. 24 high flying fighters and fighter bombers approached. 12 Spitfires up but enemy had height advantage and escaped in cloud bombs dropped near Luqa aerodrome caused no serious damage. 1200 hrs. 20 enemy fighters and fighter bombers approached Island at great height using cloud cover and were intercepted by 8 Spitfires but enemy had height advantage and 1 Spitfire was lost, pilot killed. Bombs on Takali aerodrome caused no serious damage. 1421 hours, 40 plus German and Italian fighters including

/fighter...

War Diary.

24.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - cont.

Malta fighter bombers approached Malta. 22 Spitfires
Air airborne intercepted raiders north of Island,
Report. destroying 1 Mc.202 and 1 Me.109 probably
(Contd.) destroying 1 Me.109. Some raiders crossed coast
and bombs dropped on Luqa aerodrome damaged 1
Beaufighter but caused no casualties. 1
Spitfire damaged in combat, pilot wounded.
Today in 58 Spitfire sorties against 124 enemy sorties 1 Mc.202
and 1 Me.109 have been destroyed 1 Me.109 probably destroyed by
fighters. In combat 1 Spitfire pilot was killed and 1 wounded.
One Spitfire was destroyed and one damaged. One Spitfire was
damaged on ground. Light A.A. destroyed one Me.109.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 2036/24.)

760

24.10.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- GAMBIA. Having embarked R.D.F. gear for passage, sail for Bombay leaving harbour at (?12)30C today Saturday.
(2) You are to pass through 008° 35' N 058° 47' E.
(3) E.T.A. Bombay and S of A are to be reported before sailing.
(4) If embarkation of R.D.F. gear is delayed time of sailing must be adjusted accordingly.
(C. in C. E.F. 0928Z/24 to GAMBIA (R) F.O.I.C. East Africa. Cdre. R.I.N. C.S.4. F.O.2 in C.E.F.)
- DOMINION MONARCH Transport DOMINION MONARCH sailed Bombay 24/10 due Fremantle 3/11 with troops and cargo.
(P.S.T.O. India 1037Z/24 to D.C. in C. E.F.)
- Madagascar C.O. 74719 Cipher (M.O.5) My 72380 of 14/10 (2045/14) Confirm title British Commander in Madagascar to be used in agreement with Free French is G.O.C. Islands Area.
(W.O. 1100A/24 to G.O.C. in C. E.A.)
- Liberators. Your 0814Z/5. Liberator aircraft. G.R. Liberators not fitted A.S.V. being sent India to equip 160 MTR? A.S.V. Squadron. No aircraft yet received but first four will form detached flight in Ceylon for long range R/C, remainder will be used as bombers in India and despatched Ceylon when A.S.V. aircraft become available.
(?A.H.Q. India 1103Z/24 to C. in C. E.F.)
- Movements. Departure ^{/Kilindini} a.m./24 RESOLUTION, HOTSPUR, DERWENT.
(F.O.I.C. E.A. 1203Z/24 to Admty.)
EARL KITCHENER arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 1306Z/24 to Admty. etc.)
Departures p.m./24 ENTERPRISE, DEVONSHIRE, MAURITIUS.
(F.O.E.A. 1335Z/24 to Admty.) *See next page - (op. "Dem cat")*
→ Departure p.m./24 GAMBIA.
(F.O.E.A. 1340Z/24 to Admty.)
- Madagascar. Re appt. of Gen. Legentilhomme as High Commissioner. Programme for negotiations.
(W.O. 1510A/24 to G.O.C. in C. E.A.)
See Lion Copy.
- M/Vs A.M.S.I. 71/42.
Recognition (1) Attention of Masters is again to be drawn to Procedure. importance of correct procedure when vessels sailing independently sight each other at sea even though they may think they recognise each other.
(2) Complaints have been received that ships sighting well known liners do not comply. It has been also reported liners themselves do not always comply when sighting smaller and apparently slower ships. Slackness in these respects is known to be exploited by Raiders and supply ships for their ruses and disguises.
(3) The importance of making proper distress messages and enemy reports even though they may subsequently require cancellation is to be emphasized. It is too late for ships to await their

/arrival...

760 # E.)

MOST SECRET

~~MOST SECRET.~~ ~~MESSAGE.~~ ~~OUT.~~
To G.O.C.-in-C. East Africa. 1510A/24th October.
Date. 24.10.42.
CIPHER.

From The War Office.

Free French and Madagascar

M.O.11/B.M.231. 74830 Cipher (M.O.11) dated 24th Oct.

Your 58919 Oct. 19th.

National Committee have confirmed General Legentilhomme would be their choice for Madagascar. They propose he should have title of High Commissioner.

2. Amendments suggested in your telegram have been incorporated in draft agreement which will be handed to Fighting French soon as certain difficulties over Syria have been settled.

3. Following programme proposed for negotiations regarding Madagascar:

(a) On receipt of instructions from here you should take steps to drop hints in appropriate quarters in Madagascar that Legentilhomme may be returned as Governor General, and this would be agreeable to H.M.G. Object of this to prepare ground and test local reactions. No official statement should be made, and you should allow no repeat no reference to suggestion in press or wireless. Steps should also be taken to prevent any leakage outside Madagascar.

(b) Apart from conditions set out in draft agreement, Fighting French will be asked to agree transition should be managed so to avoid, so far as possible, resignations or other difficulties; administration should far as possible be taken over by Legentilhomme as going concern; and number new appointments from outside be reduced to minimum consistent with efficiency. We should also require assurance French officials who have collaborated with us will not be victimised.

(c) Provided (i) local situation permits, and (ii) French accept draft agreement and conditions set out at (b), Legentilhomme would be sent out as Governor General at date fixed by us. Suggest he should first proceed Nairobi accompanied only by small personal staff and arrange with you procedure and timing of transfer.

(d) We shall insist there be no publicity about negotiations or Legentilhomme's movements except by agreement with us. It will, of course, be necessary announce his appointment soon as he takes over, but it unlikely this could be before second week November at earliest.

4./.....

4. Do you see any insuperable objections in procedure outlined paragraph 3, either operational or administrative? If so, what are they?

1510A/24.

Recd. from W.O. 0420/25.

War Office distribution.

S. of S.	I.P.1(3), (2 being for P.W.E.)
P.U.S.	Brig. Jacob (Cabinet Offices)
P.U.S.(F)	Mr. Benson (Cabinet Offices)
C.I.C.S.	Major Morton (10 Downing St.)
V.C.I.G.S.	1st Sea Lord.
D.M.O.	Head of War Registry, Admiralty.
D.D.M.O.(O)(H)	Foreign Secretary (2)
M.O.1, 2, 5, 11.(6)	Mr. Stirling (Foreign Office)(2)
D.F.a.	Mr. Cosar (Dominions Office)
F.5 (3)	A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry).
D.M.I.	
D.D.M.I.(I)	
M.I.3a	
Brig.Q(Ops.)	

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.(2)
 D.F.S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
 A.C.N.S.(W)
 Secy.
 Nav. Sec.
 N.A.1st S.L.
 P.A.S.(S)
 P.A.S.(O)
 D. of P.(2)
 D. of P.(Q)
 D.N.I.(4)
 D.D.I.C.(2)
 C.C.C.(2)
 D.C.(2)
 D.S.D.
 Hd. of M.(2)
 D.P.D.
 I.P.(2)
 W.D.
 Capt. Wharton.
 D.C.D.(F)(2)
 D.C.D.(H)(2)
 Ad. Bellairs.
 Ad. Blake.

≠ 1800/19 M/S.

War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - 10/24.

M/Vs arrival before reporting suspicious vessel sighted
Recognition (A.M.S.I. 76/42) may be misconstrued to be the
Procedure. normal practice and W/T silence should be broken
(Contd.) so that prompt investigations may be made and
war ships disposed.

(4) The essential part played by merchant ships in interception of enemy must be fully understood.

(5) Pass to N.C.S.Os.

(C. in C. E.F. 1617Z/24 to E.I. Stn.)

Operation
"Demcat"

My 2101Z/24, Part 2.

3. Force "D" consisting of 3 friendly* cruisers, call signs Z E E, X W A and Z O P and collective call sign U W I, will be searching the same areas

at same times, and will keep watch on 6666 K/cs for aircraft report.

4. Aircraft on patrol are to challenge all shipping sighted. If reply does not identify the ship in accordance with the merchant shipping intelligence for the area or, if the ship is one which should not be in area, or if ship acts in suspicious manner, aircraft are A - to make a sighting report in self-evident code, adding word "suspicious", the whole message being recoded in Syko:

B - shadow the ship until she is investigated by one of the cruisers.

5. Should a cruiser wish to home on flotilla shadowing aircraft she will ask aircraft to shift frequency to 230 K/cs.

The aircraft is then to transmit its call sign at frequent intervals until cruiser is sighted.

6. Syko cards series AQ are to be used.

7. Cruisers may be operating Walrus or Seafox aircraft.

8. Catalinas operating from Seychelles will carry out similar searches further to the westwards on 27th and 29/10.

9. Request aircraft call sign and confirmation that searches will be carried out.

10. This operation is called "Demcat".

T.O.O. 2049Z/23. Ends.

(C. in C. E.F. 2101Z/24 to C. in C. E.F. Simonstown.)

W.R. Note: This is Part II and III of C. in C. E.F.'s 2101/24.

There is no trace of receipt of Part I.

Shipping
Mission.

In order to obtain information for Combined Shipping Adjustment Boards in London and Washington a Joint Anglo-American Mission is being sent to visit ports on your Stations.

It is requested that you will give them facilities.

Mission consists of representatives of War Office, Ministry of War Transport and of United States War Shipping Administration.

It is authorised to discuss with Local authorities measures to achieve better co-ordination of existing facilities and the relief of congestion. Any recommendations of the Mission which involve action beyond the scope of Local authorities will be made to the Combined Shipping Adjustment Boards.

Mission is to assemble at Karachi about 1st November then proceeding to Bombay, Colombo returning to Egypt and finally taking ports in British West Africa.

Local authorities have been advised through Colonial Office and India Office. M.O.W.T. Representatives have been informed.

(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (T. 2251A/24 to C. in C. E.F. etc.)

War Diary.

24.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- U/B. Coast Watchers report submarine sighted at 2030
2 (?Z (approximate?) position 048° 13' N.
058° 57' W.
(C.O.A.C. 0543Z/24 to G B 7, A.G. (R) A.I.G. 302
etc.)
- U/B. Tampico reports enemy S/M sighted by Mexico air
patrol 1700 G.M.T/23 30 miles East of entrance to
Tampico, 4 bombs dropped, result unknown.
(S.O.(I.) Kingston 0550R/24 to Admty. etc.)
- Shipping Casualties. Connav Serial 23 informs as follows. OZARK
arrived Iceland 22/10 with damage reported Serial
19. REUBEN TIPTON torpedoed today 14.33 N.
54.58 W. MATHEW LUCKENBACH Serial 21 rammed by
ZACAPA. Both ships arrived Halifax yesterday.
SOULIOTIS Serial 15 reported in error. Arrived
U.K. undamaged.
(Comnav 0829/24 to Admty.)
- U/B Positions. Comeastseafon's 1730/23 informs as follows.
(Comnav 0832/24 to Admty.)
- ST. CROIX. Your 0629Z/24* All after 10 follows ST. CROIX
unable to rejoin O.N.137 due to engine defects.
Proceeding St. Johns N.F.
(ST. CROIX 0839Z/24 to C.O.A.C.)
* N.T. in W.R. This is correction to text of
ST. CROIX's 2245/23.
- U/B. One submarine bearing 250° 6 miles course 110°.
My position 43.32 N. 34.55 W.
(HESPERUS 1025/24 to Halifax W/T.)
- Movements Summary. 1800 G.M.T/24.
Ship Position Course Speed.
A.T.26 41° N. 33½° W. 054° 18½
(D.O.D.(F) 1027Z/24 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)
- O.N.S.138 U/Bs. Indications by own H/F D/F are that three U-Boats
are shadowing O.N.S.138. Weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.1.16, 1215Z/24 to Connav.)
- O.N.138 O.N.139 U/Bs. Numerous poor D/F including transmissions at 0642Z
and 0729Z/24th indicate U-boats shadowing O.N.138
and O.N.139, possibly 2? on each convoy.
(Cominch 1216/24 to C.T.U. 24.1.12, C.T.U. 24.1.16
(C.T.24 ?)

/Trawlers ...

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War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Trawlers for Cape Area. Following is a repetition of my 2156Z/23 (begins) Admty., (R) R.A.W.A., S.B.N.O. W.A., B.A.D., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F. from N.S.H.Q. Cominch 1845/14. Norfolk arrived 1748/22 H.M. Trawler LE TIGER, sailed 0015/23 H.M. Trawlers WELLARD, ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORTHERN CHIEF, LADY ROSEMARY 2156Z/23 (Ends)
(N.S.H.Q. 1400Z/24 to Admty.)

SEVERN. My 1932/23rd and 1435/24th. Request bombing restrictions may be increased to 30 miles ahead and astern and 20 miles either side of track. *See next page* (? C.O.A.C. 1438Z/24 to A.O.C.E.A.C., C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A. (R) SEVERN, F.O.(S), D.S.O.21.)

My 1930/23 amend times of passing through positions indicated as follows: (b) 1200Z/27th. (c) 1900Z/28th. (g) 0700Z/29th. (h) 1900Z/30th, from A to H SEVERN will proceed on surface, S. of A. 300 miles per day, diving at discretion. Revised E.T.A. Portsmouth dawn 5/11.

(C.O.A.C. 1435/24 to Cominch, Admty.)

U.S. Submarine Notice. My 1116/24th. SEVERN departs Halifax 1000Z/25th for Portsmouth via 44.44 N. 62.09 W. at 1500Z/25th. 45.05 N. 49.07 W. at 1200Z/27th. 45.26 N. 40.00 W. at 1900Z/28th. 46.30 N. 36.40 W. at 0700Z/29th. 48.40 N. 25.50 W. at 1900Z/30th. Proceeding unescorted after 1500Z/25th on the surface diving at discretion S. of A. 300 miles per day.

(Cominch 2159/24 to Admty.)

U/B Positions. S/M estimate 24/10 and U.S. Submarine Notice. (Cominch 1538/24, 1539/24, 1611/24, 1612/24, 1613/24, to Admty.)

U/B. U-boat position at 1119Z/24th within 75 miles of 043° 30' N. 037° W.
(Cominch 1423/24 to Admty.)

O.N.S.138, U/Bs. 2 U-Boats by D/F at 1030Z and 1419Z/24th in vicinity 042° 30' N. 040° 00' W. and 043° 30' 039° 00' accuracy within (60?) miles frequency 764° and 11068 k/cs.
(N.S.H.Q. 1500Z/24, to C.T.U. 24.1.16 C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

Isles class Trawlers. Your 1902B/8/4. 8 Western Isles Trawlers allocated to N.S.H.Q., names, ANTICOSTI, BAFFIN, CAILIFF, BOWELL, MAGDELEN, MANITOU LIN, LISCOMB and IRONBOUND. Request instructions as to final destination of remainder.
(B.A.T.M. 1556Z/24 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/Comsolant ...

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War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Comsolant and R.A.W.A., boundary, operations. Personal for First Sea Lord. Your 1245/16.

(1) Agreement between R.A. W.A. and Comsolant makes dividing line of responsibilities, the line joining 20° N. 40° W. and Ascension Island.

(2) Until 15/11 Comsolant proposes to have four light cruisers and two destroyers divided into two Task groups.

(3) He has agreed with R.A.W.A. to start.

(A) A sweep along parallel of 5° S. to the Meridian of Ascension.

(B) A Sweep along Equator to 20th meridian, thence to Ascension and return early in November.

(4) Sweep (A) commenced 1500P/22 ships concerned MILWAUKEE, CINCINNATI and SOMERS.

(5) Comsolant states that the above is his maximum effort while still keeping shipping moving South of Trinidad.

(6) Flying boats are searching Natal to St. Pauls Rocks and Natal to Ascension lines, and Army aircraft including B.24 aircraft conduct patrols from Ascension.

(7) From my information Navy Dept receives information re blockade runners from same source as Admty, but Navy Dept. do not seem to keep the U.S. Executive Director of Board of Economic Warfare in the picture.

(B.A.D. 1601Z/24 to Admty.)

Fairmile Base, Kingston. Your 1741/28/9. Requirements for maintenance Staff are in A.W.I. 260/445 of 16/3/42. Ref Capt i/c Jamaica 1701/1, which refers to the enclosure to this letter, sufficient communication personnel for M/L Base will be provided from Station resources in accordance with your 2046/31/8. My 1101/6/8 also refers.

(S.B.N.O.W.A. 1614P/24 to Admty.)

30 M.L. Flotilla. Sailing 30th M.L. Flotilla as follows

(A) 1900Z/24th 4 Fairmiles escorting Cape Cod and Boston towing, speed 6.5 knots E.T.A. Boston 1900Z/27th.

(B) Remaining 4 Fairmiles 1100Z/25th speed 14 knots E.T.A. Boston 1700Z/26th all passing through 042° 40' N. 065° 40' W. Wireless guard on 4155 k/cs on crossing 066° W. and 355 k/cs when within 25 miles Boston. Request Flotilla be sailed when ready to Charleston via New York in accordance with C. in C. U.S. Fleet's (?0229)/12 (could also be ?2329).

(C.O.A.C. 1719Z/24 to Comm. Boston.)

Dispositions. HAMILTON sailed Halifax 2000Z/24th to St. John N.B. routed through 043° N. 065° 20' W. U.S. Battleship COLORADO 040° 01' 066° 26' 089° 15.

See previous page SEVERN surfaced (?escorted by) MON(?C)TON sailing Halifax 1000Z/25th Eastbound steering 087°.

(C.O.A.C. 1720Z/24 to Admty.)

/JOHN ...

War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.JOHN CARTER
ROSE
(sunk 8/10)

(1) Following are particulars obtained from U.S. Naval Authorities here of sinking by enemy S/M of U.S. SS JOHN CARTER ROSE, survivors of which landed here 20/10 by Argentine tanker SANTA CRUZ. Please state whether I am to report such

information to you in future in cases of U.S. ships.

(2) J.C.R. Bound from Trinidad for Freetown with cargo of gasoline torpedoed 0030 G.M.T./8 in 010° 27' N. 045° 37' W. Struck by two torpedoes, caught fire immediately, struck by third torpedo about 4½ hours later and eventually sunk by gunfire from S/M 1000 G.M.T./8th at 500 yards range. S/M surfaced about 0700 G.M.T. and last seen 1200 G.M.T./8th. Survivors questioned by Junior Officer in perfect English with slight German accent. S/M Commander had names of J.C.R. and WILLIAM GASTON written on paper and asked which of two ships he had attacked. ("W.G" also left Trinidad same date for Freetown).

(3) Particulars given by Officers mentioned below and by two members of crew who were picked up by S/M are as follows: about 200 feet long, blueish grey with diagonal camouflage stripes; C/T rather short, round front with flare at top; gun probably 3" forward of C/T, another probably 20 m.m. on after deck and apparently 50 calibre Browning at C/T. (S/M now identified by Capt. and U.S. N.R. Gunnery Lieut. as 517 tons, German ship on page 13 of U.S. Book O.N.I.220) S/M Commander below middle age, had red beard, one officer said to be Italian.

(4) J.C.R. had sighted a S/M believed to be that which made attack, at 2245 G.M.T./6 in 010° 10' N. 050° 05' W. and opened fire on it at 500 yards with unknown result. (R.O. Pernambuco 1730Z/24 to Admty.)

CANATCO
aground.

Following for C.C.R.T. H.MR.T. FRISKY sailed St. Johns 0726/24/10 to assist SS CANATCO reported aground vicinity 54.00 N. 56.30 W. (F.O.N.F. 1732/24 to Admty.)

WINCHELSEA.
O.N.139.

Whilst fuelling WINCHELSEA got Manila round screws. Maximum speed 9 knots. Can keep up with convoy until 1700Z/25th when I intend to detach her to St. Johns N.F. with one Corvette as A/S escort after ships mentioned in F.O.N.Fs 1844/23rd have joined. Cannot afford A/S escort for her now.

(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1800Z/24 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav Admty. etc.)

Cancel my 1800/24th. WINCHELSEA now reports she can probably remain with convoy to end.

(C.T.U. 24.1.12 2022Z/24 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty. etc.)

Your 1800Z/24. Intend sending LINCOLN ready about 0300/25th to R/V with WINCHELSEA as A/S Escort to St. John, N.F. Suggest at your discretion Corvette escort be ordered to return to Convoy after LINCOLN arrives. Further signal follows.

(F.O.N.F. 2120Z/24 to C.T.U. 24.1.12 (R) C.T.24, Cominch, Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.T.G. 24.7.)

/Shipping ...

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24.10.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

- Shipping, Conference. Your 1440/16 and your 1640/17 (re conference between U.S.N. R.N. and R.C.N. to be arranged) Agree that conference would be most valuable. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1842A/24 to N.S.H.Q.)
- Convoys, Request for R/V. Concur your 1826/22 (Suggesting Admiralty take immediate action if request for R/V is received from Escort of convoy East of 40° W.) Requests by Escorts for R/V broadcasts should be addressed to Admiralty when East of 40° W. and to Cominch C. & R. when West of 40°. Admty. / pass to C. in C. W.A. (Cominch C. & R. 1917Z/24 to Admty.) / Passing action being taken by War Registry. Reply: D.T.D. 1632/26.
- Trawler Escort of Tankers, Trinidad. Cominch 2134/19 and your 0033/22. 2. Following tankers are being directed to Trinidad for trawler escort onwards. BRITISH ENDURANCE due Trinidad 28th and BRITISH UNITY are both for Capetown and Middle East. BRITISH POWER after loading Curacao due Trinidad 9th or 13th for West Africa. 3. Possibly one tanker with furnace oil will also be proposed. 4. No other tankers will be in position to take advantage of trawler movements. (D.T.D. 1924A/24 to B.A.D. (R) Connnav etc.)
- IROQUOIS, SAN GASPAR. 1609/22. Pass to Master of IROQUOIS from Anglo American (begins) Provided you are satisfied with arrangements and condition of both vessels we agree IROQUOIS tow SAN GASPAR New York via Key West. Reply through S.B.N.O. (Ends) 2. Request you will give special attention to arrangements for this tow particularly in view of (a) weather to be expected in vicinity New York and (b) the need to get her there owing to difficulties in finding dry dock at any nearer point. (D.T.D. 1925A/24 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)
- Communication with U.S. Forces. A.M. 0141/2/9. C. in C. South Atlantic is in general agreement with these principles as a basis on which more detailed arrangements can be made when and where necessary. 2. C. in C. South Atlantic prefers 4295 k/cs to 4740 k/cs and considers that watch on this wave should take procedure over 500 k/cs. Admiralty cannot agree with this as it is most important that any ship or unit capable of maintaining a line additional to area Broadcast should keep watch on 500 k/cs. 3. Request therefore you will discuss A.M. 0141/2/9 with Navy Department amending the H/F waves to read "4740 k/cs except in the British South Atlantic station and U.S. Solantfor area where 4295 k/cs will be used". (Head of M. Approved by A.C.N.S.(F) 1931/24 to B.A.D.)

/GENTIAN ...

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War Diary.24.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

GENTIAN S/M sighted by GENTIAN close ahead of convoy and
U/B. attacked. Contact not regained.
(C.T.U. 24.1.16 2014Z/24 to Admty.)

Sub attack & sighting summary. ^{See P 748} Para A. DONAX torpedoed and WINNIPEG ^{II} ~~torpedoed~~ torpedoed and sunk 49.51 N. 27.58 W. about 2000Z/22. Unidentified* torpedoed 04.40 S. 11.45 E. 0553Z/23.
Para B. Unknown ship probably EMPIRE STAR torpedoed 48.14 N. 26.22 W. 1713Z/23. WEST LASHAWAY two torpedo hits.
Para C. Coast watcher sights sub 48.13 N. 58.57 W. 2030Z/23. U.S.S. BORIE, P.C. 463 and P.C. 466 attack sound contact 18.53 N. 75.18 W. 2230Z/23.
Para D. Mexican Army plane attacks sub 22.16 N. 97.47 W. 2130Z/22. Course south and sights sub South of above position 1630Z/23. S.C.541 attacks sound contact 27.23 N. 84.45 W. about 2300Z/23.
(Cominch 2026/24 to Admty.)
* W.D. Note.- Evidently PHOEBE.

U/B Campaign. Connav Serial 24. EMPIRE STAR torpedoed yesterday 48.14 N. 26.22 W. independent. WINNIPEG II torpedoed sunk, DONAX torpedoed still afloat both 22/10 49.51 N. 27.48 W. Convoy O.N.139.
(Connav 2034/24 to Connaveu.)

Dispositions. My 1720/24th Section south west, add U.S. ships GAUGER, PECASSUS, UNCAS 044° 10' N. 067° 58' W. at 2140Z/24th en route Halifax 10 knots.
(C.O.A.C. 2101Z/24 to Admty.)

K.15. My 1432/23rd N. S/M K.15 left Bermuda at 2045Z/24 routed in accordance with my 0219/22.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 2202Z/24 to Admty.)

ILE DE FRANCE, MAURETANIA. My 1517/19th. C. in C. Pacific Fleet intends to fuel ILE DE FRANCE and MAURETANIA at Tongatabu and route thence to San Francisco.
2. We may now be able to arrange dry dock for ILE DE FRANCE at San Francisco.
(B.A.D. 2211Z/24 to Admty. D.S.T.)

War Diary.

24.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No.275, 23/10. Aircraft reported 42 vessels Buin Shortlands Area forenoon 23/10. Composition similar to previous day. Also 2 heavy cruisers, 1 destroyer and another destroyer with gunboat off East Coast Bougainville approaching Bougainville Strait.
(2) Two separate groups of 6 Fortresses made successive low level attacks enemy shipping Rabaul Harbour early morning 23/10 claiming one light cruiser, one destroyer, two large merchant ships believed sunk one large merchant ship severely damaged five other merchant ships damaged.
(3) 6 Bostons, 8 Kittihawks bombed and strafed enemy positions Kokoda Area noon 23/10 results not observed.
(4) At least 3 enemy aircraft unsuccessfully attacked one landing strip Milne Bay night 22/10.
(5) Ref. Air Raid Buka night 16/10 reported serial No.269 para 2 reliably reported 20 aircraft bomb and fuel dumps destroyed.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0626Z/24 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1419A/24, 1430A/24.)

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25.10.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy K.M.S.2 sailed from the Clyde at 2255 today less one ship, total 53. Escort LONDONDERRY (Cdre. Turle), LULWORTH, LANDGUARD, 6 sloops, 2 corvettes.

LAMERTON and WHEATLAND sailed from Greenock at 2358A today. AMAZON was delayed by defects.
for the 24th

A Whitley on A/S patrol last night in the Bay of Biscay sighted and attacked a U-Boat it is stated about 225 miles S.S.W. of Cape Clear. After the attack the U-Boat reappeared rolling heavily and then disappeared, leaving numerous patches of oil on the surface.

Aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night off Karmsund and north Biscay ports.

North Atlantic.

FURIOUS, ISAAC SWEERS, MARNE and ESCAPADE arrived at Gibraltar at 1220 today from the U.K. Before entering harbour FURIOUS flew off 24 aircraft.

Mediterranean.

Aircraft bombed and totally destroyed a ship off Tobruk today. A small merchant vessel and a destroyer were damaged by Beaufighters west of Tobruk.

War Diary.

25.10.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Aircraft attacked a submarine at 0530Z today in 21° 25' N. 60° 13' E. (West Arabian Sea.)

C. in C. E.F. has protested against the recent press release giving the names of the principal ships now forming part of the Eastern Fleet. In particular, he considers that every effort should be made to suggest that our seaborne air strength is not limited to one carrier.

Enemy aircraft attacked Chittagong today.

China.

Twelve B.25s escorted by 7 P.40s attacked Hongkong today, obtaining hits on the docks, shipping and buildings. They were intercepted by 18 enemy fighters and destroyed 10 and probably 5 more. U.S.A. losses were 1 bomber and 1 fighter.

Australia and New Zealand.

Eight Fortresses attacked shipping in Rabaul Harbour early this morning and destroyed one probable gunboat and set on fire a medium cargo vessel which was seen sinking. A huge fire and explosions are believed to have been the result of the destruction of a fuel dump.

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25.10.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- SCYLLA. Proceed to Plymouth passing Hoxa Gate at 1400 today.
(2) Adjust speed to arrive off breakwater at 0900A/27.
(C. in C. H.F., 0914A/25 to SCYLLA.)
Scapa arrival 0751 SCYLLA.
(A.C.O.S., 0915/25.)
Scapa departure SCYLLA. E.T.A. 0900/27.
(A.C.O.S., 1358A/25 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- P. 615. Intend sail P.615 escorted by ^{LA}LA CAPRICIEUSE for Clyde at 0730/26. Routed through Minches and searched channel. E.T.A. 1530/27.
(A.C.O.S., 0942A/25.) ** See next page*
- SUFFOLK. Scapa arrival 0957 SUFFOLK.
See p.776 (A.C.O.S., 1047/25.)
- HALCYON, Russian report from Beluishya states HALCYON,
HAZARD, HAZARD, SHARPSHOOTER left for Matochkin 2100Z/24.
SHARPSHOOTER. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1101A/25 and 1021A/26.)
- WILTON. Intend to sail WILTON for Belfast p.m. today with tubular ladder, 6 wharf-hooks, and 6 wall-hooks for SHEFFIELD. N.O.I.C. Belfast's 1820/24 refers and package H.C. 2968M for DELHI. Subsequently proceeding independently to comply A.M. 1758A/23.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1104A/25.)
- P.223. */N.T. & W.D.*
Your 1126A/24. Regret no escort available to arrive a.m. 30th. One is available to arrive a.m. 31st.
(Capt. S.3, 1141A/25 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- DUKE OF Your 1257/23 approved. *N.T. & W.D.*
YORK. (2) Proceed and anchor in A.2 berth below bridge at 1130/27.
(3) At 1730/27 leave harbour and proceed by searched channel to Scapa.
(4) On weighing take ECHO and IMPULSIVE under your orders. Another Home Fleet destroyer will join the screen at Inch Keith at 1800/27.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1203A/25 to DUKE OF YORK.)
- AMAZON, Intend to sail AMAZON, LAMERTON, and WHEATLAND
LAMERTON, at 2300A/25 for Milford Haven. E.T.A. 1600A/26.
WHEATLAND. A.M. 1758A/23 refers.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1228A/25.)
Sailed LAMERTON, WHEATLAND in accordance with my 1228A/25. AMAZON delayed by defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2358A/25.)

25.10.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

P. 38. *(not sym)* Following received from 15 Group C.C.:-
P.38 believed (in SVF) position 61° 15' N.
16° 15' W. Investigate.
(A/C V21, 1310/25.)

JUNON. *see p.775* Arrival ^{*}LA CAPRICIEUSE and JUNON. ^{*}*see previous page*
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1313A/25.)
My 2309/24 and Capt. S.9 1151/25.
1. JUNON will be sailed with LA CAPRICIEUSE for Scapa.
2. A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange fighter protection for
onward passage to Dundee, S.O.A. 12 knots.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1451A/25.)
My 1451/25. Sailed.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2117A/25 to A.C.O.S.)

STURGEON, Your 2144A/22. Arrived 1315/25.
H. 33. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1344A/25 to C. in C. Nore.)

Western Approaches Command. *Dispositions.* Situation at 1959A/25. Details.
(C. in C. W.A., 1358A/25.)
See Lion Copy. *p. 773 AB+L.*

SPEEDWELL, *see next page* ^{p.710} My 1619/23. Sailed under codeword "Loose".
HUSSAR. SPEEDWELL and HUSSAR routed in accordance Admty.
1916/17. Speed 10 knots.
9 p.779 (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1419A/25.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Operating in North Waters: ARGONAUT.
2 destroyers.
Area Iceland (C): BERWICK, LONDON.
1 destroyer.
Area Scapa: ANSON, KING GEORGE V,
NELSON, RENOWN,
CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK,
SCYLLA, SUFFOLK.
12 destroyers.
Area Clyde: FORMIDABLE,
VICTORIOUS, JAMAICA.
2 destroyers.
Belfast: DELHI, SHEFFIELD.
Plymouth: BERMUDA.
On passage to operational area: RODNEY, FURIOUS,
AVENGER.
2 destroyers.
Area Gibraltar: CHARYBDIS.
(D.O.D.(H), 1549A/25 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

War Diary.

25.10.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

MASTADONTE, Admiralty 2242/24.
SPEEDWELL, Request you will sail MASTADONTE p.m. 26th
HUSSAR, BUDE, routed through (A) 180° Wolf Rock 6 at 1900/26.
BRIXHAM, (B) 180° Bishop Rock 5. (C) 049° 20' N. 012°
See previous page 4p774 20' W. (D) 046° 00' N. 013° 30' W. (E) 041°
00' N. 013° 00' W. (K) 036° 20' N. 010° 00' W.

thence Gibraltar.

2. SPEEDWELL and HUSSAR left Milford Haven 1400/25 and BUDE and BRIXHAM will leave Milford Haven 1400/26 for position (K) and Gibraltar at probable speed 10 knots routed about 50 miles west of MASTADONTE until position (K).

3. Codeword "Arena".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1843A/25 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

ALECTO. F.O.S's 1919/23. ^{/p.711} "Novel" arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 2034/25.)
Intend sail ALECTO 1200/26 for Port HHZ routed the reverse route as in A.C.O.S's 1904/14. E.T.A. 1030A/27.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 2219A/25.)

FORMIDABLE. Arrived FORMIDABLE.
(N.O.I.C. Lamlash, 2120A/25.)

Operations.

S/M Patrol. 0.15 left Lerwick 0201A/25 proceeding on the surface at C.O.'s discretion as far as 003° E. thence dived by day routed (a) 089° Out Skerries 5 miles. (b) 061° 05' N. 000° 05' E. (c) 062° 22' N. 004° 30' E., thence patrol in the vicinity of 062° 38' N. 005° 34' E. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0203A/25.)

0.15 sailed for patrol.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0207A/25.)

(1) Request you will sail TUNA at 1500A/25 from Lerwick with despatch at C.O. discretion diving by day east of 003° E. routed as follows (A) 091° Out Skerries 6 miles. (B) 061° 03', 000° 02' E., thence patrolling in vicinity (C) 060° 58', 004° 20' E.

(Capt. S.9, 1005A/25 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

See Special File.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1503A/25 to S/Ms.)

My 1734/24th and *0056/25 para. (G). Amend to read *GRAPH 45° 06' N. 05° 24' W., dived by day, to patrol vicinity 47° 20' N. 07° 45' W.

(F.O.S., 1742A/25 to Admty.) *N.T. & W.D.

X see p.774

Search for Dinghy. Request you divert SEALION to pick up dinghy with live airman in it in 047° 20' N. 007° 45' W. at 2300/24. Air co-operation at daylight tomorrow. will be provided.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0905/25 to F.O.S.)

MOST SECRET

From : Cin C. Western Approaches

1358A/25 October

Date: 25.10.42

Recd: 2035

Situation 1959A/25 October 1942

SECRET CODE

Section N.E.

Fleet Unit	FAULKNER	59 38 09 18	To Scapa	16
	ONSLAUGHT			
	MIDDLETON			
LIMBOURNE		57 30 06 50	To Scapa	16
1 tag	ST. ELSTAN	58 41 05 52	To Scapa	12
SCYLLA		58 24 05 56	To Plymouth	17
			via North	
			Channel	
ICARUS		57 27 07 00	To Scapa	16
FORESTER				
H.32	Trawler	57 17 07 00	To Scapa	8
E.N. 54	SAITHELLO	58 48 04 15	To Oban	7
	SPURS			
	NEURO			
	ELBURY			
	GOTH			
	FIFTY DAY			
K.M.S. 2	ROCHESTER	57 55 06 27	270° Skerryvore	5
	LONDONDERRY		10 miles.	
	BIDEFORD			

Situation at 1959A/25 October

Section South East.

SPEEDWELL		52 00 06 32	To 180° Fastnet	10
HUSSAR			10' then	
12 Auxiliary	BODO	53 42 04 12	49 00 14 00	
Crafts			To Dundrum Bay	7
SUMATRA		Sails Holyhead	To Barry Rds.	20
		0400A/26		
O.N. 141	SAGUENAY	55 44 09 51 to 55 48 15 02		9
C.T.U.	SKEMNA			
24.1.13	SACKVILLE			
	AGASSIZ			
	GALT			
	WETASKIWIN			
Convoy	YORK CITY	52 04 05 25	Northbound	8
3 M/Vs	PHILANTE	53 57 04 49	To Clyde	12
K.M.S. 2 (C)	LOUISBURG	Sails Clyde	270° Skerryvore	7½
	PRESCOTT	2200A/25	10 miles	
K.M.S. 2	ERNE	54 08 04 59	270° Skerryvore	8
			10 miles	
2 M/Vs	Unescorted	56 04 06 40	To Clyde	15
K.X. 4.B.	SPEEDWELL	51 55 06 05	18° Fastnet	6½
			20 miles	

Situation at 1959A/25 October 1942

Section N.W.

CAPE PALISSER		59 23 13 55	To Reykjavik	10
NORTHERN				
PRIDE				
NORTHERN				
SPRAY				

Section N.W. (Contd.)

MUSKETIER		61 53 16 28	To Reykjavik	18
S.C.105	HURRICANE	59 12 30 11	To 59 12 21 57	6½
C.T.U.	WATCHMAN			
24.1.15	WALLFLOWER			
	MONKSHOOD			
	ANCHUSA			
	ENSIGN			
	SNOWFLAKE			
	PORT ARTHUR			
	BADNECK			
	U.S.S. BIEB			
	U.S.S. DUANE			
	U.S.S. LEARY			
S.D.33	LANCASTER	Sails Reykjavik 61 50 21 11		14
	GORLESTON	a.m. /25. thence 57 19		
		09 55		

Section S.W.

FLEET UNIT	PANTHER	50 30 20 30	To 46 02 21 30	16
	PENN			
	LOOKOUT			
RANSAY		51 40 15 33	To Ponto Del Garda	15
2 Tugs	VIZALMA	53 56 14 13	To 49 31 26 18	12
BLACK SWAN		Vicinity		
LA. MALOUINE		48 14 26 22	Standing by M/V	
MALLOW				
CAERNARVON				
MYOSOTIS		49 31 26 18	Standing by M/V	
A.T.26	Unescorted	46 14 26 28	To 52 40 23 30	18½
1 M/V	CARNARVON CASTLE	45 11 26 45	To 53 01 26 01	15
	DECOY			
	GRIFFIN			
K.M.S.1	ALYNBANK	54 12 17 39	To 53 30 19 59	7
	STORK			
	DEPTFORD			
	VAULITTART			
	AVENGER			
	5 Corvettes			
	4 Minesweepers			
K.X.2.	BULLDOG	41 45 15 23	To 36 50 12 15	8
	BEAGLE			
	BOADICEA			
	1 Minesweepers			
	3 Trawlers			

Contd.

MOST SECRET

Section S.W. contd.

K.X.4. A. VENOMOUS 51 51 16 23 To 50 01 17 31 6
 WRESTLER
 MALCOLM
 BROKE
 4 Trawlers.

1358A/25.

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.
 Capt. P.M.
 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)
 D.T.D.(C)
 Admiral Blake
 C. in C. X.F.(2)
 D.D.O.D.(M)
 D.D.O.D.(C)
 C.C.R.F.
 D.M.S.

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Search for Dinghy. (Contd.) *GRAPH is to proceed diving by day to arrive 047° 20' N. 007° 45' W. by dawn 26th to rescue 5 airmen in rubber dinghy reported in this vicinity. Air search is also being made. Submerged bombing restrictions are being arranged for your route and total bombing restrictions within 30 miles of above position.

(F.O.S., 1029A/25.) * ~~1029~~ p. 773

My 1029/25. (1) GRAPH is to carry out search from submerged, surfacing at C.O's discretion from time to time to increase range of vision.

(2) GRAPH is to leave area after dark 26th and proceed to R/V in position E as previously ordered. Keep west of 007° 40' W. until north of 048° 30' N.

(F.O.S., 1744A/25.)

My 0905/25, your 1029/25. Please inform GRAPH aircraft to be employed will be one Hudson escorted by two Beaufighters. If aircraft sight the dinghy they will circle the position and fire a red pyrotechnic.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1815A/25 to F.O.S.)

Operation K.H. My 0955A/24. Operation K.H. postponed further 24 hours due to weather.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1032A/25 to ALERT.)

Patrols. → GLAISDALE, ALBRIGHTON proceed to patrol tonight 050° 20' N. between 002° 00' W. and 001° 30' W., passing Needles at 1830 and 0715. Codeword "Advent". 2 Chasseurs patrol 6000 E.A5 buoy. Coastal Command are carrying out R/C of enemy coast with a view to torpedo attack.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1100A/25.)

→ Departure CAMPBELL at 1425 to carry out Patrol 3.

(F.O. Humber, 1440/25.)

→ GLAISDALE, ALBRIGHTON patrolling 20 miles S. of Needles. 2 Chasseurs patrolling near E.A5 Buoy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1603A/25.)

Destroyers are to anchor at Yarmouth (I.o.W.) and remain at immediate notice tonight. If ordered to proceed in execution of previous orders destroyers are to carry out the purport of my 1100A/25.

→ (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1620/25 and 1625A/25 to GLAISDALE, ALBRIGHTON.)

→ On completion of patrol a.m. tomorrow proceed to Harwich carry out patrol 3 on Monday night and return Sheerness on completion. You are to cover patrols 3 and 4 on Monday night in accordance with Capt. (D) 16 1943/24.

(Capt. D.21, 1720A/25 to CAMPBELL.)

Departure EGLINTON and ATHERSTONE at 1710 to take up patrol positions.

(F.O. Humber, 1730A/25.)

Patrols cancelled tonight. Ships addressed return, anchor at Roughs.

(C. in C. Nore, 1831A/25.)

/JUNON ...

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.JUNON
Patrol.*see p. 772*

I have just received details of your splendid patrol and wish again to congratulate you, your officers and ships company on your successes and daring manner in which they were achieved.
(F.O.S., 1306A/25 to JUNON.)

Exercises.

A/C exercise My 1607/24 and 0233/25. On account of weather with*UNBEATEN. 19 Group wish to postpone exercise until 1400/25. Amend position Y to read 255° Trevoze Head 20 miles.

** see p. 780*

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1121A/25 to CUTTY SARK.)
Cancel my 1607/24, my 0233/25, and my 1121/25.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1305/25.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bombing My 1029/25. Request submerged bombing restrictions. restrictions forthwith 20 miles either side line 045° 01' N. 005° 20' W. and 047° 43' N. 008° 01' W. until further notice. Request total bombing restrictions radius 30 miles from 047° 20' N. 007° 45' W. from 2300/25 until further notice.
(F.O.S., 1039A/25 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Hull and Skegness bombed. Following from F.O.I.C. Humber begins. Approximately 20 enemy aircraft operated in the Humber area last night between 2030 and 2230. Bombs were dropped at Hull and Skegness causing damage to property and casualties in both places. Slight damage caused to naval stores garage at 147, Anlaby Road, Hull. No naval casualties so far as I know. Minelaying not suspected. 0950A/25 (ends).
(C. in C. Nore, 1140A/25 to Admty.)

Iceland.

1 enemy flying boat sighted 4 miles North of Akureyri at 1205, course East. One unidentified aircraft plotting heading N.N.E. from Vattarnes, course West at 1303.
(A.C.I.C., 1500A/25.)

Mining.

BRIGHTON.

Intend sailing 1500 carrying out M.F/D.F calibration at 1600 and sailing for Port ZA at 1800. E.T.A. Sleat Sound 0830/26.
(BRIGHTON, 0945/25.)

776

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

S.N. 3F. SALADIN is available for S.N. 3F. Request you
SALADIN. will give necessary instructions.
(C. in C. W.A., 0954A/25 to R.A.M.)
C. in C. W.A. 0945A/25.

Request you sail SALADIN to arrive Port ZA by 1800 tomorrow.
She will be released when the squadron reaches Butt of Lewis
at 0100/28 October on return from S.N. 3F.
(R.A.M., 1054/25 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 1158/24
in 158° K.2 Buoy 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ cables. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1135/25.)

Lyme Bay sweep. Intend to sail FINESSE, CONCERTATOR, and BRECON
CASTLE at 0700 tomorrow sweeping route 'P' to
Dartmouth ahead of P.W.238. Codeword "Ounce VI".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1215A/25.)

Iceland. Your 2328A/12.
Have you been able to carry out this search yet?
(D.M.S., 1250A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

Your 1250/25. M/S trawlers are waiting in Adalvik Bay to carry
out this operation as soon as weather moderates.
(A.C.I.C., 2315A/25 to Admty.)

Yarmouth. LL Sweepers detonated red magnetic mines at 1300
in position 345° No. 5 buoy - 16 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1425A/25.)

Operation E.Y. My 2216/13. Existing channel widened to eastward
by 6 cables south of latitude 065° 17'5 N. and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
cables North. One mine exploded in sweep in
065° 15'1 N. 013° 23'5 W.
(A.C.I.C., 1435A/25.)

SCOTT. Sailed SCOTT in accordance with R.A.(M) 1152/25.
(TRELAWNEY, 2210/25.) N.T. 11/25

Enemy Intelligence.

Plots ~~██████~~ Your 2251/24. Escort FREEBOOTER to Scapa. A 771
~~██████~~. Following R.D/F contact reported by SUFFOLK.
(1) At 2000A/24 in 059° 49' N. 010° 15' W.
(2) At 2030A/24 in 059° 49' N. 009° 32' W.

Homing signal also heard on 424 k/cs.
(C. in C. W.A., 0103A/25 to ST. ELSTAN and 0850A/25 to ANSON.)
Your 2144/24. Request time of intercept and full texts of
Homing signal and reply on 424 k/cs may be forwarded by
signal at first opportunity.
(D.D.I.C., 1013A/25 to SUFFOLK.)

War Diary.

25.10.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boat
attacked.

On day 24/10, one A/C on patrol in the Bay of Biscay sighted and attacked a U/B. After attack the U/B re-appeared rolling heavily and then disappeared leaving numerous patches of oil upon the surface.
(H.Q.B.C., 1455/25.)

Casualties and Defects.

M.T.B. 238.

My 1450/23 ^{/N.T.A.W.D.} and 1346/24. ^{/N.T.A.W.D.} Delete M.T.B. 238 delayed by defects.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0800A/25.)

ITHURIEL.

My 1209/24. ITHURIEL reports that on berthing on 1243/24 South Railway Jetty at 1150/24 her stern was damaged back to No. 3 station at the water line. Ship will dock tomorrow.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1020A/25 and 1455A/25.)

BOUVET IV.

GOLIATH sailed for Peterhead to tow BOUVET IV with wire round propeller to Aberdeen for docking.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1755/25.)

EMPIRE STAR
(torpedoed
23/10.)

*Search by
37^{1/2} E.G.
See 23/10-p.715*

Chief Officer's boat containing 34 survivors from EMPIRE STAR picked up at 1800Z/25 in 047° 48' N. 025° 06' W. Two more boats containing approx. 64 making for Azores. Intend continuing search until p.m. tomorrow, oiling LA MALOUINE from BLACK SWAN if necessary.
(BLACK SWAN, 1915Z/25.)

Unknown
Ship.

Intercept 1748 G.M.T.
Unknown station making S O S. Signal strength 1/2. No further particulars.
(North Foreland Radio, No T.O.O., Recd. 1929/25.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.X. 4A.
ALRESFORD.

ALRESFORD returned to Clyde unable to keep speed.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0230/25.)
(C. in C. W.A., 1407A/25 to VENOMOUS.)

NIEUW
ZEELAND.

Clyde arrival AMAZON escorting NIEUW ZEELAND.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0718A/25.)

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.F. 1. Intend sailing convoy and escort as in A.M. 2209/18 less C.S.10 in SHEFFIELD passing Clyde boom 2100A/26 to R/V with C.S.10 in SHEFFIELD in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1000A/27. Thence in accordance with A.M. 0100A/20. Codeword "Damson". (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0944A/25.)
- TJALDUR. Intend sailing SS. TJALDUR at 1900/27 for Faroe Island with troops. Routed my 1218/9. Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. 0900/29. Request escort and fighter protections. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1125/25 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- Convoy O.N. 139. DONAX (torpedoed 22/10.) Relieved by MYOSOTIS at 1200Z/25. Transferred Master and 9 of crew to MYOSOTIS. Proceeding St. Johns. My P.C.S. 049° 09' N. 024° 58' W., 270°, 11. (DRUMHELLER, 1215Z/25 to C. in C. W.A.) Position of DONAX at 1315A/25 was 049° 09' N. 024° 58' W. MYOSOTIS standing by. (C. in C. W.A., 1612A/25 to VIZALMA.)
- K.M.S. 2. My 1622Z/23 and my 1624A/23. Arrived and sailed ERNE to overtake and escort. Convoy sailed 1045A/25. ERNE sailed 1215A/25. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1216A/25.) My 1106A/24. Sailed. Codeword "Donkey 2". FORT CHIPEWYAN did not sail, WOODSTOCK sailed to overtake in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1246/24. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2328A/25 to Admty.) K.M.S. 2 sailed 2255/25 with exception of K.27. (P.S.T.O. Greenock, 2358/25.)
- K.X. 4A. PENDEEN. PENDEEN returned 1427/24. (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1235/25.)
- Movements Forecast. Special Movements Forecast ending 31/10. Details. (D.T.D., 1256A/25.)
- CAMERONIA. Sailed my 1021/23 at 1330/25. E.T.A. 0200/28. (A.C.I.C., 1357A/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- S.D. 33. S.D.33 sailed 1230A/25, personnel 1552. (S.S.T.O. Iceland, 1420A/25.)

/K.X. 4B. ...

25.10.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

K.X. 4B. My 1619/23. Present situation regarding K.X. 4
see p/ 772 773 (B) follows: SPEEDWELL and HUSSAR sailed alone
 1400/25, weather being totally unsuitable for
 other unit of "Sparrow" Group. BUDE and BRIXHAM sailed with
 CROMARTY, FIRTH, BARBARIAN 1400/26. AQUILLA remained at Milford
 Haven and MASTADONTE at Plymouth pending further instructions.
 Trawler LAPGERIA, H.M.S. TRITON, TRANSVAAL, YTHAN BRAES, QUERCIA
 assembling at Milford Haven from various ports of refuge as and
 when weather permits, all will require repairs etc. preparatory
 to ocean passage.
 (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1421A/25 to Admty.)

PHILANTE, Sailed in accordance with my 1244A/24.
 DEMPO, (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1500A/25.)
 NARKUNDA,
 DUNNOTTAR
 CASTLE.

O.N. and During the present period of congestion vessels
 O.N.S. ready in all other respects for O.N. or O.N.S.
 Convoys. Convoy, but requiring water, may be sent to Oban
 to top up and await Convoy.
 (D.T.D., 1542A/25 to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)

Following is C.T.G. 24.6 (corrupt group) 2359/24. On account
 of change in sailing date of convoy will sail Iceland (? as
 arranged) to join O.N.S. 142 and alternate O.N.S. convoys and
 will continue to meet odd S.C. convoy using same escort unit
 to meet westbound and eastbound (? convoys) as heretofore.
 A.C.I.C. and C.T.F. 24 and Connav have this message.
 (C.T.G. 24.7, 2230Z/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

K.M.F. 2. Following 18 ships will be ready to leave Clyde
 on 1/11. Escort and destinations.
 (D.O.D.(H), 1545/25 and 2137A/25.)
 See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 21371/25th October.

MOST SECRET

To: C. in C. Western Approaches. Date: 25/10/42
990.

- F.O.I/C. Greenock.
- N.C.S.O. Clyde.
- Rptd. F.O.C.N.A. 237.
- F.O.I/C. Liverpool.
- F.O.I/C. Cardiff.
- C. in C. Home Fleet. 96.
- C. in C. X.F.
- H.Q.C.C.
- H.Q.F.C.

Interservice X
Naval Cypher OTP

From: Admiralty.

The following ships will be ready to leave the Clyde as convoy K.M.F.2 on 1st November:

Section A

- CAMERONIA
- STRATHMORE
- STRATHEDEN
- DUCHESS OF RICHMOND
- CIRCISSIA
- NARKUNDA
- ORMONDE
- ARUNDEL CASTLE

Section O

- EMPRESS OF CANADA
- DUNOTTAR CASTLE
- U.S. BRAZIL
- ARGENTINA
- URAGUAY
- VILLE D'ANVERS

Section G

- CLAN LAMONT
- EMPIRE KAMEL
- SILVER LAUREL
- LANARKSHIRE

2. All ships have a speed of 15 knots except VILLE D'ANVERS 14½ knots and SILVER LAUREL 14 knots.

3. Escort will be provided by (a) 44 escort Groups EGRET, PHILANTE, BANFF, and FLEETWOOD. (b) PELICAN and SENNEN.

4. Admiralty will promulgate route.

5. F.O.I/C. Greenock is requested to convene convoy conference a.m. 1st November.

Continued.....

MOST SECRET

6. Destination of G. Section is Gibraltar. Instruction for A and O sections will be communicated at the conference.

7. F.O.I/C. Greenock is requested to sail all ships as requisite.

2137A/25.

D.O.D.(H)

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 D.F.S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(H)
 A.C.N.S.(T)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 Captain Fim
 D.O.D.(H)(2)
 D.O.D.(F)(2)
 D.T.D.(3)
 D.T.D.(M)
 D.T.D.(C)
 D.D.I.C.(2)
 Duty Captain (2)
 I.P.
 D. of P.(2)
 D. of P.(Q)
 D. of L.D.(2)
 C. in C. X.F.(2)

779^c

War Diary.

25.10.1942.
Sunday.

From Admiralty.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool is required to sail the following ships to the Clyde for inclusion in Convoy K.M.F.2. on 30th October.

Personnel Ships. SS. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, U.S. BRAZIL, U.S. URUGUAY. M.T. Ships LANARKSHIRE, SILVERCLAUREL.

2. Ships will be fully loaded.

3. C. in C.W.A. is required to provide escort as requisite.
(D.O.D.H. 1545/25 to F.O.I.C. Clyde, C. in C.W.A. (R) N. C.S.O. Clyde, N.C.S.O. Mersey).

War Diary.

25.10.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Bombing A.C. 302 25/10.
Restrictions. Serial G.292. Institute submerged bombing restrictions 20 miles either side of line joining 49.16 N. 10.46 W. to 49. 05.N. 12.10 W. to 48.13 N. 12. 18 W. from 0300A/26 until 2300A/27. (H.Q.C. C. 0205A/25 to R.A.F.Gib.(R) F.O.C.N.A. S.8).

Situation My 1430A/24th. Add new para.16. ARCTIC RANGER, 1958/24. sailing 1800A/24th to special patrol in area 035° 18' 006° 30'. (17) LORD NUFFIELD sailing 1800A/24th to special patrol in Huelva Bight. (F.O.C.N.A. 0302A/25 to A.I.G.63). *See p. 751*

VANOC. My 2015/23rd acknowledgement of which has not
K.X.3. been received. 4 hours early.
See p. 782 (VANOC 0930A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.).

P.556. My 1838/23rd not to P.556. P.556 will now pass
See p. 781 A 043° 01' N. 012° 02' W. at 0630 /29th and is to shift wireless watch at that time.

(2) Surface speed reduced to 8 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1006A/25 to P.556. F.O.(S) (R) Admty, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, Capt.(S) 3, Capt.(S) 5)
Your 1006/25th. Request P.556 may be routed to pass through 043° 01' 014° 10' in order to clear*P.614 and UNBEATEN. Request E.T.A. in this position. ** See next page*

(F.O.S.1812A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) Capt.(S) 8).
Your 1812 not understood. P.556 crosses 043° 01' N. in 012° 02' W. at 0600/29th, 70 miles to eastward of P.614. No knowledge of*UNBEATEN's movements. Request confirmation you wish P.556 route altered in North Atlantic Station.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2038A/25 to F.O.(S))
** See p. 775*

Bombing My 1908/23. Request total bombing restrictions
Restrictions. be amended as follows:-

Area.	From.	Until.
G.14.	0900 /25th.	0200 /26th,
G.15.	1800/25th.	1030/26th.

and submerged bombing restriction as follows:-

Area.	From.	Until.
G.16.	0230/26th.	2300/27th.
G.27.	1500/27th.	1030/29th.
G.26.	0130/28th.	1033/29th.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1008Z/25th to Admty, A.O.C. in C.C.C. (R) F.O.(S)).

S.L.125. At 0917 G.M.T. German Dornier made a report which
Dornier. may be a sighting bearing approx. 250 from Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1036A/25 to Ships Escorting convoy S.L.125 (R) Admty, R.A.W.A. JONQUIL).

CARMELITA. At Bonanza since 23/10.
(Sevilla 1045/25 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, Admty for D.N.I. B.N.A.Madrid).

/Movements...

781

War Diary.

25.10.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements
Fayal.

Arrived 0815 G.M.T./25th. MAGNOLIA, OREFAY,
TUZLA, for bunkering.
(R.O.Fayal 1112/15 to Admty).

EMPIRE SAM.

Ref.N.O.I.C.Milford Haven's 1445/17th EMPIRE SAM
arrived 0900 G.M.T./25th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1136C/25 to S.O.(I) Gib.
(R) Admty).

FURIOUS
Destroyers.

Arrival FURIOUS, ISAAC SWEERS, MARNE, ESCAPADE.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1220A/25, to Admty (R) C. in C.H.F.
etc).

Dispositions.

Situation 1957A/25. (F.O.C.N.A. 1352A/25)
See Lion Copy.

U/B.

Own A/C report S/M on surface in 036.27, 007.21
W. at 1230/25th. course 240°.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1538A/25 to S/Ms on Patrol).

* WIVERN,
CHRISTIAAN
HUYGENS.

CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS parted company in position B.
at 0159Z/24th. S. of A. through position C. to
position D, 14 knots.
(WIVERN 1618Z/25 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) Admty,C. in C.
W. A.).

* See next page.

P.614.

Capt.(S) 3 1421/21st not to P.614. Onward
route from 043° 01' 013° 30' on surface at
your discretion (?through):-
1. (P) 028. 35, 015.45 at 0200/3/11 (Q) 027. 43 16.22 at 0900A/3/11
(R) 020.01 N. 018.59 at 1500A/5th, shifting wireless watch at that
time, thence as ordered by coded message.
2. S. of A. 9 knots.
3. Total bombing restrictions arranged 20 miles either side of
route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of estimated
position.
4. P.614 is to report if unable to remain within bombing
(?restrictions).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1710A/25 amended 2037A/25 to P.614 (R) Admty etc).

Bombing
Restrictions.

AC.316 (25/10). Serial No.G.298. Cancel my
AC.148 (14/10) Serial No.G.258 is amended by my
AC.151, 14/10.
(H.Q.C.C. 1711A/25 to R.A.F.Gibraltar, F.O.C.N. A.
S.8).

/French...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1352A/25 October IN.

From: F.O.C.N.A.

Date: 25.10.42

Recd: 1715

Naval Cypher A1 by W/T

Addressed: A.I.G. 63

IMPORTANT

Situation 1957A 25th.

1. H.M.S. P.556, 225 St. Vincent 12 to 38 01
10 01 at 0630 thence 333 diving by day
2 knots surface by night 7 knots. *See p.780*
- ? 2. BARBARIAN, BARFLAKE, 1 M.L., 36 05 06 41 to
Gibraltar 8. *See 26/10 - p. 800*
3. H.M. Ships JONQUIL, GERANIUM, 1 tanker,
29 32 22 06 71 12.
4. KERRERA 35 33 08 21 to Gibraltar 10.
5. H.M.S. WIVERN 30 48 14 17 through 30 55
14 12 thence 54 12½. *See previous page*
6. H.M.S. STELLA CARINA, H.M.S. LEYLAND, 2 merchant
ships, 37 10 11 06 through 38 15 (?25) 01 thence
331 6.
7. Spanish training ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO
cruising in area between Canary Is. and Point 36 01
30 02.
8. K.X. 2 H.M. Ships BULLDOG, BEAGLE, ~~BOADICEA~~^{*}
RHYL, FELIXSTOWE, ROTHESAY ~~STORNOWAY~~ HOY, JURA, RYSA,
MULL, INCHOLM, 42 32 15 53 155 7. *Confirmed by 24/10
p.750 A*
9. Italian repatriation ship VULCANIA and
SATURNIA expected sailing from Las Palmas a.m. 26th.
10. Italian repatriation ship DUILIO and GIULIO
CESARE 32 08 12 33 to Las Palmas 17.
11. H.M.S. LOCH OSKAIG on patrol off Cape Roca.
12. H.M.S. IMPERIALIST on patrol in Huev^la
Bight.
13. H.M.S. LORD NUFFIELD on patrol in vicinity
36 50 07 10. *See p.780*

14.

14. H.M.S. ARCTIC RANGER on patrol in vicinity
(corrupt group). *see p. 780.*

15. Portuguese destroyer TEJO leaves Lisbon
26th for Azores/Madeira.

16. Portuguese destroyer LIMA left Funchal
24th for Lisbon.

17. Portuguese sloop BARTOLOMEO DIAS leaves
Lisbon 27th for Ponta Delgada.

1352A/25

* could also be O.R.F. BLYSKAWICA.

see previous page

A.C.H.S. (H)
A.C.H.S. (F) (2)
A.C.H.S. (T)
H. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.C.D. (H) (2)
D.C.D. (F) (2)
D.L.O.D. (M)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of Plans (2)
D.A/S.V.
Hd. of M.
W.D.
I.P. (2)
D.B.D.
D.D.O.D. (C)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
C. in C. X.F. (2)
D.F.S.
D.E.D. (3)
D.N.I. (4)

/MC

782

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.French
Shipping.

Gibraltar 0855. Minesweeper TAPAGEUSE, Ships ERIDAN, Light, OUED FES, Full, deck cargo 10 Motor Lorries, ILE DE BREHAT, Laden, deck cargo 8 Motor Lorries, FORT DE VAUX, laden, Motor Lorries on deck, Trawlers KERMARIA, KEROMAN, TATIANA, Westbound (V.A. C.N.A. 1921 A/25 to Admty R.A.W.A. S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica).

NORTE
MAX ALBRECHT.

Ref. 1927/19 from R.O. Vigo Spanish sailing vessel NORTE arrived Ferrol 24/10, discharging her cargo on board German Tanker MAX ALBRECHT. (Guyatt Corunna, 2000/25 to Admty, (R) Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid, R.O. Vigo).

Movements.

Arrival VANOC, ACHATES, SS. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. (F.O.C.N.A. 2004A/25, to Admty). *See p. 780*

South Atlantic.

CORIOLANUS.

See p. 783^A

Your 2323/24. CORIOLANUS is proceeding at 0400/25th. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 0045/25 to R.A.W. Af. Admty, C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.N.A.).

Departure 0600/25, CORIOLANUS in accordance with your 2323/24. E.T.A. Gibraltar p.m./3/11.

(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 0900Z/25, to R.A.W.A. (R) F.O.C.N.A. Admty, C. in C.S.A.).

See also 1612/25. *p. 784*

NORTHUMBERLAND Following has been read. NORTHUMBERLAND 07° 18' N. "Q" Report. (position missed) ordered to stop by flashing, am

proceeding at full speed.

(Freetown W/T 0355/25).

Intercept Sierra Leone Radio. QQQQ NORTHUMBERLAND 09.18 N. Long. unread. Ordered to stop by flashing am proceeding at full speed. 0355/25. 0445 G.M.T./25 (Ends).

(Valentia Radio 0513/25 to Admty).

(C. in C. Plymouth 0626/25 to Admty).

/Movements...

783

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- Movements
→ W.S.23. Your 2001/23rd and 2133/23rd and DURBAN, 1257/24th Tanker OLTENA II bunkering at Walvis Bay from 27/10.
2. *ROCKROSE and THYME will R/V with W.S.23 in 021° S. 011° 30' E. at 0600Z/30th, when DESPATCH, DURBAN, MILFORD and KANARIS are to proceed to Walvis Bay to fuel.
3. DESPATCH, *DURBAN and KANARIS rejoin W.S.23 on completion.
4. MILFORD escort OLTENA II to Point Noire. *See pp 784 & 785
5. ROCKROSE and THYME to Capetown on relief by destroyers from the Cape. R/V will be signalled later. (C. in C.S.A. 0944C/25 to R.A.W.A.).
- Proceed to Walvis Bay with OLTENA II and MYDRECHT and await further orders.
2. K.14 is to be detached to (?proceed in) execution of previous orders.
3. While at Walvis Bay 1 corvette is to provide anti-S/M cover for remaining ships. (C. in C.S.A. 0947C/25 to THYME, ROCKROSE, (R) N.S/M K.14, Admty N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay, R.A.W. A.F.).
- * See also p. 785
- SOUTHERN GEM, defect. Following is a repetition of SOUTHERN GEM's 0615/25. "R.A.W.Af. (R) DESPATCH, B.N.L.O. W. A. from SOUTHERN GEM. Parted company with W.S.23 owing to main engine defect. Now proceeding Pointe Noire at 10 knots. E.T.A. 1700Z/27th. (R.A.W.A. 1025Z/25 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty etc). Your 0615/25th. Report P.C.S. of convoy and if escort fuelled from CARTHAGE. (R.A.W.A. 1031Z/25 to SOUTHERN GEM (R) Admty, DESPATCH, C. in C.S.A.).
- Dispositions. Situation Report (R.A.W.A. 1059Z/25). See Lion Copy.
- U/B. T.S.S. ALGARNA reports sighting periscope at 0605Z/24th, in 004° 23' S. 011° 18' E. (R.A.W.A. 1125Z/25 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty, B.N.L.O.W.A.).
- EMPIRE PRIDE. U.16 EMPIRE PRIDE sailed escorted for Capetown E.T.A. 1600 /27. Personnel on board for U.K. (D.S.T.O. Durban 1154C/25 to S.T.O. Capetown. (R) D.S.T. etc).
- W.S.23. C.F.7. 1. In view of possible concentration of S/M in (?Pointe Noire) area breakdown of F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, SOUTHERN GEM, makes escort of W.S.23 and C.F.7 very thin, particularly during fuelling of escort. *See pp 784*

MOST SECRET

1059Z/25 October.

MOST SECRETMESSAGEIN

From: R.A. West Africa Date: 25.10.42.

Recd. 1755

NAVAL CYPHER (M) by W/T

Addressed: Ships in Area 'P' of South Atlantic Station
 North of 8 degs. N. Admiralty,
 C. in C. South Atlantic, N.O. in Charge
 Bathurst.

IMPORTANT

Situation report.

S/M P.552 18 40 19 01 180 9 at 1959Z, 25th. *see next page.*

CORIOLANUS 14 30 19 02 to 15 01 19 59 thence 000 degs.

*10. see next page.**see p. 785* BURDOCK off Bathurst to join *ROBERTS* 12.2 Motor Launches 12 45 17 40 to Bathurst 8. *continued - see 23/10 p. 722*ROBERTS, H.M.S. *ANTELOPE, H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, 11 50 17
40 through 13 01 18 01 and 13 43 18 58 thence 005 degs.
10½. ** see p. 785.*

2 Motor Launches 11 01 17 15 to Freetown 9.

(Group missing) 09 30 15 15 to Freetown 9½.

H.M.S. BRILLIANT H.M.S. AVONVALE 08 59 14 55 to
Bathurst 20?. *see p. 785*H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA H.M.S. BOREAS 09 50 19 10 to
10 01 19 59 thence 006 degs. 270 degs. 14.H.M.S. BOREAS to Bathurst 19. *see p. 785*

1059Z/25

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)

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. PIS

D.O.D. (2)

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

D.C. (2)

U.S.N.

D.A./S.W.

Hd. of M.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D. of P. (2)

D.M.S.

D.D.O.D. (C)

784

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic—contd.W.S.23
C.F.7.
Contd.

2. Intend to divert W.S.23 from position (?L) to A. 010° S. 005° E. B. 021° S. 011° 30' E. thence Walvis Bay. Stragglers route to be altered to conform.

3. If found impossible to fuel KANARIS at sea intend her to moderate speed to prudent limit of endurance, MILFORD then continuing as only A/S escort until ROCKROSE, THYME, can join.

4. *DURBAN to proceed at best speed to rejoin convoy. DESPATCH then proceed Pointe Noire or Walvis Bay for fuel. DESPATCH then return Freetown to comply with para.5. A.M./0104/20th.

5. Intend AMARANTHUS to join escort of C. F.7 a.m./27th and TAMARISK p.m./27th. Destroyer to be detailed to fuel Pointe Noire accordingly. * See p. 783 next page

(R.A.W.A. 1211Z/25 to C. in C.S.A., Admty, (R) DURBAN, BRIDGEWATER, SHROPSHIRE, ICARUS, B.N.L.O.W.A. Escort, W.S.23).

1. Comply with my 1211Z/25th and my 1107Z/24th unless contrary orders received from C. in C.S. A.
2. Amend longitude of position T. on W.S.23 stragglers route to 001° 52' E.

(R.A.W. A. 1925Z/25 to DESPATCH, DURBAN, (R) Escort W.S. 23, Admty, AMARANTHUS, PHOEBE, C. in C.S.A. SHROPSHIRE, B.N.L.O. W.A.).

DURBAN,
ANTHONY,
SHROPSHIRE.

^{1/p. 670}
A.M. 1933/21. R/V in position 037° 34' N. 023° 51' W. at 0800/11/11.

This is earliest date at which R/V can be effected.

(R.A. W.A. 1331A/25 to B. A.D. (R) F.O.C.N.A. Admty).

W.D. Note:- Amended by 1148/27 q.v.

Movements
Pointe Noire.

24/10 arrival AMARANTHUS. 25th departure AMARANTHUS to join convoy W.S.23. Arrival COMMANDANT DETROYAT, B.D.V. LORD GAINFORD. (B.N.L.O.W.A. 1515/25, to R.A.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A. Admty).

See previous page
{CORIOLANUS
P.552.

1. Steer forthwith for new position (F) 022° 00' N. 018° 30' W. thence to (D).
2. S/M P.552 is routed (E) 020° 01' N. 019° 00' W. (F) 014° 30' N. 019° 58' W. S/M estimated to be

at position (E) at 1200Z/25. S. of A. 9 knots.

(R.A.W. A. 1612Z/25 to CORIOLANUS (R) F.O.C.N.A.).

S.T.39.

CORINTHIAN, CHASSEURS 42 and 43, and 4 M/Ls escorting S.T.39 arrive Takoradi a.m./28th.

(2) GEORGE THATCHER is to remain with convoy to Takoradi and is to be sailed for Pointe Noire (?Noire) escorted by Chasseurs 42 and 43 after Chasseurs have refuelled.

(3). CORINTHIAN pass to Cdre.

(R.A.W.A. 1619Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, CORINTHIAN (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, C. in C.S.A. Admty, B.N.L.O. W.A.).

/ANTELOPE.

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War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

ANTELOPE,
BOREAS.
→ BRILLIANT.
AVON VALE.

Intend to sail destroyers from Bathurst as follows:-
1. ANTELOPE and BOREAS route:-
A. 014° N. 019° W. B. 023° N. 018° W.
C. 030° N. 012° W. D. 034° N. 010° W.
E. 035° 50' N. 006° 02' W. thence Gibraltar.
Ships shifting to North Atlantic W/T organisation at 0400Z/28th.
(2). BRILLIANT and AVON VALE routed. C. 014° 09' N. 018° 28' W.
D. 015° 42' N. 019° 12' W. E. 025° 41' N. 018° 25' W.
F. 025° 41' N. 018° 25' W. F. 035° 49' N. 008° 28' W.
G. 035° 50' N. 006° 04' W. thence Gibraltar. Ships shifting to North Atlantic, W/T organisation at 0100Z/28.
(3) Time of sailing and E.T.A. will be reported by N.O.I.C. Bathurst.
(R.A.W.A. 1701Z/25 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) ANTELOPE, C. in C.S.A. Admty, BRILLIANT, BOREAS, N.O.I.C. Bathurst). *see p. 783A*

ROCKROSE. Your 1643Z/24th. ROCKROSE unable to complete repairs in time to join convoy C.F.7. Request authority to clean boilers forthwith. Time required seven days.
(?B.N.L.O.W.A. 1815/25, to R.A.W.A.(R) C. in C.S.A. SHROPSHIRE, Admty).

BURDOCK *see p. 783A* Departures 1700Z/25. BURDOCK in accordance with your 1701Z/24.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1845Z/25 to R.A. W.A.(R) F.O.C.N.A, Admty etc).

→ BRILLIANT. E.T.A. 1000Z/26th. Weather report.
(BRILLIANT 2000Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) R.A. W.A. D.18).

SHICKSHINNY. Overdue shipping SHICKSHINNY U.S. due Punta Arenas 18th not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2201Z/25, to Admty etc).

DURBAN. *see pp 783 784* My P.C. and S. at 2100Z/25th 000° 20' N. 002° 27' E 176° 18 knots, conforming with intention contained your 1210Z/25th.
(DURBAN 2204Z/25, to R.A.W.A. (R) C. in C.S.A. DESPATCH).

PHOEBE. My 1420/25 (Details of damage - N.T. in W.D.)
It is considered that after temporary repairs fuel stowage available will enable ship to steam on 2 shafts at 12 knots for 1600 miles in good weather.
(PHOEBE 2315A/25 to Admty, (D. of D.) (R) C. in C. S.A. R.A.W.A.).

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War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Supply of Your 1300/8. We hoped you would use FUKWANG for Stores to petrol and that ARMILLA could carry water for 8th operational purposes. Army. Your para.4. NINGKWANG sails from Colombo for Suez at end of month. PETRONELLA 3,000 tons now being used by Admty at Bombay. DIRTY can be released for your service in an emergency. BASSETHOUND 1,500 tons now Capetown is proceeding Bombay shortly as waterboat and can also be called upon if necessary. We are still very deficient in small tankers owing to late delivery of American built 1,600 tonners first of which not likely to be in our service before 1943. (D. of S.T. 0110A/25 to P.S.T.O.Egypt).

Cositrep 559. 288737 0/64245 cipher 25 October. Part.2. Air, Night 23/24. Two enemy aircraft operations over Gulf of Suez. Two ships reported attacked without damage. Night fighters up but no interceptions. 24/10. A Blenheim attacked S/M off Gaza, depth charges falling near periscope. Oil and air bubbles seen rising for half hour after attack. (C. in C.M.E. 1130 G.M.T./25).

ARCA (?loaded) tanker ARCA was due to leave (Italian) Dardanelles a.m./today probably bound Leros. TAKU. (Capt.S.(I) 1155C/25, to TAKU (R) C.in C.Med).

Enemy Units. Following has been read. P.C. and S. of 2 M/Vs. and 5 destroyers FGSX (34° N. 21° E.) 192 180° 10 knots at 1318A. (A/C X9QB 1330A/25).

ISIS. Your 0453/23 (Programme for ISIS) approved. (C. in C.Med. 1401C/25 to ISIS).

Malta Air I.65 25/10 CSR. Pt.1.Sect.1. Report. Night 24/25. No enemy activity. 25th. 0621 hrs. 25 enemy fighters and M.E.109 fighter bombers approached by Malta at great height and were intercepted by 12 Spitfires 30 miles North of Island who forced enemy to jettison bombs in sea and turn back. No raiders crossed coast. Spitfires destroyed 1 M.E.109 and probably destroyed 1 M.E.109 without loss to themselves.

/0715 hrs.

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. *with*Malta Air
Report.
Contd.

0715 hrs. 30 M.E.109 and ME.202 including bomb carrying M.E.109 approached at great height and were intercepted by 8 Spitfires who damaged one MC.202 without loss to themselves. Bombs on Takali aerodrome caused craters, but bombs round Luqa aerodrome caused no serious damage. Light A.A. destroyed 1 M.E.109.

0825 hrs. 20 M.E.109 fighters and fighter bombers approached at great height and were intercepted by 8 Spitfires but enemy escaped by diving. Bombs dropped round Hal Far aerodrome caused no serious damage.

1136 hrs. 30 M.E.109 and MC.202 including bomb carrying M.E.109 were intercepted 25 miles north of Malta by 12 Spitfires who forced 15 raiders to turn back without crossing coast. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2030/25).

Section 2 of Part 1 My 1.65

Other Raiders dropped bombs on Luqa Aerodrome causing craters destroying 1 Beaufighter and damaging 1 Spitfire heavy A.A. destroyed one ME.109.

1417 hrs. 55 ME.109 and MC.202 including ME.(109?) Bombers approaching at height and were intercepted North of Island by 25 Spitfires who forced majority of raiders to jettison bombs in sea and turn back. Few Raiders crossed Coast and dropped bombs round Luqa Aerodrome causing no serious damage. 1 Spitfire was lost, Pilot missing. Today in 65 Sorties against 160 Enemy Sorties 1 ME.109 was destroyed 1 ME.109 probably destroyed (?and) one MC.202 damaged for loss of 1 Spitfire and Pilot missing in combat and one Beaufighter destroyed and 1 Spitfire damaged on ground. Heavy A.A. destroyed one M.E.109 and another was destroyed by machine gun fire from A.A.Unit.

(A.H.Q.Malta 2100/25).

Part 2. my I.65 25/10. (All R/C and deliveries)

(A.H.Q.Malta 2145/25).

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- PIPINA. Assume you have seen C. in C. E.F.'s 1121/9/9 to N.O.I.C. Seychelles and Admty. 0119/23 to F.O.E.A. and Zanzibar. PIPINA apparently no longer required for service as Fleet collier but request your immediate confirmation. (D. of S.T. 0129A/25 to D.S.T.O. Kilindini.)
- B.P.58. Delayed 24 hours, will sail 26/10. (P.S.T.O. India 0515Z/25 to D. C. in C. E.F.)
- U/B attacked. Enemy S/M attacked by A/C 021° 25' N. 060° 14' E. at 0530Z. S/M submerged. Am within 5 miles position indicated. (POOLE 0550Z/25 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf (R) Cdre. Aden.)
- 060° Aircraft attacked S/M at 0530Z/25 in position 021° 25' N. 13' E. (C. in C. E.F. 0710Z/25 to S. and A. E.I. Stn.)
A.F. Message.
(Adm. Mombasa 0720Z/25.)
- Operation "Demcat". Following additions to enemy information received from SS KARAGOLA begins "Rain and distance prevented detailed observation. Vessel resembling (?NIPPON) YUSEN KAISHA Pacific passenger ship's outline with reduced funnel. painted light grey" (ends).
2. N.O.I.C. Seychelles pass to Catalina A/C. (C. in C. E.F. 0707Z/25 to S.O. Force D. (R) MAURITIUS, ENTERPRISE, N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 246 Wing, 207 Group.)
- B.M.30. Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0840Z/25.)
- TEVIOT BANK. C. in C. Med. 2145/17 and Cdre. R.I.N. 0520/21. TEVIOT BANK is to be sailed to arrive Massawa by 25/11 and is first to embark 125 empty depth reels and a supply of wire from Prome as reserve for present commitments. Cdre. R.I.N. pass to TEVIOT BANK and N.A.S.O. Bombay. (C. in C. E.F. 0844Z/25 to C. in C. Med. Cdre. R.I.N. (R) Admty., F.O.C. Red Sea Force, Cdre. in Ch., Aden, N.O.I.C. Massawa.)

/Operation ...

25.10.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Operation
"Demcat".

My 0945/25th Eastern Fleet Weekly Intelligence Summary No.18 (N.T. in W.D.) add to para 3. DEVONSHIRE, MAURITIUS, ENTERPRISE sailed from Kilindini 24/10 for operation "Demcat". (C. in C. E.F. 1035Z/27.)

Eastern Fleet, I was somewhat surprised by recent press release giving names of certain ships now forming part of Eastern Fleet. (2) Ships referred to have recently visited or are about to visit Durban and their presence on that station will no doubt be known. I feel however that in our present weak state there should be no reference to the composition of Eastern Fleet and I have impressed this on all authorities under my orders and emphasised it in signals addressed to Admty. (3) In particular I feel that every effort should be made to suggest that our seaborne air strength is not limited to one carrier. (4) Should be grateful if I might be advised in future before such announcements are made. (C. in C. E.F. 1012C/25 to Admty.)

Catalinas,
Saldanha.

Have inspected Saldanha with C. in C. S.A. and consulted with Sqdn. Ldr. Barraclough. Following are our conclusions.

2. 3 Catalinas can be operated with available resources and accommodation. 5 could be operated in emergency over short periods. Moorings for 3 are laid and additional ones will be laid shortly.

3. Propose operating 3 Catalinas from Saldanha with 2 reserve at Durban standing by to replace as and when required in order to maintain minimum of 3 operating from Saldanha.

4. Please inform me (?how many) of these Catalina can be adjusted to meet these requirements observing that until Ventura are equipped with A.S.V. and long range tanks they cannot be considered effective substitute for Catalina and that need to afford protection to this important trade route focal point must be given high priority.

(C. in C. E.F. 1026C/25 to A.O.C. Ceylon (R) 209 Sqdn., 207 Group, Dep. C. in C. E.F., Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Durban, A.O.C. in C. India.)

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/B (Unit) sighting one U-Boat 046° 18' N 059° 54' W
A/S Sweep. at 1745Z/24. MEDICINE HAT and GEORGIAN in Sydney
(C.B.) approach detailed to carry out A/S sweep
of area.
(N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B. 0012Z/25 to C.T.F.24. (R)
Connav. Admty. etc.)

O.N.139 Your 2022/24. Intend sailing LINCOLN to reinforce
→ LINCOLN you to join in 045° 35' N 041° 52' W at 2200/25.
WINCHELSEA LINCOLN is to be detached to (arrive?) St. Johns
N.F. not later 28/10. If escort still required
for WINCHELSEA detach LINCOLN for this duty.
(F.O.N.F. 0110Z/25 to C.T.U. 24.1.12. (R) Cominch.
etc.)

U/B. Following received from Port Patrick Radio (begins)
Received at 0141 G.M.T. de Gallon Head Radio at
0125, de Nau Radio Trinidad CK 8 Govt Navy, urgent,
war warning sub position 10.52 N 55.15 W. 1605Z/24.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0241/25 to Admty.)
(A.C.O.S. No T.O.O./25.)
Received at 0209 G.M.T. de Gallon Head Radio. Heard at
0120A S I G de Nau heard at 0123 T O 27 X X X CQ Nr 2 unread.
Warning unread submarine sighted lat. unread 9 N unread long,
unread W de Nau QRN QSA 1/2.
(Port Patrick Radio 0310/26 to Navy Charge Greenock.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 24/10/1942. Arrivals H.N.M.S.
KING HAAKON VII ex Sydney, ST. CROIX ex O.N. 132.
→ Departures LINCOLN to augment escort O.N. 139,
WASAGA, Q 077, to J.N. 20, VEGREVILLE to Wabana and W.B. 10,
H.M.R.T. FRISKY to attempt salvage SS.*CANACTO.* *792 2773*
(F.O.N.F. 0255Z/25 to Admty.)

U/B. S/Ms sighted at Bay of Exploits approx. position
049° 14' N 055° 17' W at 0130Z/25.
(C.O.A.C. 0403Z/25 to GB7A. C.T.F. 24.)

Aircraft B.A.D. 2205Z/21 and Admty. reply 1504/23 (N.T. in
Production W.R.) Prospects of increasing U.S. output to
Allocations. yield additional 1500 T.B.R. and 1000 S.S.F. in
1943 appear remote. Any approach to U.S. Navy
Dept. for these additional aircraft will require
strong justification.

2. Please advise how new demand is related to British production
programme. Have any setbacks occurred or other changes been
made in delivery schedules for types concerned? Presumably no
possibility of meeting part of new demand from increased British
production?
(B.A.C. Washington 0513/25 to M.A.P.)

War Diary.

25.10.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- U/B
O.N.S.138. U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made sighting report of a convoy or important unit at 0108Z/25. U-Boat position by D/F at 0214Z/25 within 150 miles of 43.30 N 36.30 W. Estimated at least 5 S/MS shadowing.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0537/25 to C.T.U. 24.1.16.
(R) C.T.U. 24.1.12. C.T.24.)
- U/B. Reports PETER MINUET sighted S/M at 1040 G.M.T./25 in 07.08 N 57.00 W.
(S.O.I. Jamaica Barbados Radio 0620R/25 to Admty.)
- U/B. S/M sighted from shore approx. position 050° 00' N 066° 53' W at 0355/25.
(C.O.A.C. 0630Z/25 to C.T.F.24. (R) Connnav. Admty. etc.)
- K.15. Parts 1 and 4. U.S. Submarine Notice. Correct my 1538/24 and 1612/24. Dutch K.15 route Bermuda to Philadelphia should be via 36.05 N 69.40 W.
(Cominch 0648/25 to A.I.G. 304 etc.)
- O.N.141 C.T.U. 24.1.13 in readiness plus later *AGASSIZ, WETASKIWIN, GALT sailed to meet O.N.141. ^{24/10}
*SACKVILLE will sail presently to overtake. None fitted H/F D/F. Latest Q J A held 660.
(C.T.G.24.7 0815Z/25 to C.T.F.24. C.O.A.C. (R) Connnav. etc.) * Sacked today (Pink List)

Movements summary. 1800 G.M.T./25.

Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
S/M K.15.	34½° N 68° W	314°	10
S/M SEVERN	44½° N 61° W	087°	8
CARNARVON	45½° N 26° W	000°	14½
CASTLE			
2 destroyers	46° N 26½° W	017°	18¾
A.T.26.			

(D.O.D. F. 1040Z/25 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)

U/B positions. C.E.S.F's 1822/24. S/M estimate 0800Q/25.
(Comnav 1103/25 to Admty.)

NORSEMAN escort. Your 1804/23 1404/17 and 1153/15/9. Consider it most undesirable that S.B.N.O. W.A. should co-ordinate movements and escort question for NORSEMAN for following reasons (A) Requirements for NORSEMAN are originated in London. (B) S.B.N.O. W.A. has no escorts available. (C) Comcaribseafreighter is more likely to provide escorts if ordered to do so by Cominch. (D) Propose therefore that in future arrangements should be made by Admty. with Navy Dept. through B.A.D.
(S.B.N.O. W.A. 1202Q/25 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

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War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.KENOGAMI,
*ORILLIA.** see p. 794*

My 2051/23rd. Intend to sail KENOGAMI and ORILLIA in company 1030/26 direct to Londonderry great circle route 12 knots. E.T.A. Londonderry 2230/1st. Request KENOGAMI and ORILLIA be sailed with T.U. 24.1.11 escorting O.N.143. (F.O.N.F. 1351Z/25 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

U/B.

Inconclusive bearing at 1139Z/25th indicates submarine in general vicinity of either S.C.106 or H.X.212. (N.S.H.Q. 1521Z/25 to T.U. 24.1.3, T.U.24.1.17, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F. (R) Admty., S.B.N.O. W.A. Opnav.)

Convoy
Assignments.

C. in C. W.A. 1022Z/24, concur. (C.T.F. 24 1525Z/25 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

CANATCO.

see p. 790

CANATCO sunk by grounding at Gannet Rock 53.56 N. 56.25 W. Crew safe. Nothing salvaged. (N.S.H.Q. 1539Z/25 to Admty., Connnav.) Explosion suspected, see 1609/26.

SEVERN.

*See previous page
(Movement to
summarily)
9 next page*

1. Sailed SEVERN in accordance with my 1930/23 amended by my 1435/24.
2. Wireless watch in accordance with B.A.D.'s 1935/17th amended by B.A.D.'s 1727/21st. (C.O.A.C. 1541Z/25 to Admty. etc.)

U/B.
O.N.S.138.

U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made sighting report of convoy or important unit at 1418Z/25th. (Cominch 1549/25 to C.T.U. 24.1.16 (R) C.T.24.)

BISCAYNE.

Show to Flag Officers only. BISCAYNE departed San Juan for Freetown 1030Z/25, E.T.A. afternoon 1/11 or morning of 2/11. Opnav pass to C. in C. U.S. Fleet. (C.C.S.F. 1553Q/25 to U.S. C.N.O. (R) R.A.W.A. etc.)

U/B
O.N.S.138.

By D/F at 1410Z U-Boat in vicinity O.N.S.138. (D.D.I.C. 1605A/25 to Escorts O.N.S.138.)

U/B
Positions.

S/M situation 25/10 and U.S. S/M notice. (Cominch 1626/25 to Admty.)

/Movements ...

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War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements. Section East. SEVERN (? patrolling) 044° 38' 060° 39' 087° 12.5. N.J.19, WASAGA 049° 35' 790 (?) 079° 43' Southbound 7. W.B.15, VEGREVILLE, GRANDMERE, 046° 59' 052° 43' 193° 7. *MORDEN en route for St. Johns. E.T.A. p.m./25th. FRISKY vicinity 050° 05' 053° 15' en route for St. Johns 12. LINCOLN vicinity 046° N. 043° W. to join O.N.139. ** see next page*

(C.O.A.C. 1655Z/25 to Admty.)
My 1655/25th. Add U.S. MATTO(?LE corrupt group)
MOJAVE 47.08 54.20 233° 9, altering to 245° in 54.55 W.
(C.O.A.C. 2100Z/25 to G.B.7A Admty. etc.)

Trawlers for Cape Area. This is Com 5 1314/25 to you for info. S.O.P.A. in HERTFORDSHIRE, HERTFORDSHIRE, NORTHERN ISLES, LE TIGER, ST. LOMAN, CAPE WARWICK all for action. There are several enemy submarines in Crooked Island and Windward Passage as well as eastward and westward of Trinidad. When in all respects ready for sea about 1000Q/25 proceed in company via swept channel to point prep, thence by most direct route to Freetown, West Africa, via Windward Passage to Trinidad, reporting to R.A. W.A. at 040° west longitude in accordance Cominch 1845/14. Fuel and provision Trinidad. Guard 4155 k/cs and 3000 k/cs voice scene of action frequencies while in waters of Eastern Sea Frontier. Attack and destroy all enemy submarines encountered. Comeastseafon, Comcaribseafon, Comten and Cominch all have for information.
(Radio Washington 1755/25 to R.A.W.A.)

U/B H.X.212. U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made sighting report of convoy or important unit at 1713Z/25th. Uncertain fix 52.30 N. 40° W.
(Cominch 1842/25 to C.T.U. 24.1.3 (R) C.T. 24 etc.)

U/B. U-Boat position by D.F. within 150 miles of position 1554Z/25th 052° 30' 032° 20' W.
(Cominch 1857/25 to Admty. (R) C.T.U. 24.1.18, C.T.24.)

BURY. Request you will reply to N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1850/23.
(D.T.D. 1922A/25 to N.S.H.Q., N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F.)

→ SEVERN. To avoid O.N.139 now steer 270° from 045° 30' N. 042° 05' W. altering course at 1000Z/26th in 044° 46' N. 058° 00' W. to new X, 044° 47' N. 042° 00' W. thence to C., omitting B/ adjusting speed as necessary to pass through B/ as ordered.
(C.O.A.C. 1925Z/25 to SEVERN (R) Various)
W.R. Note.- / Correctly decyphered; request for verification, check and repeat has been sent.

/U/B ...

War Diary.25.10.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- U/B.
O.N.S.138. U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit at 1909Z/25th.
(Cominch 1926/25 to C.T.U. 24.1.16 (R) C.T.24.)
- U/B. U-Boat position by D/F at (?) over 150 miles 53.30 N. 36° W.
(Cominch 2001/25 to C.T.U. 24.1.3, C.T.U. 24.1.18, C.T.F. 24.)
- O.N.139. My 1846/23. Urgent defects prevent WITHERINGTON sailing. *ORILLIA and MELVILLE sail St. Johns 2030/26th to join in 45° 30' N. 050° 25' W. at 1100/27th. * *25.10.792*
(F.O.N.F. 2041Z/25 as amended 0035Z/26 to C.T.24.1.12 (R) C.T.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.T.24.18.3, C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S.138. Own H/F D/F indicates no U-boats have been in contact since dusk 24th. Admiralty's 1118Z/24th and 1538Z/24th acknowledged. Cmdre GLENPARK has (?insufficient) fuel to reach destination without refuelling. Admiralty's 1514Z/25th, no stragglers since 18/10. Weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.1.16, 2055Z/25 to Connav (R) C.T.F. 24, Admty. etc.)
- Sub attack & sighting summary. Para (B) MEDON 2 torpedoes 27 shells. PEIPING 2 torpedoes. STAD AMSTERDAM U-88 type. Panair plane sights sub 11.17 N. 73.22 W. 29th August. SS VICTORIALOIDE sights periscope 27.17 S. 48.23 W. 0445Z/22. Sub sighted on surface 43.34 N. 35.02 W. about 1020Z/24 course 110. H.M.S. GENTIAN attacks sub 43.10 N. 36.40 W. about 2000Z/24. SS PETER MINUIT sights sub 07.08 N. 57 W. 1040Z/25.
Para (C) SS. MUSA one torpedo miss 40 N. 66.50 W. 2335Z/6 P.B.M. Radar contact 10.520 55.15 W. 1605Z/24 sub sighted 46.18 N. 59.45 W. 1745Z/24 49.14 N. 55.15 W. 0130Z/25. 50 N. 66.53 W. 0355Z/25.
Para (D) U.S.S. ^{SAMUEL D.} INGHAM attacks sound contact 64.10 N. 22.30 W. 1035Z/5.
(Cominch 2055/25 to Admty.)
- MORDEN. Amend E.T.A. to 0130Z/26th.
(MORDEN 2125Z/25 to F.O.N.F.)
in previous page.
- U/B. U-Boat position by D/F at 1944Z/25 within 75 miles 46.50 N. 26° W. MARISPOSA has this.
(Cominch 2340/25 to C.T.F. 24, Admty.)

25.10.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No.276, 24/10. Four Fortresses over Rabaul Harbour early morning 24th made one direct hit on probable tanker which was set on fire. Also sighted six cargo vessels, three probable destroyers leaving harbour, one cargo vessel anchored off Cape Beechey (65 miles S.S.W. Rabaul.)

(2) Three B.25s destroyed two enemy bombers, probably damaged two others, silenced an A.A. position during attack Lae Aerodrome, 24th.

(3) Unknown number aircraft bombed Aerodromes Darwin Area early morning 24th. Damage slight minor casualties.

(4) Air R/C Buin Area 24th unsatisfactory owing weather, 19 vessels sighted.

(5) Indications enemy submarine 14° 30' S. 158° 50' E. midnight 23rd.

(6) Our troops contacted enemy force Goodenough Island 23rd. Three enemy aircraft reconnoitred made light attack.

(7) We continued to advance north Eora 23rd.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0715Z/23 to Admty. etc.)

Movements. Arrival Brisbane 25/10 HOBART, U.S. Des. BAGLEY, U.S. Des. PATTERSON. Departure Darwin 25/10 for Thursday Island WARRNAMBOOL. Departure Brisbane for Sydney (N.S.W.) 25/10. AUSTRALIA, U.S. Des. SELFRIDGE. Arrival Sydney (N.S.W.) 25/10 DELORAINÉ (TOWNSVILLE).
(N.B. Melbourne 1514Z/25 to A.I.G. 115.) * confirmed by *link list.*

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions, 1200Z/25.
(D.D.I.C. 1355A/25, 1455A/25.)

10 796

26.10.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"EZ."

ARGONAUT, INTREPID and OBDURATE arrived at Seidisfiord at 1035 today.

A/A Ships POZARICA and PALOMARES sailed from Belfast at 1731A today.

BERMUDA sailed from Plymouth at 1555 today for her operational area.

An aircraft estimates 2 hits with depth charges on a U-Boat in 47° 14' N. 14° 25' W. at 0007 today. The submarine attacked is stated to be SEALION who suffered only slight damage.

A small amount of damage and a few casualties were caused by air attack on Chatham Dockyard at 1545 today.

North Atlantic.

The British Tanker ANGLO MAERSK from convoy S.L.125 was torpedoed at 1550 G.M.T. in 27° 50' N 22° 15' W. (about 240 miles west of Tenerife) and is proceeding towards Tenerife at 7½ knots with the U-Boat in pursuit. F.O.C.N.A. ordered JULIET to proceed to her assistance.

It is reported that a ship of the Dreyfus Line is loading munitions and supplies at Casablanca and will be escorted by GLOIRE and 2 submarines, destination believed to be Dakar.

ISAAC SWEERS, ESCAPADE and MARNE left Gibraltar, today for Ponta Delgada and thence to R/V convoy K.M.F.1 in approx. 49° 16' N. 25° 36' W. at 1730/30.

The Spanish Schooner RECHOU was intercepted off Larache (Spanish Morocco) at noon today and is being escorted to Gibraltar under armed guard.

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26.10.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

BOREAS and ANTELOPE left Bathurst at 2100Z for Gibraltar. BRILLIANT and AVON VALE left Bathurst at 1523Z/26 for Gibraltar.

U.S. ANNE HUTCHINSON was torpedoed and shelled by a U-Boat today in approx. $33^{\circ} 10' S.$ $28^{\circ} 30' E.$

Mediterranean.

On return from her third war patrol today TRAVELLER reports that she attacked an escorted tanker on 1520C/9 in $35^{\circ} 45' N.$ $23^{\circ} 13' E.$ and hit the tanker with 2 torpedoes and possibly a "Gregale" class destroyer, with the third torpedo.

There were no air attacks on Malta last night, but on 3 occasions today 40 enemy fighters and fighter bombers approached the island and were intercepted.

Several attacks were made today by British and U.S. aircraft on a convoy consisting of one tanker, one large and one small merchant vessel with destroyer escort, West of Tobruk. The tanker was set on fire and the large enemy vessel blew up following hits with bombs and air torpedoes.

East Indies.

A submarine was attacked at 1025 in $21^{\circ} 24' N.$ $6^{\circ} 42' E.$ by the escorts of convoy off Ras al Hadd

C. in C.E.F. proposes that all United Nations merchant vessels should be instructed to paint upon their ships side their signal letters as large as space will permit. The objects of this proposal are to compel enemy vessels to adopt the same measures and to assist warships on first sighting when distance renders flag hoists impossible to distinguish.

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26.10.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

B.R.O. Aruba reports that SS.ROTHLEY was torpedoed and sunk on 19/10 in 22° 34' N. 54° 34' W. (corrected by S.O.(I) Kingston to 15° 34' N. 54° 34' W).

Australia & New Zealand.

Three enemy bombers attacked Darwin township early this morning, causing slight damage, but no casualties. There was a light ineffective air raid on Milne Bay early this morning.

The U.S. destroyer PORTER was sunk and a U.S. aircraft carrier was severely damaged in the Guadalcanal operations today.

A/C Carrier HORNET

see 11/1/42

P 397

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War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Destroyer A/S working-up. Anticipated that destroyers working up at Scapa on 31/10 and for some time to come will be at least 12. With the shorter A/S periods available during winter months it will not be possible to complete A/S working-up of these destroyers in specified time.

2. If C. in C. H.F. concurs and Comdre. WESTERN ISLES Tobermory can arrange, it is proposed that a limited number of work-up destroyers be detailed for the present to carry out their A/S working-up at Tobermory under direction of Comdre. WESTERN ISLES Tobermory over a period of about 7 days prior to their arrival at Scapa.

3. If this is approved propose WENSLEYDALE and RACEHORSE be sailed on completion of trials about 30/10 to Tobermory and subsequently destroyers up to maximum of 2 at a time as convenient to Comdre. WESTERN ISLES Tobermory and arranged direct with R.A.(D) H.F.
(R.A.D. 0100A/26 to Admty.)
Your 0100/26. Concur.
(C. in C. H.F. 1239A/26 to R.A.D.)

L.C.T.Craft for Scapa. Your 1405/24 para 4. 11th Flotilla selected.
(Capt. L.C.T. 1234/26 to C.C.O.)

Force "J". When no longer required, BRIGADIER, DUKE OF ARGYLL, CANTERBURY and BIARRITZ are to be sailed to the Clyde to join the Assault Force and to relieve PRINCE LEOPOLD and PRINCESS ASTRID.

2. On Relief, S.O. A.S.C. is requested to sail PRINCE LEOPOLD and PRINCESS ASTRID to join Force J.
(C.C.O. 1831A/26 to S.N.O. Force J.)

Movements.

WILTON. Arrived and sailed WILTON. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1500A/26. A.M.1758A/23 and F.O.I.C. Greenock 1104A/25 refer.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 0255A/26.)

FORMIDABLE. My 2120/25. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Lamlash 0755A/26.)
Arrived FORMIDABLE.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1836A/26.)

P.223. Your 1141A/25. As no Liverpool local escort is available intend delaying passage of P.223 to Clyde by 24 hours so as to use your escort vessel available at Liverpool a.m. 31st.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0936A/26.)

/GRAPH ...

26.10.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

GRAPH, Request you will sail CUTTY SARK to R/V GRAPH
SEALION. and SEALION in 180° Lizard Head 8 miles at
0800A/27. Thence to escort Submarines to Clyde.
(Capt. S.3 1047A/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Intend sailing CUTTY SARK leaving Plymouth 0500/27th to
R/V SEALION and GRAPH in 180° Lizard Head 8 at 0800/27 thence
Holy Loch.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1737A/26.)

THUNDERBOLT, Intend to sail LA CAPRICIEUSE escorting
L.23. THUNDERBOLT from Clyde Boom at 0830/28 via
searched channels and Minches to Port H H Z.
E.T.A. 1230A/29.

(2) THUNDERBOLT will carry out R.D.F. trials in 055° 08', 005°
30' at 1300A/28.

(3) Thence LA CAPRICIEUSE escorting L.23 sailing 1330A/29 for
Rothesay. E.T.A. 1530.
(Capt. S.3 1115A/26.)

ANSON. Scapa arrivals ANSON with ONSLAUGHT, MIDDLETON,
and FAULKNER.
(A.C.O.S. 1134/26 to A.C.I.C.)

P.339, My 1032/20. Intend to sail P.339 and P.49
P.49. escorted by JAN VAN GELDER for Clyde Northabout
at 1400A/29. Speed 9 knots. E.T.A. Cumraes
0900A/30.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow 1156A/26.)

Departure P.339 and P.49 delayed at least 24 hours for
satisfactory completion of R.D.F. in each job.

(P.S.O. Barrow 1450A/26.)

My 1141A/25 and your 0936A/26. In view of P.S.O. Barrow's
1450A/26 regret no escort is now available from 3rd S/M Flotilla.
(Capt. S. 3 1713A/26 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

BRYONY, Arrival Archangel. BRYONY, BERGAMOT, HARRIER,
BERGAMOT, GLEANER.
HARRIER, (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1358A/26.)
GLEANER.

BARBARIAN, A.M. 1916A/17, my 1619A/23 and my 1421A/25.
CROMARTY Sailed "Sparrow" group consisting BARBARIAN and
FIRTH, CROMARTY FIRTH escorted by BUDE (S.O) and
BUDE, BRIXHAM as additional escort, routed in accordance
BRIXHAM with Admiralty signal quoted, speed 7 knots.
("Sparrow") (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1435A/26.)

STURGEON. STURGEON sails from Portsmouth at 1800/27 and
crosses 043° N. at 013° W. at 0430/3rd.
22 p. 811 (Capt S.5 1502A/26.)

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26.10.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

- JUNON. 1. E.T.A. Dundee 0800/27.
2. Permission is requested to anchor Arbroath during the night.
3. My position number 30 Buoy.
(JUNON 1518A/26.)
- WELSHMAN. Proceed passing Hoxa Gate at 1730/27 October to Port Z A and thence Plymouth.
(2) Time of arrival at Plymouth is to be daylight 30th. Codeword "Encore".
(C. in C. H.F. 1712A/26 to WELSHMAN.)
- POZARICA, PALOMARES. ^{1/11.2.26} My 1138A/25 para 2. Sailed POZARICA and PALOMARES.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1731A/26.)
- SUFFOLK. Sailed C.S.I's 1154/22 at 1845/23. ^{See p.710}
(A.C.I.C. 1909A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)
- H.44. At 1000/27 intend to sail H.44 escorted by WHALSAY routed via Sounds of Mull and Islay.
E.T.A. 1200/28.
(WESTERN ISLES 2030A/26.) ^{See 27/10 - p 834}
- P.34. R/V trawler EGILSAY at 0800/29 in 180° Lizard Head 10 miles for onward escorted surface passage Portsmouth.
(Capt. S.5 2212/26 to P.34.)
- P.556. ^{See 1/11.2.26} Cancel my 1409/24. Onward route submerged by day through
P. 043° 01' 014° 10'.
Q. 046° 01' 013° 50'.
R. 048° 59' 013° 02'.
S. 180° 10 miles Bishop Rock.
T. 160° Lizard Head 30 miles, thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 5.
(F.O.S. 2233A/26 to P.556.)
- VENOMOUS. VENOMOUS reports P.C.S. at 1201A/26, 049° 24' N. 017° 28' W., 182°, 6 knots.
(C. in C. W.A. 2351A/26 to FOULA.)

War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.B. (Supply for N. Russia) My 2301A/23. Request ST. ELSTAN be sailed to Reykjavik forthwith. She is urgently required for operation F.B. (A.C.I.C. 0206A/26 to A.C.O.S.)

Operation K.H. My 1032A/25. Operation K.H. postponed further 24 hours due to weather. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1044A/26 to ALERT.)

Patrols. Tonight MENDIP and FERNIE proceed to patrol latitude 050° 20' N. between 002° 00' W. and 001° 30' W. passing Needles (I.O.W) 18.30 and 07.15. Codeword "Advent".

2 Chasseurs patrolling near E.A.S. Buoy. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1253A/26.)

My 0952/26. Patrols cancelled on account of weather. (C. in C. Nore 1412A/26.)

M.L. Patrol tonight.

2. Forces employed. 153 (S.O) 163, 157 and 159.
3. Patrol. 5 miles 090° and 270° either side of 118° Start 10 miles.
4. Object. To intercept 'E' Boats.
5. Information. Own Forces. Two destroyers sail Needles 1830/26. Pass through positions 180° Portland Bill 20 and 180° Start 20. E.T.A. Plymouth 0715/27. Enemy 'E' boats may work from Guernsey or Cherbourg.

6. Execution. Proceed at 1800/26 to patrol line. Leave patrol at daylight 27th and return to Dartmouth.

7. Codeword "Obstacle".

(C. in C. Plymouth 1419A/26.)

Your 1419A/26. Sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1812/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation E.Z. Seidisfjord arrival ARGONAUT, INTREPID, OBDURATE at 1035/26th. (A.C.I.C. 1601A/26.)

Allied Air Activity.

Air Escort for Convoy K.M.F.1. 39 troopships, one Aircraft Carrier, 10 Minesweepers, and sloops. From 2100A/26 to limit of endurance.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0954A/26.)

Gas experiments. Ships are not to approach Burry Inlet during period of 29/10 to 1/11 inclusive, as R.A.F. are carrying out Gas experiments. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1455A/26.)

/Bombing ...

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26.10.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

Bombing restrictions. Cancel forthwith submerged repetition submerged bombing restrictions as requested in first para of my 1039/25. Capt. S.3's 2209/24 para (2). Cancel restrictions South of 047° 30' N. forthwith.
(F.O.S. 1621A/26 and 1801A/26 to H.Q.C.C.)
Cancel my 1417/24th, my 2233/26. Request submerged bombing restrictions as follows. Details.
(F.O.S. 2241A/26 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. F.W. sighted from Raufarhofn 066° 27' N. 015° 56' W. at 1223, flying at 500 feet from West to East.
(A.C.I.C. 1451A/26.)

Chatham bombed. Chatham Dockyard bombed at 1542/26. Nine naval casualties.
(C. in C. Nore 1820/26 to Admty.)
The following air raid damage to H.M. Dockyard, Chatham occurred approx 1545/26. Details. Four H.Es dropped from low altitude, 2 in No.1 Basin, 1 between No.1 Basin and River Medway, and 1 in River Medway.
(S.C.E. Chatham 1845/26.)

Mining.

Convoy Sweeps. Intend sailing at 0700/27 FINESSE and BRECON CASTLE sweeping "Slave IV" to Plymouth.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1145/26.)
C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail DORNOCH and Cdre. WESTERN ISLES to sail *FORT YORK and *TADOUSSAC to Londonderry to arrive a.m. 1st November.
2. These ships can be used to search ahead of convoys a.m. 1927A/18. refers.
(D.M.S. 1543A/26.) 1805

S.N.3 F. My 1152/23 para D. For BRIGHTON read SALADIN and for LANCASTER read SCIMITAR.
(R.A.M. 1257/26.)

Portsmouth. One magnetic mine red detonated at 1419/26 by LL in 082° Nab Tower 1.7 miles.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1824A/26 and 0948/27.)

Lyme Bay clearance. Q.Z.X.782 searched from Northern limit to a line joining position 50° 31' 6" N. 3° 08' 1" W. 50° 35' 4" N. 02° 53' 5" W. Two mines presumed type R detonated in 50° 35' 0" N. 3° 00' 0" W. 50° 34' 8" N. 02° 56' 3" W. Intend starting clearance tomorrow.
(M/S 4 1902A/26.)

26.10.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Kattegat. Your 1741/23. Conditions regarding safety of Gothenburg route still hold good. No British Mines laid in that vicinity.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1227A/26 to N.A. Stockholm.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 47° 14' N. 14° 25' W. (A/C Duty L. 0007/26 to 19 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth-charges and estimate 2 hits.
(A/C Duty L. 0010/26 to 10 Group.)

My 1059/22/7. On the 20th a Liberator III attacked a U-boat with 6 torpex 250-lbs. depth charges, the conning tower being still visible. A hit was scored with at least one which exploded on impact; a very violent explosion took place and a column of smoke 200 ft. high was seen and a tubular object 10 ft. by 1 ft. blew into the air past the rear gunner. GERANIUM and JONQUIL carried out a series of attacks on a U-boat in 30° 36' N. 19° 56' W. on the 24th and reported diesel oil was seen. There have been a large number of aircraft attacks but a disappointing lack of evidence of damage.
(D.A/S W. 1250Z/26 to Cominch.)

U 203
no kill.

Casualties and Defects.

Drifter ashore. Your 2239A/19/9. One drifter, either TRIUMPH or OUR KATE, ashore 9 miles 095° Cromarty Whistle Buoy. The other standing by. Sea smooth and vessel in no danger. A/P Trawler RIVER ESK sent to assist.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon 0150/26 to Admty.)

EMPIRE STAR (torpedoed 23/10.) Your 1915/25. If fuel permits continue search. Arrange to return to base by 31st October via Q.Z.L.18.
(C. in C. W.A. 1213A/26 to BLACK SWAN.)
Your 1213/26. 2nd Boat containing 27 picked up at 0945A/26 in 047° 02' N. 024° 39' W. Search was continued during daylight though it is feared there are no other survivors.. Both raft and the remaining undamaged boat (capsized) were passed in vicinity 048° 11' N. 025° 48' W. p.m. on 25th. The 43 presumed lost included Captain of EMPIRE STAR, 3 women, 2 children, and 4 killed by explosion.
(2) My P.C.S. at 2100A/26 046° 35' N. 025° 03' W, 065° 12.
(3) LA MALOUINE has been given oil.
(BLACK SWAN 2305A/26.)

BUCCANEER. My 2331/25. ^{/N.T.N. N.D.} BUCCANEER's dynamo is out of action and will take at least 5 days to repair.
(A.C.O.S. 1547A/26.)

SUPERMAN. Tug SUPERMAN making slight water aft and is proceeding Yarmouth Roads.
(LIDDESDALE 1801A/26.)

War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- DRANGEY. My 1326/25. Work required on boiler is extensive. Minimum work to make ship seaworthy will be carried out. Anticipated date of completion will be 8th November at the earliest. (A.C.I.C. 2112A/26.)
- GREY DANE. W.D. Launch GREY DANE on passage from Poole to Weymouth today has been lost and presumed sunk off St. Albans Head. Last reported position 250° Anvil Point 9 miles, course West, at 1040. M/S. Trawler T.R. FERRENS picked up several articles including one great coat in 126° St. Albans Head 2½ miles at 1300. Further search of area was made by other craft. Nothing further picked up. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2215/26.)
- FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC. *See p. 803* FORT YORK sweeping winch shaft required to be removed and stripped. Work can not be undertaken here. Londonderry can undertake. Estimated time in dockyard to make defects good nine hours. FORT YORK and TADOUSSAC have both exceeded the 500 hours boiler cleaning period. Reference A.M. 1543A/26 request instructions. (WESTERN ISLES 2230/26 to Admty.)
- THOMA II. P.L.A. Yacht THOMA II reported ashore east of Southend Pier. Lifeboat rescued crew of nine by Breeches buoy. THOMA II beached in foul ground area to eastward of Southend Pier in vicinity of Sewer Outfall buoy. (N.C.S.O. Thames 2322A/26.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- W.S.24. Admiralty 0104/20, para 1. Delete ANDES.
ANDES, 2. It is proposed that ANDES should be sailed at
BARNEGAT. a later date to overtake convoy.
3. U.S. Seaplane Carrier BARNEGAT is to be sailed from Londonderry as requisite to R/V with Convoy. (D.O.D. (H.) 0110A/26.)

Intend to sail Bristol Channel section escorted by*SKATE to R/V main convoy 270° Oversay 6 miles, leaving Barry Roads at 0100/28. E.T.A. R/V 0830/29. Codeword "Wiseacre". On reaching main convoy*SKATE proceeds Londonderry to fuel and rejoin. ** See next page*

(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1147A/26.)

After fuelling at Ponta Delgada Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW with ORIBI, OFFA is to proceed to R/V with (? NORFOLK) (S.O), CUMBERLAND in 035° N. 024° W. at 0900Z/5.
(2) NORFOLK will approach R/V on course 185°, S. of A. 17 knots.
(C. in C. H.F. 1257A/26 to ROTHERHAM.) *See over -*

/Intend ...

26.10.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.24. Intend to sail SARDONYX escorting ATHLONE CASTLE
ANDES, and STIRLING CASTLE 1430A/28 to R/V 270° Oversay 6
BARNGAT miles in accordance with A.M. 0104A/20, 2231A/20,
(contd) 2032/22 and 0110A/26. E.T.A. at R/V 0830A/29.
S.O.A. 11 knots. Codeword "Muster". N.O.I.C.
Belfast is requested sail SARDONYX to R/V Bar
Light vessel 1430A/28.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1536A/26.)

Capt.(D) 17 in ONSLOW with ORIBI, OFFA proceed (? from
Scapa Flow) 1830A tomorrow to Londonderry to comply with
Admiralty 0104/20.

(R.A.D. H.F. 1755A/26.)

My 2231/20. Request you will sail 2 of the destroyers
detailed in para 1 (D) to relieve SKATE and SARDONYX before
Bristol Channel and Liverpool portions arrive at R/V, to allow
"S"'s more time (group omitted) refuel at Moville and rejoin
main convoy. *previous page*

(C. in C. W.A. 1851A/26 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

K.M.S.2. Your 1413/23. KAIA KNUDSEN received 10203 tons
furnace oil and 198 tons bunker diesel oil from
VINGA also 3204 tons furnace oil from SAINTONGE.
WAR PATHAN receiving 1820 tons furnace oil from
SAINTONGE. Remain in SAINTONGE 8647 tons.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0803A/26.)

Following from Cdre. Turle begins: Submit for consideration
desirability of jettisoning petrol from cars on upper deck.
This jettisoning appears desirable if heavy scale air attack is
anticipated and perhaps specially in ships which also carry cased
petrol in holds. For instance, DORELIAN carries 24 cars on deck
each containing 20 gallons petrol, other vehicles in holds contain
petrol and 400 ton cased petrol in number 1 hold. It is not
proposed such jettisoning shall take place unless and until
N.C.X.F. so orders.

(LONDONDERRY 1145A/26 to Admty.)

K.M.F.2. Your 1500A/25. Codeword "Empire" arrived Clyde.
p. 807 A (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0834A/26 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)
Admty. 1545/25. Principal S.T.O. N.W. Port reports
LANARKSHIRE and SILVERCLAUREL only will be ready for sea p.m.
30th October. The remainder 31/10. Propose sailing all ships
in company p.m. 31st.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1254A/26.)

Your 1546/25. As EMPIRE KAMEL requires compass adjustments
a.m. 30th October. Propose sailing at 1030/30 from Barry Roads.
E.T.A. Greenock noon 31st. Request escort be detailed.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1258A/26 to Admty.)

O.N.141. BRITISH CHIVALRY, Oiler, allocated to O.N.141
did not sail.
(C. in C. W.A. 1102Z/26.)

Atlantic Following allocation of duties has been agreed
Convoy between C.T.F.24 and C. in C. W.A. Details.
Escorts. (C. in C. W.A. 1123A/26.)

26.10.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - contd.

F.S.447 -452. Forecast of convoy sailing and escorts. Details.
F.N.855 -860. (C. in C. Rosyth 1201/26.)

?N.P. Alter course from 051° 01' N. 026° 12' W.
to (P) 053° 00' N. 020° 00' W.
(Q) 054° 00', 013° 00'
(R) 055° 35', 007° 00', omitting (M) and (H) and
(N).
(C. in C. W.A. 1225A/26 to CARNARVON CASTLE.)

F.N. and A.M. 1902/24. ^{/p.741} As LUDLOW is being rearmed for
F.S. Convoys. service with East Coast convoys and is fitted
with S.A., propose LEWES, which is not so fitted
in either respect, should be*substituted as it is
presumed neither the armament or S.A. gear are indispensable for
proposed employment. LEWES is due for refit mid December and
can then be spared. Any further reduction will involve less
in protection to F.N. and F.S. convoys beyond that stated in
para 3 of A.M. 2130/22. I consider any further reductions will
jeopardize safety of these important convoys.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1428A/26.)

** as Target Ship for T/B A/c in
Lapland*

H.X.212. Cancel my 1032A/26. Regret owing to other
commitment no vessel available for Liverpool
local escort.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1510/26.)

Convoy Escorts W/T signals. When necessary for Escort Units at sea to break
Radio Silence in order to communicate with con-
trolling authorities on shore the P.C.S. of the
convoy is invariably to be included in the
Message. This is not being done in all cases
thereby unnecessarily increasing the difficulties
in effecting certain (provision of) air coverage
etc.
(Comtask 24 1755Z/26.)

Communications. When necessary for escort units at sea to break
operating silence in order to communicate with
Controlling Authorities on shore the P.C. and S.
of the Convoy should invariably be included in the message.
This is not being done in all cases thereby unnecessarily
increasing the difficulty in effecting R/V providing air coverage,
etc.

(C.T.24 1755Z/26 to All convoy units at sea.C.in C. W.A.,
C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.)

804A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1816/26th October

MOST SECRET

OUT

To: C. in C. Western Approaches 16
 F.O.I.C. Greenock
 N.C.S.O. Clyde
 F.O.O.N.A. 264
 C. in C. Home Fleet 105
 H.Q.O.C.
 H.Q.F.C.

Date 26/10/42

NAVAL CYPHER (AD. CY. OUT AND O.T.P.)

From Admiralty

see p. 806

K.M.F.2. A.M. 2137/25.

Rendezvous in position C 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles at 0800Z/2 through

D. 55 17 North 15 20 West
 E. 51 37 North 24 03 West
 F. 49 19 North 26 30
 G. 42 39 North 25 29
 H. 38 00 North 21 00
 J. 35 49 North 15 01
 K. 35 41 North 10 00

2. Speed of advance $12\frac{1}{2}$ knots.

3. Convoy is to adjust speed to pass through position K at 0530Z/10.

4. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered M to T with instructions that if straggling ships are to open out and keep 30 miles to Starboard of route given.

5. Reference Trade Division Memorandum 111/782T of the 12th October (not to all addressees) paragraph 6 envelope C should contain secret positions given in my 1546/14 and also following Stragglers route:-

L. 36 01 North 09 59 West
 M. 39 12 North 17 01 West
 N. 45 25 North 17 26 West
 O. 50 35 North 16 50 West
 P. 54 05 North 13 37 West
 Q. 55 28 North 08 30 West

Ships straggling are to keep 30 miles to port of this route.

6. Fighter protection codeword CORNCRAKE.

1816A/26

D.O.D. (H)

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.
 Capt. Pim.
 D.O.D. (H) (2)
 D.O.D. (F) (2)
 D.C. (2)
 D.A/S.W.
 N.C.X.F. (2)

Hd. of M.
 D.D.I.C. (2)
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 Admiral Blake
 D. of P. (2)
 D.T.D. (3)
 D.T.D. (M)
 A.L.O.

26.10.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

K.X.5.

A.M. 2110A/25. R/V in S.270° Oversay 6' at
0800Z/31 through

T. 55.25 N. 09.00 W.

U. 53.38 N. 14.32 W.

V. 50.12 N. 15.38 W.

W. 45.18 N. 16.45 W.

X. 38.55 N. 14.40 W.

Y. 36.22 N. 10.00 W.

2. Convoy is to adjust speed to pass through
position Y at 1000Z/9.

3. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered
A to G with instructions that, if straggling,
ships are to open out and keep 30 miles to
starboard of the route given.

4. Fighter protection Codeword "Cocoanut".
(D.O.D.(H.) 1827A/26.)

809

War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Vichy
Exchange of
Prisoners.

Your 2002/19. French Admiralty's attitude is welcomed. We suggest that U.S. Naval Attache in Vichy be used as channel for all future communications on this subject. U.S. Authorities are agreeable.
(M. Br. A.C.N.S.(F), 0004A/26 to N.A. Madrid.)

U/B.

U-Boat in approx. 033° 30' N. 022° 30' W. at 1910Z/25th by D/F.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0553A/26 to S. and A. N.A.)

*P. 556.

P. 614.

* See p. 801 next p

My 1006/25th. Amend route as follows. P.556 is to pass 040° 01' 011° 21' W. at 1900/27th and 043° 01' 014° 10' W. at 1900A/29th.
(2) P.556 is to shift wireless watch at 1900A/29th.
(3) P.614 passes 043° 01' 013° 30' W. at 0100A/30th and then proceeding on surface at 9 knots, course 187°.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0936A/26 to P.556, F.O.(S), (R) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 5, P.614.)

Bombing
restrictions.

My 1008/25th. Amend submerged bombing restrictions as follows:
Area G.27 1500/27th - 1000/28th. Area G.26 2300/27th - 2300/29th, and request submerged bombing restrictions in Area G.25 1200/29th - 2300/29th.
All times zone minus (? one)
(V.A.C.N.A., 0938A/26 to Admty., H.Q.C.C., (R) F.O.S.)

SCHARLACH-
BERGER.

German 55 sailed for France 0530/26th.
(Bilbao, 1015/26 to Admty., (R) M.E.W., B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

MAGNOLIA.

My 1112/25. MAGNOLIA and convoy left for Freetown 0845 G.M.T.
(R.O. Fayal, 1036/26 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.N.A., N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

Bombing
restrictions.

A.C.319, 26/10, serial No. G.299. Institute following submerged bombing restrictions from 0001/27 to 1230/29, 30 miles either side of line joining 50° 20' 13° 01' and 46° 01' 13° 10'. Serial No. G.300. From 0200/27 to 2359/28, 20 miles either side of line joining 49° 16' 10° 46' and 49° 35' 07° 59'.
(H.Q.C.C., 1046A/26 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, F.O.C.N.A., S.8.)

/French ...

War Diary.

26.10.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

French
Shipping.

Passings 25/10.
Westbound. 0955 ERIDAN, light, OUED FES, FORT DE VAUX, ILE DE BREAT, full, deck cargo motor lorries, TATIANIA, KERMARIA, KERMERABE, KEROMAN, trawlers.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1053A/26 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

Dispositions.

Situation 2001A/26.
P.556, 38.32 10.21 diving by day 2 knots, surfacing by night 7 knots through 40.01 11.21

- thence 7325°. *AP 601 1300*
(2) JONQUIL, GERANIUM 1 tanker 31.10 16.54 through 32.43 11.40 thence 049°, 12.
(3) WIVERN 34.10 08.55 to Gibraltar, 12½.
(4) STELLA CARINA, LEYLAND, 2 merchant ships, 38.39 13.19 331°, 6 LEYLAND part company in 40.01 14.14 and return to Gibraltar 10.
(5) K.X.2, BULLDOG, BEAGLE, BOADICEA, 4 minesweepers, 5 trawlers (E) 730.53 13.35 through 36.30 12.15, thence Gibraltar 8. 2 merchant ships, 2 trawlers, leave after dark 26th for Lisbon, 8 knots.
(6) S.L.125G, COLTSFOOT, CAVA, EDAY, INCHMARNOCK, STROMA 35.39 09.18 through 35.39 10.01 thence 267° 7½.
(7) LOCH OSKAIG patrolling off Lisbon.
(8) IMPERIALIST patrolling Huelva Bight.
(9) LORD NUFFIELD off Trafalgar Cape to Gibraltar, 10.
(10)*Fleet Unit PANTHER, PENN, LOOKOUT 44.12 20.50 through 39.01 19.01 thence 121°, 16. *ROBNEY.
(11) to (14). Italian Repatriation ships and Portuguese warship movements.
(15) D.S. ISAAC SWEERS, ESCAPADE 36.14 09.42 through 36.40 15.00 near 276°, 20.
(16) MARNE 36.09 09.38 through 36.40 15.00 thence (? 131°) to overtake D.S. ISAAC SWEERS and ESCAPADE.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1126A/26 to A.I.G.63, amended 1842A/26.)

Convoy
K.X. 2.

KINGSLAND and ALGERIAN are to be detached as requisite for Lisbon if they have no cargo or passengers for Gibraltar.
2. BULLDOG detail two trawlers as escort who are to proceed to Gibraltar on completion of escort duties.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1250A/26 to Ships escorting convoy K.X.2, (R) Admty.)

Tangier
Intelligence.

America reports PONIARO ? of Dreyfus Line loading munitions and supplies at Casablanca. She will be escorted by French Cruiser GLOIRE and 2 submarines, destination believed to be Dakar.
(Consul Gen. Tangier, 1255/26 to Admty. (D.N.I.) and S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)
Reply: S.O.I. Gib. 1058/27.

811

26.10.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

K.M.F. 1. Departures D.S. *ISAAC SWEERS, *ESCAPADE, *MARNE for Ponta Delgada thence to R/V convoy K.M.F.1 in approx. position 49.16 N. 25.36 W. at 1730/30.

2. Ton one, Ton two, not held.

3. Sailed with normal set of S.Ps and relevant extracts from T.N.C.Os Sect.II part two, Sect.V and Appendices two and four.

4. Admty. recypher if necessary and pass to C.S.10 and escorts of K.M.F. 1.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1300A/26 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., C.S.10, Escorts of K.M.F.1.)

* See previous page. (Dispositions.)

STURGEON. Intend sailing STURGEON at 1800 on Tuesday 27/10 unescorted diving by day for position (H) 043° 00' N. 013° 00' W. routed as follows. All following positions are north and west unless otherwise indicated. By Q.Z.S. 284 and 293 to position A. 050° 34' 00' 50'. B. 180° Start Point 25 miles. C. 180° Lizard Head 30 miles. D. 049° 14' 00' 30'. E. 048° 55' 012° 45'. F. 047° 00' 012° 51'. G. 045° 00' 012° 56'.

2. Thence STURGEON proceed Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.

3. Communication on home station in accordance with A.F.O.S. 2/42 table 2 (3) and on N.A. Station AF.O.S. 1/42 section N.A. table 2 (1) line 10 (4). Mail to Gibraltar.
(Capt. S.5, 1500A/26 to C. in C. Portsmouth, (R) F.O.(S), Admty., H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., H.Q.B.C., Capt. S.3, C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, N.O.I.C. Portland.)

Bombing A.C.326, 26/10. Serial G.301. My A.C.304 25/10 restrictions. Serial G.295. Extend restrictions to 08° W. Serial G.302. Institute submerged bombing restrictions forthwith until 1200A/27 in area 73, east of 09° W. and south of 50° N.
(H.Q.C.C., 1520A/26 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, F.O.C.N.A., S.8.)

Enemy A/C, Gibraltar. Sitrep 26/10, 1010 (? for 1012) hours. Ju.88 R/C plane sighted at 25,000 ft. Approached from north and engaged by A.A. Receded north-east. Ammo. expenditure H.A.A. 10 rds.

(Govr. Gib., 1530/26 to W.O.)
At 1020 1 enemy unidentified but German markings seen approached Rock from north at 20,000 ft. and disappeared to north-east. A.A. engaged without result, no fighters up.
(A.H.Q. Gib., 1630A/26.)

PORT My 1759/23 (N.T. in W.R.) PORT STANLEY arrived STANLEY. Lisbon 24th.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1540A/26 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

/RECHOU ...

War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.RECHOU
intercepted.

Spanish schooner RECHOU intercepted off Larache noon 26th, placed under armed guard and being escorted to Gibraltar.

(S.O.I. Gib., 1626/26 to Admty. for M.F.W., (R) British Consul Tenerife, British Consul Las Palmas.)

W.D. Note. Brought in by ARCTIC RANGER, see 0101/27.

Bombing
restrictions.

A.S. 329, 26/10 serial No. G.303. Cancel forthwith restrictions instituted by my A.C.304 15/20 serial G.294 and my A.C. 312 25/10 serial G.296.

(H.Q.C.C., 1650A/26 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, F.O.C.N.A., S.8.)

ANGLO
MAERSK
torpedoed.

Following received on 8290 k/cs via Portishead W/T from ANGLO MAERSK (begins): ANGLO MAERSK torpedoed by submarine, position 1550 G.M.T. 27° 50' N. (22°?) 15' W. proceeding (?) Tenerife course 082° speed 7½ knots, submarine following.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1815 G.M.T./26 to Admty.)

(Burnham Radio, 1815 G.M.T./26 to C. in C. W.A.)

Local Naval Authorities report receipt by Spanish ship of distress message from ANGLO MAERSK at 1630 stating ship torpedoed on port side in 027° 50' N. 022° 15' W. at 1500/26 and is trying to reach Canary Island.

(Consul Tenerife, 2330/26 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Note by W.R.:- See also British Consul Tenerife 1030/27.

South Atlantic.

BOREAS.

See p. 813

E.T.A. Bathurst 1230Z/26.

(BOREAS, 0107Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) R.A.W.A., ANTELOPE.)

EMPIRE
RIDLEY.
Sabotage.

C.A.F.O. 199/41. Master of SS. EMPIRE RIDLEY sailed Capetown 24/10/1942 due Trinidad 29th November reports 15 foot lengths of spar ceiling wrenched from ship side were found placed vertically across port watertight door into stokehold after ship left Lourenco Marques. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0915C/26 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Trinidad, S.O.(I) Kingston, C.G. Lourenco Marques)

/Dispositions ...

War Diary.

26.10.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. (R.A.W.A., 1003Z/26, 1047Z/26.)
See Lion Copy.
Movements Summary.
(C. in C. S.A., 1427C/26.)
See Lion Copy.

U/B. Wellington aircraft on passage reports sighting
U-Boat in 10° 50' N. 17° 30' W. at 0935Z/26.
Considered reliable.
(R.A.W.A., 1115Z/26 to Admty.)

SNOWDROP. Departure 0600Z/26 SNOWDROP in accordance with
see next page your 1701Z/24 (N.T. in W.D.)
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1143Z/26 to R.A.W.A.)

W.S. 23. R.A.W.A.F. 1211/25.
Onward route for W.S. 23 from position B through -
C. 023° S. 013° (? 51') E. D. 027° 014° 10'.
E. 030° 20' 015° 45'. F. 033° 30' 017° 37'. G. 033° 30' 017°
55'. H. 033° 52' 018° 20'. J. 034° 018° 14'. K. 034° 10' 018°
14'. L. 034° 19' 018° 20'. M. 034° 26' 018° 26'. N. 034° 55'
018° 45'. O. 034° 55' 023° 40'. P. 034° 35' 025° 28'. Q. 033°
31' 028° 05'. R. 031° 17' 030° 32'. S. 030° 40' 031° 02'
thence Durban.
2. THYME and ROCKROSE will R/V with W.S.23 in position (? B) at
0600Z/30th. NORMAN will join escort force in 021° 56' S. 011°
28' E. at 1200Z/30th. 3. Air escort will be provided from 31/10
until arrival Durban.
4. THYME, ROCKROSE and NORMAN will be relieved by EXPRESS and
CATTERICK in position H and will escort convoy to Durban.
5. R.A.W.Af. is requested to issue orders for DESPATCH after
fuelling Walvis Bay.
6. MILFORD to escort OLTEANA II to Pointe Noire after fuelling.
7. Request early information whether endurance of (? KANARITE)
will permit her to accompany convoy to Walvis Bay. *XX KANARIS*
(C. in C. S.A., 1240C/26 amended 1551C/26 to DURBAN, (R)
CARTHAGE, DESPATCH, MILFORD, NORMAN, THYME, ROCKROSE, R.A.W.A.F.,
Admty., KANARIS.) *XX see p. 813 13*

Movements. Arrival p.m./26.
*BRILLIANT, *AVON VALE, *ANTELOPE, *BOREAS.
Departure 1520Z/26th *BRILLIANT, *AVON VALE,
E.T.A. Gibraltar, 1600Z/31st.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1521Z/26 to R.A.W.A.)

** see previous page
* see next page
* also p. 815*

/Durban ...

MOST SECRET

813A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1003Z/26th October. IN

FROM: R.A. West Africa.

DATE: 26.10.42.

RECD: 2043

NAVAL CYPHER M BY W/T

ADDRESSED: A.I.G. 149.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. CORIOLANUS 18 25 18 40 to 22 01? 18 30
thence 036degs. 10

H.M.S. *SNOWDROP, ROBERT'S, H.M.S. BURDOCK 15 30
18 50 005degs. 10½ at 1957Z/26. * *See previous page*

H.M. Sub. P. 552 14 59 (?26 or 19) 55 to 14 (?30)
19 58 thence 147 9.

H.M.S. HYDRANGEA 14 50 18 35? to (?193) 12

H.M.S. *PUCKERIDGE about 14 05 18 20 to (?325) *see p 615*
14. H.M.S. BRILLIANT, AVON VALE, about 13 55 17 (?50)
through 14 09 18 28 and 15 42 19 12 thence 004degs.
15. *See previous page*

H.M.S. ANTELOPE, H.M.S. BOREAS, off Bathurst
to 14 01 19 (?02) thence 006 degs. 15. *See previous page*

COMMANDANT DROGOU F.S. off Bathurst to Freetown 10.
10 2 M.L. (?09) 20 (?15) 01 to Freetown 9.

ARRAN, 2 M.L.s, off Freetown to (?267) 9.

H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 09 59 25 01 to 09 22
29 59 thence 106 14. *See pp 614 & 622*

1003Z/26

Advance copies D.C. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.

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.

Captain Pim

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

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

Duty Captain (2)

U.S.N.

D.A./S.W.

Head of M.

D.D.I.C.(2)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

D.D.O.D.(M)

D. of P.(2)

D.T.D.(3)

D.T.D.(M)

D.T.D.(C)

D.M.S.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1047Z/26th October IN

From R.A. West Africa.

Date 26.10.42.
Time 2150

Naval Cypher M by W/T.

Addressed A.I.G. 150

IMPORTANT.

SPANIARD from Robert's Port to Freetown 7.
TURCOMAN from Robert's Port to Marshall 9.
H.M.S. GUARDIAN, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, 05 51 12 31 to
arrival Capetown. ? *from 29/10 - pp. 917 918*
(H.M.S. SIRIUS?) 00 35 South 07 46 to equator 11 30 thence
(corrupt group) 20. CORINTHIAN, FANDANGO, to be (corrupt
group). 2 Chasseurs with (3 corrupt groups) 03 29 04 52
069 deg 7 at (? 2001) Z 26th.
KELT 02 45.05 55 East to Pointe Noire 10.
TAMARISK, 01 00 South 06 15 East 140 13
(? H.M.S. DURBAN) with WS 23 07 12 South 03 51 East to
10 00 South 03 00 East thence (corrupt group) 12
(? H.M.S. DESPATCH) KANARIS, about 07 12 South 03 51 East
to Pointe Noire 14
H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE with C F 7, 08 18 South 10 26 East 002 d
12
(?) H.M.S. AMARANTHUS (?) 04 56 South 08 00 East to
join C F 7 13. friendly naval unit 05 00 South 20 00
patrolling to eastwards.

1047Z/26.

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.

A.C.N.S.(F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
Hd of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P (2)
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D.C. (2)
Ad. Blake.
D.N.I.(4)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1427C/26th October IN

FROM: C. in C. South Atlantic. DATE: 26.10.42.
RECD: 1715.

NAVAL CYPHER M BY W/T.

Addressed: S.A. Stn. Squadron Repeated Admiralty
N.O.I.C. Durban 825 N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth
N.O.I.C. East London.

IMPORTANT.

673. Movement summary 2000Z/26th
H.M.S. ROCKROSE, Netherlands Sub. K.14, THYME, with 2
tankers (?outward) Walvis Bay.
Submarine H.M.S. TRUANT 015 degs 20' South 011 degs 00'
East to the North 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
NEPAL on patrol about 035 degs 30' South 018 degs
00' East.
H.M.S. FORTUNE, EMPIRE PRIDE, 035 degs 05' South 023
degs 30' East to Simonstown 16 knots, expected time of
arrival 1400Z/27th.
MAURETANIA 042 degs 30' South 012 degs 00' East to
Durban 20 knots.

1427C/26.

Advance Copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.T.D.

A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.C.D. (F) (2)
D.P.O.D. (M)
Duty Capt. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of Plans (2)
D.A./S.W.
Head of M.
W.D.
I.P. (2)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)

26.10.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Durban C. in C. E.F. and myself consider the chief naval
Defences. danger to Durban is from block ships, and counter
measures require a minimum of eight 6" guns
sited on the bluff to cover final approach to
breakwaters.

2. At present, following guns on the bluff cover the approach
(a) One 9.2". (b) Two 6" Q.F. (c) Two 6" B.L. on arrol
platforms.

3. It is understood that those in para. 2(c) may be required
elsewhere and those in 2(b) cannot be considered as thoroughly
reliable to implement measures required in para. 1. We
strongly recommend that an additional four 6" B.L. guns be
mounted in the bluff area to cover directly harbour entrance
and that those in para. 2(c) be retained in their present
site.

4. South African authorities are in full agreement.

5. Recommendation in para. 3 is in addition to the erection of
a two gun battery at Umgeni referred to in para. 3 of A.M.
1118/17 and the installation of the third 9.2" gun on the bluff.

6. We recommend that four, ex R Class Battleships, 6" guns be
allocated.

(C. in C. S.A., 1558C/26 to Admty.)

C.M. 34. Your O123/16 (O125/16 intended). Some difficulty
is being experienced in forming convoy C.M. 34
which is planned to accompany W.S. 23 from Durban
about 8th November. (Details).

5. C.M.34 from Durban would then consist of ASCANIUS with 2000
for Mideast and DUNERA, EMPIRE PRIDE, EMPIRE WOODLARK, EMPIRE
TROOPER, SONTAY with 8500 for India.

(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1645/26 to D.S.T.)

*QUEEN OF BERMUDA To leave patrol as necessary to R/V with convoy
W.S. 24. in 037° N. 024° W. at 1200Z/3/11. Approaching
course of convoy 154°, 12 knots.

* 2-4/2813 1822
(2) QUEEN OF BERMUDA is to act as ocean escort
of convoy to the Cape via Bahia. E.T.A. Bahia
14th November. Route will be pass by S.O. of escort at R/V.
Details of convoy and escorts will be passed later.

(3) QUEEN OF BERMUDA is to proceed to R/V through following
positions (A) 021° N. 028° W. (B) 031° N. 025° W.

(4) On leaving patrol position and speed and the time of shift
to N.A. W/T organisation are to be reported.

(R.A.W.A., 1647Z/26 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA, (R) F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

EMPIRE
NOMAD
(torpedoed
13/10.)

Your 1416/24 refers. 28 survivors including
second and third officers have now been landed
from SS. EMPIRE NOMAD torpedoed 13/10 in 37.50
S. 16.12 W. One lifeboat still adrift but
search is continuing. Feared master and two
W/T operators were killed.

2. U-Boat surfaced, Captain apologised for attack, supplied
bandage for injured survivors and gave course and distance to
land. Description, medium sized, appeared new, painted grey
with one gun forward and one aft of C/T.

3. List of survivors will be signalled.

(C. in C. S.A., 1706C/26 to Admty.)

/W.S. 23 ...

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War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

W.S. 23. A. Estimated P.C. and S. of convoy and escort in company at 1800Z/26 005° 28' S. 004° 49' E. 200°, 12½.

B. Both A/S escorts completed with fuel. DESPATCH 46%, CARTHAGE 962 tons remaining. Weather report. (CARTHAGE, 1730Z/26 to Ascension W/T Station (corrupt group), (R) DURBAN, DESPATCH, AMARANTHUS.)

Movements. E.T.A. 1401Z/27th.
(CORINTHIAN, 1931Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)
Departure 2100Z/26, BOREAS, ANTELOPE. ~~2100Z/26~~ 2100Z/26
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 2120Z/26 to R.A.W.A.F., (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

RESOLUTION, Your 1114/26 and C. in C. E.F.'s 1238/26.
INCONSTANT, Screen for RESOLUTION is to remain as at present
NAPIER. arranged.
2. INCONSTANT and NAPIER are to sail to comply with my 1905C/26.
(C. in C. S.A., 2105C/26 to Com. i/c. Durban, (R) WARSPITE, Com. (D) E.F.)
W.R. Note: Above message presumably sent Admiralty for information, there being no trace in W.R. of any of the messages quoted above.

BERGENSFJORD, (? Bathurst) departure 1900Z/26th BERGENSFJORD
LEOPOLDVILLE. and LEOPOLDVILLE escorted by VELOX, PUCKERIDGE through position A (? 023°) 25' N. (? 021°) 45' W. B. 24° 00' N. (? 20°) 00' W. where destroyers part company. Merchant ships then proceed independently, BERGENSFJORD through D. 37° 9' N. 21° 20' W. E. 50° 00' N. 18° 15' W. S. of A. from position B 15½ knots. LEOPOLDVILLE through L. 030° 00' N. 021° 20' W. M. 048° 38' N. 016° 20' W. S. of A. from position B 14 knots. Reference position for both merchant ships X. 030° 00' N. 020° 00' W. Y. 055° 00' N. 015° 00' W.
C. in C. W.A. is requested to signal route from positions E and M respectively.
Merchant ships carry recognition signals to 13th November only. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 2129Z/26 to R.A.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

CITY OF My 1125/25. Conflicting reports received as to
JOHANNESBURG. nationality German or Japanese of U-Boat which sank British ship CITY OF JOHANNESBURG. Probability is however that it was German of U.25 type.
(C. in C. S.A., 1600C/26 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., Com. i/c. Durban.)

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26.10.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Enemy Units. Am returning to base. Position and course of enemy (7 unknown ships) 33.20 N. 22.00 E. 190°
(A/C U8L Duty C. 0225/26 to 201 Group H.Q.).
P.C. and S. of enemy 2 medium merchant ships 4 destroyers 33.00 N. 22.12 E. 080° speed 8 knots.
(A/C Call Sign U8LL 0535C/26).
1 Tanker? 2 Merchant Vessels, 4 destroyers, 2 A/C position 32.56 N. 22.45 E. course 100° speed 3 knots.
(A/C Duty V. 0830/26 to 201 Group).
- M.E. Joint Communique 26/10. In a bomber attack yesterday on an enemy merchant vessel off Tobruk the ship blew up and entirely disappeared. Our long range fighters which has been engaged on the operation shot down two JU.88s a DO 24 and a CR.42; in addition four JU.52s were destroyed and others damaged when our long range fighters also attacked a large enemy formation.
(Mideast T.O.O. 0800Z/26).
- Enemy Tanker TAKU. It is believed that tanker left Dardanelles for Piraeus coast crawling along Turkish coast thence along north coast of Mitylene to North West point of island thence to Doro Channel.
(Capt.S.(I) 0909C/26 to TAKU (R) C. in C.Med etc)
- RORQUAL. Capt.(S) 1's 0905C/23rd. Proceed dived by day through 034° 30' 015° 06' to R/V with sweeper at end of Malta Searched Channel at 1218A/30*
Attention is called to Q.B.B.(?124 or 625).
(Capt.S.10. 0947A/26 to RORQUAL (R) Capt.(S) 1,C. in C.Med.)
* Alternatively 1018.
- Cositrep No.561. 16. 25th October. Beaufighters attacked a small M/V and destroyer west of Tobruk. Both ships left smoking. Two JU 88s and one DO.24 escorting convoy shot down. Same ship was subsequently attacked by Bisleys and Beauforts and believed hit. Escorting Beaufighters shot down one CR.42.
(C.in C.M.E. 1102/26.
- Turkey. Report from Adm.Kelly. (N.A.Angora 1235C/26 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

/TRAVELLER....

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

12350/26⁺ October.

IN 81041

From. N.A. Angora.

Date. 27.10.42.

MOST SECRET

Recd. 1130.

Naval Cypher (C.T.P.) By Cable.

Recirculation.

Addressed. Admiralty.

with N.I.D. comment.

AIMC.

Following is repetition of my 1222/26 October begins. C. in C. Mediterranean repeated Admiralty, His Majesty Ambassador Angora from N.A. Angora. Following from Admiral Kelly. Saw General Assim Poneduz. General Staff have located 24 to 25 enemy divisions in Africa, 5 of which (3 German 2 Italian) are armoured, remainder only very slightly mechanised. 10th Army from Crimea has been moved to Libya almost completely as well as strong air reinforcements.

(2) German offensive in Russia closed except for capture of Stalingrad and limited offensive on sea coast of Caucasus which will continue. Russians have lost their offensive spirit but maintain fully defensive.

(3) Turkish officers on arms negotiations in Germany have returned and agreement has been reached to be carried into effect when Germans get Chrome. Turks are to have (?dive bombing) Stukas, 84 tanks and quantity of anti-tank guns, also field artillery but no heavy guns. Tanks to complete that division will be eventually supplied. First tank regiment will be formed at Ankara for training and development. Nothing will be done till new year as there is no chrome. Asked how much chrome they expected to (?give) and Germans to receive he thought 50-50 between Germans and Turkish Government. Turkish needs are also increasing.

(4) Officers report French prisoners in Germany almost all distributed, peasants (group missing) farms and technicians to works, well dressed and living with families.

(5) No changes in Turkish dispositions.

(6) New French Military Attache informed him Petain, now reported as very old and sleepy, is looked on as a God and all French men will do what he tells them regardless. He did not mention Laval.

(7) Discussing Libya offensive with Prime Minister yesterday he made following statement to me.

"When people complain to me that English are retaining for their own use in Egypt war material from U.S. for Turkish, I always say why don't they take the whole lot if they really need it as it is just as much in our interests." General Gunduz has previously expressed the same sentiments to me but less generously.

Ends. T.O.O. 1222 October 26th.

12350/26.

Advance copy D.N.I.

N.I.D. Comments.

Para. 1. The number of enemy divisions in Africa is considered an overestimate. It is believed that there are not more than 14 divisions (4 German and 10 Italian) there; some of the Italian divisions are probably below normal strength.

Marking over/....

816 B

...arking over\...

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- Deputy 1st S.L.
- C.N.A.S.
- V.C.N.S.S.
- A.C.N.S.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S.S. (W)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- A.C.N.A.S.
- D. of P. (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.C. (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of P. (Q)
- Hd. of M.
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- D.A.C.D.
- Admiral Blake.
- D.S.D. 9 (2)
- D.E.W.D. (3)
- File (T.O.O. 1222/26)

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War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean -Contd.

TRAVELLER Summary of TRAVELLER's third war patrol 1830C/4.
R of P. sailed Beirut 2000C/7 arrived area "K" 1520C/9
in 35° 45' 23° 13' attacked one northbound
6,000 ton tanker in ballast escorted by 2 or 3
destroyers and 3 A/C, fired four torpedoes, range 2500 two hit
third may have hit one "Gregale" Class. Result unseen.
Strong counter attack. 0820C/11 in 35° 28' 23° 35' attacked arm-
ed yacht with seaplane escort with two torpedoes. Missed
target, combed tracks, 2015C/11 sighted illuminated ship steer-
ing 080° through Antikithera Strait 2045C/12, in 35° 09' N.
22° 56' E. attacked one northbound 5,000 ton Merchant Ship in
ballast escorted by two destroyers. Fired 4 torpedoes range
3000. Missed A/S patrol of one trawler and one seaplane
maintained by day in Antikithera Strait. Day air patrol
maintained with intensity North of Suda Bay and Candia.
(2000B/23 left patrol via Krio Strait arriving Port Said
1000C/28.
(TRAVELLER 1237C/26 to C. in C.Med. S.1. F.O.(S) (R) Admty,
S.10).

Enemy Following has been read from aircraft call sign
Units. 8UNP. P.C. and S. of 1 tanker, 2 merchant
vessels, 4 destroyers, is 32.38 N. 23.22 E.
140° 10 knots.
(Alexandria W/T 1240C/26)

Following has been read. From A/C Call Sign 8 UMP.
My 1240. Enemy previously reported are type indicated, 4
destroyers, 1 tanker, 1 merchant vessel, position 32.35 N.
23.25 E. course 140° speed 8 knots.
(Alexandria W/T 1320C/26).

PARTHIAN. PARTHIAN leaves Beirut searched channel
at 1900C/26 routed through (i) 033.48 032.56 at
0600C/27.
2. 034.11 018.56 at 0400C/31, thence as ordered by you. She
will be run on the surface daylight 27th. Daily advance
remainder of passage 150 miles.
(Capt.S.1. 1431C/26 to Capt.(S) 10 (R) S/Ms on patrol, C. in C.
Med. V.A.Malta, Captain Coastal Forces).

Enemy Following has been read. 1 Destroyer 4 T.Bs.
Units. bearing 180° distance 2 miles approx. true
course 120° my position 32.10 N. 23.54 E.
(Med.A/C call sign R6G1 1700B/26).

/Malta....

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War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. I.66 26/10. CSR. Part 1. Night 25 /26, no enemy activity. 26th 0554. 40 Enemy aircraft including ME.109 fighters and fighter bombers approached Island at height but were intercepted 25 miles north of Malta by 19 Spitfires who destroyed one ME.109 for loss of one Spitfire slightly damaged, pilot unhurt. A few raiders crossed coast and dropped bombs on Takali Aerodrome causing craters.

0939. 40 ME.109s including some carrying bombs approached island at height in several waves. 16 Spitfires were airborne and intercepted first wave 25 miles north of Malta probably destroying one ME.109 without loss to themselves. Later waves which crossed the coast at great height were split up by Spitfires. Bombs dropped round Luqa aerodrome caused no serious damage.

1415. 40 ME.109s fighters and fighter bombers approached at height and were intercepted north of Island by 20 Spitfires who destroyed two ME.109s without loss to themselves and forced many raiders to jettison bombs in sea. Bombs dropped on south of Island caused slight damage to Military Store. Today in 55 Spitfire sorties against 120 enemy sorties 3 ME.109s have been destroyed and 1 probably destroyed by fighters for loss of only one Spitfire damaged, pilot unhurt.

(A.H.Q. 1945/26).

Part II. of My I.66 26/10. (All R/C and deliveries)
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1950/26).

Enemy Units. Following has been read. Position of 5 unknown vessels is 38.52 N. 20.04 E.
(Alexandria W/T 2209/26).

Situation Report No. 283. Levant-U-Boat hunted by JAVELIN and KELVIN in approx. 31° 49' N. 34° 11' E. from 24th Oct. till 0215/26th. 8 attacks made but results uncertain.

2. Schooner sunk by U-Boat at 1315/26th Oct. in 34° 57' N. 35° 47' E. and three others in same Area but positions not yet known.

3. Red Sea, Sofaga Harbour attacked night of 23/24 Oct. by Torpedo Aircraft but no damage. Greek SS.N.G. KULUCUNDIS attacked by single enemy aircraft at 0115/24 in position 010° Shadwan lighthouse 3.5 miles. Torpedo missed and exploded on Shadwan Island.

4. NUBIAN has rejoined Mediterranean Station on completion of extensive repairs at Bombay.
(C. in C. Med 1948C/26 to Admty).

819

War Diary.

26.10.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- ENTERPRISE. Arrived a.m. left a.m.
(N.O.I.C.Seychelles 0700Z/26 to Admty etc).
- DRAGON. On completion of repairs request you will sail
DRAGON for U.K. using her for escort duty (?if
required).
(C. in C.H.F. 0942Z/26 to C. in C.S.A.(R) Admty.
N.O.I.C.Durban V.A.2 E.F. C.S.(4)).
- B.P.58. Sailing telegrams (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0910Z/26,
0912Z/26).
(P.S.T.O. India 0959Z/26 1107Z/26).
- Persian Gulf Dhows Striking Force. Your 1207/20. Details of engines and equipment.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 1153Z/26 to Admty (R) C. in C.E.F.
etc). See Lion Copy.
- Addu Atoll. C. in C.E.F. 1202Z/11th. Estimated complement
required for Skeleton Fighter Control at
aerodrome which receives from 2 R.D.F. Stations
1 Control Officer, 8 R/T Operators, 4 H/F D/F Operators for
Homing and 16 A/B for telling, plotting, telephone exchange
and messengers.
2. F.O.Ceylon is raising question of manning required at
Station.
3. Request confirmation that above scale is adequate.
4. General lay-out plan and programme for new construction
Gan aerodrome is being forwarded.
(Comdre N.A.S.Ceylon 1217Z/26 to R.A.N. A. S.Indian Ocean (R)
Admty, C. in C.E.F. F.O.Ceylon).
- Madagascar. Re appointment of Legentilhomme and danger of
premature publicity.
(G.O.C. in C.E.A. 1340Z/26 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.
- Signal Letters on Sides of M/Vs. Suggested that all United Nations Merchant
Vessels should be instructed to paint upon
their ships side their signal letters as large
as space will permit.
2 Objects of this proposal are:-

/ (a).....

819A^{E1.}

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

MOST SECRET

1153Z/26th October

From F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy.

Date 29/10/42
Recd. 1105

Naval Cypher X by W/T

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Eastern Fleet,
T.L.O.I., S.N.O. Persian Gulf, N.S.O. Bombay,
C.O. Patrol Force, R.A.N.A.S. Bombay.

122.

Your 1207/20 not to all addressees.

1. Accept twenty 225 h.p. Gray marine diesel engines which should be complete with three to one reduction gear propellers bilge pump starters batteries generator exhaust silencer 30 feet of plain shafting per engine with two loose couplings (one to match gear box shaft and one for joining shafting) stem tube complete (12 feet between flukes) "A" frame bearing sufficient pipes in straight lengths for installation purposes. Ten engines right hand and ten left.
2. Prefer oil burning electroluxes if possible but will accept electric if former not available.
3. In view of your 1631/12 are 212 or Type 52 345 2/Tsets being supplied and how many of each have so far been shipped.
4. Request eight type 123 A asdic sets be supplied in addition to one type 128.
5. Request eight 12 pdr. guns with mountings (LA would suffice) eight (?HA) guns and 16 depth charge throwers with outfits of ammunition be supplied.
6. All above gear and searchlights and generators etc. to be consigned to N.S.O. Bombay except armament which should be consigned N.A.S.O. Bombay. All packages to be clearly marked "Scheme NA".
7. Request spares for two years running if all items be supplied.
8. Please /

814^B

2.

- 8. Please signal shipping details of all items.
- 9. Pass copy of this message to Engineer-in-Chief, Bath.

1153Z/26.

1st Lord
 1st S.L. (2)
 D.F.S.L.
 3rd S.L.
 Vice Controller
 4th S.L.
 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.
 D.O.D.(H)(2)
 D.O.D.(F)(2)
 Duty Captain (2)
 D. of P.(2)
 Hydrog. (2)
 D. of S.
 D. of P.(Q)
 D.N.I.(4)
 D.S.D.
 D.D.I.C.(2)
 Head of M.(2)
 D. of L.D.(2)
 Admiral Blake
 D.D.O.D.(C)
 D.A./S.W.(2) for action
 D.G.D.
 D.S.V.P.
 D. of S.T.
 D.T.M.
 E. in C.
 D. of D.
 D.N.C.
 D.T.S.D.
 I.P.(2)
 W.D.

Deputy Controller)
 E. in C.)
 D. of D.)
 D.N.C.) Bath
 D.E.E.) by
 D.A./S.W.) Courier
 R.I.N.L.O.)
 D.T.M.)
 Head of S.W.R.)

879-11
c
11

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. 1340Z/26th October. IN.

Date 26.10.42.
Recd. 2050.

From G.O.C. in C. East Africa.

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

080137 60289 cipher 26th Oct. MOST SECRET.

Your 74830 (M.C.11) 24th Oct.

From General Platt.

1. I am very apprehensive about dropping hints at any time before Legentilhomme reaches Nairobi since I regard as serious possibility that hints will provoke a definite anti Fighting French campaign.

2. I cannot over emphasise danger of leakage. If any hint of proposed plan reaches Vichy a W/T campaign against Legentilhomme launched in name of Marshal Petain will have serious consequences as ready field exists Madagascar where the Petain propaganda has been very effective.

3. Dropping of hints in Madagascar and correct interpretation of these cannot be prevented from leading back to Vichy via Reunion and Portuguese East (?word *africa* omitted). There are numerous W/T stations for local intercommunication in island which we can neither control nor close down.

4. Essential that Legentilhomme should only come with personal staff and that French National Committee should make no promises in London of appointments in Madagascar till he has had time to look round.

5. Middle November is too early since campaign may still be in progress. Target date should be not earlier than early December.

6. Legentilhomme and presumably de Gaulle must have Rennell's picture before former leaves.

7. You have not replied para. 4 of my 58919 of 19/10 regarding use British troops to install or maintain Legentilhomme.

8.../

819^D

8. Presume you have considered what authority will appoint Governor General or High Commissioner.

1340Z/26.

✓ 1510A/24.

Received in War Registry at 1530/27 00

First Lord
1st S.L.(2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
Secy.
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
P.A.S.(O)
D. of P.(Q)
D.N.I.(4)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.C.(2)
ER. Hd. of M.(2)
D.P.D.
I.P.(2)
W.D.
Capt. Wharton
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
Admiral Blake.
D. of P.(2)
D.S.D.

Copies circulated by War Office to:-

S. of S.
P.U.S.
P.U.S.(F)
C.I.G.S.
V.C.I.G.S.
D.M.O.
D.D.M.O.(O)(H)
M.O.1.2.5.11 (6)
D.F.a.
F.5(3)
D.M.I.
D.D.M.I.(I)
M.I.3a.
Brig. Q (Ops).
I.P.1.(3) (2 being for P.W.E)
Brig. Jacob (Cabinet Offices)
Mr. Benson (Cabinet Offices)
Major Morton (10 Downing St)
1st S.L.
Head of War Registry, Admiralty.
Foreign Secretary (2)
Mr. Stirling (Foreign Office)(2)
Mr. Costar (Dominions Office)
A.M.C.S.(Air Ministry)

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War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Signal Letters on Sides of M/Vs. Contd.

(a) To force enemy vessels to adopt the same measures to avoid arousing suspicion, thus increasing the chance of their making some mistake by which suspicion would be instantly aroused and their disguise penetrated.

(b) To assist warships in the extremely precarious task on first sighting before suspicion has been definitely aroused and when distance often renders flag hoists impossible to distinguish.

3. As the secrecy of signal letters can no longer be considered of great significance and the new identification procedure does not depend upon this factor there seems little objection to this measure from the security point of view. It is realised that enemy vessels can fairly easily show plausible letters but the scheme will involve them in constant and rapid changes.

(C. in C.E.F. 1421Z/26 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A.).

Shipping Routeing Positions. Your 2355/15. (2335 intended). The following reference positions are suggested

1. 026° S. 055° E. 2. Diego Suarez. 3. Kilindini. 4. 005° S. 048° E. 5. Aden. 6. 018° N. 064° E. 7. Abadan. 8. Bahrein. 9. Karachi. 10. Bombay. 11. Colombo. 12. 004° S. 076° E. 13. 021° S. 090° E. 14. Fremantle 15. Adelaide, 16. Melbourne.

For ships to South African ports.

17. Lourenco Marques. 18. Durban. 19. East London. 20. Port Elizabeth. 21. Capetown. 22. Saldanha Bay.

2. It is proposed to communicate these weekly lettered positions to routeing authorities a fortnight in advance to come into force at 0001Z every Sunday.

(C. in C.E.F. 1511Z/26, to Admty (R) C. in C.S.A.).

Oiler Freetown. Your 1852/24th. (re date class Oiler required for service at Freetown - N.T. in W.D.). ARNDALE owing to engine defects is not available. Oiler ECHODALE, (Tanker Message) will be sailed Freetown about 29/10. Further signal will be made confirming date of departure.

(C. in C.E.F. 1515Z/26. to Admty (R) C. in C.S.A. etc).

Air Report U/B attacked. A.360 26/10. Opsum for period ending 1800 hrs 25/10. S/M attacked on surface and diving in 21.24 N. 60.42 E. at 1025. Convoy in position in 21.36 N 60.36 E. at 1004. Convoy left in 21.10 N. 60.19 E. at 1346. A/S bomb 250 lb., 2 depth charge 250 lb. 2 dropped. Results and details not received as yet.

(A.H.Q. Iraq. 1600Z/26 to H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. Air Min) Amplified. See 0810/27.

War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

SEVERN. U.S. S/M Notice. My 2159/24. SEVERN changing
see next page. course 1000Z/26 in 44.46 N 58° W for new position
44.47 N 42° W omitting position 45.05 N 49.07 W.
thence on course and schedule given.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0010/26 to A.I.G. 314 etc.)
My 1541/25 add to para 2, SEVERN crosses 035° W at 1300Z/29.
(C.O.A.C. 1310Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

U/Bs Further D/F bearings indicate several U-Boats still
H.X.212 in your vicinity.
(N.S.H.Q. 0027Z/26 to Comtask 24.1.3. C.O.A.C.
F.O.N.F. Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A. Opnav.)

Movements. Norfolk 2030Z/25 arrived FLASH, WASTWATER and
BUTTERMERE. Sailed H.M. Trawlers HERTFORDSHIRE,
NORTHERN ISLES, LE TIGER, CAPE WARWICK and
ST. LOMAN. *see next page.*
(N.S.H.Q. 0245Z/26 to Admty.)

O.N.139 My 0110/25. LINCOLN is to remain with O.N.139.
LINCOLN. Report whether fuel permits.
see next page. (F.O.N.F. 0320Z/26 to C.T.U. 24.1.12. C.T.U.
24.18.3. LINCOLN. (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet.
Admty. etc.)

U/B. U-Boat position by D/F at 2220Z/25 within 150
miles of 060° 023°.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0407/26 to C.T.U. 24.1.15.
C.T.24. Admty.)

WASAGA E.T.A. 1330Z/26. Boiler\$ hours. A/S gear not
operating.
(WASAGA 0615Z/26 to F.O.N.F.)

T.G.1. Sailing telegram (list)
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 0833Q/26 to Admty.)
W.D. Note: Presumably Trinidad - Guantanamo.

Trawler Admty. 1924/24/10. Observing all trawler escorts
escort for have to proceed to Freetown request instructions
Tankers. whether BRITISH ENDURANCE and*BRITISH UNITY are to
call at Freetown.
(2) Should other ships bound for Capetown take
advantage of trawler escort and be routed as above?
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1001Q/26 to Admty.)
My 0033/22, para 3. Group 3 contains 4 trawlers. Group 4
contains 5 trawlers.
(B.A.D. 2049Z/26 to Admty.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

26.10.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements summary.	1800 G.M.T./26.	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
		S/M K.15.	37 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W	308°	10
		S/M SEVERN	44 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N 55 $\frac{3}{4}$ ° W	088°	8
		QUEEN OF BERMUDA	10° N 24° W	277°	average. 14
		CARNARVON CASTLE	51° N 26° W	000°	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
		(D.O.D. (F.) 1020Z/26 to Opanav. (R) Connaveu.)			

O.N.139. WITHERINGTON. Your 2041/25 (re urgent defects prevent H.M.S. WITHERINGTON sailing) O.N.139 behind time. Request amend R/V to 1730Z/27 at same place. (C.T.U. 24.1.12 1122Z/26 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.T.U. 24.18.3.)

In view of your 0952/26 to Connav only amend my 2141/25 (?2041/25 intended) as follows:
For 50.25 W read 48.37 W. ORILLIA and MELVILLE Newfoundland sailed 1700/26. *See next page*

(C.C.N.F. 1333Z/26 to C.T.24.1.12. (R) C.T.24. Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. C.T.24.18.3. C. in C. W.A.)

O.N. (?139) When relieved by Western Local Escort (?proceed) with your unit to St. Johns N.F. unless otherwise directed by F.O.N.F.

(C.T.24 1405/26 to C.T.U. 24.1.12. (R) C.T.F.24. Connav. Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7. C.T.U. 24.18.3.)

Your 1339Z/26 (N.T. in W.D.) If ^{*}LINCOLN (?needs) fuelling she is to continue Halifax and detach ORILLIA to St. Johns N.F. at best prudent speed. ** See previous page*

Request earliest information, repeat to C.O.A.C.

(F.O.N.F. 1556Z/26 to C.T.U. 24.1.12. (R) C.O.A.C. C.T.U. 29.18.3. ORILLIA. N.S.H.Q. LINCOLN. C.T.24.)

H.X.211. Average speed 9.5 knots. Uneventful voyage all arrived. (D.T.D. 1212A/26 to Connav. N.S.H.Q.)

Trawlers for Cape Area. *See previous page* Arrival H.M. Trawlers ST. ZENO, LADY ELSA, COVENTRY CITY, NORWICH CITY. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1232Q/26 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) Admty. etc.) B.A.D. 1835Z/13 and Cominch 141845. Bunker capacity H.M. Trawler LADY ELSA insufficient to reach Freetown. Believe LADY ROSEMARY, WELLARD, HERTFORDSHIRE, LE TIGER similar. Propose they be sailed as one group via Pernambuco to Freetown or alternatively direct to Capetown via Pernambuco and St. Helena. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1732Q/26 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc.) Reply: D.A/S.W. 1919A/27.

FRISKY Following for C.C.R.T. My 1732Z/24 FRISKY arrived CANATCO *See p.824* St. Johns 1014Z/26 ex search for SS. CANATCO, ship reported sunk. (F.O.N.F. 1239Z/26 to Admty.)

823

War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements. Departures 25th MATAPEDIA, GRANDBY, MONCTON, CALDWELL, escorting O.N.137.
Arrivals 26th U.S.S. PESSACUS, GANGER, UNCAS from Boston.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 1301Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

U/B
H.X.212 There are strong indications of a U-Boat within 60 miles of 53° 01' 38° 02'.
D.D.I.C. 1330A/26 to Escorts H.X.212.)

U/B. Shore watcher sighted S/M on surface p.m./25 near Little (?Cy)r, 049° 33' N 055° 32' W ?(heading) north.
(C.O.A.C. 1400Z/26 to C. in C. W.A. for 24.7. Admty.)

NEWCASTLE. Your 2214/21. On completion of refit about 3rd. week in November it is requested that you will arrange for NEWCASTLE to carry out one weeks working up practice. Full work up will be undertaken in Home Waters before proceeding to rejoin Eastern Fleet.
2. Destination in U.K. is Plymouth and on completion of work up ship should be sailed for that port, calling at Bermuda en route to embark passengers if required.
3. On arrival in U.K. leave may be granted in one watch in accordance with A.F.O. 4374/41.
4. Request a report of outstanding items of work remaining to be taken in hand in U.K. may be signalled as early as possible.
(D.O.D.(F.) O.D.1204/42. 1435A/26 to B.A.M.R. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

O.N.S.138. When relieved by Western Local Escort proceed with Key West (?unit) to Argentina.
(C.T. 24. 1459Z/26 to C.T.U. 24.1.16. (R) A.I.G.302 C.T.U. 24.18.8.)

Dispositions. Section East. SEVERN surfacing 44.43 54.11 090° 13.
see p.821 ORILLIA, MELVILLE depart St. Johns N.F. 1700Z/26 en route O.N.139, join in 45.30 48.37 at 1100Z/27.
W.B.10. VEGREVILLE, GRANDMERE 46.34 56.16 272° 7.
SHEDIAC, KENOGAMI vicinity 48.30 50.01 063° 14.
L.N.11 X. ARROWHEAD, HEPATICA 50.39 57.55 coastwise through Belle Isle Straits to Hamilton Inlet.
U.S. Battleship COLORADO 40.15 48.10 086° 15.
IRISH ELM 41.01 48.01 058° 8.
MONTANA (U.S.) 41.35 54.45 255° 14.5.
(C.O.A.C. 1501Z/26 to Admty.)

U/B
Positions. 26/10 S/M estimate and U.S. Submarine Notice.
(Cominch 1540/26, 1541/26, 1621/26, 1622/26, 1623/26, to Admty.)

War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- CANATCO sinking, suspected explosion. *p. 822.* My 1539/25. Searchings indicate no shoal in vicinity of CANATCO sinking and Master suspicious internal explosion. N.O.I.C. Rigolet holding C.Bs. (N.S.H.Q. 1609Z/26 to Admty. Connav.)
- BRITISH UNITY. *p. 821.* Your 1101/23. BRITISH UNITY sailed in N.G.316 Amast 3507 refers. (B.A.D. 1617Z/26 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)
- Convoys, request for R/V. Your 1917Z/24. A.C.I.'s article 35, lays down that such requests should be addressed to operational authority of area concerned repeated to Admty. or Connav and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa as the case may be. We should therefore prefer requests when east of 40° W to be addressed C. in C. Western Approaches repeated Admty. Request your concurrence. (D.T.D. 1632Z/26 to Connav. (R) C. in C. W.A.) Concur. (Connav 1302/27.)
- REUBEN TIPTON (sunk 23/10.) REUBEN TIPTON U.S. 23/10 0830 G.M.T. sunk by S/M 072° distant 260 miles from Barbados. 1 lifeboat with Chief Officer and 48 crew rescued by M.T.Bs. 340, 341. 2 rafts with Master and 1 or 2 hands became separated and are still missing. S/M large vessel, light grey paint, good condition, 2 guns, 1 before C/T about 4", 1 abaft smaller calibre. Believed German, C/T stream-lined high forward with number 33 forecastle 55. Survivors state that on 22/10 passed Spanish Tanker hove to, look outs reported sighting S/M on surface in the vicinity which shortly afterwards submerged position 013° 45' N 053° 05' W. Their vessel attacked following day hit by 3 torpedoes, vessel sank 5 minutes after third torpedo, 3 hours elapsed between first and third torpedo. C.Bs thrown overboard in weighted iron box. (Harbour Master, Barbados 1716/26 to Admty.)
- S.C.C.105. Broken off 7 ships of S.C.C.105 North 1140Z/26. Position 059° 08' N 027° 24' W 017°. Speed of convoy 8. Weather report. (S.O. 24.6.5. 1746Z/26 to C. in C. W.A. C.T.G. 24.6. (R) Connav. C.T.F.24. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G.24.7.)
- S.C.107. S.C.107 Western Local Escort North Task Unit 24.18.7 sailing as follows. (A) WALKER S.O. 1200Z/27 to R/V position 43.03 N 63.33 W at 1800Z/27. (B) FENNEL, COWICHAN, and TIMMINS, escorting H.S.C.107, 16 ships at 1800Z/27 join at H.O.M.P. at 1000Z/28. Detach COLUMBIA to proceed with all despatch Halifax on relief by WALKER. On completion oiling COLUMBIA join T.U. 24.18.7 then TIMMINS return to Halifax. (C.O.A.C. 1751Z/26 to C.T.U.24.18.2. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. Connav. C.T.F.24. C.C.N.F. C.E.S.329. N.O.I.C. Sydney. T.U.24.18.7. COLUMBIA.)

/B.Y.M.S...

War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- B.Y.M.S. My 2101/30/9, my 0123/8 and my 1835/21. Recent signals regarding officers imply that approval has been given to B.Y.M.S. working up in U.S.A. Request confirmation in order that arrangements may be proceeded with.
(B.A.D. 1809Z/26 to Admty.)
- ILE DE FRANCE. MAURETANIA. My 2211/24*cancel para 1. Fuelling situation in Pacific has changed. Ships will now be routed from Auckland via positions approx. 20° S 167° W and 180 miles east of Christmas Island to Pearl Harbour. Thence to San Francisco.
(B.A.D. 1859Z/26 to Admty. D of S.T. (R) N.O.I.C. Wellington. A.C.N.B.) * Re fuelling of ILE DE FRANCE and MAURETANIA at Tongatabu.
- ANGELINA (sunk 18th Oct.) (1) ANGELINA (U.S.) (2) A.H. Bull and Co. New York. (3) 0145Z/18 approx. 50.00 N 29.00 W. (4) and (5) Not sighted. (6) Submerged. (7) Sunk. (8) See my 1944/26. (9) Not seen. (10) Torpedo. (11) All C.Bs and S.Ps and other confidential matter dumped.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1951Z/26 to Admty.)
- O.N.S.138. No indication U-Boats shadowing for last 48 hours. Number of southbound ships have insufficient fuel to reach destinations as routed by Admty. 1118Z/24. Request further instructions before dispersal is ordered. Weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.1.16 2005Z/26 to Connav. (R) C.T.F.24. Admty. etc.)
- O.N.S.138 and O.N.139. If no further evidence of U-Boats near convoys recommend disperse southbound ships at nightfall 27th Oct.
2. To save time in passing full route instructions through Cominch, Admty. will pass them direct to Commodores by B.A.M.S. and include order to await executive from Cominch.
3. Admty. will pass individual routes to Connav on receipt of executive.
(D.T.D. 2010Z/26 to Connav.)
Concur. (Connav 1301/27.)
- U/B H.X.212 O.N.S.140. U-Boat in your vicinity by D/F has made sighting report on convoy or important unit 1924Z/26. (Cominch 2047/26 to C.T.U. 24.1.18. C.T.U. 24.1.3. C.T.24.)
U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made sighting report of a convoy or important unit at 2111Z/26. (Cominch 2304/26 to C.T.U. 24.1.18. C.T.U. 24.1.3. (R) C.T.24.)

/ROTHLEY...

War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.ROTHLEY
(sunk
19th Oct.)

ROTHLEY (British) torpedoed and sunk 19th Oct.
 (1) A/B (name) lost. Remainder D.E.M.S. ratings
 and Military personnel (Maritime A.A. Reg.) saved.
 (2) Ordinary Seaman (name) Merchant Navy, lost.
 (3) No other casualties, Master and crew landed
 Aruba.
 (4) C.Bs down with ship which sank in 7 minutes.
 (B.R.O. Aruba 2055/26 to Admty. (R) D.T.D.)

Shipping
casualties.

Connav serials 25 and 26. REUBEN TIPTON and
 EMPIRE STAR both sunk. CANATCO grounded and sank
 25th Oct. 053° 56' N 056° 25' W.
 (Connav 2059/26 to Comnav.)

Movements.

Arrival COBALT, MIDLAND, LACHINE, ROXBOROUGH ex
 O.N.137, MAHONE ex F.H.10, LETHBRIDGE from
 Liverpool.
 (N.O.I.C. Halifax 2101Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

Sub.
attack
and sighting
summary.

B. KARMT four shells missed 12.20 N 46.48 W
 2245Z/20 and one torpedo miss 14.28 N 55.30 W
 1315Z/23.
 C. B.25 sights submarine 09.59 N 60.19 W
 1706Z/25. Shore watcher sights S/M on surface
 course north 49.33 N 55.32 W p.m. 25th Oct. Plane
 sights S/M 30.21 N 64.39 W 1700Z/25.
 D. U.S.S. MOJAVE attacks sound contact 46.43 N 59.04 W 1418Z/1.
 Fishing boat sights S/M 13.45 S 38.55 W 2300Z/23.
 (Cominch 2106/26 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

U/B
Positions.

C.E.S.F. 1828/26. S/M estimate at 0800Q/27.
 (Comnav 2141/26 to Admty.)

NIGERIA.

Arrived Charleston 1533Z/22.
 (B.A.R.M. 2158Z/26 to Admty. F.O.C.N.A. N.S.H.Q.
 C. in C. H.F. F.O.C.(18) C.S. F.O.C.(10) C.S.)

Movements.

Bermuda departures 25th Oct. U.S.S. RANGER,
 CLEVELAND, SWANEE, SANGAMON, SANTEE, ELLYSON,
 EMMONS, HOBSON, COLE, FITCH, CORRY, MACOMB, RODMAN,
 HAMBLETON, FORREST, HOUSATONIC, BERNADOU, DALLAS.
 Departure, 26, EVADNE. Arrival H.M.S. BLACK BEAR.
 (S.B.N.O. W.A. 2342Z/26 to Admty.)

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War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.WASP.
(sunk
15th Sept.)Navy Dept. announced on 26th Oct. as follows:-
U.S.S. WASP (aircraft carrier) was sunk in South
Pacific on Sept. 15 as the result of an enemy S/M
attack.WASP remained afloat for five hours after being
attacked and sank at a time when there were no enemy forces in the
vicinity. For this reason the announcement of her loss was
delayed as long as there remained the probability that the enemy
was unaware of her sinking.WASP was operating in company with a task force in the south
Pacific area engaged in covering the movement of reinforcements
and supplies into Guadalcanal when she was torpedoed at approx.
2.50 in the afternoon. Three torpedoes struck the WASP in the
vicinity of her magazines and gasoline tanks, resulting in many
explosions and serious fires throughout the ship.About 15 minutes after the torpedo hits a heavy explosion rocked
the WASP. Other explosions followed in the vicinity of her
hangar deck. The fires could not be brought under control, and
about three hours after the attack it became necessary to
abandon ship. About 8 p.m. when all hopes of extinguishing the
flames and saving WASP had been abandoned, a United States
destroyer sank her with torpedoes.

About 90 per cent of the personnel of WASP were rescued.

(The Times 27.10.42. D.O.R. 1163.) *shown 17 in on p. 841*W.D. Note: For loss of U.S.S. PORTER and damage to U.S. and
Japanese ships in Guadalcanal operations, see Situation Report
27th Oct. p. 832.

AQUITANIA.

Your 2305A/20. Australian Govt. would prefer
escort to be provided. If it cannot be provided
the whole way it is requested that it should be
provided from Colombo to Fremantle.(N.B. Melbourne 0801Z/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.
N.B. Wellington. P.S.T.O. Egypt.)W.D. Note: Similar request for escort from Suez
to Fremantle from N.Z.N.B. see 1904/27.

Situation.

Digest Serial No. 277. 25th Oct.

1. Morning 25th 3 destroyers 3 unidentified
vessels possibly seaplane tenders and unknown
number supply ships remained Buin Area.
2. R/C Fortress morning 25th reported (A) 1 light cruiser, 1
seaplane tender (10/15000 tons) 1 transport (5000 tons) Kavieng
Harbour. (B) 40 vessels over 2000 tons Rabaul Harbour,
including 7 large from 30,000 feet.
- (3) 6 Catalinas attacked Kavieng aerodrome night 24/25. Direct
hits on fuel dumps, large fires started, 1 A.A. position silenced,
1 bomber destroyed. En route Kavieng sighted 3 unidentified ships
anchored Jacquinet Bay, 2 ships unloading off Ewassa (97 miles
S.W. Rabaul) 2 ships off Sule (70 miles S.W. Rabaul).
- (4) Natives report enemy guns installed Ulamona (near Sule).
- (5) Shipping Rabaul Harbour attacked by 8 Fortresses early
morning 25th. 1 probable gunboat destroyed, 1 medium cargo
vessel set on fire, 1 observed sinking, 1 probably sunk. Huge
fire and explosions believed result destruction fuel dump.
Another large fire wharf area. Fires visible 100 miles.
- (6) Advance North Eora* continued 24th strong resistance by
enemy light artillery and snipers.

* As received.

/(7)...

War Diary.26.10.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand-Contd.

- Situation (7) Reported 200 Japanese from Goodenough Island
Contd. landed S.E. corner Fergusson Island from launches
morning 25th. 2 unidentified ships reported
0745Z/24 20 miles north Goodenough Island.
- (8) Reliable report 14 Zeros left Buka 25th, 4 returned evening.
- (9) Enemy strength outposts New Georgia area reported 50 men,
3 barges, Rendova Harbour, 50 men, 1 barge Wickham anchorage,
(Vangunu Island 200 men, 3 barges, Viru Harbour, all probably
have W/T.
- (10) 3 Hudsons attacked Koepang aerodrome late 24th. Fires
started material dump or aircraft hit.
- (11) 3 B.25s strafed launch off Arawe (New Britain) morning 25th,
result unknown.
- (12) 6 Bostons bombed strafed Kokoda Wairopi area same time,
no results observed.
- (13) 3 aircraft bombed Darwin dawn 25/10 no damage.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0805Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1325A/26, 1332A/26.)

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Convoy
K.M.F.1.

F.O.I.C. Greenock reported Convoy K.M.F.1. sailed at 0026A today (39 troopships escorted by Auxiliary carrier BITER, 4 minesweepers (corvettes), 2 sloops, 4 corvettes and C.S.10 in SHEFFIELD who sailed at 0455A from Belfast.)

S/M GRAPH reports that on 21st October in 44° 31' N. 7° 25' E. (40 miles N.E. of Cape Ortegal) she sank a U-Boat of her own class.

(Not mentioned by Com. Rebolhau in circ. 2842)

Operation
F.B.

S/M UREDD was recalled from patrol off the coast of Norway tonight. TUNA and O.15 also on patrol off the coast of Norway were ordered to proceed forthwith for Operation F.B.

C. in C. Portsmouth reports that after complying with certain Admiralty Messages he will have one destroyer running (due for refit 7th November), one due to join about 5th November, and one completes mine damage on 18th November. In view of the shortage of escorts he suggests that the 1st S.G.B. Flotilla be temporarily allocated to Portsmouth for convoy duties. V.A. Dover concurs. (This was approved by Admiralty on 29th October.)

Two Mosquitoes attacked the submarine slipways at Flensburg today and a third set on fire a 2500 ton cargo vessel. One Mosquito attacked the docks at Den Helder.

Operation
S.N. 3F.

R.A.(M) left Port ZA at 1220 today to carry out this operation but returned during the forenoon, on account of the weather.

Ten Stirlings and 11 Wellingtons laid mines successfully last night in Biscay ports, Brest and Frisian Islands.

North Atlantic.

The British tanker ANGLO MAERSK which was torpedoed yesterday reported at 1330 G.M.T. today that the submarine was still chasing her and had missed her with 7 torpedoes. Her position was 27° 49' N. 19° 37' W. at 1300 G.M.T. and she was now making for Las Palmas, still proceeding at 7½ knots.

/Convoy ...

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy S.L.125 was attacked at 2050Z today in 29° 31' N. 20° 55' W. (120 miles W.N.W. of the Canary Isles) and SS. PACIFIC STAR was torpedoed and SS. STENTOR sunk.

South Atlantic.

Readjustment
of Strategic
Areas.

The agreement between R.A. West Africa and Comsolant makes the dividing line of responsibilities the line joining 20° N. 40° W. and Ascension Island.

The U.S. authorities have agreed that as a working agreement they will accept strategic responsibility for operations in the South Atlantic area to westward of a line drawn from 20° N. 40° W. to Ascension, including the island and territorial waters, thence to 40° S. 26° W. The Admiralty will retain operational control of the existing British communication facilities at Ascension.

The reasons for the readjustment are:-

- (a) to divide more evenly the narrowest part of the Atlantic,
- (b) to bring waters in which R.A. West Africa acts as diverting authority within the British Strategic area,
- (c) to bring Ascension, where U.S. Air forces are stationed and the defence of which is a U.S. commitment within the U.S. strategic area. (Cf. A.M. 1238A/11 and 1251A/11 to B.A.D. Washington.)

Until 15th November Comsolant proposes to have 4 light cruisers and 2 destroyers divided into 2 Task Groups. He has agreed with R.A. W. Africa to start:

- (A) A sweep along the parallel of 5° S. to the meridian of Ascension.
- (B) A sweep along the Equator to the 20th meridian thence to Ascension and return early in November. Sweep (A) commenced 1500P/22 with MILWAUKEE, CINCINNATI and SOMERS.

Flying boats are searching the Natal to St. Pauls Rocks and Natal to Ascension lines and Army aircraft including heavy bombers conduct patrol from Ascension.

(See page 764, and page 858)

/SS. PALMA ...

27.10.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

SS. PALMA reported that at 2100 G.M.T. she was steering 130° at 15½ knots in 11° 40' N. 29° 34' W. with a submarine astern of her.

U.S. aircraft sighted a U-Boat at 1010Z in 4° 5' S. 9° 55' W.

STEEL MARINER reported this morning that she had rescued 10 survivors from SS. ANNE HUTCHINSON which the survivors state was torpedoed and shelled in 105° East London 30 miles but is still afloat.

SS. CITY OF TOKYO reported at 1710 G.M.T. that a suspicious vessel appeared to be following her in 34° 14' S. 27° 25' E.

Mediterranean.

The enemy employed against Malta today air tactics similar to those of yesterday, making 124 sorties.

Escorted bombers attacked the dock area of Matruh today.

C. in C. Med. reported on 28th October that two enemy aircraft dropped bombs on Alexandria harbour at 0325 today. No damage was caused.

America and West Indies.

Dominica reports the landing of the crew of the Norwegian SS. TRAFALGAR, torpedoed at 2320 G.M.T./15 in 25° 30' N. 52° W.

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27.10.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

H.X. 212.

Convoy H.X. 212 was attacked by U-Boats about 2100Z today in about 54° N. 30° W. and oil refinery ship SOURABAYA and U.S. tanker GURNEY E. NEWLIN were torpedoed and sunk.

Australia and New Zealand.

It is stated in the press today that the U.S. Navy Dept. have announced that the aircraft carrier WASP was torpedoed by a U-Boat in the Solomons on 15/9 and had to be sunk. It is also announced that in a series of air attacks on 26th October 3 Japanese cruisers and 2 aircraft carriers were damaged in the Solomon Islands area; one U.S. destroyer (reported by Reuter to be PORTER) was sunk and one U.S. aircraft carrier severely damaged. *3- p. 827.*

Slight damage was caused in the Darwin area by air attack early this morning. Six Beaufighters attacked Lae today and set 3 barges on fire. Two Hudsons escorted by 7 Aircobras attacked barges and buildings at Numa Numa Bay (Fergusson Island) this afternoon.

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27.10.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Destroyers
A/S
working-up.R.A.D's 0100/26. Concur.
(C. in C. W.A. 1047A/27 to Admty.)1st.
S.G.B.
Flotilla.After compliance with Admty. 2234/25 and 1759/26,
destroyer situation in Portsmouth Command is as
follows until PENYLAN joins about 5th Nov.
FERNIE running but due refit 7th Nov.
BLEASDALE completes mine damage 18th Nov.In view of shortage of escorts suggest 1st. S.G.B. Flotilla be
temporarily allocated to Portsmouth for convoy duties.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1551/27 to Admty.)

C. in C. Portsmouth's 1551. Employment proposed for S.G.Bs
sounds to be a more important commitment than the use to which
I can put these vessels under present conditions in Dover Command
and I am prepared to release them accordingly.

(V.A. Dover 2028A/27 to Admty.)

Movements.*ARGONAUT
OBDURATE
INTREPIDSeidisfiord departures ARGONAUT, OBDURATE and
INTREPID in company at 1705/26.
(A.C.I.C. 0015A/27.)* *see p. 835*TYNWALD
POZARICA
PALOMARESSailing of TYNWALD and destroyers delayed 2½ hours
POZARICA and PALOMARES adjust speed to R/V at
1400A/27.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0137A/27 to POZARICA.)

GRAPH

E.T.A. at R/V 1045.
(GRAPH 0345A/27 to Capt. S.3.)

SCYLLA

0725/27 arrived SCYLLA.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0801A/27.)

JUNON

JUNON arrived Dundee.
(Capt. S.9. 0917A/27.)

H.43

Intend to sail H.43 escorted by ~~WHALSAY~~ from
Rothesay at 1300A/28 routed via Sounds of Islay
and Mull to Tobermory, E.T.A. 1100/29.
(Capt. S.7. 1016A/27.)THUNDERBOLT
L.23.F.O.S. 2346A/26, my 1115A/26, 1231A/26 and 1421A/26
Departure delayed 24 hours to enable trials to be
carried out.
(Capt. S.3. 1141A/27.)

SEALION

Departure SEALION escorted by 1 M.L. to R/V with
CUTTY SARK in vicinity of Lizard.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1314A/27.)

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

H.33 Capt. S.5 1108/23. ^{INT. W.D.} Intend to sail H.33 escorted
 P.34 by EGILSAY from Needles 0930/28.
 (2) Routed Admty. message QZS 293 and route P
 and A speed 8 knots to R/V in 180° Lizard Head
 5 miles at 0730/29 with ST. ALBANS who will take over escort
 H.33.
 (3) On turning over escort EGILSAY will proceed R/V P.34 in 180°
 Lizard Head 10 miles at 0800/29 and escort her by route A and P
 to Needles.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1320/27.)

North Atlantic My 1549/25. Operation in Northern Waters: Delete
 dispositions. ARGONAUT. 2 destroyers. Area Scapa: Add ARGONAUT. 2 destroyers. Delete
 SCYLLA. Area Belfast: Delete SHEFFIELD.
 Area Plymouth: Delete BERMUDA. Add SCYLLA.
 On passage to operational area: Add BERMUDA. SHEFFIELD. BITER.
 4 destroyers.
 (D.O.D. (H.) 1336Z/27 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

H.44 My 1729/26. Add new para (K) H.44 escorted by
^{see p. 801} *WHALSAY leaves Tobermory 1000/27, E.T.A. Rothesay
 1200/28. Proceeding via Sounds of Mull and Islay.
 (F.O.S. 1413A/27.) * see previous page.

BLUEBELL Arrival Archangel BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA.
 CAMELLIA (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1416A/27.)

L.C.20 Your 1209/27. ^{INT. W.D.} No escort available. Fighter cover
 RECOVERY will be provided.
 (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1451A/27 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

MINERVE. Leave Harbour tomorrow to pass Oxcars Gate at
 0900/28 and proceed by outer searched channels to
 Dundee.
 (2) SOUTHCOATES from Leith will R/V at Oxcars
 Gate and provide escort to Dundee.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 1501A/27 to MINERVE.)

OPPORTUNE Request you sail OPPORTUNE for Plymouth passing
 Switha 1900A/27.
 (C. in C. H.F. 1532A/27 to R.A.D.)

Proceed passing Switha 1500A today to arrive Plymouth
 0900A/29.
 2. You should proceed via Minches and North Channel and QZL 15.
 (R.A.D. 1545A/27 to OPPORTUNE.)
 Sailed OPPORTUNE for Plymouth. E.T.A. 1100A/29.
 (R.A.D. 1903A/27.)

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

SEVERN
See p. 856 9858^A 1. Your route is diverted to North Channel. From position (G) in C.O.A.C. Halifax 1930/23 proceed on the surface at your discretion through (M) 055° 30' 020° 00'. (N) 056° 30' 012° 01' to R/V in (P) 180° Barrahead Hebrides 10 miles as ordered by Capt. S.3. (F.O.S. 1618A/27 to SEVERN.)

P.615. P.615 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1716A/27.)

DUKE OF YORK. ECHO. IMPULSIVE. LEDBURY. Departure Flag Officer (H) in DUKE OF YORK escorted by ECHO, IMPULSIVE and LEDBURY. (C. in C. Rosyth 1801/27.)

P.339 P.49 My 1541/26 and P.S.O. Barrow's 1820/27. Sailing of P.339 and P.49 not possible before 1st. Nov. at earliest. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1825A/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ARGONAUT
See p. 833 Scapa arrival ARGONAUT. (A.C.O.S. 1827A/27.)

ONSLOW OFFA ORIBI Sailed ONSLOW, OFFA for Londonderry. ORIBI follows at 1930/27. E.T.A. 0730A/28. (R.A.D. 1833A/27.)

W.A. Command. Situation at 2000A/27. Details. (C. in C. W.A. 2000A/27) See Lion Copy.

Force "J" *1/p 779* C.C.O's 1831/26. Request BRIGADIER, DUKE OF ARGYLL, CANTERBURY and BIARRITZ may be sailed as soon as convenient after 1300/29. (S.O. Force "J" 2115/27 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations.

Patrols. Intend to sail M.Ls 123 and 303 to patrol on lat. 50° 20' N between 1° 35' W and 2° 10' W tonight, leaving Weymouth at 1930/27 via QZS 295 and patrol line at dawn. Codeword "Match". *See p. 834*
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1114A/27.)
My 1603A/16. M.L. patrol tonight.

- Forces employed M.Ls 181 (S.O.) 183, 179.
- Patrol. 5 miles 090° and 270° either side of 118° Start 10 miles.
- Object. To intercept E-Boats.
- Information.

Own Forces. One submarine sails Portsmouth unescorted at 1800/27 through positions 050° 34' N 001° 50' W, 180° Start 25 miles, thence to S.W.
Speed during night 10 knots. Enemy. E-Boats may work from Guernsey or Cherbourg.

/6. Execution...

MOST SECRET

2000A/27th October.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN.

From: C. in C. Western Approaches

Date: 27.10.42.

Recd: 2035.

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty.

Situation at 2000A/27th October 1942.

Section North East.

WELSHMAN	58 48 04 01	To Port Z.A.	15
CNSLOW	58 45 03 29	To Londonderry	15
CFFA			
CRIBI			

S.N.3.F.	CASTLETON	Sails Port Z.A. 0001A/28	12
		To North westward	
	WELLS		
	SALADIN		
	SCIMITAR		

W.N. 54	MINUET	58 34 05 19	To Methil	7
	WOLVES			

Section South East

SEALION	CUTTY BARK	51 11 04 32	To Holy Loch	10
GRAPH				

H.44	WHALSAY	55 35 05 56	To Rothesay	7½
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TYNWALD		51 36 07 53	To 50 45 12 00	11
LAMERTON				
WHEATLAND				
WILTON				
PCZARICA				
PALOMARES				

FLEET UNIT		Sail Clyde about 0200A/28	To Cversay	18
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JAMAICA
DASHER

DELHI		Sail Belfast about 0230A/28	To Cversay	18
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H.M. 50	YORK CITY	52 58 04 58	Southbound	7½
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CONVOY	DERBY COUNTY	51 58 05 27	Northbound	7½
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CONVOY 24	SKATE	Sails Barry Roads 0100A/28	Northbound Irish Sea	10
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U.R. 47	KING SOL	56 44 06 18	via Minches 269° Cape Wrath 18	7½
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PAYNTER
BLACKFLY

S.D. 33	LANCASTER	55 23 06 23	To Clyde	14
	GORLESTON			

MOST SECRET

- 2 -

Section South East (Contd.)A.T.26 Unescorted 56 15 11 04 to 56 10 08 20 thence Mersey 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ Section North WestS.C.105 HURRICANE 58 35 20 16 to 56 55 15 49 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
WATCHMAN
PORT ARTHUR
BADDICK
WALLFLOWER
MONKSHOOD
ANCHUSA
ENSIGN
SNOWFLAKES.C.L.105 U.S.S. BIBB 62 28 25 18 to Reykjavik 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
C.T.U. U.S.S. DUANE
24.6.5. U.S.S. LEARYR.U.46 ANGLE 61 56 18 57 to 60 00 13 00 7
PIROUETTE
LADY MADELINESection South WestBLACK SWAN 48 52 18 53 South of Ireland to U.K. 12
LA MALOUINE
MALLOV
CARNATION

BERMUDA 46 39 14 21 to 45 10 15 08 18

DAHLIA 47 42 15 01 to 40 01 19 15 12
SWEET BRIARSPEEDWELL 46 13 14 55 to 46 00 15 00 10
HUZZAR

2 TUGS VIZALMA 50 15 22 22 to 49 09 24 58 10

MYOSOTIS 48 37 24 22 Standing by M/V

K.M.F.1. SHEFFIELD 55 20 10 13 to 54 45 15 01 thence 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
IBIS 52 50 20 01
2 SLOOPS
✓ BITER
HARTLAND
WALNEY
CLARE
4 CORVETTESK.M.S.2. LONDONDERRY 55 45 13 20 to 55 37 14 29 thence 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 SLOOPS 53 35 21 21
LULWORTH
LANDGUARD
2 CORVETTES

K.M.S.2. / 10000

MOST SECRET

- 3 -

Section South West (Contd.)

K.X.4A.	VINDICUS WEBSTER MALCOLM BROKT 4 TRAWLERS	46 27 17 24 to 40 03 17 30	6
K.X.4B	BURE BRUXHAM	50 40 10 28 to 49 00 14 00	7
O.N.141	SAGUNNAY SKEENA SACKVILLE AGASSIZ GALT WELASKIWIN	53 59 19 19 to 52 05 23 35	9
A.T.26	Unescorted	56 15 11 04 to 56 10 08 20 thence Mersey	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 M/V	CARRMARVON CASTLE GRIFFIN DECOY	53 26 17 00 to 54 00 13 00 and 55 30 07 00	15
K.M.S.1.	ALYBANK STORK DIPTFORD VANSITTART AVENGER 8 CORVETTES 4 MINESWEEPERS	49 34 24 35 to 42 43 26 00	8

2000A/27.

A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
 A.C.N.S. (T)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 Capt. Pim.
 D.C.D. (H) (2)
 D.C.D. (F) (2)
 D.D.C.D. (M)
 Duty Capt. (2)
 D.D.I.C. (2)
 D. of Plans (2)
 D.A/S.W.
 Head of M.
 W.D.
 I.P. (2)
 D.T.D. (3)
 D.T.D. (M)
 D. of P. (Q)
 N.C.X.F. (2)
 D. of L.D.
 D.M.S.

War Diary.

27.10.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - 27/10/42

Patrols Contd. 6. Execution. Proceed at 1400/27 and passing through 180° Start Point 4 miles proceed to patrol line. Leave patrol line at daylight 28th and proceed to Dartmouth. Speed on passage not to exceed 12 knots.

7. Codeword "Occasion".
(C. in C. Plymouth 1122A/27.)
Departure at 1410 PYTCHLEY and COTTESMORE to patrols 4 and 3 respectively.
(F.O. Humber 1448A/27.)
My 1458/26. BLEAN is not required for patrol B on Wednesday night. On completion of patrol tomorrow PYTCHLEY is to proceed to Yarmouth and is to carry out patrol B Wednesday night returning Sheerness on completion.
(Capt. D.21 1606/27.)
M.Ls 123, 303 on patrol 15 miles south of St. Albans Head. 2 Chasseurs patrolling near E A 5 Buoy. *See p. 835*
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1627A/27.)
3 M.Ls on patrol 10' S.E. Start.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1633A/27.)
Departure at 1650 WORCESTER and WALPOLE for patrols A and B respectively.
(F.O. Humber 1715A/27.)
M.Ls 207 and 450 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and N.E. Spit Buoy, E.T.D. 1840. E.T.R. 0725/28.
M.Ls 139 and 137 near C one Buoy.
(V.A. Dover 1825A/27.)

Operation K.H. *(Cable op: to be carried by ALERT)* If signal tomorrow made to carry out operation K H tonight. FERNIE is to carry out covering-patrol between 050° 24' N 000° 40' W and 050° 19' N 000° 16' W passing E A 5 Buoy at 1830 and 0715.
Codeword "Object 2".
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1140A/27 to Capt. D.1.)
My 1044/26. Operation K H postponed further 24 hours due to weather.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1556A/27 to ALERT.)

Norway Coastal S/M Patrols. UREDD. TUNA. O.15. UREDD is to leave patrol forthwith passing through positions (A) 061° 15' N 003° 01' E. (B) 061° 01' N 000° 01' E. (C) 090° Out Skerries 5 miles, thence direct to Lerwick.
(Capt. S.9. 1917A/27 to UREDD.)
TUNA is to leave patrol forthwith for Operation F B.
(Capt. S.9. 2001A/27.) See Shipping. *pp 840 2841*
O.15 is to leave patrol forthwith for Operation F B.
(Capt. S.9. 2003A/27.) See Shipping. *pp 840 2841*

837

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Bombing restrictions. Request total bombing restrictions forthwith until 1000 between 049° N and 050° N, 005° W and 007° W. (F.O.S. 0704A/27 to H.Q.C.C.)
Total bombing restrictions within a radius of 30 miles Lizard Head from 0700A/27 until further orders arranged. (Capt. S.3. 0759A/27 to GRAPH, SEALION.)
Cancel my 2241/26. My 2233/26 on submerged bombing restrictions 25 miles either side line joining
(1) (P) 043° 01' 014° 10' and (U) 044° 40' 014° 01' from 1000/30 to 1200/31.
(2) (U) and (V) 046° 35' 013° 40' from 0600/31 to 0001/2.
(3) (V) and (W) 048° 30' 013° 08' from 1500/1 to 1000/3.
(4) (W) through (R) to (X) 049° 15' 010° 45' from 0001/3 to 2000/4.
(5) (X) and (Y) 049° 35' 007° 45' from 0001/4 to 0400/6.
(6) (Y) through (S) to (T) from 1200/5 to 0001/8.
P.556 report if outside bombing restriction.
(F.O.S. 2222A/27 to H.Q.C.C. (R) P.556.)

Recognition procedure. Request attention of all concerned may be drawn to importance of complying with instructions for recognition and routing in Iceland area contained in S.D. 158 (3) appendix "E". Also to general recognition procedure to be carried out by aircraft threatened with engagement by friendly ground air and sea forces contained in S.D. 158 (1) sections 6, 7 and 8.
(Air Ministry 1721Z/27.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. One enemy aircraft sighted from Siglunes 066° 11' N 018° 49' W direction N.E. at 1127. R/C of Hvalfiord and Reykjavik area at 1315 by Ju.88 flying from north to south at 20,000. Aircraft flew to vicinity of Reykjanes and disappeared course S.E.
(A.C.I.C. 1736A/27.)

Mining.

S.N. 3 F. Weather report. Consider worth while unless forecast bad.
(SCOTT 0501A/27 to R.A.M.)
Return to harbour. S.N. 3 F postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(R.A.M. 0726A/27 to SCOTT.)
My 0726/27. S.N. 3 F still further postponed owing to weather. Anticipate sailing from Port ZA 0001/29 if conditions improve sufficiently.
(R.A.M. 1058/27 and 2058/27.)
R.A.M. arriving in SOUTHERN PRINCE in accordance with his 0726A/27. ADVENTURE, AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, SCIMITAR, SALADIN, CASTLETON, WELLS in company.
(TRELAWNEY 1140/27.)
Special forecast indicates possible improvement early tomorrow. If this occurs leave Sulisker at daylight and carry out instructions in S.N. 3 F para T, 48 hours late. Should however you consider conditions unsuitable to check or relay Beacon with accuracy proceed to Loch Ewe for fuel, sailing thence

/passing...

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining- Lon 15.

S.N. 3 F. passing Sulisker at daylight 29th. Report your
Contd. position, intentions and weather conditions at
 0800 tomorrow.
 (R.A.M. 2050A/27 to SCOTT.)

Take SCIMITAR under your orders and proceed at 0800 tomorrow
to pass Sleat Boom at 0845 and thence to Londonderry. BRIGHTON
arrives at the boom from southward at 0830 and LANCASTER at 0930
and you should keep clear. Make your own E.T.A.
(R.A.M. 2359/27 to SALADIN.)

Humber My 2120/20. Mine at 1745. RECONO was follow up
on 20th ship, and S.A. gear was not operating at the time
Oct. this mine was detonated.
 (F.O. Humber 1245/27.)

Lyme Intend sailing LOCH BUIE and DORINDA for Dartmouth
Bay at 0700 tomorrow sweeping route P to Dart Buoy.
sweep. Codeword "Ounce VI".
 (F.O.I.C. Portland 1427A/27.)

Portsmouth. Two magnetic mines red detonated by L.L. One at
 1120/27 in 264° Nab Tower 1.7 miles, and one at
 1133/27 in 271° Nab Tower 2.8 miles. Details.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1800A/27 and 1552A/28.)

→ BRIGHTON. Sailed BRIGHTON for Port ZA. E.T.A. Sleat Sound
 0830A/28.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1828A/27.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats Am over enemy submarine in 45° 30' N 10° 18' W.
reported. Enemy on course 070°, speed 12 knots.
 (A/C 0120/27 to 19 Group.)
 Following has been read. Revised sub position
45° (?35') N 10° 55' W.
 (A.O.C. 19 Group 0400/27.)
 Indefinite D/F bearings at 0212Z/27 indicate U-Boat in
approx. 59° N 25° W.
 (D.D.I.C. 0516A/27 to Escorts S.C.105.)
 Light 62° 15' N 23° 05' W disappeared on approach. Searching.
 (A/C P8GG 0635N/27.)
 By S/E and visual S/M in position 4 F 3 A 40 34 time 0435,
also in 50° 12' N 05° 46' W time 0503, both burning yellow flares.
 (Chivenor 0715A/27 to 19 Group.)
 Am over enemy S/M in 58° 50' N 22° 10' W. Enemy was sighted
on surface and observed to submerge.
 (A/C 6LFL 1020/27.)
 At 1320A/27 aircraft reports U-Boat 62° 02' N 00° 57' W,
course 098°.
 (D.D.I.C. 2150A/27.)

/U-Boat...

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats. - Contd.

U-Boat attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 59° 11' N 22° 54' W. Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 070°, estimated speed 6 knots.
(A/C 9 ZLF 1125/27.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 9LZF 1150/27.)

U-Boat sunk by GRAPH. One Green Verys light sighted in 044° 14' N 008° 25' W on 19th Oct. No hydrophonic effects. Exactly similar light sighted 2008 last night in 047° 49' 007° 18'. No hydrophonic effects, but after surfacing and returning to look for dinghy saw one probable torpedo track. Sank sister ship in 044° (731') 007° 25' on 21st Oct. Have brought back no exhibit but the sonic evidence is considered quite conclusive.
(GRAPH 1815A/27 to F.O.S.) *Not confirmed by Lt: Rusbotham on 2nd. 6.43.*

Navigational.

3 C. Buoy. 3 C. Buoy damaged by ship in F.N. No 49 and may have sunk.
(LIDDESDALE 0254A/27.)

Casualties and Defects.

THOMA II My 2322A/26. P.L.A. Yacht THOMA II now refloated and at anchor.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 0701A/27.)

CALPE Delayed by defects.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0944A/27.)

STORA. A/S Whaler STORA has serious boiler defect which cannot be undertaken in Iceland. Temporary repairs to enable her to steam to U.K. have been carried out. Propose sailing her with R.U.47 observing that one additional escort is available in that convoy to stand by her (My 1232/27 refers)
(A.C.I.C. 2200A/27 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F.1. My 0944A/25. Sailed. Codeword "Damson".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0026A/27.)
Sailed C.S.10 in SHEFFIELD.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 0455A/27.)

Convoy O.N.139. DONAX (torpedoed 22nd Oct.) DONAX in 048° 37' N 024° 22' W at 2000A/26, drifting approx. 135° 1¼ knots. Prospects of salvage good. If weather deteriorates after part including engine room may break off. Weather 4781 1872. Admty. pass to VIZALMA.
(MYOSOTIS 0100A/27.)

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.EMPIRE
RUSKIN.

A.M. 2313/26. Request you will sail ALGERINE to R/V with EMPIRE RUSKIN in 000° Altacarry 8 miles at 1900A today.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0708/27 and 0852/27 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

KAOLACK
OMEGA

F.O.C.N.A. 1802A/22. On reaching position
(E) 042° 16' N 016° 01' W steer for
(F) 050° 02' N 015° 30' W.
(G) 055° 00' N 010° 00' W.
(H) 055° 35' N 007° 00' W omitting (D).
Destination KAOLACK Oban for orders, OMEGA Mersey for orders.
(C. in C. W.A. 0954A/27 to STELLA CARINA.)

S.C.
Convoys.
Ships for
Iceland.

Propose ships for Iceland (C) sail in even numbered S.Cs. This should allow two to three days for transfer of escort. If you concur request you will arrange with Connav to commence with S.C.108 or S.C.110.
(C. in C. W.A. 1005Z/27 to C.T.G.24.6.)

NORLYS

N.O.I.C. Belfast 1138/25 and A.M. 2325A/26. Sailed less AMAZON plus NORLYS.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1005A/27 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

Operation
F B.

Your 0036/27. Ref. to groups is not understood. Ships are to sail singly, 100 miles apart, the faster ships sailing first, vide my 1238/23 para 2. 2. Report names of ships, speed and order of sailing. EMPIRE GILBERT and CHULMLEIGH can be accepted. 3. Destination of all ships Kola Inlet unless otherwise ordered by S.B.N.O. North Russia.

(C. in C. H.F. 1012A/27 to A.C.I.C.)

Your 1012/27. It is fully understood that ships are to sail independently as ordered in para. 2 of your 1238/23. The word group in my 0036/27 was used to embrace the first five British ships to be selected. Names of ships, speed and order of sailing will be signalled when known.

(A.C.I.C. 1229A/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

TUNA is to proceed forthwith for operation F B.

D.S. O.15 is to proceed forthwith for operation F B at economical speed.

(F.O.S. 1829A/27 to Capt. S.9.) ~~1829A/27~~ p.236.

TUNA is to leave patrol forthwith passing through positions.
(a) 063° 00' N 002° 01' E. (b) 074° 01' N 015° 01' E on the surface at C.O's discretion to carry out operation F B.
Total bombing restrictions will be arranged.

(Capt. S.9. 2001A/27 to TUNA.)

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - ~~from T.S.~~

- Operation F B. Contd. O.15 is to leave patrol forthwith and proceed on the surface at C.O.'s discretion at economical speed through position (a) 063° 01' N 005° 01' E. (b) 074° 01' N 005° 30' E thence as ordered for operation F B. Total bombing restrictions will be arranged. (Capt. S.9. 2003A/27 to O.15.)
- CARNARVON CASTLE. My 1225/26. From Q pass through 000° Tory Island eight miles, then to R. (C. in C. W.A. 1106A/27 to CARNARVON CASTLE.)
- K.M.S.2. My 2358/25. K.27 sailed 0935/27. (D.S.T.O. Greenock 1115A/27.) My 2328A/25. Sailed WOODSTOCK to overtake. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1336A/27.) Pass to Commodore Turle. Begins: Your 1145/26. Vehicles are purposely loaded carrying petrol to allow mobility on being landed. Petrol should not be jettisoned unless danger of fire is imminent and in this case Masters should be given discretion to act. No further orders on this subject should be expected from N.C.X.F. (D of P. 2217A/27 to LONDONDERRY.)
- W.S.24. Intend sailing Clyde portion escorted by Capt. D.2 in ROTHERAM and HOLCOMBE, passing Clyde Boom 0100A/29 to R/V with other portion in position (J) at 0830A/29. Codeword "Muster 2". (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1138A/27.)
- K.M.F.2. Your 1535/25. It is now essential that P.7 due Tail of the Bank 0200/28 embarks at Tail of the Bank 1000 personnel on 30th Oct. and remainder on 31st. Oct. 2. Storing will if necessary have to be limited accordingly to enable ship to be ready in time for embarkation. (D.S.T. 1140A/27.)
- W.P.239 All of escort and convoy are to proceed Torbay. (C. in C. Plymouth 1311A/27.)
- S.D.33. E.T.A. 0700/28. GORLESTON hove to 59° 54' N 16° 46' W at 1500 G.M.T./26. GORLESTON unable to make good course and speed and proceeding to Londonderry independently. (LANCASTER 1830A/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

War Diary.

27.10.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.- Contd.

O.N.
and
O.N.S.
Convoys.

Pass to F.Os.I.C. and N.C.S.Os. Voyage of southbound ships breaking off from O.N. and O.N.S. convoys may be longer than the O.S. routes by some four days for ships to South American and West African ports and eight days to Capetown and beyond. All such ships should whenever possible sail with the necessary additional bunkers to enable them to avoid calling for bunkers at an intermediate port. Ships obliged to bunker may be directed to Pernambuco, Bahia or Freetown and should have charts of those ports.
(D.T.D. 2137A/27.)

843

27.10.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. My 2051/20.

- (1) Merchant ship reports sighting in poor visibility a large vessel resembling a N.Y.K. passenger ship in 5° 20' N. 63° 05' E. at 2100/21.
- (2) HOPESTAR overdue since 16.10.42 at Bombay from Durban. Could be a U-boat or Raider victim but no other evidence of raider activity near time and area of her route. (W.B. Note.- Safe, see S.O.I. Colombo 0626/29)
- (3) SHICKSHINNY overdue since 18.10.42 at Punta Arenas from Capetown. Made unintelligible position report on 9.10.42. Has not reported since. Possible victim of Raider 'H' or Raider 'J'. (W.D. Note.- Safe, see S.O.I. Montevideo 1517/27)
- (4) No further evidence about blockade running movements. One homeward bound could by now be in area of Cape Finisterre. (D.D.I.C. 1214A/27 to A.I.G. 13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

Bombing A.C.336 27/10. Institute following submerged
Restrictions. bombing restrictions.
Serial No.G.305 from 1800/27 to 1030/28 20 miles
either side of line joining 50° 34' N. 01° 50' W.
and 180° Start Point 25 miles.
Serial No.G.306 from 2300/27 to 0600/29 20 miles either side of
line joining 180° Start Point 25 miles and 180° Lizard Head
30 miles.
(H.Q.C.C. 0007A/27 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, F.O.C.N.A., S.8.)

P.556. *See next page* Ref. your 0936/26th. Will pass 040° 01' 011° 21'
at 0200A/28th. S. of A. 90 miles daily.
(P.556 0032A/27 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt.(S) 8.)

Your 0032/27th acknowledged.

2. Estimate you will now pass 043° 01' N. at 1200A/30th and you are to shift wireless watch at this time.
3. Weather report should be included on occasion of breaking W/T silence.

(F.O.C.N.A. 0540A/27 to P.556.)

RECHØU Arrivals H.M.T. ARCTIC RANGER with Spanish
intercepted. RECHØU, VILLA GARCIA.

(V.A.C.N.A. 0101A/27 to Admty.)

Arfar 513. Spanish RECHØU Santa Cruz and Las Palmas to Huelva intercepted 35 miles Cape Spartel 240. Has on board 2,090 ox hides weight 30 tons unnavy certificated shipper Juan Baldellou Santa Cruz consign order in transit for Switzerland.

2. Master, name Isidoro Salas Pareja states (A) was sent by agent Santa Cruz to Palmas but did not load any cargo there. (B) Has never spoken with any British Authorities. (C) Was not given route by any Authorities.
3. Francisco Gallud mentioned as Master in Tenerife Arfar 565 is on board as super cargo only. He has not yet been interviewed. (Contraband Control Service Officer, Gibraltar 1600/27 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

/ANGLO ...

844

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

ANGLO MAERSK, Proceed to assistance of ANGLO MAERSK torpedoed (torpedoed in 027° 50' N. 022° 15' W. at 1550 G.M.T./26th 26/10.) proceeding Tenerife course 082°, speed 7½ knots. (2) JULIET pass to SALVONIA. (F.O.C.N.A. 0345A/27 to JULIET (R) SALVONIA, Admty.)

My 2330/26th. Vessel now reports not in immediate danger and hopes to reach Canary Islands. Spanish minelayer MARTE ready to sail from Las Palmas to give assistance if necessary.

(B. Consul Tenerife 1030/27 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

P.C. and S. 028° 10' N. 020° 47' W. 088° 12. Expect contact ANGLO MAERSK 0130/28. Should condition of ANGLO MAERSK be satisfactory shall we bring her to Gibraltar or leave her outside territorial waters? PETUNIA P.C. and S. at 1200Z/27th 028° 35' N. 021° 34' W. 023°, 7.

(JULIET 1201Z/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

(W.R. Note: This message was transmitted from SALVONIA.)

Following has been read by Burnham Radio: At 1216Z SSSS Posn. 28.20 N. 19.32 W. ANGLO MAERSK, chasing. Missed by seven torpedoes.

(SALVONIA 1205/27 to Gib. W/T.)

ANGLO MAERSK, S/M still following, missed by seven torpedoes, position 027° 49' N. 019° 37' W. at 1300 G.M.T. proceeding Las Palmas, course 072° speed 7½ knots.

(ANGLO MAERSK 1330 G.M.T./27 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

Your 1201Z/27th. Ship is to be escorted Las Palmas. Then proceed to Gibraltar with all despatch.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1614A/27 to JULIET (R) SALVONIA, Admty.)

P.614. My 0936/26 P.556 now passes 040° 01' 011° 21' W.
*P.556. at 0200A/28th and 043° 01' 014° 10' W. at 1200A/30
*See previous page shifting W/T watch at 1200A, S. of A. 90 miles per day. P.614 and P.556 may encounter each other during night 29th/30th. (F.O.C.N.A. 0538A/27 to P.614 (R) P.556, Capt. S.5, Admty. etc.)

Bombing My 1008/25th and my 0938/26th. Extend submerged restrictions. bombing restrictions as follows: G.16 until 1000/28th, G.27 until 0200/29th, G.26 until 1600/30th and amend period of submerged bombing restrictions of G.25 to read from 0200/30th until 2000/30th.

(F.O.C.N.A. 0606A/27 to Admty. H.Q.C.C. (R) F.O.S.)

A.C.339 27/10. Serial No.G.307, forthwith until 1000/27 institute total submarine bombing restrictions in area 49° N. to 50° N. and 5° W. to 7° W.

(H.Q.C.C. 0712A/27 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, F.O.C.N.A., S.8.)

/EMPIRE ...

845

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

EMPIRE SAM.

Ref. C. in C. W.A. 1830A/14th. Tug EMPIRE SAM left Ponta Delgada 0730 G.M.T/27th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0946/27 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty.)

Tangier Intelligence.

Your 1255/26th. Same source Casablanca reported cruiser GLOIRE sailed for Dakar on 17th October. (?Subsequently) aircraft sighted cruiser southbound on 20th October and a cruiser northbound on 23rd October southward of Canary Islands.

Latter assumed to be MONTCALM on passage from Dakar to Casablanca. Request you will obtain early confirmation of whereabouts of these 2 Vichy units.

(S.O.I) Gib., 1058A/27 to Consul General, Tangier, (R) Admty. (For D.N.I.)

Repatriations.

Arrived Las Palmas 1000/25 Italian repatriation Liners VULCANIA, SATURNIA. (V.A.C.N.A. 1129A/27 to Admty. (R) R.A.W.A.etc.)

WIVERN.

Arrival. (F.O.C.N.A. 1230A/27 to Admty.)

Situation Report.

Area X. F.O.C.N.A. 1344A/27.
Area Y. F.O.C.N.A. 1348A/27.
Area Z. F.O.C.N.A. 1352A/27.
See Lion Copy.

CLEVELAND, ESKDALE, ALBRIGHTON.

CLEVELAND (S.O) ESKDALE and ALBRIGHTON E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0630 local time 31st October. Each ship requires 200 tons Oil Fuel on arrival. Admty. pass to Ponta Delgada and Lisbon. (C. in C. Plymouth 1543A/27 to B.C. Ponta Delgada (for C.S.A.) (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, F.O.C.N.A., Admty.)

MAGNOLIA, ORFELY, TUZLA.

H.M. Trawler MAGNOLIA, ORFELY, ferry steamer TUZLA left Horta 0845 G.M.T/26th for Freetown. (F.O.C.N.A. 1548A/27 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.) p. 845 B

LE TRAIT (French)

Departure. (Lisbon 1809/27 to M.W.T.)

/Gibraltar ...

MOST SECRET

~~1344A/27th October.~~

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
 From. F.O.C.N.A. Date. 27.10.42.
 Naval Cypher A.(1) By W/T. Recd. 1722.

Addressed N.A. Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation report for Area X at 1957A/27.

- (1) H.M.S/M P.556 039 degs. 35' 011 degs. 01' dived by day 2 surfacing by night 6 through 40 01 11 21 at 0200 28th thence 325 degs. to 43 01 14 10 at 1200 30th. *see pp 843 & 844*
- (2) H.M.S. JONQUIL, H.M.S. GERANIUM 1 (one) tanker 32 43 11 40 through 35 43 07 25 thence Gibraltar 12.
- (3) H.M.S. STELLA CARINA, 2 Merchant ships 40 44 14 (?46) 331 degs. 6.
- (4) H.M.S. LEYLAND, 38 46 13 22 through 38 17 13 01 thence (?125 degs.) 10.
- (5) KX 2, H.M.S. BULLDOG, H.M.S. BEAGLE, H.M.S. BOADICEA 4 Minesweepers, 3 trawlers, 36 24 11 32 to (?Liverpool)(?8). *Gibraltar*
- (6) S L 125, H.M.S. PETUNIA, H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. COWSLIP, H.M.S. CROCUS, KELANTAN, 30 28 (?20) 32 through (?32) 34 19 35 thence 016 degs. 7 1/2. *see next page p. 846*
- (7) (?S)(L. 125 (G) H.M.S. SPIREA, CAVA, EDAY, INCHMARNOCK, STROMA, H.M.S. COLTSFOOT, 35 30 13 01 267 degs. 7 1/2.
- (8) *Fleet Unit H.M.S. PENN, H.M.S. PANTHER, H.M.S. LOOKOUT, 38 30 18 01 through 37 01 15 01 thence 101 degs. 16. **RODNEY.*
- (9) D.S. ISAAC SWELERS, H.M.S. MARNE, H.M.S. ESCAPADE 37 05 19 15 to Ponta Delgada 20. *see next page*
- (10) JULIET and H.M.S. SALVONIA 28 05 18 35 escorting torpedoed *merchant ship to Tenerife proceeding through to Gibraltar 9. **ANSL0 MAERSK - see p. 844*
- (11) H.M.S. SCOTTISH sailing 0900 28th to assume patrol off Lisbon (Lisboa) 10.
- (12) H.M.S. IMPERIALIST patrol Huelva Bight.
- (13) H.M.S. LOCH OSKAIG patrol off Cape Roca.

1344A/27.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.C.D.(H) D.T.D.

A.C.F.S.(H)
 A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
 A.C.N.S.(T)
 N.A.1st S.L.
 Capt.Pin
 D.C.D.(H)(2)
 D.C.D.(F)(2)
 D.D.C.D.(M)

Duty Capt.(2)
 D.D.I.C.(2)
 D.of Plans (2)
 D.A/S.W.
 Hd.of M.
 W.D.
 I.P.(2)
 D.T.D.(3)

D.T.D.(M)
 D.T.D.(C)
 D.of S.(2)
 D.M.S.
 C.C.R.T.
 F.O.S. By courier.

SECRET

S E C R E T

M E S S A G E

1348A/27th Oct. IN

From: F.O.C.North Atlantic.

Date: 27.10.42.

Recd. 1654.

Naval Cypher C (68) by W/T.

Addressed: North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT:

Situation report for Area Y L. Situation 2003A/27th

1. D.S. ISAAC SWEERS, H.M.S. MARNE, H.M.S. ESCAPADE
037° 05' 019° 15' to Ponta Delgada 20. *see previous page.*
2. H.M.S. RAMSEY 041° 03' 023° 40' to Ponta Delgada 15.
3. S.L. 125, H.M.S. PETUNIA, H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. COWSLIP,
H.M.S. CROCUS, KELANTAN 30 28 20 32 through 32 34
19 35 thence 016° 7½. *see previous page - p. 846*
4. ORFELY, H.M.S. MAGNOLIA, 1 Tug, 1 Ferry Steamer, left
Horta a.m. 26th through 35 01 26 01 thence 162° 7½. *see p. 845*

1348A/27.

Duty Capt., D.O.D.(H), 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.
- Capt. Pim
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- Duty Capt.(2)
- U.S.N.
- D.A/S.W.
- Head of M.
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D.(3)
- D.T.D.(M)
- T.D.(C)

DW.

SECRET

845c.

SECRET

MESSAGE

1352A/27th October. III.

Date 27.10.42.

From: F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Recd. 2209.

NAVAL CYPLER 'C' BY W/T

Addressed: Situation Report for Area "Z" of North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. CORIOLANUS, 19 50 18 37 through 22 01 18 30 thence 035 degs 8.

(2) Italian Repatriation Ships DUILIO, and GUILIO CESARE, sailing from Las Palmas p.m. 27th. through 20 01 18 30 thence 180 degs 17 situation at 1959A 27th.

(3) Italian Repatriation Ships VULCANIA, and SATURNIA, left Las Palmas a.m. 26th. through 20 01 18 30 thence 180 degs 18½.

(4) H.M.S. BRILLIANT, H.M.S. AVON VASE, 18 30 19 01 004 degs 15. ~~18 30 19 01~~ p. 847A

(5) H.M.S. ANNELOPE, H.M.S. BOREAS, 17 47 18 37 through 23 01 18 01 thence 038 degs 15. ~~17 47 18 37~~ p. 847A

1352A/27

Advance copies Ops. O.D. & O.I.C.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. lst. S.L.
Capt. Pim
Ops (3)
O.D. (5)
O.D. 8.
D.A./S.W.
O.I.C.
D.P.S.
M(7)
Mails
Movts
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D of S.T. (2)
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.E.W.D. (3)

846

27.10.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.Gibraltar
Raid.1 Ju.88 over Fortress at 1305 at 14000 feet,
2 Spitfires up, no interception, A.A. fired,
no claim.
(R.A.F. Gibraltar 1905Z/27.)Algeciras,
foreign
aircraft.I have received verbal message from Governor
Algeciras that he has given strict orders that
all foreign aircraft flying over his district
will be engaged at once by A/A. I do not
consider this unfriendly but a direct result of
the recent Italian bombs on the Campo. Allied
aircraft should be warned to be especially
careful approaching Gibraltar.
(Govr. Gib. 1930A/27 to W.O.)PETUNIA, U/B.
PACIFIC STAR
torpedoed.Am being attacked by enemy submarine in 029° 31'
N. 020° 55' W.
(PETUNIA 2050Z/27 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. W.A.)
My 2050Z/27th, PACIFIC STAR torpedoed.
(PETUNIA 2142Z/27 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. W.A.)Intercept 2046 G.M.T. de Valentia radio, S S S S de 81
torpedoed forward, 2044/27.
(Humber Radio 2146/27.)

Air Raids.

At 0910/26 one Ju.88 passed over Rock Height
24,000 feet, A/A fired, aircraft approached along
Spanish coast from N.E. and disappeared to

Eastward. No fighter interception.

(2) At 1304/27 one Ju.88 over Rock Height 14,000 feet. A/A
fired. No fighter interception.
(V.A.C.N.A. 2258A/27 to Admty.)South Atlantic."g"
Report.Intercepted at 0130 G.M.T. de Sierra Leone
Radio. SSSS de PPS NMBN MSIP* ZD 23.30 S.
44.10 W. 26, 1100, unread, accuracy doubtful.
(Rio de Janeiro Radio, T.O.R. 0145 G.M.T/27)
(Portpatrick Radio, 0230/27 to Navy Charge
Greenock.)

* Name of ship indecypherable.

/C.F.7. ...

847

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

- C.F.7. Following from SHROPSHIRE (?begins):
 → SHROPSHIRE. (A) E.T.A. with convoy C.F.7 at Freetown is sunset Monday ? 2nd November.
 (B) (?Request) you will alter longitude of position Y to read 001° 20' W.
 (C) SHROPSHIRE (?is) missing following F.T. numbers: 131 to 135, 138 to 143, 146 to 155, 181, 184, 186 and 190.
 (D) P.C. and S. of convoy. In position X at 0840Z/27th, course 320° S. of A. 12 knots to (?F) thence 12½ knots. Fuel stocks remaining in escort at 0600Z/27th (?SHROPSHIRE) 2200 tons, mostly contaminated, HECLA 739. Weather report. T.O.O. 0720Z/27 (Ends).
 (ARROW 0805Z/27 to R.A.W.A.)
- ANNE HUTCHINSON. Rescued ten survivors American ANNE HUTCHINSON (torpedoed.) torpedoed and shelled 105° 30 miles from East London according to survivors. We are under (corrupt group), ship still floating, (corrupt groups) indicate.
 (STEEL MARINER 0939/27 to Jacobs W/T Station.)
 W.R. Note.- Above message has been read by Slangkop W/T and passed to Admty.)
- "S" Report. Following has been read by Freetown W/T addressed Simonstown W/T from St. Helena W/T Station. WYUC (undecypherable) SSSS 0930, 4° 50', 9° 55' W. Submarine sighted.
 (T.O.R. 1005Z/27.)
- Dispositions. R.A.W.A. 1011Z/27, 1017Z/27. C. in C. S.A. 1153C/27.
- DUNCAN, ANTHONY, SHROPSHIRE. My 1331/25th. Amend position of R/V to 35° 54' N. 19° 44' W. Time unchanged, approach course of Convoy 032° 12½ knots.
 (R.A.W.A. 1148Z/27 to B.A.D. (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A)
- W.S.23. My 1240/26 para 2. Amend R/V for NORMAN to read 021° 56' S. 012° 18' E.
 (C. in C. S.A. 1151X/27 to DURBAN (R) ROCKROSE, CARTHAGE, NORMAN, DESPATCH, KANARIS, MILFORD, THYME, R.A.W.A. Admty.) *pp 847B etc.*
- Saldanha Boom, BARBRAKE. My 1208/2/9 not to N.O.I.C. Takoradi. In view of S/M activities in Cape area and increased use being made of (?Saldanha Bay) I wish to expedite laying of boom at latter port where FERNMOOR has only BARCROSS to work Convoys.
 (2) While still realizing vulnerability of Takoradi request you will release BARBRAKE as soon as you conveniently can.
 (C. in C. S.A. 1200C/27 to R.A.W.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Admty.)

/Cable ...

847A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1011Z/27th October

IN

From R.A. West Africa.

Date 27.10.42.
Recd. 1559.

NAVAL CYPHER '3.M.' BY W/T

Addressed 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.

ROBERTS, SNOWDROP, BURDOCK, (?18) 50 18 35 004 degs. 9.

H.M.S. BRILLIANT, H.M.S. AVON VALE, (?19) (?55) 18 55 004 degs. 14³/₄.

H.M.S. VHELOX, H.M.S. PUCKERIDGE, 17 50 19 15 353 degs. 14 at 1957Z 27th. *p.845C*

H.M.S. ANTELOPE, H.M.S. BOREAS, 17 20 18 40 006 degs. 15¹/₂. *p.845C*

COLLIERIANT DROGOU, off Nigeria to Freetown 10.

Submarine P 552, 11 55 18 15 to 10 01 17 01 thence 112 degs. 9. *p.849*

ARRAN, 2 Motor Launches, 09 30 17 02 to Bathurst 9.

Tug AINWELL, 09 45 15 50 to Freetown 10.

H.M.S. MORRIS DANCE, CANNA, COPINSAY, with F T.1 off Freetown 288 degs.
(?7) - 7¹/₂.

1011Z/27.

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)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.A/S.W.
D.D.I.O.(2)
Duty Capt.(2)
I.P.(2)

Head of M.
W.D.
U.S.N.
D. of P.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
D.D.O.D.(C)
R.A.C.F.
C.C.R.T.
D.M.S.
Adl. Blake

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1017z/27th October

IN

Date 27.10.42

Recd. 1637

From R.A. West Africa

Naval Cypher M by W/T

Addressed Ships in Area 'P' of South Atlantic
Station South of 8 degs N., Admiralty, C. in C. South
Atlantic, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT

H.M.S. SPANIARD, from Robert ~~E~~ Port to Freetown 7.

H.M.S. SIRIUS, 002 degs 20' 012 degs 20' to Freetown 20.

1958z 27th. H.M.S. FANDANGO, 004 degs 35' 000 degs 30'
to Lagos 9.

H.M.S. KELT, 00 30 South 08 15 East to Pointe Noire 10.

H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE, H.M.S. HECLA, H.M.S. ARROW, H.M.S.
ACTIVE, H.M.S. AMARANTHUS, H.M.S. TAMARISK, with C F 7,
03 50 South 08 40 East 319 12½.

H.M.S. SOUTHERN GEM, off Pointe Noire. Greek KANARIS,
H.M.S. DURBAN, H.M.S. DESPATCH, H.M.S. CARTHAGE, H.M.S.
MILFORD, with W S 23, 10 26 South 03 22 East 144 12½.

Sub. H.M.S. TRUANT, about 11 01 South 10 59 East. H.M.S.
*QUEEN OF BERMUDA, 08 (?31) 28 05 to 06 01 25 59 West
256 14. * ~~856~~ p.856

Friendly Naval Unit, about 05 01 South 14 40 to Ascension
through 04 59 South 14 01.

1017z/27

Advance copy to Duty Capt. 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.
Capt. Pim
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.A/S.W.
D.D.I.C.(2)
Duty Capt.(2)
I.P.(2)
Hd. of M.
W.D.
U.S.N.

D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)

MOST SECRET

8/11/42

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1153C/27th Oct. IN.

From: C. in C.S.A., Date 27.10.42.

Recd: 1720.

Naval Cypher M by W/T.

Addressed: S.A. Station Squadron repeated Admiralty
Cdre. i/c Durban 837 N.O.I.C. Port
Elizabeth N.O.I.C. East London.

IMPORTANT.

692

Movements Summary 2000Z 27th Oct. Area Q.

Netherlands S/m K.14, 020° 10' South 012° 30' East
to the North knots 9.

NEPAL, H.M.S. FORTUNE, on patrol about 035° 30'
South 018° 00' East.

MAURETANIA, 042° 45' South 022° 45' East to
Durban 20.

CATTERICK, on patrol in False Bay.

H.M.S. NORMAN, leaves Simonstown p.m. 27th for
Walvis Bay.

1153C/27

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt.,
D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.,

A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt Pim
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.D.O.D. (M)
Duty Capt (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D of Plans (2)
D.A/S.W.
Hd of M.
W.D.
I.P. (2)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)

848

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

- Cable Ships. Your 1605/17. EMILE BAUDOT has now completed Table Bay system including H.D.A's. Propose CECILE MAPLESON returns to Table Bay for maintenance ^{by} completion of laying D.G. Range at Durban. (2) Your 1602/11/7 (requesting details of laying 2 legged loops) and my 1745/15/7 para 1. Propose to lay two legged loops as experiment to cover beds of system. Details to follow. This will require use of small cable laying vessel owing to shallow water.
(C. in C. S.A. 1210C/27 to Admty.)
- U/B. U-Boat sighted by Hudson aircraft in 009° 08' N. 015° 39' W. at 1200Z/27th.
(R.A.W.A. 1345Z/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, F.O.C.N.A.)
- SHICKSHINNY. My 2201/25th (SHICKSHINNY overdue at Punta Arenas) SHICKSHINNY arrived Punta Arenas, Chile, 25th, left 26th for Panama.
(S.O.I.) Montevideo 1517Z/27 to Admty. etc.)
- Strategic Area Boundaries. Responsibility in South Atlantic.
(B.A.D. 1547Z/27 to Admty.)
See America and West Indies.
- NAPIER, BLACKMORE. Your 2105/26 (N.T. in W.R.) Para 2. withdrawn. NAPIER has developed (?A/S) defect. (?BLACKMORE) will sail in lieu.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1649C/27 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. Admty.)
- EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Your 1805/2 para 12 and your 0125/16 para 4. Request decision as to disposal of EMPRESS OF RUSSIA may now be communicated. Suggested ship should embark to capacity Mid-East personnel now waiting at Durban and accompany Suez section of W.S.23.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown 1653C/27 to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. India, C. in C. E.F. etc.)
Reply: 0414A/30.
- CITY OF TOKYO "Q" Report. Following has been read. QQQQ 34.14 S. 27.25 E. suspicious vessel, funnel aft, stern very low in water, bows right out of water, two masts forward of funnel, heavy derrick on foremast, small craft astern of suspicious vessel, appears to be following us.
(CITY OF TOKYO 1710 G.M.T./27.)

War Diary.

27.10.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

P.552. P.C. and S. 014° 30' 019° 54' 147° 5 knots.
sub p 847A
Port engine defective.
(P.552 1801Z/27 to R.A.W.A.)

U/B. U.S. Aircraft sighted U-boat in 04° 05' S. 09° 55' W. at 1010Z/27.
(R.A.W.A. 2016Z/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

U/B. Following received. Addressed C. in C. S.A. from (BCGW) PALMA, position 2100 G.M.T. 11° 40' N. 29° 34' W. Steering 130° 15½ knots - S/M astern of me. Advise.
(Portishead Radio 2125 G.M.T./27 to Admiral Liverpool, (R) Admty.)

MATTHEW MAURY. SS MATTHEW MAURY due Capetown about 30th October is carrying 30 Martlets. Request such protection as possible may be provided.
(D.T.D. 2141A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

P.35 M/Vs attacked.	C.A.F.O. 1278/41. (a) 23rd October 1942.	(b) Large salvage tug anchored off Khoms, Tripoli, Libya.	(c) P.35	(g) 1 mark VIII 2 star A A 19	(j) Missed
	23rd October 1942.	Large Merchant ship beached off Khoms with salvage proceeding.	P.35	VIII 2 star A W 1048 A A 1778	Probably hit.

(Capt. S. 10 1115A/27 to Admty.)

P.44 Tanker probably hit.	(a) 20th Oct. 1942.	(b) Escorted southbound Tanker N.W. of Tripoli surface night attack range 4500.	(c) P.44	(g) 3 Mark VIII 2 star A W 431 A W 884 R.N.T.F. 1253.	(j) Two explosions at correct range and time interval, possibly hits but enemy continued to destination.
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(Capt. S.10 1150A/27 to Admty.) /Cositrep ...

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - ~~cont.~~Cositrep
No.563.

(6) Night 25-26th October. Torpedo and bomber Wellingtons attacked a tanker and two Merchant vessels on eastbound convoy N.W. of Derna. Bombs straddled one merchant ship but no damage observed.

(14) 26th October. Three formations of American B.24s one of B.17s despatched to attack convoy, 1 tanker, 1 large, 1 small M/V and destroyer escort west of Tobruk (convoy previously attacked by Wellingtons night 25/26 October.) One formation failed to find, claimed hit on barge north of Tobruk. Remainder bombed convoy claiming two hits and near misses on tanker. Beauforts Bisleys with Beaufighter escort later found convoy proceeding normally. Claimed four bombs, one torpedo on tanker followed by explosion and fire. Near misses on small M/V. Large M/V attacked, no hits observed but ship seen smoking after attack. Escort damaged one Ju.88. Second strike of escorted Beauforts failed to find and attacked 300 foot barge north of Tobruk. No visible results. Escort encountered, 5 He.111s shot down 2, damaged 3. Three torpedo Wellingtons attacked at dusk. M/V blew up, tanker seen still burning. Further night sorties saw tanker blazing but intense heat prevented attack. From above sorties two Bisleys, two Beaufighters, one Beaufort, one Wellington are missing.
(C. in C. M.E. 1215 G.M.T/27.)

Black Sea.

(1) Naval.

- (a) Night 23rd October Russian E.Boats raided Bay West of Sevastopol. 1 tanker probably sunk.
 (b) Night 25th October E.Boats raided Anapa. In spite of new boom defence one tug and two F.barges sunk.
 (c) Enemy E-Boats active but unsuccessful.
 (d) 24th October enemy Submarine sighted off Tuapse.
 (2) Enemy aircraft very ?(active) along this coast. Russian convoy unsuccessfully attacked by (?25) aircraft. Russian aircraft bombed Anapa 24th October. One E.Boat, one schooner sunk.
 (3) (a) Shapsugskaya. Russians advanced slightly to north of village. Other sectors quiet.
 (b) Maikop. 25-26th October Russians repulsed new enemy attack towards Tuapse.
 (N.L.O. Black Sea 1315C/27 to Admty. etc.)

Axis
Shipping.Departure. German SULLBERG.
Arrival. Italian DERNA.
(Barcelona 1320/27 to Admty.)

AQUITANIA.

*See pp 853-7860*Arrival 27th.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 1320Z/27 to Admty. etc.)

Malta.

Military Sit. Rep. W/E 24th October 1942.
(Govr. Malta 1400/27) See Lion Copy.

/Enemy ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1400/27th October IN

FROM: Gov. & C. in C. Malta.

DATE: 27.10.42.

RECD: 2355

CYPHER

ADDRESSED: C. in C. Middle East Repeated The War Office.
080304. G/4586/R cipher 27 Oct.

Military situation report for week ending 24 Oct. 42.

1. Enemy now forced to use fighters or fighter bombers only. R.A.F. have maintained superiority over Island and little damage done. Air and submarine offensive against enemy convoys maintained.

2. During daylight. 37 alerts. Dusk 19 Oct. 40 bombers approached intercepted by 6 Spitfires. 3 crossed coast rest jettisoned bombs sea. 2 JU 88s destroyed. Remaining alerts each few fighter bombers heavily escorted. Total 500 Spitfire sorties against 1245 enemy sorties. Nine fighters destroyed, four probably destroyed, sixteen damaged by R.A.F. 4 ME 109s destroyed by Lt. A.A. 2 damaged by small arms. Only 3 Spitfires destroyed 4 damaged.

3. By night. 8 alerts. 18 a/c approached 13 crossed coast.. bombs scattered localities. Beaufighters damaged 1 JU 88, 1 HE 111.

4. Offensive. Total 5 Swordfish 5 Albacore 8 Wellington sorties against enemy convoys. Result 1 tanker 2 M/Vs hit torpedoes 1 M/V hit 1000 lb. bomb. Other results unobserved due bad weather. Submarines have also been very successful recently.

5. Adm. Further economies in M.T. fuel have cut out all mobile training. Army now existing on less than 4000 gallons petrol per week. Rations being slightly further reduced 1 Nov. but calorific value unchanged. Winter accommodation suffering from lack petrol and materials.

6. Military damage negligible casualties 5 O.R.s wounded.

/ 7.

850 B

7. Many U.X.Bs. disposed of incl. 200 anti personnel and large number German 1 KG. Incendiaries. New type delay action Butterfly A.P. bomb fuze 67 already reported separately.

1400/27

Recd: from W.O. 0930/28th Oct.

Advance copies D.C. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

War Office Circulation:

S. of S.	D. Air.
C.I.G.S.	Air.l.
V.C.I.G.S.	D.Q.M.G.
D.C.I.G.S.	Q.(Ops.)
D.M.O.	D.Mov.
D.D.M.O. (O) (H)	D.D.Mov.(S)
M.O.l., 5., 7.	Q.(M) 3.
D. Plans (2)	E.(Ops.)
D.M.I.	C.A.S. Air Min.
D.D.M.I. (I) (P/W)	A.M.C.S. Air Min.
M.I.3., 9., 14.	Col. Rolleston (Col. Off.)
D.R.A.	C.N.S. (Admiralty)
D.D.R.A. (P)	Hd. of War Reg. (Admy.)
R.A.l.	
D.S.D.	
D.D.S.D.	
S.D.2.	

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
4th S.L.
C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
N.A. 1st S.L.
A.C.N.A.S.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D.C. (2)
Hd. of M.
D.N.I. (4)
I.P. (2)
D.P.D.
W.D.
Ad. Blake.
D.N.A.D.
D.T.S.D.
D.G.D.
D. of L.D.
D.A.C.D.

MFG

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War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Enemy
Units.

P.C. and S. of 1 medium sized M/V (not exceeding 10,000 tons) 1 tanker, 4 (? destroyers) 37.40 N. 21.00 E. 80° 3 knots.
(A/C X3P duty J. 1400A/27 to Hal Far, Malta.)

CLYDE.

Leaves Beirut searched channel at 1900C/27 routed through
(1) 033° 42' 033° 34' at 0200/28.
(2) 033° 42' 018° 58' at 1700/1/11 thence as ordered by you. Daily advance 165 miles.
(Capt. S.1 1427C/27 to Capt. S. 10 (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

NEREUS.

Leaves Beirut searched channel at 1910/27 routed through
(1) 033° 44' 033° 34' at 0400/28th.
(2) 035° 47' 027° 30' at 0200/31st thence to operate in Aegean east of line 323° from position 035° 20' 026° 54'.
(Capt. S.1 1515C/27 to S/Ms on patrol (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. Coastal Forces, Capt.(S) 10, Capt. (S) CORINTHIA.)

Enemy
Intelligence,
Istanbul.

From usual source:
(A) Great perturbation among Italian colony here as a result of recent air raids. Italian German Embassy circles show anxiety and opinion expressed that continuation of bombing on present scale will cause rapid and complete breakdown of Italian resistance. A.1
(B) Same circle confirms A/A defence reinforcements have been requested by Italian from Germans, which can only be given at cost of denuding German cities. A.3.
(C) German Military Attache estimates all Axis force North Africa is 275,000: ours 650,000. Germans here are preparing opinion for withdrawal. A.6.
(S.O.I) Istanbul 1647C/27 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Med.)

Use of Ferry Steamers. Your 0252/10/10 and Admty. 1813/16/10. Turkish type Ferry Steamers have proved immensely valuable for (A) Harbour Service. (B) Coastal Service whenever they could be made available, and will now be great asset for (C) operational purposes involving sea passage in view of impending withdrawal operational landing craft vide A.M. 2046/20/10. (2,3 and 4, details.)
(5) Recommend 8 Ferries be put on hand immediately and built as quickly as possible. Suggest Smiht be consulted and agreed modifications included Provisional allocation Suez area 3, Bitter Lakes 1, Eastern Mediterranean and Western Desert 4. Agreed Murrant and Mideast.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1830/27 to Admty. for D.S.T. (R) C. in C. Med.)

/TAKU ...

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War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- TAKU. Amend southerly limit of your area to 037° 50'. Tanker traffic from Dardanelles to Piraeus is of first importance. (Capt. S.1 1855C/27 to TAKU (R) NEREUS, C. in C. Med.)
- MALINES. Your 1951/22. MALINES not considered total loss. Salvage is in progress and report will be signalled when ship is raised. Lieut. (E) B. Perry R.N.R. and one shipwright T.124 are standing by, remainder of crew absorbed by station requirements except some T.124 ratings who are accommodated additional in ANTWERP. (C. in C. Med. 1930C/27 to Admty.)
- Malta Air Report. I. 67 27th October. C.S.R. Malta. Part 1. Night 26/27. No enemy activity. 27th 0603 hours. 24 Me.109s including fighter bombers approached Malta at height and were intercepted 15 miles north of Island by 12 Spitfires who damaged 2 Me.109s without loss to themselves. A few raiders crossed coast and dropped bombs round Takali Aerodrome causing no serious damage. 0913 hours. 60 Me.109s and 202s including bomb carrying Me.109s approached Malta at height in several waves and were intercepted 10 miles north of Island by 20 Spitfires but enemy had height advantage and no combat resulted.. H.E. and Delay Action bombs on Luqa Aerodrome destroyed 1 Wellington VIII and damaged 1 Spitfire, light A.A. probably destroyed 1 Me.109. 1357 hours. 40 Me.109s and Mc.202s including fighter bombers approached at height and were intercepted 15 miles north of Island by 23 Spitfires who forced fighter bombers to jettison bombs in sea and turn back at speed. Enemy fighter escort had height advantage and 1 Mc.202 was damaged for loss of 1 Spitfire seriously damaged, Pilot slightly injured, no raider crossed coast. Today in 52 Spitfire sorties against 124 enemy sorties 3 enemy fighters have been damaged by Spitfires for loss of 1 Spitfire damaged in combat and 1 Wellington destroyed and 1 Spitfire damaged on ground. Light A.A. probably destroyed one Me.109. (A.H.Q. Malta 2117Z/27.)
- Part 2. Night 26/27. 2 Wellington 8s, 1 bombing, ? 1 torpedo carrying despatched to attack convoy photographed, 1320 hrs. 1 Wellington found 218° Antipaxos 18 miles, 2200 hrs. 1 probable tanker, 2 probable D/Rs course 090° speed 10 knots and dropped 2 1000 lb. bombs. Results not observed. Torpedo Wellington did not locate convoy owing to very bad visibility. (A.H.Q. Malta 2121/27.)

War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

AQUITANIA A.M. 2305/20 and A.C.N.B. 0801/26.
escort. If escort can be provided from Aden or from
Emps. 850 & 860 Colombo presumably you will use same ship to
bring back AQUITANIA from Fremantle. You may
therefore prefer to embark this personnel in MAURETANIA (see
D. of S.T's 0225/21).
2. Request your proposals.
(D.O.D.(F), 0025A/27 to C. in C. E.F., (R) A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.,
P.S.T.O. E.)

Coast (1) The Coast Regiment consisting of Kent Battery
Regiment, just returned from Seychelles and Devon Battery
employment. now being relieved by Ceylonese troops are
available for return to Mideast. Total strength
400.
(2) It is for consideration whether these troops, who have had
experience of boat work in Burma, in mounting and manning guns
in the Island base, in light A.A., and have had infantry
training, should be returned to Mideast or unspecified duties
or be retained here with a view to their employment in conjunction
with L and M unit on future operations.
(F.O. Ceylon, 0629Z/27 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Mideast for Overt,
Admty., etc.)
Overt opposed to retention. See 0904Z/28.

Catalinas, Your 0304A/21. Information was passed to me by
Indian A.O.C. 207 Group as result of Air Ministry Signal
Ocean. A.X.537, T.O.O. 1057Z/7 addressed 207 Group.
(C. in C. E.F., 0714Z/27 to Admty., (R) 207 Group)

DORYSSA. Tanker DORYSSA needs docking and must replenish
stores. Intend sailing her for Durban shortly
for stores (tanker message) and request that
docking may be arranged there as convenient, date
being reported.
(C. in C. E.F., 0721Z/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

U/B Augment my A.360 (1600/26.)
attacked S/M sighted 12 miles ahead of convoy by escorting
25/10. Blenheim, 2 250 lb. A/S bombs and 3 depth charges
dropped from 700 feet. 2 explosions 50 yards in
front of wake producing brown patch 100 by 50
yards.
(A.H.Q. Iraq, 0810/27 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Operation My 0945/25. Eastern Fleet Weekly Intelligence.
"Demcat". Summary No. 18 (N.T. in W.D.) Add to para. 3
DEVONSHIRE, MAURITIUS, ENTERPRISE sailed from
Kilindini 24/10 for operation "Demcat".
(C. in C. E.F., 1035Z/27.)

/ORISSA ...

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War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

ORISSA. Arrival 1045Z/27th.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 1046Z/27 to Admty.)

Raid on Int.19, 27/10.
Hong Kong. U.S.A. Air Force Report, China 25th October.
12 B.25s escorted by 7 P.40s attacked Hong Kong.
Bombs seen to hit docks, shipping, buildings, in
target area. After attack formation intercepted by 18 Zeros
and S.45s. 10 enemy fighters definitely destroyed 5 probably.
U.S.A. losses, 1 bomber 1 fighter.
(A.H.Q. India, 1203Z/27.)

Madagascar. Intentions for naval arrangements and administration
(C. in C. E.F., 1304Z/27 to F.O.E.A., N.O.I.C.
Diego Suarez, (R) Admty., etc.)
See Lion Copy.

Bandar Abbas Your 1517/15/9.
Defences; Para. 2. Concur. Only loop layer at present
Bahrein, available for Indian Ocean is EMILE BAUDOT
Sitah. employed Cape area until Jan. 1943. It is
proposed she then proceeds to Trincomalee to lay
midget detector loops, thence to Bombay to lay
and maintain loop system before onset of S.W. monsoon (my 1747/22
refers).
2. In view of small security provided by loops at Bandar Abbas,
request you will consider using Bahrein Harbour and Sitrah
Anchorage. These harbours should be immune from submerged
attack due to shallow water. Considerable security could
thus be provided by A/S patrol craft only.
3. Indicator loop equipment is being provided for Bombay and
Colombo and could be used if you decide to lay loops at Bandar
Abbas first.
(D.L.D., Approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 1306A/27 to C. in C. E.F., (R)
S.N.O.P.G.)

Persian Gulf Your 0947/22 and 0535/24.
Striking (1) Charter Party in respect of BLINJOE is still
Force, under discussion with Dutch Authorities in London,
Base Ship. (my 2211 of 15th June to P.S.T.O. India refers),
but can be assumed to be on Bare Boat basis which
may however leave Dutch with right to insist on
retention of Dutch crew.
(2) WUSUEH is fitted as a Hospital Carrier and must be used for
that purpose. A decision as to whether she is used as a Base
Hospital Carrier for Addu Atoll (see C. in C. E.F.'s 1336 of 9th
September, or as a Hospital Carrier to meet Armindia's require-
ment given in P.S.T.O. India's 0629 of 8th October not to you)
is a matter for local settlement.
(3) MELCHOIR TREUB has already been allocated to you for scheme
N.A., see my 0335 of 9th October.
(4) My 1207/20. Report voltage of MELCHOIR TREUB for supply of
Type 128 Asdic Set.
(D. of S.T., 1552/27 to F.O.C.R.I.N., (R) C. in C. E.F.)

/Liberators...

SECRET

854 A.

SECRET

MESSAGE 1304Z/27 October. IN

From. C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Date. 29.10.42.

Recd. 0605.

INTERSERVICE GENERAL (X)(BY T/P).

Addressed F.O. East Africa N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.
Repeated. Admiralty. C. in C. South Atlantic.
Com. i/c Durban. East African Headquarters.
207 Group. 246 Wing N.O.I.C. Majunga. M.O.I.C.
Tamatave

177. My intentions for the naval arrangements and administration of Madagascar are as follows

Base Staffs.

(2) N.O.'s i/c and appropriate staff at Diego Suarez and Tamatave. R.N.O. at Majunga. Station appointments are being issued.

Administration.

(3) Madagascar ports to come under administrative control of F.O. East Africa through N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez (as directed by F.O. East Africa).

Defences.

(4) Underwater defences of Diego Suarez are progressing as planned.

(5) Defences of Tamatave are under consideration.

(6) A/F local (3 corrupt group) allocated to Diego Suarez and Tamatave.

Supplies.

(7) Tamatave will be the main supply port for Army requirements but occasional shipments will be made to Diego Suarez, Majunga and Tulear for local garrisons.

(8) Further details will be decided when army requirements and shipping available are more fully known. It is hoped that distribution around Madagascar will be undertaken by MARECHAL GALLIENI

Flying Boat Bases.

(9) An advanced Flying Boat Base has been established at Diego Suarez.

(10) It is intended that a reconnaissance to establish further bases in S W Madagascar shall be carried out shortly.

Communications.

(1) E.F.C.O. is being issued. 1304Z/27.

+ Repetition of corrupt groups has been requested.

1st Lord.	Civil Lord.	D.T.D. (M).	E. in C.
1st S.L. (2).	P.A.S. (S).	D.T.D. (C).	D.A/S.W.
D.F.S.E.	H.A. 1st S.L.	D. of S.F. (2).	D.M.S
2nd S.L.	Capt. Pim.	C.E. in C.	D.M.S. Citadel.
3rd S.L.	H.A. 2 S.L. (2).	W.G.F.	Mails.
4th S.L.	H. 27.	D.S.D. (2).	Movts.
C.N.A.S.	P.N.L.O.	D.N.A.D.	O.D. 8.
V.C.N.S.	H.A. to A.C.N.S. (T).	A.C.N.A.S.	Dep. Contr. (3).
A.C.N.S. (F).	D. of P. (3).	D.B.D. (2).	D. (4).
A.C.N.S. (T).	D. of P. (Q).	D.A.C.D.	D.N.O. (4).
A.C.N.S. (W).	C.C.O. (2).	Air Branch.	D.A.S. (4).
A.C.N.S. (H).	D.N.I. (5).	D. of S. (3).	C.E. in C.
Nav. Sec.	O.I.C. (3).	D.F.S. (2).	D. of S.
Parl. Sec.	Ops (3).	C.W. (2).	D.S.D. (3).
Fin. Sec.	O.D. (5).	N.	D.A/S.W. (2).
Sec.	D.T.D. (4).	I. (3).	E. in C.
D.N.O.	D.T.S.D.	W.D.	S.W.R.
D.G.D. (2).	Ad. Blake.	D.A.S. (L).	(Path by Courier.)
D. of L.D. (2).	D.T.M.	D. 57 O.B.	

SECRET

854 B

Date: 1.11.42.

From War Registry.

Reference C. in C. Eastern Fleet's
1304/27th October (Naval arrangements and
administration of Madagascar). In
paragraph 6 please read at beginning
"A/S Local Defence Craft are allocated" etc.

1st Lord.	D.S.D. (2)
1st S.L. (2)	D.B.D. (2)
D.F.S.L.	D.A.C.D.
2nd S.L.	Air Branch.
3rd S.L.	D. of S. (3)
4th S.L.	D.P.S. (2)
C. N.A.S.	C.W. (2)
V.C.N.S.	N.
A.C.N.S. (F)	I.P. (3)
A.C.N.S. (T)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.A.S. (L)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.N.O.
Naval Sec.	D.G.D. (2)
P.A.S. (S)	D.T.S.D.
Parl. Sec.	Ad. Blake.
Sec.	D. of I.D. (2)
Financial Sec.	D.T.M.
Civil Lord.	D. 57 O.B.
N.A. 1st S.L.	E. in C.
Capt. Pin.	D.A/S.W.
A.C.N.A. S.	D.M.S.
D.N.A.D.	D.M.S. Citadel.
M. (27)	Mails.
D. of P. (3)	Movts.
N.A. 2nd S.L. (2)	O.D. 8.
P.N.L.C.	Dep. Contr. (3)
N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)	D. (4)
D. of P. (Q)	D.N.O. (4)
C.C.C. (2)	D.A.S. (4)
D.N.I. (5)	C.E. in C.
O.I.C. (3)	D. of S.
Ops. (3)	D.S.D. (3)
O.D. (5)	D.A/S.W. (2)
D.T.D. (4)	E. in C.
D.T.D. (M)	S.W.R.
D.T.D. (C)	
D. of S.T. (2)	
C.E. in C.	
W.G.F.	

Bath by
Courier.

mb

War Diary.

27.10.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Liberators. A.H.Q. India's 1103/24, No. 160.
Liberator Squadron is manned by specialized G.R. crews who will, however, require to be given further training and experience in naval co-operation. An additional reason for despatching the whole squadron without A.S.V. was to provide a long range air striking force for use against enemy surface raiders. The formation of this new squadron in Ceylon should also enable you to detach Catalinas more freely for operations elsewhere in Indian Ocean.

2. The Squadron is being formed and trained by delaying one Liberator G.R. Squadron in Coastal Command at a time when these long range aircraft are greatly needed for A/S operations in Atlantic. Liberators in Coastal Command are operating as G.R. aircraft without A.S.V. at present and A.S.V. is not a necessity. The value of A.S.V. at home has decreased since Germans started fitting U-Boats with "listening" equipment.

3. It is not desired to delay the despatch of these Liberators to Ceylon but if they are to be diverted to the land bomber force consideration may have to be given to retaining them in U.K. for A/S operations where they might be better employed. These points are being taken up with Air Ministry but it is not clear whether A.O.C. in C. India consulted you before making the signal referred to, and we would prefer that the matter be settled locally.

(D.A.C.D. (Approved A.C.N.S.[S]), 1807A/27 to C. in C. E.F.)

SECRET

853A

SECRET.

MESSAGE

0900G.M.T./27 October.
IN.

FROM. British Air Attache China.

DATE. 30.10.42.

CIPHER.

RECD. A.M.C.S. 2233A.

ADDRESSED. R.A.F. Hqrs. India, repeated Air Ministry.

WX. 3426 A.114 27/10.

SL. 2238/27.

1. United States China West Task Force Operations. Afternoon 25th October. 12 Bombers 9 fighters attacked Hong Kong - Kowloom Area docks and shipping. Many fires M.T. After bombing, formation was intercepted by 18 Type O and 1 45 fighters of which 10 confirmed shot down 5 probable. 1 American bomber, 1 fighter lost, pilot of latter believed wounded but safe in free? Chinese territory.

2. Dark hours morning 26 October. Small force 5 or 6 bombers attacked North point Power Station Hong Kong. Complete destruction claimed. All aircraft returned.

3. Later morning 26 October. Many fires started very mild explosion reported? after attack by bombers on white cloud airfield North East of Canton. All aircraft returned.

4. 25th October. 6 American fighters intercepted 20 Japanese type O and 1.45 fighters 30 miles south of Mengtze. Claimed 2? type O and 1 45 destroyed 4 probable. No loss to Americans.

5. For further details above operations contact United States 10th Air Force H.Qrs.

6. American H.Qrs. here receive very little more information U.S.A.A.F. operations in China other than is published in press communiques. They receive their detailed reports 10th Air Force H.Qrs. to whom all operational intelligence China Air Task Force is submitted direct. In view of this do you wish me to continue to report to you what general details I receive from Americans here about each of their air operations in China or are you satisfied that 10th Air Force H.Qrs. are advising you of full details direct.

0900G.M.T./27.

Note by A.M.C.S. Message held for C. & R.

Advance Copy Sent Ops., C.D., O.I.C.

Recd. in War Reg. from Air Ministry P.M./2nd/11.

1st Lord.	S. of S.	} Advance
1st. S.L.(2)	C.A.S.	
4th S.L.	O.Ops.2.(2 copies) (Action)	}
C.N.A.S.	War Room. (2 copies)	
V.C.N.S.	V.C.A.S.	
A.C.N.S.(F)	A.C.A.S.(O)	A.I.3.A.1.
Naval Sec.	A.C.A.S.(G)	Duty Group Captain.
N.A.1st S.L.	A.C.A.S.(I)	Minister of Defence (10)
O.D.(5)	A.C.A.S.(P)	Admiralty (War Reg)(6)
C.C.L.S.	P.S. to P.U.S.	War Office (C.6 Tels)(7)
O.I.C.(3)	D. of I.(O)	Sec. of State for Foreign
Ops.(3)	D. of Plans.	Affairs.(F.O)
D. of P.(3)	D.D.P.(O)	A.I.3.(U.S.A.)
M (2)	D.O.N.C.	A.I.1.
I.P.(3)	D.B. Ops.	
D.P.D.	D.W.O.	
W.D.	D.D.O.11.	
D.N.I.(5)	P.R. & A.I.6.	

Admiral Blake, A.C.N.A.S., D.N.A.D., D.A.C.D.,

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War Diary.

27.10.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

INDIANA. Copy of a Fairmiss Telegram. 26/10, New Orleans,
(French). INDIANA. Vichy French.
(New Orleans, 0030/27).

U/B. D/F Bearings at 2111Z/26 indicate U-Boat in
approx. 54° N. 36° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0200A/27 to Escorts O.N. 140. H.X.212)

U/B. U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made
H.X.212. sighting reports of a convoy or important unit at
0112Z/27th. ENIGMA, 4540 K/Cs. Estimate 3 or
4 S/MS shadowing you.
(Cominch 0311/27 to C.T.U. 24.1.3. (R) C.T.U.
24.1.18, C.T.24.)

U/B U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has
S.C.106. made a sighting report of a convoy or important
unit at 0112Z/27th.
(Cominch 0432/27 to C.T.U. 24.1.17 (R) C.T.24).

U/B U-Boat by D/F at 0621Z/27th in vicinity 053°
O.N.S. 140. 00' N. 041° 00' W. within 60 miles.
(N.S.H.Q. 0855Z/27 to T.U.24.1.18, C.O.A.C.
C.C.N.F. Connnav, (R) Admty, S.B.N.O. W.A. U.S.C.N.
O.)

Landing C.R.No. 175. Cominch directs that all L.C.T.(5)
Craft. be turned over to British for their account. All
craft have been shipped on Bills of Lading to
Comadgramphorlant with the exception of L.C.T.(5)
402. Supply Officer Acab 75 is consignee of craft and Base 2
has Bills of Lading. Bills of Lading are to be accomplished by
appropriate representative of U.K. and C.O., Base 2 is
directed to hold these Bills of Lading until this can be done.
Vice Opnav is to be notified by despatch when craft have been
transferred. Request C.C.O. designate appropriate representative
(Comamphoreu. 0953/27 to C.O.Base 2, (R) Opnav, Comnaveu, C.C.O.
Admty).

W.D.Note:- Comadgramphorlant = Commander, Advance Group,
Amphibious Forces, Atlantic. Comamphoreu = Commander, Amphibious,
Forces, Europe.

Movements	1800 G.M. T./27.			
Summary.	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
	S/M SEVERN.	44½° N, 47° W.	090°	13.
	QUEEN OF	} 09½° N, 30° W.	Patrol	Blank.
	BERMUDA.			

(D.O.D.(F) 1102Z/27 to O-nav, (R) Comnaveu).

/U/B.....

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War Diary.

27.10.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- U/B
H.X.212. U-Boat position by D/F at 0856Z/27th within 50 miles of 054° 20' 029° 76.
(Cominch 1138/27 to C.T.U. 24.1.3. C.T.24, Admty)
U-Boat position by D/F at (?09) 19Z/27 within 40 miles of 055° 20' N. 028° W.
(Cominch 1152/27 to C.T.U.24.1.3. C.T.F. 24. Admty).
- Trawler Escort for Tankers. Your 1001/26. BRITISH ENDURANCE and BRITISH UNITY should call Freetown continuing to Capetown under trawler escort.
2. Other ships of suitable speed bound for Capetown should be routed similarly provided trawlers are not unduly delayed.
3. Note that BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER have better speed than the remainder.
(D.T.D. 1243A/27 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad)
- U/B. Guantanamo W/T intercept reports S/M sighted 1015Q/27 019° 45' N. 073° 50' W.
(Kingston, Jamaica 1248R/27 to Admty).
- ROTHLEY (sunk 19/10). Aruba reports British ROTHLEY sunk 0632Q/19 in 13.34 N. 054.34 W. Master and 39 crew picked up by Spanish CAMPECHE, 2 Ratings missing.
(S.O.(I)Kingston 1301R/27 as amended 1552R/28 to Admty etc).
- O.N.S.138. Your 2050Z/26(2010Z/26 intended) concur.
O.N.139. (Connav 1301/27 to Admty).
- Convoys, Requests for R/V. Concur Admiralty's 1632/26. Assume you will promulgate necessary instructions.
(Connav 1302/27 to Admty).
- S.C. 105 Reporting of U/Bs. A/C 6 L.F.L.'s 1020/27th and A/C 9 Z.L.F. 1125/27. (N.T. in W.D.). Action by escort and convoy was made difficult by: - (A) position U-Boat relative to convoy not being reported, (B) difficulty in establishing direct communication with either aircraft, (C) second A/C leaving both U-Boat and convoy without reporting fact and before relative position of U-Boat was known.
(C.T.U. 24.1.15. 1357Z/27 to C. in C.W.A.(R) A.C.I.C.).

/Dispositions...

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War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Dispositions (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1505Z/27, 2101Z/27). See Lion Copy.

Rescue Ship BURY. BURY expected to be ready for sea about 4th Nov. Admiralty's 1922/25 your 1819/26. Request future movements of this vessel. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1513Z/27 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty).

WANDERER, SIDMOUTH, ST. ALBANS, LEAMINGTON, WALKER, RICHMOND. 1. Intend to sail WANDERER and SIDMOUTH to Freetown on relief by ST. ALBANS and LEAMINGTON respectively. 2. Ref. C. in C.W.A. 2141/20/9. Should remaining "VEE", WALKER be sailed to U.K. or Gibraltar, on relief by RICHMOND in December. WALKER due for refit in December. (C.O.A.C. 1518Z/27 to Admty, C. in C.W.A. (R) R.A.W. A. etc). Reply to para. 2. (Admty 1917/29)

B.A. Ts. (Review Tugs.) My 1553/16/9 para. 3. Admty 1533/26th to B.A.D. Washington only. Due to delay B.A.T. 6 MASTERFUL is unlikely to arrive Trinidad before mid November.

2. Suggest B.A. Ts. 4, 5 and 8 sail from Trinidad to Freetown with *TARGET as soon after arrival B.A.T. 8 as possible combined with movement of trawlers if practicable. (B.A.D. 1531Z/27 as amended 2345Z/27 to Admty (R) N.O.I.C. Trinidad, S.B.N.O.W.A., C. in C.E.F. R.A.W. A., C. in C.S. A.) Concur, (D.O.D. (F) 1650A/28).

* Not identified

U/B Positions. S/M estimate 27/10 and U.S.S/M notice. (Cominch 1541/27, 1542/27, 1609/27, 1610/27, 1611/27 to Admty)

Strategic Area Boundaries. Your 1238/11 and your 1251/11. 2. U.S. Authorities have agreed that as a working agreement they will accept strategic responsibility for operations in South Atlantic area to Westward of a line from 020° N. 040° W. to Ascension Island, including island and territorial waters, thence to 040° S. 026° W. 3. It has been further agreed that Admiralty will retain operational control of existing British communication facilities at Ascension. (B.A.D. 1547Z/27 to Admty (R) C. in C.S.A. R.A.W. A.).

Date to come into force - 0001Z/6/11/42 - see B.A.D. 1703Z/3/11.

Amended date - 0001Z/10/11/42 - see B.A.D. 2101Z/6/11.

/TRAGALGAR.....

858-A

MOST SECRET

~~Most Secret~~

MESSAGE

1505z/27th October

" Date 27.10.42 IN
Recd. 2110

From C.O.A.C. Halifax

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T

Addressed Admiralty

IMPORTANT

Section East.

H.M.S. SEVERN on the surface
044 degs 46' 046 degs 55' 090 degs 13 knots altering
to 065 degs in 044 degs 47' North 042 degs 00' West about
1130z 28th.

O N 138, Task Unit 24.1.16 (E), 042 degs 34'
046 degs 48' 274 degs 6.5.

Task Unit 24.18.8, vicinity 045 degs 40' 051 de
20' to join O N 138 in 042 degs 22' 049 degs 25' 342 degs
1500z 28th.

O N 139, Task Unit 24.18.3 (E), 045 degs 28'
050 degs 38' 270 degs 9 alter to 251 degs in 052 degs
15' West.

Task Unit 24.1.12, en route St Johns N.F.
from O N 139.

H J 15, REGINA, MOOSEJAW, ALGOMA, vicinity 045 degs
12' 057 degs 01' 073 degs 12 alter to 005 degs in
052 degs 30' West thence to St Johns N.F.

L N 12, SHAWINIGAN, TRAIL, 051 degs 18' 057 degs
01' 7.5 coastwise to Rigolet.

L N 11 X, ARROWHEAD, HEPATICA, 053 degs 30'
055 degs 31' to Rigolet 9.

SCABELI, Norwogian, 040 degs 44' 049 degs 50'
281 degs 14 alter to 274 degs in 055 degs West.

1505z/27

Advance copy to Duty Capt. D.O.D.(H) D.T.D.

- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- N.A.1st S.L.
- Capt.Pim
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.D.O.D.(M)
- Duty Capt.(2)
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D. of Plans (2)
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- W.D.
- I.P.(2)
- U.S.N.(3)
- D.T.D.(3)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(C)
- C.C.C.S.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 2101Z/27th October

IN

From C. O. I. C. Halifax.

Date 28.10.42.

Recd. 0024.

NAVAL CYPHER 'S' BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

My 1505Z 27th. Add U.S.S. MCHAWK estimated in vicinity
 048 degs. (743') North 052 degs. (743') West en route Argentina
 10(7.5).

2101Z/27.

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
 A.C.N.S. (T)
 N.A. 1st S.I.
 Capt. Fin.
 D.C.D. (H) (2)
 D.C.D. (F) (2)
 D.D.O.D. (M)
 Duty Capt. (2)
 D.D.I.C. (2)
 D. of Plans (2)
 D.I./S.W.
 Head of M.
 W.D.
 I.P. (2)
 U.S.N. (3)
 D.T.D. (3)
 D.T.D. (M)
 D.T.D. (C)
 G.C.C.S.

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War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

TRAFALGAR (torpedoed 15/10). Dominica reports landing all 45 crew of Norwegian TRAFALGAR torpedoed 2320 G.M.T./14th. 025° 30' N. 052° W. (S.O.(I) Jamaica 1731R/27 to Admty etc).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Your 1056/9 not to B.A.M.R.(re reduction of secondary armament of "R" Class Battleships.) Is it proposed to carry out this alteration during present refit of ROYAL SOVEREIGN? If so request scheme for blanking gun posts. (B.A.M.R. 1852Z/27 to Admty).

Trawlers for Cape Area. Your 1732/26.(Proposal to sail H.M. Trawlers LADY ELSA, LADY ROSEMARY, WELLARD, HERTFORDSHIRE LE TIGER as one group via Pernambuco to Freetown or alternatively direct to Capetown via Pernambuco and St.Helena). Approved via Pernambuco to Freetown. No coal at St.Helena. (D.A./S.W. 1919A/27 to F.O.I.C.Trinidad).

U/B. R.C.A.F. A/C reports sighting S/M which crash dived, 54° 06' N. 131° 21' W. Two Bolingbrokes now investigating. (C.O.P.C. 1926Z/27, 2050Z/27 to N.S.H.Q. etc).

H.X. 213. Western local escort North Task Unit. 24.18.4. sails as follows (a) GEORGETOWN (S.O.) 0100Z/29th (b) BARRIE, DUNDAS, KENORA, escorting H.H.X.213 6 ships at 2030Z/ 28th, all British merchant ships join at H.O.M.P. at 1400Z/29th. On relief detach ships for Halifax under (?close) escort and WITCH return to New York. (C.O.A.C. 2014Z/27 as amended 1906Z/28 to WITCH (R) Admty, Connav, C.E. S.F., C.T. 24, F.O.N.F., T.U. 24.18.4, N.S.H.Q.).

Sub. Attack and Sighting Summary. Para. A. Navy plane attacks sub. on surface 33.54 N. 76.52 W. 1715Z/27. Para. C. Fisherman sights sub. partially surfaced 23.31 N. 75.40 W. 2000Z/26. Para.D. P.C. 560 attacks sound contact 19.45 N. 74.50 W. 0920/26. Suspicious tanker flying Spanish flag with possible sub. alongside sighted 14.03 N. 52.40 W. 1600 Z/22. Fishermen sight S/M 02.32 S. 44.19 W.18th Oct. My 2106/26 para. C. change 1700Z/25 to read 1700Z/26. (Cominch 2105/27 to Admty for O.I.C.).

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War Diary.27.10.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals Sydney 26/October, AUSTRALIA, U.S. Destroyer SELFRIDGE. Departure Brisbane 25th on patrol, HOBART, U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX, U.S. Destroyers MUGFORD, PATERSON, BAGLEY. Sydney 26th, U.S. Destroyer, HENLEY for Brisbane, Townsville 26th, H.M.S. ARMIDALE for Port Moresby on escort duty. (A.C.N.B. 0421Z/27 to Admty etc).

Situation. Digest Serial No.278, 26th.
1. 1 Heavy Cruiser, 1 Light cruiser, 2 destroyers observed by Air R/C 7° 45' S. 55° 35' E. at 0120Z/26th.
2. 2 Heavy Cruisers (described 1 "Nachi," 1 "Aoba" Class) 1 "Sendai" Class Light Cruiser. 7 destroyers, arrived Buin Area from S.W. 0330Z/26, joining 10 Merchant Vessels. 1 Tanker, 3 unidentified vessels already that area.
3. 1 Destroyer, 2 7,000 ton Merchant Vessel reported 20 miles East Buka Passage on Southerly course 2350Z/25.
4. Air R/C a.m.25th Oct, reported 7,000 ton Merchant Vessel escorted by destroyers approaching Rabaul from N.W.
5. 1 Light Cruiser, 2 destroyers, 2 merchant vessels reported off Kavieng noon 26/10.
6. Situation generally unchanged in Kokoda area.
7. Natives report Japanese Fergusson Island awaiting rescue by Wsars (as received) 26th Oct. serial No. 277 para.7 refers.
8. One Hudson attacked Koepang Aerodrome night 25th Oct. results unknown.
9. 3 B.25s bombed Lae Aerodrome Salamaua W/T station morning 26th Oct.
10. 3 Bostons, 4 Kittyhawks bombed and strafed tracks Kokoda area noon 21st Oct, results not observed.
11. Light attack Seven Mile Aerodrome, Moresby night 25th Oct., by one or two bombers, no damage or casualties.
12. 3 bombers attacked Darwin Township early morning 26th Oct. causing slight damage to buildings, no casualties.
13. Light air raid Milne Bay area early morning 26th Oct. also ineffective.
14. Unconfirmed report enemy forces occupied Iringila (East Coast Vella Lavella) 13th Oct, establishing W/T Station. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 0755Z/27 to Admty etc).

AQUITANIA. Your 2305A/20th. New Zealand Govt. request that escort be provided from Suez to Fremantle. (N.Z.N.B. 1904M/27 to Admty (R) C. in C.E.F. A.C.N.B., P.S.T.O. Egypt.).

Solomons U.S. Navy Department published on 27th Oct. as Islands report as follows:-
Operations. South Pacific (all dates east longitude). The following reports on the action in the Solomon Islands area have been received:-
October 25th - During the morning a Japanese destroyer sank the U.S.S. SEMINOLE (Fleet Tug) and a small harbour patrol boat near the island of Tulagi. Our shore batteries opened fire on the destroyer and scored three hits. Grumman Wildcats from Guadalcanal strafed and further damaged the destroyers.

/Two.....

War Diary.

27.10.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Solomons
Islands
Operations.
Contd.

Two U.S. minesweepers engaged three enemy destroyers near Guadalcanal. Navy Marine Corps dive-bombers joined in the action and sank two enemy destroyers.

October 26th - During the morning U.S. bombers and fighters from Guadalcanal again attacked the enemy cruisers and destroyers which had been attacked twice on October 25th. One direct hit was scored on an enemy cruiser. During the night of October 26th-27th Navy Consolidated Catalinas attacked an enemy force 400 miles north-east of Guadalcanal. One enemy aircraft-carrier was hit by a torpedo and an enemy cruiser received two bomb hits. Heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered and one of our aeroplanes was damaged. Further reports of the naval and air battle which was fought to the east of the Stewart Islands on October 26th reveal that one enemy aircraft-carrier was badly damaged, a second enemy aircraft-carrier damaged, one enemy cruiser badly damaged, and one battleship hit.

(The Times 28.10.1942). *Corrected, see 3.11.1942*

light cruiser.

U.S.S. WASP sunk 15/9 - see 26.10.56 p. 826 & 27.10. p. 822.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions at 1200Z/27.
(D.D.I.C. 1418/27, 1428A/27).

28.10.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

BICESTER, ZETLAND and FARNDALE sailed from Londonderry at 0603A today. BLEAN sailed from the Humber for Londonderry at 1455 today. GLAISDALE sailed from the Needles this evening for Londonderry.

Operation
S.E.
(A/S off E. of
Rona-Island
mine barrier)

See C. in C. Rosyth 1301A/28 to CHIDDINGFOLD, LEDBURY and MIDDLETON (R) Admty., A.C.O.S., A.O.C.18 Group C.C., C. in C. H.F., F.O.C.(D) H.F., H.Q.C.C. p.867.

Operation
"Torch".
(6/11. S/destroyers
in N. Atlantic)

The following are on passage to operational area:- ARGUS, RODNEY, SHEFFIELD, BERMUDA, DELHI, JAMAICA, AVENGER, BITER, DASHER, 5 destroyers.

Twenty four aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night off the French west coast as far as St. Jean de Luz, in the Kattegat and Frisian Is. - Elbe.

North Atlantic.

Convoy
S.L.125.

SS PACIFIC STAR (torpedoed yesterday) reported about 1226 that ship was sinking and crew taking to boats in 29° 39' N. 19° 28' W. Convoy S.L.125 was attacked again at 2015Z today in 31° 22' N. 19° 36' W. and NAGPORE and HOPECASTLE were torpedoed. The latter was abandoned in 31° 39' N. 19° 35' W. still afloat with engine room intact. SS ESPERANCE BAY (14,204 tons) parted company at 2130 today, presumably on an amended stragglers' route.

The Consul General Tangier reports from U.S. sources that an escorted convoy of French ships carrying munitions left Casablanca for Dakar on 26th October.

Operation
"Train".
(Spitfire A/E
for the mine)

FURIOUS, AURORA, CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT, WISHART, COWDRAY, BRAMHAM, ACHATES, VANOC, VERITY and BLYSKAWICA sailed from Gibraltar at 0830A today. M/S CLACTON and tug RESTIVE sailed at 0720A, to patrol off Cape de Gata.

War Diary.

28.10.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

A Hudson aircraft attacked a U-Boat at 1524 today in 7° 58' N. 18° 9' W. and considers it at least badly damaged.

Mediterranean.

THRASHER has returned from patrol in the Dodecanese and reports having sunk 2 schooners, a tug, and a 2000 ton escorted merchant vessel.

Two torpedo carrying Wellingtons from Malta attacked at 2117(?) a convoy consisting of one tanker and a 5000 ton merchant vessel escorted by 2 destroyers steering south in 208° Sapienza 23 miles. The merchant ship was torpedoed and apparently sunk and the tanker was torpedoed and set on fire from stem to stern.

Liberators and Halifaxes bombed aircraft on Maleme Aerodrome, Crete last night, it is thought with success.

America and West Indies.

H.X. 212.

H.X. 212 was attacked by U-Boats again at 0345Z and 0722Z today and oil refinery ship KOSMOS II was twice torpedoed and sank after the second attack in about 55° 15' N. 28° 10' W.

Australia and New Zealand.

Nine Fortresses bombed enemy shipping in Rabaul Harbour early this morning. An explosion was seen on a warship, and an unidentified vessel was seen to be hit and sinking.

MOST SECRET. **MOST SECRET** MESSAGE 1212A/28th October OUT.

To. General "A" Message Home and Abroad. 596A. Date 28.10.42.

Naval Cypher C.

From Admiralty.

DEFERRED. RASEGRAM.

Admiralty message 384A of 23rd September 1942. In order to avoid confusion and to preserve the secrecy of the source the term Pillenwerfer is not repetition not to be used. The apparatus referred to is in future to be known as "Submarine Bubble Target" (Short Title S.B.T.)

2. When in use by enemy vessels it is to be known as "German (or other nationality) S.B.T".

3. When in use by British or Allied Submarines it is to be known as "S.B.T".

4. The tactics and effects obtained from "German S.B.T". may be dealt with on a grading of CONFIDENTIAL.

1212A/28

D.A/S W.
(Tel. 34)
Approved by A.C.N.S.(T)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1st Lord. | D.T.D.(2) | |
| 1st S.L.(2) | Hydrog. | |
| 3rd S.L. | D.of P.(Q) | ← T.O.O. 1436A/23. |
| Vice Controller. | N.I.D.10 | |
| 4th S.L. | D.S.D. | |
| V.C.N.S. | D.S.R. | |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | U.S.N.(3) | |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | F.O.S. | |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | C.A.O.R. | |
| A.C.N.S.(W) | D.M.W.D. | |
| C.N.A.S. | D.O.D.(H)(2) | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.O.D.(F)(2) | |
| D.of P.(2) | D.P.D. | |
| D.N.I.(2) | D.T.M. | |
| D.S.D. | Admiral Usborne. | |
| D.of L.D.(2) | Admiral Blake. | |
| D.A/S W.(4)A/S.W.797/42) | D.N.O. | |
| D.M.S. | Deputy Contr. } | |
| C.C.O.(2) | D.N.O. } | |
| D.N.C. | D.N.C. } | |
| D.G.D. | D.T.M. } | Bath, |
| Head. of M. | D.A/S W. } | |
| I.P.(2) | D.S.D. } | |
| W.D. | Hd.S.W.R. } | |
| D.C.(2) | Hd.W.R.(2) } | |
| D.T.S.D. | | |
| D.D.I.C.(2) | | |

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War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.AMAZON.

When ready AMAZON is to proceed to Milford Haven to fuel thence by Q.Z.L. 18 through
 A. $051^{\circ} 00' N. 009^{\circ} 35' W.$
 B. $049^{\circ} N. 014^{\circ} W. C. 044^{\circ} N. 014^{\circ} W. D. 040^{\circ} 00' N. 012^{\circ} 30' W.$ thence to Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.
 (2) All movements at best speed.
 (C. in C.W.A. 0005/28 to N.O.I.C.Greenock).

SWEETBRIAR
DAHLIA.

My P.C.S. 2000A/28th will be $043^{\circ} 45' N. 018^{\circ} 40' W.$ $190^{\circ} 12$ knots. DAHLIA in company.
 (SWEETBRIAR 0039A/28).

BICESTER,
ZETLAND,
FARNDALE.

Sailed BICESTER, ZETLAND, FARNDALE, in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 1522A/24. (N.O.I.C.Londonderry 0603A/28).

DUKE OF
YORK.

Scapa arrival DUKE OF YORK, ECHO, IMPULSIVE, and LEDBURY.
 (A.C.O.S. 0735/28).

THUNDERBOLT
L.23.

My 1115A/26, and my 1117A/26. Delayed 24 hours. (Capt.S.3. 0831A/28 to TITANIA).
 Capt.S.3 1115A/26 and 0831A/28, para.3. Intend sailing L.23 in company.
 (TITANIA 2347A/28).

MINERVE.

Departure for Dundee MINERVE escorted by SOUTH COATES.
 (C. in C.Rosyth 0851/28).

INTREPID
OBBURATE.

Scapa arrivals. 0213 INTREPID and OBBURATE.
 (A.C.O.S. 1003/28).

H.33.
EGILSAY.

My 1320/27. Sailed Needles 1030/28.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1055A/28).

UREDD.

E.T.A. Lerwick 2130 today. My position noon $061^{\circ} 08' N. 000^{\circ} 34' E.$
 (UREDD 1200A/28).
 Arrival UREDD.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick. 2025M/28).

/H.43.....

28.10.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements -Contd.

H.43.
WHALSAY.

My 1016/27. Sailed.
(Capt.S.7. 1303A/28).

W.A.
Command.

Situation at 1957A/28.
Details. (C. in C.W.A. 1358A/28) See Lion Copy.

GLAISDALE.

A.M. 1759A/26. Intend sailing GLAISDALE from
Needles 1800 today for Londonderry.
2.Route. Speed 20 knots to Longships, thence
17 knots. E.T.A. end of Q.Z.S. 368, 0730/30.
3.Codeword "Match."
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1500A/28)
My 1500A/28. Sailed 1800.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1843A/28).

BLEAN.

^{N.O. I.C.} BLEAN sailed 1455 in accordance with your
1748/27. E.T.A. Londonderry 1300/30.
(N.O. I.C.Humber 1517A/28 to C. in C.Nore).

Force "H".
ISAAC SWEERS.
ITHURIEL,
MARNE,
ESCAPADE.

See p 874

A.M. 1251/27. Intend Force "H" shall proceed
without relief for OPPORTUNE,
2. Propose on completion of duty with K.M.F.
(a).D.S. ISAAC SWEERS join Force H until
relieved by ITHURIEL then return to Scapa.
(b).MARNE and ESCAPADE return to Scapa.
3. S.O. Force "H" concurs.
(C. in C.H.F. 1550A/28 to Admty).

WELSHMAN.

WELSHMAN sailed in accordance with C. in C.H.F.
1712/26.
(TRELAWNEY 1630/28).

KENT.

Report when KENT will be ready to sail.
(C. in C.H.F. 1633A/28 to N.O.I.C.Liverpool).

North
Atlantic
Dispositions.

Disposition of operational units in North
Atlantic:-
Area Iceland (C). BERWICK, LONDON, 1 destroyer.
Area Scapa. ANSON, KING GEORGE V, DUKE OF YORK,
ARGONAUT, NELSON, RENOWN, CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK,

SUFFOLK, 14 destroyers.

Area Clyde, VICTORIOUS FORMIDABLE, 2 destroyers.
Plymouth, SCYLLA, 1 destroyer,

Op. "Torch"
(allied)
landings in
N. Africa) On passage to operational area. ARGUS, RODNEY, SHEFFIELD,
*BERMUDA, DELHI, JAMAICA, AVENGER, BITER, DASHER, 5 destroyers.
Area Gibraltar. FURIOUS, CHARYBDIS.

(D.O.D.(H) 1829A/28 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet). *See p 862.*

** See p 874*

/PRINCESS IRIS...

865^H M

MOST SECRET

1358A/28th October.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From: G. in C. Western Approaches.

Date: 28.10.42.

Addressed: Admiralty.

SITUATION AT 1957A/28th OCTOBER, 1942.

Section N.E.

WEAR		58 48 04 18	To Tobermory	12
S.N.3. F	CASTLETON WELLS BRIGHTON LANCASTER		Sails Port Z.A. North Westward 0001A/29	14
U.R.47	BLACKFLY PAYNTER SOUTHERN SHORE	58 57 06 45	To 59 20 08 01 thence 62 02 14 01	7½
E.N.55	POLKA VALSE FILLA	58 00 06 14	To Oban	8

SITUATION AT 1957A/28th October, 1942.

Section S.E.

SEALION GRAPH	CUTTY SARK	Off Chickens	To Holy Loch	11
WELSHMAN		56 07 06 44	To Plymouth	18
OPPORTUNE		53 08 05 05	To Plymouth	18½
10 Aux. Craft	BODO	53 57 04 57	To Lamlash	7
H.43	WHALSAY	55 10 05 34	To Tobermory	8
ROCKWOOD		54 22 03 58	To Greenock	12
H.M.51	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	52 57 05 03	To Milford Haven	8
Convoy	Unescorted	51 53 05 34	Northbound	8½
Convoy 24 (M)	SKATE	53 45 04 54	270° Oversay 6'	11½
Convoy 24 (L)	SARDONYX	53 58 04 52	270° Oversay 6'	11
1 M/V	GOODWIN	52 55 04 54	To Clyde	10
1 M/V	Escorted	Sails Barry Roads 2200A/28	To Clyde	8½
Convoy 24	ROTHERHAM HOLCOMBE HOLCOMBE.	Sails Clyde at 0100A/29	270 Oversay 6' thence 55 01 15 01	14

Section N.E. /

SITUATION AT 1957A/29TH OCTOBER, 1942

Section N.W.

S.C.105	HURRICANE	57 28 17 55	To	56 55 15 49	thence	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
C.T.U.	WATCHMAN			56 27 08 38		
24.1.15.	PORT ARTHUR					
	BADDECK					
	SNOWFLAKE					
	WALLFLOWER					
	MONKSHOOD					
	ANCHUSA					
R.U.46	ANGLE	59 58 12 59	To	359° Butt of Lewis		7 $\frac{1}{2}$
	PIROUETTE			7 miles		
	LADY MADELINE					

Section S.W. SITUATION AT 1957A/29th October, 1942.

TRINWALD		49 45 12 48	To	45 02 16 03		10
LAMERTON						
WHEATLAND						
WILTON						
POZARICA						
PALOMARES						
CLEVELAND		47 54 14 40	To	Ponta Delgada		15
ESKDALE						
ALBRIGHTON						
BLACK SWAN		50 10 13 30	via	180° Fastnet	10'	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
LA MALOINE				to U.K.		
MALLOW						
CARNATION						
DANIELA		43 45 18 40	To	40 00 19 15		12
SWIETBRIAR						
SPEEDWELL		42 27 14 18	To	Gibraltar		10
HUSSAR						
2 Tugs	VIZALMA		Vicinity of	43 18 24 04		
MYOSOTIS			Vicinity of	43 18 24 04		
FLEET UNIT	BICESTER	55 07 11 43	To	55 00 13 00	thence	14
JAMAICA	ZETLAND			52 00 16 00		
DASHER	FARNDALE					
DELHI						
WOODSTOCK		54 10 14 15	To	Overtake K.M.S.2		12
O.N.141	SAGUENAY	51 45 24 03	To	46 58 30 05		9
C.T.U.	SKEENA					
24.1.13	SACKVILLE					
	AGASSIZ					
	GALT					
	WETASKIWIN					
K.X.4 A	VENOMOUS	44 01 17 29	To	40 03 17 29		6
	WRESTLER					
	MALCOLM					
	BROKE					
	4 Trawlers					

MOST SECRET

SITUATION AT 1957A/29th October, 1942.

Section S.W. (Contd.)

K.X.4 B	BUDE, BRIXHAM.	48	58	14	01	to	46	01	15	01	7
K.M.S.1.	ALYNH/BK. STORK DEPTFORD. VANSITTART AVENGER 8 Corvettes 4 Minesweepers	46	12	25	24	to	42	43	26	01	8½
K.M.S.2	LONDONERRY 6 Sloops LULWORTH LANDGUARD 2 Corvettes.	54	34	18	08	to	53	35	21	21	7½
K.M.F.1.	SHEFFIELD IBIS 2 Sloops BITER HARTLAND WALNEY CLARE 4 Corvettes	53	47	17	35	to	52 thence	50 49	20 26	00 25	11½ 36
2 M/V's	STELLA CARINA	43	08	15	57	to	50	02	15	30	6
1 M/V	ALGERINE	54	06	12	49	to	50	00	27	16	10
1 M/V (E)	CARNARVON CASTLE	54	27	11	45	360 degs Tory Island 8 thence to Clyde					13½

1358A/28.

Advance Copy sent.
Duty Capt.
D.O.D. (H)
D.T. D.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| V.C.N.S. | D.D.C.D. (M) |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.T.D. (3) |
| A.C.N.S. (F) (2) | D.T.D. (M) |
| A.C.N.S. (T) | D. of P. (Q) |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | Norfolk House (2) |
| Capt. Pim. | D. of L.D. |
| D.O.D. (H) (2) | D.M.S. |
| D.O.D. (F) (2) | D. of P. (2) |
| Duty Capt. (2) | Ad. Blake. |
| D.A/S.W. | |
| Hd. of M. | |
| D.D.I.C. (2) | |
| I.P. (2) | |
| W.D. | |

866

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

PRINCESS IRIS Request intended movements of PRINCESS IRIS and DAFFODIL be signalled. My 1129/21 and my 1329/21 refer.
2. Vessels may be required to embark all available L.C.A and L.C.M. in Portsmouth area not later than 5/11 before returning to Clyde to refit.
(C.C.O. 1904A/28 to S.O.A.S.(C)).

HOLDFAST. F.O.I.C. London's 1227/26 and your 1122/27. Request HOLDFAST be sailed to Swansea on completion of trials. In view of her special equipment a high category of protection is requested.
(C.C.O. 2015A/28 to C. in C Nore).

Operations.

Patrols. Destroyer patrol tonight. A. HOLDERNESS. B. PYTCHLEY, 1. HAMBLEDON, 2. MEYNELL, 3. GARTH, 4. MACKAY, 5. SHELDRAKE, 6. MALLARD.
(C. in C. Nore 1006A/28).

Intend to sail M.G.Bs. 54, 50, and 51 to patrol on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 35' W. and 2° 10' W. tonight, leaving Weymouth at 1930/28 and patrol-line at dawn.

↳ Codeword "Befoul".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1200A/28).

M.G.Bs. 317 (S.O.), 312. M.T.Bs. 55, 50, 56 proceeding tonight to carry out sweep of enemy coast route Eastwards from longitude 001° 068° (sic) W and passing to Westward and Southward of mined areas given in C. in C. Portsmouth 1400 /30/9. Force is to pass F Buoy at 1830 and 0715. Codeword "Advent". If weather is unsuitable, Force is to cruise near position 050° 10' N. 001° 00' W. or return as necessary to St. Helens Roads.

3 M.G.Bs from Portland patrolling 050° 20' N. between 002° 10' W. and 001° 35' W.

Information of patrols to be drawn to operation K.H. and my 1034A/28.

Patrol are not to approach area of this operation nor its covering patrol.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1240A/28 to HORNET).

M.L. patrol tonight.

2. Forces employed M.Ls 181 (S.O) 183, 179.

3. Patrol 5 miles 090° and 270° from position 118° Start 10.

4. Object to intercept E-Boats.

5. Information own. One destroyer leaves Needles 1800 today routed 180° Portland Bill 20 and 180° Start 20 at 20 knots.

*S/M. and escort EGILSAY Dart buoy 2130 proceeding westward 7½ knots. Enemy E-Boats may operate from Cherbourg or Guernsey. * ~~See A. 264.~~

6. Execution. Proceed at 1800 today to patrol-line. Leave patrol-line at daylight/29th and return to Dartmouth.

Speed on passage not to exceed 12 knots.

7. Codeword "Nation 6".

(C. in C. Plymouth 1457A/28).

↳ Departure at 1710. HOLDERNESS to patrol "A".

(F.O. Humber 1716A/28).

↳ My 1200A/28. "Befoul" sailed 2000A/28.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 2007A/28).

/Operation

867

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation "K.H." (Cable Op: in Channel.) Carry out operation "K.H" tonight. ALERT is to weigh from St.Helens at 1530. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1034A/28 to ALERT, Z.D.O.E. CHASERS 11 and 15, KINGSTON, TOPAZ, FERNIE). My 1034A/28. FERNIE is to carry out purport of my 1140A/27 tonight. Code word "Object 2." *p. 837* (C. in C. Portsmouth 1147A/28). My 1034A/28 and 1147A/28. Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1845A/28 to N.O.I.C.Newhaven).

Operation "S.E." (A/s officer E. of. from island mine barrier.) To allow necessary contact being made between you and A/C, Captain's operation will come into force 0005/31. (C.in C.Rosyth 1301A/28 to CHIDDINGFOLD, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON).

Allied Air Activity.

Largs. Admiralty 1804A/24.
Proposed Air Base. This command has no objection to proposal to establish an Atlantic ferry reception-base for flying-boats at Largs. (H.Q.C.C. 1100A/28 to Admty).

Bomber Command Operations. On night 25th/26th. No operations. On night 26th/27, 21 A/C laid Mines. On day 27/10, 2 A/C attacked the submarine slipways at Flensburg, and claim direct hits on the slipways, and one A/C attacked a 2,500-tons cargo vessel which was left in flames from stem to stern. Also 1 Mosquito attacked the docks at Den Helder. Bombs are believed to have straddled docks but results not seen. On Night 27th/28th, 24 A/C Laid mines. (H.Q.B.C. 1205A/28).

Bombing Restrictions. Request total bombing restrictions 30 miles within side of line joining the following positions.
(1). 047.20, 035.01 and (a) 050. 30', 029.40 from 0400/30 to 1400/31.
(2). (a) and (b) 053.45, 023.20 from 0400/31 to 1400/1st. (F.O.S. 1626A/28 to H.Q.C.C.).

868

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation
EY. When para.2 of my 1935/16 has been completed intend you should sail for Hvalfiord to carry out search as in C. in C.H.F. 1057/26.
(A.C.I.C. 0304A/28 to M/S15th.)

S.N.3.F. SALADIN and SCIMITAR pass Sleat boom outwards at 0845 tomorrow Wednesday and have orders to keep clear of you.
(R.A.M. 0637A/28 to BRIGHTON, LANCASTER, TRELAWNEY).

My 2058/27. Weather unsuitable to lay beacons today. It is hoped to do so tomorrow and lay p.m./30th.
(R.A.M. 1106/28).

East
Coast. Report of Mine detonated. 1300/25. by TARTARIN 345° No.5 buoy. 16 Cables. Course S. 25.W.
(Magnetic) Green 145°. 2 Cables. On pulse. Red Starboard.
(Capt.M/S MIRANDA. 0930/28).

REMMAREN
sunk on
22/10. Master Swedish BALBOA reports REMMAREN sunk by mine position 059. 00 N. 005.00E. Time unspecified but believed to be 2200/22. Swedish vessels are still routed through this position.
(N.O.I.C.Faroes 1745A/28 to Admty).

Lyme Bay
clearance. Area swept extended to depth of 1.2 miles from Northern edge. 70% search of area enclosed by position 50° 37.9 N. 02.50.9 W. 50° 37.3 N. 02.51.4.W.50.34.0 N. 02.41.8 W. 50.34.6 N. 02. 41.3 W. carried out on way and of area enclosed by positions 50.37.4 N. 02.51.3 W. 50.36.9 N. 02.51.8 W. 50.32.5 N. 02.38.9 W. 50.33.1 N. 02.38.4 W. on way back in view of possible E-Boat activity last night. Negative results.
(M/S 4 1944A/28 to C. in C.Plymouth).

Enemy Intelligence.

GNEISENAU. GNEISENAU observed alongside Gdynia 19th October Graded C.2.
(N.A.Stockholm 1514/28).
Comment by O.I.C.:—GNEISENAU with her bows partly removed was seen in floating dock at Gdynia on 5th October.

869

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boat
reported.By M/F D/F strongly suspect being shadowed
by 2 U-Boats. My P.C.S. are 052° 35' N.
013° 24' W, 045°, 13½ at 0630Z.

Request air cover.

(CARNARVON CASTLE 0710Z/28 to C. in C.W.A.).

Your 0710/28. Expect escort by one Fortress A/C from
1300A/28 until 1730A/28. No fixes in your vicinity have
been obtained by shore stations.

(C. in C.W.A. 1050A/28 to CARNARVON CASTLE).

Am over enemy S/M in 55° 27' N, 26° 48' W. Enemy on
surface and observed to submerge, course 350°, speed 10 knots.

(A/C 120 Sqdn. 1536N/28 to 15th Group).

U-Boat
attacked.Am over enemy S/M in 55° N. 27° W. Enemy
on surface and observed to submerge, course 100°,
speed 12 knots.

(A/C 120 Sqdn. Duty H. 1510N/28).

Am over enemy S/M in 55° 16' N. 26° 04' W. Enemy on
surface and observed to submerge, course 050°, speed 13 knots.
Have attacked with depth-charges.

(A/C 120 Sqdn. Duty H. 1455N/28 to 15th Group).

Technical.Emulsified
Oil
in
ARGONAUT.ARGONAUT reports fuel oil ex Tanker MURENA
received at Seidisfiord on 26/10 has emulsified
when mixed with ballast water admitted to fuel
tanks in accordance with C.A.F.O. 1966/42.F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to forward 2 gallon
samples from each tank in MURENA to AdmiraltyFuel Experimental Station Haslar and to investigate and report
by signal to Admiralty and C. in C.H.F. source of origin of
fuel oil and particulars of specific gravity.Emulsified oil in ARGONAUT cannot be pumped but hope by heating
and settling the four contaminated O.F. tanks will be cleared
without delaying sailing ship.

(C. in C.H.F. 1555A/28 to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.Seidisfiord
Indicator
Loop.Seidisfiord A/S Defences Number 1 Indicator Loop
is reported out of action. Cable has developed
a very bad fault or may have parted. Intend
OPHIR repair as soon as she is available.
(A.C.I.C.0301A/28).

KALEV.

Your 1201A/26 F.N. 49 two arrived KALEV Humber
for repairs.
(N.C.S.O. Blyth 0915/28 to N.C.S.O. Thames).

870

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- W.S.24. Sailed Bristol Channel portion of W.S. 24 escorted by SKATE. Codeword "Wiseacre."
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 0115A/28).
Sailed SARDONYX, E.T.A. Bar Light vessel 1430A/28. N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1536A/26 part 2 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 0821A/28).
Endurance of HOLCOME probably insufficient route ordered without oiling at sea. Intend reach destination in tow merchant ship, if necessary.
(HOLCOME 1201A/28 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
Cancel my 1851/26.
(C. in C.W. A. 1707A/28 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
After making Oversay R/V SKATE is to proceed Londonderry to fuel and await further orders.
(C. in C.W. A. 1715A/28 to SKATE).
N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1448/28. SARDONYX and Liverpool portion are to R/V with SKATE S.O. from Londonderry in position (J) 270° Oversay 6 miles, at 0200A/30.
2. Route through new position (A) 053° 25' N. 010° 00' W, thence direct to overtake W.S.24 at best speed.
3. SKATE, SARDONYX are subsequently to return Londonderry at respective P.L.E. reporting position of Convoy when clear.
(C. in C.W.A. 1729A/28).
Admiralty 0104A/20. Master EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND has been instructed to act as acting Commodore until Liverpool ships overtake.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1730A/28 to N.C.S.O. Mersey).

- A.T.28. Convoy A.T.28 is due Clyde 3rd November.
2. Total of approximately 11,000 personnel will disembark on 4th November.
3. Approximately 7,000 personnel will embark at the Tail of the Bank on 5th November, and a.m./6th November.
(D.S.T. 0456A/28).

- S.D.33. Clyde arrival CAMERONIA.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0716A/28 to A.C.I.C.).

- K.M.F.2. Your 1254/26. Concur Masters must attend conference.
(D.O.D.(H) 1046A/28 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1258/26. Intend to sail SS. EMPIRE KAMAL unescorted from Barry Roads at 0100/31, for Greenock. E.T.A. 0300/1.
(N.O.I.C. Newport, Mon. 1215A/28).
Request that Commander J.S. Sharp R.N.R. in CIRCASSIA and Lieut-Commander G.H. Sainsbury R.N. in STRATHMORE may attend the Convoy Conference, and that these officers may be advised accordingly.
(D.T.D. 2110A/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

/Operation.....

871

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Operation When practicable S/Ms approaching damaged Soviet ships should F.B. 1. Surface outside gun-range.
2. Approach from relative bearing 020° either side of right astern.
3. Flash letters M.W.D. which will remain unchanged throughout operation.
It is appreciated that instructions in (1) and (2) cannot necessarily be complied with, in which case reliance must be placed in procedure given in (3).
3. Soviet merchant ships have been warned accordingly. (F.O.(S) 1126A/28 to S/Ms).
Position of S/Ms at 0800A/29 and Movements of 24 hours.
(A). 0.15 position 66° 05' N. 005° 01' E. on surface, course 005°, 8 knots.
(B). TUNA position 66° 07' N. 005° 02' E. on surface, course 024°, 10 knots.
(F.O.(S) 1623A/28).

TJALDUR. Intend sailing TJALDUR escorted by OAKLEY at 1700 tomorrow to Aberdeen. Draft details 5 Officers, 126 other ranks. Route. Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. 0800/31. Request air escort and codeword. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1205A/28 to A.C.O.S).

K.M.S.2. Pendant number 43 arrived 0930A/28. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1236A/28).
If no reply to my 1932A/27. Intend proceeding with EMPIRE RUSKIN independently, passing through (a) 052° N. 016° W. (b) 040° N. 016° W. (c) 036° 30' N. 010° W. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0600Z/4. (ALGERINE, 1400A/28 to C. in C.W. A.).
Inform Commodore LUTHER MARTIN returned Belfast. (C. in C.W. A. 1732A/28 to LONDONDERRY).
Your 1400A/28 K.M.S., 2 is routed through U.055° 37' N. 014° 29' W. V. 53.35 21.21. W. 50.20. 27.13. X.46.29, 27.13 Y. 38.19. 20.20. Z.36.15, 15.02, A.36.10. 10.00.
Estimated 2000 A. position today 054. 34 N. 018.08 W, speed 6.9 knots.
(C. in C.W.A. 1859A/28 to ALGERINE).
My P.C.S. 2000A/28. 054° 36' N. 017° 06' W, 255°, 8.
Request R/V 1200Z/29. 068° position F.48 miles be broadcast for MARTIN LUTHER and EMPIRE DAY stragglers due to improperly secured deck cargo.
(LONDONDERRY 1901A/28 to C. in C.W.A.).
My 1859/28. Report forthwith your P.C. and S and where you estimate you will overtake convoy.
(C. in C.W.A. 2113A/28 to ALGERINE).

/ATHLONE.....

872

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.ATHLONE
CASTLE.
STIRLING
CASTLE.My 1536A/26. Sailing delayed 24 hours owing to fog.
(N.O.I.C.Liverpool 1448A/28).F.N. &
F.S.
Convoys.Your 1420A/26. No objection to the substitution of LEWES for LUDLOW.
Amend para.1 of my 1902/24, for Mid-December LUDLOW read mid-January LEWES.
(D.O.D.(H) 1805A/28 to C. in C.Rosyth).H.X.212.
SOURABAYA
GURNEY E.
NEWLIN.
Sunk 27th
October.
KOSMOS^{II} Sunk
28th
October.This is a re-encypherment of C.T.U.24.1.3's 1045/28 to A.I.G. 302 plus F.O.C.Iceland, Begins:-
My 2108Z/27. 1 or 2 S/Ms attacked. One S/M sighted on surface during operation after attack. SOURABAYA and GURNEY E. NEWLIN torpedoed. Approx. 60 survivors in VILLE DE QUEBEC, 39 in ALBERNI.
Second S/M attack at 0345Z/28. One S/M attacking BIC ISLAND torpedoed starboard side, about 50 still in ship trying to get it underway.
ROSTHERN and W.S. BARRWHIN standing by. My P.C.S. at 0800Z, 54.55 N.28.32 W., 07° 8.5 knots. Ends.
(C.T.F. 24, 1911Z/28 to F.O.C.Iceland).My 1245Z/28. In second attack on H.X. 212 ship torpedoed was KOSMOS instead BIC ISLAND. Crew got ship under way and shortly afterwards at 0722Z was again torpedoed and sank. ROSTHERN and BARRWHIN now rejoining, after picking up most of 50 who had previously remained aboard. ALBERNI^{II} has 45 survivors from KOSMOS, 29 from SOURABAYA, 10 from GURNEY NEWLIN. P.C.S. at 2100, 54° 54' N. 25° 02' W. 084° 9.5 Will alter to 069° at 0100Z/29.(Comtask 24.1.3. 2330Z/28 to Comtask 24). *L. p.889*~~K.X.4. P.C.S. 043.14 017.48, 180°, 7 running before gale. BACHAQUERO unable to make good convoy course (group omitted). WRESTLER escorting. If Admiralty 1752A/23rd is complied with destroyers will probably be ordered to leave Duncansby Head at P.L.E. Weather 2666, 8118. (VENOMOUS. 2017A/28 to C. in C.W.A.).~~Convoy O.N.
139.DONAX.
(Torpedoed
22nd Oct.)Report situation.
(C. in C.W.A. 2207A/28 to MYOSOTIS).
Your 2207A/28. DONAX in tow of tug NIMBLE, MARAUDER, VIZALMA in company. Master and 9 others on board. Master reports situation worse but prospect of salvage still good if weather moderates. P.C.S. at 2000A/28. 048.03 N. 023.46 W. 055° 1 knot. Intend leaving for base at daylight 29th owing to fuel.
(MYOSOTIS 2210Z/28 to C. in C.W.A.).

873

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Vichy
Prisoners.

My 2233/22. Para 1. International Red Cross confirm that all lists sent to them were immediately transmitted to Vichy Gov. Similar lists given by us to Vichy Consul in U.K. were passed to Vichy by U.S. Embassy, who also confirm that they were delivered personally to M. Rochat on 22nd. Sept. (M. Branch O232A/28 to N.A. Madrid.)

"S" Report
?PACIFIC
STAR.

Following has been read by Valentia Radio. SSSS by unknown station heard at 0352 G.M.T. torpedoed starboard side. (Burnham Radio 0352/28 to Admty.)

Following received from Valentia Radio. de EAEU SS GILERNA. SOS de GCLN unread 9.39 N 19.28 W unread STAR, taking to boats, sinking. (ends.)

(C. in C. Plymouth 1226/28.)

Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 1840 G.M.T. de GCK SOS de EAEU de GCLN 29.48 N 19.28 W PACIFIC STAR taking to boat, sinking, 1836/28, controlling station GCK.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1941/28, Lands End Radio 1947A/28.)

Received at 2050 G.M.T. de Gallonhead Radio. At 2029 from EAC (Cadiz) or EACY (Campero) to EEGM (Campilo) Last received from PACIFIC STAR says "We are now in lifeboat". PP Radio 2150/28.

(Port Patrick Radio No T.O.O. /28.)

SOS received from PACIFIC STAR 2030 230 miles south west Funchal. Portuguese destroyer at Funchal unable proceed through lack of fuel.

(N.A. Lisbon 2130/28 to S.O.I. Gibraltar. (R) Admty.)

Following received begins:- Intercept 2035 G.M.T. From EEGM (Campilo) to EAL (Las Palmas) (Unread) in search of survivors (?about 50 miles).

(C. in C. Plymouth 2139/28 to Admty.)

Genoa
Report

In connection with our recent raids on Genoa official information is to hand that an Italian steamer loaded with war material for Portugal left that port for Lisbon on 24th Oct.

(M.A. Lisbon No T.O.O. to W.O. Recd. 0610/28.)

O.I.C. Comment.

This probably refers to the Swiss ship LUGANO (ex Italian SEMIEN) which left Lisbon 16th Oct. for Genoa and passed Gibraltar 18th Oct.

From War Registry.

Request you note that Lisbon's untimed message of 28th has been passed to H.Q.C.C. for N.S.O. for information at request of A.L.O.

JULIET
ANGLO
MAERSK

P.C.S. (? 028°) (? 45') N (? 016°) 12' W (? 064°) 11 knots. Have been unable to contact (?ROBERT) (?ANGLO) MAERSK. Endurance from (corrupt group) convoy is being maintained. Am proceeding Gibraltar with all despatch. (JULIET 0715Z/28 to BAGSHOT - As received ? F.O.C.N.A.) *see p. 874A*

/Operation...

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War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Operation "Train" Sailed CLACTON, tug RESTIVE to patrol off Cape de Gata.
(Spitfire A/c for Malta.) (F.O.C.N.A. 0720A/28 to Admty. (R) FURIOUS. AURORA.)

Operation "Train". Sailed FURIOUS, AURORA, CHARYBDIS, WESTCOTT, WISHART, COWDRAY, BRAMHAM, ACHATES, VANOC, VERITY, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA, Q B 80, Q B B 295.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0830A/28 to Admty. V.A.M. C. in C. Med.)

BERMUDA. BERMUDA in position 043° 18' 013° 44' at 0800A/28
See p. 865 course 154° 18 knots.
(N.A. Disposition) (F.O.C.N.A. 1040A/28 to P.556.)
9 next page

German Ships, Vigo. 8 cases described as not large but possibly weighing 3 cwt. each arrived by road 26th and were taken on board German ships at Vigo.
(R.O. Vigo 1135/28 to S.O.I. Gibraltar. (R) Admty. (for D.N.I.) B.N.A. Madrid.)

ANTELOPE R.A.W.A.F. reference 1023/23 and 17901/25.
BOREAS Request time of sailing and S of A.
BRILLIANT (F.O.C.N.A. 1155A/28 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst. Gambia.
AVON VALE (R) Admty. R.A.W.A.F.)
See next page 7 p. 879

K.M.S.l. Owing to weather conditions cannot arrive Ponta Delgada before dark. E.T.A. uncertain. Request British Consul may be asked to arrange for 3 pilots to be available until arrival. MARNE requires 16 hours there to effect necessary repairs using own resources.
(ISAAC SWEERS 1230A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)
RAMSEY arrived Ponta Delgada 1530 G.M.T./28.
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada 1435C/28 to S.O.I. Gibraltar. (R) Admty.)
→ ISAAC SWEERS and ESCAPADE left 1415 G.M.T./29, RAMSEY left
(?1515) 1445
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada 1516/28 to S.O.I. Gibraltar. (R) Admty.)
MARNE delayed for condenser repairs, expected sailing
2000 G.M.T./30.
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada 1645/28 to S.O.I. Gibraltar. (R) Admty.)
→ MARNE, ESCAPADE, ISAAC SWEERS arrived Ponta Delgada 1945
G.M.T./28. See p. 865. 7 p. 874
(N.C.S.O. P. Delgada 1955/28 to Gib. (R) Admty.)

Situation Report. Area X. (F.O.C.N.A. 1320A/28.)
Area Y. (F.O.C.N.A. 1402A/28.)
See Lion Copy.

Repatriations. GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO sailed Las Palmas 1300 G.M.T./28. E.T.A. Port Elizabeth 1300 G.M.T. 10th Nov.
(GIULIO CESARE 1300 G.M.T. 1330/28 to Admty. etc.)

/Vichy...

MOST SECRET

1320A/28 October.

NOT SECRET

M E S S A G E

I N

From: F.O.C.N.A.

Date: 28.10.42.

Recd. 1905

NAVAL CYPHER (A1) by W/T

Addressed: North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT

Situation report in area X at 2001/28th.

H.M.S. P.556, 40 44 12 02 through 43 01 14 10 at 1200/30th dived by day two knots surfaced by night six knots.

(2) H.M.S. JONQUIL, H.M.S. GERANIUM, and one tanker, 35 13 08 03 through 35 43 07 25 thence to Gibraltar 12.

(3) H.M.S. STELLA CARINA, and 2 Merchant ships, (E) 41 55 15 39 33 5.

(4) H.M.S. LEYLAND, (E) 37 19 11 10 through 36 01 09 01 thence Gibraltar 10.

(5) S.L.125 G(E) H.M.S. SPIREA, H.M.S. COLTSFOOT, CAVA, EDAY, INCHAMARNOCK, STROMA, 35 26 15 58 267 7½ to rendezvous S.L.125 about 1200 29th.

(6) S.L.125(D) H.M.S. PETUNIA, H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. COWSLIP, H.M.S. CROCUS, KELANTAN, 32 12 19 44 through 32 34 19 35 thence 16 seven.

(7) H.M.S. BERMUDA 40 03 11 33 through 36 03 09 12 thence Gibraltar 13. *See p. 865 & previous page.*

(8) H.M.S. LOCH OSKAIG, patrolling off Lisbon.

(9) H.M.S.* JULIET, H.M.S. SALVONIA, 30 06 19 21 51 11. *See p. 873*

(10) *Fleet Unit, H.M.S. PANTHER, H.M.S. LOOKOUT, H.M.S. PENN, 36 18 10 33 through 36 10 09 45 thence Gibraltar 16. *RODNEY.

(11) IMPERIALIST, patrolling Huelva Bight.

(12) H.M.S. CORIOLANUS, 22 48 17 53 36 8.

(13) H.M.S. SCOTTISH, 36 18 07 36 direct to assume patrol off Cape Roca 10.

(14) H.M.S. BRILLIANT, H.M.S. AVONDALE, 25 41 18 25 thence 44 15. *See previous page p. 879*

(15) H.M.S. ANTELOPE, H.M.S. BCREAS, 23 33 17 51 38 15. *See previous page p. 879*

(16)/.....

874B

- 2 -

sup. 876
(16) K.X. 4 A, H.M.S. VENOMOUS, H.M.S. WRESTLER, H.M.S. MALCOLM,
H.M.S. BROKE, 4 trawlers (44?) 03 17 30 180 six.

(17) Port. Sloop BARTOLOMEU DIAS, left Lisbon 27th for
Ponta Delgada.

(18) K.X. 2, H.M.S. BULLDOG, H.M.S. BEAGLE, H.M.S. BOADICEA,
four M/S, three trawlers, 35 58 07 46 to Gibraltar nine.

1320A/23

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)
W.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim
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. of L.D.
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (1)
D.T.D. (M)
Ad. Blake
Norfolk House
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (C)
D.M.S.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1402A/28th October.

IN

From: F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date: 28.10.42.

Recd: 1835.

NAVAL CYMER No.4 (C) BY W/T.

Addressed: North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report for Area 'Y'.

(1) RAMSEY leaving Ponta Delgada p.m. 28th approximately 104 degs. 15 knots to rendezvous S.L.125.

(2) H.M.S. MAGNOLIA, ORPASY, 1 Ferry, 1 Tug, 034 degs. 48' 025 degs. 55' 163 degs. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Situation 2001A 28th.

(3) D.S. ISAAC SWEERS, H.M.S. SHANNY, H.M.S. MARNE, leaving Ponta Delgada p.m. 28th 002 degs. 20 knots to rendezvous K.M.S.L. *(RESCAPASE)*(4) K.M.S.L. H.M.S. ALYNBANK, H.M.S. STORK, H.M.S. DEPTFORD, H.M.S. VANSITTART, H.M.S. AVENGER, 8 Corvettes, 4 (?Minesweepers), 046 degs. 29' 025 degs. 17' 188 degs. 8. *p.874 229/10 p.910*

1402A/28.

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.

Capt. Pim,

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. of P.(2)

D. of P.(Q)

D.T.D.(3)

D.T.D.(M)

Ad. Blake.

Norfolk House.(2)

D. of L.D.

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War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Vichy American reports convoy consisting of FORMALHAUT, SURVILLE, ST.BASILE, CHELMA and BAMAKO escorted by F.S. ACTEON, F.S. ARETHUSE, F.S. ATALANTE, F.S. M/S COMMANDANT BORY, AMIRL MOUCHEZ, VESTALE and LA SULTANE left Casablanca for Dakar 26th Oct. Expect it will keep within territorial waters. Cargo FORMALHAUT believed to be 40 7-ton tanks, two 800-pound anti tank guns, 208 cases of 40 rifles each, 1250 bundles 5 rifles each, 6 cases automatic rifles, 23 cases bayonets, 800 tons 75 mm. shells, 50 tons other ammunition, 63 cases aviation materials and 1235 tons wheat, all believed drawn from local depots. The other ships are supposed to have brought munitions as part of their cargo from France. Washington informed.
(Consul Gen. Tangier ?1357/28 to Admty. for D.N.I. S.O.I. Gib.)

RECHOU My 1600/27. Francisco Gallud interviewed states (Spanish)
(a) He never posed as Master and did not know British regarded him as such.
(b) He is fully qualified pilot (proved by his papers) and agents in Tenerife placed him in charge of navigation of vessel. Master denies this.
(c) On arrival Las Palmas to load 1000 hides he was informed Italian Consul had taken possession of them. This is borne out by letter found on board.
(d) Weather conditions prevented ship making agreed course but she would nevertheless have arrived R/V. Crew and log confirm weather experienced.
(e) He wishes to proceed Barcelona as soon as possible alone.
(2) Correspondence found on board dealing with hide traffic now under examination. Copies will be forwarded by air.
(C.C.S.O. Gib. 1505/28 to M.E.W.)

Bombing Request total bombing restrictions in following restrictions. areas.

Area.	From.	Until.
G.26	2100/29	0130/31
G.25	0200/30	0130/31
G.18	1730/30	2130/31
G.17	1730/30	1500/31
G.11	1330/31	1030/1.Nov.
G.04	0230/1	1400/2

All times Zone minus one.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1536A/28 to Admty. A.O.C. in C. C.C. (R) F.O.S.) Amended 1135A/30 q.v. and cancelled 1740A/30 q.v.

P.614 Expect to be 8 hours late at (?D). At S of A (?9) knots estimate no fuel remaining on arrival Freetown. Weather report.
(P.614 1929A/28 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. Plymouth. Admty. F.O.S. R.A.W.A. C. in C. W.A. Capt. S.8.)

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War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

K.X.4 A. P.C.S. 043° 14' 017° 48' (b) 180° 7, running before
See p. 874⁷³ gale.
 BACHAQUERO unable to make good convoy course
 (group omitted) WRESTLER escorting. If Admty. 1752A/23 is
 complied with destroyers will probably be ordered to leave convoy
 at prudent limit of endurance. Weather report.
 (VENOMOUS 2017A/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)

S.L.125 Submarine attacking in 031° 22' N 019° 36'.
 STENTOR Add to my 2141Z/27, STENTOR sunk.
 sunk, (PETUNIA 2015Z/28 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. W.A.)
 1 ship My 2015Z/28. One ship torpedoed.
 sunk. (PETUNIA 2116Z/28 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) ALGERINE.)

South Atlantic.

PALMA PALMA in 011° 40' N 029° 34' W at 2100Z/27 course
 U/B. 130° knots 15½ reports submarine astern.
 (R.A.W.A. 0031Z/28 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA. (R) Admty.
 C. in C. S.A. Capt. S.4.)

A/S A.M. 1956/21. 18 A/S trawlers from U.S.A. are
 trawlers. expected to arrive Trinidad approx. as follows.
 Four trawlers - 29th Oct. Three trawlers - 30th
 Oct. Four trawlers 3rd Nov. Five trawlers - 5th
 Nov. Two trawlers - 10th Nov.

(D.A/S.W. 0045A/28 to R.A.W.A. C. in C. S.A.)

A.M. 1956/21. A/S trawlers on passage from Freetown to
 Capetown should be routed to coal at Walvis Bay, but any with
 doubtful endurance may take a small quantity of coal at Pointe
 Noire.

2. Commercial bunker stock at Walvis Bay being augmented
 accordingly.

(D.A/S.W. 0047A/28 to R.A.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

C.M.34. Your 1645/26. Can not agree use of EMPIRE PRIDE
 as vessel is urgently required in U.K.
 2. Request urgent report of anticipated dates
 EASTERN PRINCE, ELIZABETHVILLE and DILNARA will be
 ready for service.
 3. Agreed.
 (D.S.T. 0517A/28 to P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

NORMAN Simonstown departure 1930C/27 NORMAN for Walvis
See p. 878 Bay. E.T.A. 1200C/29.
 (C. in C. S.A. 0934C/28 to Admty. N.C.S.O. Walvis
 Bay.)

/FORTUNE...

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- FORTUNE. Simonstown arrival 27th.
(C. in C. S.A. 0935C/28 to Admty. etc.)
- SNOWDROP. In order to spread out corvette refit propose SNOWDROP should be sailed from Gibraltar to U.K. for annual refit on completion of escort duty in para 2 of my 1055/22. (Hush. N.T. in W.D.)
(R.A.W.A. 1113Z/28 to Admty.)
Approved. (D.O.D.(F.) 1015A/31.)
- COMMANDANT DUBOC. C. in C. S.A's 1113/22. COMMANDANT DUBOC taken in hand at Capetown 26th Oct. Anticipated date of completion 17th Jan. Job no D A 10620 allocated.
(Cdre. Simonstown 1115C/28 to Admty.)
- U/B Wellington aircraft on passage reports sighting U-Boat in 10° 50' N 17° 30' W at 0935Z/26.
Considered reliable.
(R.A.W.A. 1115Z/26 to Admty.)
- SOUTHERN GEM. Arrival Pointe Noire 28th Oct. SOUTHERN GEM for repairs.
(B.N.L.O. W.A. 1135/28 to R.A.W.A.)
- U/B attacks by WIVERN SOUTHERN GEM ^{/p. 341.} My 2151Z/12. Analysis of attacks by WIVERN and SOUTHERN GEM shows U-Boat probably escaped with some damage. Initial contact at 1245Z/12 range 2200 yards. Periscope sighted at 600 yards dipped and U-Boat's stern broke surface 200 - 300 yards on starboard bow. Six charge pattern fired mean depth setting 150 feet. SOUTHERN GEM followed with accurate attack. U-Boat very deep in three subsequent attacks after which contact lost. No convincing visible result.
(R.A.W.A. 1141Z/28 to Admty.)
- Sinkings, Cape Area, diversion orders. Your 1822/17 my 1106/16, para 3. U/S SWIFTSURE and B/S SARTHE failed to receive my signal ordering ships not to approach within 74 miles of Capetown by dark. Both operators reported reliable by Masters and no explanation is apparent.
(2) U/S EXAMELIA (sunk 9th Oct.) and Belgian ship BELGIAN FIGHTER (sunk 9th Oct.) both received this signal but did not fully comply so that they were within 70 miles when sunk before dawn.
(3) Individual diversion signal was made to U/S COLTRADAN (?COLORADAN sunk 14th Oct.) but ship had already been sunk.
(C. in C. S.A. 1203Z/28 to Admty.)
- CUBA SILVER ASH. ^{COMMANDANT} (1) CUBA and SILVER ASH escorted by MILFORD and DETROYAT are to be sailed on 3rd Nov. or as soon as escorts are ready.
Route. (a) Equator 065° E. (b) 004° N 003° E thence Takoradi.
(2) SILVER ASH is to be detached in position (b) to proceed Lagos (Nigeria) independently.

/ (3) Report...

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - cont.CUBA
SILVER CASH
Contd.

- (3) Report expected time of sailing when known.
- (4) B.N.L.O. West Africa pass to PHOEBE.
- (R.A.W.A. 1253Z/28, 1155Z/29 to B.N.L.O. W. Africa.
- (R) C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Takoradi. Admty.)

Movement
summary.2000Z/28. Area Q.
Neth. S/M K.14 016° 40' S 011° 10' E to the north,
knots 9.

DURBAN, DESPATCH, CARTHAGE, MILFORD, KANARIS with
W.S.23, 015° 10' S 007° 00' E to the Cape 12. *See next page.*
MAURETANIA 038° 30' S 031° 30' E.
NORMAN 022° 40' S 014° 40' E to Walvis Bay 20. *See p. 876.*
(C. in C. S.A. 1303C/28 to S.A. Stn.)

DEVON
CITY.

Sailed DEVON CITY routed through following positions:
A. 030° 00' S 035° 00' E. B. 026° 50' S 046° 40' E.
C. 025° 00' S 049° 00' E. D. 015° 00' S 051° 40' E.
(II) (R) Diego Suarez 0500Z/5.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1415Z/28 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C.
E.F. Admty. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

ANNE
HUTCHINSON
(torpedoed
26th Oct.)

U.S. Ship ANNE HUTCHINSON torpedoed and gunned 26th
Oct. in approx. 33° 10' S 28° 30' E, since sighted
by aircraft at 0800C/28 in 34° 13' S 26° 55' E,
broken in two and drifting.
(2) 10 survivors have been rescued by U.S. ship
STEEL MARINER and 44 others landed at Port Calfred.
(3) Further details will follow.
(C. in C. S.A. 1506/28 to Admty. B.A.D. (R)
C. in C. E.F.)

U/B.

U-Boat sighted by aircraft in 008° 15' N 014° 30' W
at 1530Z/28.
(R.A.W.A. 1555Z/28 to all authorities.)

LAFONIA.

Your 0544/17 re LAFONIA. Agree vessel should
proceed to U.K. for general overhaul and repairs.
Anticipate vessel will be required for three
further short coastal voyages before she can be released. Intend
to load to capacity with commercial cargo.
(D.S.T.O. W. Africa 1827Z/28 to D.S.T.)

VOLENDAM.

Intend sailing VOLENDAM in convoy C.F.78.
Anticipate this will reduce speed of advance of
convoy from 12.5 to 11.75 knots, delaying arrival
of convoy in U.K. by not more than 24 hours. Escort to U.K.
cannot otherwise be provided.
(R.A.W.A. 1847Z/28 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A.
D. of S.T. D.S.T.O. Freetown.)

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War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

ANTELOPE Your 1155/28. ^{p.874} Not received F.O.I.C. West Africa
BOREAS 1701/25. Destroyers left 1900/26. After position
BRILLIANT (B) through (C) 028° 07' N 019° 00' W thence
AVON VALE Gibraltar. E.T.A. p.m. 31st. Oct.
See p.874^A (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1937Z/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

W.S.24. Estimate escorts will require following approx.
quantities of Admty. quality furnace oil:-
DESPATCH - 900 tons. QUEEN OF BERMUDA - 2000 tons.

ROTHERHAM - 550 tons.

2. This is additional to requirements of convoy given in
D. of S.T's 0008/28.

3. Title of convoy is W.S.24.
(D.O.D.(F.) 1944A/28 to N.C.S.O. Pernambuco.)

W.S.23. (A) P.C.S. of W.S.23 at 2000Z/28 014° 10' S
See previous page 006° 02' E 143° 12 knots.

(B) Freetown. DURBAN 472. DESPATCH 435.
MILFORD 213. KANARIS 197. CARTHAGE 870.

(C) As KANARIS can reach Cape on present fuel do not intend to
send her to Walvis Bay unless so ordered. Maximum speed of
MILFORD 13 knots due to dirty bottom. Weather report.
(DURBAN 2015Z/28 to C. in C. S.A. (R) R.A.W.A. Admty. NORMAN.
ROCKROSE. THYME.)

Mediterranean.

AQUITANIA Admty. 1907/24. Master of AQUITANIA reports
See p.884 "Thinner oil unsuitable for system. Best heavy
grade fuel most suitable for reduction of smoke.

Slight improvements but still smokes dangerously".

(Cdre. Aden 0639Z/28 to M.W.T. New York for Cunard Company.
(R) Admty.)

Departure 28th AQUITANIA, Suez 31st.

(N.C.S.O. Aden 1114Z/28 to Admty. etc.)

Cositrep
656.

Part 2. Air.

Night 26/27 Oct. 4. A Wellington from Malta
bombed southbound ship believed tanker with escort
vessels off west coast of Greece. Results

unobserved.

5. About ten enemy aircraft operated over Alexandria area during
night. Only slight damage reported. Night fighters probably
destroyed a CR.42.

7. 27th Oct. Escorted bombers attacked dock area Matruh scoring
hits on railway while other bombs burst among buildings and in
dump area.

(C. in C. M.E. 1025 G.M.T.)

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.E. Air Report. A. 680, 28/1, Bi-weekly Opsum No. 68.
Night 23/24. 1 A.S.V. Wellington R/C for shipping along Western Desert coast. About 2 enemy aircraft operated over Gulf of Suez. Two ships reported attacked with bombs and torpedoed. No damage.

24th Oct. 1 Sunderland 4 Blenheims 4 Hudsons 4 Bisleys 1 Wellesley 2 Walrus A/S patrols. 1 Blenheim attacked a S/M 20 miles N.W. of Gaza with 4 depth charges which fell near periscope. Oil and large quantity air bubbles seen rising for half an hour after attack. 2 large oil patches subsequently seen in area. 2 Hurricanes protection of shipping off Port Said.

Night 24/25. 2 A.S. Wellingtons searched for enemy shipping west of Crete. No sighting. 1 bomber 3 torpedo Wellingtons despatched to attack a southbound M/V with destroyer previously reported south of Crete. 3 Wellingtons returned owing to bad weather, remaining 1 did not find. 1 Sunderland A/S patrol.

25th Oct. 3 Beaufighters with escort 4 Beaufighters attacked a small eastbound M/V and a destroyer west of Tobruk. Both ships left smoking. 2 Ju.88s 1 Do. 24 patrolling over vessel shot down. 4 Beauforts 3 Bisleys escorted by 8 Beaufighters subsequently attacked same ship. Beauforts fired 3 torpedoes. No hits. 1 Bisley dropped 4 250 lb bombs with unobserved results. 1 Beaufighter reports explosion on ship after bombing. Beaufighter shot down 1 Cr. 42 over ship. 36 Hurricanes protection of shipping off Delta. 4 Liberators 2 Baltimores 1 Maryland shipping R/C 3 Spitfires photographic 11 Hurricanes tactical R/C 1 Sunderland 8 Hudsons 1 Blenheim 2 Wellesleys 2 Walrus A/S patrols.

Night 25/26. A single enemy aircraft bombed a landing ground S.W. of Alexandria wounding 6 airmen, no damage. 2 Beaufighters up no interceptions. 6 A.S.V. 9 torpedo, 2 bomber Wellingtons despatched to locate and tract southbound convoy 1 tanker, 1 medium, 1 small M/Vs, 4 destroyers north of Cyrenaica? 1 bomber 3 torpedo Wellingtons attacked convoy about 30 miles N.W. of Derna. No hits scored but bombs straddled 1 M/V. Following morning 3 formations each 9 B.24s 1 formation 6 B.17s were despatched to attack convoy west of Tobruk. 18 B.24s 6 B.17s found convoy and claim 2 direct hits 4 near misses on tanker. Aircraft were attacked by enemy fighters and claim 1 Macchi probably destroyed, 1 Me.109, 2 unidentified aircraft damaged. Of remaining B.24s, 8 bombed barges off Tobruk claiming 1 hit. 8 Beauforts 5 Bisleys with escort 9 Beaufighters found a convoy 25 miles N.W. Tobruk claiming 1 torpedo hit 4 hits with bombs on tanker followed by explosion and fire. No hits claimed on M/V but smoke seen to issue from larger ship after attack. 1 Bisley hit mast of tanker and crashed in sea. Beaufighters engaged 2 Ju.88s 3 single engined fighters over convoy damaging 1 Ju.88. 1 Beaufighter shot down. On return journey a Beaufort and a Bisley collided and crashed in sea, another Beaufort and Bisley missing. Further 5 Beauforts escorted by 8 Beaufighters subsequently despatched did not locate convoy and attacked a barge 300 feet long in barge convoy off Tobruk. No hits claimed. On outward journey Beaufighters attacked 5 He.111s off Sidi Barrani, destroying 2 damaging 3. 1 Beaufighter missing. 3 torpedo Wellingtons despatched to make dusk attack on convoy. Found large M/V stationary off Tobruk Harbour. 6 hits claimed on ship followed by very violent explosion with debris thrown to great height and cloud of smoke. Tanker was seen still burning west of Tobruk. 1 Wellington missing last seen making for land with 1 engine on fire. 2 bomber 3 torpedo Wellingtons despatched

/to attack...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean- conts.

M.E. Air Report. Contd. to attack during night found only tanker blazing from stem to stern and exploding at intervals. Vessel considered total loss and no attack made. 1 Wellington dropped 2 1000 lb bombs on Tobruk jetties. Results unobserved. 1 Wellington missing. A.B.17 on R/C of area following morning reported patches of oil outside harbour. Tanker was not seen.

26th Oct. 1 Beaufighter 28 Hurricanes 2 Fulmars protection of shipping off Delta and in Gulf of Suez. 4 Spitfires photographic 2 Baltimores strategical 8 Hurricanes tactical, 2 Baltimores, 1 Maryland shipping R/C. 1 Hurricane shot down by A.A. fire, pilot safe. 3 Hudsons 2 Walrus 1 Wellesley A/S patrols.

Night 26/27. About 10 enemy aircraft operated over Alexandria area and landing grounds to south west. 4 unserviceable M.T. destroyed at camp near Alexandria, no other damage or casualties reported. 3 Beaufighters up probably destroyed 1 Cr.42.

27th Oct. 14 Hurricanes 2 Fulmars protection of shipping off Port Said and in Gulf of Suez. 2 Baltimores strategical 3 Spitfires photographic 3 Hurricanes tactical R/C. 2 Walrus, 1 Hudson, 1 Wellesley A/S patrols.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1456Z, 1517Z, 1538Z, 1554Z, 1621Z. 1456Z, 1706Z, 1727Z, 1749Z, 1811Z, 1848Z, 1921Z, 2137Z/28.)

Italian destroyers Dardanelles. Report A.1. Two Italian destroyers observed all day 25th outside Dardanelles. Z A my 2135C/25, escort ARCA, which entered Aegean same evening. (2) No aircraft observed. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1518C/28 to S.O.I. Med. (R) S.1 Beirut, D.N.I.)

TURBULENT. TURBULENT leaves Beirut searched channel at 1800C/28 routed direct through 033° 56' 018° 56' at 0530C/2nd Nov. thence to Malta as ordered by you. She will be run on surface daylight 29th, daily advance remainder of passage 140 miles. (Capt. S.1. 1527C/28 to Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. Coastal Forces. V.A. Malta. S/Ms on patrol.)

THRASHER R of P. Following is summarized intelligence of THRASHER patrol 9th Oct. close to within 4 miles of Port Laki, Leros, nothing seen inside harbour. Sighted 500 ton coaster bound Leros to Patnes. 10th October, few small Caiques seen off Cape Doro. 12th Oct. sank 200 ton S.E. bound schooner 039° 56' N 024° 17' E. Sank 200 ton westbound schooner 040° 01' N 024° 01' E. 13th Oct. Observed destroyer patrol off Cape Kassandra. 1 schooner and 2 or 3 Caiques observed all northbound. 14th Oct. Observed possibly an E-Boat position 039° 21' N 023° 32' E. 16th Oct. after daybreak. 19th Oct. position 037° 19' N (?25°) 42' E sighted hospital ship 90° 12 miles course 270° (?word omitted) for Steno Pass. 1 large merchant ship 2 destroyers proceeding approx. along 100 fathoms line close south of Patnes to approx. 037° 47' ? $\frac{1}{2}$ N 026° 43' E. Night 19-20. sank tug between Stampalia and Leros? 20th Oct. sighted 2000 ton M/V and 2 destroyers 125° 8 miles course 250°. Position 036° 26' N 027° 54' E. Attacked and sank M/V inaccurate counter attack. 23rd Oct.

/one aircraft...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-~~Lon~~ 17.

THRASHER one aircraft patrol between Piskopi and Kalkia.
R of P.~~Lon~~ 17. 24th Oct. armed trawler sighted south east of eastern end of Amorgo Island. 25th Oct. position 036° 08' N 026° 45' E sighted two merchant ships 3 destroyers bearing 040° 8 miles 4 torpedoes fired and missed. Very accurate counter attack. Enemy considered to be using Alimnia as dispersal or waiting anchorage for Rhodes. (Capt. S.1 1603C/28 to TAKU. NEREUS. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt.S.10.)

AURORA R/C. (a) Cagliari 25th. 8 submarines.
intelligence (b) Palermo 28th, visual, one Regolo cruiser 5 destroyers.
(c) Messina 28th, photographic, 2 8" cruisers 2 destroyers 2 torpedo boats 4 submarines.
(d) Trapani 27th, one destroyer one torpedo boat 3 submarines. (V.A. Malta 1630A/28 to AURORA. (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. Med. Admty. Force M.)

Ferry Fully concur with Egypt's 1830/27. (Use of
steamers. Turkish type ferry steamers in Middle East.)
(C. in C. Med. 1715C/28 to Admty.)

Malta C.S.R. 28th Oct. Part 1. I.71.
Air Night 27/28. No enemy activity.
Report. 28th. 0616 hours, 40 Me.109 and Mc.202 including fighter bombers approached Malta at great height using cloud cover and were intercepted 20 miles north of Island by 25 Spitfires who forced them to turn back. No raiders crossed coast.
0824 hours. 44 Me.109 including fighter bombers approached at great height and were intercepted north of Island by 15 Spitfires who forced majority to jettison bombs in sea and turn back. Enemy had height advantage and combats were inconclusive. Some bombs fell on land near coast killing 3 civilians injuring 3 civilians and destroying 6 houses.
1132 hours. 6 plus Me.109 which approached Malta in attempt to intercept returning by Spitfire were intercepted 10 miles north of Island by 4 Spitfires and turned back. Today 44 Spitfire sorties have been made against 90 enemy sorties.
(A.H.Q. Malta 2005Z/28.)

Situation Alexandria - two enemy aircraft over Harbour
Report. 0325/27 dropped bombs but no damage.
No.284. 2. Submarines - at 0720/23, P.35 torpedoed merchant ship beached off Khoms and reported salvage impossible.
3. TRAVELLER reported that at 1520C/9 in position 035° 45' N 023° 13' E attacked northbound M/V in ballast escorted by two or three destroyers and estimated two hits on M/V and possible hit on destroyer of Gregale Class.
(C. in C. Med. 2020C/28 to Admty.)

Enemy 1 enemy convoy position LBSX 2530 (36.25 N
Convoy. longitude indecypherable) course 180° speed 10 knots.
(Med. A/C Call sign ULSX 2207A/28 to GBXZ.)

883

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.P.59. My 0615/23 para (B), B.P.59, add from Karachi one M.T. ship, CITY OF BARCELONA, sailing 4th November.
(P.S.T.O. Bombay 0539Z/28 to D. C. in C. E.F.)

M.N.B.D.O., 1 Coast Regt. Ceylon. Ref. F.O. Ceylon 0629Z/27. If continued existence of M.N.B.D.O. desired, essential that force should concentrate in M.E. Planning of full scale expedition was in elementary stage on leaving U.K., dispersion of essential units brought this to standstill. Formation unfit to operate until opportunity of collective training and planning has been given. If formation is to concentrate, M.E. much preferable to any other location. Am opposed therefore, to retention 1 Coast Regt. in Ceylon. Chiefs of Staff CC/107 of 5 Oct. and M.N.B. 47989/13 Sept. refer.
(Overt 0904Z/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O. Ceylon.)

B.P.58. Departure GERALDTON, BATHURST with B.P.58 slow section.
(S.O.I.) Bombay 0905/28 to Admty.)

Landing Craft for India. My 1237/21. 6 L.C.Ms shipped YANKEE ARROW to Bombay E.T.A. 15th November embarked 2 R.N. (ratings?).
2. No more landing craft awaiting shipment as 2 reported to be in OCEAN VIGIL were apparently not shipped.
3. P.S.T.O. India pass to C. in C. India.
(P.S.T.O. Durban 0952C/28 to P.S.T.O. India.)

Movement Summary. Ceylon Movement Summary No.22 of 28th October Ref. Movement Summary No.21. SUTLEJ with P.B.82 due Bombay 29/10. JUMNA left Bombay 25th Oct. with B.M.30 to R/V with *ACNEE MFF Colombo 29th October. JUMNA returns Bombay due 1st Nov. approx. ASTER with B.M.30 due Trincomalee 31st Oct. Summary No.22.
(1) LISMORE as A/S escort to *HAWKINS and KUTSANG leaves Colombo 28th Oct. to be detached in 69° East thence to Addu Atoll.
(2) WILLEM VANDERZAAN left Bombay 27th Oct. due Colombo 31st Oct. escorting ZUIDERKRUIS. *see below.
(3) MADRAS leaves Colombo 29 Oct. escorting VARSOVA to Bombay.
(4) SUTLEJ and PUNJAB leave Bombay 2nd November escorting B.P.59. (F.O. Ceylon 1108Z/28 to Admty. etc.)

Movements. Colombo Departure 28th Oct. 0905Z HAWKINS, 1030Z H.M.A.S. LISMORE.
(S.O.I. Colombo 1215Z/28 to Admty. etc.)
Departure 1242Z/28 (*ORISSA) escorting H.T. MAHARAJA.
(? N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1243Z/28 to Admty. etc.)

**to be formed by two units of H.M. ships*

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.Fulmars,
protection.

Your 1345Z/15. (Re berth protection for Fulmars in Malong Cove) Concur in number 7 and 8 berths being arranged as a trot.
(C. in C. E.F. 1330Z/28 to F.O. Ceylon.)

DRAGON.

Following proposed programme for DRAGON.
31st Oct. leaves Durban, 2nd Nov. arrives Simonstown.
3rd Nov. leaves Simonstown, 8th Nov. arrives Pointe Noire.
9th Nov. leaves Pointe Noire, 14th Nov. arrives Freetown.

(ii) Thence as ordered by Admiralty.

(iii) C. in C. S.A. is requested to sail and route DRAGON accordingly, also to arrange D/F and D/G calibration on leaving Simonstown.

(C. in C. E.F. 1721Z/28 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

*AQUITANIA,
MAURETANIA.

Your 0025/27th to F.O. Ceylon.

1. Concur that AQUITANIA should sail without troops and without ocean escort.

*S-10879

2. Concur also that troops should be embarked in MAURETANIA for whom cruiser escort will be provided from Aden to Colombo if current operations permit. Cruiser escort will be provided from Colombo to Fremantle, the same ship returning as escort for AQUITANIA.

3. R.A. Alexandria pass to P.S.T.O. Egypt.

(C. in C. E.F. 1828Z/28 to Admty. (R) A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., F.O. Ceylon, P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

Japanese
Misuse of
Red Cross
Ships.

080623. 0850 cypher 28th Oct.

Your 68600 (M.I.2) 28th Sept. (Asking M.A. Chungking for confirmation of persistent rumours that Japanese are grossly violating Red Cross usage.)

1. Source, 3 separate Chinese agents who have visited Hong Kong confirmed by at least 20 refugees. Of these agents one was formerly Sergeant Hong Kong Volunteers, another in Police Special Reserve.

2. Substance (?word omitted) ships with Red Cross armed. Up to 1000 fit soldiers seen marching on board Red Cross ship. Ship No.283 with cargo cavalry horses and men displayed Red Crosses. Appears to be Japanese practice to have number of wounded on board to give Red Cross cover to transport of goods and fit men. Detailed report follows by air mail.

(M.A. Chungking 0540 G.M.T./28 to W.O.)

Catalinas.

One Catalina at present at immediate readiness to proceed on detachment East Africa Nov. 1st. Route via island bases to Mombasa. Aircraft to proceed on 6666 k/cs. Departure signals with call sign to be repeated this H.Qs. Addu Atoll, Diego Garcia, Seychelles, Mauritius, 207 Group, C. in C. E.F.
(222 Group, 1112FG/28 to KOGGALA, (R) Dep. C. in C. E.F.)

CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE

1227Z/28 Oct.

From: C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

DATE: 4.11.42.

RECD: 0855.

NAVAL CODE 'J' by W/T.

Addressed: Ships and Authorities, East Indies Station. Repeated Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic.

IMMEDIATE.

196. By D/F on 3110 kcs. at 1400Z. 27th. Enemy submarine 015 degs. North 062 degs. East call sign A S O.

1227Z/28.

Advance Copy sent Ops., O.D., O.I.C., D.A/S.W.

V.C.N.S.	O.I.C. (3).	D.S.D. (2).
A.C.N.S. (F) (2).	D.T.D. (4).	U.S.N. (3).
A.C.N.S. (T).	D.T.D. (M).	I.P. (3).
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.T.D. (C).	W.D.
Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.	D.I.I. (5).	
Ops. (3).	D. G. P.	
O.D. (5).	D.A/S.W.	

War Diary.

28.10.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- BULKOIL. My 1907/14th. Vessel will be ready to sail as far as defects are concerned.
2. Understand crew restless because they have heard they are not going to U.K. and had expected to do so. This might prevent vessel sailing on time.
3. Should vessel be unable to sail due to absence of Merchant Service personnel steps will be taken to replace absentees with Naval personnel.
(B.A.D., 0145Z/28 to Admty.)
- S/M R.1. U.S. S/M Notice. At 2130Z/28th R.1 departing Bermuda for patrol station point 29.00 N. 61.00 W. radius 40 miles. Course 139°. Submerged during daylight, on surface after dark. S. of A. 120 miles per day.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0151/28.)
- U/B. Addressed Area T.A. B.A.M.S. 1A from Cominch G.R. 12. S/M sighted 54.40 N. 30.10 W. at 1208/27.
(Washington, 0222/28 to Admty.)
- ORILLIA, (Corrupt group) E.T.A. 1100Z/28. Boiler hours. O.N. 139. P.C. and S. 46.25 N. 51.43 W. 335°, 11 knots.
(ORILLIA, 0230Z/28 to F.O.N.F.)
- Trawlers Arrival H.M. Trawlers NORTHERN DAWN, NORTHERN for Cape DUKE, STELLA POLARIS. Area. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0242Q/28 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)
- H.X.212, Sighting report at 0644Z/28th and other poor D/F U/B. indicates you are being shadowed by estimated 6 subs.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1007/28 to C.T.U. 24.1.3, (R) C.T. 24.)
- Movements 1800 G.M.T./28.
Summary. Ship Position Course Speed
S/M SEVERN 45½° N. 40° W. 064° 13
QUEEN OF 07° N. 26° W. Patrol Blank
BERMUDA
(D.O.D.(F), 1013Z/28 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)
- CANATCO. Connav's 2057/27 informs as follows:
Serial 27. CANATCO now reported possibly internal explosion, not grounding. Serial 26 refers.
(Comnav, 1034/28 to Admty.)

/Action ...

War Diary.

28.10.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Action of C.R. No. 221.
24th August This is Cincpac's 0415/27 addressed to Admty.
1942, (to be passed by Comnavu):
information. Request following be passed C. in C.E.F. in
cypher held only by him. Information on action
of 24th August follows (headings as in your
1149Z/8 time).

A. U.S. and Japanese shore-based effective. U.S. Carrier
based 250 miles and effective. Value of U.S. R/C adversely
affected by poor enemy reporting and communication.

B. Both sides employed shore-based aircraft. U.S. fairly
effective but same trouble as in (A). Japanese good but
easily intercepted and one striking force missed target.

C. R.D.F. used throughout. Interception distance 0 to 15
miles. No evidence enemy fighter direction.

D. (1) U.S., 7 strikes by carrier forces.

Number & Type	Depth Strikes	Approach Height	Attack Technique
15 dive bombers	216	16,000	Released 2,000 feet.
7 torpedo planes	216	12,000	Glide drop 800 yards 200 feet 200 kts.
15 dive bombers	216	14,500	Released 2000 feet.
5 torpedo planes	200	7,000	Dive drop 1200 yards 200 to 250 feet 200 kts.
2 dive bombers	200	12,500	Released 2000 feet.
11 dive bombers	260	Did not attack.	Blank.
7 torpedo planes	260	Did not attack.	Blank.

(II) Japanese (A) Carrier attack group about 75 aircraft
including 36 dive bombers many fighters plus torpedo aircraft.
Latter intercepted did not attack. Dive bombers approached
at 17,000 feet. Torpedo aircraft were seen at sea level when
16 miles from objective. Fighter escort of attack group
troublesome. Aircraft attacking followed returning U.S. aircraft
to objective.

(B) Shore-based high level bombers synchronised attacked with
dive bombers.

(III) Torpedoes considered greater value.

(E) U.S. fighters defensive only very successful. Japanese
fighters defending ships ineffective.

(F) U.S. long and short range fire very successful. Japanese
poor. Japanese used submarines on surface as advanced screen.
Carrier forces divided into two groups 80 miles apart. One
only located in time for attack. Other forces in vicinity and
attacked. U.S. force two carrier 15 miles apart. One only
attacked. No surface contact.

(Comnavu, 1106/28 to Admty.)

H.X.212, D/F bearings during the forenoon on 10510 k/cs
U/Bs. indicate probably 3 U-Boats in vicinity H.X.212.
(D.D.I.C., 1255A/28 to Escorts H.X.212.)
U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made
sighting report of convoy or important unit at 0930Z/28th.
(Cominch, 1309/28 to C.T.U. 24.1.13, (R) C.T. 24, Admty.)

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

KING
HAAKON VII. Following from C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy (begins): Ref. signal 1842Z/12 and 1405Z/13. Norwegian Naval Authorities concur. (B.N.L.O. to Norwegian Navy, 1302A/28 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C.O.A.C.)

H.X.213. Your 1145/28 (N.T. in W.D.) Amend my 2014/27th to read time at H.O.M.P. 1100Z/29th.
(?2) KENORA will (? R/V) with GEORGETOWN. (C.O.A.C., 1404Z/28, 1906Z/28 to WITCH, (R) F.O.N.F., Admty., T.U. 24.18.4, Connav, N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., C.T.24.)

O.N.S.138,
O.N. 139. Request information whether southbound ships have been dispersed. (D.T.D., 1445Z/28 to Connav.)

ROTHLEY,
(sunk 19th
October.) My 1301/27. For 022° 34' N. read 013° 34' N. (S.O.I.) Kingston, 1552R/28 to Admty., etc.) Former amended.
*See next page -
10/13 Cominch*

T.U.
24.1.14. Your 1217/27 (N.T. in W.R.) As 24.1.14 now has only one destroyer request ST. FRANCIS be sailed at economical speed to reinforce escort of S.C. 107 as far to westward as endurance permits and thereafter remaining with T.U. No. 24.1.14. Request however that RESTIGOUCHE remains in C.T.U. 24.1.14 for the present. (C.C.N.F., 1555Z/28 to C.T.G. 24.7, (R) C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Glasgow, RESTIGOUCHE, C.T.24, ST. FRANCIS.)

U/B
Positions. S/M estimate 28th October and U.S. Submarine Notice. (Cominch, 1619/28 to Admty.)

B.A.Ts. Your 1531Z/27th para. 2, concur. (D.O.D.(F), 1650A/28 to B.A.D.)

14.5 knot
ships. Your 2037/26 (N.T. in W.D.) Concur to include in M.A.R.I. U.S. controlled ships of 14.5 knots or over and designated tankers in U.K. service as exceptions to 15 knots rule.
2. Consideration is being given to question of lowering minimum speed for independent sailing generally. (D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S.(T), 1706Z/28 to Connav.)

Floating
Dock
Towage. (1) Request you comply with B.A.D. 2005/16 and A.M. 1925/25 para. 3.
(2) B.A.D. is requested to notify dates when ADVANTAGE and ASPIRANT may be expected to relieve Dutch tugs. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1724Q/28 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad, Cdre. i/c. Bermuda, (R) Admty., B.A.D.)

/MORDEN ...

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

MORDEN, detachment from*convoy for survivors. *O.N.134. Your 1757/23rd. After receiving full report from MORDEN I am convinced that BROADWAY had no option but to detach MORDEN to St. Johns N.F. Many survivors were quite elderly persons of both sexes and small children. Ruthless weather entirely precluded coming alongside any merchant ship in convoy and rendered boats work most (? hazardous). MORDEN did an excellent job in picking up all hands in the weather prevailing and then bringing all 194 safe to St. Johns N.F. after a voyage of 3 days and 4 nights. (F.O.N.F., 1730Z/28 to C.T.24, (R) Admty., etc.)

TRAFALGAR. TRAFALGAR (Nor.) sailed Buenos Aires 1st October due New York 22nd October has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q., 1747Z/28 to Admty., etc.)
W.D. Note:- Torpedoed 15th October.

BURY. Your 1513/27. When ready BURY is to proceed to Halifax. (N.S.H.Q., 1939Z/28 to N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., (R) Admty., etc.)

Trawlers. Your 1556/24. Remaining eight trawlers should be sailed to Londonderry for service in Home Station. (D.M.S., 1950A/28 to B.A.T.M. Ottawa, (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

H.X.212, U/B. U-Boat in your vicinity by D/F has made sighting report of a convoy or important unit at 1649Z/28. (Cominch, 1955/28 to C.T.U. 24.1.3, (R) C.T. 24, Admty.)

Convoy Diversions by Connav. Your 1911/20. This subject has been fully discussed in Navy Dept.
2. Your para. 2 (D) agreed in principle. It is intended to reduce the present scale of evasive diversions, which will be confined to special cases after consultation in Submarine Tracking Room.
3. C.T. 24 has requested Cominch (C. & R) to largely eliminate diversions by Shore Authority, putting forward similar arguments to yours. Therefore it is anticipated future diversions will be in accordance with your views.
(B.A.D., 2009Z/28 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

U/B Campaign. Connav serial 28. → TRAFALGAR torpedoed sunk 15th October 25.30 N. 52.00 W. 19th October torpedoed sunk*ROTHLEY 22.34 N. 54.34 W. *GURNEY E. NEWLIN and SALTPAN REACH (?*SOURABAYA) both torpedoed 27th October and BIC ISLAND (corrected to KOSMOS II see 2110/29) torpedoed 28th October. All approx. 55° N. 30° W. Convoy H.X.212. (Connav, 2046/28 to Connaveu.) *in previous page 2 p. 849

/ U/B ...

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B fuelling, Gulf of Mexico. Russians report information received that German submarine received fuel and supplies from Venezuelan merchant ship near Matamoros in Gulf of Mexico.
(Adm. Miles, 2140/28 to Admty.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. A. PETERTON torpedoed and sunk 18.45 N. 29.15 W. 17th September. *TRAFALGAR torpedoed and sunk 25.30 N. 52.00 W. 2320Z/15. *ROTHLEY attacked and sunk position possible 22.34 N. 54.34 W. 1032Z/19. *SOURABAYA and *GURNEY E.

NEWLIN torpedoed and sunk area 54° N. 30° W. about 2100Z/27. Surface craft sights submarine on surface 54.40 N. 30.10 W. 2108Z/27, 54.55 N. 28.33 W. about 0330Z/28. *see previous page
B. LINDVAGEN U.88 type. ANTONICO U.45 type. Plane sights submarine 58.50 N. 22.10 W. 1020Z/27 and 59.11 N. 22.54 W. 1023Z/27.

C. Corvette attacks submarine 11.32 N. 62.30 W. 27th July.
→ S.C.655 attacks sound contact 28.45 N. 91.10 W. 1900Z/15/8.
U.S.C.G. NEMESIS attacks sound contact 28.39 N. 90.47 W. 2104Z/17/8. Motor coaster OLLIE AND MAY sights submarine on surface course west about 46.10 N. 61.58 W. 1415Z/25. Submarine sighted 19.45 N. 73.50 W. 1415Z/27. SS. PALMA sights submarine 11.40 N. 29.34 W. 2100Z/27.
D. → S.C.655 attacks sound contact 29.20 N. 85.40 W. 1600Z/17/8.
Y.M.S.38 attacks sound contact 29.22 N. 93.02 W. 2335Z/21/8.
*CAP PLANE and C.G.489 attack oil slick 29.31 N. 93.29 W. 1810Z/28/8. Air operational training command plane sights submarine awash 29° N. 80.10 W. 1940Z/28. C.G.C.540 sound contact 40.28 N. 72.58 W. 2025Z/28.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2203Z/28 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

**not identified*

H.X. 212, U/B attacks, ships sunk. Following is despatch 1045Z/28 from C.T.U. 24.1.3 addressed for action to F.O.C. Iceland (C) and C.T.F.24 and for information to C.N.A. Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7, C.O.A.C.:-

At 2108Z/27, 1 or 2 submarines attacked. During operations following attack sighted surfaced submarine. Two ships SOURABAYA and GURNEY E. NEWLIN torpedoed. VILLE DE QUEBEC has approx. 60 survivors, ALBERNI has 39. Details of attack follow later. At 0345Z/28 second attack by 1 submarine occurred. One ship BIC ISLAND (corrected to KOSMOS II see 2110/29) torpedoed starboard side. 50 of her crew still onboard attempting get her underway. ROSTHERN and SS. BARRWHIN standing by. At 0800Z my P.C. and S. 54.55 N. 28.32 W. 074° 8.5 knots. Weather report.
(Comnavu, 2219/28 to Admty.)

W.R. Note: Formerly received in cypher not held by Admiralty.

see p. 872

War Diary.28.10.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. 27th October arrival, Brisbane, U.S. Destroyer HENLEY, Newcastle, WHYALLA, Sydney (N.S.W.), MORESBY. Departure Fremantle for Brisbane, U.S. Sub. Tender HOLLAND, for Exmouth Gulf, U.S. Seaplane Tender CHILDS.
(A.C.N.B., 0401Z/28 to Admty., etc.)

Situation. Digest Serial No.279, 27th October.
R/C Buin Shortlands Tonolei area morning 27th October indicated 1 possible battle ship of heavy cruiser, 1 possible aircraft carrier, 1 heavy cruiser, 3 light cruisers, 9 destroyers, 1 seaplane tender, at least 8 M/Vs 8 flying boats. 2 large M/Vs 1 destroyer also observed 25 miles E.N.E. Buin course 225°.
(2) Air R/C Rabaul harbour morning 27th October from 28,000 ft. reported 41 vessels this area.
(3) 1 destroyer reported 5° 30' S. 154° 43' E. a.m. 27th October course 320°.
(4) 1 light cruiser 1 destroyer sighted 5° 30' S. 152° 33' E. morning 27th October course 10°.
(5) Native report indicates large unidentified vessel possibly seaplane tender operating off Manam Island (north coast New Guinea) 22nd October. Enemy R/C aircraft reported operating this area same day and previous day.
(6) At least 9 medium bombers attacked Darwin area early morning 27th October causing slight damage.
(7) 6 Beaufighters attacked Lae same day. 3 barges set on fire, A.A. position silenced, while 2 Bostons attacked Alolamisurava area.
(8) 2 Hudsons escorted by 7 Aircobras attacked barge and buildings Numa Numa Bay (Fergusson Island) afternoon 27th October.
(9) 1 Hudson attacked possible enemy position Normanby Island early morning same day.
(10) 2 Hudsons attacked Dilli town area 26th October results not observed.
(11) Situation Eora Creek remains generally unchanged.
(12) Some indications enemy observation post established north coast New Britain between Talasea and Open Bay.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0915Z/28 to Admty., etc.)

Action of
24th August
1942.

Information.
(Comnavau, 1106/28.)
See America and West Indies.

U BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1416A/28, 1440A/28.)

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Operation
"Torch".

The operation referred to in para. 1 of A.L. M/P.D.(Q) 0194/42 of 8th September 1942 has necessitated the withdrawal of a number of destroyers from their normal service in the Home and other Commands. Further demands may have to be met in the near future. In the meantime, in order to maintain the normal flow of convoys round the coasts of the U.K., measures such as increased air escort, use of vessels other than destroyers &c. will be taken. It cannot yet be stated how long the ships will be away from their proper Commands. SCYLLA and 1 destroyer left Plymouth at 1717 today.

Home Commands.Operation
"Advent".

M.G.Bs and M.T.Bs of Portsmouth Command carried out a sweep of the enemy's coastal route in the Channel last night. At 0042 an enemy force was sighted and engaged off Cape Barfleur, and an R-Boat and a trawler were left stopped with their guns silenced. The enemy shore batteries opened fire. M.G.B. 317 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 50 were damaged. There were no casualties and our forces returned safely to harbour.

Convoy
H.X. 212.

The convoy was attacked again several times today by a pack of about 5 U-Boats. At 0116Z in 54° 58' N. 23° 56' W. the U.S. Tanker PAN-NEW YORK was torpedoed and set on fire and abandoned, unsalvageable. At 0417Z in 55° 5' N. 23° 27' W. SS. BIC ISLAND and GDYNIA were torpedoed, and at 1940Z SS. BARRWHIN which had dropped back yesterday to help KOSMOS II was torpedoed in 55° 3' N. 22° 30' W. Wind and heavy seas made counter attack very difficult. Aircraft are assisting to keep submarines down. A total of 7 ships has now been torpedoed and sunk in this convoy.

O.N. 139,
DONAX.

DONAX (torpedoed 22nd October) in tow of rescue tug NIMBLE had to be abandoned, and capsized at 1645 today.

Photographs showed Lofjord empty at 1000 today. TIRPITZ was in Foetten Fiord.

/Aircraft ...

War Diary.

29.10.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

Aircraft of 15 Group Coastal Command employed on convoy escort duties will be under the direct control of the S.O. of the escort during the period in which the aircraft is escorting a convoy.

Bomber Command aircraft made daylight attacks today on various targets in Germany, including aerodromes on the Frisian Is., and Den Helder.

M/S Trawler TERVANI (Grimsby) reported at 1935 that she had been torpedoed by a submarine. There is no further information.

North Atlantic.

Convoy
S.L.125.

The convoy was attacked again by a U-Boat about 2055Z today in 33° 23' N. 18° (722') W. and one ship (apparently CORINALDO) was torpedoed.

Op: Torch.

RODNEY, PENN, PANTHER and LOOKOUT arrived at Gibraltar at 1150A today, BERMUDA arrived at 0950.

The enemy now carry out daily air R/C of Gibraltar.

South Atlantic.

SS. LAPLACE reported at 1935 G.M.T. that she had been torpedoed in 40° 13' S. 21° 42' E.

Survivors of SS. STEPHEN HOPKINS in Rio de Janeiro report that their ship was sunk by 2 raiders on 27th September in 28° 8' S. 20° 1' W. They claim that one raider was sunk in action. (R 924)

SIRIUS sailed from Freetown at 1630Z today for Gibraltar.

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Operation
"Train".

Twenty-nine Spitfires flown off from FURIOUS landed at Malta safely today. 31 were embarked in FURIOUS, but 2 did not start owing to engine defects. Force M was continually shadowed from 0709 until sunset, and 1 Ju.88 dropped a bomb 1000 yards astern of FURIOUS at 1500. This A/C was attacked and possibly damaged by a Seafire. Contact was made with 3 U-Boats during the operation, of which 2 were attacked. It is reported that 7 German U-Boats were concentrated in the western Mediterranean to attack FURIOUS yesterday and today. A large number of enemy fighters patrolled to westward of Malta, in an attempt to intercept the Spitfires. No enemy aircraft crossed the coast today.

The 3rd Motor Launch Flotilla, which arrived at Malta a few months ago, amongst their other services have now swept up 100 mines in the approaches to Malta.

A force of 8 M.T.Bs, 9 L.C.Ts, EXMOOR, BELVOIR and HURWORTH simulated a landing in the Kanais area last night. After dark, all units returned to Alexandria except the M.T.Bs, who closed the beaches at 0045.

America and West Indies.

The U.S. inquire if we can provide one or 2 hospital ships for troops in the Atlantic. At present they have none, and evacuate casualties in hospitals of returning troopships. They are also anxious to increase hospital accommodation in the "Queens" by about 300 beds.

As the situation east of Trinidad shows signs of improvement, B.A.D. asks Admty. if the risk could be accepted of diverting southbound Cape Horn traffic to Trinidad. Admty. do not consider this desirable, (see 31st October).

The Panamanian MACABI Demerara 27th October for Trinidad failed to follow the swept channel and was sunk by a mine today in 10° 1' N. 60° 54' W.

War Diary.

29.10.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Nine Fortresses attacked shipping in the Buin area about midnight 28th/29th October. An explosion was seen on an unidentified vessel and near misses by straddles on other ships. Three Bostons made two attacks this morning in the Buna Kokoda area, but results were not seen.

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War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

1st C. in C.Portsmouth's 1551/27 and V.A. Dover's
S.G.B. 2028/27. Approved for the 1st S.G.B.Flottilla
Flottilla. to be placed temporarily under the operational
control of C. in C.Portsmouth.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 1414A/29).

L.C.T.(5). The allocation of L.C.T.(5) to Combined
Operations Bases in the North should be regarded
as a temporary expedient until alternative
arrangements can be made for berthing and maintaining some 150
craft.
2.Request your proposals particularly with regard to use of
Loch Gair in Upper Loch Fyne.
3.The number of L.C.T.(5) that can be maintained at U.S.
base 2 is not yet settled, but British C and M party for 15
craft is being provided as a temporary measure.
(R.A.L.B. 1725A/29 to Capt.L.C.T.).

Movements.

COVERLEY. My position is 110° Buchan Ness 6 miles, making
good 10 knots.
(COVERLEY 0100A/29 to A. C.O.S.).

AMAZON. Sailed AMAZON for Milford Haven for onward
sailing in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 0005A/28.
~~5-1-909~~ E.T.A. 1430A/29.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 0128A/29).
Your 0128A/29. Arrived.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1507A/29 to F.O.I.C.
Greenock).
C. in C.W.A. 0005/28 and F.O.C.N.A's 0032/29. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1813A/29).

SEALION, SEALION and GRAPH escorted by* CUTTY SARK
GRAPH. arrived Clyde.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 0703A/29). * ~~see next page~~

BRIGADIER, C.C.O's 1831A/26 and S.N.O. "J" s 2115/27.
DUKE OF Intend to sail BRIGADIER, DUKE OF ARGYLL,
ARGYLL, CANTERBURY, and BIARRITZ from Needles 1000/30
CANTERBURY, for Milford Haven for fuel and onward sailing to
BIARRITZ. Clyde.
2.Route. Speed 18 knots to Lands End, thence 13
knots. E.T.A. 0700/31.
3.Codeword "Jovial"
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1010A/29).

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War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- P.34. In 165° Lizard Head 11, course and speed 090° one knot. No sign of escort. Visibility 2 miles.
(P.34 1101A/29 to Capt.S.5).
Proceed to Falmouth. EGILSAY pass to P.34.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1649A/29 to EGILSAY, P.34).
P.34 and EGILSAY not in company, proceeding to Falmouth.
Position of S/M at 1740 180° Lizard Head 3 miles. SCYLLA pass to OPPORTUNE, EGILSAY pass to P.34.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1809A/29 to SCYLLA).
Your 1649A/29. Am proceeding direct Portsmouth with EGILSAY. Weather unsuitable for entering Falmouth after dark.
(P.34. 2035A/29 to C. in C.Plymouth).
My 1757/29. (Position at 0800/30). Cancel reference to P.34 and add new para. (H) P.34 50° 07' N. 005° 10' W. proceeding escorted by EGILSAY to Portsmouth.
(F.O.S. 2201A/29 to Admty).
- 7th L.C.T. Arrived L.C.Ts. 380, 381, 416, 375, 401, 355, 301,
Flotilla. 404 in accordance with your 1616/28. *N.T. n. 3.*
(N.O.I.C.Lamlash 1108A/29 to F.O.I.C.Liverpool).
- W. A.Command. Situation at 2005A/29. Details (C. in C.W.A. 1355A/29) See Lion Copy.
- TRIBUNE, Intend to sail TRIBUNE escorted by *CUTTY SARK
see p.912 at 1300A/31 from Bute Sound to position (L) 180°, Bishop Rock 10 miles. E.T.A. 2330A/1st, ** see previous page*
speed 12 knots.
TRIBUNE from (L) through (M) 049° 30', 013° 05' and (N) 043° 01' 013° 05', E.T.A. 0400A/6. Thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to Gibraltar.
(Capt.S.3.1431A/29).
- UREDD. UREDD is to be sailed for Dundee when practicable.
(F.O.(S) 1446A/29 to Capt.S.9).
- CALPE. */N.T. n. 3.* My 0014A/28. Sailed CALPE. Speed of advance 15 knots.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock 1636A/29). *To whom?*
- SEVERN. Your 1618A/27 para.3. Now. Para.4. 2200A/1st. Your 1626A/28. Request bombing restriction may be adjusted accordingly.
(SEVERN 1810Z/29 to F.O.(S))

/FIDELITY.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

From: C.in C. Western Approaches.

Situation at 2005A/29/10/42.

<u>Section N.E.</u>			<u>Secret Code.</u>
BLEAN	50 34 05 50	To Londonderry	15
S.N.3.F BRIGHTON		Sails Fort Z.A. North westward	14
		0001A/30	
	CASTLETON WELLS LANCASTER		
W.B.55	SALTERELLO SPURS DAMSAY	57 58 05 54 To Methil	7½
R.U.46	ANGLE PIROUETTE LADY MADELEINE	58 54 07 59 359 ⁰ Butt of Lewis 7 miles	6½

Situation at 2005A/29/10/42.

<u>Section S.E.</u>			
CLAISDALE	54 10 05 00	To Londonderry	17
BLACK SWAN CARNATION LA MALOUINE MALLOW	51 25 08 22	To Liverpool	8½
H.33	ST. ALBANS	Vicinity Hartland Point Northbound	8
LOTUS STARWORT DIANELLA POPPY		Sailing Londonderry approx. 2000A/29 To Clyde	12
SUMTRA		Off Lundy Island 0330A/30 To Portsmouth	18
AMAZON		Sails Milford about 1800A/30 Via Tuskar to Gibraltar	15
CONVOY	Unescorted	51 54 05 34 Northbound	7½
H.M.52	DERBY COUNTY	52 57 05 04 Southbound	8
O.N.S.(M) 142	P.C.74 ROSEMARY	52 00 05 27 To Belfast	7½
CONVOY 24(L)	SARDONYX	54 12 05 01 To Diversay thence 55 25 10 00	18½

Section N.W/

MOST SECRET

-2-

Situation at 20051/29/10/42.

Section N.W.

Secret Code.

U.R.47	BLACKELY PAYNTER SOUTHERN SHORE.	60 52 11 20 to 62 02 14 01	7½
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Section S.W.

KENOGAMI SHEDDAC		54 33 27 06 to North Channel	12
FLEET UNIT JAMAICA DASHIR DELHI	FARNDALE BICESTER ZETLAND	50 35 16 14 to 47 01 16 30	14
ISAAC SWELERS ESCAPADE MARNE		43 50 25 36 to 49 16 28 36	15
2 Tugs and Tow	VIZALMA	48 16 23 19 to U.K.	1
MYOSOTIS		48 54 20 16 to Irish Sea	12
CLEVELAND ALBRIGHTON BISKAYLE		43 00 20 06 to Ponta Del Garda	15
K.X.4.B.	BUDE BRIXHAM	46 16 14 57 to 46 00 15 00 thence 41 00 14 00	7
K.M.P.I. (A)	SHEFFIELD IBIS 2 Sloops BITER HARTLAND WALNEY CLARE 4 Corvettes	51 36 22 10 to 49 26 25 36	10½
K.M.S.2. (B)	LONDONDERRY 6 Sloops LULWORTH LANDGUARD 2 Corvettes	53 30 21 28 to 50 20 27 15	6¾
O.N.141 C.T.U. 24.1.13 (E)	SAGUENAY SKELINA SACKVILLE AGASSIZ GALT WETASKIWIN	48 50 27 30 to 46 58 30 05	8½

H.X.212/.

896 e

Situation at 2005L/29/10/42.

Section B.W. (Contd)

Secret Code.

H.K. 212 (E)	U.S.S. CAMPBELL	55 48 19 52 to	9½
C.T.U. 24.1.3	U.S.S. BADGER	56 00 19 02 thence	
	ROSTHERN	56 00 08 00	
	TRILLIUM		
	ALBERNI		
	SUMMERSIDE		
	VILLE DE QUEBEC		
S.C. 105.	HURRICANE	57 16 17 19 to	5
C.T.U. 24.1.15	WATCHMAN	56 44 13 21 thence	
	PORT ARTHUR	56 27 08 38	
	BADDECK		
	SNOWFLAKE		
	WALLFLOWER		
	MONKSHOOD		
1 M/V	ANCHUSA	57 02 16 20 to 56 27 08 38	8
2 M/Vs	STELLA	45 30 15 50 to	6
	GIRINA	50 02 15 30	
1 M/V	ALGERINE	52 23 19 00 to 50 00 27 16	10
K.M.S. 1.	ALYNBANK	43 11 26 00 to	7½
	STORK	42 43 26 00 thence	
	DEPTFORD	37 24 22 02	
	VANSITTART		
	AVENGER		
	8 Corvettes		
	4 Minesweepers		
Convoy 24	ROTHERHAM	55 20 10 47 to	12
	HOLCOMBE	55 00 15 00 thence	
	ONSLOW	51 00 21 00	
	ORIBI		
	OFFA		
TYNWALD		46 23 16 18 to	10
LAMBTON		Ponta Del Garda	
WHEATLAND			
WILTON			
PAIOMAREIS			
POZARICA			

1355A/29

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(H), D.T.D.

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| C.N.A.S. | Head of M. | |
| V.C.N.S. | D.D.I.C.(2) | |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | I.P.(2) | |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | W.D. | |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | D.T.D.(3) | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.T.D.(M) | |
| Captain Pim | D.T.D.(C) | |
| D.O.D.(H)(2) | D. of P.(2) | D. of L.D. |
| D.O.D.(F)(2) | D. of P.(Q) | D.D.O.D.(M) |
| Duty Captain (2) | Norfolk House | A.C.N.A.S. |
| U.S.N. | Admiral Blake | D.N.A.D. |
| D.A./S.W. | | D.M.S. |

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War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

FIDELITY.

Admiralty 1654/30/9.

On completion of working up at Loch Broom FIDELITY is to proceed to Liverpool to embark stores.

3.C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail FIDELITY from Liverpool for Freetown, the Cape, and Eastern Fleet reporting intended programme to Admiralty.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2000A/29).

Force H

C. in C.H.F. 1550/28, para.2. approved.

ITHURIEL,

2. On completion of repairs about 10th November

ISAAC SWEERS,

C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail

MARNE,

ITHURIEL to Gibraltar independently at best

*ESCAPADE.

speed, calling if necessary at Plymouth for fuel and onward routeing.

* *see p.910*

3. On completion of present duty ISAAC SWEERS

is to join Force H until relieved by ITHURIEL.

4. F.O.C.N.A. is requested,

(a) to sail MARNE and ESCAPADE for Scapa on completion of present duty.

(b) when relieved by ITHURIEL in Force H. to sail ISAAC SWEERS to Plymouth for onward routeing to Southampton.A.M. 1537/28 refers.

5. Ships mentioned in para.4. may be used for escort duty on return passage provided no undue delay is caused.

(D.O.D(H.) 2047A/29).

VICTORIOUS
FORMIDABLE.Raise steam and proceed as necessary to comply with my 1041/29. (N.T. in W.R.).
(R.A.A.H.F. 2529A/29 to VICTORIOUS, FORMIDABLE).

P.556.

Estimate P.556 will be in 045.01 N. 014. 10.W. at 1201A/30, thence diving by day to 046.01 N. 015.50 W.

(C. in C.W.A. 2539A/29 to BUDE, (R) BRIXHAM).

Operations.

Patrols.

My 1200A/28. "Befoul" entered.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 0530A/29).

Your 1457A/28. Arrived. "Nation 6".

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0944A/29 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Weather permitting 2 Chasseurs will patrol near E.A.5 buoy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1646A/29).

M.L.450 and 220 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and N.E. Spit buoys. E.T.D. 1835, E.T.R. 0725/30.

(V.A Dover 1811A/29).

Departure ATHERSTONE and MONTROSE at 1745 to take up patrols A and B respectively.

(F.O.Humber 1846A/29).

/Operation....

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War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

* Operation From 2359A/29. MUSKETEER is to be kept complete
F.B. with fuel at 4 hours' notice in readiness for
MUSKETEER. rescue work.
* Independent M/V C.S.l. pass A.C.I.C. 0057/28 by secret hand
sailing to H. Russia. message to MUSKETEER.
(C. in C.H.F. 0752A/29 to A.C.I.C., C.S.l).
C. in C.H.F. 0752/29th.

Intend that, if necessary to sail MUSKETEER, the
decision should rest with you and that having sailed she
should then be operated by you.

2. All signals concerning her movements should be repeated
C. in C.H.F. F.O.C. 1st C.S. and LIGHTNING.

(F.O.C 1st C.S. 1524A/29 to A.C.I.C.(R) F.O.C.D.F.H.F.

C. in C.H.F. MUSKETEER).

Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/30 and movements for following
24 hours.

TUNA 69. 52 N. 09.16 E, probably on surface, speed 10 knots,
through 74° N. 15° E.

O.15 69.20 N. 05.20 E, probably on surface, speed 8 knots,
through 74° 01' N. 15.30 E.

(F.O.(S) 1757 A/29).

Engagement M.G.B.317 sustained in action during night 28/29
off Cape October, considerable damage to the two 0.5 inch
Barfleur. mark V. power-operated mountings, and will be
One R-Boat non-operational until they are replaced.
and one (HORNET 1140/29 to C. in C.Portsmouth).
Enemy My 1240A/28. M.T.B.55 did not proceed owing
Trawler to engine trouble. Remainder of force proceeded
damaged. and at 0042/29 an enemy Force was sighted in
M.G.B.317 position 000° Cape Barfleur five miles. Enemy
and M.T.B.50 Force fired Starshell and then opened fire on
damaged. each other. M. G.B.s 317 and 312 closed to 300
(Op: "L. J. J. J.") yards and at 0052 engaged two R-Boats and one
Trawler. Meanwhile M.T.Bs. 56 and 50 lay off

waiting for a report of presence of a suitable torpedo target.
At 0112 M.G.Bs disengaged as enemy fire had ceased, the Trawler
and one R-Boat being stopped. Shore Batteries opened fire
with starshell and later with H.E. The enemy had been hit
repeatedly with two-pdr. and point 5.

No report of the presence of a torpedo target was received, so
M.T.Bs withdrew during gun action. Before getting out of range
M.T.B.50 received minor hull and torpedo tube damage from enemy
fire of at least two pdr calibre. Her steering was also hit and
put out of action.

Both turrets of M.G.B. 317 were put out of action and
superficial damage was caused to upper deck and quarters.

M.T.B. 56 and M.G.B. 312 were undamaged. There were no casualties

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1317A/29 to Admty.).

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War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

- Exercise "Blanket." It is desired to test the possibility of small boats penetrating the defences of the Thames estuary unobserved.
2. The following operation will take place during the forthcoming dark night period. Codeword of operation "Blanket."
3. Forces taking part - 6 boats, in two divisions of three. Each division proceeding independently of the other. Method of propulsion by paddle or sail. Crews two men in each boat. All boats are camouflaged.
4. Route From Margate along the North Kent coast to the Swale estuary keeping within 3 miles of the shore. Thence over the Swale boom and via East and West Swale to the Medway, thence past Garrison Point to the Thames, keeping inside Thames boom. Thence to Deptford.
Return Route. By Thames to Garrison Point, thence by Medway River to Boatship Wharf in Chatham dockyard.
5. Duration of exercise. Approx. 5 days after commencing date which will be first suitable night after night of 8/9th Nov.
6. Defences are not required to make special search for these boats, but if observed and within hailing distance, they are to be hailed "Boat Ahoy". They will reply "Blanket". Boats should not be ordered to land as this may be impossible. Boats will travel by night, lying up in daylight hours. If forced to land by stress of weather whilst between Margate and Swale crews have instructions to remain below high water mark until identified. If they land at any other time they should be identified by the special pass in each man's possession and allowed to proceed. Boats are not to be searched.
7. Reports of sighting of identification are to be made to C. in C.Nore by telephone in the form "Blanket" followed by number indicating number of boats sighted.
8. If boats are in distress they will fire 2 red stars followed by S.O.S. on a whistle at 15 second intervals. Any assistance possible should be rendered.
9. Authorities addressed are requested to warn Patrols. Defences, Police Coastguards and Home Guard concerned.
(C. in C.Nore 1338A/29).

Allied Air Activity.

A/C of 15th Group on Convoy Escort duty. 446 N of 12th October. It has been agreed that A/C of 15th Group Coastal Command employed on convoy escort duties will be under direct control of S.O. of escort during period the A/C is escorting a convoy. Instructions to A/C of 15th Group have been issued accordingly. On arrival A/C will report by visual signal (or R/T when appropriate) to S.O. of Escort followed by Codeword "Rem" and a figure indicating number of hours they will remain with convoy. Unless otherwise ordered by S.O. of Escort A/C will carry out A/S escort in accordance with W.A.C.I. part 352 para 10. A/C employed on sweeps will not carry out this procedure.
(C. in C.W.A. 1125A/29).

/North.....

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.- Contd.

North Russia. My 0151C/28. Suggest para.1 (A) (VI) of amendments proposed on your 1510/27 should read "Aircraft flying to and from North Russia along approved corridors should lower undercarriage in emergency for short periods" This will conform with Air Ministry signal AX 130 27/10
2. Admiralty pass to C. in C.H.F.
(Ad.Miles 1609C/29 to Admty).

Firth of Lorne. Following from N.O.I.C.Oban. During night-flying operations at Oban there have been instances recently where Sunderland flying boats have nearly been involved in collision with entering ships. Request promulgation that night-flying takes place in Firth of Lorne and all vessels routed to Oban be warned to keep clear of flare path, also that ships burn navigation lights at full power on entering Firth of Lorne.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1854A/29 to Admty).

Bombing Restrictions. My 2222/27. para.1. For 1000/30 to 1200/31 read forthwith until 0200/31. Para.2. for 0600/31 to 0001/2 read 1800/30 to 1200/1st.
(F.O.S. 2228A/29 to H.Q.C. C.(R) P,556).

Enemy Air Activity.

Thames Estuary. My 2157/28. At 1600/28, single A/C, Dornier or JU.88, attacked from North. 4 bombs dropped in vicinity of No.23 Buoy, across bows of Y.C.94. Attack was made between gaps in cloud and A/C was only sighted at short intervals.
No naval damage or casualty.
Various H.M.Ships in harbour opened fire. No Naval A/A guns in Establishment.
Personnel slow in taking cover.
(Cdre.Sheerness 1636A/29 to Admty).

Unknown Ship. Following received from Niton Radio. Intercepted 1926 G.M.T. Q.S.A. 3, bearing S.E., AAAA D A, 79V, UD.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 2026/29 to Admty).

901

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Operation
EY.

My 1435/25. Existing channel widened to 2½ cables between 065° 17.5 North and Latitude of position Y. Negative result. Progress delayed by bad weather and casualties to Dan Buoys.

(A.C.I.C. 0100A/29).

My 1435/25th existing swept channel between 065° 26' N and 065° 05' N. now completed to a total width of 2 miles.
(A.C.I.C. 2359A/29).

S.N.3 F.

Sailed SCOTT.

(N.O.I.C.Aultbea 0107A/29).

Your 0832A/29. Special forecast indicates little change. Proceed Stornoway and unless otherwise ordered sail there so as to pass Sulisker at daybreak tomorrow

(R.A.M. 1006/29 to SCOTT).

S.N.3 F. postponed due to weather.

(R.A.M. 1018A/29 to Admty).

Forecast indicates little change. Proceed to Stornoway or other suitable anchorage and await further orders.

(R.A.M. 1910A/29 to SCOTT).

REMMAREN.

Your 1720A/24. Mining of REMMAREN

See next page.

(a) Swedish Attache was informed in Berlin yesterday that after careful enquiry Germans

could now give an assurance that no German mines had been laid in vicinity.

(b) Evidence suggests vessel struck mines whilst wallowing in heavy sea way.

(c) Other vessels in Gothenburg traffic have recently reported sighting clusters of drifting mines whilst off Norwegian Coast and Skaggerack.

Conclusion. In view of above evidence and great depth of water where vessel was mined, Swedish Naval Authorities are not inclined to attribute loss to any moored minefield.

(N.A.Stockholm 1514/29 to Admty).

Anti-Sweeping
Floats.

Following from Lt.Cdr.M/S.

Conical anti-sweeping float of unknown type was washed ashore 500 yards West of Wish Tower Eastbourne at 1100/27. VERNON is salvaging

this. Similar float of unknown type was sunk by gunfire from R.M.L. 513 at 0645 today in position Newhaven 145° 2.7 miles.
(N.O.I.C.Newhaven 1615/29).Lyme Bay
Sweep.Intend to sail MANGROVE and ENSAY to Dartmouth at 0830 tomorrow, sweeping route P as far as Dart Buoy. Codeword "Ounce VI".
(F.O.I.C.Portland 1731A/29).

902

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

REMMAREN My 1745/28. Master SATURNUS reports that REMMAREN
(Sunk of was sunk in position (9058°) 29' N. 003° 50' E.
22nd Oct. and gives route for Swedish vessel as follows.
See previous page. The Naze to 057° 58' N. 004° 00' E, thence 062°
N. 003° E. thence Faeroes. Consider this report
more reliable.
(N.O.I.C.Faroes 1245A/29 to Admty).

TIRPITZ. Photographs at 1000/29 show TIRPITZ in Foetten
Fiord.
(D.D.I.C. 1531A/29).

Lofjord. Photographs show Lofjord empty at 1000/29.
(D.D.I.C. 1556A/29).

U-Boats.

U-Boats One S/M in 54.57 N. 24.00 W.
Reported. (C.T.U. 24.1.3. 0123Z/29).
One S/M on surface in 55.10 N. 23.3.W.
(C.T.U. 24.1.3. 0440Z/29).
U-Boat position by D/F at 0245Z/29 uncertain 054.25 N. 023.
00 W.
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet 0601/29 to C.T.U. 24.1.3).
Received 1306 G.M.T. from (undecypherable).
Following read 1222 G.M.T. from BARRWHIN. S/M sighted 55.18 N.
18.04 W. at 1205 G.M.T.
(Portishead Radio No.T.O.O. Recd.1430/29).
The following received from Sheigra radio bearing SS SS
269° Class 1.
(Port Patrick Radio 1225 G.M. T. /29)
SSSS de Unknown Station. 55.18 N, 24.04 W. S/M sighted.
(Seaforth Radio 1256/29).
Am over enemy S/M in 62.13 N. longitude indecypherable.
Enemy was sighted periscope only. When first sighted was on
course 090°, estimated speed two knots.
(A/C N1UC. 1323N/29).
Intercepted at 1406 G.M.T. De Burnham Radio. SSSS.
De G.R.L. Position 55.18 N. 18.04 W.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1420/29).
Inconclusive D/F bearings at 1020Z/29, 1143Z, 1152Z,
and 1251Z indicate at least one U/Boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C.1521A/29 to Escorts H.X.212).
Following received. SSSS GCPD. SENSE S.E. approximately.
(Sheigra Radio 1934 G.M.T./29 to Admty).

903

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- SPINANGER. Sail AMSTERDAM forthwith to assist tanker SPINANGER grounded on Calf of Man. GOODWIN is standing by.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool 0354A/29 to N.O.I.C.Holyhead)
Proceed forthwith to assist SPINANGER aground on Carrick Rock, Port St.Mary Bay.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool 0419A/29 to EMPIRE IVY).
My 0354/29. Amend position to read Carrick Rock, Port St.Mary Bay.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool 0431A/29 to N.O.I.C.Holyhead).
Your 1045A/27. Tug EMPIRE IVY has been diverted to assist Tanker ashore south of Isle of Man.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1638A/29 to N.O.I.C.Oban).
- Unknown Ship. Class 4, 267°, S.O.S. CYD. 122.
(Tiree Radio 0550 G.M.T./29 to N.O.I.C.Greenock).
- STEEL NAVIGATOR. (Torpedoed 19th Oct.)
See p. 929
C. in C.W.A. 1730A/25. On arrival in North Channel am detaching DECOY direct to Greenock to refuel and disembark one officer and 15 men survivors from STEEL NAVIGATOR torpedoed 19th October in approx. 048° 40' N. 026° 30' W.
(CARNARVON CASTLE 0658Z/29).
Clyde arrival DECOY with survivors from STEEL NAVIGATOR.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock 1516A/29).
Clyde arrival CARNARVON CASTLE with survivors. *See p. 916*
(N.O.I.C.Greenock 1608A/29).
CARNARVON CASTLE's 0658Z/29. Second mate of STEEL NAVIGATOR informed C.O. DECOY that a second lifeboat with survivors got away from ship in this position.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 2045A/29 to C. in C.W.A.).
- Unknown Ship. Following from Land's End Radio.
Intercept 0717 G.M.T. 089°, GONIO B approx. Automatic S.O.S. signal strength 3.
(C. in C.Plymouth 0818/29 to Admty).
- KALAN. *See p. 913.*
A.M. 2043/19. KALAN will complete on 2/11.
(N.O.I.C. Poole 1140/29).
- Unknown Ship. Following from Gallonhead Radio. Distress bearing 260°, class one.
(Port Patrick Radio 1226 G.M.T./29).
- Unknown Ship. Following received from Tiree Radio 4 grade, 262° distress, unknown ship.
(Port Patrick Radio 1232 G.M.T./29).

/THEMSTON....

904

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- THEMSTON. THEMSTON (?has) broken main steam pipe in 160° H four buoy two miles being taken in tow by JOHN HOPKINSON to Humber.
(WOLSEY 1310A/29).
WOLSEY's 1310. Have ordered ST MELLONS to take over tow and to take ship to Humber.
(VERSATILE 1357A/29 to N.O.I.C.Humber).
- DONAX DONAX abandoned and sunk by gunfire. Crew (torpedoed 22nd Oct.) safe in NIMBLE. Returning. B.N. 881 missed through atmospherics.
p. 906 (VIZALMA 1800A/29 to C. in C. W. A.).
At 1045/29th had decided to abandon ship.
NIMBLE took off crew (?) of 10.. Decided to sink vessel by gunfire. At 1645/29th vessel capsized and sank. Proceeding Campbeltown with survivors.
(NIMBLE 2305 G.M.T./29).
- CARDIFF. CARDIFF can be taken in hand by Alex Stephens Glasgow for refit on 7th November.
(D.O.D.(H) 1830A/29).
- STAR OF INDIA. STAR OF INDIA fractured air-pump cover and air vessel whilst on passage to Tobermory. Consider ship will be unable to leave Tobermory for three weeks at least. Ship will then require boiler cleaning at operational base.
(WESTERN ISLES 1853A/29).
- TERVANI. Following received. GKR DE GKK at 1938. SSSS DE TERVANI torpedoed 1935 G.M.T. No further pars due QRN.
(A.C.O.S. T.O.R.2044/29).
- ATTACKER, BATTLE, STALKER. Request you will signal what outstanding items will be required on arrival of ATTACKER, BATTLE and STALKER.
(D.O.D.(H) 1955A/29 to B.A.M.R.).
- JON OLAFSSON. Icelandic Trawler JON OLAFSSON R.E.279. sailed Fleetwood for Reykjavik 21st Oct. not yet arrived. My 1326/28th not to Admty refers.
(A.C.I.C. 2322A/29).

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- W.S.24. My 1138A/27. Sailed. Codeword "Muster 2".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0104A/29.)
Sailed ONSLOW, OFFA, ORIBI.
(Cdre. Londonderry 0625A/29.)
My 1729/28, para 2.
(1) Whilst it is most important that Liverpool portion should join main convoy, destroyers are not to risk serious weather damage.
(2) If it appears probable that escort cannot remain with Liverpool portion till joining main convoy, SKATE is to inform ROTHERHAM giving his P.C.S.
(3) If feasible ROTHERHAM is then to detach one destroyer to R/V with Liverpool portion and escort them to main convoy.
(4) If this is not feasible ROTHERHAM is to give SKATE his P.C.S. for passing to Vice Commodore of convoy and SKATE is to detach Liverpool portion when necessary to join main convoy.
(C. in C. W.A. 1722A/29 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry, ROTHERHAM, SKATE.)
- K.M.S.2. Unable to meet convoy until longitude 024° W.
L- p. 912 Fuel and time do not permit. Propose proceeding as in my 1400A/28.
(ALGERINE 0900A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1901/28. Report when EMPIRE DAY rejoins.
(C. in C. W.A. 1258A/29 to LONDONDERRY.)
Your 1400/28 and 0900/29. Proceed on route (K) 052° 00' N. 017° 30' W. to (L) 040° 00' N. 017° 30' W. thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (2) My 2213/28. Report forthwith your P.C.S.
(C. in C. W.A. 1441A/29 to ALGERINE.)
Your 1441A/29. My P.C.S. at 2000A/29, 052° 00' N. 017° 30' W. 180°, 10.5 knots.
(ALGERINE 1900A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1258A/29. EMPIRE DAY rejoined. Complete new receiver type 286 P. required for BIDEFORD at port of destination.
(LONDONDERRY 1901Z/29 to C. in C. W.A.)
- P.W.239. Tug DORIA and tow returned owing to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0927/29.)
- W.P.240. My 1445/28. Postponed owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Plymouth 0933/29.)
- KAOLACK.
OMEGA. Your 0954A/27. Am hove to in 042° 45' N. 015° 30' W. KAOLACK and OMEGA last seen in 042° 04' N. 015° 20' W. at 2000A last night. Lost touch with them during storm. Your 0954A/27 not yet passed to KAOLACK and OMEGA. Request enquiry from them and information to me as to their present P.C.S. I do not expect much difficulty in locating them again as soon as sea conditions make it possible for me to alter course. Steep dangerous sea running. I have sustained large amount of minor damage.
(STELLA CARINA 1100A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Your ...

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.KAOLACK.
OMEGA
(contd.)

Your 1100/29. KAOLACK and OMEGA have been instructed to R/V in 043° 10' N. 015° 55' W. at 1100Z/30, then to steer 050° 02' N. 015° 30' W. (C. in C. W.A. 2056A/29 to STELLA CARINA.)

O.N.139.
DONAX
(torpedoed
22nd Oct.)

Master reports DONAX slowly sinking, but salvage still possible if weather moderates soon. Towing impossible at present. Position at 0900A, 048° 09' N. 023° 14' W. VIZALMA, NIMBLE, MARAUDER standing by. Suggest tow be routed via South Ireland in view of prevailing weather. My P.C.S., 048° 19' N. 023° 05' W. 030° 8. Weather 3568 0687. (MYOSOTIS 1100A/29.)

Your 1100/29. Steer for 180° Fastnet 10 miles, then by Q.Z.L. 18.
(C. in C. W.A. 1851A/29 to MYOSOTIS.)Defence of
North Russian
Convoys.

From experience gained in P.Q.18 request early information with regard to defence of merchant ships in North Russian Convoys as follows:-

- (a) Value and use of various newer types of rocket weapons and whether ammunition supply is adequate.
- (b) Use of balloons. Is their fitting recommended for future convoys.
- (c) Gun armament generally. Is ammunition adequate. Was full use made of L.A. guns against T/B attacks.
- (d) Whether D.E.M.S. personnel provided is adequate.
- (e) Any other points or suggestions for improving defence in merchant ships on this run.
2. Request also that future N.C.S.Os interview reports of masters may include remarks on above.
(A.C.N.S.(T.) 1258A/29 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

O.N. and O.N.S.
Convoys.Following amplifies and amends my 2137/27.
2. Additional bunkers are required not only for the added mileage entailed in sailing in O.N. Convoys but also to provide against southbound ships being obliged to remain in Convoy for several days beyond the planned dispersal point. Extra bunkers should be by comparison with requirements for O.S. Convoys eight days for ships to South America and West Africa and twelve days to Capetown and beyond.

3. Allocation for bunkers at intermediate ports are (a) Bahia for oil by all ships of not more than 28 feet draught. (b) Pernambuco for oil fired ships of over 28 feet draught and all coal ships. (c) Freetown as alternative only to which ships may be diverted at sea.
(D.T.D. 1328A/29.)

C.T.U's 24.1.13's 0945Z/29 again calls attention to the urgent necessity of attaching oilers suitably equipped for fuelling escorts to O.N. and O.N.S. convoys.

(C. in C. W.A. 1944A/29 to Admty.)

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War Diary.

29.10.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- K.X.5. Admiralty 1827/26. Amend time of R/V to read 1000Z/31.
(C. in C. W.A. 1451A/29 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
- O.N.S.142. My 1602A/28. Cancel para 2 and substitute Trawlers will be detached from O.N.S. 142 to Horta for coal.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1506A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.M.F.2. Intend sailing GORLESTON escorting Liverpool section 1600A/31 for Clyde in accordance with my 1254A/26 and A.M. 1046A/28. E.T.A. Cumbræes 0700A/1st, S.O.A. Q.Z.S.215 9 knots, 14 knots thereafter. Codeword "Master". N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail GORLESTON to R/V at Bar Light Vessel 1600A/31.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1516A/29 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- Q.P.15 and Independent Ships. A. Following ships will comprise Q.P.15. TEMPLE ARCH (Commodore) VIRGINIA DARE, LAFAYETTE, IRONCLAD, DAN-Y-BRYN (Vice Commodore) EMPIRE TRISTRAM, TBILISI, PETROVSKI, SAHALE, NATANIEL GREENE, EXFORD, EMPIRE SNOW, EMPIRE MORN (CAM), GOOLISTAN, ANDREW MARTI and COPELAND (Rescue ship). Speed of advance 9½ knots.
B. Independent ships with their respective speeds to be sailed at 12 hour intervals in the following order: first ship leaving Dvina bar 72 hours after Q.P.15 has sailed. SCHOHARIE 13, ESEK HOPKINS 12, SAINT OLAF 12, PATRICK HENRY 11½, WILLIAM MOULTRIE 11, KOMILES 11, OCEAN FAITH 10, and EMPIRE BAFFIN 10.
C. Ships to be sailed for Kola Inlet before being frozen in, MEANTICUT, HOLLYWOOD, JUPITER, CLOVER, CAMP FIRE, CHARLES R. MACCORMICK, and EMPIRE BARD also probable Russian ship BELOMORSKANAL, KUZNETZ LESOV, and FRIEDRICH ENGELS.
D. EMPIRE ELGAR will sail for Kola Inlet 3rd November.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1603A/29 to Admty.)
- W.P.9. Serial 9 and 10 cancelled.
(Capt. D. 16 1633A/29 to WINDSOR.)
- WAR SUDRA, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON. Your *1504/28, *1747/28 and C. in C. H.F.*1718/26. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1720A/29 to A.C.O.S.)
- H.X.212. My 0730Z/29. ^{/N.T. 212.} SUMMERSIDE did not find wreck of BIC ISLAND. No knowledge of condition or survivors in position 55° 05' N. 23° 27' W. ^{Sup. 925} ROSTHERN separated from BARRWHIN during night, has recovered additional survivors PAN NEW YORK and now searching for BARRWHIN who reported sighting S/M. H/F D/F bearings indicate submarines near by. TRILLIUM guns out of action and wheel-house damaged by weather.
(C.T.U. 24.1.3 1735Z/29 to A.C.I.C.)

/C.T.U. ...

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War Diary.

29.10.1942.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - 29/10/42

H.X.212. C.T.U. 24.1.3's 1045/28 reported U-Boat attack
(contd.) on Convoy was made 14 hours after 1st attack.
Sup. 925. 2. His P.C.S. led one to believe he was rejoining
his route although 20 miles to Southward of it. His 2330/28
was the 1st definite indication that Convoy had departed so
drastically from its route and by this time was 60 miles south
of it.
3. Request C.T.U. 24.1.3., attention may be drawn to these
delays, which may result in confusing the plotting, failing to
ensure air escort promptly, and possibly compromising other
Convoys.
4. It is further requested that route and time of despatch
of C.T.U. 24.1.3's 1045/28 may be obtained, so that non delivery
can be traced.
(C. in C. W.A. 1951Z/29 to C.T.G. 24.7.)

JOHN HATHORN. JOHN HATHORN with special escort from Mersey
should arrive Barry Roads 31st. October. Ship
will be pushed to carry out her next programme and
it is most important she should be docked in
Newport on the night tide 31st/1st in order to
commence working cargo a.m. 1st.
(D.T.D. 1858A/29 to N.O.I.C. Newport.)

K.M.S.3. It is possible K.M.S.3 sailing approximately
7th November may contain up to 55 ships.
Request you will confirm that this number can
be satisfactorily handled.
(D.T.D. 1932A/29 to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.)

F.S.446. F.S.446 is cancelled owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1937A/29.)

Protection of Coastal Convoys. The operation referred to in para 1 of Admiralty
letter M/PD(Q) 019a/42 of 8th September 1942 has
necessitated the withdrawal of a number of
destroyers from their normal service in the Home
and other Commands. Further demands may have
to be met in the near future.

2. In the meantime efforts must be made to maintain the normal
flow of convoys round the coasts, and measures such as increased
air escort, use of vessels other than destroyers, etc., must
be taken to offset this loss.

3. At present it cannot be stated how long these ships will
be away but they will rejoin their proper Commands as early as
practicable.
(A.C.N.S.(H.) 2100A/29.)

K.X.8. Sailed ^TLOXUS, STARWORT, DIANELLA and POPPY in
accordance with C. in C. W.A. *1838A/27. E.T.A.
0600A/30. *N.S. in H.B.
(Cdre. Londonderry 2209A/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

(?) PACIFIC STAR
(torpedoed 27th October) Following received:- 2306 G.M.T. 500 k/cs de EEGM HR NW BND SOS GCNL (Undecypherable in War Registry - ? GCLN) (PACIFIC STAR). Controlling Station GCK.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 0007/29.)

Following received. Intercept 0103 G.M.T. 500 k/c. EAD DE EEGM MSG Address Campsa Madrid (begins) A 29.30 procedo en auxilio naufragos del SS. PACIFIC STAR Hallandos 57 milas al S. Campilo 0205/29. From Lands End Radio.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 0215/29 to Admty.)

Translation by O.I.C.): At 0103 G.M.T. on 500 k/cs. From EEGM (Campilo) to EAL (Las Palmas). Message addressed Campsa Madrid begins: At 2930 am proceeding to the assistance of survivors of SS. PACIFIC STAR in position 57 miles south of Campilo 0205/29.

AMAZON.

C. in C. W.A. 0005/28th.

See p. 895

Onward route from position (D) to (E) 038° N. 012° W. (F) 36.40 09.22. (G) 36.01 (706).02

thence Gibraltar.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0032A/29 to AMAZON, (R) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, Capt. (D) Greenock, N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

P. 614.

Your 1929/28th, acknowledged. Further

see next page

instructions follow (see 1036/29.)

2/10/42

(F.O.C.N.A., 0038A/29 to P.614.)

NAGPORE,
HOPE CASTLE
(S.L. 125.)

See p. 914

Picked up survivors from NAGPORE. Am screening TASMANIA to rejoin convoy. TASMANIA has entire crew of HOPE CASTLE on board. HOPE CASTLE abandoned in 031° 39' N. 019° 35' W. Believe she will remain afloat, engine room intact. My

P.C. and S. at 2330N/28 031° 39' N., 019° 35' W. 293° 10 knots. (CROCUS, 0040Z/29 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. W.A., PETUNIA.) CROCUS 0040Z/29. Request you will report what salvage operations you propose for HOPE CASTLE.

(D.T.D., 1300A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Reply: 1050/30.

P. 556.

*See p. 8974**next page**2/10/42*

P.556 now reports she will pass 043° 01' N. 014° (10'?) W. at 2330/29, S. of A. 110 miles per day, and that she is unable to receive wireless messages submerged.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0136A/29 to V.A.(S).)

RODNEY,
Destroyers.

E.T.A. Boom with PENN, PANTHER and LOOKOUT 1100A/29th. Last Q.K.A. message received number 64. Acknowledge.

(RODNEY, 0146A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Arrival RODNEY, PENN, PANTHER, LOOKOUT. (2) Admty. pass to C. in C. H.F.

(V.A.C.N.A., 1150A/29.)

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Force M, Operation "Train". A German U-Boat made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit on 4444 k/cs at 2310Z/28, repeated at 2332Z/28 on 5665 k/cs. No bearings obtained in U.K. (D.D.I.C., 0150A/29 to S.O. Force M, (R) F.O.C.N.A., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., C.O.I.S. Alexandria.) See also Mediterranean.

Movements. Arrivals BULLDOG, BEAGLE, BOADICEA, STORNOWAY, K.X. 2. ROTHESAY, INCHCOLM, JURA, RHYL, MULL, FELIXSTOWE with convoy K.X.2 (HOY, RYSA, 1 corrupt group). (V.A.C.N.A., 0948A/29 to Admty.)

Arrival BERMUDA. (V.A.C.N.A., 0950/29 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Arrival JONQUIL, GERANIUM with tanker ESSO GETTYSBURG. (F.O.C.N.A., 1042A/29 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica, S.B.S.O. Curacao.)

→ S.L. 125. Air escort cannot be provided today Thursday owing to weather. (F.O.C.N.A., 1003A/29 to S.E.C. S.L. 125, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

P.556, P.614. 1. P.556 now passes 43.01 N. 14.10 W. at 2330A/29 shift W/T watch at 1200A/30th.
See previous page 4p 911. 2. P.614 passes 43.01 13.30 W. at 0900A/30th shift W/T watch at 0100A/30th and is to proceed at economical speed by route ordered in my 1710/25th (? not to P.556 reporting S. of A. and estimated amount and percentage of fuel remaining on arrival at (a) Bathurst (b) Freetown. (F.O.C.N.A., 1036A/29 to P.614, P.556, (R) F.O.(S), Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, R.A.W.A.)

Repatriations. GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO sailed Las Palmas 1300 G.M.T./28 E.T.A. Port Elizabeth 1300 G.M.T./10th November. (GIULIO CESARE, 1147/29 to Admty., etc.)

ISAAC SWEERS Your situation report 14(?02)A/29 (^{1p.874e}? 28 intended) K.M.F.1. not understood. Only orders received are to join K.M.F.1 in accordance with your 0044A/26 (N.T. in W.R.) My position at 2200A was (?38). 38 25.58* ESCAPADE in company. Proceeding to R/V with K.M.F.1, in 45.40 26.08 at 0900A/31st. (ISAAC SWEERS, 1153A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.) * *See p.897*

U/B Indefinite bearings at 0936Z suggest U-Boat
→ S.L. 125. still in vicinity S.L. 125. (D.D.I.C., 1221A/29 to Escorts S.L. 125.)
See p. 913

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War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

SCYLLA, E.T.A. Gibraltar 0700Z/1 OPPORTUNE in company.
OPPORTUNE. (SCYLLA, 1232A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Flying over A.X.265 29th October.
Algeciras. Governor Algeciras has issued orders to A.A. defences that all foreign aircraft flying over his district are to be engaged. In briefing air crews particular attention is to be paid to S.D. 158(3) App. B. para. 4 (D) regarding avoidance of prohibited area to North and West of Gibraltar.
(Air Min., 1301Z/29 to Middle East, 216 Group, A.H.Q. West Africa and Malta, Bomber and Fighter Commands.)

Dispositions. Situation 1958/29.

- (1) P.556 42.46 13.52 diving by day 2 knots surfacing by night $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots through 43.01 14.10 at 2330/29th thence 004°.
- (2) P.614 passes through 43.01 13.30 at 0900/30th thence 187, 9 on surface.
- (?3) LEYLAND 35.58 06.33 to Gibraltar proceeding.
- (?4) S.L.125 (G) (?SPIREA), CAVA, EDAY, INCHMARNOCK, STROMA, COLTSFOOT 37.56 15.11 to 40.00 15.55 to rendezvous with → SWEETBRIAR and DAHLIA thence 000° 6. On relief by (?SWEETBRIAR) and DAHLIA escort part company to R/V with S.L. 125.
- (5) S.L.125, PETUNIA, WOODRUFF, COWSLIP, CROCUS, KELANTAN 33.56 18.13 through 36.01 16.01 thence 006°, $7\frac{1}{2}$. *See p. 914*
- (6) RAMSEY 36.12 18.35 104, 15 to R/V S.L. 125 at approx. 35.47 16.19.
- (7) JULIET, SALVONIA 32.49 10.28 to Gibraltar 11.
- (8) CORIOLANUS 25.20 15.51 36, 8.
- (9) K.X. 4A, VENOMOUS, WRESTLER, BROKE, MALCOLM, 4 trawlers 40.27 17.29 through 40.03 17.29 thence 122, 7.
- (10) IMPERIALIST patrol Horn Bight.
- (11) LOCH OSKAIG patrol off Cape Roca. Leaves patrol approximately 1200/30th Gibraltar 10.
- (12) SCOTTISH hove to off Cadiz. On passage to patrol off Cape Roca.
- (13) (Cancelled, see 2226A/29.) (AVON VALE ?)
- (14) ROBERTS, BURDOCK, SNOWDROP 24.05 17.59 39, 10.
- (15) SWEETBRIAR, DAHLIA 41.45 16.41 160, 10. R/V S.L. 125 (G) at 1000/30th.
- (16) VELOX, (?) PUCKERIDGE 27.01 19.18 through 28.07 19.01 thence Gibraltar 15. *See p. 914.*
- (17) K.X. 4(B) BRIXHAM, BUDE 47.10 14.46 through 46.01 15.01 thence 172, 7.
- (18) SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR 38.53 12.11 to Gibraltar 10.
- (19) TYNWALD, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, WILTON, POZARICA, PALOMARES, 45.18 15.51 through 45.02 16.03 thence 165, 10.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1346A/29 to A.I.G. 63.)
My 1346. Cancel para. 13, add new para. 20 BRILLIANT AVON VALE 29.10 15.03 040°, 15. Add new para. 21 ANTELOPE, BOREAS 28.38 13.11 through 30.01 12.01 and 34.01 34.10 01 thence Gibraltar 15½.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2226A/29 to A.I.G. 63.) *See p. 914*

/Situation ...

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War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - con't.

- Dispositions. Situation 2002/29th.
(Contd.) (1) K.M.S.1. ALYNBANK, STORK, DEPTFORD, AVENGER, VANSITTART, D.S. ISAAC SWEERS*, ESCAPADE*, 8 Corvettes, 4 Minesweepers 42.47 25.58 through 42.45 26.01 thence 151, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See next page.*
- (2) ORFAY, MAGNOLIA, one ferry, one tug, 31.59 24.50, 162. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.
- (3) RAMSEY 36.12 18.35 104 15 to R/V S.L. 125 at approximately 35.47 16.19. *See previous page.*
- (4) CLEVELAND, ESKDALE, ALBRIGHTON 43.05 20.11 to Ponta Delgada 15.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1402A/29 to Area X.)
* Amended by 0252A/30, q.v. p. 944.
Situation 1958/29th.
- (1) CORIOLANUS 25.20 15.51 36, 8.
- (2) ROBERTS, BURDOCK, SNOWDROP 24.05 17.59 039° 10.
- (3) VELOX, PUCKERIDGE 27.01 19.(920) through 28.07 19.01 thence to Gibraltar 15.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1430A/29 to A.I.G. 65.) *See previous page.*

K.M.S.2. ALGERINE has been ordered to proceed on route
See p. 905 (k) 052° 00' N. 017° 30' W. to (1) 040° 00' N. 017° 30' W. and thence as ordered by you.
Request you will issue onward route.
(C. in C. W.A., 1443A/29 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)

Bombing A.C. 378, 29th October.
Restrictions. Serial No. G.318. From 0600/30 until further notice institute submerged bombing restrictions in area between 41° 30' and 43° 30' and between 12° 30' W. and Spanish Coast.
(H.Q.C.C., 1527A/29 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, F.O.C.N.A., S.8.)

TRIBUNE. TRIBUNE passes Bishop Rock at 2330A/1st and will
See p. 896 cross 043° N. in 013° 05' at 0400A/6th, surface S. of A. 11 knots. Thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.

2. Wireless watch home station A.F.O. 48" 2/42 Table 2 (3) N.A. Stn. A.F.O. "S" 1/42 section North Atlantic Table 2 (1) line 10. TRIBUNE shift watch at 0400A/6th.
3. Painted grey, light grey number.
4. Only S.P.02373, S.P.02374 and S.P.02319 (30) (31) and (32) S.P.02226 AM, AR, AS, S.P.02467 F and G are carried.
(Capt. S.3, 1545A/29 amended 1702A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

O.N.S.142. A/S Trawlers PORTSDOWN, YESTOR, SPHENE, VIVIANA en route to Freetown are being sailed as additional escorts to O.N.S.142.

- (2) S.O. escort is to detach trawlers as convenient to proceed to Horta for coaling.
- (3) S.O. A/S trawlers is to inform F.O.C.N.A., E.T.A. at Horta giving at least 24 hours notice.
- (4) Request F.O.C.N.A. issue onward route from Horta to Freetown.
- (5) F.O.I.C. Belfast pass to trawlers.
(C. in C. W.A., 1548A/29 to F.O.C.N.A., Cdre. Londonderry.)

/ U/B ...

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War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B Admiralty recipher and pass following to Task Force 34 via H.S. and G.S. routines from Rugby and Whitehall B.N. Special U/B estimate.
Positions, Azores and Weather. Seven U/Bs in vicinity S.L.125 1200Z/29 position 33° N. 19.30 W. Two Italian estimated between Madeira and Canary Islands. One 35° N. 18° W. by poor D/F 0706/29. One 37° N. 18° W. by poor D/F 0706/29. One 37° N. 18° W. by poor D/U* 1815Z/28. One 38° N. 17° W. by poor D/F 0015Z/29. One northbound off Cape Blanco. Six estimated patrolling 11° N. 17° W., 10° N. 25° W., 40° N. 25° W., 40° N. 22° W., 39° N. 11° W., 36° N. 07° W. Two Italians northbound 23° N. 19° W., 25° N. 20° W. Approximately 14 U/Bs estimated patrolling on line extending from 40° N. 40° W. to Cape Verde Islands. Two refuelling subs. areas 38° N. 35° W., 21° N. 27° W. Possibly one refuelling sub. area 31° N. 18° W. during past 24 hours only D/F activity vicinity S.L.125 special weather reports in weather code. BUEMU CIAJO DAILU DEAQO FAAPI GEELI JAETI JIETA KEEGI PYOGU VAAJO VEOCA. Azores Thursday 1200Z short heavy swell North North East 8 - 10 feet period 8 seconds sea high choppy. Winds force 5 and 6 lats. 33-55 longs. 10-25.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1731/29 to Admty.)

K.M.S.1. P.C. and S. at 2001A/29th 042° 04' N. 025° 26' *W. (a) 150° 8 1/4*. Motor ships require minimum *(Dispositions)* speed 8 knots. If conditions do not improve VANSITTART must fuel Ponta Delgada, E.T.A. 1000A/31. F.O.C.N.A. requested to give provisional notice to authorities. Weather report.
(STORK, 1745A/29 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., S.O. Force E, F.O.C.N.A.)

Air Report. Resume for 29th October. 4 Swordfish A/S patrol between 36.30 N. and 35.40 N. 1130 - 1528 or 1538
1 Hudson A/S patrol down track of Force M 1415 or 1615 - 1900. All other sorties cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions. Enemy activity nil. 5 standing fighter patrols, operational hours Hudson 3 hours 52 mins. Swordfish 14 hours 31 mins.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Gib., 1830Z/29.)

A/C G.W.O. 53 para. No. (2) amend to read fighters are normally available and may engage illuminated target by night.
Instruction. (F.O.C.N.A., 1904A/29 to N.A.S.)

S.L. 125, U/Bs, 1 ship torpedoed. Indefinite D/F bearings on series A.1 between 1415Z/29 and 1801Z indicate U-Boats are still in your general area.
See p. 911
next page
(D.D.I.C., 2010A/29 to Escorts of S.L.125.)

/ S/M ...

War Diary.

29.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

S.L. 125, U/Bs, 1 ship torpedoed. (Contd.) S/M attacking in 033° 23' N. 018° (? 22') W. (PETUNIA, 2055Z/29 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. W.A.) My 2025Z/29 (2055Z intended). 1 ship torpedoed. (PETUNIA, 2109Z/29.) *See p. 909*

VELOX, PUCKERIDGE. *See p. 911* My P.C. and S. are 028° (? 45') N. 015° 16' W. 046° 15½ knots. PUCKERIDGE in company. (VELOX, 2201Z/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

Movements. Arrived RESOLUTION, HOTSPUR, DERWENT. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0435Z/29 to Admty., etc.) Walvis Bay departure *ROCKROSE and *THYME 0800

G.M.T. Arrival and departure H.M.A.S. NORMAN. *See p. 918* (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 0900Z/29 to C. in C. S.A., Admty.) Arrival 29th FANDANGO.

(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1105Z/29 to Admty.) * *See next page (Movement Summary)*

A.F. Message. Ref. Admty. message A.F. position 40° 30' S. 19° 00' E. (C. in C. S.A., 0632 G.M.T./29 to B.A.M.S. Area 3B.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. *See next page (Dispositions)* Your 1647/26. My position at 0900Z/29th 10° 00' N. 29° 250' W. Course 010° speed 14 knots. Shifting North Atlantic W/T organization at 0545/31st. Oil fuel margin remaining 16 days at 336. *p. 926* Weather report. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA, 0930Z/29 to R.A.W.A., (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty., Comsolant.)

U/B. By D/F at 2240Z/28 U-Boat in possible area 43° S. 16° E. (D.D.I.C., 0943A/29 to C. in C. S.A., (R) R.A. W.A., C. in C. E.F.)

ANTELOPE, BOREAS, BRILLIANT, AVON VALE. *See p. 911* Your 1155/28. (1) ANTELOPE and BOREAS left Bathurst at 2100Z/26. S. of A. 15½ knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1200Z/31st. (2) BRILLIANT and AVON VALE left Bathurst 1523Z/26th. S. of A. 15 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1600Z/31st. (3) 4 destroyers routed as in my 1701/25th. (R.A.W.A., 1037Z/29 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT.)

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU off Bathurst to Freetown 10.
PANORAMA 10.10 16.20 to Bathurst 6 at (20)00Z/29.
S/M P.552 10.59 17.40 to 10.01 17.01 thence 112°, 5. *see p.917*
CANNA, COPINSAY with F.T.1 08.(240) 19.05 279°, 7½.
MORRIS DANCE about 08.40 19.05 to Freetown, 9.
see p.918 SIRIUS (208).(235) 14.40 to 08.(237) 16.58 thence (2325°) 19(2½),
3 motor launches between Freetown and 09.30 (20).01.
(R.A.W.A., 1047Z/29 to Ships in Area P etc.)
(? ST. WISTAN), (? RUNSWICK BAY) off Freetown to Marshall
Island, 7.
see p.917 RUMBA, 3 M/L with T.S.23 off Takoradi to Freetown 7½ at 2002Z/29.
SHROPSHIRE, HECLA, ARROW, ACTIVE, AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK with C.F.
7 001° 30' 001° 05' E. 270°, 12½.
SOUTHERN PRIDE off (? Takoradi) to join C.F.7 (212½). *see p.917*
TRUANT about 11.01 S. 11.02 E.
Neth. S/M K.14 about 14.15 S. 10.01 E. to 11.01 S. 07.02 E. 9.
QUEEN OF BERMUDA about 07.10 26.20 to 08.01 25.03 thence 286°
14. *see previous page. p.916*
Friendly Naval Unit about 11.01 S. 15.40 patrol to west.
(R.A.W.A., 1059Z/29 to A.I.G. 150.)

Movement	Area Q.
Summary	NEPAL, FORTUNE about 037° 30' S. 018° E. to the
2000Z/29th.	south, knots 20.
	→ DURBAN, DESPATCH, CARTHAGE, MILFORD, KANARIS
	with W.S.23 018° S. 009° 10' E. 143° knots 12.
	INCONSTANT, BLACKMORE with MAURETANIA 032° 15' S. 033° 15' E.
	knots 20, to Durban.
	ROCKROSE, THYME 022° S. 012° 45' E. to R/V with W.S.23 034°
	55' S. 019° 47' E. to Durban knots 20. <i>see previous page</i>
	(C. in C. S.A., 1239C/29, 1715C/29 to S.A. Stn.)

→ DESPATCH, (? C. in C. S.A.) 1240/26th. After refuelling
W.S. 23. return direct to Freetown at best speed. Report
E.T.A. on sailing.
(R.A.W.A., 1147Z/29 to (? DESPATCH), (R) (?DURBAN),
Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

Escort of	My 1253/28th. For SOUTHERN GEM read MILFORD.
CUBA and	E.T.A. MILFORD about 5th November.
SILVERCASH.	(R.A.W.Af., 1155Z/29 to B.N.L.O. W.Af., (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty., PHOEBE.)

Shipping,	Approaches to Capetown. D/F bearings indicated
Capetown,	that U-Boats are searching for traffic
instructions.	approaching Capetown from south-eastward.
	(2) In order to effect greater dispersal, previous
	instructions regarding to passage across Agulhas
	Bank are to be modified as follows: A danger area for possible
	enemy mines is to be established within a segment of a circle
	with centre 036° S. 020° E. radius 50 miles, described from the
	Western Contour of the Bank.

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - conts.

Shipping, (3) Traffic returning to or leaving Capetown from
Capetown, or to the southward is to be routed on a widely
instructions. dispersed course to the eastward of the above
(Contd.) danger area. Ships proceeding to the eastward
should then be routed in accordance with existing
instructions. Ships proceeding to the westward
should proceed due south to latitude 043° S. and thence in
accordance with existing instructions.
(4) Unattached westbound traffic from Ports East of Capetown
should make latitude 043° S. before reaching close to 021° E.
(Simonstown, 1251C/29 to Kilindini.)

PHOEBE, SIRIUS 0721/23. Following is extract from
damage. PHOEBE 1130/28th (begins). Hole 55 feet long
from above lower deck to Garboard Strake abreast
passage in station port. All compartments
between 34 and 57 stations flooded. Keel is intact. It is
intended to seal lower deck and above. Expected time 8 weeks.
Consider ship can then steam nominal 1800 miles at 12 knots in
good weather. Work proceeding satisfactorily and necessary
equipment demanded from Freetown (ends). Constructor officer
and certain gear (? not available) from Freetown will be sent
Pointe Noire in DRAGON. C. in C. Eastern Fleet 1721/28 refers.
(C. in C. S.A., 1443C/29 to Admty., (R) R.A.W.Af., PHOEBE,
Cdre. Supt. Simonstown.)

→ CITY OF 55 survivors of British CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
JOHANNESBURG. have been landed Simonstown. B/S KING EDWUN
due Capetown 29th has picked up 19 and Dutch
Ship ZYPENBERG has landed 13 others including
Master at Durban, leaving 5 persons unaccounted
for.
(C. in C. S.A., 1507/29 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

CARNARVON Clyde arrival CARNARVON CASTLE with survivors,
CASTLE. codeword "Crown".
2-1-903 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1608A/29 to R.A.W.A.F., (R)
C. in C. W.A., Admty., N.O.I.C. Belfast, F.O.C.
N.A., C. in C. S.A., D. of S.T.)

Situation. C.I.B.104, 28th. (1) Unidentified aircraft over
Durban. Yellow warning made.
(2) 54 out of 57 ?members of crew ANNE HUTCHINSON
→ and 87 out of 89 ex CITY OF JOHANNESBURG have been rescued.
(3) U-Boat disposition South Atlantic 28th October.
(a) From Admiralty: No further information U-Boats in Cape
Area, and one near 002° S. 012° W. one or two off Cape Palmas,
three near 002° N. 021° W. two off Freetown.
(b) From South Atlantic D/F bearings: one near 008° S. 011°
30' E. at 1840Z. Established one near 040° 30' S. 109° E. at
2231Z/28th.
(c) Sightings. Grade B.3. One six miles north of Oliphant
River at 1030C/28th. Grade C.4. One probably 37 miles from
Bushman River at 1630C/28th. Grade A.1 One 008° 15' N. 014°
30' W. at 1530Z/28th. Grade A.1 One (036° or 011°) 40' N.
029° 34' W. at 2100Z/27th.

/(4) ...

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29.10.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.Situation.
(Contd.)

(4) S O S received from ?PACIFIC STAR in 029° 49' N. 019° 38' W., 28th.
 (5) Japanese U-Boats in Indian Ocean. By E.F. D/F bearings. One near 015° N. 062° E., unreliable fix at 1400Z/27th.
 (S.O.I) Capetown, 1656C/29 to Cdre. i/c Durban, etc.)

ASTURIAS.

Intend ASTURIAS to carry out blockade runner patrol through the following positions:
 P. Equator 010° W.

Q. 005° 35' S. 011° 15' W. R. Equator 007° 35' W.
 S. 005° 50' S. 008° 28' W. T. Equator 006° 35' W.
 U. 004° 10' S. 012° 05' W. V. 008° 05' S. 009° 38' W.
 S. of A. 14 knots. Patrol to commence at position P at 1800Z/1/11.

(R.A.W.A., 1701Z/29 to C. in C. S.A., (R) ASTURIAS, Admty., Comsolantfor, N.O.I.C. Ascension.)

GUARDIAN.

Intend to sail GUARDIAN escorted by ARMERIA and *see next page* CYCLAMEN for Gibraltar at 1800Z/30. Route
 A. 009° 19' N. 016° 58' W. B. 013° 08' 020° 28'.
 C. 021° 54' 019° 36'. D. 028° 43' 020° 33'. E. 031° 19' (?022° or 015°) 25'. F. 034° 34' 011° 58'. G. 035° 50' 006° 03' thence Gibraltar. S. of A. 11 knots E.T.A. p.m./8th November ship shifting to N (?49) W/T organisation at 0800Z/3/11.
 (R.A.W.A., 1703Z/29 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty., GUARDIAN.)

Movements.

Departures 29th October. 0700Z/29th F/F CHASSEURS 42 and 43. Pointe Noire p.m. 2nd November.
 1000Z/29th, CORINTHIAN, Lagos (Nig.) 1600Z/30th.
 1200Z/29th SOUTHERN PRIDE R/V with C.F.7 at 0800Z/30th. *see p. 915*
 1600Z/29th RUMBA, M.Ls. 271, 209, 265 with T.S.23 Freetown 0600Z/4/11. *see p. 915*
 (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1750Z/29 to Admty., (R) R.A.W.A., R.N.O. Lagos.)

P.552.

Port engine repaired. Intend proceed dive by day through 009° 20' 015° 20' at 0600Z/30th and 009° 08' 014° 52' at 1900Z/30th. E.T.A. 0600Z/31st.
see p. 915.
 (Dispositions)
 (P.552, 1804Z/29 to R.A.W.A.)

U/B.

U.S. Aircraft reported U-Boat in 001° N. 004° 55' W. at 1228Z/29th.
 (R.A.W.A., 1809Z/29 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

/SIRIUS ...

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War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.- Contd.

- SIRIUS. Departure 29th October SIRIUS, Q.K.A. 69.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1931/29 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)
Sailed SIRIUS at 1630Z/29th routed
A. 008° 37' N. 016° 58' W. B. 013° 51' 020° 46'. C. 023°
06' 021° (?) 37'. D. 030° 05' 019° 14'. E. 031° 39' 015° 01'.
F. 035° 24' 009° 43'. G. 035° 50' 006° 03' thence Gibraltar
S. of A. 19½ knots.
(2) Shift to North Atlantic W/T organization at 2100Z/31st.
(R.A.W.A., 1945Z/29 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.)
- LAPLACE Following has been received: SSSS de GKPD
torpedoed. LAPLACE 40.13 S. 21.42 E. torpedoed de ZSC.
(LAPLACE, T.O.R. 1935 G.M.T./29.)
- LONGWOOD. Your 1809/28 (LONGWOOD due Capetown 3rd Nov.)
LONGWOOD (Tanker Message). According to route
signal 0934/21 from Kilindini ship is proceeding
to Durban for repairs. Is she to be diverted
to Capetown?
(C. in C. S.A., 2034C/29 to Admty.)
Reply: 1354/30.
- NORMAN. Walvis Bay departure 2000 G.M.T./29th NORMAN.
See p. 914
(Recd. 9am to.)
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 2201Z/29 to C. in C. S.A.,
Admty.)
- U/Bs. D/F bearings from Freetown on 29th October at
1323 on 15880 k/cs per sec.; at 1354 on 13768
k/cs; at 1518 on 12700 k/cs; at 1811 on 10820
k/cs, indicated 3 U-Boats within 150 miles of the coast between
Libreville and Loanda.
(R.A.W.A., 2210Z/29 to B.N.L.O. W.A., (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty.)
- SIRIUS, Arrivals 28th. ⁷²⁰
* CYCLAMEN, (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2323Z/28.)
* GUARDIAN.
** see previous page*

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Cositrep No. 567. Part 2. 8. Night 28/29. American Liberators despatched against tanker in Navarino Bay, Greece, claim a hit on a merchant vessel. (C. in C. M.E. 0830 G.M.T./29.)

Joint War Communique 29th Oct. Last night our torpedo aircraft, in face of heavy defensive fire from escorting warships, torpedoed and sank a large enemy tanker bound for the African coast. Enemy activity over Malta was ineffective and reduced in scale. (Mideast T.O.O. 0900Z/29.)

Operation "Train". *See next page.* You were probably sighted by aircraft 0745 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 0954A/29 to Force M. (R) Admty., C.O.I.S. Alexandria.) 1st flight of 8 landing now. (V.A. Malta 1020A/29 to AURORA (R) Force 'M' C. in C. Med., Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

Second flight landing now. (V.A. Malta 1107A/29.)

Third flight landed now, fourth in touch. Number later. (V.A. Malta 1214A/29.)

"Train" 29 arrived. Understand this number took off.

Very grateful. (V.A. Malta 1257A/29.)

Italian aircraft probably reported alteration of course at 1015A/29. Possible sighting by German S/M about same time. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria 1428C/29 to S.O. Force "M" (R) F.O.C.N.A., V.A. Malta, Admty., (for D.N.I.))

You were probably sighted by German U-Boat at 1600A/29th. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 2027C/29 to S.O. Force "M" (R) F.O.C.N.A., V.A. Malta, Admty. (for D.N.I.))

TAKU. From p.m./30 (1) You have freedom of action in Aegean, negative Greek S/B NEREUS patrol area given in my 0827/28th. Tanker traffic Piraeus to Crete and Africa most important.

(2) You are not to attack submarines East of line 323° from 035° 20' 026° 54'. (Capt. S.1 1025C/29 to TAKU (R) Greek S/B NEREUS, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10, S/Bs on Patrol.)

3 M.L. Flotilla. The 3rd M.L. Flotilla amongst their many other valuable services to Malta since their arrival a few months ago have just swept up their hundredth mine in the approaches to Malta. (V.A. Malta 1112A/29 to R.A.C.F. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C.N.A.)

COETLOGON. (French) Arrival 28th p.m. (Barcelona 1304/29 to M.W.T.)

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War Diary.

29.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

PORPOISE. PORPOISE leaves Beirut searched channel at 1900C/29th routed through
(1) 033° 28' 033° 50' at 0200C/30th.
(2) 033° 28' 018° 59' at 1700/3rd to Malta as ordered by you, daily advance 165 miles.
(Capt. S.1 1612C/29 to Capt.(S) 10, (R) Capt. Coastal Forces, C. in C. Med., S/Ms on Patrol, V.A. Malta.)
My 1612/29th. Add 5 hours on to all times.
(Capt. S.1 2355C/29.)

Situation Part 1. Feint landing simulated in Kanais area
Report 285. night 28/29 October by Force of 8 M.T.Bs, 9 L.C.Ts
EXMOOR, BELVOIR and HURWORTH, After dark all units returned to Alexandria except M.T.Bs who closed beaches at 0045. M.T.Bs opened fire on beaches and on withdrawal were engaged by shore guns and attacked by aircraft. Both guns and aircraft continued to attack smoke cloud for 1 hour after withdrawal. No damage or casualties to any of our units. Press communique not issued.
(2) Operation "Train". 29 Spitfires flown off by FURIOUS, escorted by AURORA, CHARYBDIS and 8 destroyers a.m. October 29th have arrived Malta. No losses. *see previous page*
(3) THRASHER reports at 1400/12 Oct. in 39° 56' N. 24° 17' E. sank 200 ton schooner by gunfire and demolition. At 1700/12 Oct. in 40° 01' N. 24° 10' E. sank 200 ton Schooner in same manner.
(4) At 0025/20 Oct. in 36° 45' N. 26° 40' E. sank a steam tug. At 1515/20 October sank 2,000 ton Brindisi class merchant ship escorted by two destroyers in position 36° 23' N. 27° 50' E. (C. in C. Med. 1719C/29 to Admty.)

GLENROY. A.M. 1722/2. GLENROY will be taken in hand at Messrs. Mount Stuart Dry Dock Co. Cardiff.
2. Request she may be routed accordingly.
(D.O.D.(F) 1829A/29 to C. in C. Med. (R)
C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Supply Ships. Your 0110/25/10.
(1) FU KWANG was allocated for water as smaller tonnage makes her more suitable for Western Desert service and water is first requirement. Vessel may have to be converted for carrying petrol when shore reservoirs are available. ARMILLA is required with HERMES to meet Red Sea water maintenance where demands increasing and risk of casualties has become greater on account of recent enemy air activity Gulf of Suez vide sinking SCALARIA and Dredger RONALD SHAY.
(2) NING KWANG at present earmarked Suez and Canal areas will be inspected on arrival and if suitable can be made available operational service.

29.10.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Con't.

Supply Ships (3) Closer investigation whole position water and bulk patrol requirements reveals that reserve tonnage in view of possible losses Mediterranean and Red Sea is insufficient. Request BASSET HOUND be sent direct from Capetown and PETRONELLA be held available to proceed at short notice from Bombay vessel to be armed and degaussed now if this has not already been done. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1929/29 to Admty., for D.S.T.)

Malta Air I.72. 29/10. C.S.R. Malta, part 1.
Report. Night 28/29 No enemy activity. 29th 0525, 0620, 0650 and 0810 hours. Total of 20 Spitfires up for approx. 45 enemy fighters which turned back before reaching Malta. Between 0856 hours and 1200 hours 54 or 50 ? Me.109s probably including Me.109Gs flying at great height patrolled west of Malta in attempt to intercept our 29 delivery Spitfires arriving from aircraft carrier but were driven back by 4 patrols of 28 Spitfires despatched to intercept and all delivery Spitfires landed safely. 1032 hours. 17 Me.109s approached at height and were intercepted north of Island by 8 Spitfires but enemy maintained height advantage avoided combat and returned. 1235 hours. 8 Spitfires up for approx. 18 enemy fighters which turned back before reaching Malta. Today 64 Spitfire sorties have been made against 130 enemy sorties. (A.H.Q. Malta 1939/29.)

Part 2. My I.72 29/10. Night 28/29. 2 Torpedo carrying Wellington eights made highly successful attack on Convoy photographed 1300/27 off Greek Coast. 2117(?)hrs. First Wellington located 1 tanker 5000 1 M/V 5000 2 D/Rs 208° Sapienza 23 miles course 180° speed 10 knots and released 1 torpedo Duplex contact depth setting 11 feet from 70 feet range 600 - 800 yards, scoring 1 hit on M/V, causing explosion. Second Wellington at 2152 found no trace of M/V and attacked tanker with 1 torpedo Duplex contact depth setting 11 feet from 70 feet range 1000 yards scoring hit amidships and setting tanker on fire from stem to stern Baltimore R/C. 29th. 0810 207° Sapienza 23 miles found only wreckage and oil streaks.

(A.H.Q. Malta 1951/29, 1957/29.)

PARTHIAN. Capt.(S) 1 1431C/26th. Proceed through position 034° 21' 014° 48' thence south of Q B B 95 to R/V with sweeper at end of Malta searched channel at 1028A/2/11. (Capt. S. 10 2153A/29 to PARTHIAN (R) Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta.)

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Coast Following for Chiefs of Staff.
 Regt. (?Coast) Regiment R.M. comprising Kent Bty. and
 Employment. Devon Bty., having been relieved at Seychelles and
 Ceylon, is now concentrated in Ceylon pending
 return to Mideast. They would be of particular
 value in the type of operations to be undertaken from India.
 Unless they are required for specific duties in Mideast, urge that
 they be left in this Command.
 F.O. Ceylon's 0629Z/27 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. refers.
 (Arminia 1305Z/29 to Air Min.)

Kilindini Trouble is being experienced in the anti-midget
 A/S Loop. loop system at Kilindini and with all but small
 crossings, the recorder needle moves too rapidly
 across the paper to record a recognisable

signature.

2. This appears to be due to (A) to the super sensitive nature of the loops, (B) to the short distance between each (?leg)
3. Suggested that when using indicator loops for this special purpose a control circuit of the A.V.C. type should be added to the amplifiers, thus limiting the voltage that can be applied to the recorder needle.
4. It has not proved practicable to reduce the sensibility of a loop when large vessel is observed to be about to cross, as this renders the loop temporarily inactive against midgets, and removes all chance of recognising an attempt at a simultaneous crossing.
 (C. in C. E.F. 1522/29 to Admty.)

ORDUNA Your 0558/26. P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1710/26 refers
 NIEUW regarding movement of P.O.W. from Berbera to
 AMSTERDAM Mombasa.
 2. Agree use of ORDUNA for movement of Battalion
 K.A.R. to Diego Suarez subject to C. in C. E.F.'s
 concurrence as regards escort. Vessel should then continue to
 U.K.
 3. As capacity of ORDUNA is insufficient for South African
 Brigade it is proposed that NIEUW AMSTERDAM sailing Suez about
 mid-November should call at Diego Suarez en route to Durban to
 embark these personnel who would not thus require ocean escort.
 4. Agreed.
 (D.S.T. 1708A/29 to D.S.T.O. Kilindini (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Salvage F.O. Ceylon is pressing for a salvage vessel, and
 vessel, his demand is fully appreciated.
 Ceylon. First of the ships now building in U.K. which can
 be spared from European waters will be sent to you
 it is hoped early next year. This long endurance
 ship is intended for general service throughout your Command.
 Other units are required in the several coastal areas - in
 special Colombo - Trincomalee, and none are yet available from
 U.K. or U.S.A.
 M. of W.T. representative and P.S.T.O. Bombay have been trying to
 obtain suitable craft for several months past, but so far without
 success, because other shipping demands have priority.

/Can you...

War Diary.

29.10.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - *Lon 15.*

Salvage
Vessel,
Ceylon,
Contd.

Can you arrange with F.O.C.R.I.N. to provide a small craft which can be fitted out in a short time as an auxiliary salvage vessel and placed at disposal of F.O. Ceylon?
(Head of S 1729A/29 to C. in C. E.F. (R)
F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon.)

GLENEARN

A.M. 1715/2.
GLENEARN will be taken in hand at Messrs. Harland and Wolff, North Woolwich, London.
2. Request she may be routed accordingly.
(D.O.D.(F) 1828A/29 to C. in C. E.F.)

925

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.VAN
KINSBERGENNorfolk sailed 1400Z/29.
(N.S.H.Q. 0150Z/29 to Admty.)

GURNARD

High Command follows this is Comsublant 1258/28 also to Cinclant. GURNARD ready depart evening Nov. 1st for U.K. Duty Subron 50. Approval requested routing through positions following.

(a) 38.59 N 70.27 W. (b) 38.12 N 66.23 W. (c) 39.37 N 43.51 W.
(d) 46.50 N 33.30 W. (e) 50.45 N 26.00 W.
(e) to be considered Chop. S/M will dive during daylight first two days. Thereafter proceeding on surface, S of A 300 miles daily. Provisions of Cinclant 2209/3 of Sept. being followed for this sailing. Estimated duration voyage two weeks.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0246/29 to Admty.)

?

High Command this is Cinclant 2344/28 also to Comsublant, your 1258/28 (N.T. in W.D.) approved.
(Cominch 0315/29 to Admty.)

H.X.212
PAN NEW YORK
BIC ISLAND
torpedoed.

Ref. F.O.I.17.

(a) 0116Z/29 54.58 N 23.56 W. 069° 7.
(b) Probably one submarine attacking but others in vicinity.
(c) Submarine not sighted.
(d) PAN NEW YORK No.42. torpedoed port side.

At 0425Z still afloat and burning all but after end. Not salvageable. SUMMERSIDE recovered 2 survivors, probably 2 others still on wreck refused to jump. SUMMERSIDE had to rejoin.
2nd. attack.

(a) 0417Z/29 55.05 N 23.27 W 069° 7.
(b) and (c) same as above.
(d) SS. BIC ISLAND No.24 torpedoed, no details yet. Have directed SUMMERSIDE to make wreck and pick up survivors on way back to convoy from wreck of PAN, ^{NEW YORK} in both cases wind and heavy seas made escort counter action very difficult. ^{GEORGE W.} CAMPBELL with excellent assistance of planes (?had) kept at least 2 other S/Ms down and from reaching convoy thus far. ^{GEORGE W.} CAMPBELL had rejoined prior to attack. ROSTHERN still absent escorting SS. BARRWHIN. U.S. Destroyer BADGER low in fuel result of keeping S/M off on previous day, attempted to fuel at sea yesterday unsuccessfully. Convoy P.C.S. at 0900Z/29 54.48 N 23.19 W 064° 7. Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.1.3. 0810Z/29 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav. etc.)

U/B
Positions.

Comeastseafon's 1856/28 informs as follows.
(Comnav 0925/29 to Admty.)

NORSEMAN

see p. 928

Departures 29th Oct. British cable ship NORSEMAN St. Lucia 31st. ship escorted by P.C.490 and Air Patrol. Cable landings completed in Lindberg Bay. My 1113/22 refers.
(B.R.L.O. St. Thomas 0931/29 to Admty.)

/Movements...

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.- Contd.

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T. 29th Oct.			
	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
	S/M SEVERN	47° N 33½° W	074°	13
	QUEEN OF BERMUDA.	09½° N 28° W	000°	14
	(D.O.D. (F.) 1010Z/29 to Opanav (R) Comnav.)			

U/B Guantanamo W/T reports submarine sighted 1430
G.C.T./29 019° 53' N 075° 07' W.
(Guantanamo W/T 1237R/29 to Admty.)

NSHQ Guantanamo 1400/29 see p. 930.

T.A.G.
G.N.
Convoys. Request lowest speeds for inclusion in fast and
slow T.A.G. and G.N. Convoys.
(D.T.D. 1405Z/29 to Connav.)
Reply: 1402/30.

Movements. Arrival U.S. ships. U.S. Cruiser OMAHA. U.S.
Destroyers DAVIS, JOUETT, ELLIS, BADGER, U.S.
Seaplane Tender OSMOND INGRAM, escort convoy
B.R.N.2, U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1442Q/29 to S.B.N.O. W.A.)

TORRENS 1. Following from B.R.L.O. San Francisco (begins)
Departure San Francisco Oct. 27th TORRENS (Nor.)
U.S. Army Transport for Honolulu. (Ends.)
(N.S.H.Q. 1447Z/29 to Admty.)

U/B S/M estimate 29th Oct. and U.S. S/M Notice.
Positions. (Cominch 1521/29, 1522, 1548, 1549, 1550/29.)

CUBA Arrival 29th U.S. Army Transport CUBA escorted by
P.C.586.
(R.N.O. Nassau 1600/29 to Admty. S.O.I. Jamaica.
Connav.)

Shipping Your 2037/19, para 3 and N.S.H.Q. 2235/21
Intelligence. (N.T. in W.D.) para 1. It is considered desirable
that the following items of information should be
passed to M. of W.T. New York, through British

Naval Channels for use of information room.

- (A) Convoy sailing telegrams comprising sailing time and date, name of ship and flag, E.T.A.
- (B) Names of stragglers from convoy and E.T.A. port of refuge.
- (C) Names of ships returning to port of departure, reason when known and E.T.A.
- (D) Convoy cycles, sailing dates, deadlines and estimated voyage times.
- (E) For independent ships the items contained in section 1 of route signals (A.M. 1754/22 refers.)
- (F) Amended sailing times, destinations and E.T.A.
- (G) Advance information regarding requirements for bunkers, repairs and delay reports.

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War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Shipping Intelligence. Contd. Request confirmation that foregoing does not exceed information made available to M. of W.T. London, from Naval Sources.
(3) Proposal that all routine information shall be passed by N.S.H.Q. through existing channels.
(B.A.D. 1601Z/29 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Tankers, Gulf Ports, Independent Sailing. O.N.137 includes 14 tankers for Gulf ports. These have just missed N.K.508. Understand desirable that all should load in Gulf and no other alternative for (?loading)
2. To avoid 8 days delay have proposed independent sailing to Gulf forthwith. Navy Dept. has no objection in this instance subject to your concurrence.
(B.A.D. 1621Z/29 to Admty.)
Your 1621Z/29. Recommend 6 of the fastest ships be sailed independently to destinations in Gulf. Ships being well spaced apart.
(2) Stock position at Curacao and Trinidad was wired to Shuttle Office New York today and it should show possibility of 4 or 5 additional loadings at these ports.
(3) Remainder should be held for next N.K. convoy. M. of W.T. agree.
(D.T.D. 2212A/29 to B.A.D.)

Situation Trinidad. As situation east of Trinidad shows signs of improvement request your instructions if and when you consider risk could be accepted of diverting southbound Cape Horn traffic to Trinidad.
(B.A.D. 1623Z/29 to Admty.)

U/B Positions. Special estimate, Azores, etc.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1731/29.) See North Atlantic.

DRUMMOND-VILLE, U/B. What is believed to be a torpedo fired from long range exploded 100 yards on my port beam. Position 47.08 N 52.38 W. My position port beam off convoy. No track observed and no contact made.
(DRUMMONDVILLE 1903Z/29 to N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B. (R) Admty. etc.) (C.O.A.C. 1918Z/29 to GB7A. C.T.F.24.) (Halifax 1940Z/29 to Admty.)

W.S.24. It is desired to reinforce destroyer escort of W.S.24.
ILEX. 2. B.A.D. Washington is requested to confirm that ILEX can be sailed to arrive St. Vincent, *see p. 929.*
C.V. by 5th Nov.
3. Subject to B.A.D. Washington's confirmation as in para 2, R.A.W.A. is requested to arrange for ILEX to fuel at St. Vincent and to R/V with W.S.24 as convenient, continuing with convoy to Bahia.
4. ILEX will be required to furnish additional cover to convoy while in Bahia and to escort towards the Cape to prudent limit of endurance. She is then to return to Freetown with moderate despatch refuelling at a Brazilian port as convenient.
5. ILEX will probably have to take marine diesel oil at St. Vincent.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1904A/29 to B.A.D. R.A.W.A.)
/B.A.Ts...

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

B.A.Ts. Comply with para 2 of B.A.D. 1531Z/27; approved by Admty. 1650A/28.
(Cominch 1910/29 to N.O.B. Trinidad.)
* B.A.Ts 4, 5 and 8 to sail from Trinidad.
Your 1752/18 and your 1650/28. Since B.A.T.6 will probably be ready to leave U.S. at the same time as L.C.I. (L) S intend to sail her with L.C.I. (L) S instead of B.A.T.9. (DESTINY - see 20/10 - p 966)

2. Intend B.A.T.6 be (detached?) from L.C.I. (L) S as convenient near Azores fuelled at Ponta Delgada and continue thence to Freetown.
3. Position and time B.A.T.6 leaves will be signalled from Bermuda.
4. B.A.T.10 will accompany L.C.I. (L) S throughout passage, fuelling at Ponta Delgada if necessary. Admty. pass to C.C.O. (B.A.D. 2035/29 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. etc.)

NORSEMAN Your 1202/25 (Proposing that Admty. should arrange for future movements of NORSEMAN.)
see p. 925
As movements of NORSEMAN are governed by local requirements consider your proposals would entail unnecessary signals.
See no reason why you should not signal requests for escort direct to B.A.D. for reference to Cominch if you consider C.C.S.F. unable to assist.
(D.S.D. 1911A/29 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) B.A.D.)

RICHMOND Your 1518/27, para 2.
WALKER RICHMOND is not expected to be ready to leave U.K. until mid-January.
2. WALKER should be sailed for U.K. on relief by RICHMOND or earlier if the necessity for refit makes it necessary.
(D.O.D. (H.) 1917A/29 to C.O.A.C.)

U/B Aircraft call sign K6SL sighted S/M 045° 57' N 055° 34' W at 1919Z/29.
(C.O.A.C. 1937Z/29 to GB7A. C.T.F. 24.)

Hospital ships. For Q.M.2. 1. U.S.A. have enquired if we can provide one or two hospital ships now for use in Atlantic. What assistance can we give?
2. At present U.S.A. have no hospital ships and they evacuate casualties in hospitals of returning troopships. They are anxious increase hospital accommodation in "Queens" by about 300 beds and have submitted plans which M.W.T. New York are considering. U.S.A. will probably bear cost of conversion and appreciate "Queens" must not be delayed in dock.
3. Agreed.
(B.A.S. Washington 2047/29 to W.O.) *Reply: 1710A/10/11.*

/Shipping...

929

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Shipping
Gulf of
Maine.

To shorten voyage for ships in O.N. and O.N.S. convoys bound for ports in Gulf of Maine request you will consider allowing such ships to leave convoys when circumstances permit and proceed independently to destinations from nearest convenient point on route.
(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(T.) 2056A/29 to Connnav.)
Reply: (Connnav 1520/30.)

Shipping
Casualties.

Connnav Serial 29. STEPHEN HOPKINS survivors in Rio de Janeiro report ship sunk by 2 raiders 27th Sept. position 31° S 16° W. Claim one raider sunk in action. ROTHLEY position corrected to 13.34 N 54.34 W. KOSMOS II now reported torpedoed 28th Oct. instead of *BIC ISLAND. Serial 28 refers. (Connnav 2110/29 to Connaveu.) * *p. 925*

O.N.137.

See p. 903

Cdre. reports STEEL NAVIGATOR parted company 18th and on 19th reported being attacked submarine, later heading south crippled by ballast shifting. (B.R.L.O. New York 2112Z/29 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Sub.
attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para A. KOSMOS II torpedoed about 55.15 N 28.10 W 0345 and 0722Z/28 and sunk.
Para B. Plane attacks sub on surface 06.59 N 57.01 W 1400Z/9.
Para C. Unidentified attacks sub 09.10 N 16.32 W 1834Z/15.
Para D. U.S.S., L.L. ABSHIRE sights sub 29.24 N 84.53 W 0950Z/29. Shore watchers sight periscope 19.53 N 75.07 W 1430Z/29.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2125/29 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Trawlers.

Propose to send these trawlers to Halifax for short working-up period and to sail them in pairs or larger numbers on completion.
(B.A.T.M. 2139Z/29 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U/B

Fisherman reported sighting submarine on surface a.m./29th in approx. 047° 30' N 059° 00' W proceeding in a westerly direction.
(C.O.A.C. 2220Z/29 to GBYA (R) C.T.F. 24. etc.)

BULKOIL

Your 0145Z/28. Request information as to how crew of BULKOIL got to hear that they were not proceeding to U.K.
(D.T.D. 2224A/29 to B.A.D.)

U/B
Positions.

C.E.S.F's 291802, informs as follows.
(Connaveu 2350/29 to Admty.)

ILEX.

See p. 927

Port Director San Juan 1415/29 informs as follows. Arrived San Juan 29th - ILEX escorting SS. BARON DUNMORE, British, SS. THOMAS HARTLEY, American.
(Connaveu 2351/29 to M.W.T.)

War Diary.29.10.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrivals Townsville 28th October KATOOMBA from Port Moresby. Thursday Island, 28th, WAARNAMBOOL. Departure Brisbane 27th U.S. Destroyer HENLEY on patrol.
(A.C.N.B. 0204Z/29.)

Departure Wellington U.S.S. PRESIDENT ADAMS E.T.A. Auckland 0100Z/31.

(D.N.I. Wellington 0438Z/29 to Admty.)

Arrival Vila 28th Oct. U.S.S. STRATFORD, U.S.S. BELLATRIX. Departure Vila 28th Oct. U.S.S. LAMSON. Departure Wellington 0156Z/29. U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY for Noumea, E.T.A. 1900Z/1 Nov. route direct. Departure Noumea 2000Z/27. U.S.S. MONSSEN by direct route to Tutuila E.T.A. 2000Z/31 thence relieves U.S.S. RALEIGH escorting convoy P.W.2154 in vicinity 16 S. 170 W. about 2000Z/1 Nov. U.S.S. RALEIGH proceeds Tutuwta.

(D.N.I. Wellington 1720M/29 to Admty.)

Situation.

Digest Serial No.280, Oct. 28th.

- R/C Kavieng Area this morning 28/10 reported 18 medium Bombers, 8 possible fighters on airdrome were continued construction evident. One probable transport with small escort vessel, 2° 52' S. 151° 1' E. course 120°. R/C aircraft attacked by 4 Zeros, 1 possibly destroyed.
- (2) Photographs Buka Airdrome 27/10 show 5 medium bombers, 19 fighters (4 damaged) 2 wrecked aircraft. Airdrome damaged but serviceable. Improvements dispersal area continue.
- (3) 5 Catalinas attacked Buka Airdrome midnight 28th. 1 Bomber set on fire, 1 A.A. position silenced, several large fires, heavy explosions observed probably from fuel and ammunition dumps.
- (4) Natives report Japanese departed Fergusson Is. evening 26th. Light observed at sea off Cape Vinall (N.E. Tip Fergusson Is.) during night 27th.
- (5) 9 Fortresses bombed enemy shipping Rabaul Harbour early morning 28th. Explosion observed on 1 Warship, 1 unidentified vessel hit and observed sinking, shipping well dispersed in and outside Harbour.
- (6) Results attack Gasmata Airdrome noon same day by 3 B.25s not observed.
- (7) Indication enemy air R/C Darwin area morning 28/29.
- (8) Allied pressure continues Eora Creek Area.
- (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0715Z/29 to Admty. etc.)

Disregard of Swept Channel to New York.

O.N.130 disregarded swept channel when approaching New York. Request Commodores of convoys be instructed to use prescribed channels when entering U.S. ports.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1400Z/29 to Admty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated 1200Z/29 positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1410A/29, 1415A/29.)

931

War Diary.

30.10.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Torch".

ARGUS, on passage with DASHER to Gibraltar reports that DASHER's port main engine has broken down, restricting her to 13 knots. DASHER is remaining in company, as escort is inadequate to detach. DASHER is to take part in Operation "Torch" as already arranged, subsequently returning to Gibraltar for repairs. This will delay the arrival of ARGUS at Gibraltar until 0500Z 3rd Nov. and in consequence the Admiralty ordered JAMAICA to be detached as necessary to arrive at Gibraltar p.m. 2nd Nov.

Force H.

S.O. Force H. in DUKE OF YORK with NELSON, RENOWN, ARGONAUT, MILNE, MARTIN, METEOR, TARTAR, ESKIMO, ASHANTI and QUIBERON sailed from Scapa at 1630 today.

Eastern
Fleet
destroyers.

ACTIVE, ARROW, ANTHONY, DECOY, DUNCAN and GRIFFIN are joining Western Approaches Command temporarily and are allocated to Liverpool Special Escort Division.

North Atlantic.

Convoy
S.L.125.

The convoy was attacked again this evening in about 35° 8' N. 16° 44' W. and M.V. PRESIDENT DOUMER (11898 tons), BARON/VERNON were sunk and possibly one other ship was sunk. Tanker BULLMOUTH is missing, believed sunk. SPIREA and COLTSFOOT have been sent to the convoy and are to remain as long as practicable consistent with arriving at Gibraltar by 1800 3rd Nov. RAMSEY is also to join as early as possible. COWSLIP had to leave this evening for Gibraltar with serious boiler trouble.

Operation
"Train".

FURIOUS, AURORA, CHARYBDIS and 8 destroyers returned to Gibraltar this evening.

932

30.10.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

RORQUAL arrived at Malta at midday today with petrol and stores.

U.559
sunk.

At 0550C today an A.S.V. Sunderland reported A.S.V. contact of a U-boat. HERO on passage south from Haifa proceeded to the position and PAKENHAM, PETARD, DULVERTON and HURWORTH were sailed from Port Said and took over the hunt from HERO. Destroyers and aircraft made several attacks during the day and at 2249 D.12 reported the U.boat surfaced and abandoned and at 2343 that it had sunk about 40 miles north of Port Said. R.A.F. and R.A.A.F. co-operated. The U-boat was German, *position of sinking 32° 1' N. 32° 52' E. The C.O., 4 officers and 35 ratings were taken prisoner.

* ~~32° 1' N. 32° 52' E.~~ 32° 30' N. 33° E. (Lor 8 mi. - both sides.)

Black Sea.

N.L.O. Black Sea reports that the enemy has begun regular sailings of 5 to 7 tugs towing oil barges from Roumanian to Crimean ports, escorted by R-boats.

East Indies.

Op: "Demcut".

At 0210Z a Catalina sighted a Japanese U-boat, possibly damaged in 1° 36' N. 67° 39' E. This may be the U-boat attacked by aircraft on 25th October off Ras Al Hadd. CAIRNS, and LISMORE, FRITILLARY and HOXA from Addu are being sent to hunt, and air search is being carried out. The ~~three~~ ships will be known as Force Q.

~~three~~
four

* See p. 956

America and West Indies.

Whilst U-boat activity on the east coast of America remains slight the Navy Department has decided to take 3 long-leg destroyers from coastal convoy escorts to be turned over to Comtask 24 for temporary reinforcement of Mid-Ocean groups.

War Diary.

30.10.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - contd.

2/ SS ABOSSO (11,330 tons) Cape to U.K. independently with Service personnel was torpedoed at 1200Z today in 48° 30' N. 78° 50' W. SKEENA was detached from O.N.141 (in 47° 55' N. 28° 50' W.) to search for survivors.

A good D/F indicates continuance of U-boat refuelling operations in the area 21° N. 28° W.

SS EMPIRE FALCON, Suez and Table Bay for Baltimore, reports having sighted in 08.00 N. 36.14 W. on 17th Oct. a vessel strongly resembling the German ship PORTLAND.

An aircraft attacked a S/M at 2000Z in 47.47 N. 49.50 W.

Australia and New Zealand.

Early this morning 15 Fortresses, and 8 Catalinas attacked enemy shipping in the Buin area. 2 hits and 1 near miss were obtained on a large warship, and 1 hit on an unidentified vessel, causing a fire, with possible hits on 2 other ships.

War Diary.

30.10.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

R.C.N.
Corvettes
based on
Londonderry.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2057/20th.
(1) Following are organizations of R.C.N.
Corvette Base on Londonderry.
(3) My 1531/20th is cancelled.
(C. in C. W.A., 1643A/29.)

6 Eastern
Fleet
destroyers.

ACTIVE, ARROW, ANTHONY, DECOY, DUNCAN and
GRIFFIN are joining Western Approaches Command
temporarily and are allocated to Liverpool
Special Escort Division.
(C. in C. W.A., 2055A/30.)

Movements.

SKATE.

Arrived fuelled and sailed SKATE in accordance
with F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1729/28 (C. in C. W.A.
1729/28 intended).
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0012A/30.)

WELSHMAN.

Arrived 0800/30.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1001A/30.)

LA

My 1115A/26th and 1449A/(?28th).
CAPRICIEUSE, Delete para. (3) and (4) of my 1115A/26th
L.23,*SEVERN. substitute new para. (3) TITANIA is requested
* See p. 959 (Movement to sail F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE and L.23 to R/V
Stornoway) with SEVERN in 180° Barrahead 5 miles at 0800A/2.
Thence Clyde at 12 knots, E.T.A. 2200A/2nd.
New para. (4). L.23 will be detached at Rothesay remainder
to Holy Loch.
(Capt. (S) 3, 1031A/30.)
My 2347A/28. Amend sailing to comply with Capt. (S)
3rd S.F.'s 1449A/28.
(TITANIA, 1057A/29 to Clyde Sub. movements northabout,
N.O. in Charge Stornoway, ALECTO, L.23.)

BLEAN.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1140A/30.)

UREDD.

See p. 937

Arrangements for sailing as Capt. (S) 9's
1655/39 escorted by PRESTON NORTH END at 0100/
31st Oct. to Dundee.
(S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, 1147A/30.)

KENT.

Your 1633A/28th hope to sail KENT on November
7th. Further signal will be made.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1218A/30 to C. in C. H.F.)

935

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

Home Fleet My 1829/28.
Dispositions. Area Plymouth - delete SCYLLA, 1 destroyer.
Op: "Torch" On passage to operational area - add SCYLLA,
1 destroyer. Delete RODNEY, BERMUDA, 3
destroyers.
Area Gibraltar - add RODNEY, BERMUDA, 3
destroyers.
(D.O.D.(H), 1240Z/30.)

LOYAL. Your 1552/29 ^{/N.T.A.W.D.} not to all addressees. Approved
to postpone sailing of LOYAL until 8th
November.

2. Request you will expedite the fitting of this gear as
much as possible.
(D.O.D.(H), 1345A/30 to A.S.C.B.S.)

P. 556, Estimated position P.556 at 0800A/31st 046° 09'
* AMAZON. N. 014° 00' W. northbound diving by day. My
** See p. 946.*
(Dispositions) 0005/28th not to F.O.(S) amended route from (B)
to (H) 47 N. 15 W. (J) 45 N. 15 W. thence (D)
and as in F.O.C.N.A. 0032/29th.
(C. in C. W.A., 1522A/30 to AMAZON, (R) Admty.,
F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S.)

Force H. Estimated positions tonight Friday. Force H
and ships listed in his 1630/30, 058° 44' N.
004° 42' W. bound Minches.
(A.C.O.S., 1616/30.)

Scapa departure S.O. Force H in DUKE OF YORK with NELSON,
RENOWN, ARGONAUT, MILNE, MARTIN, METEOR, TARTAR, ESKIMO,
ASHANTI, QUIBERON.
(A.C.O.S., 1630/30.)

P. 311. Anticipate sailing P. 311 a.m. 5th November.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1803A/30.)

Operations.

Operation "Torch". DASHER's port main engine broken down necessi-
See p. 946.
(Dispositions) tating major repairs estimated two to four weeks,
maximum on one engine 13 knots. DASHER remain-
ing in company as escort inadequate to detach.
Position 048° 10' N. 016° 20' W. S. of A. 11.5 knots. Amend
E.T.A. 0500Z/3rd November. Acknowledge. Weather report.
(ARGUS, 0801A/30 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., R.A.(A) H.F., (R)
F.O.C.N.A., DASHER.)

ARGUS 0801/30th. Although DASHER's speed will embarrass
FURIOUS I consider she should still take part in "Torch" as
already arranged subsequently returning to Gibraltar to refit.
5 Seafires should be flown to Gibraltar before operation.

(R.A.(A) H.F., 1640/30 to Admiralty, DASHER, (R) ARGUS,
F.O.C.N.A.)

/Your ...

30.10.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.

- Operation "Torch".
(Contd.)
- Your 0801/30.
1. DASHER is to remain in company.
2. JAMAICA is to be detached as necessary to arrive Gibraltar p.m. 2nd November.
(D.O.D.(H), 1709A/30 to ARGUS, (R) F.O.C.N.A., R.A.(A) H.F., C. in C. W.A., DASHER, H.Q.C.C.)
- Operation F.B Ice conditions. Yugorsky Shar temperature degrees (C) minus six light snow.
Petchora Inlet minus nine completely covered with ice.
Archangel minus one, no ice or snow. Sharp drop in temperature to minus 20 expected in few days and thereafter rise to minus four. Feel no anxiety about receiving and clearing all ships in Operation F.B.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0937A/30 to Admty.)
Positions of submarines at 0800A/31 and movements for the following 24 hours.
(A) TUNA 73° 20' N. 14° 02' E. probably on the surface speed 10 knots through 74° N. 15° E. to patrol vicinity 75° 16' N. 14° 10' E.
(B) O.15 72° 30' N. 05° 25' E. probably on surface speed 8 knots through 74° 01' N. 05° 30' E. to patrol vicinity 75° N. 08° E.
(F.O.S., 1813A/30, 0107A/31, 1024A/31.)
- Coastal Sweep. Sweep of enemy coast between Cap Barfleur and Cape de la Hague to be carried out tonight 30th/31st October by M.G.B.316 (S.O.), 326 M.T.B. 49 54, 56 passing westward of area given in Portsmouth 1400/30th September (not to all addressees). Force is to pass Needles at 1830 and 0730. Codeword "Advent". If weather is unsuitable Force is to cruise near position 50° 10' N. 01° 30' W. or proceed if necessary to St. Helens Roads. 2 M.Ls. from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 35' W.
2 Chasseurs patrolling near E.A5 buoy.
Call signs - 1st Coastal Force Flotilla 3 S R D.
11th M.T.B. Flotilla 3 T P G. Whole Force 3 U M H.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1207A/30 to S.O. 1st Coastal Force Flotilla, S.O. 11 M.T.B. Flotilla, Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, F.O.I.C. Portland, FERNIE, TYNEDEALE, D.1, XDOE, THORNEY ISLAND, TANGMERE.)
- Patrols. 1. Intend M.Ls 123, 303 to carry out patrol tonight Friday/30th on latitude 50° 20' N. between 2° 00' W. and 2° 40' W. Leaving Weymouth at 1930/30 via Q.Z.S.295 and patrol line at dawn.
2. Usual books to be landed.
3. Constant W/T watch on 2300 k/cs.
4. Codeword "Match 2". Request air protection be arranged.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1207A/30, to C. in C. Portsmouth, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Admty., N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

War Diary.

30.10.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

- Patrols. M.L. Patrol tonight October 30th.
(Contd.) 2. Forces employed M.Ls 159 (S.O.), 163 and 157.
3. Patrol 7 miles 065° and 245° of position 105°
Start 20 miles.
4. Object to intercept E-Boats.
5. Information Own. W.P.240 passes Dart Buoy to eastward at 1800/30.
Enemy E-Boats may work from Cherbourg or Guernsey.
6. Execution. Proceed at 1745/30 to patrol line. Leave patrol at daylight 31st and return to Dartmouth.
7. Codeword "Sapper". Collective call sign 3 V Z P.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1344A/30 to M.Ls 159, 163, 157, (R) N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Portsmouth, Admty., Escorts W.P.240.)
Humber October 30th. Departures at 1652 HOLDERNESS, PYTCHLEY in company to carry out patrols A and B respectively. (F.O. Humber, 1835A/30.)

Operation Your 0920/29th October ^{/N.T. - W.D.} arrived.
S.E. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1400A/30 to A.C.O.S.)
(A) 062° 15' N. 002° 30' W. 360°. (B) 0800/31st.
(C) 0800/31st.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1650A/30 to CHIDDINGFOLD, (R) R.A.(D) H.F., LEDBURY, MIDDLETON, Admty., C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)
One S/L Wellington commences search in area bounded by QVJT 3000 - QVCP 3000 - LDJT 3400 - LDCP 3400 at 2359A/30th.
Whitleys flying Flora VWXY at first light 31st October. Two Whitleys R/V with you at 0759A/31st for co-operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1902A/30 to CHIDDINGFOLD, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON, (R) C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

UREDD. S/M UREDD reports as follows as result of patrol in the vicinity 061° 20' 004° 30' E.
see p. 934
(1) All shipping using Krakhelle Sund Vilnaes Fiord Grane Sund Stav Fiord. 2 Norwegian Mail Steamers sighted (? with) considerable number of small ships. Good weather essential for operation inside (? areas).
(2) Bue Fiord is patrolled at night nothing actually seen but hydrophone effect heard.
(3) At 1530/18th in position 1 mile North East Aralden Island torpedoed 3000 ton ship leaving Vilnesfiord. Ship ran ashore on Aralden. No counter attack.
(4) Very slight air activity and no regular patrol.
(F.O.(S), 1929A/30.)

Exercises.

Exercise Your 1338A/29.
"Blanket". As London district extends to Purfleet propose sending copy of your message to G.O.C. London district, and 1st A.A. Group.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1630A/30 to C. in C. Nore.)

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Operations.

Bombing My 1626/28th. Advance all times 12 hours.
restrictions. (F.O.(S), 0102A/30 to H.Q.C.C., (R) C. in C. W.A.,
SEVERN.)
My 2222/27th para. (3) amend to read 1600/31st -
2200/2nd.
Para. 4 amend to read 0100/2nd - 0100/4th.
Para. 5 amend to read 0800/3rd - 1000/5th.
Para. 6 amend to read 2200/4th - 0001/7th.
(F.O.S., 1154A/30 to H.Q.C.C.)

Aircraft Routeing and recognition instructions for
for North Murmansk area.
Russia. (Air Min. 1307A/30.)
See Lion Copy.

Bomber Day 28th October.
Command 4 Halifaxes of 4 Group, and as 6 Whitleys of
Report. 10 O.T.U. were detailed on A/S patrol to W. of
Bay of Biscay. One Whitley failed to return,
remainder sighted no target.

Night 28th/29th October.
5 Wellingtons of 1 Group out of 9 detailed, successfully laid
mines in enemy waters. 1 Wellington failed to return.

Day 29th October.
7 Mosquitoes, 6 Wellingtons of 3 Group, and 4 Halifaxes and 5
Whitleys, were detailed to attack aerodromes on the Frisians,
Ijmuiden Steel Works, the Ruhr Area, as well as A/S patrols.
2 Group. Wangeroog was attacked by 2 Mosquitoes from 100 ft.
the second A/C saw the bursts of the first one in the town, and
a large column of brown smoke was seen from the target area
after bombing.
Langeoog aerodrome was attacked by the third, also from 100 ft.
and bombs are believed to have fallen on a large shed on the
northern side of the aerodrome, causing a column of brown smoke
to rise from the target. The fourth Mosquito, detailed to
attack Ijmuiden, did not attack owing to lack of cloud cover,
and bombed Den Helder as an alternative from 1500 feet. The
crew did not observe the bursts, but believe their bombs fell
on the north-western side of No. 5 Dock. Inaccurate, light
flak was experienced from the dock area.
4 Halifaxes and 5 Whitleys detailed on A/S patrol in an area
west of the Bay of Biscay were recalled, owing to weather.
2 Whitleys failed to return.
(H.Q.B.C., 1445A/30.)

Recognition Middle East report Aircraft Recognition Signals
Signals. considered compromised until November 1st.
Signals should be used sparingly and treated
with reserve.
(D.S.D., 2013A/30 "A" Mge. H. & A.)

SECRET

938ⁿ

MESSAGE,

IN.

1307A/30th October.

Date. 31.10.42.

From Air Ministry Whitehall.

Rocd. 1030.

CYPHER.

Addressed Coastal, Bomber and Fighter Commands, 44 and 18
Groups, Repeated Admiralty, H.Q. E.T.O. U.S.A.+
NOT WT.

AX 372 31/10.

The following routeing and recognition instructions
for the Murmansk area come into effect on 1st November,
1942.

1. Aircraft are to approach by one of the following
corridors:-

- (A) from the sea between east end of Kildin Island and
Cape Teniberski Point crossing the coast two miles
east of Kildin Island thence direct to Kola Inlet
at Antonovka thence down the eastern side of Kola
Inlet to Vaenga or Gryasnaya (Corridor No. 3)
- (B) from the south (avoiding Murmansk prohibited area)
or the east to Baraki thence direct to Vaenga or
Gryasnaya (Corridor No. 4.)
- (C) from the sea down the Kola Inlet keeping to the
eastern side (Corridor No. 2)

2. Aircraft to remain below 800 metres or cloud when
approaching Corridors flying along them and approaching
destination.

3. Appropriate recognition signal to be fired on:-

- (A) sighting Allied warships.
- (B) approaching coast.
- (C) entering Corridor.
- (D) being attacked or threatened.
- (E) approaching destination.

4. If possible aircraft to fly along Corridors with
lowered undercarriage for short periods in emergency. Air-
craft are not to fly directly across the aerodrome but are to
circle widely before coming in to land.

5. All flights to be notified by signal addressed to
S.B.N.O. North Russia and 30 Mission repeated to R.A.F.
Gryasnaya and Lakhta. If possible signal to be made 24 hours
in advance and to state type of aircraft, expected time of

/departure

938^B

Page 2.

departure, expected time of arrival, call sign and Corridor to be used. In addition departure signal to be sent when aircraft takes off. End of instruction. These instructions will also be published in amendment list No. 3 to S.D. 153 (3)

1307A/30

Advance copy Ops., OD., O.I.C.

Air Ministry circulation:-

D.O.N.C.
A.F.L.7.
A.I.1.
F.O.6.(Orig)
D.F.Ops.
D.D.F.Ops (11)
A.D.O.(F)
Admiralty
H.Q. E.T.O. U.S.A.+

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
N.A.1st S.L.
C.N.A.S.
Ops (3)
A.C.N.A.S.
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D.A.C.D.
D.S.D.(2)
D.S.D.9.(2)
O.I.C.(3)
D.N.I.(5)
I.P.(3)
W.D.
M.(2)
D. of P.(3)
D.D.O.D.(C)(2)
D.A/S.W.
C.C.L.S.
U.S.N.(3)
Adml. Blake.

UCA

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation Arrived SCOTT.
S.N. 3F. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0931A/30.)
Your 2035/29th. S.N. 3F has already been
delayed 4 days by weather which shows only
slight signs of improving. Subject to the completion of this
lay in time intend to sail LANCASTER and WELLS for Milford
Haven on 5th November. When^xrelieved by SOUTHERN PRINCE,
BRIGHTON will return to Port ZA and thence to refit vide my
1130/24th not to all addressees and CASTLETON will join A.C.O.S.
but has first to change damaged propeller.
(R.A.(M), 1102/30.) *?releasid.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy shipping From 0900/29 - 0900/30.
plotted by Movements presumed mainly minesweeping and
R.D/F in patrols.
Dover (V.A. Dover, 0924A/30, 1034A/30.)
Strait.

Enemy Consul Helsingborg reports convoy consisting
convoy. of two small steamers and two large vessels of
about 14,000 tons each and warship believed
TANGA passed northbound at 1330 today 30th Oct.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1751/30.)

U-Boats.

H.X. 212. SS. BARRWHIN torpedoed in 055° 03' N. 022° 30' W.
at 1940Z/29th. Have survivors of SS. KOSMOS II
and BARRWHIN.
(KENOGAMI, 0630Z/30 to C. in C. W.A., (R) U-Boat
Situation Report N.E. Atlantic.)

ABOSSO. Following weak and incomplete distress message
was read by DORELIAN at 0848 from MKKS (ABOSSO)
begins: torpedoed please pass to Admty.
torpedoed in position bearing 061° from illegible 73 miles
toward illegible ends. No repeat heard.
At 1200Z further signal intercepted MKKS torpedoed boat E F
position 061° A A 73 illegible towards B B.
(LONDONDERRY, 1345Z/30 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)
If fuel permits detach one escort to search for survivors
SS. ABOSSO torpedoed in 048° 30' N. 028° 50' W. at 1200Z today
Friday. Ship is carrying 190 passengers. Report names of
escort detailed.
(C. in C. W.A., 1610Z/30 to Ships escorting O.N. Convoy
141, (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, LONDONDERRY, Admty., N.S.H.Q.,
F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)
Proceeding in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1610Z/30th.
P.C. and S. 047° 04' N. 030° 53' W. 043° 15 knots. Weather
report.
(SKEENA, 2002Z/30.)

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - Contd.

U/B attacked. Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface. Have attacked enemy with depth charges enemy course is 270° bubbles of oil rising. (A/C TWLK, 2045 G.M.T./30.)

Ship torpedoed. Intercepted de 33 torpedoed bearing 200 ° class 4. (Sheigra Radio, 2205/30.)
33 torpedoed bearing 205° grade 2. (Sheigra Radio, 2222/30.)

Ship attacked. Intercept SSSS FVD 2 de FV 85 torpedo passed ahead ends. (Valentia Radio, 2217/30.)
Intercept SSSS submarine crossing from starboard to port ten minutes ago de 85. Ends. (Valentia Radio, 2222/30.)

Casualties and Defects.

WENSLEYDALE. Cancel my 1804A/29/~~29~~^{N.T.A. N.D.} Ship delayed by defects to type 286 P aerial. Further signal will be made. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1623A/30 to Cdre. WESTERN ISLES.)

HURRICANE. In view of reduced strength of group B.1 it is proposed to defer refit of HURRICANE until return of H.X.215 about 24th November. Admty. 1610A/23/10 and your 1036Z/30 refer. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1626A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

SOUTHERN BREEZE. O.N.S.M. 142. Ref. N.C.S.O. Milford Haven's 1704A/29 SOUTHERN BREEZE reports defect, P.C.74 sailed 1615/30 to relieve. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1637A/30.)

ACANTHUS. Cancel my 1858/29.^{N.T.A. N.D.} Request ship may be completed by December 3rd in order to sail with her group. (C. in C. W.A., 1746A/30 to Admty.)

CLAN MACAULAY. My 1743/29 and 1605/30. CLAN MACAULAY anchored Rothesay Bay with engine trouble. Expects to proceed daylight October 31st. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1749A/30.)

/PATHFINDER ...

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War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

PATHFINDER. PATHFINDER delayed by electrical defect. Will sail to overtake when ready probably a.m. tomorrow Saturday.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1804A/30 to R.A.(A) H.F.,
(R) PORCUPINE, PATHFINDER, Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

M.T.B. 70. My 1702. ^{/M.T.B. 70.} M.T.B. 70 returned to harbour engine trouble.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2112A/30.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.X. 4B. Estimated P.C. and S. of convoy K.X. 4B at 0400A/30th 045° 21' N. 014° 49' W. 170° 7 knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 0246A/30 to P.556, (R) F.O.S.)

U.S. COAMO, Due U.K. about 6th October.
U.S. BORINQUEN. 2. Code numbers are P.60 and P.61 respectively.
3. COAMO will proceed direct to Avonmouth with 250 U.S. personnel on board.
4. BORINQUEN will proceed in the first place to Belfast to disembark 219 U.S. personnel for Northern Ireland and then continue to Avonmouth with remaining 31 U.S. personnel for U.K. on board.
5. Both vessels will be included in Convoy W.S. 25P.
(D.S.T., 0459A/30.)

H.X.212. My 1735Z/29th H.X.212. ROSTHERN has 7 survivors of KOSMOS and BARRWHIN has 27. ROSTHERN rescued 12 additional survivors from PAN NEW YORK (? and) then sank wreck. Asdic dome and oscillator carried away. Attempted attack on H.X.212 by submarine, coming up from aft during night of 29th/30th stopped. VILLE DE QUEBEC has 9 star shells remaining. ROSTHERN not yet joined. 0800Z P.C. and S. 55.15 N. 19.22 W. 079° 9.5, 60, 67, 19, 18 ? weather report.
(C.T. 24.1.3, 0645Z/30 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

Convoy Your 1932A/29th. This number can be dealt with provided ships are ready in all respects for sea and that "M" forms are received at least 48 hours before conference.
K.M.S.3. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1034A/30 to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

F.S.46. F.S.46 cancelled, owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1116/30.)

/P.W. ...

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - *cont.*

P.W. - W.P. My 1551A/27th and A.M. 1414A/29th. Subject to your approval intend using steam gunboats for convoy escort in place of destroyers between Portland and Dartmouth. Only three boats are in service at present and it is intended that two shall be at Portland and Dartmouth to carry out escort P.W. - W.P. convoys between those places relieved in rotation by third boat from Newhaven.

2. It is proposed to accept passage of P.W. - W.P. convoys between Portland and Needles with only two M/S trawler as escort, as this section is closed inshore and under good air cover.

3. Further signals will be made giving details of proposed schedule of sailings.

4. It is proposed that steam gunboats, all of whom are commanded by Lieut. R.N. or qualified officers R.N.V.R. should act as Senior Officers of Escort when in company with escort group.

5. The one destroyer available at Portsmouth will be available to escort any particularly valuable ship which may be in Convoy.

6. A.M. 2100A/29th refers.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1216A/30, 1644A/30 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, Capt. D.1.)
My 1216/30.

S.G.Bs will be available to commence escort between Portland and Dartmouth as from 1st November.

2. S.G.Bs 3 and 8 will be sailed from Portsmouth to arrive Portland and Dartmouth respectively p.m. 31st October. F.O.I.C. Portland and N.O.I.C. Dartmouth are requested to sail them in P.W. and W.P. convoys on 1st November.

3. S.O. 1st S.G.D.F. is to inform authorities concerned of further movements of reliefs.

4. S.G.Bs have S.Ps as carried by escort destroyers and will keep one way continuous watch on port wave. Type 86 not fitted.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1910A/30.)

O.N.

Convoys. Ships for St. Johns N.F. and Wabana in O.N. convoys are to be escorted by one or two corvettes of ocean group from breaking off point to destination.

2. Corvettes of B group may fuel at St. Johns N.F. if necessary before joining group at Argentina.

(C. in C. W.A., 1222A/30 to W.A.G.M. 458 N.)

W.P. 240.

Convoy W.P. 240 is to continue to Needles without calling at Dartmouth or Portland.

2. BROCKLESBY is to continue to Needles.

3. MANGROVE and ENSAY are to cease sweeping at Dart Buoy and proceed to R/V with W.P. 240 and act as additional escort to Needles.

4. Estimated W.P. 240 position 1600/30th 190 Start Point 4½.

5. RUBY to proceed into Dartmouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1313A/30 to BROCKLESBY, MANGROVE, S.G.A. 241, Ships escorting Even W.P. Convoy 240 pass to Cdre., RUBY, ENSAY, (R) S. & A. in U.K. concerned, S.G.A. 239, Ships escorting Even No. P.W. Convoy 240.)

/Convoy ...

30.10.1942.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Convoy
K.M.S. 3. List of ships, destinations, escort &c.
(D.O.D.(H), 1331A/30.)
See Lion Copy.

? K.M.F. 2. Intend to sail GORLESTON from Lough Foyle at
See 29/10-P 907 2359A/30th to R/V Liverpool portion K.M.F. (sic)
at Bar L.V. 1600A/31st.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1513A/30 to N.O.I.C.
Liverpool, (R) N.Os. i/c Greenock, Belfast,
C. in C. W.A., Capt. (D) Liverpool, Admty.,
H.Q.C.C.)

S.C. 106. S.C.106 regret owing to other commitments no
vessel available for Liverpool local escort.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1716A/30 to C. in C. W.A.,
N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

P.S.31,
S.P.31. My 1658A/30* P.S.31 and S.P.31 cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1800A/30.)
*1659/30 intended.

O.N.S.130. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa reports O.N.S.130 disregarded
swept channel when approaching New York.
Commodores of Convoys should be warned that
prescribed channels must be adhered to.
(D.T.D., 2259A/30 to N.S.C.O. Mersey.)

LUTHER
MARTIN. Sailed U.S. LUTHER MARTIN at 2300A/30th E.T.A.
Cumbrae 0600A/31st for Clyde ex K.M.S.2.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 2320A/30 to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E. 1331A/30th October. OUT.

Date 30.10.42.

To:- C. in C. Western Approaches. 192.

N.O.I.C. Loch Ewe.

N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.

Repeated

F.O.I.C. Greenock.

N.C.S.O. Clyde

F.O.I.C. Liverpool

H.C.S.O. Mersey

F.O.C. North Atlantic 393.

C. in C. Home Fleet 195.

H.Q. Coastal Command

H.Q. Fighter Command.

NAVAL CYPHER (ACO)

From Admiralty.

The following ships (except as in para. 2) will be ready to leave Loch Ewe as convoy K.M.S.3 on 7th November.

Section A.S.S. CAITHNESS ^U

COOMBE HILL

EMPIRE GRENFELL

EMPIRE SHEARWATER

EMPIRE WEBSTER

FORT MACLEOD

FORT CHILCOTIN

THISTLEDALE

EMPIRE FLAMINGO

EMPIRE CENTAUR

FORT LAC RA ROUGE

TROUBADOUR

OCEAN PILGRIM

OCEAN WAYFARER

BELGIAN SEAMAN

EASTERN CITY

EASTERN SUMMER

FOREST

S.S. OCEAN VICTORY.

OCEAN VALENTINE

TRENTBANK

BREITWALDA

BENLEDI

DAHOMIAN

ENGLISH MONARCH

ORIENT CITY

EMPIRE BANNER

BENEDICT

EMPIRE WYCLIF

FORT BOURBON

BEGUM

RAJPUT

MANCHESTER CITIZEN

FORT BABINE

CARLTON

EMPIRE PRINCE

HINDUSTAN

Section O.

S.S. CITY OF VENICE

INVENTOR

U.S. ALEXANDER HAMILTON

" JOHN MARSHALL

" MOBILE CITY

" THOMAS STONE

" JAMES MONROE

U.S. FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

" WILLIAM STEWART

" THOMAS PINKNEY

S.S. GRANGE PARK

" EMPIRE FIELD

" TAWALI

MOST SECRET

Section G.....

943¹³

SECRET

Section G.

EMPIRE FOAM
BRITISH CHIVALRY
Also one or two oilers.

S.S. BALTONIA
" LEONIAN

2. EMPIRE FOAM is to be sailed from Liverpool direct to rendezvous with convoy at 1600Z/8/11 off Skerryvore.

3. Speed of advance 7 knots.

4. Destination of G. Section Gibraltar. Instructions for remainder will be communicated at Convoy Conference.

5. Admiralty will promulgate route.

6. N.O.I.C. Loch Ewe is requested to arrange convoy conference to be held a.m. 7th November and to sail ships to rendezvous as requisite.

7. Escort will be H.M.C.S. provided by

(a) 37th Escort Group consisting of BLACK SWAN, FOWEY, CARNATION, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, STONECROP and CAMPION.

(b) AMCN, NASTURTIUM, *WEYBURN and *LOUISBERG.

**only these ships H.M.C.S.*

8. Destination of Escorts Gibraltar.

9. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to arrange sailing of EMPIRE FOAM and to make the necessary arrangements for escorts.

1331A/30.

D.O.D. (H)

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.N.S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
Hd. of M. (13)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of S.T.
D.T.D. (3)

D. of P. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.C. (2)
Ad. Blake
D. of P. (Q)
D. of L.D.
Norfolk House (2)
D.A/S.W.
C.C.L.S.
D. of S.

944

War Diary.

30.10.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Bombing Restrictions. 384 30/10. Serial No. G.320, cancel my AC.376 29/10 serial No. G.315 forthwith. Serial No.G.321. My AC.385/29th October. serial No.G.319, amend restriction to read forthwith until 0200/31. Serial No. G.322 from 1800/30 to 1200/1 institute submerged bombing restrictions 25 miles either side of a line joining 44.40 N. 14.01 W and 46.35 N 15° 40' W. (H.Q.C.C. 0055A/30 to R.A. F.Gib. F.O.C.N.A. S.8).

Dispositions. My 1402A/29th para.1 delete ISAAC SWEERS and ESCAPADE. Add new para 5. ISAAC SWEERS, ESCAPADE a.m./29th and MARNE 2100/29th left Ponta Delgada to R/V K.M.F.1 in 049. 16, 025.36. * *see p. 947 - 31 Oct 1942*
(F.O.C.N.A. 0252A/30).

P.614. Your 0158A/30th (N.T. in W. D.) Estimate S. of A 7½ knots and fuel remaining at (a) 1100 gallons 11%, (b) Nil. Weather report. (P.614. 0514A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) F.O.(S), C. in C. Plymouth, R.A. W.Af.Capt.(S) 8).

S.L.125. U/B. At 0711/30th (?assumed) German S/M made a sighting report bearing 248° from Gibraltar on 7640 K/Cs. (F.O.C.N.A. 0816A/30 to Escort of S.L.125.(R) Admty).

BRILLIANT. R.A.West Africa's 1037Z/29th. 6 hours early, Weather. (BRILLIANT 1030Z/30 to F.O.C.N.A.).

HOPECASTLE. (S.L.125). Salvage. Your 1300/29. I had not intended taking any further action for following reasons.
A.Heavy south westerly weather of last few days would entail long time on passage to last reported locality of ship for tug and escort.
B.Very doubtful whether ship still afloat in view of her damaged condition and heavy weather. Even if still afloat location of ship likely to be extremely difficult as no air reconnaissance practicable and very small escort which might be made available to send with tug would only be able to cover small area, whereas drift probably extensive.
(D) Considered approaching commitments for tugs and escorts in near future did not justify despatch on such doubtful mission at this juncture with uncertain date of return.
2. Request very early instructions if search is to be instituted.
(V.A.C.N. A. 1050A/30, 2354A/31 to Admty).

/VANSITTART...

War Diary.

30.10.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

VANSITTART. Following is repetition my 1109/30 not to STORK or VANSITTART (begins) N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada (R) B.N.A. Lisbon From F.O. C.N.A. VANSITTART may arrive Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T./31st requiring 200 tons of oil fuel approx. (Ends) (F.O.C.N.A. 1117A/30 to STORK, VANSITTART).

Bombing My 1536/28th. Add 8 hours to all times. Restrictions. (F.O.C.N.A. 1135A/30 to Admty H.Q.C.C.(R) F.O.S) Cancel my 1536/28 and 1135/30th. Request total bombing restrictions in following areas.

Area.	From.	Until.
G.26.	2000/30.	1300/31.
G.25.	2000/30.	1300/31.
G.17.	0500/31.	2359/31
G.18.	0500/31.	1300/1 Nov.
G.11.	0500/1.	0530/2.
G.04.	2130/1.	1400/3.

All times are zone minus one. (F.O.C.N.A. 1740A/30 to Admty, A.O.C. in C.C.C.(R) F.O.S.).

- Dispositions. Situation 1958A/30.
1. P.614, 41.20 13.47 on the surface 9 through 43.01 13.30 at 0900/30th course 187°.
 2. S.L. 125 (G) SWEETBRIAR, DAHLIA, 39.18 15.11 through 41.01 16.01 thence 000° 5½.
 3. *SPIREA, COLTSFOOT, CAVA, EDAY, INCHMARNOCK, SROMA, left S.L. 125 (G) about 0900/31st. * *p. 931*
 4. S.L. 125, PETUNIA, WOODRUFF, COWSLIP, CROCUS, RAMSEY, KELANTAN, in 36.14 16.01 359° 7½. *x 2 p. 947*
 5. JULIET, SALVONIA, 35.36 06.24 to Gibraltar 11.
 6. CORIOLANUS, 27.53 13.43 through 30.01 12.01 thence 035° 8.
 7. K.X.4(A) VENOMOUS, WRESTLER, BROKE, MALCOLM, 4 trawlers, 38 (?43) 14 (?52) 122° 7. *p. 947*
 8. IMPERIALIST, leaves patrol in Horn Bight to arrive Gibraltar 1800/31st.
 9. LOCH OSKAIG, off Cape St. Vincent to Gibraltar 10.
 10. SCOTTISH, patrolling off Cape Roca.
 11. BRILLIANT, AVON VALE, 34.53 09.23 through 35.49 08.28 thence Gibraltar 15.
 12. ANTELOPE, BOREAS, 34.02 09.58 to Gibraltar 15½.
 13. ROBERTS, BURDOCK, SNOWDROP, 27.09 15.12 through 27.22 and 28.49 14.58 thence 040° 10.
 14. VELOX, PUCKERIDGE, 32.26 10.52 to Gibraltar 15½.
 15. K.X.4B(7A), BRIXHAM, BUDE, 43.27 14.28 through 41.01. 14.01 thence 146° 7. *29/10-p. 911*

War Diary.

30.10.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. 16. SPEEDWELL. HUSSAR 36.14 08.50 to Gibraltar 10.
Contd. 17. LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, WILTON, U.S. S. TREVER,
PALOMARES, TYNWALD, 42.39 15.15 through
39.01. 14.01 thence 129° 10.
18. Swedish relief ships YAKKA, YARRAWONCA, 36.01 07.52. 270°
12.
19. Fleet units JAMAICA, DASHER, DELHI, FARNDALE, BICESTER,
ZETLAND, (E) 45.50 16.27 through 41.02, 16.20 thence (?127) 11.5.
20. AMAZON 47.43, 13.55 through 44.01 14.01 and 40.01 12.30
thence 144° 24. *Sum p. 935*
(F.O.C.N.A. 1152/30 to A.I.G. 63). *ARGUE - *Sum p. 935*
Situation 1956A/30. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 017.47 028.34 through
021.01, 028.01 thence 015° 14. *Sum p. 949 & 959*
(F.O.C.)

K.M.S.1. Your 1745A/29. In order to adjust your time of
arrival at R/V amend route through new positions.
(K) 39.45 N. 23.45 W. (L) 35.00N 23.45W (M) 35.00N
19.00W. thence through old position (G).

36.00N 15. 00.W.
2. Distance steamed to southward may be shortened and corner cut
as requisite that east of 20° W. route given in para.1. should
be adhered to.
(D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N. S. (H) 1346A/30 to Escorts K.M.S.1 (R)
F.O.C.N.A.).

U/B. Admiralty recipher and retransmit to Task Group
Positions. 34.11 via British broadcast (passed by W.R.).
Weather 5 vicinity S.L.125 from numerous D. F.'s 1200Z
Forecast. position 35.30 N. 18 W.
4 vicinity S.L.G. from numerous D.F.s 1200Z
position 40 N. 15.30 W.

4 Italians estimated vicinity Canary Islands.
One good D.F. 21 N. 28 W. indicates continuance refuelling
operations. No information past 24 hours on patrol line, West of
Azores but estimate about 20 U-Boats on patrol line 40° N. 40° W.
passing West of Cape Verde Islands to Freetown area.

Weather forecast next 24 hours.
Atlantic coast Morocco. Partly cloudy to cloudy. Scattered
showers. Moderate ceiling improving. Visibility good. Wind
Northwest 16 knots. Flying conditions average. Sea high
decreasing slowly. Swell heavy from North decreasing slowly.
Azores 1200Z, sea rough decreasing with short heavy swell
Northeast 7 and 8, period 10 seconds decreasing.

Five day forecast Oct. 31 to Nov. 4.
Western Mediterranean generally fair with shower activity early
in period, and last two days accompanying weak frontal system
moving Eastward from Spain fresh shifting winds during showers.
Second and third days best weather over central portion.

/Atlantic.....

947

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

U/B Positions. Weather Forecast. Contd. Atlantic coast Morocco continued unsettled conditions next few days. Recurring weak to moderate wave action indicated probable or possible. Decreasing Northerly winds Saturday and Sunday becoming Southwest and variable middle period, probably followed by moderate Northwest last two days. Widespread Northwest gale in mid-ocean not indicated next 4 or 5 days. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 1520/30, to Admty).

MARNE. My 1645/29 (N.T. in W.D.) MARNE further delayed. Now expected sailing 1700 G.M.T./1st. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada. 1655/30 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty). *p. 944 (Dispositions)*

K.X.4 (?A) *p. 945* Position 39. (?30) 15.43 (A) 5 knots adjusting course to comply with Admty's 1752A/23. VENOMOUS and MALCOLM leave at 2000 to refuel at (?Gibraltar) and rejoin. BROKE and WRESTLER will leave A.M./1st. Weather report. (VENOMOUS 1801Z/30 to ?F.O.C.N.A (R) Admty, C. in C.W.A.).

Operation "Train." My 0850/28th. Ships returned from operation "Train." (F.O.C.N.A. 1826A/30 to Admty), Arrival from operation ("Train") GLACTON, Tug RESTIVE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1948A/30 to Admty).

LEYLAND. Arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 1839A/30 to Admty, C. in C.W.A.).

S.L.125. U/B attack, PRESIDENT DOUMER, etc. sunk. S/M attacking in 035.08 N. 016.44 W. PRESIDENT DOUMER sunk. (PETUNIA 1945Z/30 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C.W.A. Admty). My 1945Z/30th. One merchant ship torpedoed. CORINALDO abandoned in 033.12'N. 018. 24' W, may be salvable, my 2015Z/29 refers. (GMXT) BULLMOUTH missing believed sunk. WOODRUFF has 200 survivors ex STENTOR, CROCUS 55 ex NAGPORE, COWSLIP 48 ex CORINALDO. (GSMP.) ESPERANCE BAY bolted 2030Z/28th probably on amended stragglers route. Weather report. (PETUNIA 2003Z/30 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C.W.A. Admty). My 2003Z/30. PRESIDENT DOUMER and two Merchant Ship sunk. (PETUNIA 2035Z/30. to F.O.C.N.A.(R) C. in C.W.A. Admty). S/M still attacking. COWSLIP making for Gibraltar, with serious boiler trouble. (PETUNIA 2305Z/30 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) B.N.A.Lisbon, Admty). Considerable W/T activity on Series one throughout the day and continuing indicates U/Boats (plural) remain in contact. (D.D.I.C. 2120A/30 to Escorts S.L.125).

/GIL EANES....

War Diary.

30.10.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

GIL EANES. Portuguese GIL EANES 2,769 tons, maximum speed 11 knots, left St. Johns N.F. 26th October, bound for Portuguese mainland.

2. Vessel has two W/T operators. One Castao de Freitas is known to be German agent; for your own information he has reported shipping movements by W/T. No evidence against other W/T operator, but he is regarded with suspicion.
3. If vessel encountered west of 11° W. she should be instructed not to use W/T; de Freitas should be removed; armed guard should be put on board to ensure no further use of W/T and vessel allowed to proceed. If practicable, speed should be adjusted so that vessel does not arrive in Portugal before 9th November.
4. No special arrangements to intercept are to be made.
5. If vessel is intercepted F.O.C.N.A. should arrange for armed guard to be removed outside Portuguese territorial waters.
6. GIL EANES transmits noon position and estimated noon position for following day 0200 G.M.T. and 2200 G.M.T. on 36 metres. Call sign CPAO. Broadcast of positions should continue to be made by armed guard.

(M. Branch, Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 2006A/30 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, R.A.W. A.).

PACIFIC STAR (Sunk 28th Oct.) B.N.A. Lisbon's 2130/28. (S.O.S. from PACIFIC STAR) B.C. Las Palmas reports Spanish Tanker CAMPILO searched in view for survivors from 0300 until 1315/29th. He is urgently pressing local Authorities to take all possible steps to continue search. N.C.S.O. Funchal reports destroyer TEJO lacks fuel and no other ships available. Tenerife also informed.
(V.A.C.N.A. 2030/30 to Admty).

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War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.

Your 1653/27* Now intended that EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA should proceed to India. Vessel should
then return to U.K. via South Africa. Agreed.
(D. S.T. 0414A/30 to P.S.T.O. Capetown).
See 1735/30.

*Requesting disposal of EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.

INCONSTANT,
BLACKMOBE.

Arrived. *Durban.*
(N.O.I.C. 0859Z/30 to C. in C.E.F., etc).

See next page - (Movement Summary)

Dispositions. ASTURIAS, off Freetown to 08.01 14.59 thence 148°
14.

1 M.L. 07.10 12.40 searching for survivors.

RUNSWICK BAY, ST WISTAN, 06.55 12.25 to (?Ponta Delgada)
(?speed) 7.

SHROPSHIRE, ACTIVE, ARROW, AMARANTHUS, HECLA, SOUTHERN PRIDE,
with C.F. 7. 01.30 03.50 to 01.32 08.29 thence 319° 12.

RUMBA, 3 M.Ls, with T.S. ²³ about 03.10 04.50 to Freetown, 7½.

TAMARISK, about 03.20, 00.30 E. to Lagos 13 at 1959Z/30th. *See next page*

2 Chass, about 01.50 02.55 E. to (?Pointe Noire), 9.

TRUANT, about 11.01 S. 08.59 E. to 11.02.S. 07.01. E. thence
314°, 10.

K.14, about 12.15 S. 08.20 E. to rejoin TRUANT, 9.

Friendly (?naval) unit about 10.10 S. 19.05 patrolling to West.
(R.A. W.A. 1107Z/30 to Area P. etc).

HYDRANGEA, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, about 12.40 17.30 to
Freetown, 8½.

SIRIUS, 12.50 20.01 to 13.51 20.46 thence 355° 19½.

CANNA, 982 (?15) in (?company) with F.T. 1. 09.30 22.10
(corrupt group) 7½ at 2000Z/(?30th).

MORRIS DANCE, about 08.50 15.40 to Freetown, 9.

PANORAMA 11.59 17.35 to Bathurst 6.

S/M 552. 09.14 (corrupt group) to Freetown, 9.

(?GUARDIAN), CYCLAMEN, ARMERIA, off Freetown to 09.19. (?16) 58 thence
318° 11. *p. 951*

QUEEN OF BERMUDA, about 09.05 29.01 (?to) 09.30 30.01 thence
83° 14 days. *p. 946 1959*

M.Ls about, 09.59 14.50 searching for survivors.

(R.A.W.A. 1117Z/30 to Area P. etc).

DORYSSA.
Tanker.

Your 0721/27. Earliest date dock available at
Durban is mid December unless given priority.
(C. in C.S.A. 1123C/30 to C. in C.E.F.).

Eastern Fleet
Destroyers.

C. in C.E.F. 1235/29th (N.T. in W.D.). Para.1.
(a) Eastern Fleet destroyers operating from
Cape are disposed as follows:-

2. EXPRESS at Simonstown, completes boiler cleaning Nov.1.

CATTERICK at Simonstown. EXPRESS and CATTERICK take over escort
W.S. 23 on 2nd November from vicinity of Capetown to Durban.

3. *NORMAN with W.S.23 to Capetown.

4. *NEPAL and FORTUNE in vicinity 040° S. 022° E. searching for
survivors ex *LAPLACE embarked 29th Oct. *See next page*

5. Intend to fuel *KANARIS and sail her to overtake W.S.23 and
augment escort to Durban.

(C. in C.S.A. 1123C/30 to C. in C.E.F., N.O.I.C. Durban Cdr. (D) E.F.)

/Movement

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War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- Movement Summary 2000Z/30th. Area Q. *NEPAL U.S. Destroyer STACK searching about 040.13 S. 021.42 E. * *See previous page*
DURBAN, CARTHAGE, *NORMAN, ROCKROSE, *KANARIS, TYHME, with *W.S. 23, 021.40 S. 012.05 E. to the Cape, knots.12. * *See previous page* * *in next page*
DESPATCH, MILFORD off Walvis Bay.
- *INCONSTANT, *BLACKMOSE off Durban proceeding to R/V with NIEUW AMSTERDAM in a position to 031.36 S. 033.40 E. at 0500Z/31st. Noon position NIEUW AMSTERDAM 032.15 S. 035.45 E. to Durban. (C. in C.S.A. 1234C/30). * *See previous page*
- LAPLACE (Torpedoed 29th October.) SSSS. Distress message received at 2230C/29th from British Ship LAPLACE in 040° 13' S. 021° 42' E. Ship Torpedoed. (C. in C.S.A. 1256C/30 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F. R.A.W.A., S.O.(I) Montevideo).
See previous page
- U/B report 8th October. Ref. Loanda's 0951/19th Oct, following received from R.O. Lobito, Captain Port today received advice from Lighthouse Keeper Quicombo south of Nova Redondo that there were 11 S/MS arrived and left shore on afternoon and evening Oct. 8th. Advice delayed in post. (S.O.(I) Freetown. 1347Z/30, to S.O.(I) Capetown (R) Admty D.N.I)
- LONGWOOD. Your 2034/29. If vessel capable of proceeding to Capetown she should discharge there, vide my 1809/28. (D. of S. 1354A/30 to C. in C.S.A.).
- MAURETANIA. Arrived, expected sailing p.m./1st November. (D.S.T.O. Durban 1432C/30 to P.S.T.O. Capetown. (R) D. of S.T. etc).
See next page
- Vichy Ships. Vichy sloop A.75 and merchant ship GRANDE QUEVILLY sighted by A/C at 0640Z/30/10 in 03.41 N. 01.11 W. Course 250° speed 8 knots. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1435Z/30 to Admty (D.N.I.) (R) F.O.C.N.A.).
- * TAMARISK, CISTULA, DRUPA. Intend TAMARISK to escort CISTULA and DRUPA from Lagos sailing about 4th Nov. convoy being dispersed in about latitude 008° S. unless onward escort can be provided by C. in C.S.A. After dispersal intend TAMARISK to proceed Pointe Noire with salvage gear for PHOEBE and take part in escorting tanker *OLTHISA to Lagos. (R.A.W.A. 1525Z/30 to C. in C. S.A. (R) B.N.L.O. W.A. N.O.I.C. Lagos. PHOEBE, TAMARISK, Admty).
See previous page (D. of S. 1525Z/30)
? OLTHISA II in Lagos.

/W.S.23....

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War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- *W.S.23. My 1645/26 and your 0414/30. Changes in formation of C.M.34 have taken place and to clarify position following is final plan for composite convoy W.S. 23 and C.M.34 sailing from Durban about Monday 9th Nov.
- * *see previous page.* C.M.24. clarify position following is final plan for composite convoy W.S. 23 and C.M.34 sailing from Durban about Monday 9th Nov.
- A. For Mid East. HIGHLAND MONARCH and M.T. Ships KINA TWO STRAITS MALAKKA, PORT JACKSON plus EMPIRE TROOPER EMPIRE WOODLARK and SONTAY.
- B. For India. CAPETOWN, CASTLE EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, and M.T. Ship SILVER SANDAL plus DILWARA and DUNERA.
2. Owing to repairs last named ship could not be sailed from Durban to Capetown in time to join W.S.23 off Capetown. To make up numbers required for B.1400 India personnel ex camp at Capetown are being sailed to Durban for embarkation.
3. After departure of convoy there will be a balance of 3400 personnel for India at Capetown and about 8000 for Middle East at Durban 7200 of whom will embark in NIEUW AMSTERDAM and MAURETANIA. Capetown personnel will (?enter) in convoy C.M.35 for India only, formation of which will be proposed later. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 1735C/30, to D.S.T.).

* *see previous page.*

- Movements. Arrival 30th CORINTHIAN.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 1745Z/30 to Admty (R) R.A.W.A.
N.O.I.C. Takoradi).
Departure 30th GUARDIAN, ARMERIA, (?CYCLAMEN)
- Q.K.A. 70. *p. 949.*
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1939Z/30 to Admty, F.O.C.N.A.).

U/B. French A/C sighted U-Boat at 0645Z/30 in 003°
12' S. 009° 52' E.
(R.A.W.A. 1915Z/30 to Admty).

U/B. A.M. 1440Z/30. Empire bearings so far received indicate U-Boat between Lagos and Loanda. Lands End bearing appeared useless.
(D.D.I.C. 1939A/30 to C.O.I.S. Kilindini (R)
C. in C.S.A.).

Durban Defences. Your 1558C/26th Oct. Matter is being referred to Port Defence Committee.
2. Our information is that two 9.2 inch guns are sited on the Bluff. Please confirm.
(D.C.L.D. Approved by A.C.N.S.(F) 2107A/30 to C. in C.S.A.).

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War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements.

Arrival POOLE.
(Cdr. Aden 0331Z/30 to Admty etc).
Convoy P.A.7. arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 0538Z/30 to Admty).
29th Oct. arrival ROMEO, BURRA, Departure. BURRA,
G.S.AETOS, G.S. SAKTOURIS, ANTWERP, PORPOISE.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 0831C/30 to Admty).
Arrivals 29th Oct. ALDENHAM, Greek PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS.
Departure 29th Oct. M.L.1085.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 0944C/30 to Admty etc).
Arrival RORQUAL.
(V.A.Malta, 1247A/30 to Admty etc).

CLAN
CAMERON,
A/C
attack.

I.D. form A.A. para.10. Two attacks, first indicated by (A) second by (B).
1. CLAN CAMERON.
2. Clan Line.
3. (A) 0030Z (B) 0035Z/24 Sofaga Bay Red Sea.
4. (A) position as (3), North (approx.) 1 A/C
(B) same position. South another single A/C.
5. Same as (4).
6. Ship missed A/C escaped.
7. None.
8. A/C not clearly seen. Both twin-engined.
9. Torpedo and gunfire.
10. Not applicable. Full report follows by air.
(Cdre. Aden. 0603Z/30 to F.O.R.S.C.A.).

Beaufighters. Following for A.O.C. in C.M.E. and A.O.C. in C. M.E. and A.O.C. in C. India from Chiefs of Staff, No. C.O.S.(M.E.) 310.

1. As result of representations made by Tedder we feel compelled to postpone despatch of Beaufighters from Middle East to India until end of November.
2. Situation is as follows. Land operations in Middle East have reached a critical stage where prolonged resistance of Axis forces depends mainly on their supply position. Enemy has shown a markedly increased reliance upon air transport. Essential that supplies both by sea and air should be prevented as far as possible.
3. Demand for Beaufighters both to escort Beaufort shipping strikes and to destroy JU.52 traffic from Crete is very great and all available Beaufighters are operating at maximum intensity.
4. If all goes well in Western Desert these aircraft will be required to protect Naval Units which will be engaged in following up the success on land.
5. There are at present 3 Beaufighter Squadrons in Med. area with a total strength of 30 A/C and total serviceability of 17. By the end of October 13 A/C are expected from Takoradi making a total of 43 A/C less wastage in the meanwhile.
6. Tedder estimates that despatch of 16 Beaufighters can be made to India at end of November at same time leaving the 3 Squadrons in the Middle East at approx. full strength.

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War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Beaufighters. 7. Whilst making this concession to Middle
Contd. East we wish to emphasize importance of
fulfilling the reinforcement programme to
India in order that squadrons forming there
may be given an opportunity for training. We therefore
expect A.O.C. in C. Middle East to make every endeavour to
despatch the 16 Beaufighters at end of November.
(Air Min. T.O.O. 1145Z/30).

TAKU. Southbound traffic from Piraeus usually passes
information. between Giorgio and Thermia Island thence by
varying routes to Crete or Africa. All 3
Kithera Channels are (?known) to be in use but Anti-Kithera
most popular.
2. Your area is extended to include that portion area K North
(?West) line 135° from Cape Matapan.
(Capt. S.1. 1202C/30 to TAKU (R) C. in C. Med etc).
You may have been sighted by A/C yesterday evening.
(Capt. S.1. 1247C/30 to TAKU).

DERNA. Extract from a Fairmiss telegram.
Departure 29th 2000 DERNA, Italian, Genoa,
probably via Valencia.
(Barcelona - T.O.O. 1332/30/42 to M.W.T.).

OSSAG. German tanker OSSAG entered Dardanelles 8 G.M.T/30
Northbound.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1534C/30).

Black Sea. Enemy has commenced regular sailings of 5 to 7
tugs towing oil barges from Roumanian to Crimean
ports escorted by R-Boats.
2. Novorossisk. Enemy attacks beaten off with heavy losses to
enemy who is now receiving reinforcements.
3. Maikop Front. Russian intelligence reports about this front
are unusually vague. After yielding some ground Russian counter
attacks have apparently checked advance along Tuapse Road. Enemy
has advanced slightly to south east of this road.
4. My 1204/25/9. last sentence. Enemy's new offensive (around
Ordzhonikidze) to S.W. appears a drive on Tiflis and Kutaisi.
Two roads over Caucasus give access to both towns.
(N.L.O. Black Sea 1635C/30 to Admtly Adm. Miles).

Malta Air I.79. (Part 1 not received from Air Ministry)
Report. Part 2. (all R/C)
(A.H.Q. Malta 1950/30).

Pt.2. Sec.2. Night 29/30th. 2 Torpedo Wellington eights despatched
to attack enemy southbound convoy photographed. 1200 hours. Found
no convoy but sighted 2000 hours 290°. Antipaxos 15 miles 1
Hospital ship course 140°
(A.H.Q. Malta 2000/30).

/CLYDE...

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War Diary.

30.10.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

CLYDE,
PARTHIAN.

Capt.(S) 1 1427C/27th CLYDE is to pass through 035° 12' 015° 30' thence south of Q.B.B.95 to reach point of arrival at 1031A/3/11.

My 2153A/29th. 20th M.S. Flotilla is to search position with Sweepers at 1131A/2/11. Own mine sweepers will be South West of Malta and Gozo within 15 miles of the coast during night of 1st/2nd and 2nd/3rd. Nov.

(Capt.S.10. 2125A/30 to CLYDE, PARTHIAN (R) Capt.(S) 1 C. in C. Med).

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Operation "Demcat" U/B Hunt. Following received addressed 222 Group H.Q.'s Ceylon from A/C "N" of 205 Squadron (Far East Area). 1 S/M submerged bearing 260° 6 miles course 160° position 1.36 N. 67.39 E. (Simonstown W/T 0210Z/30 to C. in C. E.F.)

Following received addressed 222 Group H.Q. from A/C "N" of 205 Squadron (begins) Enemy submarine previously reported bearing 260° course 160°, speed 10 knots. (Simonstown W/T 0230Z/30 to C. in C. E.F.)

Following read. Addressed No.222 Grp. Hqs Ceylon (Far East Cmd) from A/C "N" of 205 Squad (Far East Cmd) Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in position 1.35 N. 67.31 (or 37) E. circling sea markers (group missing.) (Kilindini 0325Z/30 to Admty.)

Ref. Admty. Message A.F. position 01° 36' 67° 39'. (Adm. Mombasa 0344Z/30 to B.A.M.S. Area 7 A.)

Catalina which sighted U-boat is to cease D.E.M. report and hunt U-Boat to prudent limit of endurance. (C. in C. E.F. 0349Z/30 to 222 Group (R) N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, Force D., F.O. Ceylon.)

(? Catalina) reports sighting enemy submarine at 0210Z/30th in 001° 36' N. 067° 39' E. (C. in C. E.F. 0402/30 to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

Japanese U-Boat 1 definite 001° 36' N. 067° 39' W. 30th Oct. (C. in C. E.F. 1245Z/30 to S. & A. E.I. Stn. etc.)

My 0349/30th. A.S.V. Catalinas on passage to Mombasa and any available A/S vessels in sight or near Addu Atoll are to make organised hunt for U-Boat sighted by Catalina one T.O.N. F.O. Ceylon to issue instructions. (C. in C. E.F. 0356Z/30 to F.O. Ceylon, 222 Group (R) Force D.)

Catalina one T.O.N. has been ordered to remain in vicinity of S/M which may be that damaged by A/C attack on 25th Oct. near Ras-al-Hadd. (F.O. Ceylon 0351Z/3 to S.O. Force D. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

FRITILLARY (and?) HOXA are to raise steam with all despatch. Further orders follow. (F.O. Ceylon 0416Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, (R) HAWKINS.)

My 0351Z/30th estimated U-boat should pass south of Addu about dawn 1st November. Catalina C organising accordingly and FRITILLARY and HOXA from Addu are being sent to assist. Request CAIRNS may also be diverted to take part in hunt. (F.O. Ceylon 0424Z/30 to C. in C. E.F. (R) S.O. Force D. HAWKINS.)

Sailed FRITILLARY so as to reach position 000° 50' S. 069° 50' E. by 1730Z/30. Catalina will carry out A.S.V. search of area to North Westwards of this position during the night. Object to locate and destroy U-Boat possibly damaged sighted by Catalina at 0210Z/30 in 001° 36' N. 067° 39' E. Considered probable that U-Boat will pass south of Addu. (F.O. Ceylon 0506Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, (R) C. in C. E.F. S.O. Force D. HAWKINS.)

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War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Lon Ts.

Operation "Demcat" U/B Hunt (contd.)

(1) Sail HOXA as soon as ready to proceed at best speed to $1\frac{1}{2}$ channel to establish A/S patrol.
 (2) HOXA to maintain watch on 500 k/cs.
 (3) HOXA report? E.T.A. on patrol before sailing.
 (F.O. Ceylon 0513Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll,
 (R) S.O. Force D. HAWKINS, C. in C. E.F.?)

Proceed at best speed towards Addu Atoll. Further orders will be given by F.O.I.C. Ceylon.

(C. in C. E.F. 0521Z/30 to CAIRNS (R) F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, HAWKINS.)

Proceed best speed towards position $002^{\circ} 40' S. 072^{\circ} 30' E.$
 Report P.C. and S. at 0800Z/30th.

(F.O. Ceylon 0555Z/30 to CAIRNS (R) C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, S.O. Force D. FRITILLARY, HAWKINS.)

Your 0356Z/30th. Should HAWKINS and KUTSANG remain Addu or proceed without anti-S/M escort?

(F.O. Ceylon 0606Z/30 to C. in C. E.F. (R) HAWKINS.)

Departure 0700Z/30 Oct. FRITILLARY (? HOXA).

(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0710Z/30 to Admty., S.O.(I)s Bombay, Colombo, Kilindini, Aden.)

Force Q. will consist of following ships: FRITILLARY,

CAIRNS and LISMORE.

(F.O. Ceylon 1131Z/30 to S. and A. E.I. Station, (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

U-Boat sighted by Catalina employed on operation "Demcat" in $001^{\circ} 36' N. 067^{\circ} 39' E.$ course 160° estimated speed 10 knots at 0210Z/30th. U-Boat was seen to submerge.

(2) HOXA, FRITILLARY, CAIRNS and LISMORE and 5 Catalinas are being organized by F.O. Ceylon to search (?territory) and hunt for U-Boat.

(C. in C. E.F. 1914Z/30 to Admty. (R) F.O. Ceylon.)

MATIANA,
CLAN FORBES.

F.O. Ceylon's 0708/27 Aug. not to S.T.O. Calcutta and S.T.O. Calcutta's 0949/15 Oct. not to remaining addressees. Understood MATIANA sailing Calcutta 15th Oct. but no confirmation received. Request report as to present position and proposals regarding release of CLAN FORBES.

(D. of S.T. 0229A/30 to F.O. Ceylon, S.T.O. Calcutta, (R) C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. India.)

ORDUNA.

D. of S.T. 1708/29th, concur use of ORDUNA for movement of Battalion I.C.A.R.

(C. in C. E.F. 0742Z/30 to D. of S.T., C. in C. S.A., P.S.T.O. Egypt, S.T.O. Diego Suarez.)

/Convoy ...

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

Convoy Assembly Port. Your 1506/29/9. If risk of attack is accepted agree to use the Gulf of Kutch for convoy assembly for independently-routed ships.
2. Water boat for Port F. will be ready about the end of November. If it is intended to institute convoys before that date, congestion at Bombay will have to be accepted temporarily, but I am loathe to do this.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0958Z/30 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty., S.N.O.P.G.)

Movements. Arrival 0442Z CHITRAL and RAJPUTANA escorting one ship, 0534Z GAMBIA.
(S.O.(I.) Bombay 0913Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

Addu Atoll cable. Master JOHN W. MACKAY reports that it is impracticable to land shore and flotation even if several craft were available.
(2) Only alternative is to take cable through a cleared channel. This would involve removal of minefields.
(4) Consider project should be abandoned or postponed until proper survey and thorough preparations have been sent by technical experts.
(F.O. Ceylon 0916Z/30 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Eastern Fleet, N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll.)

RUYS. Propose to use RUYS for military personnel of 29th Independent Brigade Mombasa to Durban. Escort available. Agreed.
(D.S.T.O. Kilindini 1239Z/30 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Situation No.13. (1) No further information Japanese or German raider (E). (2) ANNELIESE ESSBERGER not present Bay of Biscay 17th Oct. may have left for Far East.
(C. in C. E.F. 1240Z/30 to E.I. Stn., F.L.O. Delhi.)

6-in guns ex RESOLUTION. C. in C. S.A. 1558/26. Four 6" guns and converse mountings will be removed from RESOLUTION during present period at Durban in accordance with a.m. 1026/2nd.
2. Strongly recommend these equipments be allocated for the service referred in C. in C. SA's signal.
(C. in C. E.F. 1315Z/30 to Admty.)

/Liberator ...

War Diary.

30.10.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Liberator
Sqdn.

I have informed A.O.C. in C. India of substance of your 1807/27th concerning Liberator squadron and stated that in view of time which must elapse before Eastern Fleet can be reinforced I am strongly of the opinion that this squadron must be based in Ceylon.

(ii) A.O.C. in C. did not consult me before making his 1103/24th and it was not clear to me until receipt of your signal that these Liberators were necessary primarily for naval operations. Have asked A.O.C. in C. for early reply giving his views and hoping A.O.C. can settle locally.
(C. in C. E.F. 1334Z/30 to Admty.)

DEVONSHIRE.

My P.C. and S. are 001° 57' N. 062° 08' E.
255° 17 knots. 46% oil fuel remaining.
Weather Report.
(DEVONSHIRE 1902Z/30 to C. in C. E.F. (R)
Force D.)

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Shipping Request routeing officers concerned may be
Oban. instructed to warn Masters of all ships proceeding
to Oban to keep clear of the flare path in
approaches to that port used by night flying A/C.
Such ships should burn navigation lights at full brilliance on
entering Firth of Lorne.
(D.T.D. 1146Z/30 to Connav. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.)

U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 50° 30' N 46° 30' W.
(A/C call sign JLD Duty Y 1208/30 to Call sign
YX8.)
Fire (as received) a pattern of depth charges.
(A/C call sign JLD Duty Y. 1209/30 to Call sign Y X 8.)
Following has been read by Halifax W/T:- If no sighting
at 30.50 N (50.30 N intended ?) 46.30 W. Proceed 50.30 N
45.30 W.
(Halifax W/T 1314/30 to C. in C. W.A. Londonderry for 24.7.)
Estimate position attack 57.57 N 46.(?) 8 W.
(A/C Call sign JLD Duty Z 1330 G.M.T./30 to Halifax W/T.)

Suspicious R.O. San Juan reports Master and 1st. Officer
ship EMPIRE FALCON state vessel sighted in 008° 00' N
17th Oct. 036° 14' W on 17th Oct. course 140° to 150°
strongly resembled German Ship PORTLAND.
(S.O.I. Kingston 1254R/30 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

EMPIRE C. in C. W.A. 0738/14, O.N.S.138, EMPIRE PLANET
PLANET for St. Johns has not arrived.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1314Z/30 to Admty. (R)
N.S.H.Q. Connav. C.O.A.C.)

A.T.28. 1. (?A) T.28 (?sailing) telegram.
2. 1330/30 Chebucto Head.
3. 0700/3rd Nov. in 56.08 N 10.00 W.
4. 26.2 knots.
5. As my 2019/28th (?)
10. 11. 12. SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH, passengers, mail, general, Clyde.
(C.O.A.C. 1331Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

T.A.G. Your 1405Z/29 (lowest speeds for inclusion in fast
and G.N. and slow TAG and GN convoys.) Fast T.A.G. and G.N.
Convoys. 10 knots. Slow 8 knots.
(Connav 1402/30 to Admty.)

STEPHEN Connav's 2110/29 to Comnaveu.
HOPKINS Grateful for any further details of method of
(sunk by raiders, attack, description of raiders and exact position
27th Sept.) of attack on STEPHEN HOPKINS.
(D.D.I.C. 1455Z/30 to Cominch (R) Comnaveu.)

CHELSEA. Will be ready to sail ^{Boston for} Halifax a.m. Thursday 5th.
Nov. ~~5th~~ ^{p. 999}
(B.A.R.M. 1456Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B S/M sighted by A/C 50.30 N 45.30 W at 1208/30.
(C.O.A.C. 1515Z/30 to GB7A. C.T.24. (R) F.O.N.F. etc.)

U/B positions. Special estimate and weather forecast.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1520/30 to Admty.)
See North Atlantic.

Shipping Gulf of Maine. Concur your 2056A/29. Suggest time and place
detachment of ships be ordered by C.O.A.C.
considering latest sub and convoy situation.
(Connav 1520/30 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U/B Positions. Oct. 30th. S/M estimates and U.S. Submarine Notice.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1520/30, 1521/30, 1554/30,
1555/30, 1556/30 to Admty.)

U/B (?Inconclusive) D/F bearing at 1423Z on 10510
K/cs indicates U-Boat in vicinity of either S.C.107
or H.X.213.
(N.S.H.Q. 1632Z/30 to C.T.U.24.18.4. C.T.U. 24.
18.7. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A.
Opanav.)

WITCH Boston. Arrived 1138Z/30.
(N.S.H.Q. 1655Z/30 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C.O.A.C.
F.O.N.F.)

U/B. U-Boat transmitting on surface 045° 40' N 053° 00' W
at (?1459) 30th.
(C.O.A.C. 1708Z/30 to GB7A (R) C.T.F.24. Connav.
Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.
C.T.G.24.7.)

Convoy T.21. Sailed H.M. Trawler ST.ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN,
COVENTRY CITY, NORWICH CITY, NORTHERN DUKE
escorting Convoy T.21 to Freetown E.T.A. 1800Z/14th
November.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1752Q/30 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R)
Admty. B.A.D. C. in C. S.A. S.O.I. Kingston (Jam.)
R.A.W.A. N.O.B. Trinidad.)
My 1752/30. NORWICH CITY returned Trinidad
steering defect.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1922Q/30.)

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War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Dates, Description. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W)327. Attention has been drawn to possibilities of serious confusion arising from different American and British methods of describing dates in operation orders, signals etc. Thus we sometimes write 5/11 meaning 5th November which to the Americans is 11th May.

2. Following proposals were therefore put to Gen. Eisenhower:-
 (a) That a date should be described thus "5th Nov.",
 (b) That on "D" day, and after "D" day has actually passed, subsequent days should be described by calendar date and not by "D" + numeral, except when future plans are involved.

3. Gen. Eisenhower agreed with these proposals and is bringing above methods into effect at once, both in Theatre H.Q. and Allied Force H.Q. Similar instructions are therefore being promulgated forthwith by Admty, War Office and Air Ministry.

4. Could this be adopted as a common American-British practice? (Air Min. 1840Z/30 to Britman, Washington.) *U.S. reply: JSM 2251/11/1/43.*

U/B. S/M sighted on surface 046° 06' N 052° 49' W at 1505/30.
 (C.O.A.C. 1840Z/30 to GB7A.)

B.Y.M.S. Intend unless otherwise ordered to sail B.Y.M.S. 802, 803, 804, 830, a.m. Monday Nov. 2nd by Great Circle to Londonderry.
 (C.C.N.F. 1931Z/30 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. etc.)

Mid-Ocean Groups. Whilst U-Boat activity on east coast remains slight Navy Dept. has decided to take three Long Leg destroyers from coastal convoy escorts to be turned over to Comtask 24 for temporary reinforcement of Mid-Ocean groups.
 (B.A.D. 2059Z/30 to Admty.)

Shipping Intelligence. My 1601/29 para 1 (G) Suggest Commodores of O.N. and O.N.S. convoys be instructed to report names of any ships in convoy which have requirements for voyage repairs or any necessaries which will prevent them making connection with outgoing convoy at short notice.
 (2) To avoid using W/T the message could be made to escort entering Halifax and passed to New York by cable.
 (B.A.D. 2101Z/30 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.)

REGINA My 1915/29 (Re S C Task Unit 24.1.14 (N.T. in W.D.) REGINA returned St. Johns N.F. with engine defects. If possible will be sailed to overtake.
 (F.O.N.F. 2114Z/30 to C.T.U. 24.1.14. (R) C.T.24. C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. Connav. C.T.G.24.7. C. in C. W.A. Admty.)

/Sub. attack...

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. A. PAN NEW YORK torpedoed sunk 54.58 N 23.56 W 0423Z/29. BIC ISLAND and GDYNIA torpedoed 55.05 N 23.27 W about 0420Z/29. DRUMMONDVILLE one torpedo miss 47.08 N 52.38 W 1750Z/29. Corrected position ROTHLEY 13.34 N 54.34 W. R.A.F. plane attacks sub. 55.26 N 27.04 W 1333Z/28. R.A.F. plane sights sub. 55.27 N 26.48 W 1643Z/28. Plane sights sub. 50.30

N 45.30 W 1208Z/30 course 314.

B. REEDPOOL two torpedo hits. SAN ELISEO three torpedo hits two misses. R.A.F. F.C. plane sights sub. 03.18 N 02.52 W 1322Z/4. COLOMBIA sights sub. on surface 46.06 N 52.49 W 1505Z/30.

C. U.S.S. QUICK attacks sound contact 11.15 N 62 W 1207Z/15 Sept. Plane sights subs following positions 28 Sept. 3 white subs 01.20 N 03.42 W about 1230Z, sub. 03.39 N 01.12 W 1335Z, two subs 04.32 N 00.30 W 1355Z and six subs 05.15 N 00.17 W 1440Z. Sub. sighted 02.15 E 06.20 N 0742Z/29 Sept. A-29 sights sub. 01.06 N 04.53 W 1300Z/30 Sept. and submerging sub. 01.41 N 04.53 W 1315Z/30 Sept. R.A.F. R.C. plane sights two subs 00.45 N 03.55 W 1240Z/1 course 337 plane sights sub. 45.57 N 55.34 W 1919Z/29. Fisherman sights sub. on surface 47.30 N 59 W course west a.m. 29th Oct. Sub. sighted 17.05 N 64.19 W 2012Z/29.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2117/30 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

COWICHAN
S.C.107.

E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 0200Z/31 COWICHAN in company escorting ship numbers 21 and 22 from S.C.107. COWICHAN has defective R.D.F. and reducing valve in steering engine. May ships enter harbour? (FENNEL 2130Z/30 to Comnav. (R) C.T.F.24. etc.)

U/B
Positions.

1743/30 from C.E.S.F. giving 0800Q/31 submarine estimate.
(Comnav 2139/30 to Admty.)

REGENT.

Route REGENT to Philadelphia through (R) 36.01 N 68.58 W (XM) 38.19 74.27 thence steer 315° true keeping close to and northward of buoys marking mid-channel. Request bombing restriction 50 miles ahead 50 miles astern and 15 miles each side of track. Issue necessary submarine notice COM 4 pass to Port Director, Philadelphia. (Comnav 2145/30 to N.O.B. Bermuda. (R) Cinclant. Admty. etc.)

Trawlers
Trinidad.

My 0033/22 para 3 and Admty. 1243/27 para 3. Group 5 consisting of BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER delayed for essential repairs should arrive Trinidad about 16th Nov.
(B.A.D. 2157Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

ILEX.

see p. 959

Sail ILEX to conform Admty. 1904Z/29. ^{p-927}
(Cominch 2157/30 to U.S. N.O.B. Trinidad. (R)
R.A.W.A. C.C.S.F. S.B.N.O. W.A. ILEX. C. in C.
S.A. N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

963A
30/10
SECRET

SECRET

MESSAGE

No T.O.O.

OUT

To: Governor of Bahamas
(H.R.H. The Duke of
Windsor).

DATE: .10.42.

From: Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 283 Secret.

Your Royal Highness's telegram No. 244.

Off-shore patrol.

1. Information given was passed on to Admiralty on receipt of your telegram and I have now had their views.

2. They incline to the view that as 1,000 to 1,500 R.A.F. personnel of whom three-quarters will be armed are now being sent to the Bahamas and as three air-sea rescue craft have been provided it is probably no longer necessary to man local launches for patrols. They point out that R.A.F. aircraft although only training will also be a deterrent to raiding submarines.

4. I am disposed to agree subject to any further observations Your Royal Highness may have.

No T.O.O.

Received from Colonial Office 1745/4/11.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F).
N.A. 1st S.I.
D. of I. (3).
D. of H.D. (2).
N.A. 2nd S.I. (2).
D.P.S. (2).
C.D. (5).
C.S. (5).
D. 1/3. W.
M. (5) (M. 09723/42).
D.D. O.D. (C) (2).
I. P. (3).
W.D.

SECRET

9638

MESSAGE. No T.O.O./30th Oct. IN.

From : Governor Bahamas (H.R.H. The Duke of Windsor)

Date. 31.10.42.

Time. 0540.

Cypher.

Addressed : Secretary of State for the Colonies.

13036/42.

No. 339 Secret. Your telegram No. 283.

Offshore patrol.

I agree with the Admiralty ruling that no longer necessary to man local launches for patrol.

No T.O.O./30.

Not Distributed as Most Secret.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D. of P. (3)

D. of L.D. (2)

N.A. 2 S.L. (2)

D.B.S. (2)

C.D. (5)

Ops. (3)

D.A./S.W.

M. (5) (M09723/42)

D.D.O.D. (C) (2)

I.P. (3)

W.D.

Received from Colonial Office. 1745/4/11.

MLC.

SECRET

War Diary.

30.10.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Security of Cyphers. J.S.M. 447 30/10/42. Your C.O.S.(W) 286 (proposals to prevent information reaching the enemy 1255/15/9) Proposal was submitted to War and Navy Dept. 1st Oct. and warmly welcomed by them. Action now rests with Combined Intelligence Committee who will report to Combined Chiefs of Staff for final ratification. Delay has, however, arisen on American side owing to absence of any central control agency. Question therefore referred by U.S. Chiefs to U.S. Communications Board in order to establish such an agency.
(J.S.M. Washington 2219Z/30 to C.O.S. London.)

Floating Dock Towage. S.B.N.O. W.A's 1724/28.
(1) ADVANTAGE and ASPIRANT will not be completed in time to relieve Dutch Tugs by date they will have to sail for New Orleans.
(2) Intend sailing B.A.T.9, DESTINY to Bermuda as soon as worked up arriving there about mid November (see my 2035/29, not to all addressees.)
(3) Propose (A) B.A.T.9 DESTINY relieves ROODE ZEE at Bermuda.
(B) B.A.T.1 ORIANA relieves ZWARTE ZEE at Trinidad arriving about end of November.
(C) ADVANTAGE and ASPIRANT to sail with Dock and take allocations to Suez and Freetown from ORIANA and DESTINY.
(D) DESTINY and ORIANA to New York when relieved by returning Dutch Tug.
(B.A.D. 2223Z/30 to Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A. etc.)

Names of M/Vs sunk. Concealment. Your 2055/16. Navy Dept. concur and further consider that War W/T call signs should be used in enemy sighting reports amplifying reports and cancellation messages. Name of ship in P/L will of course have to be omitted.
2. In order to establish definitely identity of ship cancelling distress message Navy Dept. suggest name of ship be included in coded version of the cancellation message.
3. This will require amendment in Mersigs Vol.111.
(B.A.D. 2235Z/30 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals Brisbane 29th Oct.
(U.S. Ship ?CHEW or LAUB) ECHUCA both from Sydney (N.S.W.) Port Moresby 28th STUART, ARMIDALE.
Departures Brisbane 29th, ROCKHAMPTON for Sydney (N.S.W.) on escort duties.
Sydney (N.S.W.) 29th DELORAINÉ on escort duties, U.S. Destroyer HELM to R/V and escort U.S. S/M Tender HOLLAND.
(N.B. Melbourne 0411Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

/Situation...

War Diary.30.10.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.- Contd.

Situation. Digest Serial Number 281, Oct. 29th.
Reports indicate 2 heavy cruisers, 3/5 light
cruisers, 16/18 destroyers, 3 probable seaplane
tenders, 1 tanker, 12 merchant vessels Buin Faisi area 29th plus
1 15000 ton passenger vessel which arrived 28th departed 29th.
Reliably reported 29th enemy strongly reinforced this area.
2. Air R/C 29th reported 4 merchant vessels Ambon Bay, 2
unidentified vessels Dilli.
3. Allied pressure maintained 28th Eora area.
4. Enemy concentration reported Buna area 29th.
5. Several aircraft attacked Port Moresby early morning 29th.
Few casualties, no damage.
6. Allied air operations 29th. 9 Fortresses attacked shipping
Buin area round midnight 28/29. Explosion seen on unidentified
vessel. Near misses by straddles on other ships. 2 morning
attacks by 3 Bostons Buna Kokoda area. Results not observed.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0715Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

U.S. Arrivals Vila 29th Oct. U.S. ship FULLER, SHAW,
Ships. FARRAGUT, CONYINGHAM, VIOEO HOVEY last two vessels
departed again 29th.
(D.I. Wellington 1642M/30.) + As received.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions 1200Z/30 very indefinite.
(D.D.I.C. 1429A/30, 1503A/30.)

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War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
F. B.

Six merchant ships have sailed independently from Iceland (C) with supplies for North Russia. H.M. Ships taking part in the operation are LONDON (C.S.L.) LIGHTNING, MUSKETEER, TUNA, O.15. A/S Trawler NORTHERN SPRAY is returning to harbour after having sustained damage in the engine room whilst carrying out a depth charge attack on a submarine in 70° 17' N 14° 14' W (110 miles S.W. of Jan Mayen Island) in the early hours of today.

Force Q.

NORFOLK and CUMBERLAND sailed from Scapa tonight.

At 0810 this morning M.T.B.87 while attempting to intercept an enemy convoy off the Dutch coast was blown in half by what is believed to have been a mine in about 52° 56' N, 2° 54' E, and was left on fire and sinking. Her crew were all rescued by M.T.B.232.

The S/M P.556, homeward bound from the Mediterranean reported at 1701A today from 44° 6' N 13° 53' W that, though able to dive in an emergency, she was unable to remain submerged and that she considered her situation to be critical.

Convoy
H.X.212.

The British Tanker FRONTENAC, missing from convoy H.X.212, was sighted by ROTHERHAM at 0235Z today in 51° 55' N 20° 3' W steering 075° at 5 knots. She was torpedoed on 28th October, but reached Lamalash safely on 4th Nov.

S.N.3 F

R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE left Port ZA at 2222A with ships of the 1st M/L Squadron to carry out the postponed minelaying operation S.N.3 F.

At 0144 today a Wellington sighted and attacked with depth charges in 46° 50' N 5° 12' W (95 miles S.S.W. of Lorient) 3 ships reported as destroyers.

North Atlantic.Convoy
S.L.125.

SS. ALASKA (Freetown for London) made a distress signal at 0015 G.M.T. today and reported that she was sinking in 35° 6' N 16° 59' W and had many serious casualties. Her W/T reception is out of action. (At 0110Z/4, however, COWSLIP reported

/ALASKA...

It was reported on 13th November that ALASKA had arrived safely at Lisbon under her own steam and that SILVERWILLOW sank in tow of JAUNTY a.m./12th November.

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic.Convoy
S.L.125.

ALASKA able to proceed at 5 knots).
A total of at least 11 ships has now been torpedoed in S.L.125 viz. ANGLO MAERSK. PACIFIC STAR, (sunk) STENTOR, (sunk) NAGPORE, (sunk) PRESIDENT DOUMER, (sunk) BARON VERNON (sunk) ALASKA, HOPECASTLE, CORINALDO, SILVERWILLOW, (abandoned but salvageable) TASMANIA, and BULLMOUTH is missing believed sunk. F.O.C.N.A. hoped to get 2 Catalinas away to S.L. 125 about noon today. Weather has prevented air escort being sent earlier. PETUNIA escorting S.L.125 attacked a U-Boat at 1300Z in 36.35 N 16.02 W. At 1707Z she reported 2 U-Boats on the surface in 37.10 N 16.00 W., and that RAMSEY was chasing. SS. RENASCENT was reported to have been found by Portuguese SS. SERPA PINTO damaged but refused assistance this afternoon about 170 miles N.E. of Madeira, but it seems the ship may have been SS. ALASKA (see above.)

K.M.F.1.

A U-Boat was reported in the general vicinity of K.M.F.1 at 1012Z today, but does not appear to have reported the convoy.

W.S.24.

At 2009Z a U-Boat was reported by D/F possibly in the vicinity of W.S.24.

The crew of the ANGLO MAERSK which was torpedoed in attacks on convoy S.L.125 on 26th Oct. landed at Tenerife today; the ship sank.

MINNA.

Patrol vessel MINNA painted pink left Gibraltar at 1930A today to operate off the north African coast between longitude 001° 55' E and 002° 20' E on the night 2/3 Nov. or one of the next two nights if the weather is unsuitable.

South Atlantic.

SS. ALDINGTON COURT, Philadelphia for Table Bay and Alexandria, made an "S" report at 2031 G.M.T. in 20.11 or 30.11 S 01.22 or 21.32 W.

Survivors were landed near Agulhas today from EMPIRE CHAUCER sunk by U-Boat on 17 Oct. in 37° 30' S 21° E about 120 miles south of Cape Agulhas.

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Minesweeping groups manned by the Royal Hellenic Navy have now joined the Mediterranean Fleet as follows:- 404 Group: LEBAN, ALKANET, PALLAS (late ATHENE) 405 Group: CAMBUSLANE, CAMBUSKENNETH, CAMBUSDON, CAMBUSLIE.

Long range fighters effectively attacked Matruh harbour today.

It is reported that the Russians last night repulsed an attempted enemy landing from 30 R-Boats at points 10 to 12 k.m. southeast of Novorossisk.

East Indies.

Operation "Demcat" was concluded today without result other than the Japanese U-Boat reported yesterday. F.O. Ceylon on 2 Nov. sent a message to C. in C. E.F. explaining why the operation failed. *(page 65, November)*

222 Group explained (1100Z/3rd Nov.) that they were endeavouring to cover an extremely wide area of ocean with inadequate resources. *(page 104, November)*

America and West Indies.

While agreeing that there has been a decline in shipping casualties east of Trinidad, Admty. do not consider it desirable to amend the routing policy at present, as suggested by B.A.D. on 29/10. There is no definite evidence that the number of U-Boats in this area has been materially reduced. In the last 10 days records show 4 sightings and one attack on U-Boats, and 3 attacks on shipping within 450 miles of Trinidad.

An aircraft attacked a U-Boat at 1605Z in 48.46 N 50.24 W with depth charges and estimates one hit.

At 2205 G.M.T. off Georgetown beacon, JOSEPHINE LAWRENCE reported she was being chased by a S/M.

War Diary.

31.10.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Nine B.17s attacked shipping at Rabaul early this morning and set one unidentified vessel on fire and possibly damaged others.

Nine B.17s also attacked shipping in the Buin Faisi area early this morning and obtained 2 direct hits and 2 near misses on a possible heavy cruiser, causing an explosion, and a direct hit on a merchant vessel and 2 near misses on a light cruiser.

The Allied superiority in shore-based aircraft keeps the Japanese heavy ships mainly to the north of the Solomons and New Britain.

War Diary.

31.10.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Mersey. Ministry of War Transport letter D.D.S.T. (D.C.B.)
Ship-repair of 29th October 1942 to P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports
situation. directs that 18 berths on Merseyside are to be
reserved for Motor Transport and Store ships.
There is very little work for ship repair firms
in these vessels and it is understood the berths are likely
to be required for at least two months. The result is that
there are very few berths available for naval and merchant
ship repair-work, and work in naval and other vessels is having
to be refused. Repair firms are now crying out for work.
Unless this can be altered shipyard-workers cannot be kept in
employment and will have to be released to other areas. It is
doubtful if they could be recovered when wanted, so that the
capacity of Merseyside for repair-work may be seriously and
permanently impaired. This would lead to serious curtailment
of repairs to warships, merchant ships, and fitting out of troop
transports. Urgently recommend consultation with Ministry of
War Transport to consider if position can be alleviated.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1850A/31 to Admty.)

Movements.

UREDD. My 1147/30. Sailed.
PRESTON NORTH (S.O. S/M Lerwick 0110A/31 to A.C.O.S.)
END Am proceeding onward from 32 Buoy with PRESTON
NORTH END as escort, having failed to R/V M.L. 345.
(UREDD 1900/31 to Capt. S.9.)

PORTSDOWN, Sailed A/S Trawlers PORTSDOWN, YESTOR, VIVIANA and
YESTOR, SPHENE. E.T.A. Horta 0900A/11.
VIVIANA, (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0550A/31.)
SPHENE.

VIZALMA, Your 1806A/30. Position 0800A/31, 051° 36' N.
MARAUDER. 015° 44' W. course 050°, 11 knots. MARAUDER
only in company. Request repetition of her
destination.
(VIZALMA 0845/31 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0845/31. Destination MARAUDER, Scapa.
(C. in C. W.A. 1335A/31 to VIZALMA.)

TRITON, My 1619A/23, para 4 is cancelled consequent
TRANSVAAL, upon receipt of Admiralty's 1921A/30.
LAPERGERIA, (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0947A/31 to Admty.)
EMPIRE GNOME,
EMPIRE
MINOTAUR.

/BROCKLESBY ...

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31.10.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

BROCKLESBY. My 1910A/30 and C. in C. Plymouth's 1729/30.
S.G.B.8. Intend to sail BROCKLESBY from Plymouth and
See p. 973 & 974 S.G.B. for Dartmouth in company from Needles
1330 today. E.T.A. Dartmouth 1800/31 and
Plymouth 2000/31.
2. My 1910A/30 para 2. For S.G.B. 3 read S.G.B.9.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1000A/31.)
My 1910A/30 and my 1000A/31 para 2. Intend to sail S.G.B.9
from Needles at 1530 today for Portland. E.T.A. 1700/31.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1230A/31.)
My 1000A/31. Sailed Needles 1340/31.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1415A/31.)
My 1230A/31. Sailed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1652A/31.)
Your 1230A/31. Arrived 1715A/31.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1725A/31 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Proceed with S.G.B. to Dartmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1725A/31 to BROCKLESBY.)
Your 1415/31. S.G.B.8 plus BROCKLESBY arrived Dartmouth.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1832/31 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

H.M.54. Intend sailing H.M.54 at 1600A/31 by usual route
to Milford Haven and Barry Roads. Escort
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1001A/31.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic:-
Area Iceland (C): BERWICK, LONDON, 1 destroyer.
Area Scapa: ANSON, KING GEORGE V., CUMBERLAND,
NORFOLK, SUFFOLK, 6 destroyers.
On passage to operational area: DUKE OF YORK,
NELSON, RENOWN, FORMIDABLE, VICTORIOUS, ARGUS, ARGONAUT,
SHEFFIELD, DELHI, JAMAICA, SCYLLA, AVENGER, BITER, DASHER, 13
destroyers.
Area Gibraltar: RODNEY, FURIOUS, BERMUDA, CHARYBDIS, 3 destroyers.
(D.O.D. (H.) 1106Z/31 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

SEVERN, R/V with LA CAPRICIEUSE and L.23 in 180° Barra
L.23. Head 5 miles at 0800A/2.
(Capt. S.3 1125A/31 to SEVERN.)

P.34. P.34 arrived Needles 1500/30.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1215A/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

9th M/S My 1600/30. Sailed 1200.
Flotilla. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1225A/31 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven)

/TIGRIS ...

War Diary.

31.10.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

TIGRIS. TIGRIS is required to proceed Gibraltar as soon as possible after completion R.D.F. trials and wiping.
2. In order to expedite passage the following alternatives are proposed in order of preference (A) Escorted from Chatham to Greenock, Lizard Head. (B) Escorted from Chatham to Portsmouth, thence onward escort to Greenock, Lizard Head. (C) Escorted from Chatham to Greenock, Isle of Wight thence diving by day.
3. C. in C. Nore and C. in C. Portsmouth are requested to inform F.O.(S) which of the above alternatives are possible.
(F.O.S. 1248A/31.)

TRIBUNE. Sailed TRIBUNE escorted by CUTTY SARK in accordance with S.3's 1431A/29.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1326A/31.)

W.A. Situation at 1955A/31. Details.
Command. (C. in C. W.A. 1358A/31.)
See Lion Copy.

Raiding Force "H". C. in C. Portsmouth's 1010A/29 and A.M.1344A/30.
BRIGADIER, Sailed raiding force H 1815A/31. BRIGADIER,
CANTERBURY, CANTERBURY, and BIARRITZ E.T.A. Clyde 1330A/1st.
BIARRITZ, DUKE OF ARGYLL will be detached off Holyhead for
DUKE OF Heysham to enable her to complete with special
requirements of fuel, E.T.A. 0800A/1st. BIARRITZ
has insufficient fuel for whole passage Milford
Haven to Rosyth. Codeword "Topaz".
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1833A/31.)

DAFFODIL, S.O.A.S.C's 0946/29. Until situation clarifies
PRINCESS IRIS. it is desired to retain at Mersey any L.C.M. (3)
which are delivered in that area.
2. Consequently it is requested that DAFFODIL and
PRINCESS IRIS be sailed direct to Clyde when all available L.C.A.
and L.C.M. from Portsmouth area have been embarked on 5th Nov.
3. This will also avoid delay in vessels commencing refits on 8th
Nov. Admiralty 1128/22 refers.
(C.C.O. 1842A/31 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

NORFOLK, Scapa departures NORFOLK and CUMBERLAND.
CUMBERLAND. (A.C.O.S. 2302A/31 to Admty.)
(Force Q.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

1358A/31st October.

IN.

MESSAGE.Date 31.10.42.
Recd. 1905.

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

Addressed Admiralty.

Situation at 1955A/31/10/42.Section N.E.

R.U. 46	LADY MADELINE ANGLE FIRCUETTE	57	11	07	04	To North Channel	7
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E.N. 56	HORNPIPE BERKSHIRE	58	29	05	53	To Oban	7½
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Section S.E.

KENOGAMI SHEDIAC		55	39	09	51	To Londonderry	12
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MYOSOTIS		51	50	06	59	To Liverpool	11
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H.33	ST. ALBANS	54	52	05	16	To Rothesay	6½
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TRIBUNE	CUTTY SARK	54	27	05	18	To 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10'	12
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FOWEY		53	59	04	58	To Clyde	10½
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2 Auxiliary vessels		54	25	05	18	To Milford	10
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H.X. 212	U.S.S. CAMPBELL	55	53	09	49	to 56 00 08 00 thence North Channel	9
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C.T.U. 24.1.3	U.S.S. BADGER ROSTHERM TRILLIUM ALBERTI SUMMERSIDE VILLE DE QUEBEC						
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Loch Ewe ships detaching in 56 00 08 00

O.N.S. 142 C.T.U. 24.1.5	SUNFLOWER LOOSESTRIFE ALISMA PINK 4 Trawlers	55	39	07	15	to 55 02 23 01	7
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1 M/V	WALLFLOWER	56	26	08	14	to 56 20 07 25 thence North Channel	6
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K.X.5.	GLAISDALE ELEAN LOTUS 4 Corvettes 4 Trawlers	55	29	08	59	to 53 38 14 32	7
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CONVOY	Unescorted	53	09	04	51	Northbound	8½
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O.N.M.143	Escorted	52	08	05	22	To Belfast	9½
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contd....

Section S.E. (Contd.)

S.C.105	HURRICANE	56 20 07 28	To 56 20 07 25	thence	
C.T.U.	MONKSHOOD			North Channel.	
24.1.15	SNOWFLAKE				
S.C.U.105	MOLDE	56 20 07 28	To 56 20 07 25	thence	
				Loch Ewe	
3 M.Vs	GORLESTON	54 00 04 52	To Clyde		14
H.M. 54	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	52 58 05 04	To Milford		
THUNDERBOLT	LA. CAPRICIEUSE	off Oversay	to BJHHZ		12

Section N.W.

S.C.106	HARVESTER	59 05 19 22	to 58 00 12 25		
C.T.U.	GARLAND				
24.1.17	ORCHIS				
	NARCISSUS				
	LOBELIA				
	ACONIT				
	RENONCULE				
	KITCHENER				
	CALGARY				
	C.MROSE				

Section S.W.

CALPE		46 01 14 52	To Southward		19
SCYLLA		41 46 12 52	to 36 12 09 11		1
OPPORTUNE					
Fleet Unit 12	Destroyers	55 01 12 07	to 54 43 13 01		1
ARGONAUT					
2 Tugs		50 01 18 29	to Fastnet		8
VIZAIMA					
SEVERN		54 34 21 53	to 55 30 20 00		13
Fleet Unit	FARNDALE	41 16 16 23	to 41 02 16 20		11
DASHER	BICESTER				
DELHI	ZETLAND				
Convoy 24	ROTHERHAM	49 06 21 38	to 45 00 23 00		12
	HOLCOMBE				
	CNSLOW				
	OFFA				
	CRIBI				
K.M.S.2.	LONDONDERRY	48 38 27 15	to 46 29 27 13		
	4 Sloops				
	2 Cutters				
	1 Corvette				
K.M.F.1.	SHEFFIELD	44 23 26 18	to 42 20 26 32	thence	10
	IBIS		40 10 24 24		
	BITER				
	4 destroyers				
	2 sloops				
	2 cutters				
	4 corvettes				

contd.....

MOST SECRET

Section S.W. (contd).		3:		
O.N.141 (E)	SAGUENAY SACKVILLE	45 38 36 05	to 43 50 43 00	8½
C.T.U. 24.1.13	AGASSIZ GALT WETASKIWIN.			
1 M/V	ALGERINE	43 36 17 30	to 40 00 17 30	10½
K.X.4B	BUDE BRIXHAM	40 43 13 47	to 36 20 10 00	7
2 M/Vs	STELLA CARINA	45 52 15 48	to 50 02 15 30	5
S.L.125 G	SWEETBRIAR DAHLIA	42 09 16 01	to 50 59 16 01	7

1358A/31.

- 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.
- Capt. Pim
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- Duty Capt. (2)
- D.A/S.W.
- Head of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- Admiral Blake
- Norfolk House (2)
- D. of L.D.
- D.D.O.D. (M)

973

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Sweep. My 1207/30. "Match II" returned 0826/31.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0858/31.)

Operation S.E. My 1902/30. Flora V W X Y finished at 1230.
T.U.V.W. being flown by Hampden from 1200 till 1645.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0935A/31 to CHIDDINGFOLD, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON.)
(A) 064° 30' N. 006° 00' W. 090°. (B) 0900A/1st.
(C) Close co-operation will not be provided.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1804A/31 to CHIDDINGFOLD.)

Patrols. Patrol-A → WALPOLE, B. WHITSHED, 1 ATHERSTONE, 2 EGLINTON, 3 MENDIP, 4 GARTH, 5 WIDGEON, 6 MALLARD.
(C. in C. Nore 1022A/31.)

1. Intend to sail M.G.Bs 54 (S.O) 51, and 57 to patrol on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 35' W. and 2° 10' W. tonight, leaving Weymouth at 1930/31 and patrol line at dawn.
Codeword "Pugdog".

(F.O.I.C. Portland 1101A/31.)

My 1022/31. → Patrols are cancelled.

(C. in C. Nore 1230A/31.)

Tonight M.T.Bs 95, 85, 86 proceed to patrol near 50° 15' N. 00° 20' W. passing E.A.5 Buoy at 1830 and 0730. Codeword "Advent"
If weather unsuitable force is to return to St. Helens Roads.
3 M.G.Bs from Portland patrolling between 1° 35' W. and 2° 10' W. on latitude 50° 20' N. 2 Chasseurs patrolling near E.A.5 Buoy.
FERNIE standing by at Yarmouth.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1320A/31 to HORNET.)

M.L. Patrol tonight.

2. Forces employed M.Ls 181 (S.O) 183 and 179.

3. Patrol. 7 miles 065° and 245° from 110° Start 22.

4. Object. To intercept E-Boats.

5. Information. Own. BROCKLESBY for Plymouth and S.G.B.8 for Dartmouth due Dart Buoy in company from Eastwards at 1800, speed 20 knots. Enemy. E-Boats may operate from Cherbourg or Guernsey. *p. 471*

6. Execution. Proceed at 1700 today to patrol line. Leave patrol line at daylight 1st and proceed to Falmouth, passing through 180° Start 4. Speed on passage not to exceed 12 knots.

7. Codeword "Arena".

(C. in C. Plymouth 1347A/31.)

2 Chasseurs patrolling near E.A.5 buoy. M.G.Bs 54, 51 and 57 patrolling 16 miles South of Anvil Point, E.T.D. Weymouth 1930/31, E.T.R. 0830/1.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1538A/31 and 1828A/31.)

3 M.Ls on patrol 22 miles E.S.E. Start.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1619A/31.)

M.Ls 450 and 207 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and N.E. Spit Buoys. E.T.D. 1830, E.T.R. 0730/1. M.Ls 138 and 293 near C.One Buoy.

(V.A. Dover 1822A/31.)

Departure WALPOLE at 2200 to Patrol 1.

(F.O. Humber 2205A/31.)

/Attempt ...

War Diary.

31.10.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

Attempt to intercept Enemy Convoy. M.T.B. 87 destroyed. Preliminary report of C/F activity night 30/31. 12 Groups "Jim Crow" aircraft reported an enemy northbound convoy of 11 ships between Ymuiden and Zandvoort at 1500/30. 6 M.T.Bs with 3 M.G.Bs in support were sailed from Lowestoft at 1700/30 to operate between Texel and Terschelling, and to endeavour to intercept. Due to break-downs only three M.T.Bs reached the Dutch coast and sighted nothing. C.O. M.T.B. 87 reports that at 0810/31, approx. in 52° 56' N. 02° 54' E. an explosion occurred forward, believed to have been a mine. The entire bows were blown off and disintegrated. M.T.B. 232 effected rescue of entire crew without casualties except one officer with superficial injuries. M.T.B. 232 started a fire in 87's engine room with .5" incendiary, and after part was left on fire and sinking. C.Bs were in weighted bag and with the charts were believed to have been destroyed by the explosion. The space in which they were was completely submerged immediately.
(C. in C. Nore 1548A/31.)

Operation F.B. Positions of submarines at 0800A/1 and movements for following 24 hours. (A) TUNA vicinity 75° 16' N. 14° 10' E. (B) O.15 vicinity 75° N. 08° E. (F.O.S. 1714A/31 to Admty.)

NORTHERN SPRAY is returning to harbour, having been damaged while attacking a U-Boat in 070° 17' N. 014° 14' E. at 1400A.
(A.C.I.C. 1739A/31) See U-Boats. p 977.

Interception of Enemy Convoy. 1. Information. A/C reports a merchant vessel with trawler escort eastbound from Ushant estimated to pass Sept. Iles about 0100/1.
2. Object. To sink merchant vessel and then destroy escort.
3. Execution. *BROCKLESBY take *S.G.B. 8 and M.T.Bs 235, 231 and 240 under his orders and proceed to reach 48° 56½' N. 3° 38½' W. by 2330/31, and sweep thence at 15 knots on course 253°. If nothing seen on reaching 4° 30' W, return to Dartmouth. Force to be within 30 miles of our coast by first light.
4. Force will be known as Force H.P. Lettered positions, Sept. Iles light X X.
5. Codeword "Limited". * See p. 971 & 973.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1801A/31 to BROCKLESBY, etc.)
My 1801. Four torpedo Hampdens will be in vicinity of Sept. Iles at 0100/1 to attack.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1805A/31 to BROCKLESBY, etc.)
My 1801/31, para 3. Position ordered for 2330/31 is 048° 56½' N. 003° 38½' W. From plot you appear to be steering too far to Eastward.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2031A/31 to BROCKLESBY.)
Proceed at utmost speed towards Sept. Iles and engage enemy.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2209A/31 to BROCKLESBY.)

[Report of this operation - 1607A/1/11, page 8, November]

31.10.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

Exercise "Blanket". Your 1630/30 approved.
(C. in C. Nore 1607A/31 to F.O.I.C. London.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bombing restrictions. Request total bombing restrictions 25 miles either side line joining $043^{\circ} 06'$ $013^{\circ} 48'$ and $045^{\circ} 10'$, $013^{\circ} 44'$ forthwith until further directions. Cancel my 1603/30 and 2222/27 and amendment. (F.O.S. 0101A/31 to H.Q.C.C. (R) P.556.)

Request total bombing restrictions 25 miles either side of line joining $045^{\circ} 10'$, $013^{\circ} 44'$, $047^{\circ} 01'$, $013^{\circ} 25'$, from 0400/1st to 1200/2nd. (F.O.S. 2357/31 to H.Q.C.C. (R) P.556.)

A/C in distress. Whitley aircraft in distress in $049^{\circ} 42'$ N. $013^{\circ} 41'$ W. at 1430A/31. If you can arrive before dark proceed to her assistance. Report P.C.S.
(C. in C. W.A. 1444A/31 to NIMBLE, CALPE.)

My 1444/31. If proceeding listen for distress signals from dinghy on 500 k/cs.
(C. in C. W.A. 1530A/31 to CALPE, NIMBLE.)

My 1444/31. A/C reports dinghy with 5 men in $050^{\circ} 11'$ N. $013^{\circ} 19'$ W. at 1815A/31.
(C. in C. W.A. 1919A/31 to NIMBLE, CALPE.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. 1 A/C shadowing bearing 090° distant 5 miles. My position $65^{\circ} 04'$ N. $13^{\circ} 37'$ W.
(M/S 15 0817N/31.)

One H.A.138 sighted in sight of Northrop 20 miles East Vattarnes at 1015/31, Course South.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1230A/31.)

AMAZON. One Focke-Wolfe shadowing. My position $043^{\circ} 30'$ N. $014^{\circ} 14'$ W.
(AMAZON 0930A/31.)

Spitzbergen. (Corrupt Group) Enemy air activity 26th October to 31st October R/C each day between 0910 and 1005. 30th October 2 planes. One circled outside ice-fiord in snow cloud for about 20 minutes awaiting return of the other one from Advent Bay. Today one plane heard flying northward at 0850 from Cape Linne towards Foreland Strait heard returning at 1000. Ice Porridge prevents operation with motor boats at present.
("Gearbox" 1005Z/31 to Admty.)

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31.10.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

S.N.3 F. My 0931/30. Sailed. (SCOTT)
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0320A/31 to R.A.M.)
My 1152A/23. Intend sailing for S.N.3 F 2200
today and lay 1400 tomorrow. R/V for air escort 180° Sulisker
4 miles 0900 tomorrow.
(R.A.M. 1012/31.)
R.A.(M) sailed in SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON,
MENESTHEUS, ADVENTURE, CASTLETON, LANCASTER, BRIGHTON and WELLS.
(TRELAWNEY 2222A/31.)

Lyme Bay Intend sailing M/S trawlers BEN URIE and LOCH
sweep. BUIE for Dartmouth at 0700 tomorrow. Codeword
"Ounce VI".
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1523A/31.)
Intend sailing COMDR. EVANS and ARMANA at 0700/1 sweeping
route "P" to Portland. Codeword "Ounce V". Request these
ships be bunkered on Monday and sailed to Dartmouth ahead of
P.W.242. Request fighter protection.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1626/31 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Three Enemy Destroyers. 3 destroyers bearing 180° distance 2 miles,
course 000°. My position 46° 50' N. 05° 12' W.
(A/C 0144/31 to 19 Group.)
My 0144. Present course and speed 180°, 20 knots, 47°
2' N. 5° 12' W.
(A/C 5 U G S 0230/31 to 19 Group.)

TIRPITZ. B.2 Source reports on 27th October TIRPITZ in
SCHEER. Foettenfjord, Trondheim, HIPPER or SCHEER and
two destroyers in Lofjord, Trondheim.
(D.D.I.C. 1049A/31.)
R/C of Trondheim at 1245A/31 shows TIRPITZ in Foettenfjord
and one other large Naval Unit in Lofjord.
(D.D.I.C. 1705A/31.)
My 1705/31. Vessel reported in Lofjord identified as
SCHEER.
(D.D.I.C. 2003A/31.)

PETER WESSEL. Fast transports PETER WESSEL and VENUS from Oslo
VENUS. and from Stettin (the recently formed specialised
details from coastal artillery and other military
formations) to Tallin with tired personnel from
eastern front to Germany. Graded A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 1221/31)
See also N.A. Stockholm 1051/3/11.

977

31.10.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Inconclusive D/F bearings at 0750Z/31 suggest that convoy W.S.24, or possibly convoy K.M.S.2., may have been reported by a U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 0959A/31 to Escorts W.S.24, K.M.S.2.)

By D/F at 0655Z U-Boat was anywhere within 60 miles of 59° 20' N. 25° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1048A/31.)

1 Fortress aircraft will be carrying out U-Boat search in approx. 059° 13' N. 018° 47' W. from 1730A/31 to 2000A/31.
(C. in C. W.A. 1516A/31 to C.T.U. 24.1.17.)

By D/F at 1353Z. U-Boat in vicinity K.X.4 B, possibly reporting it.
(D.D.I.C. 1850A/31 to Escorts K.X.4 B.)
(2 U-Boats ?20°?) 50° N. 14° W. 5 miles.
(A/C C C 8 H 1855/31 to 15 Group.)

ABOSSO (torpedoed 30th Oct.) My 2002Z/30. Searching area to depth 60 miles south of 048° 30' N. 028° 50' W. Can continue search until 2000Z/1st necessitating refuelling at Ponta Delgada.
(SKEENA 1001Z/31 to C. in C. W.A.) *See p. 999*

Keep a look out for survivors from ABOSSO torpedoed in 048° 30' N 028° 51' W. at 1200Z/30. SKEENA is searching.
(C. in C. W.A. 1101A/31 to Escorts K.M.S.2.)

U-Boats attacked. 1 submarine on surface bearing 225° distant 5 miles. My position 70° 21' N. 14° 18' W.
See p. 974.
(NORTHERN SPRAY 1225/31.)

Am damaged in engine room, speed reduced to 8 knots chase. Submarine on the surface bearing 225°. My course 225°, position 070° 17' N. 014° 14' W. Estimate enemy speed 12 knots.
(NORTHERN SPRAY 1300Z/31 to N.O.I.C. Reykjavik.)

Owing to damage sustained in depth charge attack shall have to return to base. Have lost sight of submarine.
(NORTHERN SPRAY 1345Z/31 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)

NORTHERN SPRAY is returning to harbour after having sustained damage in engine room whilst carrying out depth charge attack on submarine in 070° 17', 014° 14' at 1400A. Submarine's course 255°, speed 12 knots.
(A.C.I.C. 1739A/31 to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

Am over enemy S/M in 59° 13' N. 18° 47' W. When first sighted S/M was on surface and observed to submerge. Course 200°, speed 5 knots.
(A.O.C. 15 Group 1350/31.)

Following from A/C 'F' of (50R)? Squadron. Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(15 Group 1420/31.)

Periscope sighted by ONSLOW at 1442Z. U-Boat hunted by ROTHERHAM and ONSLOW till 1730Z. 7 attacks carried out. No visible result. Both ships now rejoining Convoy. My position 049° 46' N. 021° 17' W.
(Capt. D.2 1736/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

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War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

P.556. My 1522/30. Amended P.C.S. of P.556 at 2100A/30, 043° 06' N. 013° 48' W. 350°, 2 knots. Temporarily unable to dive. (C. in C. W.A. 0049A/31 to AMAZON.)

My 1813/30. Amend para (H) to read P.556 vicinity 43° 32' N. 13° 50' W, probably on surface, course N. 2 knots. (F.O.S. 0107A/31.)

Your 0059A/31. P.C.S. 044° 06', 013° 53', 000°, four knots. Am proceeding on surface. Consider position critical. Able to dive in an emergency but unable to remain down. Pumps unreliable, short air, and suspect auxiliary tank leaking. Starboard seven and eight pistons seized and starboard eight main bearing running. Only one compressor available and that very shaky. Port main motor field being damp will only attempt charging when battery reads 1160, engine being started by motor. Battery now reads 1210. Request escort. Weather. 7380 1282. (P.556 1701A/31 to S.O. S/M Malta, F.O.S.)

My 1714/31. Amend para (H) as follows. P.556 approx. position 45° 08' N. 13° 53' W. course 0000°, 4 knots. Unable to dive except in emergency. (F.O.S. 2337A/31 to Admty.)

POPPY. Arrived POPPY, for R.D.F. repairs. (Cdre. Londonderry 0843A/31.)
See next page (K x 5)

VILLE DE QUEBEC, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE. My 2030/30. Request you arrange for Capt's D. concerned to inspect VILLE DE QUEBEC, ALBERNI and SUMMERSIDE and ensure that any defects which can be made good during time allowed to fit type 271 are completed. Ships are to boiler clean. (C. in C. W.A. 0940Z/31 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

HURRICANE. Your 1626/30. Concur. (C. in C. W.A. 1052A/31 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

EMPIRE IVY. Tug EMPIRE IVY is being surveyed internally as result of grounding during rescue operations in connection with SPINANGER. Anticipate sailing on 2nd November. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1251A/31 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

Refit of LONDON. D.O.D.(H.) 1821A/31 to C. in C. H.F. See Shipping. *p. 980*

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F.2. My 1513A/30. Sailed. (GORLESTON) (Cdre. Londonderry 0010A/31 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.) Sailed "Master" in accordance with my 1516A/29. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1600A/31.)

/Intend ...

31.10.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- K.M.F.2. Intend sailing convoy composed and escorted as
(contd.) in A.M. 2137A/25. Pass Clyde Boom 2200A/1st to pass through position (c) at 0900A/2, thence in accordance with A.M. 1816A/26. Codeword "Corncrake". Comdre. Melhuish in NARKUNDA. Vice-Cmdre. of convoy and Cmdre. O portion master EMPRESS OF CANADA. Rear-Comdre of convoy and Comdre. A portion, Master STRATHEDEN. Cmdre. G Portion on splitting, Master LANARKSHIRE. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1608A/31.) Intend sailing PELICAN (S.O), EGRET, PHILANTE, BANFF, FLEETWOOD, SENNEN at 2201A/31. E.T.A. Greenock 0530A/1st in accordance with your 1823A/27. (F.O.I.C. Londonderry 1747A/31.) Sailed my 1747A/31. (Cdre. Londonderry 2231A/31.)
- W.S. 25 P. Proposed embarkation programme. Details. (D.S.T. 0312A/31.)
- Non-receipt of Diversion Signals. A large number of reports continue to be received of ships failing to receive diversion signals addressed to them. A full investigation of the circumstances is always to be made on the arrival of the ship concerned at her next port of call. Should this latter be situated in a different command to that from which the diversion signal was initiated, the relevant information should be passed to the other command with a request for an enquiry to be held. In British Strategic areas a brief report of the investigation is to be made to Admiralty. (D.T.D. 0337A/31 and 1739A/31.)
- E.N.57. My 1655/19. E.N.57 postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Rosyth 0934A/31.)
- K.M.S.2. P.C.S. at 1800/31. 50° N. 27° W. 180°, 7 knots. (D.O.D.(F.) 1000Z/31 to Opnav.) U.S. ship LUTHER MARTIN ex K.M.S.2 from Loch Ewe has returned to Clyde with deck cargo shifted. The sealed envelope given to Master by N.C.S.O. Aultbea was handed in unopened to N.C.S.O. Bangor (Co.Down). In order that work on cargo may commence request very early approval to remove restrictions imposed in accordance with your 2154/23. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1244A/31 to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.X.5. GLAISDALE, AUBRETIA, BLEAN sailed for K.X.5. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1059A/31.) Sailed*POPPY to overtake K.X.5. *see previous page. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1841A/31.) Following ships did not sail, BARON RUTHVEN and ESNEH. (C. in C. W.A. 2311A/31 to Escorts K.X.5.)

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- K.X.6. A.M. 1921/30. 2 destroyers to be detailed by R.A.(M) and OXLIP, HYDERABAD, and HONEYSUCKLE should arrive Milford Haven by noon 7th Nov. (C. in C. W.A. 1524A/31.)
- K.M.S.3. A.M. 1331/30. Para 1. Section A. Delete: DAHOMIAN and RAJPUT. Add: CITY OF VENICE and INVENTOR. Section O. Delete: CITY OF VENICE and INVENTOR. Add: DAHOMIAN, RAJPUT and LUTHER MARTIN. Para 7(b) for *LOUISBERG read LUNENBERG. (D.O.D. (H.) 1535A/31.) * *See p. 983*
- W.S.25. GLASGOW. LONDON. It has been decided that GLASGOW should provide ocean escort for W.S.25 at the end of November joining Eastern Fleet on arrival at the Cape. 2. Request your intentions regarding refit of LONDON. (D.O.D. (H.) 1821A/31 to C. in C. H.F.)
- H.X.212. FRONTENAC torpedoes. Returning to base, P.C.S. 049° 33' N. 021° 32' W. 050°, 10. ROTHERHAM reports British Tanker FRONTENAC torpedoes 28th October sighted by her in 051° 55' N. 020° 03' W. steering 075° at 5 knots at 0235Z/31. (SKATE 1900A/31 to C. in C. W.A.)
P.C.S. 55° 51' N. 10° 00' W. 084°, 9.5. E.T.A. 55° 35' N. 07° 00' W. 0800Z/1st. E.T.A. Loch Ewe position off Barra Head 1140Z/1st, at Loch Ewe 2130Z/1st. TRILLIUM, detailed Loch Ewe, position. VILLE DE QUEBEC, Liverpool, position. 37 ships present. BARRWHIN straggler, FRONTENAC missing. Following ships torpedoed as previously reported. SOURABAYA, GURNEY, E.NEWLIN, KOSMOS, PAN NEW YORK, BIC ISLAND. Weather report 63 60 05 33. (C.T.U. 24.1.3 2000Z/31 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Operation F.B. My 0057/28. Fourth ship sailed 2000A/30, fifth ship 1030A/31, and sixth ship at 2030A/31. Third rescue trawler CAPE PALLISER sailed 1230A/31. Admiralty recypher and pass to S.B.N.O. North Russia. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C. (A.C.I.C. 2120A/31 to Admty.)
- C.W. and C.E. Convoys. Following is forecast of sailing dates for Channel convoys for November. Details. 2. It is intended, where time table permits, the destroyers escorting the C.W. convoy return following day with C.E. convoy. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to signal in advance the E.T.D. of C.E. convoy from Spithead Gate in order that arrangements may be made accordingly. (C. in C. Nore 2138A/31.)

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

S.L. 125. SPIREA and COLTSFOOT are to remain with convoy S.L. 125 as long as practicable consistent with arriving at Gibraltar by 1800 November 3rd. (F.O.C.N.A., 0004A/31 to SPIREA, COLTSFOOT, (R) Admty., Escort S.L.125, C. in C. W.A.)

ALASKA (S.L.125) torpedoed. *See p 985* Following received from Wick Radio:- Distress ALASKA bearing 198° Class 1. (Gallon Head, 0015 G.M.T./31 to A.C.O.S.) Intercept de ALASKA. Going down slowly position 35.06 N. 16.39 W. many wounded and dying, please send help, cannot received (ends).

(Valentia Radio, 0017/31 to Admty., Adm. Devonport.)

Following has been received from Valentia Radio.

Intercept de C S B A SS. SERPA PINTO. Addressed Las Palmas Radio. Here 180 miles from ALASKA (ends).

(C. in C. Plymouth, 0050/31.)

Intercept from MAGALLANES. Addressed Las Palmas Radio.

Let us go in search of the ship in distress, and to her aid. Please inform us of any further developments.

(Valentia Radio, 0223/31.)

Intercept at 0743 G.M.T. de MAGALLANES. Addressed C.Q. for information.

Please was who sent (Unread) S O S de (ALASKA) sinking ship 37° from us please (unread) please QRA ? and position. At 0747 de EAHI (MAGALLANES) your QRA ? call letters here EAHI. We are going to (unread). Assistance to BLLX, please your QRA.

(Port Patrick Radio, 0850/31 to Navycharge Greenock.)

Ministry of Marine reports steamer RENASCENT (sic) sinking 35.06 N. 16.59 W. at 0015 today. Steamer SERPA PINTO is proceeding to rescue survivors.

(N.A. Lisbon, 1500/31 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

Intercept from MAGALLANES to Las Palmas Radio.

Arrived at position of the shipwreck only by Comtask empty boats. I am continuing voyage. Capt. Aquirre. (Ends.) 1857/31.

(Valentia Radio, No T.O.O.)

Trawlers. Sailed anti-sub. trawler PORTSDOWN, YESTOR, VIVIANA and SPHENE. E.T.A. Horta 0900A/11th November. Estimate coal required for each trawler 150 tons. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0550A/31 to B.V.C. Horta, F.O.C.N.A., (R) B.C. Ponta Delgada (for C.S.A.), N.A. Lisbon.)

VELOX, PUCKERIDGE. E.T.A. 1700Z today Saturday with PUCKERIDGE. (VELOX, 0635Z/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B. QUEEN OF BERMUDA. By D/F at 2222Z/30 U-Boat estimated to be anywhere within 90 miles of 24° 30' N. 26° 30' W. (D.D.I.C., 0712A/31 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA, (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A., R.A.W.A.) By D/F on 11068 k/cs at 1333Z. U-Boat within 120 miles of 24° N. 27° W. (D.D.I.C., 1900A/31 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA, (R) R.A.W.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

/RAMSEY ...

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

RAMSEY,
* PETUNIA.
(S.L.125)
** See next page.*

What are your P.C. and S?
(RAMSEY, 0910Z/31 to PETUNIA.)
My P.C. and S. at 1300Z, 036° 37' N. 016° 002'
W. 000° 7 knots.
(PETUNIA, 1301Z/31 to RAMSEY.)

SPEEDWELL,
HUSSAR.

Arrived.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0950A/31 to Admty.)

CLEVELAND,
ESKDALE,
ALBRIGHTON.
see p. 985.

Arrived Ponta Delgada 0830 G.M.T./31st.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1015/31 to S.O.(I)
Gibraltar, Admty.)

S.L.126,
air escort.

Hope to be able to get 2 Catalinas away to you
about noon today Saturday, arriving about 1700.
Regret weather has prevented air escort being
sent you earlier.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1015A/31 to S.E. S.L. Convoy 125,
(R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

PACIFIC
STAR
(torpedoed
27th October.)
see p. 985

23 survivors from PACIFIC STAR arrived Tenerife
a.m. October 31st. Rest of personnel in 4 life-
boats still missing. Ship abandoned at 1740/28th
at 029° 21' N. 019° 28' W. after torpedoing at
1935/27th in convoy. All C.Bs. satisfactorily
disposed of. This information received from
Chief Officer Case.
(Consul, Tenerife, 1045/31 to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)
My 1045/31st further 33 survivors in 2 boats including
Master landed safely in the Island of Palma (Can.) October 31st.
(Consul, Tenerife, 1915/31.)
My 1045/31st persons mentioned sent Cadiz October 31st
in Spanish vessel CIUDAD DE VALENCIA. (? Consul) there
advised.
(Consul, Tenerife, 1930/31.)
My 0030/29th entire crew arrived here p.m./31st October.
Master reported as follows ship first torpedoed 1443/26 then
again 1810/27, at 1830 and at 1835. Approx. position when
vessel sank was 027° 55' N. 018° 50' W. All Confidential
Books weighted (missing group) thrown overboard. None
compromised.
(Consul, Tenerife, 2200/31.)

JULIET,
SALVONIA.

Arrived.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1059A/31 to Admty., R.A.W.A.,
C. in C. S.A.)

/SPICA ...

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War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.SPICA
(ex-German)

Now reported (A.1) that German SPICA is still at Ayamonte, having been unable to sail on account of serious engine defect, and (B.2) that her new Spanish name is RIA DE MUROS, and not, as previously reported, RIA NEIRA. (D.S., 1153, 1st November 1942.)

GIL EANES.

Portuguese GIL EANES 2769 gross tons estimated noon 31st position $044^{\circ} 10' N.$ $032^{\circ} 00' W.$ speed 9 - 11 knots bound Lisbon.

(2) If encountered west of $011^{\circ} W.$ W/T operator Castao de Freitas to be removed, armed guard placed on board and vessel allowed to proceed. Ship not to arrive Portugal before 9th November.

(3) W/T transmission to be prohibited except routine noon position and estimate of following days noon position at 0200 and 2200 G.M.T. on 36 metres by armed guard.

(4) Report if intercepted to enable arrangements for removal of armed guard off Lisbon.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1148A/31 to S. & A. N.A. Station.)

K.M.F.1.
U/B.

By D/F on 7640 k/cs at 1012Z. U-Boat in general vicinity K.M.F.1. Does not appear to have reported convoy.

(D.D.I.C., 1234A/31 to Escorts K.M.F.1.)

Operation
"Train".

1. Operation "Train" completed.

2. 31 Spitfires embarked FURIOUS of which 29 successfully flown to Malta, remaining 2 did not start owing to engine defects.

3. Force M continually shadowed from 0709 until sunset 29th.

4. One Ju.88 dropped one bomb 1000 yards astern of FURIOUS at 1500/29th. This aircraft was attacked and possibly damaged by Seafire.

5. Contact made with three U-Boats during operation, of which 2 were attacked.

(AURORA, 1242A/31 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., V.A. Malta.)

* PETUNIA,
U/B
attacked.

Have attacked submarine in $036^{\circ} 35' N.$ $016^{\circ} 02' W.$ SPIREA still hunting.

(PETUNIA, 1300Z/31 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

* See previous page

p. 984

LOUISBURG.

Is to be despatched forthwith and is to proceed at best speed direct to Gibraltar.

(D.O.D.(H), 1315A/31 to LONDONDERRY, (R) LOUISBURG, F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force E.)

see p. 980

/Situation ...

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- Situation Area X. Situation at 2001A/31st.
report. P.614, 38.42 14.12 187° on the surface 7½.
(2) S.L.125S, SWEETBRIAR, DAHLIA 42.(?03)
(?16).01 000° 7.
- (3) S.L.125,*PETUNIA, WOODRUFF, CROCUS,*SPIREA, COLTSFOOT,
KELANTAN,*RAMSEY 37.49 15.59 000° 7½. * see previous p. & see next page.
- (4) CORIOLANUS 30.28 11.37 035°, 8.
- (5) K.X.4A, WRESTLER, BROKE, 4 Trawlers 38.07 13.43 123° 5.
WRESTLER and BROKE leave for Gibraltar a.m./1st.
- (6) SCOTTISH patrolling off Cape Roca.
- (7) ROBERTS, BURDOCK, SNOWDROP 30.33 13.23 040° 10.
- (8) WHEATLAND, WILTON, POZARICA, PALOMARES, TYNWALD, LAMERTON
38.50 13.42 130°, 10.
- (9) Swedish Relief Ships AKKA, YARRAWONGA 36.01 13.47 270°, 12.
- (10) K.M.S.1 ALYNBANK, STORK, DEPTFORD, VANSITTART, AVENGER, 8
corvettes, 4 minesweepers 35.38 23.45 through 35.01 23.45
thence 090°, 8½.
- (11)*Fleet Unit DASHER, JAMAICA, DELHI, ZETLAND, FARNDALE,
BICESTER 41.13 16.20 through 41.02 16.20 and 38.30 11.59 thence
146°, 11½. *ARGUS.
- (12) AMAZON 38.17 12.05 through 38.01 12.01 and 36.40 09.22
thence Gibraltar, 24. see p. 975
- (13) K.X.4B, BRIXHAM, BUDE, 40.45 13.48 146°, 7.
- (14) COWSLIP 35.34 14.01 to Gibraltar, 6. see next page
- (15) VENOMOUS,*MALCOLM, 36.01 06.30 to Gibraltar 22.* see next page
- (16) SIRIUS 20.01 21.19 through 23.06 21.37 thence 017° 19½. see p. 985
- (17) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE and one merchant ship sail from
Gibraltar 1800/31st coastwise to Huelva thence KINGSTON
CHRYSOLITE direct Gibraltar 8.
- (18)*SCYLLA, OPPORTUNE 37.48 10.11 through 36.12 09.11 thence
Gibraltar, 25. see p. 986
- (19) OTHELLO, EDAY, STROMA, INCHMARNOCK 38.13 12.21 through
36.37 09.01 thence Gibraltar (?3).
- (20) Spanish training ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO cruising
in area between Canary Islands and (? Port Au Prince) 36.01
30.02.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1330A/31 amended 2250A/31.)
Situation report Area X. My 1330A/31st.
Add Para. 21. GERANIUM, FLUELLEN, HORATIO, SHIANT, RONALDSAY^H
35.59 05.53 through 36.01 06.01 and 36.30 07.30 thence 277°, 8.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1804A/31.)
Situation Area Y.
- (3) QUEEN OF BERMUDA 23.14 27.22 015° 14. see p/p 986 & 987
- (5) CLEVELAND, ESKDALE, ALBRIGHTON leave Ponta Delgada a.m./1st
000° 15 to R/V K.M.S.2. see next page - see p. 987
(F.O.C.N.A., 1342A/31, 1902A/31.)
Situation Area Z.
- (1) ORFAY, MAGNOLIA 1 Ferry Steamer, 1 Tug 026° 15' 022° 49'
165°, 7½.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1352A/31.)

- SNOWDROP. R.A.W.Af's 1113/28.
see p. 987 On completion of escort duty as in R.A.W.Af's
1055/22 to F.O.C.N.A. only, F.O.C.N.A. is
requested to sail SNOWDROP to U.K.
2. On arrival in U.K. towards end of November SNOWDROP can be
taken in hand for refit by Dowsons of South Shields.
(D.O.D.(F), 1342A/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

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31.10.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- S.L.125,
U/Bs. At least two U-Boats shadowing from ahead
S.L.125 position 037° 07' N. 015° 52' W.
(RAMSEY, 1630Z/31 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C.
W.A., PETUNIA.)
- Two U-Boats on the surface in position 037° 10' N. 016° 00' W.
RAMSEY chasing.
- *(PETUNIA, 1707Z/31 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. W.A.)
(V.A.C.N.A., 1940A/31 to P.614.) * *see p. 983*
- Movements. * *Left* Ponta Delgada 31st 1645 G.M.T. MARNE 1830
G.M.T. CLEVELAND, ESKDALE, ALBRIGHTON. *see p. 982*
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1640/31 to S.O.(I)
Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)
* *Recount of H.M. Ships.*
- MALCOLM. MALCOLM E.T.A. Boom 0700Z/1st. *see previous page.*
(MALCOLM, 1931Z/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- S.L.G.125,
U/B. By D/F on 7640 k/cs at 1733Z/31, U-Boat in your
vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 1935A/31 to Escorts S.L.G.125.)
- CAMPILO,
(Survivors,
* PACIFIC STAR) My 1850/31 (N.T. in W.D.)
Ministry of Marine has ordered CAMPILO call
Malaga to land survivors who will be handed to
us immediately there. Ministry Foreign Affairs
* *see p. 982* have not therefore passed orders to CAMPSA as
indicated in previous signal and it would not be politic stop
ship to take off survivors unless agreement reached in time.
(N.A. Madrid, 1915/31 to ?F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)
My 1915/31. CAMPILO has now reported she searched area but
found no survivors.
Submit she be asked to confirm when passing Gibraltar.
(N.A. Madrid, 2001/31 to F.O. Gibraltar Force, (R) Admty.)
- S.L.125,
* COWSLIP, Standing by SILVERWILLOW and ALASKA in 034° 22'
N. 017° 16' W. both afloat, ALASKA making 5 knots.
SILVERWILLOW, Am trying to salvage abandoned SILVERWILLOW but
* ALASKA, etc. have no one with diesel experience. Have 96
* *see p. 981 1993* survivors from following ships: CORINALDO,
* *see previous page.* SILVERWILLOW, TASMANIA and PRESIDENT DOUMER.
My boiler temporarily repaired making 9 knots. SILVERWILLOW
definitely salvable. ALASKA requires medical assistance
urgently.
(COWSLIP, 2002Z/31 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty.,
PETUNIA.)
- ? ANGLO
MAERSK. My 0030/29 (N.T. in W.R. - repetition being
obtained.) Entire crew of 27 arrived here p.m.
October 31st. Master reported as follows.
Ship first torpedoed October 26th at 1443 then
again on October 27th at 1810, at 1830 and at 1835. Approx.
position when vessel sank was 027° 55' N. 018° 50' W. All C.Bs.
weighted (missing group) thrown overboard. None compromised.
(Consul, Tenerife, 2200/31 to Admty.)

/W.S.24 ...

War Diary.

31.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

W.S.24, U/B. By D/F on 4540 k/cs at 2009Z, U-Boat possibly in vicinity W.S.24.
(D.D.I.C., 2229A/31 to Escorts W.S.24, (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.)

SCYLLA. My 1232A/29th. E.T.A. 90 minutes early.
See p. 984 Request gate one hour after E.T.A.
(SCYLLA, 2258A/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

Movements. Walvis Bay arrival 0500/31st *DURBAN, DESPATCH.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 0600Z/31 to C. in C. S.A., Admty.)
** See next page.*

Simonstown departure 0111/31st. *BIRMINGHAM for Durban route R.8. S. of A. 20 knots. E.T.A. 1500C/1st, shift to W/T organisation for area J at 0700C/1st. ** See next page.*
(C. in C. S.A., 0933C/31st to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

→ TAMARISK, My 1525Z/30 and A.M. 1648A/30.
CISTULA, Now intend TAMARISK to escort CISTULA about 4th
OLTENIA, November to Matadi (tanker message) for discharge.
DRUPA. TAMARISK will then escort OLTENIA and CISTULA to North.

(R.A.W.A., 0931Z/31 to C. in C. S.A.)
My 1525Z/30th. DRUPA is to be escorted to Freetown (tanker message) for orders.
(R.A.W.A., 0933Z/31 to N.O.I.C. Lagos, (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

Dispositions. Weekly state 31st October.

Freetown, VINDICTIVE, EDINBURGH CASTLE, *ASTURIAS, BRIDGEWATER, PHILOCTEES, S/M P.552, *D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES.
** See p. 986*

Takoradi Area, SHROPSHIRE, HECLA, ACTIVE, ARROW, AMARANTHUS, *SOUTHERN PRIDE. ** See p. 986.*
Freetown Area, GUARDIAN, CYCLAMEN, HYDRANGEA, ARMERIA, COMMANDANT (? DROGOU). *See next page.*

Pointe Noire, PHOEBE, SOUTHERN GEM, COMMANDANT DETROYAT.
Pointe Noire Area, *TRUANT, Netherlands S/M K.14, CHASSEURS 42 and 43. ** See next page.*

→ Lagos (Nigeria) Area, TAMARISK, *CORINTHIAN. ** See p. 984*
Detached, WIVERN, VELOX, BOREAS, BRILLIANT, VANSITTART, ANTELOPE.
U.K. (? VIMY), VIOLET, AUBRETTIA.

On passage U.K. PETUNIA, WOODRUFF, CROCUS, COWSLIP. *See p. 984*
Walvis Bay area MILFORD, *DESPATCH. ** See above - (Movements)*

On passage (corrupt group) SNOWDROP, BURDOCK. *See p. 984.*
Cape, BELLWORT, *ROCKROSE. ** See next page*

Cape Verde Is. Area, QUEEN OF BERMUDA. *See pp 984 & 987*
(R.A.W.A., 0945Z/31.)

/DRAGON ...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

DRAGON.

Sailed DRAGON to Simonstown passing through following positions 1. 033° 55' S. 028° 59' E.
2. 035° 00' 026° 22'. 3. 035° 05' 020° 00'.
speed 18 knots. E.T.A. 0900Z/2nd November shift to group S.L. at 2100Z/31st.
(Cdre. i/c Durban, 0953Z/31 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., N.L.Os East London, Port Elizabeth, Capetown, Commodore Simonstown.)

TRUANT.

For month of November TRUANT carries recyphering tables S.P. 02380 (12) and (13) only. K.14 carries no recyphering table in force during November.
See previous page
2. F.S. 203 cannot be decyphered. F.S. 204 and 205 not received.
3. Expect to arrive position F p.m./5th November, K.14 in company. S. of A. 8½ knots.
4. Ref. C. in C. S.A. 1103C/21, patrol blank.
(TRUANT, 1006Z/31 to C. in C. S.A., (R) R.A.W.A., K.14.)

SNOWDROP.

Your 1113/28 SNOWDROP, approved.
See p. 984 (D.O.D.(F), 1015A/31 to R.A.W.A.)

Dispositions.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA about 23.15 27.20 015° ? 14.
SIRIUS 20.20 21.20 to 23.06 21.37 thence 017° 19½. *See next page*

CANNA, COPINSAY with F.T.1 09.50 25.10 277° 7½ at 1959Z/31st.
GUARDIAN, CYCLAMEN, ARMERIA 10.05 17.35 318°, 11. *See previous page*
HYDRANGEA, COMMANDANT DROGOU, escorting, 10.35 16.50 to Freetown, 8½. *See previous page*

SPANIARD 2 M.Ls escorting off Freetown to Bathurst, 8.
4 M.Ls escorting off Freetown to Bathurst, 6½.

(R.A.W.A., 1115Z/31 to A.I.G. 149.)

DURBAN, CARTHAGE, NORMAN, ROCKROSE, KANARIS, THYME with W.S.23 025° 42' S. 013° 54' E. to Cape, 12 knots.

*BIRMINGHAM 033° 40' S. 027° 43' E. to Durban, 20.

NEPAL, FORTUNE searching area about 040° 30' S. 019° 30' E.

(C. in C. S.A., 1215C/31 to A.I.G. 125.)

** See previous page.*

DEVON CITY.

Your 1427/27 (N.T. in W.R.) just received.
DEVON CITY was sailed to Diego Suarez on 28th October in accordance with Admty. 1842/17/8.
My 1415/28 refers.
(Cdre. Durban, 1140C/31 to C. in C. E.F.)

JARVIS.

Walvis Bay arrival 1100Z/31st U.S. Destroyer JARVIS.
Lost at sea (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1220Z/31 to C. in C. S.A., Admty.)
9/42 - See

24/9 - p. 716 - Not in L.R. 1815 for Oct = 1942

/ASTURIAS ...

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.ASTURIAS,
SOUTHERN
PRIDE.*See p. 986*

My 0701/29th. In view of U-Boat situation now intend ASTURIAS to patrol in company with SOUTHERN PRIDE commencing at position P at 0700Z/4th November, S. of A. 13 knots. (R.A.W.A., 1243Z/31 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty., ASTURIAS, N.O.I.C. Ascension, Comsolantfor

SIRIUS.

*See previous page.
(Dispositions)*

E.T.A. SIRIUS Gibraltar after dark 3rd November. (R.A.W.A., 1251Z/31 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., SIRIUS.)

EMPIRE
NOMAD
(torpedoed
13th October)

19 survivors from EMPIRE NOMAD landed here today by TYNEBANK. Included in survivors is Chief Officer who reports that his ship attacked by submerged U-Boat in 037° 50' S. 018° 16' E. at 1200Z/13th October. 3 torpedoes were fired at short intervals and ship sank at 1245Z, U-Boat thereupon surfaced and interrogated Master and afterwards disappeared on course of 180°. U-Boat corresponding very closely to Japanese type I. 1 to 4, in opinion of Chief Officer, and C/T bore 2 red bands and red balls and number 141 or I.41. The 3 boats remained together until nightfall when separated by rising wind. Survivors which were landed here picked up on 16th October. Chief Officer states that position in distress message was erroneously broadcast by ship as 036° 35' S. 016° 18' E. (B.R.L.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1623Z/31 to Admty.)

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

Position 31st October. (A) Arrived. (C) 7th November. (D) Boiler cleaning. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 1718C/31.)

PHOEBE.

Following is brief account torpedoing of PHOEBE from reports by SIRIUS and PHOEBE. At 0500Z/23 October SIRIUS with PHOEBE one mile astern speed 21 knots was making a landfall at Pointe Noire. At 0510 land, subsequently identified as Point Indienne was sighted bearing 040° and course altered towards. Visibility bad owing heavy rain squalls. At 0530 AMARANTHUS sighted to the south-eastward, this ship had sighted Pointe Noire signal station and was steering 025 towards northern end of approach channel. Course was altered to close her and speed reduced to 15 knots then 8 knots (one group missing) and obscured by rain squalls. (On turning to the northward at 0550 PHOEBE reduced to slow to avoid running up on SIRIUS). At 0554 a periscope was sighted very close on port quarter of PHOEBE and a few seconds later she was hit by a torpedo. SIRIUS reports on Asdic contacts at 0550 on the port beam 700 yards which was considered to be a wreck or shoal. PHOEBE steered towards the shore at 6 knots. AMARANTHUS then sighted a periscope 200 yards ahead and carried out attack. PHOEBE reached Harbour without further incident. Probable at least two U-Boats present. Temporary repairs commenced all personnel and materials asked for being supplied. Constructor and salvage officer at Pointe Noire. C.O. reports excellent co-operation from French. It is hoped that estimation of eight weeks to complete will be subsequently reduced. (R.A.W.A., 1755Z/31 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.) See also 1045/3.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E 1045Z/3rd Nov. IN.

From. R.A. West Africa. Date. 4.11.42.
Recd. 0058.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) PLUG BY W/T.

Addressed. Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. South Atlantic.

882. My 1755Z/31/10. At 0625Z AMARANTHUS closing PHOEBE obtained contact range 1600 yards 7 cables on PHOEBE'S starboard quarter. Attacking at 15 knots periscope sighted at 400 yards dipped at range 25 yards. U Boat apparently unaware of AMARANTHUS presence. First counter attack at 16 knots with 5 charges at 50 feet on slowly moving U boat. Second counter attack at 0640 on slightly moving U boat with 5 charges at 100 feet. Third counter attack at 0646 on stopped U boat with 5 charges at 100 feet. All attacks considered good by Commanding Officer. Subsequent search blank. No visible result but attacks were made in oil and wreckage from PHOEBE. All attacks in 20 fathoms and position of last attack 4 degs 49½ South 11 degs 46½ East. Search by divers will be made if practicable.

Comment. Consider AMARANTHUS prevented second attack on PHOEBE and at least severely damaged U Boat.

Z
1045/3.

* Account of torpedoing of H.M.S. PHOEBE.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- D.F. S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 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.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.D.I.C. (3)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.C. (2)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.P.D.
- Hydrog.
- Hd. of M.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Ad. Blake.
- Ad. Usborne.
- Dep. Contr. } Bath.
- Hd. of S.W.R. }

Spine copy

Sa.
988 B

MOST SECRET

1855Z/31st October.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

To:- CONNAV.
Repeated B.A.D. Washington 816.
COMSOLANT.
N.A.RIO.
N.C.S.O. Pernambuco.
H.M.S. DESPATCH.

Date. 31.10.42.

NAVAL CYPHER (M) & N.S.C. (2).

From Admiralty,

IMPORTANT.

W.S.24. Since making original rough estimate of oil fuel and water requirements at Bahia in my 2245/6 to first two addressees only, there has been a considerable increase caused by possibility of need for convoy to continue beyond Cape without refuelling, and to the inclusion of H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, and possibly H.M.S. ILEX.

2. Best estimate now is:-

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Type of Fuel</u>	<u>Amount of fuel required in tons.</u>	<u>Water required in tons.</u>
ARAWA	Furnace	900	Nil
ATHLONE CASTLE	-	Nil	1900
EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND	Furnace	500	1800
STIRLING CASTLE	-	Nil	1900
LARGS BAY	Furnace	900	600
INDO-CHINOIS	Diesel	300	100
H.M.S. DESPATCH	Admiralty quality furnace oil or suitable equivalent.	900	No information but should be small.
H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA	- do -	2000	- do -
H.M.S. ROTHERHAM	- do -	550	- do -
H.M.S. *ILEX	- do -	400	- do -

* 2-1-997.
Note: Water for EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND could be reduced to 800 tons if convoy would otherwise be delayed.

3. In view of the above increases, request early confirmation that these amounts can be supplied or alternatively the actual quantities available and that quality of fuel will be suitable in the case of H.M. Ships.

4./.....

MOST SECRET

988^c

SECRET FROM

- 4. Request also an estimate of duration of stay of convoy at Bahia.
- 5. Cancel D. of S.T.'s 0008/28 to N.C.S.O. Pernambuco.
- 6. H.M.S. DESPATCH pass to convoy on joining.

1835Z/31

for D.O.D.(F) (164)
Approved A.C.N.S.(F).

- 1st S.L.(2)
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- 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.(3)
- D.T.D.(M)
- I.P.(2)
- ~~W.D.~~
- D.C.(2)
- Ad. Blake
- D. of S.

SECRET FROM

989

31.10.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- LONGWOOD. (? Departure) 1354/30th LONGWOOD. Request you will take necessary action on arrival (tanker message). Route close inshore all the way. (C. in C.S.A., 1757C/31 to N.C.S.O. Durban, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Capetown, C.S. Simonstown.)
- SAMUEL GRIFFIN. American Army transport SAMUEL GRIFFIN arrived today October 31st. (R.O. Natal, 1825Z/31 to Admty.)
- W.S. 24. Fuel estimate (increase), and request for estimate of duration of stay of convoy at Bahia. (A.C.N.S.(F), 1835Z/31 to Connnav.)
See Lion Copy.
- W.S.24, amend route from new W 43.15 N. 23.00 W. to X 38.22 26.30 W. Y 35.30 N. 30.20 then to S omitting positions N to R inclusive.
2. Stragglers route from BB to new PP 39.01 N. 26.02 W. QQ 36.59 N. 27.58 W. RR 35.00 N. 29.02 W. SS 27.50 N. 29.35 W. TT 20.55 N. 29.40 W. to GG omitting CC to FF inclusive.
3. QUEEN OF BERMUDA is to leave present route and steer for position Y thence towards position X to effect R/V before dark 3rd November.
4. TAMAROA is to part company in 21° N. for position (G) thence as in A.M. 2032/22nd October. (D.O.D.(F), 2035A/31 to Escorts of W.S.24, QUEEN OF BERMUDA.)
- CORINTHIAN. Departure 31st. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1910Z/31.)
sup p. 986
(Dispositions)
- ALDINGTON COURT. Following received. On 500 k/cs (Submarine Attack Signal). 20° 11' S. 21° 32' W., unread, position doubtful. (Ascension Radio, Wick Radio, T.O.R. 2031 G.M.T./31.)
- Following received.
Intercept 2043 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. From Simonstown Town Radio S S S 30.11 S. 01.32 W. ALDINGTON COURT. T.O.R. 2031 G.M.T./31. (Lands End Radio, 2144/31 to Adm. Plymouth.)
- Attack on U/B 28th October. After sighting at 15 miles Hudson aircraft approached through cloud cover to attack U-Boat in 7° 58' N. 18° 9' W. at 1524/28. Attack made from 20 feet with four depth charges while U-Boats stern and conning tower were still visible. Two charges exploded very near conning tower. Simultaneous photograph shows 15 feet of U-Boat stern at angle of 45° and one depth charges apparently bouncing off hull. U-Boat disappeared leaving large patch of green oily foam and large oil patch. Subsequent searches blank. Consider U-Boat at least badly damaged. (R.A.W.Af., 2255Z/31.)

31.10.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

*AQUITANIA,
MAURETANIA.

* *see next page*

Your 0915/27 not to C. in C. E.F. Act in accordance with C. in C. E.F.'s 1828/28. 2. A.C.N.B's 0801/26 and N.Z.N.B's 1904/27 refer. (D. of S.T. 0006A/31 to P.S.T.O. Egypt (R) C. in C. E.F.)

TAKU.

If A/S activity is too great you may proceed to position 9 miles West of Antimilos keeping south until 1800 tonight. (Capt. S.1 0903C/31 to TAKU.)

ARCA
(Italian)

Your 0546A/30 (sent by W.R.) Following is repetition of my 2135/25th (begins) My 1115/24th. Vessel entering Aegean 1515 G.M.T. today (Ends.) (S.O.I. Istanbul 0935C/31 to D.N.I.)

OSSAG.

My 1521C/30th. OSSAG arrived Istanbul 2330 G.M.T. 30th bound for Constanza. (S.O.(I) Istanbul 1030C/31.)

Situation Report No.286. U/B destroyed. (U.559)

A.S.V. contact of U-boat reported by A.S.V. Sunderland at 0550C/30 Oct. *HERO on passage South from Haifa proceeded to position. *PAKENHAM, PETARD, DULVERTON and *HURWORTH were sailed from Port Said to take over hunt from HERO who continued to Port Said. * *see p. 992*

during day. At 2249/30, D.12 reported submarine surfaced and abandoned and at 2343 had sunk in approx. position 40 miles North of Port Said.

3. Wellesley aircraft from 47 Squadron air echelon and Hudsons from 459 Wing, R.A.A.F. co-operated.

4. U-Boat was German. Request no publicity. [*British, see 1902.0/2/11*]

5. Malta. RORQUAL has arrived with petrol and stores.

(C. in C. Med. 1043Z/31 to Admty.

Information from U/B survivors.

(S.O.I. Med, 1915B/1/11.)

Position of sinking 32.01 N. 32.52 E.

(C..in C. Med. 0944B/2/11.)

?

Bunker fuel arrived and each vessel has loaded 150 tons. (S.O.(I) Istanbul 1045C/31.)

Cositrep No.571. Part 2 Air.

(C. in C. M.E. 1045 G.M.T/31.)

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Bi-Weekly Operational Summary No.69. A.685 W.X.3586. Night 27/28 Oct. 8 Halifaxes, 7 Liberators bombed Maleme Aerodrome Crete starting about 12 good fires some of which believed aircraft burning. 1 Liberator missing. Three enemy aircraft operated West of Alexandria during night. 1 bomb dropped near Dekheila aerodrome without damage.

(A.H.Q. M.E. 1153Z/31.)

Night 28/29 Oct. 18 B.24s despatched to attack tanker in Navarino Bay Greece claim a merchant vessel hit, no details. About 12 enemy aircraft operated between Alamein and Burg El Arab bombs reported dropped near Burg El Arab, no details.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1219Z/31.)

Night 29/30 Oct. 7 Liberators, 6 Halifaxes, 8 B.24s, 4 B.17s bombed Ju.52 aircraft on Maleme Aerodrome Crete, details damage obscured by low cloud but 1 good fire started. 127000 lbs. H.E. dropped, 1 B.24, 2 B.17s unable to locate objective owing to cloud bombed Heraklion Harbour and A.A. positions at Canea and Tymbaki dropping total 12500 lbs. H.E. explosions followed by much smoke caused at Canea.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1303Z/31.)

30 Oct. A Wellesley attacked a submarine about 75 miles north east of Port Said with 3 depth charges results unobserved. Attacks continued by H.M. ships.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1556Z/31.)

Operation by P.35.

Admiralty recypher and pass to C. in C. X.F. 2 Commando ranks will embark in H.M. S/M P.35 with 2 sets charged for railway demolition in case opportunity serves towards end of patrol. (Capt. (S) 10, 1146A/31 to C. in C. X.F. (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)

SCALARIA,
RONALDSHAY.

My 1249/21st para 3 my 0913/22nd and 1302/23rd para 3 both vessels now considered total losses. (C. in C. Med. 1304C/31 to Admty.)

DERNA.

Arrival 30th Barcelona. (Valencia T.H.I. 1520/31.)

Greek
manned
M/S groups.

Minesweeping groups manned by the R.H. navy have been joined as follows 404th group LEBAN, ALKANET, PALLAS (late ATHENE). 405th group CAMBUSLANG, CAMBUSKENNETH, CAMBUSDON, CAMBUSLIE. 2. Request following amendments to pink list (a) (c) TASEA now manned by REN. (C. in C. Med. 1618C/31.)

AQUITANIA.

Arrived 1445 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Suez 1730C/31.)

see Memoirs page
Your 1944/13th October not to S.S.T.O. Colombo. Request you will advise S.S.T.O. Colombo port in New Zealand to which AQUITANIA should proceed from Fremantle.

(P.S.T.O. Port Said 1730C/31 to D. of S.T.)

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Malta
air report.

I. 81 31/10 C.S.R. Night 30/31. No enemy activity. 31st. 0655 and 1005 hrs. Total of 20 Spitfires airborne for several raids which turned back before reaching Malta.

1510 to 1610 hrs. 8 Spitfires patrolled west of Island to protect 5 Spitfires arriving from Gibraltar all of which landed safely. 12 Spitfire sorties on reconnaissance patrols north of Malta.

(A.H.Q. Malta 1815Z/31.)

Movements.

Oct. 31st Port Said arrivals *HURWORTH, *PAKENHAM, *HERO, PUNNET, BURRA. Departures HYACINTH, WHITEHAVEN, F.F.C. COMMANDANT DOMINE, SEAHAM, WOLBOROUGH, *PORCUPINE. *not identified. (not destroyed) (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1846C/31.) * p. 490 u.k.

RORQUAL.

RORQUAL sailing 1400A/1st Nov. routed through (1) 035° 20' 014° 16' repeated 035° 20' 014° 16'.

(2) 035° 22' 016° 46' repeated 035° 22' 016° 46' at 0500A/2nd.

(3) 034° 18' 018° 59' repeated 034° 18' 018° 59' thence as ordered by you. Daily advance 150 miles.

(Capt. (S) 10 2022A/31 to Capt. (S) 1st S.F. (R) RORQUAL, C. in C. Med. Fleet, Subs. on Patrol.)

3 Enemy
Ships.

P.C. and S. of 3 small ships 32° 45' N. 23° 0' E. 150, 3 knots.

(A/C 8 W C 2045C/31.)

Position of 3 unknown ships 32° 48' N. 22° 58' E. (A/C 8 W C 2115C/31.)

TURBULENT.

Capt. (S) One's 1517C/28th. Your route is through position

(1) 034° 30' 014° 56' repeated 034° 30' 014° 56'

(2) 035° 28' 014° 04' repeated 035° 28' 014° 04'

thence to R/V with sweeper at end of Malta searched channel at 1031/4th Nov.

(Capt. (S) 10 2152A/31 to TURBULENT (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) One, S/Ms on Patrol.)

993

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

HAWKINS.

Arrival 0410Z/31st HAWKINS, escorting PIONEER
* (?PUTSANS).

(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0411Z/31).

* KUTSANG ~~28/10~~ - 28/10 - p. 883.Unknown
10,000
ton
ship.At 0117Z/31st Catalina sighted unknown vessel
10,000 tons in 004.11 N. 191.(?) 45 E. course
320 degrees speed 9 knots later reported as 010°
10 knots, Heavily camouflaged. No reply to
signal. Colombo plot cannot identify, so Catalina
is being sent to locate shadow and attempt to
identify.

(F.O.I.C. Ceylon 0545Z/31 to C. in C.E.F. (R)

D.C. in C.E.F.? N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, F.O.C.R.I.N.
Admty).Your 0545/31st. This might be U.S. ship LELAND STANFORD
which sailed from Wellington for Bombay on Oct. 4th. Signal
letters KGGGA. No other particulars known. Admiralty are
requested to signal further information regarding her.

(C. in C. E.F. 0728Z/31 to F.O.I.C. Ceylon, (R) HAWKINS.

N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, F.O.C.R.I.N. Admty.)

My 0545Z/31st. Second Catalina has failed to locate
ship. Consider it was? probably friendly and that position
given by first Catalinas may have been considerably in error.
Descriptions frequently vague. As a result of B.A.M.S. message
of 30th Oct. it is also possible that vessels may have be
routed themselves away from Dayr Area.

(F.O. Ceylon 1105Z/31 to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty, N.O.I.C.

Addu Atoll, F.O.C.R.I.N. C.O.I.S. Kilindini).

My 1105/31st. Vessel located at 1142Z/31 and identified as
U.S.A. LELAND STANFORD from Wellington 4th Oct. due Bombay 1st
Nov.(F.O.I.C. Ceylon 1313Z/31 to C. in C. E.F. (R) D.C. in C.E.F.
Admiralty, N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

LELAND STANFORD new U.S. construction 7,200 gross tons.

E.C.2. type. Oil burning 11 knots. Flush deck. Single funnel
bridge accommodation and 4 lifeboats amidships, 3 stump masts 2
before funnel. Heavy derrick probably on foremast.

5 hatches. Raked bow. Cruiser stern.

2. Position of ship confirmed.

(D.T.D. 1830A/31 to C. in C.E.F. F.O.I.C. Ceylon, HAWKINS.

N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

ALASKA.

2 - p. 985

Following was received by Khor Kuwai at 0048Z/31st
strength 1(one) faded and corrupt. S.O.S. de
BLLX*going down slowly at 306/R 9 S(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0708Z/31 to C. in C.E.F. Com.
R.I.N. C. in C. Med (R) Admty). *Undecypherable in
W.R. As received.

BORDE.

If BORDE is ultimately proceeding to Persian

Gulf vide A.M. (?16)46A/6 November 1941 and

A.M. 1245A/20th, August she will be required to meet

with her own gear on a swivel.

2. Request information when she will (sail for) Persian Gulf.

(C. in C.E.F. 0706Z/31 to Admty etc).

994

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Operation "Demcat." My 2007/25rd Operation "Demcat" concluded. No results other than U-Boat reported in my 1914/30 not to all addressees. (C. in C. E. F. 0735Z/31).

K.11. Red. A.M. 1729/20. K.11 is overdue for refit at P.552. Christmas and Cdre R.I.N. considers it impracticable to delay refit further. 2. Subject to satisfactory refit of K.11 intend final allocation of K.11 Bombay. P.552 Kilindini. 3. Request date I may expect P.552. (C. in C. E. F. 0749Z/31 to Admty).

Intelligence Summary No. 250.30th October. Enemy S/M sighted S. W. Maldives submerged, Catalina attacked with depth charges contact lost. No evidence Naval fighter A/C operating North East Assam area. (A.H.Q. India 1002Z/31).

BLINJOE, (base ship Persian Gulf striking force). Your 1552/27 and message 1425/30 from Dutch Shipping Representative Bombay to Netherlands Shipping Committee London. In view of duties on which ship will be employed, I would much prefer my own officers in command and for ship to fly (?white ensign) if this can be arranged. Local agreements on elimination of Dutch (corrupt group) are being (?made) here. Completion date of BLINJOE 7th Nov. so early decision required. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1059Z/31 to Admty (R) S.O. Patrol Force N.A.).

Addu Atoll PITCHIANA, CLAN BES Your 0229/30th. PITCHIANA was delayed and is not expected to leave Calcutta before 7th Nov. 2. Unloading of CLAN BES at Addu Atoll has been seriously delayed by bad weather and presence of other transports. Every effort is being made but it is not expected that ship can be released before late December. (F.O.I.C. Ceylon 1151Z/31 to D. of S. T.).

Unidentified Ship. Name unknown. Signal letters KFYS. Identifying signal U 4L. Position 001. 49 S. 058.38 E. course 000° zigzagging. Flying American colours. No reply to flashing signals. Sighted by Seafox am proceeding to investigate. (ENTERPRISE 1339Z/31 to C. in C.E.F.).

Rescue Tugs at Ceylon. Your 1021Z/29. ^{1/P. 922} INTEGRITY and one Base Tug now on passages further signal will be made. (C.C.R.T. 1542A/31 to F.O. Ceylon).

ASTER. Arrival at 1430Z/31. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1600Z/31)

/Ships...

War Diary.

31.10.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Ships of long
endurance
sailing to
ports on E.I.
Station and
Red Sea.

My 2131/9/7 not to F.O.I.C. Ceylon.
Consideration has been given to providing such
ships with Q information but in view of probable
obsolescence of such instructions by date of
arrival it is thought that these would be of
doubtful value.

2. It is considered undesirable that ships should
sail with no instructions for approaching des-
tinations and it is therefore proposed (a) that all such ships
should be routed to either Kilindini, Aden, Bandar Abbas,
Karachi, Bombay or Colombo depending on final destination and
(b) that Admiralty should be furnished with standing instructions
for approaching these ports, or a position in the approaches to
which ships should be routed. Such instructions would if
necessary form a basis for use of Diverting Authorities.

3. Request your remarks.

(D.T.D. 1928A/31 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.R.S.A.,
C. in C. S.A., F.O.I.C. Ceylon, S.B.N.O. Persian Gulf, F.O.C.R.I.N)

[Matter reconsidered. Revised decision, see STB, 1612A/25/11.]

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.U/B
attacked.Aircraft attacked submarine 047° 47' N 049° 50' W
at 2000Z/30.
(C.O.A.C. 0004Z/31 to GB7A (R) C.T.F.24. Connav.
Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.T.G.24.7)U/Bs
east of
Trinidad.Your 1623/29. It is agreed that there has been
a decline in shipping casualties but there is no
definite evidence that the number of U-Boats in
this area has been materially reduced. During the
last ten days our records show four sightings and
one attack on U-Boats and three attacks on shipping within 450
miles of Trinidad. It is not therefore considered desirable
to amend the routeing policy at present.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 0209A/31 to B.A.D.)

FENNEL

My 2130Z/30. Do not consider safe to enter.
At 2300P my P.C.S. 040° 3 miles from Cape Spear
040° 7 knots altering to 226° at 0300P amend
E.T.A. to 0900Z/31.
(FENNEL 0301Z/31 to Connav. (R) C.T.F.24. Admty.
C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C.
C.T.G. 24.7. Capt. D. St. Johns N.F. WALKER.)P.C.490
NORSEMANArrival 31st. U.S. Ship P.C.409 with Cable Ship
NORSEMAN.
(B.R.O. St. Lucia 0640Q/31.)

U/B

Have obtained H/F D/F of German U-Boat 271° probably
within 40 miles. My position 046° 18' N 053° 00' W.
(C.T.U. 24.1.16. 0935Z/31 to C.T.F.24. (R) Connav.
Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C.
C.T.G.24.7.)U/Bs
attacked.WX.3599. A. 719 Z 252. Ocean going convoys
O.N.139 OAS 1020 to 2145. 1 sortie O.N.140 OAS
0903 to 1902. 2 sorties H.X.213 sweep 1037 to
1413 2 sorties 1600 to 2300 3 sorties O.N.138
sweep 1545 to 2132. 2 sorties A.T.28 sweep 1343
to 2243. 2 Hudson Yoke 145 BR on A/S sweep at 1205 PSN. 50.32 N
46.32 W. sighted conning tower and attacked whilst U-Boat surfacing
Digby X-ray 10 BR on returning from OAS for O.N.140 at 2000
sighted and attacked U-Boat in 47.47 N 49.50.
(A.O.C. E.A.C. 1005/31.)Lake
Tankers.Your 1739/30 (Tanker Message) arrangements
concluded today for six Lake Tankers to sail in
convoy for Porto La Cruz on Nov. 3rd returning
with same escort on completion 21st. U.S.
Authorities indicate possibility of this being a bi-monthly
service but availability of escort will be deciding factor and no
promise of regularity can be made. Inclusion of Ocean Tankers if
necessary will reduce number of Lake Tankers accepted.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao 1155QR/31 to Admty. (R) Connav.)

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War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

ILEX. *see p. 988 B* B.A.D. Washington 1904/29. ILEX arrived 1300Z today. Making good defects. Intend sailing 2200Z/31. Endurance limits speed to 17 knots or less. Ship therefore cannot arrive at St. Vincent (Cape Verde Is.) before 2000Z/6th Nov.

(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1211Q/31 to Admty.)

Sailed ILEX in accordance with my 1211Q/31 not to all addressees. Communications as for A.F.O. "S" 1/42 section A C. Last Q G B held 132.

(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1812Q/31 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

Ships Pass to N.C.S.Os. Ships bound for ports in Gulf of for Gulf Maine in O.N. and O.N.S. convoys will in future be of Maine. detached at nearest convenient point on route and proceed direct to destinations.

2. Place and time of detachment will be ordered

by C.O.A.C. Halifax.

3. Masters of such ships should be provided with instructions for entering ports of destination.

(D.T.D. 1237A/31 to C. in C. W.A. (R) N.C.S.O. Liverpool. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. Connav.)

Your 1520/30. Concur.

(D.T.D. 1240A/31 to Connav.)

REGENT. Bermuda departure REGENT for Philadelphia. (S.B.N.O. W.A. 1259Q/31 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Leave Bermuda at 1630Z/31 and proceed to Philadelphia through positions (R) 036° 01' N 068° 58' W. (XM) 038° 19' N 074° 27' W thence steer 315° keep close and northward of buoys marking mid channel. S of A 14 knots. You are not to dive except in emergency.

(2) E.T.A. Overfalls Light Vessel 1430Z/2nd Nov.

(3) Wireless watch continuous on Washington Broadcast and additional on 355 K/cs from 4 hours before E.T.A. until arrival.

(S.B.N.O. W.A. 1442Z/31 to REGENT. (R) Admty. B.A.D. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. N.S.H.Q. S.O.I. Kingston (Jam.) U.S. N.O.B. Bermuda. Comesfron. Connav.)

Trawlers Your 2139/29/10. Approved. for S.A. (D.M.S. 1319A/31 to B.A.T.M.) Station.

CHELSEA. *see p 999* Your 1456/30. Request CHELSEA be sailed to New York to join Task Unit No. 24.18.6 for S.C.109. (C.O.A.C. 1340Z/31 to B.A.M.R.)

ABOSSO *see p. 1000* BIDEFORD recovered one boat 35 survivors including Dutch Commander Couppel who estimated sinking position 049° 15' N 028° (00' ?) west at 1815/29.

4 boats known to have got away probably 12. LANDGUARD, LULWORTH searching until dark. My position course and speed 1330Z/31. 049° 06' N 027° 12' W 092° 8. A.M. 1933A/30. Request R/V be adjusted weather report.

(LONDONDERRY 1500Z/31 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. SKEENA. CLEVELAND. BIDEFORD. U.S. Task Force 24.1.1. Cinclant.)

/ANNAPOLIS...

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War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

ANNAPOLIS. My 1505/30. ANNAPOLIS sailed St. Johns N.F. 1900 31st to join T.U. 24.18.1 in 044° 10' N 053° 19' W at 1200/1st.
(C.C.N.F. 1520Z/31 to C.T.U. 24.18.1. (R)
ANNAPOLIS. C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. Connav. C.T. 24. Admty.)

KCSMOS II Can you clarify situation regarding conflicting
BIC ISLAND reports on torpedoing of KOSMOS II and BIC ISLAND.
(N.S.H.Q. 1532Z/31 to Admty. (R) Connav.)

S/M C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1542/31.
estimate
31st Oct.

U/B Following has been received from A/C call sign
attacked. B M 8 Duty Y NR 2 GR 6 NR 3 31/10.
GAH Sub. 48.46 N 50.24 W.
(C.C.O. N.F. 1710 G.M.T./31.)

Following has been read addressed ZYX8 from BM8Y. Enemy S/M previously reported was when first sighted on course 036° speed 15 knots.
Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges and estimate 1 hit.
(Halifax N.S. 1605/31 - C.O.A.C. Halifax 1730Z/31.)

Proposed My 1440Z/16 para 3.
conference. Propose conference be held at Ottawa commencing a.m. 19th Nov. Request confirmation that date is convenient.

(2) Proposed Agenda (A) General discussion of North Atlantic Trade and escort matters. (B) Best disposition of escorts in W.L.E.F. and M.O.E.F. during the winter months. (C) Additional escorts which will be available for trade convoys by 1st. May 1943 from R.N. U.S.N. and R.C.N. sources. (D) Best disposition of all available escorts after opening of navigation in St. Lawrence and convoy arrangements for St. Lawrence in 1943. (E) Ocean meeting points. (F) Best employment of air in A/S Warfare and Convoy protection. (G) Any other points which R.N. or U.S.N. Authorities wish. Request these be signalled together with any comments on A to F above so that Agenda may be prepared.
(3) It is intended that representatives from C.O.A.C. and F.O.N.F. will attend this conference. Would appreciate information as to what R.N. or U.S.N. Authorities will send representatives and names and ranks.
(N.S.H.Q. 1646Z/31, 1525Z/1 to Admty. Cominch.)

Atlantic My 1835/8 to 1st S.L.
Chop. Cominch has agreed to the following:-
(A) Independents Chop Line for H.X. S.C. O.N. and O.N.S. convoys and independently to and from U.K. to be changed from its present position in 43° N 40° W to run to 50° N 35° W and thence due north to Greenland.
(B) Control of troop convoys to continue as at present.
(C) Control of shipping to and from Iceland to continue as at present.

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Atlantic Chop. Contd. 2. It will be noted that this is simply a change of Chop and has nothing to do with strategic area. Presume Admty. will now make proposals for amending Busra. (B.A.D. Washington 1747Z/31 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W.A.)

U/B Positions. S/M situation Oct. 31st and U.S. S/M Notice. (Cominch 1748/31.)

SKEENA SKEENA 1001/31. ^{/b-17} SKEENA's next convoy assignment S.C.109 to sail from St. Johns N.F. 15th Nov. (F.O.N.F. 1752Z/31 to C. in C. W.A. (R) SKEENA.)

SHERBROOKE, My 1415/29 SHERBROOKE further delayed will be sailed independently to join T.U.24.1.14 at Londonderry. (F.O.N.F. 1812Z/31.)

JOSEPHINE LAWRENCE. Intercepted at 2205 G.M.T./31 De KEMP off Georgetown beacon - chased by submarine ends. (Demerara Radio 1825R/31.)

H.X.213. Evidence from high frequency D/F of U-Boats shadowing convoy from astern. Request air cover. My P.C.S. 047° 33' 051° 05' 021° 10. (C.T.U. 24.1.16 1913Z/31 to C.T.F.24. Connav. Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7.)

CHELSEA. When ready about Nov.5th sail CHELSEA from Boston to Halifax. *See P 997* (Cominch 1917/31 to Comeastseafon.)

S.C.107. U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made sighting reports of convoy or important unit at 1859Z/31. 10510 K/cs ENIGMA. (Cominch 1946/31 to C.T.U. 24.1.14. C.T.U. 24.1.16. (R) C.T.24. C.O.A.C.) Your 1946/31. This (?U-Boat) is the one reported as in vicinity of H.X.213 in my 1913 not to C.T.U. 24.1.14. (C.T.U. 24.1.16 2124Z/31 to Connav. (R) C.T.U. 24.1.14. C.T.F.24. Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G.24.7.)

C.T.24. Your 2059/30. This reinforcement is very welcome. (A.C.N.S. (T.) 2002A/31 to B.A.D.)

/Submarine...

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War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Submarine
attack
and
sighting
summary.Para A. ABOSSO ^{see p. 497} torpedoed possible position 48.30 N
28.50 W. 1200Z/30. JOHN CARTER ROSE 8 October.
Escort sights sub on surface 46.13 N 53.12 W
1920Z/30.

Para B. Xolopana number 13 on conning tower.

Para C. Following sound contacts attacked:

PC.545. 12.02 N 64.57 W 0010Z/6, U.S.S. SURPRISE

12.48 N 68.32 W 1043Z/15.

Plane sights sub. 47.47 N 49.50 W 2000Z/30.

Panam. plane sights conning tower near oil slick 19.50 N 73.42 W
1500Z/31.Para D. Eastern airline plane sights white sub. 13.32 N 62.50 W
1530Z/30. Persicope sighted 10.10 N 79.13 W 1735Z/31.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2030/31.)

TAYLOR.
~~TARAZED.~~Bermuda arrival U.S.S. TAYLOR. Departures U.S.S.
TAYLOR escorting TARAZED.
(Com. I/C Bermuda 2049Q/31.)Convoy
T.23.Sailing telegram. Escort, C.T.F.23.3 Capt. T.E.
Chandler U.S.N. in U.S. Cruiser OMAHA with U.S. ~~F.~~
Cruiser MARBLEHEAD, U.S. Destroyers DAVIS, BADGER,
JOUETT, ELLIS and OSMOND INGRAM.
(Port Director, Trinidad 2223/31 to Cominch C & R.)

GURNARD.

Submarine squadron 50 C. in C. U.S. Fleet is
requested inform GURNARD of following

(1) Onward route from (E) 052° 01' N 025° 59' W is
through (F) 055° 40' 020° 01'. (G) 056° 30' 012° 45' thence R/V
with escort in 180° Barra Head 9 miles as ordered by Capt. S.3.
(2) GURNARD to dive by day when east 020° west.
(3) Total bombing restrictions arranged 30 miles either side of
line joining position (P) 049° 20' 030° 01' and position (E) from
2200A/9 until 0100A/11 and from (E) to position (F) from 1600A/10
to 0200A/12.

GURNARD is to inform F.O.S. of outside bombing restrictions.
Further restriction will be arranged.GURNARD to signal F.O.S. C. in C. W.A. and Capt. S.3. S.F. E.T.A.
in R/V 48 hours in advance.Commander U.S. Naval Forces in Europe pass to U.S. Submarine
Tender BEAVER.(F.O.S. 2229A/31 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet. Cinclant. (R) Admty.
Comnavu. C. in C. W.A. Capt. S.3.)Disregard of
swept channel
to New York
by O.N.130.Your 1400/29. Commodores are being warned
accordingly. It is not clear why escort did not
advise Commodore on the occasion to which you refer.
(D.T.D. 2307A/30 to N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.31.10.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.U.S.S.
PRESIDENT
ADAMS.Auckland.
(D.N.I. Wellington 0035Z/31.)Landing on
Goodenough
Island.

(2) Goodenough Island. Night 22/23 October our forces landed S.E. intention of clearing enemy from Island. Contacted enemy south 23rd Oct. 25th Oct. our troops continued attack. Enemy disorganised main body escaping (?daybreak) landing vicinity south Fergusson Island.
(L.H.Q. Australia No T.O.O./31. Recd. 0125.)

Situation.

Digest Serial No. 282 Oct. 30th. Air R/C indicated two heavy cruisers three light cruisers eleven destroyers one seaplane tender three possible Misitarr landing craft carriers, six medium three small merchant vessels three minelayers four small patrol craft twelve float-planes six flying boats Buin Faisi area 30th.

2. Photographs Buka Passage 30th Oct. show two small merchant vessels. Also six bombers twenty one fighters one aerodrome one bomber six fighters appeared damaged.

3. Air R/C 30th reported seven vessels approaching Rabaul from north thirty five large twenty five small vessels Rabaul Harbour no shipping Kavieng area.

4. Movements Dilli Harbour reported as follows. Sloop departed 26th merchant vessel arrived 27th large tanker arrived 29th.

5. Our forces occupied Alola 30th.

6. Allied air operations. Fifteen Fortresses eight Catalinas made three attacks on shipping Buin area early morning 30th. Two hits one near miss on one large warship, one hit on unidentified vessel causing fire. Also four near misses on light cruiser and possible hits on two other ships. Six Hudsons attacked Yrali early morning 30th. No damage observed. Deniki bombed strafed by three Bostons eight P.39s 29th results not observed.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0643Z/31.)

Guadalcanal.

Guadalcanal U.S. patrol west of Matanikau River reports finding several hundred Japanese dead near Point Cruz.
(J.S.M. Washington 1847Z/31.)

ROAMER

Departure Auckland U.S.S. ROAMER speed 13 knots E.T.A. Espiritu Santa 5th Nov.
(D.N.I. Wellington 1855Z/31.)

Movements.

Departure Vila U.S.S. GWIN^{and} STERETT escorting U.S.S. HUNTER, LIGGETT, NEVILLE, PRESIDENT (?HAYES), BARNETT, and HAYWOOD.
(D.N.I. Wellington 1959Z/31 to Admty.)

War Diary.

31.10.1942.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

U-Boat Estimate.
(D.D.I.C. 1455A/31, 1508A/31.)