

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

1.1.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

The U-boat menace and construction programme of escort vessels was discussed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff at Washington today, on a paper put forward by Admiral Noble, the main object of which was to accelerate and if possible increase the U.S. escort vessel programme. The conclusions reached and remarks of the Joint Staff Mission, Washington are given in their 1711Z/2 Jan. 1943.

Home Commands.

Convoy  
J.W. 51 B.

At 0800 today the estimated position of the convoy was about 180 miles N.N.E. of Kola Inlet.

Convoy  
R.A. 51

The estimated position of the convoy at 0800 today was about 220 miles E.S.E. of Bear Island.

RHAKOTIS  
sunk.

An aircraft at 0515 today reported a merchant ship apparently a blockade runner in 45° 37' N., 14° 15' W.; at 0530 the vessel was reported in approx. 45° 50' N., 14° 0' W., steering 90° at about 10 knots. SCYLLA in 41° 52' N., 15° 58' W. (returning home from the Western Mediterranean) two of the escorts of Convoy M.K.S.4 (LULWORTH and MOOSEJAW) and the U.S. S/MS BARB (patrolling off Vigo) and HERRING and BLACKFISH (patrolling west of Bay of Biscay) and Dutch S/M DOLFIJN (on passage to Gibraltar, arrived 6 Jan) proceeded to intercept. SCYLLA was homed on to the ship by a Coastal Command aircraft and sank her at 1830 in 45.01 N., 10.50 W. (about 140 miles N.W. of Cape Finisterre) apparently after the ship had scuttled. Survivors who landed at Corunna reported that the vessel was the RHAKOTIS from Japan and Batavia bound for Bordeaux.

1800 A  
see part 45

24 out of 34 aircraft despatched laid mines last night in Biscay ports.

4 magnetic and one acoustic mines were detonated near Spurn Light today.

SS. EMPIRE PANTHER (New York to Cardiff) reported at 2257 G.M.T. today that she was mined near the Smalls. The ship sank later.



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORT."Torch" Area.

A message today from the Admiralty to N.C.X.F., approved by the Prime Minister, makes it clear that although the importance of getting the French Navy working again is fully realised the only assistance in refitting their ships, which the Admiralty can undertake is in particular small requirements such as refitting destroyers which can be made serviceable quickly. Amongst other factors to be born in mind are that French ships make only about a third of the sea time undertaken by our ships.

The French proposals for repairs and alterations to French naval ships in North and West African ports other than Alexandria are given in a message from Algiers on 2 Jan. Proposals for the escorting and routing of French Naval vessels that may be assigned for overhaul in the U.S. are given in a message from Opnav on 2nd Jan.

South Atlantic.

The understanding reached between Admiral Glassford's Mission and the Flag Officer Commanding French Naval Forces in West Africa, relative to naval aviation is summarised in a message from Opnav today.

Mediterranean.

Capt. S.I. sends today a summarised patrol report of TAKU's sixth war patrol. On 14 Dec. TAKU sank a 5,000 ton northbound merchant ship in 37° 50' N., 24° 7' E. On 20 Dec. she carried out operation "Saturn". On 22nd Dec. and 23rd Dec. she operated against small vessels off Potdea Canal (Aegean) and in Port Kumi (east coast of Greece).

War Diary.

1.1.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

AJAX  
damaged  
at Bone.

AJAX was hit in the boiler room during one of several heavy daylight air raids on Bone today. SS. NOVELIST and HARPALYCE were damaged and SS. VILLE DE STRASBOURG was superficially damaged. The Naval oil fuel installation was damaged.

U.S. Ship ARTHUR MIDDLETON of Convoy U.G.S.3 blew up in 38° Cape Falcon (approaches to Oran) 9 miles this afternoon, 3 survivors landed at Oran. There is no report as to the cause of the explosion.

A Wellington last night dropped two 500 lb. bombs in Taranto Dockyard, causing a fire; Wellingtons bombed Bizerta in very unfavourable weather. U.S. B.24s bombed Tunis harbour today, obtaining hits on the railway sidings.

About 10 enemy aircraft operated against shipping north of Derna last night. No reports of damage have been received. CAMERONIA arrived at Algiers today with half an enemy aircraft torpedo on board.

East Indies.

Seven Wellingtons bombed Akyab town, waterfront and airfield last night.

Australia & New Zealand.

Early this morning four Fortresses and three Liberators bombed shipping in Rabaul harbour: a large transport and other vessels were hit by 1000 pound bombs and were seen burning fiercely.



1177 4

1.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of the U.K.

Nets in Sleet Sound. Net No. 5 in new bottom net defence in Sleet Sound laid out of position and obstructs main gate. Flotation buoys have surfaced. Essential that main gate be fully available by January 6th. Can "Bar" vessel be sent in time to lift this net as otherwise it will be necessary flood flotation buoys and allow net to sink. Nets 4 and 6 also out of position but do not obstruct main gate.  
(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh, 1640/1 to S.B.D. Rosyth.)

Movements.

ARAB. My 1126/31. ARAB arrived at 0230/1st.  
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0246A/1.)  
*See p. 12. (R.U. 55)*

SOKOL, My position approx. 062° 30' N. 001° 30' E. E.T.A. 1100A/2nd.  
O. 14. (SOKOL, 1000A/1 to A.C.O.S.)  
*See p. 64* Intend to sail SOKOL and O.14 escorted by \*LOCH MONTEITH 1700A/2nd for Dundee. Route. E.T.A. 0900A/4th.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1117A/1 to A.C.O.S.) \**See next page. (0.10)*  
My 1658/31st para. (D). SOKOL's position at 0800/31st approx. 62° 50' N. 02° 01' E. E.T.A. Lerwick 1100/2nd.  
(F.O.S., 1124A/1 to Admty.)  
My 1000A/1st. My position approx. 062° 00' N. 000° 30' E.  
(SOKOL, 1730A/1 to A.C.O.S.)

BODO. Your 1045A/30. Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1015/1 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

S.O. Force J, S.O. Force J will be afloat in LOCUST from 7th  
LOCUST. Jan. until further signal.  
(S.O. Force J, 1017/1 to Admty.)

PETERHEAD. Sailed M/S PETERHEAD in accordance with C. in C.  
H.F. 2254/29 para. 4. S.O.A. 10 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1021A/1 to A.C.I.C.)

\*P.339, Intend sailing P.339, P.223, and TORBAY escorted by  
P.223, AYRSHIRE 1200A/2nd. Route, for Holy Loch. E.T.A.  
TORBAY. 1200A/4.  
*\* See next page p. 64* (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1119A/1 to A.C.O.S.)  
My position approx. 061° 07', 000° 10' W.  
Anticipated time of arrival day before daylight.  
(P.223, 1301A/1 to A.C.O.S.)  
My 1658/31 para. (D). P.223 approx. position at 0800/1st.  
62° 20' N. 01° 10' E., proceeding probably on surface to Lerwick.  
(F.O.S., 1451A/1 to Admty.)

/North ...



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

North Atlantic dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic. Operating in Northern Waters: KING GEORGE V, ANSON, HOWE, BERMUDA, BERWICK, CUMBERLAND, JAMAICA, KENT, SHEFFIELD. 15 Destroyers.

Area Iceland (C): NORFOLK. 3 Destroyers.

Area Scapa: MALAYA, GLASGOW.

Area Clyde: ARGUS.

Passage to U.K.: SCYLLA. 2 destroyers.

Area Gibraltar: NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FURIOUS, FORMIDABLE, AJAX, AURORA, DELHI, SIRIUS. 10 destroyers.  
(D.O.D.(H.), 1141Z/1 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

OBERON, P.229, P.31. Intend to sail STAR OF INDIA from Clyde at 2200A/1st by standard route to 180° Lizard Head 12 miles, E.T.A. 0800/4th to R/V OBERON, P.229, P.31 and escort them to Clyde, E.T.A. 1630/6th, speed 8½ knots.

(Capt. S.3, 1153A/1 to F.O.S.)  
Intend to sail OBERON, P.229, P.31 escorted by UNST from Needles at 1215/3rd for (A) 180° Lizard Head 12 miles, routed through Spithead convoy route, E.T.A. 0830/4th.  
(2) Thence submarines proceed OBERON to Rothesay, P.229 and P.31 to Holy Loch, all escorted by STAR OF INDIA.  
(Capt. S.5, 1230A/1 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

NEWARK. My 1651A/31. Expect completion of defects 1800A/2. Intend to sail NEWARK to Milford Haven on completion in accordance with N.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 1751A/30.  
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1202A/1.)

O. 10. Intend sailing O.10 escorted by M.L.454 at 1600A/3rd, by swept channel to Dundee. E.T.A. Dundee 0730A/4th.

(Capt. S.6, 1210A/1 to Capt. S.9.)  
Intend sail O.10 escorted by \*LOCH MONTEITH from Dundee at 1600A/4th for number 36 buoy, E.T.A. 1100A/5th. \* See previous page. (SOKOL. 2.14)  
2. A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange for onward escort from number 36 buoy to Rothesay and to inform Capt. S.9 of name of vessel detailed.  
(Capt. S.9, 1915A/1.)

W.A. Command. Situation at 2004A/1. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1359A/1.)  
See ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Convoy Returns.

P.339. Arrived P.339.  
*See previous page* (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1607A/1.)

/ S/M ...



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

S/M At 0800A/2. Details.  
Positions. (F.O.S., 1716A/1, 1944A/1.)  
See ~~██████████~~. P. 6A

BULOLO. BULOLO is to leave Clyde for Casablanca on 5th January.  
3. Ship is required to arrive Casablanca a.m. on 11th January or earlier if practicable. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide route South of Ireland and sail the ship accordingly.  
4. Escort will be provided by BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE, and one destroyer to be nominated by C. in C. Plymouth. (V.C.N.S., 2148A/1 to C. in C. W.A.)

COVERLEY. My position is 110° Buchan Ness 6 miles making good at 7½ knots, E.T.A. Duncansby Head 1135/2. (COVERLEY, 2337/1 to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Blockade-runner P.C.S. of one merchant vessel 46° 05' N. 14° 32' W. 090°, 10 knots.  
sunk by (A/C, 0500/1 to 19 Group.)  
SCYLLA. Position course and speed of one merchant vessel  
*Con 15; on p. 7.* 45° 37' N. 14° 15' W., course and speed unknown.  
(A/C, 0515/1 to 19 Group.)

Position course and speed of one enemy merchant vessel  
45° 30' N. 13° 51' W., 090°, 15 knots.  
(A/C, 0546/1 to 19 Group.)

A/C reports one enemy merchant ship within 15 miles 045° 45' N. 013° 50' W., course 90°, speed 11 knots.  
(F.O.S., 0641A/1 to S/Ms South of 51° N.)

Inward-bound blockade-runners are sometimes escorted by U-Boats.

(F.O.S., 0656A/1 to S/Ms.)

Proceeding at 28 knots to intercept enemy merchant ship reported by aircraft at 0546/1st. My P.C.S. 041° 52' N. 015° 58' W., 048°, 28 knots.

(SCYLLA, 0705A/1 to Admty.)

My 0641. If not acting on A/C homing signal submarines operate as follows. DOLFIJN between parallels 046° 20' and 046° 01'.

BLACKFISH between 046° 01' and 045° 40'.

HERRING between 045° 40' and 045° 20'.

BARB between 045° 20' and 045° 01'.

All subs. making Westing as far as possible to ensure interception of enemy in daylight.

(F.O.S., 0719A/1 to S/Ms.)

Am chasing ship reported by aircraft at 0515/1. MOOSEJAW in company. My P.C.S. 045° 37' N. 014° 00' W., 090°, 15 knots.  
(LULWORTH, 0730Z/1 to Admty.)

/One ...



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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Positions of  
S/MS at  
0800A/2nd  
and movements  
for following  
24 hours.

- (A) P.223 and SOKOL approaching Lerwick from northeastward. *See p. 4*
- (B) P.216, P.312, P.46, GRAPH, in North Norwegian waters east of 20° E. *See p. 8. P. 49 in 1st ed. 9.*
- (C) P.55 in Zone K. 104.
- (D) CLYDE 50° 10' N., 09° 25' W., dived by day through 50° 10' N., 15° 02' W., and 50° 05' N., 20° 00' W., advance 170 miles in 24 hours.
- (E) H.43 exercising vicinity Great Ormes Head.
- (G) SOKOL and O.14 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leave Lerwick 1700/2nd for Dundee E.T.A. 0900/4th.
- (H) DOLFIJN 44° 36' N., 12° 26' W. dived by day due 42° 01' N., 12° 26' W., at 0600/3rd. My 1650/31st para. (G) add proceeds after dark 1st dived by day through 43° 01' N., 12° 26' W. at 0600/3rd thence to Gibraltar. (F.O.S., 1716A/1).
- My 1716/1. Amend as follows.  
Delete para. (F) add following new paras.
- (J) U.S.S. SHAD on patrol off Bilbao.
- (K) U.S.S. BARB on patrol off Vigo. *See p. 8.*
- (L) U.S.S. HERRING in zone K.505.
- (M) U.S.S. BLACKFISH in zone K.501
- (N) P.339, P.223 and TORBAY escorted by AYRSIRE leave Lerwick 1200A/2 Jan. North of Fair Isle and via Minches for Holy Loch. E.T.A. 1200A/4 speed 10 knots. (F.O.S., 1944A/1).

*See p. 4*

*See p. 4*



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - con/r:-

Blockade-runner sunk by SCYLLA. (Contd.) *from p.6.* One unknown merchant ship, probably blockade-runner, reported by air R/C in approx. 45° 50' N. 14° 00' W. at 0530/1.  
2. Course 090°, speed about 10 knots. Ship may be escorted by U-Boats.  
3. Own submarines expected to intercept to eastward of long. 13 W.

4. 3 escorts of M.K.S.4 and SCYLLA proceed to intercept. (D.O.D.(H), 0755A/1 to Escorts M.K.S.4, SCYLLA.)  
1. My 0641/1st. Estimated positions of our surface forces at 0800/1st. SCYLLA 042° 50' N. 016° 01' W. Northbound convoy M.K.S.4 escorted by sloops and corvettes 045° 40' N. 014° 50' W.  
2. SCYLLA and three escorts of M.K.S.4 have been ordered to proceed to intercept and have been informed our submarines are expected to intercept east of 013° W. (F.O.S., 0909A/1 to S/Ms.)  
Flares were sighted from aircraft at 0500A/1 bearing 074° from 045° 23' N. 014° 42' W.  
As directed by B.N.469, 2 escorts have now been detached from M.K.S.4 with instructions to continue chase as ordered by Admty. or SCYLLA.  
My P.C.S. are 045° 37' N. 013° 15' W., 090°, 15 knots. MOOSEJAW in company. Weather 4762 3574. (LULWORTH, 0930Z/1 to Admty.)  
My 0909/1st. Correct SCYLLA's P.C.S. to read at 0705/1st 041° 51', 015° 58', 048°, 28 knots, proceeding to intercept. (F.O.S., 1011A/1 to S/Ms.)  
Admiralty's 0755A/1. A/C gaining touch with enemy merchant vessel are ordered to carry out homing procedure outlined in para. G. of article 165 of A.F.O.S.2/42. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1031A/1 to SCYLLA, Escorts M.K.S.4.)  
My 0909/1st, para. 2. P.C.S. of LULWORTH and MOOSEJAW 045° 37', 014° 01', 090°, 15 knots. (F.O.S., 1114A/1 to S/Ms.)  
Estimate longitude enemy at 1200 was 012° 30' W. If to westward of enemy BLACKFISH, HERRING, BARB sweep on course 90° at best convenient speed. (F.O.S., 1151A/1 to S/Ms.)  
Estimated position enemy M/V at 1200A/1st 045° 57' N. 012° 34' W., course 90°, 10 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1219A/1 to LULWORTH, MOOSEJAW, SCYLLA.)  
My 0755/1. One Dutch and 4 American submarines are in the area. Attention is drawn to Admiralty General Message No.761A dated 23rd November 1942. (D.O.D.(H), 1243A/1 to SCYLLA, Escorts of M.K.S.4.)  
My 1151. BLACKFISH, HERRING, BARB are to operate between limits of latitudes ordered in my 0719. Adjust course as necessary. (F.O.S., 1247A/1 to S/Ms.)  
My 1219/1st. Correct latitude to read 045° 44' N. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1329/1 to LULWORTH, MOOSEJAW, SCYLLA.)  
Request I may be informed SCYLLA's P.C.S. My P.C.S. are 045° 35' N. 011° 49' W., 090°, 15 knots. MOOSEJAW in company. Estimated enemy speed 15 knots since 0500A/1. My sweep is based on enemy's reported course plotted from actual sight of aeroplane flares. Consider he is in 045° 40' N. 010° 53' W. We are proceeding at our maximum speed. Request further instructions. (LULWORTH, 1330Z/1 to Admty., (R) SCYLLA.)

/My ...



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1.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - *Lon/18:*

Blockade-runner sunk by SCYLLA. (Contd.) My 0641/1st. Ship is probably RHAKOTIS, one funnel, full superstructure, Samson posts before bridge, 7 thousand tons, maximum speed 15 knots. (F.O.S., 1417A/1 to S/Ms.)  
My 1151. BLACKFISH, BARB, and HERRING proceed at best possible speed. (F.O.S., 1432A/1 to S/Ms.) 1800A/1st January.  
Estimate enemy will be within 16 miles of 45° 04' N. 10° 53' W., steering between 090° and 100°, speed 10 to 12 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1603A/1 to SCYLLA, MOOSEJAW, LULWORTH.)  
Estimate DOLFIJN position at 2000/1st 046° 05', 012° 30'.  
2. DOLFIJN is to proceed forthwith on route "Red", diving by day, passing through (C) 042° 59', 012° 26' at 0600/3rd. (F.O.S., 1624A/1 to S/Ms., (R) SCYLLA.)  
The following has been read by Plymouth: Unidentified merchant vessel in 45° 12' N. 10° 48' W., course 090°, 10 knots. (A/C, 1632A/1 to 19 Group.)  
If nothing has been sighted by last light rejoin your convoy. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1644A/1 to LULWORTH, MOOSEJAW.)  
If nothing has been sighted by 2000/1st proceed for position (U) 051° 01' N. 015° 32' W. and thence in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1445A/31st. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1649A/1 to SCYLLA.)  
Following received addressed 19 Group H.Q. from A/C of 55 Squad. Duty 'Z'.  
Homed cruiser within twelve miles of unknown merchant vessel. (Plymouth W/T, 1710/1.)  
Aircraft report P.C.S. of enemy at 1634, 045° 12', 010° 48', 090°, 12 knots. Submarines negative SHAD and DOLFIJN proceed intercept. (F.O.S., 1714A/1 to S/Ms.)  
Enemy sunk. (SCYLLA, 1830A/1 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)  
Note by W.R. Passed to F.O.(S), C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., P.3318.  
Have abandoned search in accordance with C. in C. Plymouth's 1644A/1 in 045° 18' N. 010° 07' W. Nothing to report.  
E.T.A. convoy 2230A/2. MOOSEJAW in company. (LULWORTH, 1830Z/1 to Admty.)  
Enemy was sunk by SCYLLA at 1830.  
2. Subs. return forthwith to original patrol. SHAD off Bilbao, BARB off Vigo, BLACKFISH to K.501, HERRING off Ferrol. *See p. 6A*  
(F.O.S., 1923A/1 to S/Ms.)  
Well done.  
(1st S.L., 2013A/1 to SCYLLA.)

Patrols. → Tonight CHASSEURS 15 (S.O.) and 13 to patrol south of E.A5 Buoy weather permitting. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1026A/1.)  
1. Weather permitting intend M.L.303 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 497 to patrol tonight, on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 30' W. and 2° 05' W. Details. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1201A/1.)  
3. CHASSEURS 15 and 13 patrolling south of E.A5 Buoy. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1515A/1 to Admty.)

/My ...



1.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - 20th/21st.

Patrols. My 1201A/1 cancelled owing to weather.  
(Contd.) (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1602A/1.)  
Dover dispositions for night 1st/2nd. Nil.  
(V.A. Dover, 1647A/1 to Admty.)

Operations Your 1707/29. Your suggestion that craft may  
"Weathervane", work from Plymouth on alternate nights is much  
"Promise", appreciated. After due consideration however  
"Huckaback". this is not considered practicable owing to  
complications which will arise concerning military  
forces in operations and increase in engine hours  
of craft which may well be considerable.  
(S.O. Force J, 1859/1 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
C. in C. Plymouth's 1707/29. My authority to carry out  
"Weathervane" and "Promise" withheld pending decision 4th Jan.  
(C.C.O., 2046A/1 to S.O. Force J.)

Operation Proposals for operation "Witticism" are concurred  
"Witticism". in subject to being carried out on nights when  
no convoy is crossing Lyme Bay.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1941A/1 to S.O. Force J.)

Allied Air Activity.

Biscay 34 A/C were despatched to lay mines in enemy  
Ports. waters, and 24 A/C were successful in laying  
their mines in the allotted areas.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1555A/1.)

Iceland. 1st January Daily Resume.  
(R.A.F. Iceland, 1752A/1.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy At 1605 F.W. 200 aircraft from Bordeaux reported  
M.K.S.4. shipping - position unknown.  
(D.D.I.C., 1730A/1 to Escorts M.K.S. 4.)

Mining.

Clearance Today had to abandon work after sweeping one lap  
of Q.Z.X. of check sweep in "K". No mines. Only one  
866. drifting mine seen. Last report is my 1555A/29/12.  
Reference M/S Report No.166 para. 3, owing to high  
density of mines swept it is not possible to give  
a definite figure of mines disposed of on 3rd December. Similarly  
an undetermined number of mines destroyed by mine destruction  
force on other occasions have been moored.  
(M/S.9, 1444A/1 to V.A. Dover.)

/Spurn ...



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Spurn Head. At 1156/1, 4 mines were detonated by Sweepers in 262° Spurn light 2.4 miles; and at 1243/1 one mine was detonated by Sweepers in 260° Spurn light 2.2 miles. Details.  
(F.O. Humber, 1703A/1.)

EMPIRE PANTHER (British, 5600 tons) mined. EMPIRE PANTHER mined. Bearing from Burnham-on-Sea Radio, 305° unreliable.  
(Burnham Radio, T.O.R. 2257 G.M.T./1 to Admty.)  
Following from EMPIRE PANTHER. Now getting boats away D.R position at 2306 G.P.K. de G.L.P.B. HR North of Smalls.  
(Burnham Radio, Recd. 2306 G.M.T./1 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

N.W. Norway. TORBAY report. TORBAY reports (1) Only one aircraft unidentified sighted during patrol during outward passage.  
(2) Following lights observed burning normally.  
(3) 27th Dec. Submarines proceeded in and out of Soroy Sund by following route.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1527A/1 to F.O.S.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. By D/F at 1120/1 G.M.T. U-Boat, probably westbound estimated to be anywhere within 75 miles of 45° 00' N. 7° 20' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 1309/1 to S/Ms., LULWORTH, MOOSEJAW.)  
By D/F at 1419Z probable U-Boat bore from Shetlands 026/B T.O.O. 1505 29 groups.  
(D.D.I.C., 1557A/1 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
By D/F at 1520Z/1 U-Boat estimated to be anywhere within 75 miles of 45° 00' N. 9° 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 1801A/1 to S/Ms., LULWORTH, MOOSEJAW, SCYLLA.)

Casualties and Defects.

REGENT LION. Your 2359/31. Proceeding to Falmouth, P.C.S. 051° 14' N. 008° 33' W., 120°, 5 knots.  
(MELBREAK, 0115A/1 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Tow hove to in 51° 05' N. 08° 12' W., wind force 5 from West sea 23.  
(MELBREAK, 0620A/1 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Your 2359/31. Falmouth out of question. Trying to steam North but tug unable to make headway. Towing by ? me impracticable. Request second tug, ABELLE has 5 days water left. My estimated position at 1000, 051° 07' N. 008° 14' W.  
(MELBREAK, 1001A/1 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
SEA GIANT is to proceed immediately to assist in towing REGENT LION to Falmouth. Position of tow 303° Longships 112 miles, hove to at present. SEA GIANT is to make a course 303° from Longships. LORD ESSENDEN is to be detached to meet SEA GIANT and escort her. Codeword "Warrant 1".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1044A/1 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

/Tow ...



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - *Lon 17*

- REGENT LION. Tow parted.  
(Contd.) (MELBREAK, 1140A/1 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
C. in C. Plymouth's 1044/1. "Warrant 1" sailed  
1230/1st.  
(N.O.I.C. Penzance, 1231A/1 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)  
Tanker anchored in 051° 06.2' N. 007° 50.2' W. at 1530.  
Crew on board ABEILLE waiting weather to moderate. Drifting  
080° 1.25 knots. Shall I follow in tomorrow. Wind W.N.W. force  
5, sea 34, visibility variable up to 8 miles.  
(MELBREAK, 1601A/1 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
ALERT and ST. KILDA are returning to Milford Haven for fuel  
and provisions. Request that on completion they may be ordered  
to proceed in accordance with their sailing orders.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1735A/1 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)  
Remain in company with tanker and tug, but do not go east  
of 7° W.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1855A/1 to MELBREAK.)  
Tanker anchored in 51° 6' N. 7° 50' W. at 1530/1 and  
drifting 080° 1¼ knots. Crew aboard ABEILLE till weather  
moderates. MELBREAK also standing by.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1857A/1 to SEA GIANT, LORD ESSENDEN.)
- ROCKINGHAM. E.T.A. Reykjavik 1400/1st. Leakage in both main  
condensers. 2 boilers main reserve feed tanks  
contaminated. Request assistance from repair ship.  
(ROCKINGHAM, 0300Z/1 to A.C.I.C.)
- SETTER. *H.T.N.D. H.T.N.D.*  
My 1741A/31 and 0421A/1 SETTER returned with  
defects.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1101A/1.)
- KITTIWAKE. KITTIWAKE placed at 12 hours notice for steam to  
effect repairs to starboard main circulator  
discharge pipe. Probable duration 24 hours.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1224A/1.)
- CHIDDINGFOLD. CHIDDINGFOLD reports cylinder casting of capstan  
engine cracked due frost and ship is unable to  
anchor. Extent of damage cannot be assessed until  
engine is lifted and this is considered beyond capability of  
ship's staff.  
(F.O. 2 B.S., 1428A/1 to Cdre. D.)
- Z. 8. *H.T.N.D. - but see 20/12. D. 1074*  
Cancel my 2122/30. Further defects will delay  
sailing.  
(F.O. Humber, 1905A/1.)
- HOUND. Sailed HOUND, E.T.A. 0900/2 for fuel and onward  
routeing to Port Edgar. Ship has damaged bilge  
keel. Diesel generator engine out of action.  
Estimated time to make good ten days.  
(WESTERN ISLES, 2000A/1 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

/Unknown ...



1.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

Unknown Ship. Following intercepted from unknown station begins unread grounded west side Polykandro. Fore holds and engine room severely leaking, pumps out of order, ship standing hard on the rocks hassling ends.  
(Valentia Radio, 2044/1 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

J.W. 51B. Seidisfjord arrival, ICARUS 2150/31st. E.T.A. FORESTER 0830/1st.  
(N.O.I.C. Reykjavik, 0730A/1 to C. in C. H.F.)

One cruiser bearing 200° (incomplete).

(GRAPH to Admty., Recd. 0743/1st.)

→ E.T.A. Scapa 1245A/1st MATCHLESS in company.

(OPPORTUNE, 0834A/1 to A.C.O.S.)

V.A.2 in ANSON with destroyers proceed to Scapa.

(2) NORFOLK return to Hvalfjord.

(3) My P.C.S. at 0900A 062° 11' N. 003° 11' W., 005°, 12.

(4) Weather 5778 8976.

(C. in C. H.F., 0934/1 to V.A.2, NORFOLK.)

Kola Inlet arrival 0915A/1st ONSLOW.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0942A/1.)

Intend to proceed ANSON with FORESTER, IMPULSIVE, and ICARUS northabout to Hvalfjord, passing Seidisfjord boom 1700A/1st. S.O.A. (? 9) knots.

→ (V.A.2, 1025A/1 to A.C.I.C.)

Russian air R/C Alten Fiord at 1007A/1st observed one battleship, 3 cruisers, 6 destroyers, 4 escort vessels, and Floating Dock in northern-most part of Fiord.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1308A/1 to H.F. Operational.)

→ Cancel my 1025. Intend to proceed in ANSON with ~~4~~ FORESTER, IMPULSIVE, and ICARUS to Scapa passing Seidisfjord boom at 1700A/1. Route through 062° 30' N. 003° 50' W. E.T.A. Scapa 0915/3. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide A/S air escort. \* See 3/1-181

→ (V.A.2, 1351A/1 to A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., etc.)

→ Scapa arrival OPPORTUNE, MATCHLESS 1257.

(A.C.O.S., 1444A/1.)

A/S escort will be provided tomorrow from 1030 during daylight by one Catalina.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1810A/1 to C. in C. H.F.)

→ V.A.2 H.F.'s 1351/1st. Sailed 1630/1st.

(A.C.I.C., 2216A/1 to A.C.O.S.)

P.S. 1. P.S.1 postponed 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0922/1.)

R.U. 55. Request ARAB be sailed to overtake or direct to Belfast.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0926A/1 to A.C.I.C.)



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- F.N.406,  
TURUL.                   TURUL straggler from F.N.406, steering bad, routed independently.  
(WOOLSTON, 0930A/1.)
- M.K.F. 5.                   Arrived Liverpool portion.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0936A/1.)
- P.W. 271,  
P.W.D.271,  
STANDELLA.               Arrived STANDELLA and escort GLAISDALE.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0952/1.)
- P.W. 272.               LIMBOURNE is to take WHALSAY, KINGSTON ANDALUSITE,  
and FIR under his orders and pass Gate at 0930/2nd  
to R/V with and relieve escort of P.W.272 at  
Eddystone.  
2. There are no ships for P.W.D. 272.  
3. LIMBOURNE proceeds to Milford Haven, remainder as in Commander  
Aux. Patrol 1111/1st.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1125A/1.)
- S.C. 114.               Iceland portion is to detach on crossing 022° W.  
and proceed Reykjavik.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1126Z/1 to C.T.U. 24.6.5.)
- K.M.S. 7.               Intend to sail OCEAN TRADER in (? Bougie) group  
leaving Barry Roads 0330/3rd, E.T.A. Clyde 1400/4th.  
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1141A/1.)  
Intend sail passing Clyde boom 1600A/7 to R/V with escorts from  
Londonderry in position (F) at 1000A/8, thence as in A.M.  
1601A/2nd.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1624A/1.)
- W.P. 272.               Sailed BROCKLESBY to join W.P. 272.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1322/1.)
- F.N.405,  
ORANIA.               Your 1252A/31. ORANIA put into Tyne.  
(N.C.S.O. Tyne, 1511/1 to N.C.S.O. Humber.)
- P.S. 2,  
S.P. 2.               P.S.2 and S.P. 2 sail as in my 1627A/31.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1552/1.)
- O.N. and  
O.N.S.  
Convoys.               Vice and Rear Commodores of O.N. and O.N.S. Convoys  
are to be informed that no ships for South Atlantic  
Ports are to be detached until instructions are  
received from shore authorities.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1708Z/1.)

/WESTERNLAND ...

War Diary.

1.1.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

WESTERNLAND. Your 0715/30. Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1710/1 to N.C.S.O. Greenock.)

K.M.S. 7. Convoy will leave Clyde on 7th January. Ships,  
destinations, and escort.  
(D.O.D.(H.), 1851A/1.)  
~~██████████~~

Roman Candles. Many merchant ships' lifeboats and rafts have  
already been supplied with Roman Candles for use  
as a distress signal. The characteristics of  
this signal are five red stars, the first of which  
reaches a height of approximately 100 feet and the last 250 feet.  
The interval between stars is from five to six seconds.  
(D.T.D., 1910Z/1 to B.A.M.S.)

O.N.S.154, Following from SCOTTISH HEATHER. Torpedoed 27th  
SCOTTISH December, proceeding Clyde. E.T.A. forenoon (? 2nd  
HEATHER. January).  
(Port Patrick Radio, 1930Z/1 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

H.X. 220. Your 2204Z/1. Proceeding to "P" in accordance  
with para. 1.  
(C.T.U. 24.1.18, 2336Z/1 to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

HELVIG Commodore Algiers 1338/24 and F.O.I.C. Greenock's  
M.K.F.5. 1618/31. Convoy M.K.F.5. Request you will  
confirm that HELVIG did not Sail with convoy.  
(D.O.D. (H). 1322A/1 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gib. etc)  
Reply; 1632/2.

Safe Following routes are approved (A) for Swiss ships  
Conduct to Genoa and Savona. Gibraltar coastwise to Cape  
Ships. San Antonio west of Sana thence 10 miles N. of  
Cape Cabaleria (Minorca) 10 miles N. of Revellata  
Point (Corsica) thence direct to Genoa or Savona.  
(B) For Red Cross ships to Marseilles. Gibraltar coast wise to  
Cape San Sebastian thence direct Marseilles.  
My 1730A/31 was a Basegram.  
(N.C.X.F. 1506A/1 to All British S. and A. concerned in Operation  
"Torch" (Excluding ships refitting in U.K.) V.A. Malta. Capt.(S)  
10. (R) Admty.)

Officers My 1909/31 Boisson agrees to despatch of British  
forDDakar. Officers to Dakar. Admiralty pass to Cominch.  
( N.C.X.F., 1949A/1, to Admty. (R) Cominch, V.A.  
Gib. F.O.C. W.Af.)

Special Your 1835/30, and your 1425/30, (N.T. in W.R.)  
Tanker To Gibraltar and Algiers only. Tankers allocated  
Convoy. Oran have following cargoes:- MINISTER WEDEL,  
NORVIK,OLTENIA II (details). 2. Suggest one of  
these ships be reallocated to Algiers to meet  
requirements of Lubricating Oil.  
3. 154 packages of Mess Gear and clothing in NORVIK and 370 case  
cases Tobacco in OLTENIA II are required at Gibraltar, and should  
be returned by first opportunity consigned to Victualling Store  
Officer.  
(C.S. Gib. 2023A/1 to N.C.X.F.)

Refit of Your 1214/25 not to B.A.D. We should have wished  
French on general grounds to give French substantial  
Warships. assistance in reconstructing their Naval Forces  
Practical considerations render this quite impos-  
sible however, without serious consequences to our-  
selves. 2. Shipyard facilities in the Empire are already unable  
to meet our requirements plus those of the other United Nations'  
Navies attached to us. The U.S. have indeed reduced the amount  
of work done for us in their yards owing to their own needs and  
anything that they do for the French almost certainly is at our  
expense. Nevertheless this is less prejudicial than a direct call  
on our own over-worked capacity.  
3. Our experience with French ships refitted in this country  
has been that their general condition is deplorable and necess-  
itates very long refits. You will appreciate that to use Allied  
ship repair capacity in long-term refits of French ships at the  
expense of shorter-term British or U.S. refits may have reper-  
cussions on operations during 1943. We hope the U.S. are giving  
full weight to this consideration, particularly in connection  
with the large French units whose future usefulness is proble-  
matical.

/The



War Diary.

1.1.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area. Contd.

Refit of  
French  
Warships,  
Contd

The sea time they make is only about one-third of ours. 4. Our experience is that carrying out repairs on the warships of other nations is a difficult and thankless job, and we doubt whether the ship repair position in the U.S. will enable them to come up to French expectations. Our disappointment at not being able to help is, therefore, not without its consolation. 5. The importance of getting the French Navy working again is, of course, fully realised and we do not mean to say that no help whatever is to be expected from us. If there is a particular small requirement such as refitting destroyers which can be made serviceable quickly and which we might be able to sandwich into our general programme, we shall give it sympathetic consideration.

(Hd. of M.B. Approved 1st. Lord & Prime Minister 2301A/1 to N.C.X.F. (R) B.A.D.)



SECRET

164  
(Torch Area)  
Recd in WD

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.)

10.1.43

SECRET

MESSAGE 1429A/1st January IN

DATE:  
RECD:

From N.C.X.F.

Addressed Admiralty (1P)

Anglo-French Naval Relations in North Africa.

Following is summary of relations with French Navy since Torch agreement.

Co-operation with Port authorities at Algiers, Oran and other ports quickly developed. This principally due to commercial interest, but Naval authorities were not unhelpful from beginning and are now co-operative.

Manifest of good-will at centre naturally came more slowly; but scuttling of Toulon Fleet certainly swung Naval opinion toward Allies, both from increased hatred of Germans and obvious dependence on Allies for revival of French Navy.

Increasing desire for co-operation shown by Admiral Moreau and staff and lately by Admiral Michelier is judged to be sincere and in conversation no animus is now shown over French Naval losses suffered during assaults in North and West Africa.

French material demands for reconditioning of ships are large, but are balanced by French willingness to meet our North African requirements and to bring their procedure into line with our own.

As yet the French Navy in North Africa have shown little sign of wishing to collaborate with Fighting French and

resent.....



-2-

resent any rallying to De Gaulle among French in North Africa. They particularly resent recruiting activities at Gibraltar - Admiral Micholier claims that he and his Navy have no wish to interfere with Free French Navy organisation and consider that in circumstances this attitude should be respected by both parties until they can find basis for uniting.

Undoubtedly Darlan's death was severe shock to many senior officers but otherwise their Navy seems to have been as unmoved by this event as remainder of population.

French bluejackets are smart in appearance and well-behaved on shore. A good proportion of them salute British Naval officers.

General Giraud has taken opportunities to show friendliness to British Naval officers, and Admiral Fenard has entertained small parties at his house.

With other Senior Naval officers contacts have been confined to official occasions.

In General. Anglo-French Naval relations in North Africa are now correct and easy and are definitely friendly at existing points of liaison.

1429A/1

1st Lord	Parl. Sec.	M. (2)
1st S.L. (2)	P.N.S. (3)	D. of N.D. (2)
2nd S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of D.
D.F.S.L.	D. of P. (3)	P.N.N.O.
3rd S.L.	Ops. (3)	Hd. of C.I.
V.C.N.S.	O.D. (5)	I.P. (3)
A.C.N.S. (H)	O.I.C.	W.D.
A.C.H.S. (F)	D.N.I. (5)	Ad. Blake (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.S.D. 9(2)	Ad. Ramsey (4)
Nav. Sec.	D. of P. (Q)	Ad. Bollairs
Sec.		



# MOST SECRET

(Leak in USA) 10.1.43.

**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.)

## SALVAGE VESSELS FROM MASSAWA FOR TORCH AREA.

1752Z/1st January

MOST SECRET MESSAGE

FROM: WAR Washington

DATE: 2.1.43  
RECD: 0530Z

ADDRESSED: Algiers .

Reference 646. 1st January 1943

Interior Addresses: From: Marshall  
To: Eisenhower

Reference: Your 977 of December 1st  
(No record).

1. Paraphrase of un-numbered message of December 26th for C. in C. Mediterranean to Admiralty follows.
2. Immediate transfer of all available salvage forces and vessels from Massawa to work under Eisenhower has been ordered by Washington and orders for transfer have been issued. Impossible at present time to forecast when safe passage can be made through Mediterranean but the long passage of 9 weeks via Cape appears to warrant investigation of the 18 day Suez trip as an alternative. Vital salvage work could be done at Tobruk, Malta or Benghazi if vessels must wait enroute. Maxwell has been shown this message and will communicate with AGWAR in same sense. End of paraphrase.
3. A copy of above message was sent to us. We originally diverted this equipment from Massawa because your 977 of December 1st stated it was necessary at Oran. Do you desire that any action be taken by us?

1752Z/1

Received in War Registry 9/1.  
Relayed to Algiers by Sig. Centre

- 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)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- P.A.S. (S)
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of P. (2)
- Duty Capt.

### Circulation

- Brigadier Jacob
- C.6. Tels., W.O.
- Foreign Secretary
- A.M.C.S. (C)
- First Sea Lord.
- D. of P. (Q)
- Hd. of M. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Admiral Blake
- D. of Salvage



17

1.1.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- T.E. 12. Sailed convoy T.E.12 escorted by NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, IMPERIALIST, LUNENBURG, SUMMERSIDE. Q.B. Mess. 94 and 200, 201, Q.B.A. 21. (V.A. Gib., 0250/1 to N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers, (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q.)
- G.U.F. 3. Arrivals \*ERNE, \*LEITH, \*SANDWICH, \*\*ROCHESTER, \*\*SCARBOROUGH, ex G.U.F.3. (V.A. Gib., 1026A/1 to N.C.X.F., F.O. Oran, (R) Admty., S.N.O. Casablanca.) \* *See pp. 17A & 19.*  
\*\* *See p. 18.*
- PAGOA. Italian Tanker PAGOA will be proceeding Algeciras to Cadiz, in tow shortly. Ship is not to be interfered with. (V.A. Gib., 1103A/1 to S.O.P. Ships in Area X.)
- Casablanca enemy aircraft. A.M. 1801A/31. There are indications that 8 F.W. 200 aircraft carried out a bombing attack on Casablanca on night 30th/31st Dec. (D.D.I.C., 1140A/1 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib.)
- O.N.S.154, K.M.S. 6. BATTLEFORD and SHEDIAC left Ponta Delgada 1215 G.M.T./1st Jan. MILNE and METEOR arrived 1230. PETUNIA arrived 1330. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1202/1 to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) Admty.)  
MILNE, METEOR and \*PETUNIA left Ponta Delgada 2200 G.M.T./1st. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 2134/1 to S.O.(I) Gib., (R) Admty.)  
*\* See p. 18.*
- VULCANIA, SATURNIA. Intend to sail Italian Repatriation Liners VULCANIA and SATURNIA for Brindisi, 1700 today Friday routed through position (A) 15' South of Cape De Gata, (B) 038° 30' N. 010° 00' E., (C) 5 miles N. of Ustica., (D) 5 miles S. of Vulcano, in accordance with A.M. 1954/26 Dec.  
2. V.A. Malta pass to A.O.C. Malta and Cdre. Algiers to E.A.C.  
3. C. in C. Med. pass to Capt. (S) 1. (V.A. Gib., 1502A/1 to Admty., N.C.X.F., S. & A. in Area G, C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10.) My 1502/1st. Vessels sail 1720/1st, 16 knots. (F.O.C. Gib., 1733A/1 to Admty., etc.)
- U.S.S. WINOOSKI. C.S. Gib. 1232/30 is being passed to you for information. (N.C.X.F., 1603A/1 to Cominch, S.N.O.C.A., (R) V.A. Gib., Admty.)
- C.F. 10. Your 1518Z/31st (? 1517/31 intend convoy C.F.10 joining M.K.F.) At present intend convoy proceed Gibraltar. (V.A. Gib., 1610A/1 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

/VAL DE LA HAYE ...



17<sup>A</sup>

1.1.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - con/17.

Movements  
Summary.

Situation 1955A/1st.

1. M.K.S. 4(Y) SLAZAK, WENSLEYDALE, STARWORT, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, off Cape Spartel through 036° 30' 010° 01' thence 310, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ . *See next page*
2. K.M.F.6, EGRET, one destroyer, 2 corvettes, 2 sloops, 035° 57' 006° 08' through Gibraltar 13. LOYAL parts company in 6° W., proceeding to Gibraltar 25.
3. K.M.S.6. BLACK SWAN, one sloop, 8 corvettes, 038° 30' 016° 13' 127°, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- See next page* 4. BURDOCK, DRANGEY, proceeding from Ponta Delgada to R/V K.M.S.6 in 037° 35' 014° 35' at 0900/2nd and escorting 3 motor vessels 253, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .
5. G.U.F.3 Task Force 35 032° 25' 011° 31' through 31.03 15.02 thence 270, 12.
6. M.Ls 341, 493, one M/V in Gibraltar Strait to Gibraltar.
7. SAINT NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER laying cable in the vicinity of Casablanca.
8. One destroyer, one S/M chaser, one M/V 034° 15' 006° 59' through 034° 22' 006° 40' and 035° 46' 006° 08' to 180 Tarifa 4 where escort parts company to return to Casablanca.
9. ERNE, LEITH, SANDWICH, sail 1930 through 035° 52' 006° 10' thence 223, 12. *See pp. 17 219*  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1330A/1.)

Situation 2005A/1st.

1. P.615, 021° 59' 020° 01' through 20.01 20.01 at 0900/2nd thence 167° on surface 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ .
2. Italian repatriation ships DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE 024° 55' 017° 33' through 27.01 16.01 to (?114°), 15.
3. Italian repatriation tanker TAIGETE 023° 10' 032° 49', 252°, 9 $\frac{1}{3}$ .

(F.O.C.N.A., 1334/1.)



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)

VAL DE LA HAYE. Your 2301/28th (2201/28 intended Re French SS VAL DE LA HAYE arrived at Gib.) Para 2 (A) M.W.T.R. Report vessel not fit for lengthy voyage entailed in convoy to U.K. (B) any preference that exists is in favour of joining N. African (?trawlers). (F.O. Gib., 1610A/1 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., N.A. Madrid.)

K.M.F.6 S.O. Force M 1107A/1st, not to K.M.F.6. (A) K.M.F.6 has been given no route beyond position Y. (B) K.M.F.6 passed Europa Point 0100 (C) Following ships require destination EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, ORONTES, BOISSEVAIN. (EGRET, 1701A/1 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) S.O. Force M, Capt. (D) 6, N.C.X.F.) Gibraltar portion K.M.F.6 escorted by \*ROCHESTER, \*SCARBOROUGH, sailed to R/V 3007. Escort return Gibraltar when convoy meets. (V.A. Gib., 2230A/1 to Escorts Convoy K.M.F.6, N.C.X.F., Cmdre Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) Admty.) \* *See p. 17.*

→ K.M.S.6 Owing to engine defects of BURDOCK and DRANGEY intend ordering them and HAARLEM also Freetown ships in K.M.S.6 to Gibraltar. 2. They will be sailed on completion of defects, \*PETUNIA being ordered to R/V in vicinity Canary Islands. (V.A. Gib., 1837A/1 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A., F.O.C. W. Africa.) \* *See p. 17.*

M.K.S.4 (Y) Sailed O.R.P. SLAZAK, WENSLEYDALE, STARWORT, F.F. *See previous page* ship COMMANDANT DETROYAT escorting convoy M.K.S.4 (Y) routed through (A) 36.30 N. 10.00 W. (B) 39.58 N. 15.10 W. (C) 49.20 N. 14.35 W. (D) 55.00 N. 10.00 W. (E) 55.25 N. 08.30 W. S. of A. 10½ knots. (V.A. Gib., 1837A/1 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. (R) N.C.X.F.).

→ (BURDOCK, HAARLEM, DRANGEY. Cancel my 0637/31st. Proceed to Gibraltar. (V.A. Gib., 1845A/1 to BURDOCK, HAARLEM, DRANGEY, (R) Escorts of K.M.S. 6, Admty, F.O.C.W.A f.)

M.K.S.4 (Y) Sailing telegram. (2) 1700/1 Jan. (5) (C) 36.20 N. 10.00 W. (D) 39.58 N. 51.10 W. (E) 49.20 W. 41.35 W. *See previous page* (F) 55.00 N. 10.00 W. (G) 55.25 N. 08.30 W. (6) WENSLEYDALE, SLAZAK, STARWORT (S.O.) COMMANDANT DETROYAT. (12) W.B. codeword "BASKET". Cruising order OCEAN FREEDOM (Pendants 11) LLANGIBBY CASTLE (Com.) (21) PROMETHEUS (M.F./D.F.) (22) MAHOUT (V. Com.) (31) TURKESTAN (M.F./D.F.) (32) OCEAN SEAMAN (42). (V.A. Gib., 1917A/1 to Admty.) My 1917/1 LLANGIBBY CASTLE did not sail. Engine defects. (V.A. Gib., 1920A/1 to Admty.)

EMINENT FIDELITY. Following received from EMINENT: V.A.C. Gib. Request latest position and course FIDELITY. Searched vicinity position given and towards Azores. No Trace. (Burnham Radio, 2030 G.M.T./1 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty.)

/C.F. 10 ...



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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

C.F.10

Sailed ERNE, LEITH, SANDWICH, to meet convoy C.F. 10 and escort to Gibraltar.  
(V.A. Gib. 2142A/1 to R.A.W.Af., S.N.O. Casablanca Admty., ILEX, N.C.X.F.) *3-17 417A*

EXE.

Arrival EXE from K.M.F.6 Admty. pass to Cdre. Londonderry.  
(V.A. Gib. 2238A/1 to Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.C.X.F., (R) Cdre. Londonderry.)



War Diary1.1.1943  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic.

French West Africa boundary and Co-operation. Following has been received from Admiral Glassford. (Begins.) French coastal district from Cape Bojador to Northern Boundary Sierre Leone tentatively agreed upon with French Naval Authorities. French District Commander will be subordinate to supreme Allied Frontier Commander in this strategic area. All remaining coast British. Please anticipate early arrival here when requested of British officers to discuss details of Allied French Command relations in this strategic area and other related subjects, particularly the immediate organisation of a communication network. Time of arrival of British officers dependent upon cessation of Radio propoganda from Accra. (Ends.) If the words "Supreme Allied Frontier Commander in this strategic area" refers, as I imagine to a Command North rather than South Dakar, the Division of strategic responsibility at some line drawn from the Northern boundary of Sierre Leone is exactly what I have wished to avoid. In my opinion Dakar and the forces operating from there are an essential factor in the Naval Strategy in the narrow waters of the Atlantic. The duties required of them particularly anti submarine, anti raider and anti blockade runner operations, must be closely co-ordinated by one authority who should be in this part of West Africa. The difficulties if co-operation with Comsolantfor's Forces will be immensely increased were two authorities on this side of the Atlantic involved. Further the operation of British aircraft from Bathurst which are essential to me would come under the control of another authority. A.O.C.W.A. concurs. (F.O.C.W.A. 0013/1 as amended 12252/1 to Admty. (R) Resmin, N.C.X.F.)

W.S.25 Arrivals 31st Dec. CARNARVON CASTLE, CHESHIRE, ROCKWOOD, XWOODRUFF, \*CROCUS, QUILLIAM with W.S.25. *See next page* (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0835/1 to Admty., F.O.C. N.A. C. in C. W.A.) See also 15452/1. \* *See p.22*

*X See next page (C.F.10)*

FOXHOUND Sailed FOXHOUND to Kilindini routed as in my 1116 Dec. 27th. (2) Shifts to group "V" at 1415Z/3rd Jan. (3) S. of A. 15 knots E.T.A. *See p.219*  
Kilindini 1400Z Jan 5th.  
(Com. i/c. Durban 0836Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

?U/B Report. Your 2210/31. (Sent by War Reg. requesting repetition of 1154/30 quoted in message 1436/31) This was a B.A.M.S. 3 C. message originated by me quoting Admty. Message A.F. with T.O.O. 1154Z/30 and giving position 29.04 South 55.28 East.  
(Com. i/c. Durban 0906C/1 To Admty.)

Dakar, Exchange of officers. N.C.X.F.'s 1909A/31 para. 1. While I am most willing and anxious to receive French Officers, in order to avoid friction with Fighting French at Freetown I suggest it is most desirable that Fighting French Authorities in London should indicate to their representatives here, their agreement with the arrangements proposed.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 0955/1 to Admty., Repeated N.C.X.F.)

/VALIANT



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic - Contd.

- VALIANT** C. in C. E.F. 1524/31st Para. 3. Arrangements made.  
(Capt. Supt. Durban, 1011C/1 to C. in C. S.A. (R)  
C. in C. E.F., Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban.)
- Movements, A/S Trawlers.** Departure 1030/1st Jan. NORWICH CITY, CAPE WARWICK, INDIAN STAR coastwise to Capetown E.T.A. 1200/4th. Codes held, NORWICH CITY SP.2405 only, CAPE WARWICK SP.02359, INDIAN STAR SP.02358.  
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1117C/1 to C. in C. S.A. Admty.)
- SEROOSKERK** Overdue shipping, SEROOSKERK routed to Durban diverted to Saldanha Bay ex' O.N. 149 not arrived.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1152C/1 to Admty, S.O.(I) Freetown.  
(R) N.C.S.O. Capetown, N.C.S.O. Durban.)
- Movements, Pernambuco.** Departure 30th Dec. U.S.\*Destroyer OSMOND INGRAM, Brazilian Minelayer CARAVELA. Arrival 30th, Brazilian Submarine Chaser C.S.2. Departure 31st, U.S. Destroyer\*GREENE. Arrival 31st, U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS, U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE, U.S. Destroyer SOMERS.  
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1215Z/1 to Admty.) \* See plane Times.
- C.F.10.** Departures 1st Jan. ASTURIAS. HOLCOMBE,\*ILEX, \*WOODRUFF, with C.F.10.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1445Z/1 to Admty etc.) Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1707/1, 1831Z/1) Independent route for LARGES BAY (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1655Z/1). \* See 12/22.  
\* See Memoirs Page (W.S. 25)
- Convoy C.F.10.** Sailing telegrams.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1655Z/1, 1707/1, 1831Z/1 to Admty.)
- LE. TIGER.** Simonstown arrival 1st Jan.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1519C/1 to Admty., F.O.C.W.Af.)
- W.S.25** 1. Intend to sail convoy W.S.25 at 1500Z 3rd Jan. 2. Convoy consists of 9 transports. Cdre. Tillard in BRITANNIC. Escort Capt.(D) 4 in QUILLIAM, CHESHIRE, ALCANTARA, CYCLAMEN,\*CROCUS AND ROCKWOOD.  
3. Routd. A. 007° 50' N. 014° 40' W. B. 004° 24' N. 014° 42' W. C. 001° 30' N. 005° 15' W. D. 006° 55' S. 004° 38' E. E. 027° 32' S. 014° 58' E. S. of A. 12½ knots. 4. Intend CROCUS escorting HIGHLAND BRIGADE for Takoradi to be detached at dusk 6th Jan. in approx 001° 42' N. 004° 02' W. E.T.A. Takoradi P.M. 7th Jan. 5. Intend CYCLAMEN to be detached at dusk 9th Jan. to proceed Pointe Noire. 6. Intend escort to fuel from ALCANTARA who will be detached at about dusk 9th Jan. to return Freetown. 7. Escort shift to area onward W/T organization at  
\* See p 22/2000Z...



21<sup>1</sup>

1.1.1943.  
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Movements  
summary.

D.S.O. 219, 011° 45' S. 002° 10' W. to Freetown  
8 knots.

GLENROY, JANUS, 012° 30' S. 011° 20' E. to Pointe  
Noire 12.

NORTHERN DUKE, standing by DUNEDIN STAR, in vicinity  
018° 12' S. 011° 42' E.

FORTUNE with C.D.4 from Capetown E.T.A. Durban  
0400Z/2nd.

MANCHESTER CITY 034° 55' S. 019° 20' E. to  
Capetown 10 E.T.A. 1100Z/2nd.

?JASMINE, FREESIA, NIGELLA (?with) D.N.10 030° 25'  
S. 035° 35' E. to 030° 41' S. 038° 20' E. 7½

NIZAM 023° 30' S. 037° 30' E. to Kilindini 21.

*See p. 20.* FOXHOUND (?027°) 30' S. 034° 40' E. to Kilindini 20.

RANPURA 027° 30' S. 033° 50' E. to Durban E.T.A.  
0400Z/2nd.

ROCKROSE with C.A.5 034° 55' S. 019° 45' E. to  
(?038°) 30' S. 028° 00' E. 9½.

(C. in C. S.A., 1101C/1).

Area P. 2000Z/1.

PICT about 05.10 14.15 to S. 10.

NORTHERN ISLES about 05.50 12.36 122.8.

RUMBA, HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY, escorting  
03.40 10.42 109 8.

TURCOMAN screening off Cape Palmas.

*See next p.* → BREDON, BARFOSS, about 04.02 04.30 to Takoradi 5.

COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES, ORFASY escorting off Lagos to  
Takoradi 9. Convoy W.S.25 W 06.42 S. 01.20 E. to  
10.00 S. 05.00 E. thence southward 25½.

DESPATCH about 05.31 S. 00.01 E. Subsequent  
movements will be signalled.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 1211/1.)



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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- con/s:-

- W.S. 25  
Contd. 2000Z 9th Jan. 8. Request onward route from position (E) and orders for splitting convoy in Cape area may be passed. (F.O.C.W.A., 1545Z/1 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. etc.)
- BREDON  
BARFOSS. E.T.A. Takoradi 1430Z/2nd Jan. BARFOSS in company. Have no recognition signal. My position 04.22 N. 05.30 W. (BREDON 1631Z/1 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi. (R) E.D.O. (? Takoradi). F.O.C. W.A.)  
*See previous page*
- M/Vs  
Firing at  
Aircraft. Ref. Admty. lettered message J.B. timed 1826/19 (P.562, Diary, September.) As R.A.F. aircraft in West African Command may soon fly at greater distances from British territory than 500 miles and U.S. reinforcement aircraft already do so, it is suggested that the restriction on opening fire should be extended to this area. (F.O.C.W.A. 1759Z/1 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)
- C.F.10. Departure 1700Z/1st Jan. BELLWORT to rendezvous in accordance with your 1217Z/1 (N.T. in W.D.) BELLWORT (? asks for) copy of your 1717Z/30 and your 1217Z/1. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1800Z/1 to F.O.C. W.A. (R) M/S Flot. 39, Escort C.F.10, Admty.)
- French  
W. Africa,  
Naval  
Aircraft. Opnav. 1849/1. See America and West Indies.
- U/B  
\*ILEX  
\*CROCUS. (1) Periscope reported by aircraft in 008° 30' N. 014° 30' W. at 1115Z/1st Jan. (2) Catalina reports (?attacking) U-Boat in 008° 30' N., 014° 25' W. at 1755Z/1st Jan. (3) ILEX detached from C.F.10 and CROCUS from Freetown reach U-Boat's position about 2030Z/1st Jan. to carry out hunt. (4) On completion, intend ILEX to proceed Bathurst to refuel then rejoining convoy C.F.10. (F.O.C.W.A. 1906Z/1 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst. ASTURIAS, ILEX, CROCUS.)  
*\* See p. 21*
- LEIGHTON,  
Weather  
damage. Following received from LEIGHTON: Continuous gales, several persons injured including Master, Chief Officer. Carpenter seriously needs medical attention. Have 30 days (corrupt) present average 4½ knots, suggest alteration route for better weather. (Burnham Radio, 2000/1, to Simonstown, (R) Admty.)



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements. Sailed PAKENHAM, JAVELIN.  
(V.A. Malta, No T.O.O./1 Recd. 1105/1). *See 3/12 - P. 1094*  
Arrived.  
(THUNDERBOLT, 0440A/1 to Capt. (S)10).  
Departures 31st Dec. PRIMULA, PETARD, PROTEA.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0914B/1 to Admty. C. in C. Med).  
WELSHMAN arrived. *See p. 25*  
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 1005A/1 to F.O.I.S. N.C.X.F. etc).  
Departure Mers el Kebir, BOREAS for Gibraltar via route (U).  
E.T.A. 0600A/2nd.  
(BOREAS, 1759A/1 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) S.O. Force H,  
N.O.I.C., Oran).  
Algiers arrivals. ROTHESAY, BRIXHAM, BICESTER, ZETLAND  
M/M533, HENGIST, escorting CAMERONIA from Bougie. SIRIUS,  
ASHANTI, QUALITY from Bone. Departure EMPIRE MINOTAUR to  
Philippeville.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1904A/1 to Admty (R) F.O.I.S. N.C.X.F.)

Air R/C 0725, Taranto, 2 battleships.  
0830, Messina, 3 cruisers.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1022A/1 to C. in C. Med.,  
N.C.X.F, etc).  
Vincent, Maddalena, a.m./1st Jan. Both 8 inch cruisers  
present, position unchanged.  
(N.C.X.F., 1235A/1 to V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10, (R) Admty.  
C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1., Capt. S.8.)  
P.R.U. Jan. 1st 1050 - 5 E-boats 060° Riposto 4 miles, course  
220° 15 knots. 1145 Naples, 6 destroyers and damaged 8 inch  
cruiser. 1145 Taranto 2 battleships. 1235 Messina 3 cruisers.  
(V.A. Malta, 1428A/1 to C. in C. Med., etc).  
P.R.U. Jan. 1st. 1500, Taranto, two Battleships. 1600,  
Messina, 3 cruisers.  
(V.A. Malta, 1747/1 to C. in C. Med., etc).

Malta  
Convoys  
and Stocks. 1. To complete Fortress reserves in accordance  
with Troopers policy to seven months stock and  
two months working margin a further 112000 tons  
required.  
2. Could accept 112000 tons during January at  
rate four ships per week.  
3. So long as four ship convoys come must employ soldier  
labour so most desirable complete Fortress reserve early as  
possible.  
4. Labour shortage on Island is acute and insufficient for  
priority operational works. To alleviate situation recommend  
after completion of Fortress reserves monthly convoys of 25000  
tons arrive two ships a fortnight as this most economical  
labour and transport for clearance.  
(Govr. Malta, 1035A/1 to C. in C. Middle East (R) Minister of  
State Cairo, War Office). Reply: C. in C. M.E., 0900/3 Jan.

P.222 My 1252/23 and A.F.O. 4230/42 para. 3. Propose  
P.222 be paid off on 21st December 1942 the  
date she would have arrived Algiers from patrol.  
(N.C.X.F., 1049A/1 to Admty (R) Capt. S.8).

/Malta...



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta  
Dockyard. Situation re repairs to docks and workships, and capacity of yard.  
(A.S. Malta, 1201A/1 to Admty). ~~See Lion Copy~~

Cositrep  
642. 3. Air. Night 30/31 Dec. Wellingtons bombed Heraklion aerodrome Crete starting many fires in aircraft dispersal areas and on runways. Liberators attacked Sfax harbour bombs burst on quays and railway sidings starting two small fires  
American B.24s bombed Sfax harbour scoring hits on stores depot and buildings on quays hits or near misses on three power stations followed by smoke. Fighters moved up to new L.Gs in Azzab area about forty miles west Nofilia. Enemy air activity on reduced scale but included two attacks by small formations of fighters.  
(C. in C. M.E., 1205B/1).

AJAX  
damaged. AJAX hit by bomb in boiler room during daylight raid. Report follows.  
(C.S.12, 1209A/1 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty).  
My 1209/1st. Bomb hit base of funnel. A and B boiler room flooded. Armament undamaged.  
Examination continues.  
(C.S.12 1241A/1 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty).

TAKU  
R. of P. The following is summarised patrol report of TAKU's 6th war patrol. 14th Dec. 1536, attacked 5,000 ton northbound M/V escorted by armed Asdic yacht. 2 torpedoes, 1 hit. Vessel sank immediately. Heavy and (?accurate) counter attack. Position 37° 50' N., 24° 07' E. 16th Dec. 1000. 15000 ton M/V escorted by escort vessel, allowed to enter Port Laki, Leros, in view of S.1's 0037/15. 17 Dec. two M.A.S. at first, later joined by one M.L., searching 11 miles west of Leros in approx. position of charging on previous night. 1700, M.L. and one M.A.S. gained contact. Four depth charges. Remained in contact until 2300 (2310) (as received). 18th Dec. 0345 attacked by one M.A.S. Both M.A.S. kept stopping and lowering apparatus over side, believed to be listening device. No Asdic transmission heard. 20th Dec. 2340, carried out operation "Saturn". 22nd Dec. reconnoitred Potdea Canal. Consider much bigger than reported and certainly 300 ton ship could transit possibly a destroyer. 1257, gunned 150 ton caique that had left Canal. Fifteen hits left abandoned and on fire. 23rd Dec. 0915 bombarded caiques and 250 ton M/V in Port Kumi. Hits in target area and on warehouse.  
27th Dec. 0512 fired 5 torpedoes at 1500 ton M/V. P.C. and S. 37.32 N., 24.14 E., 340° 5 knots, missed, 4 torpedoes exploding just north of Cape Tamelos.  
(S.1., 1235A/1 to C. in C. Med).



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

P.54 Intend sailing P.54 for patrol 1600A/3rd Jan through 038° 17' N., 004° 24' E., to pass 038° 36' N., 007° 59' E., at 2000A/5th thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.  
(Capt. S.8., 1344A/1 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.S. Subs. on Patrol Capt. (S) 10, Commodore Algiers).

Coastal Force Bases. Admty's 1630/3 and 2000/4 (to C. in C. Med and N.C.X.F. only). Following are intentions for Coastal Force Bases in Western Mediterranean in the near future. Arrangements to transfer 10th M.T.B. Flotilla (total 13 boats) to Bone have already been made with C. in C. Med.

Intention is to keep bases to essential requirements until situation at Bizerta has clarified.

2. (A) Gibraltar. Base on present scale for M.Ls. (28th and 29th Flotilla) and H.D.M.Ls. 134th Flotilla. A Lieut Cdr. is required as C.O. to replace Thornton who is being sent to Bone.

(B) Oran. Small base for P.W.D.R's (29th Flotilla) and H.D.M.Ls. (117th Flotilla) using existing Flotilla staffs and maintenance personnel.

(C) Algiers. Main repair base for M.Ls. and H.D.M.Ls. based on Algiers Bougie and Philippeville using existing 25th Flotilla staff with maintenance personnel ex VIENNA. Experienced Commanding Officer required.

(D) Bone. Coastal Force base for M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. C.O. Lieut. Cdr. Thornton. For the present only 10th Flotilla ELCO M.T.Bs. to be based there. Maintenance personnel and spares are being sent by C. in C. Med. in WELSHMAN. *See 9- Bone - See p.23*

(E) Admty's 2004/4. Basing of 110 foot M.G.Bs. and M.T.Bs. depends on developments in Tunisia but Bizerta is the obvious ultimate solution. In any case it is immediately required to develop facilities at Bone.

?3. Detailed report of requirements follows. Final arrangements will be reconsidered when Bizerta is available.

4. Effect of these arrangements is to release VIENNA for use as an accommodation and supply ship leaving her maintenance staff ashore at Algiers. I may require to send her temporarily to Bougie to assist landing craft and small craft. Conditions at Bone do not permit her use as accommodation ship there. It is in any case required to retain her in Western Med. to give mobility as new ports are opened up.

5. Bulk of Vosper spares in VIENNA except Packard engines are being despatched to Malta in WELSHMAN at request of C. in C. Med.

6. For the present it is not intended to set up an organisation for major engine overhauls in Western Med. It is intended to send engines to U.K. or possibly Aboukir at a later date.

7. Intend to establish a Coastal Forces mobile stores organisation at Algiers.

(N.C.X.F., 1524A/1 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med., etc).

P.42 Your 1830/31st thank you, am delayed 24 hours. Noon 26th, 1 hit on 5,000 ton ship 4 miles off Imperatore Point, probably sank. 30 hits on brick rail viaduct vicinity 040° 07' N. 4 torpedoes left.  
(P.42, 1721A/1 to Capt. S.10., (R) N.C.X.F., Subs on Patrol)



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

M.K.S.5 My 1521/31. Owing to discharge state convoy M.K.S. 5 will be postponed 48 hours. Programme now as follows. Leaving Bone 1800A/6th R/V Philippeville 0800A/7th Bougie 1330A/7th arrive Algiers 0400A/8th departing 1000A/8th R/V Oran 1500A/9th Gibraltar 0800A/11th.  
(N.C.X.F., 1724A/1 to N.O.I.C.s Bone, Philippeville, Bougie Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, Capt. F. H. Q., E.A.C., A.O.C. Gibraltar, C.G.12th A.F., H.Q.C.C., V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., Admty. Capt. (S) 8, S.O. Force H, R.A.12th C.S.)

Fuel Storage Malta. Great importance is attached to the filling to full capacity while opportunity offers of fuel and diesel protected tankage at Malta.  
2. Perhaps V.A. Malta would now consider the expediency of filling the above ground tanks at Birzebuggia with M/T or aviation spirit.  
3. To save cargo space and loss by decanting a suitable white oil tanker will be nominated to take 100 octane, M/T and kerosene Request date required to sail from Port Said.  
(D.O.D. (F), 1843A/1 to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta).

Attacks on U/Bs List for A.M. 1916/9 July 1942.  
(C. in C. Med., 1925A/1 to Admty) See U-boat Campaign.

CROOME, SEAHAM. My 1845B/1st (N.T. in W.D.) Intend searching the area between 033° 00' and 033° 17', 022° 30' and 021° 10' commencing with Southern half on course 270° from 1900 to 0100 and Northern half on course 090° from 0200 to 0800 2nd speed 10½ kts (3 groups missing) and F.S. COMMANDANTE DOMINE. SEAHAM's steering gear is broken down in 033° 04' 022° 26' requiring two hours for repairs. Have ordered her to patrol in the vicinity (corrupt group) and (2 incomplete groups) at daylight. Still no communication with Hudson aircraft.  
(CROOME, 1959B/1 to S.O. Force I (R) 247 and 235 Wing, PAKENHAM, Capt. O.S. Alexandria Med., Fleet, West of Alexandria).

VANOC My 1605 (N.T. in W.R.) Your 1700 just received. Submit I searched the area until I considered further search fruitless if explosion was caused by torpedo attack which I doubt. Destroyers were then dispersed to execute the orders of their respective administrative authorities. My position 2000 035° 59' N., 002° 00' W., VERITY in company. Should we return Oran? Request your further instructions. may be repeated V.A. Gibraltar. Any misunderstanding of your wishes is regretted.  
(VANOC, 2000A/1 to F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H, V.A. Gibraltar).



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

P. 37

Cancel my 1105 (N.T. in W.R.) Establish patrol off Cagliari North of  $038^{\circ} 53'$  W., of  $010^{\circ} 00'$  You have freedom of action regarding target, traffic with Italy passes usually inside Cavoli Island.

(Capt. S.10., 2032A/1 to P.37 (R) N.C.X.F., S/MS on Patrol)

Malta Air  
Report.

AI. 2 1st Jan. 1943 C.S.R.

Part 1, Night 31 Dec./1 Jan. no enemy air activity locally. Operating in bad weather conditions three Mosquitoes and one Beaufighter made intruder patrols over south and southwest

Sicilian aerodromes.

Day 1st Jan. 12 Beaufighter sorties have been made to provide protection for convoy approaching Malta from southeast and one Sunderland and one Beaufighter have provided A/S. protection. (Convoy?) was first located by Beaufighters 0742 hours  $138^{\circ}$  Malta 191 miles course  $330^{\circ}$  and continuous Beaufighter patrols were maintained over convoy until dark. No attack has been reported on convoy during this period. In addition four Spitfires have been airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.

Night 31st Dec. 1st Jan. 3 special Wellingtons flights on shipping R/C patrolled Straits of Messina and Gulf of Taranto but made no sightings. 13 Wellingtons bombed Sfax Harbour from 1811 - 1930 hrs. causing large explosion on north quay and fires on north and west quays. 1 Wellington on special mission dropped bombs and incendiaries on Taranto Harbour starting fire in Naval Dockyard. Some aircraft dropped incendiaries on Brindisi Harbour but no results were observed.

(A.H.Q., Malta, 2050Z/1).

BLEAN

A.F.O. 3700/40. Not intended to hold a Board of Enquiry into the loss of BLEAN. All survivors have returned to U.K. My 2138/12th Dec. refers. (N.C.X.F., 2054A/1 to Admty).

TIGRIS

TIGRIS from westward expected at end of searched channel at 0800A and convoy from southward at 0900A tomorrow 2nd.

(V.A. Malta, 2114A/1 to TIGRIS).

E.A.C. Report.

1 Jan. Opsum No. 51. Covering period 1800 hrs. 30 Dec. to 1800 hours 31 Dec.

2. Bone. Dawn to dusk harbour and base patrols and also a convoy patrol maintained. At 0830 hours 7 M.E.109s bombed the aerodrome, 8 Me.s staging diversion off coast. Fighters were scrambled and one Me. claimed damaged whether by A.A. or A/C not yet known. 5 A/C damaged on ground. E/A continued active and later 12 E/A encountered over base. One Me.109 damaged.



War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - con't.

E.A.C. Report  
Contd.

F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 2 bombing attacks made on Sousse, railway yards and docks being the two objectives. Results reported to be good, with fires. Docks at Sfax bombed, also aerodromes and nearby barracks at Gabes, bombs also dropped near railway bridge south of Tunis. Considerable shipping observed between Tunis and Bizerta including warships and large merchant vessels. Fighters made a R/C to Tripoli and machine gunned various objectives.  
(E.A.C., 2245A/1 to Air Min. etc).



War Diary.

1.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

**Italian Repatriations.** In accordance with para. 3 of India Office letter to Government of India number (?M) M 14120/42 of 7th. Oct. 1942, G.H.Q. India have referred to me list Italian naval prisoners of war in India recommended by mixed medical commissions for repatriation and ask whether any objection to any of them being repatriated and names communicated to protecting powers. Request instructions whether recommendation of medical commission may be accepted in all such cases or alternatively whether (a) Admty. can communicate names of any personnel they consider should not be repatriated or (b) names of all proposed repatriates should be communicated Admty. for prior approval.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0455Z/31 to Admty.)

**Capt. D.2.** My 1615/31. 1. There are now only two destroyers remaining of 2nd. D.F. 2. Capt. D.2 and his staff have been usefully employed for the last two months administering all Eastern Fleet destroyers attached to the Cape. These ships are now being withdrawn. 3. two Capt. D. are joining or have joined in ROTHERHAM and QUILLIAM. 4. Proposed, therefore, that Capt. D. 2 and his staff proceed to U.K. in ships affording escort ordered in Admty. 1650A/30. (C. in C. E.F., 0652Z/1 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)  
Para. 4 approved (Admty. 1900A/4.)

**CAPETOWN CARADOC.** CAPETOWN leaves Kilindini p.m. 1st. Jan. to relieve CARADOC. 2. Ship will proceed as follows by direct route Seychelles arriving a.m. 3rd Jan. leaving p.m. 3rd. Jan. Bombay arriving p.m. 7th. Jan. leaving a.m. 8th. Jan. Hormuz arriving p.m. 10th. Jan. 3. On relief CARADOC is to be sailed to Bombay for inspection of turbines gearing.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0728Z/1, to S.N.O. Persian Gulf, (R) F.O.E.Af. and Zanzibar, C.S.4, Comdre. R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Seychelles, Capetown, D.G.S.R. Bombay, Admty.)

**RESOURCE.** C.S. Durban's 1709/28 not to Admty. 1. Delay in docking of RESOURCE is unacceptable. 2. Absence of RESOURCE from Kilindini greatly reduces Eastern Fleet's repair facilities. Her only known serious defects were to underwater fittings and sea inlets. 3. It is considered that this important unit of the Eastern Fleet should have precedence over TYNDAREUS, ORANJE, TMIREA and INDIA in the use of Durban graving dock. 4. Request docking programme may be reconsidered.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0748Z/1 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C.S. Durban Admty.)

**NORMAN.** Sailed NORMAN for Kilindini. S. of A. 18 knots. E.T.A. 0500Z 3rd. Jan. 2 Officers and 2 ratings taking passage. 4 bags ordinary mail, 10 bags most secret mail.  
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0831Z/1 to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. East Africa, N.O.I.C. Durban.)



War Diary.

1.1.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

B.P. 64  $\frac{3}{4}$

Departure SUTLEJ, D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN with  
B.P. 64  $\frac{3}{4}$  (As received.)  
( S.O.(I), Bombay 0913Z/1 to Admty. etc.)  
Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0850Z/1 0852Z/1.)

MASTIFF  
EKMA

Departure MASTIFF escorting EKMA 1st. Jan. E.T.A.  
for R/V position 000°. Cape Amber 10 miles?,  
0600Z 3rd. Jan. E.T.A. Kilindini a.m. 6th. Jan.  
( N.O.I.C. Tamatave, 1431Z/1 to Admty. etc.)



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Refit of  
French  
Ships.

Ref. Cominch's 1250/30, following is a repetition of my 1216/27 to F.O.C. West Africa (R) N.C.X.F. (begins).

"The French are asking that their ships in West Africa should go to America for modernization and refit.

2. It is unlikely, however, that all can be taken in hand at once and there would be advantage both from a practical and a morale point of view in giving the French such operational employment as is possible in the circumstances.

3. We believe some of their Cruisers to be efficient and these would be of considerable value in anti-blockade runner patrols on the Dakar Recife line. As the time is hardly yet ripe to suggest that the French carry British Liaison Officers, and as security considerations may limit the information that can be passed to them blockade patrols would be a suitable employment as not requiring a high degree of tactical co-operation. If British Liaison Officers prove possible at once, so much the better.

4. The French ships would, however, have to operate under your general direction and there would be great advantage in getting the French used to the idea of British strategical direction in your area.

5. You will be in the best position to judge whether this suggestion can usefully be put forward and we leave it to your discretion to do so" (ends).

(Hd. of M. Branch, Approved V.C.N.S., 0031A/1 to B.A.D.)

O.N.S.154

Cancel my 2232/31st Admty. requests no ships for South be detached.

(Connav, 0115/1 to C. Mid Ocean, E.T.U. 24.1.11.,  
(R) C.T.24., Admty. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.,  
C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

Your 1505A/31st (D/F indications of a further sinking) Immediate vicinity searched with no result. Position now 43.02 N. 28.08 W. Weather report.

(WOODSTOCK, 0900Z/1 to Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.,  
Capt. (D) 3, F.O.N.F., PRESCOTT, SHEDIAC).

2 officers 6 ratings rescued from M.T.B., 105, no casualties.

M.T.B. in tow expect to have to sink it. Position 043° 46' N.,  
028° 26' W. weather.(WOODSTOCK, 1302Z/1 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.,  
Capt. D.3., V.A. Gibraltar, BATTLEFORD, PRESCOTT, SHEDIAC)

My 1302Z/1st. List of rescued. M.T.B. 105 now lighter.

7 lifeboats 4 rafts all empty (?taken in tow) within 15 miles of  
M.T.B (?position). My position 44.04 N., 27.27 W. Weather.

(WOODSTOCK, 1732B/1 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty etc).

Your 1700Z/1st R/V 1800Z/2nd 043° 30' N., 028° 45' W.

(WOODSTOCK, 2045Z/1 to BATTLEFORD (R) PRESCOTT, SHEDIAC,  
Capt. (D) 3, C. in C. W.A., DULVERTON).

Your 2232Z/31st. According to my information this is complete list of southbound ships. DUNDRUM CASTLE, FANA, EMPIRE SIMBA, EMPIRE GERAIN, \*BARON CHUCHCAPE, JANETA, ALGORAB. Request instructions to be sent to U.S.S. COLE, FAME and U.S.S. COLE joined a.m. today. Am proceeding St. John's N.F.1700Z. Convoy P.C. and S. 043° 54' N., 042° 23' W. 268° 7 knots. Weather report.

\* ? BARON INENLAPE.

(C.T.U.24.1.11., 1347Z/1 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).

/O.N.S.154... p. 32.



1.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements.

Summary at 1800 G.M.T./1.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
9 L.C.Is. } 2 Tugs }	29½° N. 48° W.	092°	10
Convoy T.M.1 ) HAVELOCK ) 2 Corvettes )	18° N. 49½° W.	057°	9
CORINTHIAN	21½° S. 39° W.	053°	13½
A.T.32	46½° N. 48° W.	012°	19
U.S.S.R. S/M S.55	60½° N. 28° W.	090°	10
U.S.S.R. S/M S.54	57½° N. 42½° W.	055°	10
U.S.S.R. S/M L.15	48½° N. 48° W.	002°	8
U.S.S.R. S/M ) S51 ) U.S.S.R. S/M ) S.56 )	47½° N. 49° W.	001°	10.

(D.O.D. (F), 1140Z/1).

GODERICH screening FOUNDATION FRANKLIN and tow  
044° 00' 064° 14' en route Halifax 7.

F.H.26 A, NIPIGON, 043° 17', 065° 32' en route Halifax 7.

S.H.73, FORT WILLIAM, BROCKVILLE, 044° 32' 062°  
16' en route Halifax 7 knots.

Western local escort Task Units 24.18.6 escorting  
H. O.N.155 departed Halifax 1900Z/1st to join  
O.N.155 in 043° 30' 062° 31'.

U.S.C.G. ESCANABA 045° 57' 059° 18' 079° 11.5  
altering to 036° in 055° 00' W.

OREGON EXPRESS 044° 57' 061° 32' 069° 13.5.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1705Z/1).



War Diary.

1.1.1943

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - con/5.

O.N.S.154  
Contd. from p. 31. O.N.S.154. In view of 1656/31st Dec. from C.T.U. 24.1.11., request on next occasion breaking W/T silence escort may report names of allships still in company.  
(D.T.D., 1529Z/1 to Connnav, (R) B.A.D.)

CAPETOWN  
CASTLE. M.W.T. expect to finish loading cargo in CAPETOWN CASTLE p.m./6th and Army intend to embark 7th Jan. completing p.m. of that day.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1500Z/1 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C., B.A.D., Cominch).

Dakar  
Mission. J.S.M. 643. Following is text of telegram No. 2142/31 from C.C. of S. to Glassfurd. (begins). Your 261659Z?. British in London informed that C.S.Os rather than seniors preferred as members your Mission. When should they arrive Dakar? Your comments and recommendations are requested. (ends).  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1501Z/1 to War Cabinet).

JEREMIAH  
WADSWORTH.  
(sunk 27  
Nov). Following from B.R.L.O. Bermuda. JEREMIAH WADSWORTH (U.S.) torpedoed 270 miles south of Cape Agulhas Nov. 27th. 19 survivors including Chief Officer and 4 U.S. Naval Ratings landed here by JOHN LYKES (U.S.) Dec. 29th. Two other boats left ship with remainder of crew. Ship not boarded before sinking so consider books not compromised.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1509Q/1 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Capetown.)

PADEREWSKI  
(sunk 30  
Dec). PADEREWSKI, Poland, torpedoed and shelled, sunk, 0735Z/30th in 010° 52' N., 060° 25' W. 3 missing, Master and 37 landed Trinidad.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1514R/1 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

U/B positions S/M estimate Jan. 1st and U.S. S/M Notice.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1520/1, 1521/1, 1557/1, 1558/1, 1559/1, 1910/1).

PHOEBE  
T.A.G.33. Sailed PHOEBE in convoy T.A.G.33 E.T.A. Guantanamo 5th Jan. Onward passage in trade convoys as follows - depart Guantanamo 7th. Jan. in G.K.720 arriving Key West 10th. Jan. Leave Key West 17th Jan. in K.N.217 arriving New York 23rd Jan.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1552Q/1 to S.B.N.O. W. At. (R) Admty. B.A.D., F.O.C.W.Af. S.O.(I) Kingston N.O.B. Trinidad).



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- MAIDEN CREEK. Unable to locate SS. MAIDEN CREEK. Have searched on convoy course to 071° 50' W., am proceeding to New York with straggler SS. SPERO. (RIMOUSKI, 1600Z/1 to C.E.S.F.)
- HILARY. Recommend route HILARY in convoy to Bahia thence Freetown independently breaking off from T.B. convoy if situation allows. (D.T.D., 1645Z/1 to Connav).  
Cancel my 1334/1st (N.T. in W.R.) Sailed HILARY via convoy system to Trinidad to be included in T.B. Ship will be broken off en route to Bahia to proceed Freetown independently if situation permits.  
(Connav, 1924/1 to Port Director New York (R) C.E.S.F., C.C.S.F., Admty. N.O.B. Trinidad).
- U.S. Movements. Arrived and left 1st Jan. U.S. Transport STATE OF MARYLAND and U.S. P.C. number 626. (Treasurer Dominica W.I., 1720/1 to S.O.(I) Jamaica, (R) Navy Dept. Washington, Admty).
- Landing Craft Convoy. Admty. pass to C. in C. A.F., N.C.X.F. Cdre. Naval Forces in Europe and Cdr. N.O.B. Oran\*. Landing craft convoy will sail about Jan. 15th or as soon thereafter as practicable Norfolk (Virginia) and New York to Gibraltar via Bermuda. Composition as follows 8 to 12 British L.S.T. about 15 British L.C.I.(L). Other ships and escorts as designated by you. Further details later.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1955/1 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) C.E.S.F., etc) \* Passing action being taken by W.R.
- S.C.115 Request you sail Mid Ocean T.U.24.1.5 consisting of WARWICK S.O., SUNFLOWER, ALISMA, SNOWFLAKE, PINK for S.C.115 in manner in which (?the) groups are sailed. Sail WANDERER and VANSITTART overtake. Sail LEAMINGTON as supporting force unit. WARWICK and WANDERER to proceed to U.K. after remaining with convoy to prudent limit of endurance.  
(C.T.24., 1801/1 to F.O.N.F. (R) Connav, C.T.G.24.7., Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C. Mid Ocean Escort, T.U. 24.1.15, C. West Local Escort, T.U.24.18.7 C.T.G.24.6).
- TENACITY, EMPIRE WATERHEN Following for C.C.R.T., my 1931/25th Dec. H.M.R.T. TENACITY arrived St. Johns 1754/1, EMPIRE WATERHEN in tow.  
(F.O.N.F., 1820Z/1 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C) EMPIRE WATERHEN ex O.N.S.153 with engine room defect towed by TENACITY.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1825Z/1 to Admty).
- U/B Campaign. Situation. (B.A.D., 1821Z/1) See U-boat Campaign.

/French...



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.French  
W. Africa,  
Naval  
Aircraft.

Admiralty pass to British Chiefs of Staff London. This is Admiral Glassfurd despatch 1620Z/31. "This from Glassfurd. Pass to C.C.S. Pass to British Chiefs of Staff London. Understandings reached with F.O.C. French Naval Forces, West Africa relative naval aviation summarised as follows:-

1. Normal arrival and departure reports will be made to local naval authorities. French will communicate to Allies approach and recognition procedure for promulgation to their countries present recognition procedure same as supplied for arrival this Mission.
2. Authority granted planes, Nats, and Allied transportation services or transport planes under charter Allied Nations to operate in service of supply and transportation. Installation facilities for such services authorised Dakar and Port Etienne.
3. If requested Dakar naval air base will be improved by construction ramps, parking area, barracks, and other facilities and secondary base constructed at Port Etienne. Such construction work to be governed by broad principles army Dakar airdrome project.
4. French Naval Air Force has experienced personnel capable and willing operate Allied cause 15 PBY, 12 VSO, and 20 VYB airplanes. If pending delivery modern planes to French it is necessary to use Allied squadrons this area their stay shall be utilized to help indoctrinate French and will not retard sending plane to French and should if practicable by American units. General conditions as follows:- Naval air strength consists 5 - four engine seaplanes, 17 Martin 160 bombers, 13 late 298's and 8 late 130's. General condition planes which total 43 in different and spare parts critical, able to perform following tasks (1) Cover present French West Africa shipping.

(ii) Cover inshore approaches to Dakar until June, by which time planes largely out of commission, due age and lack of parts, cannot maintain daily sustained offshore patrol, due conditions equipment.

Dakar naval air base small, hangar space about three ?planes, no ramps, planes hoisted out by fifty-ton crane, antiquated fuelling. Susceptible to improvement for 24 planes, but dredging required for ramp, details by air mail. French could today operate 12 PBY airplanes from this base under handicap lack of ramp and obsolete fuelling facilities. Land plane operations more practicable from available fields. Port Etienne no fresh water, subject at times choppy sea conditions, poor landplane facilities which are not subject to improvement. In Dakar area all available facilities now being used to capacity by French air forces, any additional aircraft to be operated by other than French will require advance construction to accommodate unless proportionate part French air forces now stationed here are transferred to other area, housing and good situation extremely acute. Any Allied naval forces or construction personnel must be provided with berthing, food and messing facilities advance of arrival. Army arranging storage adequate supply aviation gasoline aircraft (?weather) and radio guard facilities. Recommendations -



1.1.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- French W. Africa, Naval Aircraft. Contd.
- (1) Air protection this area be left in hands of French.
  - (2) Cover special Allied convoys immediate initiation aircraft replacement programme 6 long range landplanes, 6 PBV seaplanes, and 12 airplanes, being made available for offshore and inshore patrol purposes.
  - (3) Cover inshore approaches to Dakar (corrupt group) delivery immediately. Planes, spare parts, and ammunition each type French will be assigned.
  - (4) For long range planes French crews to be indoctrinated and take delivery at factory.
  - (5) Army be requested to provide facilities in Dakar airdrome project to accommodate one carrier shore based group unless it is foreseen that movement of French forces will evacuate sufficient space now occupied by them.
  - (6) That transport service field engineers make survey flight to determine and arrange for their needs.
  - (7) That if broad considerations so dictate, Dakar naval air base be improved with ramps, barracks and other facilities to accommodate envisioned Allied seaplane needs.
  - (8) That construction engineer and staff be despatched to Dakar to supervise with army or French engineers such naval construction as may be authorised. List of operational equipment required via air mail".
- (Opnav, 1849/1 to Admty).

H/F Position Reports from M/Vs. Your 2057/23. We are prepared to meet you on all points except that we desire that the 4 letter call sign should always be followed by an arbitrary numeral and that it should not be left to the decision of the radio officer whether or not the numeral is included. Our object is to enable W/T Stations to differentiate between two or more ships transmitting simultaneously who do not hear each other. This is a daily occurrence at Whitehall W/T during period of greatest activity which occurs between 2200 and 0400Z. 2. If you agree, necessary instructions will be issued to bring into force proposals contained in your 2057/23 Dec. including the use of general call sign for all coded messages. (D.T.D., 1939A/1 to Connnav (R) B.A.D.) Reply, Connnav, 1054/4.

G Convoys. Request name of port at which G convoys assemble. (D.T.D., 2005A/1 to B.R.L.O. Cristobal) Reply: 1155/2.

Suspicious Ship. Following received from KFVN (Sig. letters undecypherable) 30.12 W., 70.53 W., suspicious looking vessel following. (Halifax W/T, 2030Z/1 to Admty).

/Shipping...



War Diary.1.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Shipping Casualties. Connav Serial 1. E.H. BLUM serial 31 grounded 1230. OAKBANK sunk by torpedo 27th Dec. 00.46 S. 27.58 W.\* TREWORLAS sunk by torpedo 28th Dec. 10.52 N., 60.45 W. LANCASTER reported stranded off Casablanca 31 Dec. probably total loss. Add PRESIDENT FRANQUI also reported states doubtful O.N.154 serial 30. (Connav, 2038/1 to Comnav) \*W.D. Note. Different longitude.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. A. TREWORLAS torpedoed sunk. 10.62 N., 60.45 W. 0845Z/28th. OAKBANK torpedoed sunk 00.46 S., 37.58 W., 2015Z/27th. PBY attacks Sub. on surface 08.44 N., 55.55 W., 1442Z/1. Para. C. MORMACSWAN torpedoed miss approx. 02 N. 30 W. 0855Z/27th Nov. Red Streaks on conning tower see Indra Fy 2040/3rd Dec. Para. D. Sub. sighted 05.60 N., 36.34 W., 0500Z/31st. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2101/1 to Admty for O.I.C.)

Glassfurd Reports. J.S.M.644. Following is text of signal number 1610/1 from Cominch to Adm. Glassfurd repeated to General Eisenhower. (begins)  
From Combined Chiefs of Staff to Adm. Glassfurd. Provided you have not been repeating your C.C.S. despatches to Eisenhower, summarize them to date and make C. in C Allied Expeditionary Force information addressee on pertinent future communications. Despatches sent you via Navy channels will be repeated Eisenhower for information via Army system when appropriate. War Department deliver this to Eisenhower for information. (Ends)  
(J.S.M. Washington 2219Z/1 to War Cabinet London).

Fuelling at Sea. Reply to Connav 1612/19. (D. of S. app. 4th S.L., 2331A/1 to Connav (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. S.F., B.A.D.,) See Lion Copy.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Departures Brisbane Dec. 31st. U.S. TREVER, U.S.S. ZANE. (N.B. Melbourne, 1101Z/1 to Admty etc).

/Arrival...



# 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.

To : Connav,

Repeated C. in C. Western Approaches 407

Conn. East Sea Fron.

B.A.D. 67

Date 1.1.43

NAVAL CYPHER (S)(3)

From : Admiralty.

Connav 1612/19, not to B.A.D. concur generally with recommendations which have already been adopted as far as practicable. Fitting of tankers is proceeding as rapidly as possible, subject to the availability of tankers and provision of floating rubber hose. Tankers cannot be withdrawn from service for fitting for oiling at sea until due for general repairs. Buoyant rubber hose is being manufactured as rapidly as possibly both in U.K. and in U.S.A.

2. Until sufficient oilers have been fully equipped for rubber hose to put two in each convoy, endeavour will be made to include one fully or partially equipped with rubber hose, also having canvas hose, and one with canvas hose only.

3. Owing to shortage and short life of hose it will not be possible to guarantee or continue supply of canvas hose indefinitely, unless hose as used in U.S. Navy can be made and supplied to tankers from America.

4. We have standardised buoyant hose system for properly fitted tankers, and tankers fitted with Boom Method referred to in C.B.4080R/42.

5. Some tankers have been supplied with Buoyant hose without proper ship fittings; these have been given instructions headed "Emergency Oiling at Sea Outfit".

6. Instructions for use of canvas hose have been issued by C. in C. Western Approaches.

7. It is unlikely that any Naval ratings can be provided to assist the tankers' crews other than the D.E.M.S. ratings already in the tankers. Tankers get practice in oiling at sea before sailing from U.K. with convoy whenever practicable.

8. Copies of instructions referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 will be forwarded by bomber mail.

2331A/1

for D. of S.

Approved by 4th Sea Lord

N.A.1st S.L.

Capt. Pin

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

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

D.C. (2)

D.A/S.W.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

B.off. (2)

D.D.I.C.

D.T.D. (3)

D.T.D. (M)

Ad.Usborne

C.W.R.

U.S.N. (3)

Ad.Blake

D.P.S. (2)

D. of S.3A (2) N.S.011051/43  
2A



1.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Brisbane 1st Jan. U.S. transport  
Contd. AMERICAN LEGION. U.S. transport BONTEKOE  
departed Port Moresby 28th Dec. arrived Townsville  
31st. U.S. Transports TASMAN, CREMER, departed  
Port Moresby 31st Dec. due Cairns 2nd Jan. U.S.  
transport BANTAM departed Townsville 31st Dec. due Brisbane  
4th Jan.  
(A.C.N.B., 1111Z/1 to Admty Connav).

Situation. This is 344 Intelligence Digest for December 31st.  
(1) During the night 31 end of Coastal spit  
southwest Buna mission was occupied and contact  
was made by our Forces Government Gardens area  
with those in Strip area. Attacks continuing.  
(2) 18 heavy bombers badly damaged buildings in heavy raid  
on Merauke midday 31. Some 1,000 lb. bombs again used. Dock  
area not hit. Indications bombers previous day based Babo or  
Maemormo 1° 35' S., 135° 8' E.  
(3) Japs moving troops and supplies from Baucau and Lautem to  
Lore Baguia Fuijoro Iliomar 27th. Enemy troops reported  
training at Ossu.  
(4) At midday 6 B.25s 6 Bostons, 6 Marauders, 12 P.38s attacked  
Lae Aerodrome. 105 probably serviceable bombers hit by strafing.  
Dispersal bays bombed 3 fires seen. P.38s encountered 10/12  
Zeros shot down 8 probably 9 damaged 2. B.25 hit 4 Zeros shot  
down one unidentified aircraft. One Marauder 2 P.38s slightly  
damaged.  
(5) Other air operations. One Liberator unsuccessfully attacked  
ship St. Georges Channel early morning strafed large submarine  
W.Z.B. Bay. Catalina bombed runway during night 30/31. One  
medium merchant vessel observed off Sohanf. Three Bostons  
strafed Sanananda Point Area. R/C Fortress reported three  
possible light cruisers or destroyers, one medium merchant  
vessel, Kavieng Harbour, 30 medium bombers, 20 fighters, intense  
general activity on Drome. Interception by one Zero unsuccessful.  
R/C Liberator bombed Gasmata Field setting fire to one bomber  
or transport plane. Another Liberator on R/C unsuccessfully  
attacked by four Zeros 30 miles south Arawe. One Catalina  
bombed Kahili drome.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 2100Z/1, as amended 0750Z/2 to Admty etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1426A/1).



War Diary.

1.1.1943.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine Situation, Atlantic.

Cominch  
Bi-weekly  
Summary.

Average size North Atlantic Wolf Packs will increase to 12. Heaviest attack expected on O.N. convoys as long as their routes are outside limit of air coverage and nearest to U-boat Bases. U-boat patrolling line to continue West of Azores to about 50° W., with object of interception of independents and reinforcements for Wolf Packs. No major U-boat operations expected in Gulf of Mexico or Panama area next fortnight. 6 U-boats expected to be operating in area East of Windward Islands. In area off Brazil coast bounded by Tamandare 008° 50' S., 035° 07' W. Cape Sanrocque and St. Paul's Rocks 6 U-boats 8 U-boats still operating. About 3 quarters of attacks on convoys occur in darkness. Of U-boats operating in Atlantic 60 are in U.S. strategic area. Refuelling takes place in about 035° N., 038° W., also West of Cape Verde Islands. (B.A.D., 1821Z/1 to Admty).

Submarines Attacked.

Mediterranean Assessments. A.M.1916/9th July 1942. Para. 9.

A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
397	1130/10 Oct. 42	CLYDE	34.52 N. 19.15 E.	G	Nil
398	0629/6 July 42	PAUL	32.23 N. 34.35 E.	F	Nil
399	0830/15 Nov. 42	<del>CBU</del> NDOURIOTIS EXMOOR	31.44 N. 25.57 E.	I	Nil
400	1315/30 July 42	IERAX, SPETSAI	35.32 N. 34.50 E.	F	Nil
401	1145/22 Nov. 42	HYACINTH, FALK	34.32 N. 35.49 E.	I	Nil
402	0956/10 Oct. 42	P.247	36.20 N. 02.35 W.	G	Nil
403	1138/4 Sept. 42	203 Sqdn	32.17 N. 33.52 E.	F	Nil
404	1325/4 Sept. 42	FF Nancy Flight Bisley	Inshore from 32.17 N. 33.52 E.	F	Nil
405	0837/12 Sept. 42	459 Sqdn. Hudson	36.05 N. 35.22 E.	G	Nil
406	1533/14 Oct. 42	13 Hellenic Sqdn.	33.30 N. 35.03 E.	F	Nil
407	1634/24 Oct. 42	13 Hellenic Sqdn. Blenheim	31.40 N. 34.10 E.	D	Nil
408	1525/1 Nov. 42	230 Sqdn Sunderland	31.52 N. 32.45 E.	H	Nil
409	0305/15 Dec. 42	PETARD, QUEEN OLGA	35.08 N. 14.22 E.	A.	ITALIA*

(C. in C. Med., 1925B/1 to Admty (R) B.A.D.) \* Italian intended? Previously reported as UARSCIEK, no ITALIA in official list.



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.

A complete revision of our convoy escort forces is in process which will entail the re-allocation of a considerable number of these vessels. It is urgently required to start O.S. convoys (U.K. to West Africa, including sections for West Indies and South Atlantic ports) and S.L. convoys (West Africa to U.K.) and to institute direct tanker convoys from the Caribbean.

Home Commands.

NORFOLK returned to Iceland from Patrol "White" at 0051A today.

S.B.N.O. North Russia at 1525A today reported that convoy J.W.51 B was attempting to enter Kola Inlet in thick fog. The Murmansk section of the convoy was safely brought into harbour next day by OBEDIENT and GARTH under very difficult local conditions. *SS BARBET provided and became lost on sea before.*

*x? very doubtful*

At 0500 today S.O. Force R, having received no indication of Convoy R.A.51 having been sighted decided to proceed to Seidisfjord.

"Torch" Area.

S.O. Force H in NELSON sailed from Gibraltar at 0230A today with FORMIDABLE, RODNEY, FURIOUS, DIDO, LOOKOUT, PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER, ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT, QUIBERON and BLYSKAWICA to cover Convoy K.M.F.6 until arrival at Algiers.

ARGONAUT is no longer to form part of the 12th C.S. and is to be administered by V.A. Gibraltar. She left Algiers for Gibraltar today with 3 destroyers.



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.Convoys to  
and from South  
America and  
D.W.I.

B.A.D. Washington reports that convoy T.B.1. (Trinidad to Bahia) sails on 5 Jan. and B.T.1 (Bahia to Trinidad) on 13 Jan. The Admty. are inquiring of F.O.C.W. Africa whether he could replace the F.T.T. series (Freetown to Trinidad) by sailings from Freetown timed to reach Bahia for connection with B.T. convoys returning to Freetown with ships ex T.B. convoys. Amongst other advantages of such a service, even though irregular, would be the maintenance of West African oil supplies from D.W.I., with consequent saving of tankers. F.O.C. W. Africa concurred (4 Jan) but proposed that convoys from Freetown should R/V with B.T. convoys in the Rocas area instead of ships proceeding to Bahia, thereby shortening their voyages by approx. 8 days. Meanwhile, on 5 Jan. N.O.I.C. Capetown instructed N.C.S.Os. in his area that ships of under 15 knots bound for the Trinidad - Guiana area are to be routed to Bahia for convoy.

Mediterranean.

A message from N.C.X.F. today gives his intentions for Coastal Force Bases in the Western Mediterranean in the near future.

Operation  
"Quadrangle  
D".

Convoy M.W.18 comprising one tanker and one merchant ship arrived at Malta this morning from Alexandria escorted by PALADIN, NUBIAN, EXMOOR, HURWORTH, ALDENHAM and HURSLEY.

Enemy air  
attacks on  
Bone.

There were further air raids on Bone today. In a raid about 0900 by 10 Ju.87 escorted by fighters and 4 fighter bombers, Fleet Minesweeper ALARM was hit and her back was probably broken, but she was beached later. SS. ST. MERRIEL and EMPIRE METAL (petrol ship) are total loss though the latter discharged 1400 tons 80 octane before loss; DALHANNA was damaged; and STAR slightly damaged. LIGHTNING was slightly damaged in collision when proceeding clear of burning petrol ship.

C.S. 12 reports that air attacks by day appeared to concentrate on Force Q, but the armament of the Force had given marked protection to merchant shipping which would otherwise be attacked. The bombings of Bone reduced the available berths for ships discharging to 5 in addition to "Torch" requirements. The Eastern movement of troops and supplies has not been seriously affected.

/Air...



War Diary.

2.1.1943.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air operations Six out of 12 Wellingtons despatched bombed Bizerta  
Heavy attacks docks last night in poor visibility. 3  
on Crete. Wellingtons laid mines off Heraklion harbour with  
bombing diversion, and 8 Wellingtons bombed  
the aerodrome. Today 36 Baltimores 12 B.24s and  
12 B.25s attacked objectives at Suda Bay and  
elsewhere in Crete. Nine Wellingtons attacked  
Palermo harbour from 2245/1 to 0020/2, hits were  
obtained amongst shipping at the Naval jetties  
and in the harbour where fires were started.  
Objectives at La Goulette and Sousse were  
bombed (3 separate attacks on Sousse). At  
La Goulette hits by B.17s were seen on the dry  
dock, power house and other objectives ashore,  
and on 2 merchant ships, one of which probably  
sank. Large fires were started in the oil tanks  
on the south jetty. Wellingtons laid mines last  
night in the approaches to Heraklion harbour.

23 enemy aircraft are reported to have been des-  
troyed today, together with 12 probably destroyed  
and 22 damaged. The U.S. losses were 2 aircraft.



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Command of  
C.O. Bases.

Your 2135/25 is receiving serious consideration. The whole question of command of C.O. Bases and the relative position of C.C.O. and the Commanders in Chief in connection with this matter is being re-examined.  
(D.F.S.L., 0014A/2 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

ST. ALBANS

ST. ALBANS may be employed temporarily in Rosyth Escort Force.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1607A/2 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Movements.

P. 223

Arrival P. 223.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0919A/2).

ABDIEL

*See p. 55*

My 1335A/1st and my 1341A/1st. Postponed 4 hours owing to late arrival of special case for N.C.X.F.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1055A/2).

Admiralty  
Sailed ABDIEL.

1011A/30 and my 1335A/1st 1341A/1st and 1055A/2.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1331A/2 to V.A. Gibraltar).

SOLENT.

SOLENT arrived.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1101A/2).

Russian  
S/Ms  
S.55.  
S.54.

Position at my 1130Z/2nd 180 miles position Y, course 098° speed 12½ knots. Cannot reduce speed due to heavy sea. Expect to arrive position Y at my 0200Z/3rd.  
(S.55., 1109Z/2 to F.O.S.)

My 1716/1st and 1944/1st add new paras.  
(O) S.55., 60° 30' N., 24° 40' W., probably on surface through 59° 45' N., 15° 01' W, speed about 10 knots.  
(P) S.54. 60° 30' N., 34° 10' W. probably on surface through 60° 30' N., 26° 01' W., and 59° 45' N., 15° 01' W, speed about 10 knots.

(F.O.S., 1246A/2 to Admty).

ST. ELSTAN is (a) to meet S.55 in 270° Barrahead 10 miles at 0930A/4th and escort to Vatersay Bay for the night.

(b) with S.55 to meet S.54 in 270° Barrahead Head 10 miles at 1330A/5th.

(c) to escort S.54 and S.55 by Spithead route to Rosyth.

(C. in C. W.A., 1327A/2 and 1548A/2).

/S.55's...



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - cont'd.

Russian S.55's 1109/2nd acknowledged. After dark tonight  
S/Ms.S.55 L.N. No.673 and S.55 report position and E.T.A.  
S.54 at R/V. Repeat signal to C. in C. W.A.  
Contd. (F.O.S., 1529A/2 to L.N.673 and S.55).  
Your 1152A/2nd. Position at 1900Z/2nd. 135  
miles from position Y, course 098° speed 12½ knots.  
Will arrive position Y, 0600Z/3rd, then will alter course 128°  
speed 10 knots. Will arrive R/V position Z at 0900Z/4th.  
(S.55., 1924Z/2 to F.O.S.) *See p. 44A*

O.10 S.9's 1915A/1. LEICESTER CITY will take over  
escort at 36 buoy.  
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide relief  
escort at 0900/6th.  
3. S.9 is requested to inform C. in C. W.A. of exact R/V  
position at 0900/6.  
(A.C.QS., 1130/2).

BULOLO, A.M.2148/1st. LIMBOURNE detailed.  
LIMBOURNE, (C. in C. Plymouth, 1137A/2).  
BADSWORTH, Admty. 2148/1st.  
WOLVERINE. (1) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail  
BULOLO by standard route and following positions  
and thence Casablanca as ordered by N.O.I.C.  
Gibraltar.

(2) A/S escort. BADSWORTH from Belfast, WOLVERINE from Liver-  
pool, LIMBOURNE S.O. from Milford Haven, are to R/V as arranged  
by N.O.I.C. Greenock.

(4) Ships are to be warned to keep special look out for floating  
mines during passage through Irish Sea.

(C. in C. W.A., 1651A/2)

ESCAPADE I should be grateful if you could accept  
ESCAPADE for 14 days working up, arriving  
Tobermory 12th.  
(Capt. D. Greenock, 1212/2 to WESTERN ISLES)  
Your 1212/2. Certainly.  
(WESTERN ISLES, 1836A/2 to Capt. D. Greenock.)

P.339, My 1119/1 sailed.  
\*P.223, (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1214A/2 to A.C.O.S.)  
TORBAY.  
AYRSHIRE.

*\* See pp. 42, 43, 44 - 1/20 p. 44A*  
CLYDE Estimated position CLYDE at 0800A/2nd 050° 10' N.  
*See p. 44A* 009° 25' W diving by day through 050° 10' N. 015°  
02' W. advancing 170 miles in 24 hours.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1348A/2 to Escorts of M.K.S.4  
ABDIEL)

OKUN Estimated position U.S.S.R. Sub. OKUN at 0800A/2nd  
050° 10' N., 009° 25' W., diving by day through  
050° 10' N., 015° 02' W, advancing 170 miles in  
24 hours.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1348A/2 to Escorts M.K.S. 4,  
ABDIEL)

/W.A. ...



2.1.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

W.A. Command      Situation at 1957A/2. Details.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1355A/2) See  *Convoy Plans*

BROCKLESBY      C. in C. Plymouth 1619A/31. Intend to sail  
 BROCKLESBY 1630 today for Rosyth. Route.  
 E.T.A. 0900/4.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1451A/2).  
 My 1451A/2. Sailed 1634A/2.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1640A/2).

UREDD              My 1505/30, amended by my 1005/31. Vessels  
*See next page.* arrived Lerwick.  
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1502A/2).  
 (1) Intend sailing UREDD escorted by SWITHA at  
 1100A/3rd to carry out trials on the surface and submerge in  
 vicinity of position (a) 059° 35' N., 000° 28' W., in  
 accordance with F.O.S.'s 1313/24 as amended by A.C.O.S.'s 1110/28  
 and F.O.S.'s 1908/28.  
 (2) Vessels will remain in vicinity of position (a) during  
 dark hours but may close to the land during the day to fix  
 position keeping inside exercising area.  
 (3) Vessels return to Lerwick 1600A/6th.  
 (4) A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange fighter protection for  
 period vessels are at sea.  
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1603A/2 to A.C.O.S.)

CAMBRIDGE -      E.T.A. Lundy Island 1800.  
 SHIRE.              (CAMBRIDGESHIRE, 1515A/2 to GLAISDALE)

S/M                  At 0800A/3. Details.  
 Positions.          (F.O.S., 1607A/2, 2224A/2, 2334A/2) See  *P. 44 A*

BARSING              B.D.O. Aultbea's 1347/2. Intend sailing  
*H.T. & D.*  
 BARSING 0930/3, stopping for night at Mallaig.  
 Proceeding Sleat Boom for instructions daylight  
 Monday.  
 (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1645A/2 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

SOKOL, O. 14.      My 1117/1. Sailed.  
*LOCH MONTEITH.*      (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1706A/2).  
*See next page.*

SCYLLA              Your position by R.D.F. is 052° 54' N., 005° 20'  
*See p. 45*              W. at 2320A.  
                             (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2334A/2 to SCYLLA).



2.1.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - con/5:-

- Positions of submarines at 0800A/3 and movements for *see next page* following 24 hours.
- (A) P.216, P.312, P.49, GRAPH in North Norwegian waters east of 20° E.
  - (B) P.55 in zone K.104.
  - (C) U.S.S. SHAD on patrol off Bilbao.
  - (D) U.S.S. BARB on patrol off Vigo. *See p. 55A*
  - (E) U.S.S. HERRING in zone K.505.
  - (F) U.S.S. BLACKFISH in zone K.506.
  - (G) CLYDE 50° 10' N. 13° 50' W. dived by day through 50° 10' N. 15° 00' W. and 50° 05' N. 20° 01' W. S. of A. 170 miles in 24 hours. *See previous p.*
  - (H) H.43 exercising vicinity Great Ormes Head.
  - (J) P.339, P.223 and TORBAY escorted by AYRSHIRE 58° 10' N. 06° 01' W. for Holy Loch E.T.A. 1200/4th, 10 knots. *See pp. 42, 43*
  - (K) SOKOL and O.14 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH 58° 30' N. 02° 35' W. for Dundee E.T.A. 0900/4th. *See previous p.*
  - (L) Russian S/M S.55, 59° 01' N. 13° 05' W. probably on surface speed 12 knots to R/V 270° Barra Head 10 miles. *See pp. 42, 43*
  - (M) Russian S/M S.54 60° 30' N. 24° 40' W. probably on surface speed 12 knots through 59° 50' N. 15° 01' W. to 270° Barra Head 10 miles.
  - (N) OBERON, P.229, P.31 escorted by UNST leave Needles 1215/3rd for 180 Lizard 12, E.T.A. 0830/4th thence escorted by STAR OF INDIA, to Clyde.
  - (O) UREDD escorted by SWITHA leaves Lerwick 1100A/3rd for exercises on the surface and submerged in vicinity of 59° 35' N. 00° 28' W. Both vessels return to Lerwick p.m. 6th. *See previous p.*  
(F.O.S., 1607A/2, 2224A/2, 2334A/2.)



2.1.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Denmark  
Strait  
Patrol.  
NORFOLK.My 1932/31. Returned.  
(A.C.I.C., 0051A/2 to C. in C. H.F., (R) V.A.2)Sinking of  
Enemy M/V  
by\*SCYLLA  
on 1st Jan.

\*See p. 64

The sinking of the blockade-runner <sup>RHAKOTIS</sup> SCYLLA was a most successful conclusion to an operation in which air R/C played so important a part under difficult flying conditions.  
(1st S.L. 0256A/2 to C. in C. Plymouth, A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

Enemy merchant ship was intercepted in 045° 01' N., 010° 50' W., at 1735A and sunk by gunfire and torpedo by 1800. Ship flew no colours and displayed no markings. Black hull and grey upper works. Identified as RHAKOTIS or similar class? Crew took to boats and were well clear of ship before sinking. No survivors picked up owing to weather and (corrupt group) of hostile launches? and aircraft.

(SCYLLA, 1251A/2 to Admty).

Your 1223/2. Position 45° 01' N., 10° 50' W., My 1251A/2 refers.

(SCYLLA, 1325A/2 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Patrols

Weather permitting tonight CHASSEURS 15 (S.O.) 13 to patrol near E.A.5 buoy. CLEVELAND immediate notice to Yarmouth.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1307A/2, 1502A/2).Operation  
"Busby".C.C.O.I. No. 108 operation "Busby", appendix B para. 7. Delete call sign L 8 A substitute N 8 S D H 5 substitute 3 J C. To be brought into force on receipt of executive signal from F.O.C. (S).  
(H.Q.C.C., 1816A/2).Biscay A/S  
operations.  
BLACKFISH,  
HERRING,  
SHAD.See previous  
pageAircraft fitted with searchlights will be operating against enemy submarines from 0200A/3rd flying along latitude 045° N. from east to west.  
(2) BLACKFISH proceeding forthwith to operate in area K.506 passing if necessary through 044° 01' N., 007° 30' W. HERRING keep clear of this position. SHAD keep to eastward of 005° 30' W.  
(3) Total bombing restrictions from 0200A/3rd S. of 044° 10' N. from French coast to 009° W. (F.O.S., 2106A/2 to S/Ms South of 51° N).Allied Air Activity.Biscay  
A/S  
Operations.

See Operations.



War Diary.2.1.1943  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

EMPIRE PANTHER. Following received. Intercept 2259 G.M.T. 001° Gonio A Approximately. De EMPIRE PANTHER. Mined, boats away. Intercept 2305 de EMPIRE PANTHER, north of Smalls. (Plymouth, C.C.O. T.O.R., 0012/2 to Admty).  
Sailed Rescue Tug SCHELDE to 297° Strumble Head 20 miles to assist EMPIRE PANTHER reported mined. (Manned by - A.R. 1337)  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0235/2 to Admty).  
Arrived SCHELDE. EMPIRE PANTHER was reported Escort Vessel BLACKFLY as having foundered.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0635A/2 and 0811A/2 to Admty).

Iceland sweep. C. in C. H.F., 1344/31. Intend to sail FRASERBURGH, BEAUMARIS, and BOOTLE for Scapa on 3rd January. Sweeping operations outlined in my 2310/1st will be carried out by CIRCE, \*FLY, \*PETERHEAD, and LLANDUDNO.  
(A.C.I.C., 2110A/2 to C. in C. H.F.)  
\* See p. 50.

Enemy Intelligence.

W/T masts near Hammerfest. P.223 reports W/T masts sighted once in apparent position by fixes on island 071° 05.5' N., 024° 07.5' E. Shore lights not burning. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1033A/2 to F.O.S.)  
(P.223 report).

Hammerfest. My 1250A/26. German Harbour Captain has announced that when the lights on Fugleness and the Mole are extinguished, all vessels are forbidden to remain in the vicinity of or entrance to Hammerfest Harbour.  
(D.N.I., 1659A/2 to A.C.O.S., F.O.S.)

U-boats.

U-boats reported. W/T transmissions indicate that several German U-boats are in your vicinity and special precautions should be observed.  
(D.D.I.C., 1841A/2 to S/Ms South of 51° N).

PENDEEN SS SS distress bearings by D/F.  
(Portrush W/T 2003/2, Gallon Head 2004/2, Tiree Radio, 2004/2, Sheigra 2004/2).  
Intercept 2003 G.M.T. de PENDEEN. SS SS 48.58 N. 14.20 W. PENDEEN suspicious.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 2130/2).  
Intercepted 2014 G.M.T. de PENDEEN. Re W E accosted by craft on surface with searchlight on us.  
(Niton Radio, 2114 G.M.T./2 to C. in C. Portsmouth).



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

REGENT  
LION. My position 51° 12' N., 07° 31' W., at 0900.  
ABEILLE<sup>2</sup> preparing to return crew and take up tow.  
Weather moderating.  
(MELBREAK, 0930A/2 to C. in C. Plymouth).  
My 1044/1st. Report your position and if you  
are in company with SEA GIANT.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1753A/2 to LORD ESSENDEN)  
Aircraft report MELBREAK in 051° N., 007° 35' W. at 1745/2nd  
and your position 5 miles S.W. true from above position.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1937/2 to SEA GIANT)

JAN VAN  
GOYEN.  
(Convoy  
O.N.153). JAN VAN GOYEN Square 94 anchored in Rothesay Bay.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1225/2 to C. in C. W.A.)  
My warm congratulations to you both on the  
valuable service you have so successfully carried  
out in bringing in JAN VAN GOYEN.  
PROSPEROUS's long tow was a highly creditable  
performance rendered all the more meritorious by  
the fact of bad weather and it being her first job  
(C. in C. W.A., 1246A/2 to PROSPEROUS, LAGAN).

ONSLOW Damage to ONSLOW will necessitate about 15 days  
to make her seaworthy. Not yet decided whether  
docking necessary.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1606A/2 to C. in C. H.F.)

LAFONIA LAFONIA is due Methil about 9 Jan. for disembar-  
kation and afterwards must proceed to London  
for discharge.  
Will need very extensive machinery overhaul and  
refit.  
(D.S.T., 2051A/2).

Shipping & Convoys.

F.S.1001. Unable to steer at convoy speed. Am proceeding  
ahead. Request permission proceed Harwich  
independently. Wind N.N.W. force 8.  
(EGLINTON, 0013A/2 to C. in C. Nore).  
Also unable to steer at convoy speed. Request  
permission to proceed to Harwich.  
(HAMBLEDON, 0113A/2 to C. in C. Nore).

H.X.220,  
O.N.157. Estimated positions. See A.W.I.

/R.A. 51....



War Diary.

2.1.1943.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - LOR/S:

→ J.W. 51B

R.A. 51

1 Enemy Destroyer sunk and 1 enemy Main Unit damaged by SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA (Force "R") on 31st December.

N.O.I.C. Murmansk's 0925/31 para. 4. INGLEFIELD should be added to ocean escort. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0802A/2 to Admty). Your 1422/30th. Submarines will be recalled 4th January. Area will be clear for Russian submarines from 1200A/5th January. (F.O.S., 1241A/2 to S.B.N.O. Polyarno) N.O.I.C. Murmansk's 0925/31 has been repeated to H.Q.C.C., F.O.S., C.S.1., S.O. Force R. (D.S.O. 1501A/2).

Force R continued to afford cover to R.A. 51 until 023° East when fuel necessitated proceeding to harbour. At 0500/2nd Force was still in a position to return to cover if required but, as no indication of R.A. 51 having been sighted was received by this time, I decided to proceed Seidisfjord. During \*action on the 31st December, Force R engaged cruiser, almost certainly the German Cruiser ADMIRAL HIPPER, and hits with at least 2 salvos scored caused enemy to retire under smoke. Enemy destroyer of Mass class then sighted at close range on bow. Torpedo menace necessitated turning and shifting of target; destroyer was left sinking. Contact with German Cruiser ADMIRAL HIPPER lost meanwhile but regained shortly afterwards and fire opened on second enemy cruiser believed German Cruiser \*NURNBERG. Again enemy destroyer and torpedo menace forced me to turn away. Enemy continued to retire at high speed to south-westward and Force R, having kept in touch by R.D.F. long enough to establish withdrawal of enemy, returned to protection of convoy from possible other enemy menace. SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA superficial splinter damage, no casualties. (S.O. Force R, 1954A/2 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2., C.S.1., S.B.N.O. North Russia). \*J.W. 51B - 20/12 - pp 1070, 1070<sup>A</sup>, 1080<sup>A</sup>, 1081

\*LUTZOW - see 31/12 - p. 1070A.

→ J.W. 51 B.  
ACHATES sunk on 31st Dec.

Report 20 ships in approx. 070° Cape Teriberski 32 miles 0952, reported to be steering towards coast. (?S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1015A/2 to M/F 6). OBEDIENT reports ACHATES sunk 31st Dec. 78 ratings, unknown number officers, rescued now in

NORTHERN GEM.

2. Convoy now attempting to enter Kola Inlet in thick fog. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1525A/2 to Admty, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., S.O. Force R).

M.K.S.4

Estimate you may meet ABDIEL at about 0300A/3. Keep clear to Port. (C. in C. W.A., 1034A/2 and 1405A/2 to Escorts M.K.S.4).

Convoy is to split at 0900A/3rd as follows.

(1) Ships for Bristol Channel Port escorted by 3 Sloops through 051° 00' N., 008° 50' W., thence via Q.Z.L.18.

(2) Ships for Mersey and Clyde capable of 11 knots escorted by one sloop and 2 corvettes.

(C. in C. W.A., 1339A/2 to Escorts M.K.S.4).

My 1339/2. Para. (1) all ships for Belfast are to proceed to Bristol Channel. Final destinations as follows. Details.

(C. in C. W.A., 2117A/2 to Escorts M.K.S.4).



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

WESTERNLAND My 0923/2. Sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1142/2 to C. in C. Rosyth).

K.M.S.7 Admty. 1851/1st.  
1. Escort (A) from Clyde, PELICAN (S.O.),  
LYME REGIS, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR, WORTHING, THALASSA.  
(B) To join from Londonderry ~~at~~ Oversay R/V  
SENNEN, ROTHER, SPEY, AZALEA, GERANIUM, H.M.S. SPIREA, WEAR.  
2. PELICAN is to arrive Greenock in time for conference Jan. 6th.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1236A/2).  
A.M. 1851. Route. R/V at 0900Z/8 in position F. 270°  
Oversay 6 miles thence G. 55° 40' 13" 01' H. 52° 18"  
J. 48°, 18° K. 39°, 17° L 36°, 12° M. 36° 10° thence as ordered  
by N.C.X.F.  
2. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered R to X with  
instructions that, if straggling, ships are to keep 30 miles  
to starboard of route given.  
3. S.O.A. estimated 7½ knots, to be adjusted to pass M at  
2000Z/17.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1601A/2).

TJALDUR Your 1448/31. Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1235/1 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen).

O.N.S.154 SCOTTISH HEATHER arrived Rothesay. Ship was  
SCOTTISH torpedoes at 1905A/27th in 46.15 N., 26.20 W.  
HEATHER. Damaged starboard side. Tanks numbers 6 and 7  
open to sea.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1254A/2).

H.X.218 Average speed 8.5 knots. Arrived off Oversay  
0530/2. All arrived.  
(D.T.D., 1303A/2 to Connav).

H.M.93 My 1301A/1. H.M. 93 delayed a further 24 hours  
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1315A/2).

K.M.F.7 A.M. 2346/31. Route R/V 0830Z/9 in position  
M. 270° Oversay 6 miles thence N. 55.22, 12.28  
O. 50.01, 17.00 P.45.05 17.20 Q. 39.02 17.15  
R. 36.00 12.59 S. 36.01 09.58. thence as ordered  
by N.C.X.F.  
2. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered A to G with  
instructions that, if straggling, ships are to keep 30 miles to  
starboard of route given.  
3. S.O.A. estimated at 11½ knots is to be adjusted to arrive  
position S at 0500Z/15.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1352A/2).



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.U.R. 56  
Search for  
SNELAND.

Request fighter sweep for SS. SNELAND a.m./3rd. Ship not seen after collision during snow storm with BUTE 2300/1st. R.D/F sweep last night and today produced negative results. Estimate position of collision 060° 40' N., 012° 00' W. (GAVOTTE, 1730A/2 to A.C.I.C.)

Your 1730/2. If no news of SNELAND detach one escort to search back along the route. Is BUTE in company. To what extent is SNELAND believed to be damaged.

(C. in C. W.A., 2251A/2 to GAVOTTE).

Keep lookout for SNELAND, straggler from U.R. 56, and report if she is sighted.

(C. in C. W.A., 2253A/2 to \*PETERHEAD, \*FLY). *See p. 46*

Your 2251A/2. STAFNES already detached and searching along route. BUTE in company U.R. 56. No knowledge of damage to SNELAND as collision occurred in heavy snow blizzard and SNELAND refused to answer visual signal from BUTE.

(GAVOTTE 2306Z/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

K.M.S. 6  
PACIFIC  
EXPORTER.

Had collision. Holed aft. Making water fast. (PACIFIC EXPORTER, 1950/2).

K.X. 8 B.

My 1138A/1. Sailed K.X. 8 B Codeword "Henbane."  
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 2300A/2 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)



War Diary.

2.1.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch"Area.

- Convoy Escorts.
1. A complete revision of our convoy escort forces is in process which will entail the reallocation of a considerable number of these vessels.
  2. It is urgently required to restart O.S./S.L. convoys and to institute direct tanker convoys from the Caribbean.
  3. Nothing but escorts with the longest endurance are suitable for these convoys and of these you at present have nine sloops, two of which are damaged, under your command.
  4. It is intended that these nine sloops- STORK, DEPTFORD, ROCHESTER,\*LEITH,\*SANDWICH\*ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, and ENCHANTRESS should return to Command of C. in C. W.A. being relieved by R.C.N. corvettes LOUISBURG, PRESCOTT, WOODSTOCK. CAMROSE, CALGARY, KITCHENER, REGINA, ALGOMA AND MOOSEJAW. \* 2-1-43 55A
  5. These corvettes, in addition to the eight R.C.N. corvettes already in your command, were specially loaned for "Torch" by the Canadian authorities and have all been specially armed.
  6. It is anticipated that these nine corvettes will leave U.K. as escort of K.M.S.8 on 21st Jan. and it is requested that you will arrange to return the last seven sloops mentioned in para 4 in their place.
  7. STORK and DEPTFORD should return to U.K. when ready.
  8. Request you will confirm that this can be arranged.  
( D.O.D. (H) Approved V.C.N.S. 1350A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. )

HELVIG. Your 1322/. HELVIG sailed from Gibraltar with M. K. S. 4 V.A. Gibraltar's 1822/26 refers. (N.C.X.F. 1632A/2 to Admty, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Greenock, Com. Algiers.) 26/12. - 12908

French Warships Refits. To Agwar, for Combined chiefs of Staff to USFOR for British Chiefs of Staff signed Eisenhower. 1. A draft has been submitted by Adm. Michelier of desired repairs and alterations to French Naval ships in North and West African ports except Alexandria.

2 Have asked Adm. Glassford come here to confer on this subject; meantime following outline is forwarded for information.

3. Broadly summarized French proposals involve: A. Fitting 8 escort vessels and 6 destroyers with modern A/A armament, Asdic, Radar and D/G. B. Fitting 3 cruisers as in para A and considerable renewing of wiring and probably adaption of catapult to take aircraft in supply by United Nations. French particularly request that 3 cruisers may go to U.S.A. together as soon as possible largely for political effect. C. Steaming RICHELIEU to U.S.A. via fair weather route for structural repairs to stern, equipping main armament with 3 15-inch guns to be removed from JEAN BART at Dakar and shipped in returning U.S. convoy. Provision of various auxiliary machinery items. Fitting Radar, Fire Control and D/G. D. Fitting 13 submarines with Asdic. E. A considerable list of stores and supplies for naval shore establishments dockyards and naval aviation, details of which are not yet complete.

4. Questions of provisions of secret material will require early policy decision between London and Washington. I see no objection to provision of some form of Asdic since many French ships already have our models, but provision of modern Radar and Fire



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area-Contd.French  
Warships  
Refits.  
Condt.

Control Equipment, must obviously be matter for Anglo-U.S. policy decisions.

5. Most urgent item from our point of view is fitting Asdic to French convoy escorts, and early decision is requested whether it will be quicker to send them to U.S.A. or U.K. for fitting rather

ship material and skilled personnel here where dock congestion is acute.

6. Detailed proposals must await presence of Adm. Glassfurd but in meantime I intend working on following lines: A. Formation of French West African Escort Group consisting of French Vessels with some sort of Asdic. Dispatch as soon as possible of some French Escort Vessels with no Asdic to U.S. or U.K. for fitting. Arrangements to fit 3 destroyers repairing at Casablanca with Asdic during repairs. B. Cruisers to go one at a time to U.S. as yards can accept them. Others to be employed in present condition on anti-raider work in South Atlantic. C. Minor convoy escort vessels used for local North African traffic to be equipped with A/A armament and possible Asdic from British sources here. D. French submarines which have not had much training to train for 6 weeks to 2 months in West Africa. We could then operate a flotilla from Algiers giving them a definite section of the Italian Coast say Naples-Spezia or submarines one or two at a time to go United States for overhaul. E. Rearmament of RICHELIEU is largely a matter of French prestige but I feel it would be useful if this prospectively fine ship could be got working since it might enable U.S. to release a Battleship from Atlantic.

7. The French here are ready and willing to start immediately on this general programme. I urgently recommend that action be started by taking some escort vessels in hand now and giving the rest active employment while the many technicalities in the refits of the large ships are being settled.

8. This telegram is fully concurred in by Admiral Cunningham. (Algiers 1910Z/2 to Usfor, London.)  
Received from ETOUSA 1105/3.

Glassfurd  
to visit  
Algiers.J.S.M. 653 2nd. Jan. Your C.O.S. (W) 420 (2345/  
31). Following sent by U.S. Chiefs of Staff to  
Glassfurd 021510.  
(Begins.)

Gen. Eisenhower and Adm. Cunningham consider it desirable for and such members of your mission as think necessary to proceed Algiers during Adm. Michelier's stay there. He is to leave Algiers 4th. Jan. but will remain a day or two if you can come. Joint C.O.S. desire you visit Algiers at once unless there are pressing reasons to contrary. Advise action taken. (ends)

( J.S.M. 2221Z/2 to War Cabinet, London.)



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.LLANGIBBY  
CASTLE.

Owing to seized engine LLANGIBBY CASTLE did not sail in M.K.S. 4(Y).

(2) Intend sailing her Jan. 3rd escorted by EXE and SOUTHERN PRIDE.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 0040A/2 to Admty., etc.)

My 0040/2nd para. 2.

Intend to sail LLANGIBBY CASTLE (? at) 1830/2nd escorted by EXE and SOUTHERN PRIDE routed through (a) 36.30 N. 10.00 W.

(b) 39.58 N. 15.10 W. (c) 49.20 N. 14.35 W. (d) 55.00 N. 10.00 W.

(e) 55.25 N. 08.30 W. S. of A. 11½ Knots.

2. Codeword "Jack".

3. Admiralty is requested to signal refitting port for SOUTHERN PRIDE and destination of LLANGIBBY CASTLE.

4. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C. (Passing action being taken by W.R.)

(V.A. Gib., 1308A/2 to Admty., etc.)

My 1308/2nd. Ships sailed. SOUTHERN PRIDE does not hold S.P.02459.

(V.A. Gib., 1821A/2.) *See p.55A*

VULCANIA.

A message was received from Whitehall W/T on fixed service at 2230/1 giving P.C. and S. of VULCANIA.

This is not understood in view of my 1502/1

(V.A. Gibraltar, 0104A/2 to Admty.)

\* War Reg. and Whitehall W/T unable to trace.

DOLFIJN.

*See p.55A*

Cancel paras. 1 and 3 of my 1735/30th. After crossing 42.59 at 0600/3rd proceeding on surface at C.O.'s discretion through (A) 36.55 09.11 at

1000/5th. (B) 36.37 07.26 at 2200/5th. (C) 35.54 06.15 at 0800/6th, thence Gibraltar, S. of A. 7½ knots, all times zone minus 1, positions North and West.

2. You should not pass position (C) before 0800/6th.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 0114A/2 to DOLFIJN (D.S.), (R) F.O.(S), Capt. S.8th.)

(0116A/2 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, etc.)

Force H.

Sailed S.O. Force H in NELSON, FORMIDABLE, RODNEY, FURIOUS, DIDO, LOOKOUT, PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER, ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT, QUIBERON, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA. Q.B.94 and 201, Q.B.A. 21B, 313.

(V.A. Gib., 0230A/2 to Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C.

Oran, S.O. Force H, F.O. C.S.12, Capt. D.19,

N.C.X.F., Capt. D.6, (R) Admty.)

\* LANARKSHIRE,  
Malta cargo.*\* See p.55*

LANARKSHIRE sailed 2200/1 K.M.F.6. Has on board 350 Primus stoves urgently required Malta should opportunity offer by H.M. Ships. Also 878 generators and 7 boxes fuzes for Malta. Balance

872 generators, held here pending onward shipment in near future vide my 092529 not to Bougie and P.S.T.O. All seed potatoes on board are also for Malta. 59 bags Malta mail buried in cargo not discharged here.

(S.T.O. i/c Gibraltar, 0845/2 to S.T.O. i/c Bougie, (R) Admty., etc.)



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

LOYAL. LOYAL arrived 2300/1 fuelled and sailed 0700/2 to rejoin K.H.F.6 (? K.M.F.6.)  
V.A. Gibraltar, 0943A/2 to N.C.X.F., Admty.)

Movements. Arrival 0646 BOREAS, VERITY.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1005A/2 to Admty.)  
Arrived 0859 M.Ls 341 and 493 escorting SS. RAVENSPPOINT.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1009A/2 to Admty.)

A/S Air Escorts. Your 0947/21st. O.A.C. and Chief Staff Officer visited S.N.O. Casablanca Area on 26th Dec. and discussed questions with him, also Gen. Patten and Gen. Cannon of U.S.A.A.F.

2. U.S. Naval Authorities willing to co-operate within the following limitation:
  - (a) P.B.Ys at Casablanca and Port Lyautey are employed on U.G. and G.U. Convoys also inshore patrols and escort for local convoys which have first call.
  - (b) P.B.Ys range is restricted owing to poor aerodrome conditions.
  - (c) They are unwilling to operate P.B.Ys from Agadir.
3. In view of above and with concurrence Gen. Patten, a R/C of Agadir, where the French authorities were very helpful, has been carried out and it has been found suitable for daylight and night operations by Hudsons or Wellingtons but not for Catalinas.
4. Americans are willing to stock Agadir with suitable fuel and oil.
5. After full discussion A.O.C. considers French co-operation from Agadir would be quite ineffective owing to unsuitable A/C which lack all necessary equipment and untrained crews.
6. Propose to carry out following: (a) Catalina from Gibraltar to escort convoy as far as 032° N., U.S. P.B.Ys co-operating when practicable.
  - (b) Wellington or Hudson operating from Agadir to provide escort from 032° N. to 028° N.
  - (c) West Africa Catalina operating from Port Etienne should be able to cover convoy southwards of 028° N.
7. U.S. authorities Casablanca agree to above proposals subject to covering approval of Gen. Clark.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1054A/2 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., etc.)  
Reply: N.C.X.F. 1701A/4.

K.M.F. 6. K.(?M).F.6. Can you spare 2 destroyers for reinforcement of escort? When Gibraltar section joins there will be 13 ships 4 escorts and EGRET who is in hand steering. Gibraltar section 12 miles astern am reversing course to meet.  
(EGRET, 1107A/2 to S.O. Force H, (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)  
Anticipate you will pass position 34 at 2200A/2nd.  
2. After passing 34 pass through 036° 37' 00" 00' E. thence position 100.  
3. \*ARGONAUT expected to pass 036° 26' 00" 45' E. 2200A/2nd routed along 100 fathom line 12 knots westbound. \* *2.56*



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - *cont'd*

K.M.F. 6. 4. 3 L.S.T. escorted by 4 M/S estimated 036° 39' 001° 08' E. 2200 routed through 7 and ?minimum of 7½ knots.

5. RHYL pass to TASAJERA.

(N.C.X.F., 1108A/2 to EGRET, (R) Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.6, RHYL, ARGONAUT, VENOMOUS, TASAJERA.)

Destination \*LANARKSHIRE is Bougie, BOISSEVAIN is Algiers.

(N.C.X.F., 1617A/2 to EGRET, Escorts of K.M.F.6.)

\* *See p. 53*

- PETUNIA. Patrol outside territorial waters off Ponta Delgada, orders follow.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1132A/2 to PETUNIA.) *Cancelled*  
*See p. 56*
- Movements. Arrival U.S.S. \*ROWAN, P.C.482 escorting SS. DANIEL HUGHER.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1137A/2 to S.N.O. Casablanca, N.C.X.F.) \* *See next page*
- U.G.S. 3. U.G.S.3 arrived Casablanca 1250/30 Escort T.F.33. Ships as follows (list).  
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1140Z/2 to Cominch, N.C.X.F., etc.)
- ABDIEL. Onward route from position (f) to (g) 39.01, 13.01. (h) 36.30, 09.10. (j) 35.59, 06.01 thence to Gibraltar.  
*See p. 42*  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1215A/2 to ABDIEL, (R) Admty.,? H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S.)
- NORTHMOOR. Your 1312/2nd (N.T. in W.D.) NORTHMOOR sailed 1815 G.M.T./1st as routed by Admiralty 1127/31st. Speed 9 knots.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1301/2 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., F.O.C.W.Af.)
- Intend utilising PETUNIA to escort NORTHMOOR ex O.N.S. 154 from Ponta Delgada.  
(2) NORTHMOOR destination Saldanha Bay for onward routing to Alexandria.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1313Z/2 to Admty., F.O.C.W.A.)  
Following is a repetition of my 1312/2nd addressed N.C.S.O. San Miguel (Ponta Delgada) (R) Admty., F.O.I.C. West Africa,  
→ PETUNIA from F.O.C. Gibraltar.  
Sailed NORTHMOOR to R/V PETUNIA in position 180° Ponta Delgada light 3½ miles at 1000/3rd.  
(2) Route (A) 35.01 N. 25.01 W. (B) 20.01 N. 21.30 W. thence as ordered by F.O.I.C. West Africa.  
(3) N.C.S.O. San Miguel (Ponta Delgada) is requested to signal speed NORTHMOOR, T.O.O. 1312A/2nd. (Ends.)  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1316A/3 to N.C.S.O. San Miguel (Ponta Delgada), (R) Admty., F.O.I.C. West Africa, PETUNIA.)

*See next two pages*  
/Cancel ...



2.1.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Situation  
Reports.

'X' 1959A/2nd.

- (1) U.S. S/M BARB patrol off Vigo. *See p. 44A*
- (2) Dutch S/M DOLFIJN 44.01 12.28 through 43.01 12.26 at 0600/3rd thence 157° on surface 7½. *See p. 53*
- (3) M.K.S.4(Y) O.R.P. SLAZAK, WENSLEYDALE, STARWORT, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, 37.07 10.55 310°, 10½.
- K.M.S.6 BLACK SWAN, 1 sloop, 8 corvettes 36.40 13.14 through 35.59 12.05 and 36.01 10.01 to Gibraltar 7½.
- (5) G.U.F.3, 31.02 16.52 270°, 12.
- (6) ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER laying cable off Casablanca.
- (7) ERNE, LEITH, SANDWICH, 032° 58' 009° 31' 215°, 12. *See p. 51.*
- (8) U.S. Destroyer ROWAN, 1 P.C. (? and) cable ship ALSACE 35.52 05.54 through 35.45 06.12 and 33.56 07.16 to Casablanca, 9. *See previous page*
- (9) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MARIE LOUISE MACKAY *p. 56* sail a.m. prepare to repair cable in 35.56 05.48.
- (10) BURDOCK, 036.42 010.53 101°, 10. *See next page*
- (11) DRANGEY 037° 23' 017° 09' 100°, 6.
- (12) HAARLEM 036° 28' 019° 20' 093°, 7.
- (13) EXE, SOUTHERN PRIDE one merchant ship off Carnero through 036° 30' 010° 01' thence 310°. Speed of advance 11½ knots. *See p. 53*
- (14) ARCTIC RANGER, MIRROR sailed 0800/3rd to 037° 07' 009° 21', 10.
- (V.A. Gibraltar, 1444A/2.)
- 2001A/2nd 'Y'.
1. G.U.F.3, 031° 02' 016° 52', 270°, 12.
2. MILNE, METEOR sailed Ponta Delgada 2300A/1st to sweep area between 43.30 28.01 and 44.30 29.01.
3. PETUNIA on patrol off Ponta Delgada, proceeding to R/V one merchant ship in 180° Ponta Delgada Light 3½ at 1000A/3rd and escort 168°, 7.
- (V.A. Gibraltar, 1446A/2.) *See previous & next pp.*



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - cont'd.

NORTHMOOR, Cancel my 1313A/2.  
(Contd.) (V.A. Gib., 1625A/2 to Admty., F.O.C.W.A.)  
Following is repetition of my 1621A/2 (begins).  
N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.,  
PETUNIA, from V.A. Gibraltar. Cancel my 1312A/2. (Ends.)  
(V.A. Gib., 1628A/2 to PETUNIA.)  
Cancel my 1132/2.  
Proceed to Gibraltar passing through Z 036° 01', 010° 01'.  
(V.A. Gib., 1632A/2 to PETUNIA.) *See pp. 55 & 55A.*

VILLE DE Your 1201/30th (Survivors from VILLE DE ROUEN  
ROUEN. on board SHEDIAC). Request confirmation that  
(O.N.S. 154) survivors were from VILLE DE ROUEN.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1646A/2 to SHEDIAC.)  
Your 1646Z/2nd. Confirm sinking of VILLE DE ROUEN. Entire  
crew rescued and landed at Ponta Delgada.  
(SHEDIAC, 2200Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

Movements. My 1755/1. Sailed U.S.S. ROWAN, P.C. 482, French  
\*LA GRACIEUSE Cable Ship.  
(V.A. Gib., 1650A/2 to S.N.O.C.A., (R) Admty.,  
N.C.X.F.) \*ALSACE *re/interd. - See previous page.*

ARGONAUT. ARGONAUT is no longer to form part of (12th)  
Cruiser Squadron and is to be administered by  
V.A. Gibraltar.  
(N.C.X.F., 1707A/2 to ARGONAUT, F.O. (12th) C.S.,  
V.A. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H, Cdre. Algiers,  
Admty.)

NURIA R. Spanish NURIA R, 2733 G.T. usual marking and  
national colour on side, speed 7 knots sail  
1720/2nd. For Marseilles by approved route.  
Not to be interfered with this voyage.  
2. R.A. Malta pass to Air O.C. Malta and N.C.X.F. to E.A.C.  
(V.A. Gib., 1721A/2 to S. & A. Area 9 etc.)

BURDOCK. Your 1845A/1st. My P.C. and S. are 036° 41' N.  
*See previous* 011° 01' W. 100°, 13½. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1500Z/  
*page* 3rd. Weather report.  
(BURDOCK, 1800Z/2 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) DRANGEY,  
HAARLEM.)



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

ILEX, ILEX's 2301/1 to F.O.C. West Africa.  
C.F.10. (1) ILEX proceed at best speed to Bathurst to refuel. Report E.T.A. and fuel and water requirements. After refuel ILEX rejoin convoy C.F.10 before dark on 3rd.  
(2) CROCUS continue search until further instructions. Hudson aircraft will relieve Catalina at daylight (F.O.C.W.A., 0115Z/2 to ILEX, CROCUS, (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty., Escort C.F.10.)  
F.O.C.W.Af. 0115Z/2nd. E.T.A. Bathurst 1700Z/2nd. 200 tons of fuel and 9 tons of water required.  
(ILEX, 0329Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) F.O.C. West Africa, ASTURIAS.)

*See next page - 130 p. 68.*  
RANPURA, Arrived (a) RANPURA. (b) FORTUNE with C.D. 74.  
FORTUNE. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0534Z/2 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., F.O.I.C. E. Africa, N.C.S.O. Capetown.)

Dakar (Opnav. 0530/2.)  
Mission. See America and West Indies.

French Overhaul in U.S.A.  
Warships. (Opnav, 0605/2.)  
See America and West Indies.

VIVIANA, VIVIANA and Tug EMPIRE WARLOCK departure 0845/1st  
EMPIRE Jan. for Saldanha Bay towing 1 lighter. E.T.A.  
WARLOCK. a.m. 4th. Jan. Require working party for tow rope per pilot boat on arrival.  
(R.O. Luderitz Bay, 0800/2nd to Admty., etc.)

LEIGHTON. Your 2000/1st Jan. Steer for new position A in latitude reference position ZJ less 002 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° and longitude route position R less 008°. If necessary call at (? Island) near new position A for assistance. From A proceed along same latitude to destination. Acknowledge. (C. in C. S.A., 0810 G.M.T./2 to LEIGHTON, (R) Admty. for information.)  
Acting on your (?0810)/2nd Jan.  
(LEIGHTON, 1030/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

DESPATCH. My present P.C. and S. 005° 41' S. 003° 12' E., 084°, 18. E.T.A. Pointe Noire 1430Z/3. Require (? 900) tons fuel 50 tons water. B.N.L.O. acknowledge. Weather report.  
(DESPATCH, 0915Z/2 to B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, (R) F.O.C.W.A., Admty.)

/HOLCOMBE ...



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- HOLCOMBE,  
R.D.F.  
contact. At 1930/25th Dec. in 5° 42' N. 12° 11' W. HOLCOMBE escorting small convoy obtained R.D.F. contact 3500 yards ahead. 1932 Asdic contact obtained. 1/37 counter attacked with 5 charges set 50 feet. No subsequent confirmed contact. After fruitless star shell search HOLCOMBE proceeded at 2016 to rejoin convoy.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 0943Z/2 to Admty.)
- W.S. 25. Your 1541/1st para. 8 not to N.O.I.C. Durban. Convoy W.S.25 should omit position (E) and proceed from position (D) through - (F) 034° 40' S. 017° 00' E. (G) 035° 00' S. 020° 00' E. (H) 034° 27' S. 022° 32' E. (K) 034° 24' S. 024° 50' E. (L) 034° 09' S. 026° 00' E. (M) 033° 40' S. 027° 07' E. (N) 032° 25' S. 029° 05' E. (O) 031° 38' 030° 00' E. thence to Durban.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1135C/2 to R.A.W.Af., (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Durban, Capt. D.4 in QUILLIAM.)
- French Naval Forces. You are requested to repeat Opnav's 1921/31 to Resmin and we are presuming that you will keep him generally informed about developments at your end.  
(M. Branch, 1347A/2 to F.O.C.W.A.)
- CAMBRIA. Departure 2nd January British cable ship CAMBRIA.  
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1453Z/2 to Admty.)
- RANPURA. Sailed RANPURA to East London coastwise.  
*See previous page p. 68.*  
(2) Shift to group S.L. at 0130 eastboard 3rd.  
(3) S. of A. 14 knots. E.T.A. East London 0830Z/3rd.  
(Cdre. Durban, 1456Z/2 to Admty., etc.)  
My 1456/2nd. Have recalled RANPURA to Durban in order to comply with C. in C. E.F. 1306/2nd. *N.T. n. 4.3.*  
(Cdre. Durban, 2152C/2 to Admty., etc.)
- C.F. 10. Convoy C.F.10 sailed 1st. List. Fuel lifted. Total on board.  
LARGS BAY E.T.A. New York 14th, remainder E.T.A. Gibraltar 8th. Details in my code 1637/2 Jan.  
(D.S.T.O. W.Africa, 1635/2 to Admty. for D.S.T. etc.)
- Freetown-Trinidad Convoys. Your 1437/30. B.A.D. reports that convoy T.B.1 Trinidad to Bahia sails 5th Jan. E.T.A. 20th Jan. and that convoy B.T.1 Bahia to Trinidad sails 13th Jan. E.T.A. 26th Jan., these convoys being planned on an 8-day cycle.



2.1.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - 27/1/43

Movements  
Summaries.

P.615 on the surface 18.20 19.30 165 8.5. BIRDIE  
on patrol off Dakar. ASTURIAS, WOODRUFF, \*HOLCOMBE,  
BELLWORT, with C.F.10, 12.35 18.02 to 15.59 20.01  
thence 360 12.5. ILEX off Bathurst to join C.F.10.  
P.614 on patrol submerged between 10.00 18.15 and  
08.15 19.27. PORTDOWN escorting 09.20 20.35 to join  
F.T.T.6. Situation at 1959Z/2nd.  
ST. WISTAN escorting about 09.10 14.30 to Freetown  
8.5.3 Motor Launches on patrol about 08.30 14.25.  
COMMANDANT DROGOU, HYDRANGEA, 3 trawlers, with  
F.T.T. 6 07.28 20.18 270 7.5.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1103Z/2.) \* See previous page

NORTHERN DUKE standing by DUNEDIN STAR in the  
vicinity 018° 12' S. 011° 42' E. NIGELLA, FREESIA,  
030° 30' S. 037° 00' E. to Durban 12 knots.  
ROCKROSE with C.A.5, 036° 30' S. 023° 20' E. to  
038° 30' S. 028° 00' E. 9½ knots.  
NORWICH CITY, CAPE WARWICK, INDIAN STAR, 028° 30' S.  
015° 40' E. to Simonstown 10 knots.  
W.S.25, W.015° 10' S. 007° 00' E. to Capetown  
25½ knots.

See next page - MEAD, leaves Capetown P.M. 2nd for Durban. FOXHOUND,  
021° 30' S. 038° 40' E. to Kilindini 18 knots.  
NIZAM, 015° 45' S. 041° 30' E. to Kilindini,  
(?21) knots.  
(C. in C.S.A., 1125C/2.)



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Freetown-  
Trinidad  
Convoys.  
(Contd.)

2. This suggests possibility of a convoy service between Freetown and Trinidad via Bahia if you can replace the F.T.T. series by sailings from Freetown timed to reach Bahia for connection with B.T. convoys, returning to Freetown with ships ex T.B. convoys.

3. The advantage of such a service even though irregular would be great and would enable West African oil supplies to be maintained from D.W.I. with consequent saving of tankers (Tanker message).

4. Request your remarks.

(D.T.D., 1656A/2 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) B.A.D.)

CERION,  
B.T.1.

CERION destination Trinidad (tanker message) should be sailed Bahia to join B.T.1, which leaves 13th Jan.  
(D.T.D., 1710A/2 to B.R.L.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

MEAD.

*See previous page*

Capetown departure 1715C/2nd MEAD for Durban. S. of A.  $8\frac{1}{2}$  knots, E.T.A. 2100C/6th.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1712C/2 to Admty., etc.)

O. 19.

E.T.A. Equator  $010^{\circ}$  W. is daybreak 5th Jan. Request ranging and distilled battery water.  
(S/M O.19, 1947Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Freetown, (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.S.)

BALUCHISTAN.

Arrival 2nd Jan.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1931Z/2 to Admty., etc.)

Convoy  
W.S. 25.

In view of shortage of transit accommodation at Durban, ESPERANCE BAY, HIGHLAND PRINCESS and RANGITIKI are to be routed to Capetown to disembark personnel and turn round.

2. Remainder of convoy is to proceed direct to Durban.
3. ORION and BRITANNIC will turn round at Durban for return to U.K.
4. CITY OF LINCOLN is to proceed as in para. 5 of A.M. 1751/24 Dec.
5. HIGHLAND BRIGADE and MATAROA as in para. 9 of A.M. 1751/24 Dec.
6. F.O.C.W.Af. pass to Commodore of Convoy and S.O. Escort.  
(D.O.D.(F), 2005A/2 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af., (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)

Use of  
A.S.V.

Your 1045/31. This application of A.S.V. is unusual but results not unexpected. Further details would be appreciated.  
(D.S.D., 2029A/2 to F.O.C.W.A.)

French  
Aircraft,  
Dakar.

My 1909/31 Dec. and my 0947/21 Dec. Understand from U.S. sources that French have four 4-engined A/C and 15 2-engined aircraft capable of assisting in A/S patrols in Dakar Area with personnel and fuel.  
(N.C.X.F., 2309A/2 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.)



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy M/V Following has been read. P.C. and S. of M/V (medium) 39.40 N., 18.40 E. 045° 10. (Aircraft using call sign 6VJD via Alexandria W/T, 0120A/2).

Movements Departure PALADIN, NUBIAN. *See next page* (V.A. Malta, 0438A/2 to Admty, C.in C. Med). WELSHMAN arrived. (Cdre. Algiers, 0730A/2 to N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, R.A.(M), F.O.I.S.)  
Arrival DEVONSHIRE, 0357, departure CERES. (Cdre. Aden, 0735Z/2 to Admty etc).  
Arrival 1st Jan. ROMEO, BEAUFORT, departed 1st Jan., L.C.P. 126, M.L.C. 58, HYACINTH, M.L. 354, CUMBRAE, SOUTHERN SEA, FALK, \*ISLAY, HEKTOR 7, GRIBB, Greek AGEDS GEORGIOS. *Alp 66* (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0913B/2 to Admty etc).

Move of 9th Aust. Div. Admty. 1537/19. Water requirements in Red Sea difficult to estimate here but vessels will arrive at intervals over three weeks and will require as far as can be judged, 3,000/5,000 tons each. It appears that difficulty may arise on arrival of last vessel with three others in port requiring approx. 800 tons total per day for topping up. If you confirm, request C. in C. E.F. will consider possibility of making STAGPOOL available during this period. (D. of S.T., 0501A/2 to P.S.T.O. M.E., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med).  
Admty. 1537/19th Dec. After sailing of 4 vessels in para. 2 there will remain about 2000 personnel requiring shipment to Australia ex Middle East. Agreed G.H.Q. M.E. (P.S.T.O. Middle East, 1926B/2 to D.S.T., C. in C. Med.etc).

Air Raid, ALARM, damaged. Your 1844/1st (N.T. in W.R.) in forenoon (a) 4 (b) Nil. In afternoon (a) or (b) 1. (2) Raid about 0900 today of 10 Ju.87 escorted by fighters and 4 fighter bombers. ALARM hit. Back appears broken. EMPIRE METAL full of petrol (corrupt group). Bridge (?gunned) by fighter bombers. Enemy casualties not yet known. (3) Raid about 0630 did not damage H.M. Ships. (4) AJAX is having considerable difficulty in maintaining electric power. (C.S.12, 1004A/2, to N.C.X.F.)  
Owing severe bombings several ships damaged. Suggest presence of surveyor most essential. WILLIAM JOHNSON loading about 800 tons cork under extreme difficulty. DALHANNA damaged but hopeful of continuing loading programme. NOVELIST engine room and boiler room flooded. VILLE DE STRASBOURG Superstructure and life boat damaged. EMPIRE METAL burning furiously. HARPALYCE holed No. 1 hold by unexploded bomb. Hold flooded. (S.T.O. Bone, 1015A/2 to D. of S.T. (R) M.W.T.R. Algiers, P.S.T.O. X.F.) See also 1147/2, 2047/2.

/M.W.18...



War Diary.

2.1.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- M.W.18 Arrived convoy M.W.18\*PALADIN,\*NUBIAN, EXMOOR, HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY. (V.A. Malta, 1018A/2 to Admty. etc).  
*\* See previous page.*
- P.42 Your 1721/1st acknowledged. Well done. (Capt. S.1., 1045A/2 to P.42).  
*See p.63.*
- Enemy Units. Position of 1 enemy medium vessel, 1 destroyer, 1 aeroplane 36.01 N., 11.54 E., course 340° speed 10 knots. (A/C C/S GJRE 1115A/2 to A.H.Q. Malta).
- Bi-weekly Opsum No. 87. Night 30/31 Dec. 16 Wellingtons bombed Heraklion Aerodrome, Crete. 6 Liberators bombed harbour installations at Sfax. 1 aircraft also machine-gunned harbour, scoring hits on warehouses. 31 Dec. 11 B.24s bombed harbour installations at Sfax scoring hits on stores depot and 2 other buildings on Hospital quay, another building on Quay demolished. About 10 bombs burst on Commercial Quay. Hits or near misses on 3 power stations followed by heavy black smoke. No shipping in harbour but 3 vessels seen leaving. 1 Jan. 15 B.24s despatched to attack shipping in Tunis Harbour. 6 Aircraft returned early owing to technical troubles. 3 B.24s only located Tunis, scoring hits on railway sidings. Cloud hampered observation of damage. 5 B.24s unable to locate Tunis bombed targets in Southern Sicily including Syracuse with unobserved results. 2 enemy fighters attacked B.24s near Pantellaria. 1 Me. 109 probably destroyed. Remaining 1 B.24 was abandoned by crew near Mersa Matruh on return journey, 1 enemy aircraft followed B.24s back to Gambut and attacked 1 B.24 while landing. 4 of crew wounded. Each B.24 dropped 3 2,000 lb. bombs. 1 Marauder machine-gunned 2 vessels in Aegean Sea, damage unknown. My Opsum 86, following revised report of B.24 Operation against Sousse afternoon 28 Dec. received. 21 B.24s despatched of which 3 jettisoned bombs and 2 returned early owing to technical troubles. Formation was intercepted before reaching Sousse by 7 enemy fighters of which B.24s shot down 2. 3 B.24s were damaged in combat, 2 of them jettisoning bombs. Remaining 14 B.24s bombed Harbour setting fire to 2 ships at Commercial Quay. Explosion caused at Warehouse on Quay. A third ship in Harbour was seen to explode. Several bombs burst on West Side of harbour and in town North of Commercial Quay. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1133Z/2).
- LIGHTNING damaged. LIGHTNING slightly damaged above waterline, (corrupt group) aft in collision when proceeding clear of burning petrol ship. Temporary repairs being made good estimated time 24 hours after which she should be able to operate until convenient opportunity occurs for permanent repairs. (C.S.12, 1147A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) Capt. D.19).

/Cositrep...



2.1.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Situation  
at 1958A/2.

- Submarines excepted. F.S. ~~■~~ TURQUOISE sailing Oran 1200/2 for Algiers.
2. Italian repatriation ship; VULCANIA, SATURNIA, 037° 19' N., (003°, 012° or 061°) 24" E. course 080° 16 knots.
  3. Force H covering K.M.F.6 until arrival Algiers
  4. K.M.F.6, EGRET, 5 escorts, 036° 20' N., 000° 15' E., through 036° 37' N., 001° 00' E., 100 to Algiers 12 knots. *See p. 54 466*
  5. T.E.12, LUNENBURG, 4 escorts, 036° 25' N. 00° 06' W. through 89, 036° 58' N., 002° 55' E., 036° 52' N., 003° 05' E. 7½ knots.
  6. E.T.8, NASTURTIUM, 4 escorts, 036° 45' N., 001° 57' E., through 17 109 93 82 to Gibraltar 7 knots. *See p. 65*
  7. 3 L.S.T., RHYL, 3 escorts, 036° 25' N., 000° 40' E., through 7 74 99 25 36 to Philippeville 7½ knots.
  8. EMPIRE GNOME sailed Algiers 0800/2nd inshore for Philippeville 9 knots.
  9. ARGONAUT, VELOX, VENOMOUS, WIVERN 036° 24' N., 001° 11' E., along 100 fathom line to Gibraltar 12 knots. *See p. 65*
  10. ACUTE, ALBACORE, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, escorting 1 merchant ship pass 36 approx. 0030A/2 routed 27,92 thence 14 - 10 knots.
  11. WELSHMAN sails ~~14~~ at 0715A/3rd through (A) 036° 56' N., 012° 15' E. (B) 037° 10' N., 006° 20' E. thence to pass through (C) 037° 15' N., 007° 50' E., at 1800A/3rd. (N.C.X.F., 1050A/2, 1630A/2). *See p.p. 60, 62, 765.*



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Cositrep  
No. 643.

3. Air. Night 31st Dec./1st Jan. Malta Wellingtons bombed Sfax harbour causing large explosion and fires on quays. One Wellington missing. Another Wellington dropped bombs on Taranto and Brindisi. Fire started in naval dockyard at former. Beaufighters and Mosquitoes from Malta carried out intruder patrols over southern Sicily.
4. 1st Jan. Part of American B.24 formation bombed Tunis harbour scoring hits on railway sidings. Clouds hampered observation of damage. Remainder unable to locate objective either bombed targets in southern Sicily or brought bombs back. (C. in C. ME., 1205B/2).

P.48

Pass position 038° 20' ? N., 008° 00' E., at 0100A/3rd 038° 20' N., 003° 05' E., at 0001A/5th then proceed on surface at discretion to R/V escort Algiers at 0830A/5th in 037° 01' N., 003° 05' E. Report if unable comply.  
(Capt. S.8., 1210A/2 to P.48 (R) N.C.X.F.etc).

→ WELSHMAN

*See pp. 60, 61A, 65*

Sail at 0715A/3rd. Route. A. 36.56 03.15.  
B. 37.10 06.15 C. 37.15 07.50. D. 37.45 08.58.  
E. 38.08 10.48. F. 37.47 11.42. G. 37.39 12.11  
H. 37.07 13.15. J. 35.40 14.20 or as ordered by

- V.A. Malta. V.A. Malta is requested to order final route.
2. Adjust speed to pass position (C) at 1800A/3rd when course should be shaped as if entering Bone until dark.
  3. Paravanes should be run after position (C) and speed increased to the maximum with P.Vs in use.
  4. Decode all messages bearing special D.G. K.B. if in the cypher or code held.
  5. V.A. Malta pass to Capt. (S) 10.  
(N.C.X.F., 1350A/2 to WELSHMAN (R) VA. Malta etc).

URSULA

Your escort will be a motor launch.  
(2) Large fast convoy and Force H arrive Algiers 0700/3rd from westward.  
(3) 3 tank landing ships escorted by 4 minesweepers arriving Algiers 1100/3rd slow convoy arriving Algiers 1400/3rd all from westwards.

→ (4) MANXMAN (?WELSHMAN intended) leaves Algiers before daylight 3rd coastwise to east.

(Capt. S.8., 1432A/2 to URSULA).

Your 1206A/31st. Delayed by weather. Expect to arrive R/V 0800A/4th.

(URSULA, 1800A/2 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) F.O.I.S. Cdre. Algiers).

Your 1800 acknowledged. Adjust speed so as to pass through 038° 01' N. 004° 48' E. at 1800/3rd to arrive R/V not before 0730/4th.

(Capt. S.8., 2104A/2 to URSULA (R) S/M on patrol Cdr. Algiers)

/TIGRIS...



War Diary.

2.1.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

\*TIGRIS

→ P.211.

\* See p.65.

\* P.42

P.43

\* See p.61 & 65

Arrived TIGRIS, sailed P.211.  
(V.A. Malta, 1510A/2 to Admty etc).

P.43 may be met during next 24 hours on passage for G to a waiting position 15 miles north west north Ustica.

(Capt. S.10., 1512A/2 to P.42 (R) P.43).

→ P.211

Onward route pass 038° 10' 008° 00' at 2200A/4th 038° 10' 004° 40' at 2200A/5th, thence proceed on surface at your discretion R/V escort for Algiers in 037° 00' 003° 01' at 0800A/6th.  
(Capt. S.8., 1526A/2 to P.211 (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 10, Subs on patrol, S.O.I.S.)

P.211 left Malta 1300A today Saturday routed from G through

(1) 038° 10' 011° 04'.

(2) 038° 10' 008° 01'. at 2200A/4th thence Algiers as ordered by Capt. (S) 8. Daily advance 170 miles.

(Capt. S.10., 1530A/2 to S/MS on Patrol, (R) Capt. (S) 8).

Oran oil

C.S. Gib's 2034A/1st. (?2023/1 intended N.T. in W.D.) Heavy filtered mineral oil and compound oil now in short supply Oran. Request NORVIK and MINISTER WEDEL allocated to Oran.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1615/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cdre. Algiers, Admty).

Codewords.

Your 1206A/26th Dec. addressed N.C.X.F. (re sailing of M.T.B. instructions) Codewords in Section 15 of S.2/42 are for use on home stations only. The following ten words are issued for your

use: Aerial, Baggage, Footpad, Fortune, Hotpot, Jingo, Khalif Lancer, Midado, Rally.

2. Codewords can be re-used after a period of six months. (D.N.I., 1627A/2 to V.A. Malta).

Landing Craft.

Admty. reference 105/3 landing craft state 1st Jan. 1943.

See next page

Type	Effective	Non-Operational
L.C.T.	16	12
L.C.M.(I)	7	6
L.C.A.	28	8
L.C.S.(M)	24	Nil
L.C.P.(L)	12	6
Light L.C.A.	15	9

(D.C.O. Mideast, 1703B/2 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med., etc).



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

NIEUW AMSTERDAM sailed 1200/2 Jan. G.M.T. E.T.A. Durban 13 Jan. Gas, via Guardafui Channel, route (B) 10° N., 53° E., (C) 03° 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., 48° 30' E. (J) 33° S., 36° E., thence Durban Approach S. of A. (A) 19 $\frac{1}{2}$  (B) 21, endurance 12 days, recoding tables held. (N.C.S.O. Suez, 1745B/2 to Admty).

Landing Craft. *See previous page* Following for Chiefs of Staff from C. in C. Ref. our CC/137 dated 18 Nov. 1942 and your OZ 1951 (dated 21 Nov. 1942). Landing operations in the Middle East will necessitate the use of L.S.T.(2) and L.C.I.(L) in place of infantry assault ships and transports. This will affect the technique and lay out for a landing. Again strongly urge earliest despatch one of each type to Middle East so that trials may be undertaken before the Flotillas themselves arrive. (Mideast, T.O.O. 1745Z/2, to Air Min).

Malta Intelligence Summary. 2000A/1 to 2000A/2. Military convoy unloading proceeding satisfactorily. (Govr. Malta, 1910Z/2 to A.F.H.Q. Algiers).

Move of S.A. Div. Shipping is required to move First South African Armoured Division from Durban about 1st March to Suez. Number requiring shipment are 8,000 Europeans and 6500 non-Europeans. Only G.1098 will accompany. Agreed G.H.Q. M.E. C. in C S.A. pass to Dechief. (P.S.T.O. Middle East, 1924B/2 to D.S.T.)

QUEEN MARY C. in C. Med's 1442/30th Dec. Request E.T.A. Suez QUEEN MARY may be advised as early as possible. (P.S.T.O. M.E., 1928B/2 to Admty).

Malta Air Report. AI. 5, 2 Jan. C.S.R. Night 1/2 Jan. Operating in poor weather 4 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicilian aerodromes but saw no enemy aircraft. Day 2nd January. 30 Spitfire Sorties have been made to protect entry of convoy into harbour and to protect convoy during unloading and 4 Spitfires have been airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. In addition 7 Beaufighter and 15 Spitfire sorties have been made in offensive sweeps against Axis Transport aircraft (?and) shipping in the Lampedusa-Lampion area but no sightings were made. (A.H.Q., Malta, 1952Z/2 to Air Min). Part 2. Night 1/2 Pan. 2 Wellingtons on shipping R/C patrolled Gulf of Taranto and Straits of Messina and 1 Wellington made anti E-boat patrol North of Malta to protect approach of our convoy but no sightings were made. 9 Wellingtons attacked Palermo harbour from 2245 to 0020 hours. Hits were scored among shipping at Naval jetties and on South and North ends of harbour where 2 fires were started. (A.H.Q., Malta, 2030Z/2).

/Movements...



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Movements  
Algiers.

Algiers arrival CAVA, NASTURTIUM, ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR, BADDECK, VILLE DE QUEBEC, M.Ls. 283, 295, with E.T.8. WELSHMAN from the East, French trawler GOELAND with French M/V. Departure ASHANTI, QUALITY to R/V Force H. Revised programme EMPIRE GNOME to Philippeville. NASTURTIUM, ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR, BADDECK, VILLE DE QUEBEC with E.T.8. ARGONAUT, VENOMOUS VELOX, WIVERN, to Gibraltar. *See p. 61A*  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2018A/2 to Admty).

\* *See pp. 60, 61A, 762.*C.S.12 air  
attacks.

Air attacks made by day appear to concentrate on Force Q but our armament has given marked protection to merchant shipping which would otherwise be attacked.  
(C.S.12, 2047A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O.I.S)

Situation  
report No.  
314.

Submarines. TAKU has returned from Aegean Patrol. At 1536/14th Dec. in 37° 50' N., 24° 07' E. torpedoed and sank 5000 ton North bound merchant ship. 22nd Dec. gunned 150 ton Caique off Canja. 15 hits, left abandoned and on fire. At 0915/22nd Dec. bombarded caiques and a 250 ton M/V in Port Kumiv hits in target area and on warehouses. Own forces. One tanker and one M/V have arrived Malta. Four empty M/Vs from Malta have arrived Alexandria and Port Said. PAKENHAM, CROOME, JAVELIN, SEAHAM hunting U-boat which fired torpedoes at Eastbound convoy 31st Dec. between Tolmerta and Ras el Hilal. P.211 has left station to join 8th S/M Flotilla. DERWENT and TIGRIS have joined Mediterranean Station. Aden. TEVIOT BANK has completed mining of Straits of Bab el Mandeb. *(on 1/1)*  
(C. in C. Med., 2110B/2 to Admty). *\* See p. 63.*

E.A.C.  
Report.

Operational summary number 52 covering period 1800 hours 31 Dec. to 1800 hours 1st Jan. Enemy made three separate, attacks objective being Bone Harbour each time. 1. 1455 hours 6 Me. 109 followed immediately by seven Ju.87 escorted by 6 Me. 109 Harbour dive bombed. 2 ships damaged. A/C intercepted by Spitfires. 2. 1120 hours 8 F.W. 190 followed by 30 Ju.87 in waves of five A/C intercepted before they reached Bone. Casualties in these first two attacks - two F.W.190 and one Ju.87 destroyed, three F.W.190 and two Me. 109 damaged. 4 Spitfires missing. 3. After R/C of harbour at 1345 hrs. by E/A reported by Army to be Me. 210 E/A totalling 68 (F.W.190 and Me. 109) flying in waves of 5 were intercepted near Bast at 1525 hours. Casualties 1 F.W.190, destroyed, 1 F.W. 190 probably 3 F.W.190 and 1 Me 109 damaged. Own casualties in this encounter nought.



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - cont'd.E.A.C.  
Report.  
Contd.

(IV) Blida. Night 8 Wellingtons detailed to attack Quay at Bizerta, weather very unfavourable, 9 - 10/10th cloud along route and over target area. A/C over one hour in area trying to locate. At 0515 hrs. 1 A/C caught glimpse of target but bombs overshoot and fell near Aerodrome. At 0605 hrs. two A/C saw target through break in clouds, one bomb North on foreshore and entrance to Channel, others bombed Quayside. 3 A/C obliged to jettison in sea owing to shortage of petrol but another aircraft saw its 4,000 lb. bomb burst on coast N. of Tunis. No casualties.

12th U.S. Air Force. Marshalling Yards and Harbour at Tunis bombed by B.26s and B.17s. Weather favourable and hits observed starting several fires.  
(E.A.C., 2149A/2).

K.M.F.6

*See pp. 54, 61A*

10 ships, E.T.A. Algiers 1001A/3rd.  
(EGRET, 2212A/2 to Cdre. Algiers (R) N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H).

Enemy Units.

P.C. of enemy destroyer one unknown vessel 37.32 N. 12.00 E. 300° speed unknown.  
(Aircraft call sign G H Z Duty S, 2215A/2 to Med., call sign undecypherable, K.T.1).  
P.C. and S. of enemy destroyer and 1 M/V 37.32 N. 12.00 E. 330° 10 knots.  
(A/C C/S G H Z Duty R 2225A/2 to Med. call sign M.T.1).

Movements

Arrivals DULVERTON, TETCOTT, PINDOS,\*ISLAY.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 2359B/2 to Admty etc).

*\* See p. 60.*



War Diary.

2.1.1943

SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

P.B. 19                   Arrival BOMBAY with P.B. 19.  
                           ( S.O.(I.) Bombay 0546Z/2 to Admty. etc.)  
                           Convoy P.B. 19 arrived consists of JALAGANGA and  
                           ORNA.  
                           ( N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0844Z/2 to Admty etc).

Shipping                 Your 1828 27th Dec. addressed F.O. Ceylon. Confirm  
 Routes,                 increase within capacity Port provided Fleet not  
 Colombo                 present and generally ships not required work cargo.  
 capacity.                Additional supplies monthly to Colombo of combined  
                           furnace and Marine diesel fuel to meet increase  
                           estimated 12,000 tons, ships being supplied in such  
                           quantities to ensure minimum use extra tanker tonnage. In view  
                           difficulties food supply to Ceylon, essential ships, before leav-  
                           ing Australia, provision requirements for round voyage. Only  
                           bare minimum essential can be supplied ex Ceylon. Please pass  
                           Secretary State Colonies and Petroleum Board.  
                           ( C. in C. Ceylon 0601Z/2 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O. Ceylon  
                           F.O.C.R.I.N. B.A.D. )

H.D.M.L's                Your 1846 28th. Dec. to F.O.C.R.I.N. only.  
 Fairmiles.               Following H.D. Motor Launches in commission, numbers  
                           1061, 1073, 1079, 1084, 1087, 1125, 1148, 1151. Flotilla  
                           number 120 based on Bombay.  
 2. Fairmiles, numbers 438, 439, 440, 441, 476, 477. Flotilla  
    number 55, temporarily at Chittagong.  
 3. Additional allocations will be signalled as boats commissioned.  
    ( F.O.C.R.I.N. 0742Z/2 to Admty. (R) Cdre. R.I.N. Capt. C.F.  
    N.O.I.C. Calcutta. N.O.I.C. Chittagong.)

Oilers.                   Oilers BROOMDALE and TAMAHA are to be held at  
                           Colombo for present. Cargo (tanker message) is to  
                           be retained on board. Can oiling outfit be prov-  
                           ided for TAMAHA ? Acknowledge.  
                           ( C. in C. E.F. 0824Z/2 to F.O. Ceylon (R) Admty.)  
                           Your 0824 2nd. received and understood.  
                           ( F.O. Ceylon 1134Z/2 to C. in C. E.F. )  
                           Oiler SEPIA when ready for sea is to be ( Tanker Message) sailed  
                           for Colombo empty. On arrival she is to load from oiler TAMAHA  
                           filling up to capacity from shore stocks and held at Colombo.  
 2. F.O. Ceylon is requested to sail TAMAHA for Abadan when empty  
    ( C. in C. E.F. 1148Z/2 to Com. R.I.N., (R) Admty., F.O. Ceylon.)

W.S. 25 W.               Route for convoy W.S. 25 W. from position 037° S.  
                           035° E. through (t) 026° 18' S. 051° 30' E.  
                           (U) 005° 29' S. 058° 55' E.     (V) 010° 15' N. (054°  
                           01' E.     (W) 012° 54' N.     050° 53' E.     (X) 011°  
                           41' N.     045° 50' E.  
                           ( C. in C. E. F. 0905Z/2nd. to C. in C. S.A. (R)  
                           N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.C., Red Sea Force, Admty. F.O.  
                           Ceylon.)



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies-Contd.

F.B. 21 S.H.A. No. 30 repeated MALABAR II C. in C. South  
P.A. 19. Atlantic Station N.O.I.C. Ceylon Commodore R.I.N.  
C. in C. Aden Con. Navy N.O.I.C. Karachi from S.N.O.  
Persian Gulf.  
My 1217 31st Dec. ( Presumably 1217/30/12 (not  
circulated to M. of W.T.) intended) Amended date of sailing P.B.  
21 P.A. 19 to 0430Z 11th. Jan.  
(? S.N.O.P.G. 0922/2 to M.O.W.T. London.)

ROBIN Departure from Lindi for Beira U.S.A. ship ROBIN  
LOCKSLEY. LOCKSLEY at 1730 on 30th. Dec.  
( F.O.E.A. 0956/2 to Admty.)

C.M. 37. Cancel my 0721/29th. Both portions convoy C.M. 37  
are to be sailed in company to position S. 027° 22'  
S. 040° 08' E., thence, GAMBIA with C.M. 37, (A)  
to Aden through A. 015° 10' S. 042° 54' E. B. 007° 13' S.  
042° 45' E. C. 004° 27' N. 049° 48' E. D. 011° 10' 066°  
052° 39' E. E. 012° 44' N. 051° 13' E. F. 011° 34' N.  
046° 11' E. and FROBISHER with C.M. 37 B. to Bombay through T. 025°  
56' S. 048° 15' E. U. 012° 13' S. 052° 19' E. V. 007°  
07' S. 058° 10' E. W. 012° 38' N. 066° 34' E. X. 016° 16' N.  
070° 15' E.  
2. GAMBIA will be relieved by RANPURA in approx. 015° S. and will  
proceed to Kilindini with despatch reporting E.T.A. at Kilindini  
and time convoy will cross 010° N. when clear of convoy.  
3. FROBISHER will be relieved by HAWKINS from Diego Suarez.  
4. TAKLIWA will join convoy C.M. 37 B, from Tamatave.  
5. RANPURA will not now sail with either portion. \**pp. 57, 58.*  
6. N.O.I.C. Durban acknowledge  
( C. in C. E.F. 1156Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Durban, (R) C. in C. S.A. F.O.  
Ceylon. Cdre. R.I.N., Admty. N.O.I.C. Tamatave.)

GATTERICK. Arrival 2nd. Jan.  
( F.O.E.A., 1206Z/2 to Admty.)

GAWLER Departure 1227 2nd. Jan. GAWLER escorting H.T.  
CLAN CLAN FORBES.  
FORBES. ( C.O.I.S. Colombo 1230Z/2 to Admty. (R) S.O. (I)  
Bombay, S.O. (I) Colombo, S.O. (I) Kilindini, S.O. (I)  
Aden.)

SEMLA Your 0322/27/12 ( intend to use SEMLA as local  
patrol craft at Colombo.) Approved.  
( D.A/S.W. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1649/2 to F.O.  
Ceylon).

CITY OF It has been reported that S.S. CITY OF CAPETOWN  
CAPETOWN. was slow in replying to a challenge by one of H. M.  
ships on 16th. Nov. last. Request you will  
impress on master necessity for making a prompt and  
correct reply.  
( D.T.D. 2020A/2 to N.C.S.O. Karachi.)



War Diary.2.1.1943  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.Supplies  
for  
8th Army.

\* 1. W.S.A. have authorised Robinson agree allocation of AMERICAN PACKER and JAMES DUNCAN provided satisfied no other suitable ships available. 2. W.S.A. ask that you point out to P.S.T.O. Egypt that these last minute diversions of American controlled tonnage create considerable difficulty in implementing their homeward loading programmes, etc. 3. We have made obvious comments on para. 2 but in view of our anxiety that nothing should happen to prejudice hitherto prompt allocation of American ships for operational requirements, a further assurance will be helpful. \* Ref. P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1830/31 (B.M.S.M. 0007Z to M.W.T.)

Survivors of  
O.N.S154.

Your 1221Z/31st. Have swept the area for 30 hours. Sighted one empty life boat unidentified at 2310Z/31st in position 044° 12' N. 028° 00' W. Fuel remaining 45%. My position course and speed 044° 30' N. 029° 00' W. 110° 12 knots. Returning to resume Capt. (D) 3's 0002Z/31st. (PRESCOTT, 0030Z/2, to C. in C. W.A. (R) Capt. (D) 3 LONDONDERRY, WOODSTOCK, BATTLEFORD.)

LARIAT.

Position midnight G.M.T. 029° 45' N. 045° 55' W., flotilla now 45 miles 090° from me. My speed reduced to 9½ knots best. Fuel injector nozzle hole getting larger unable to atomize fuel correctly. Vessel emitting heavy black smoke. Submit I proceed direct to Gibraltar under power. (H.M.R.T.LARIAT, 0045GMT/2 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Rescue Tugs.) 0045/2 Jan. from LARIAT re "proceeding direct to Gibraltar" has been passed to V.A. Gibraltar by War Registry. (H.W.R.) Your 0045/2 to Admty. only. Approved to proceed direct to Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F), 0727Z/2 to LARIAT (R) V.A. Gib. L.C.1.(L))

O.N.154  
U/B.

Inconclusive D/F bearings on 4,600 kc/s at 2248Z/1 indicate possibility of U-Boat in your vicinity which may have reported you. (D.D.I.C. 0058A/2 to Escorts O.N. 154 ARROWHEAD, MANSFIELD (R) Cominch etc.)

O.N. 154. On next occasion of breaking W/T silence report names of all ships still in company. Inform Admty.

(Connav, 0255/2, to C.T.U. 24.18.1. (R) Admty.)

O.N. 153 (?154 intended) C.T.U. 24.1.11 311656 and 011347.

In order to clarify situation request escort may be instructed to report names of any Southbound ships which have been detached and time and position when detached.

(D.T.D., 0947Z/2, to Connav.)

For Commodore O.N. 154, report names of any ships which have been encountered South Atlantic giving time and position when detached.

(Connav, 1505/2 to Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.11. Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.1. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.24.)

/WOODSTOCK's...



War Diary2.1.1943  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - con. / Fr.

O.N. 154  
U/B  
Contd.

WOODSTOCK's 2045Z/1. On meeting WOODSTOCK turn over details of unswept area to BATTLEFORD. BATTLEFORD and SHEDIAC are to complete search up to safe limit of endurance allowing for their return to destination reporting when they leave area. WOODSTOCK and PRESCOTT R/V with Capt. (D) 3rd D.F. in 45° 25' N. 026° 40' W. at 0900Z/2. Capt. (D) 3rd D.F. will keep clear to eastward of WOODSTOCK's approach to R/V during the night. If Capt. (D) 3rd D.F. is delayed WOODSTOCK steer 37° after R/V S.P. 2454 (19) held by WOODSTOCK but not by MILNE. Editions 18 and 20 are held. (Capt. D.3., 1041Z/2, to WOODSTOCK, BATTLEFORD (R) PRESCOTT C. in C. W.A. N.O.I.C. St. Johns (N.F.)? V.A. Gibraltar SHEDIAC, H.Q.C.C., Admty.)

H.X. 220  
O.N. 157

Cancel positions of H.X. 220 given in my 1359/1 1813/1 and 1818/1. (2) Estimated 0800A/2 position H.X. 220 is 058° 45' N. 033° 28' W. routed through 058° 55' N. 033° 03' W. 059° 30' N. 031° 01' W. 059° 00' N. 020° 38' W. speed 9 knots. (3) Estimate 0800A/2nd position O.N. 157 is 059° 10' N. 029° 03' W. routed through 059° 01' N. 030° 59' W. and 53° 05' N. 042° 02' W. (4) If practicable H.X. 220 is not to get to starboard of route during daylight hours today Saturday. (C. in C. W.A. 0451A/2 to O.N. 157, H.X. 220 (R) Admty.)

Dakar  
Mission.

This is a repetition of Admiral Glassford despatch 1230/01. Action Combined Chiefs of Staff, British Chiefs of Staff London, Cominch. (begins) Your 2010/29. Boisson returned today at night on 31 Dec. Morning of 1st Jan. the Governor-General informed me orally that he was highly gratified with selection of Giraud and felt confident of French Unity with Allies in prosecution of the war he further informed me in writing whereof free translation follows "The Governor General agrees to receive the British Liaison Staff Officers who are to be a part of the Military Mission headed by the American Admiral. He conferred in Algiers with Admiral Cunningham and General Eisenhower and he is confident that all propaganda from now on will stop." Pegram has been requested to send the British Liaison Staff Officers to Dakar to arrive as soon as possible (ten letters garbled) Governor General copy of a letter from the Resident Minister, Accra, to General Hyde in which the Resident Minister advised the General of steps he is taking with regard to Broadcasts from Accra and requested the General to inform me. The Governor General stated he would comment on this letter in writing Jan. 2nd (Ends.) Admiralty pass to British Chiefs of Staff London for Action. (Opnav. 0530/2 to Admty.)

French  
Warship  
Refits.

Here is re-encypherment of Admiral Glassford despatch 1325/1 action Combined Chiefs of Staff, British Chiefs of Staff, London. (Begins) - The following proposals for escorting and routing of French naval vessels that may be assigned overhaul

/in...



War Diary.

2.1.1943  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Lon/S.

French  
Warship  
Reports.  
Contd.

in United States have been discussed with and are acceptable to French West African Naval authorities. RICHELIEU proceed in company with destroyers FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE and such additional Allied destroyers as can be assigned equipped with echo ranging devices to provide

A/S protection. French destroyers not fitted with asdic. Maximum speed of convoy 15 knots due RICHELIEU. At 15 knots destroyers radius is 2600 miles therefore will be necessary for convoy to refuel at Trinidad or San Juan. RICHELIEU cannot refuel destroyers at sea. For cruisers propose that ships proceed independently at 20 knots or better without escort. At this speed their range is approx. 4500 miles therefore consider ships should refuel at Trinidad or San Juan. Recommend you discuss with French Naval High Command at early date as all ships can depart immediately. (Ends.) Admty. pass for action to British Chiefs of Staff London. (Opnav. 0605/2 to Admty.)

U.S.  
Movements.

Departure 1st Jan. U.S.A. transport STATE OF VIRGINIA to Gibraltar.  
(Brontoff, Aruba, 0910 QR/2, to Admty.)  
Arrival 1st U.S. Army transport FRANKLYN LEISENRING escorted by Y.P. 428.  
(R.N.O. Nassau, 1013/2, to Admty, S.O.(I) Jamaica.)  
Arrival 2nd U.S.C.G. CYPRESS.  
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 1622/2, to Admty, etc.)

U/B  
Positions.

S/M situation Jan. 2nd and U.S. S/M notice.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0943/2, 1517Z/2.)

NORDANGER

Your 1751A/30th. NORDANGER due Buenaventura shortly.  
(Callao, 1002R/2 to Admty.)

Movements  
Summary.

1800 G.M.T. 2nd Jan.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
9 L.C.Is	29½ N. 42 W.	092	10
1 Tug )			
Tug LARIAT	30 N. 43 W.	079	9½
Convoy T.M.1	20 N. 46 W.	057	9
CORINTHIAN	18 S. 34 W.	054	13½
A.T. 32	54 N. 44½ W.	028	19
U.S.S.RSM S.54	60 N. 36 W.	055	10
" S.51)			
" S.56)	51½ N. 49 W.	001	10
" L.15	52 N. 48 W.	002	8

(D.O.D.(F), 1050Z/2 to Opnav.(R) Comnav. )

/T.F.I....



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

T.F. 1. Intend to sail BRIDGEWATER and ARMERIA 1300Z/3rd Jan. escorting Convoy T.F.1 by direct route to Freetown. E.T.A. 1300Z/15th Jan.

2. Communications.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1052Q/2 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At., N.O.B. Trinidad.)

MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, NESTOR and MORRIS DANCE sailed 1000Z/2nd Jan. to comply with your 1437/30. E.T.A. Trinidad 1200Z/16 Jan.  
(2) TAMARISK on completion boiler clean will sail 2000Z/9 Jan. and R/V with F.T.T.6 at 49° W.  
(3) Communications.  
(4) F.O.C.W.Af. pass to HYDRANGEA.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1102Q/2 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)  
MORRIS DANCE returned, see 1212Q/3.

G.Convoys. Your 2005/1st. G. convoys start from Guantanamo and are supplementary to routine. They may consist of ships (A) which reach Guantanamo too late for inclusion in a routine convoy or (B) which are bound for some West Indian or Caribbean Sea port not usually catered for or (C) which are too slow for appropriate routine convoy. (B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 1155R/2 to Admty.)

Movements. Norfolk arrived Jan. 1st VICTORIOUS, REDOUBT, RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH, ATTACKER.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1315Z/2 to Admty.)

S/Ms for A/S Training. Following received from D. Halifax and is recommended for most favourable consideration. (Begins). "N.S.H.Q.'s 1715/27. With reference to training of ships before they join mid-ocean group.  
1. P.553 is required at Bermuda (?)th February and must dock before leaving.  
2. P.512 sails first week in January for long refit.  
3. This will mean that no submarine is available for training in Halifax for at least 6 weeks.  
4. It is understood that due to operational and weather conditions P.555 at Argentinia cannot be used to any great extent.  
5. P.553 and P.512 have been continuously employed.  
6. It is strongly recommended that P.554 should proceed to Bermuda instead of P.553 or that P.554 be loaned to Halifax during absence of P.512". (Ends.)  
(C.O.A.C., 1330/2 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F.)  
See also C.T.F 24's 1247/3 and F.O.N.F. 1400/3.

U/B. Sighted sub. approx. position 044° 00' N. 064° 25' W. at 1000Z/2nd heading South. Graded B.1.  
(C.O.A.C., 1331Z/2 to G.B7A, (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, N.O.I.C. Shelburn, N.O.I.C. St. John.)  
See also 1421/3.

-/RACEHORSE ...



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War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT. Sail RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT to Curacao via C. 035° 20' 070° (745'). D. 027° 25' 068° 20'. E. 018° 05' 068° 01'. F. 012° 15' 069° 13' to arrive 7th Jan. C.A.F.A.C. pass to U.S. Routeing Officer, Curacao.

(Connav, 1440/2 to Cmt. 5th U.S. Navdist, Hampton Roads, (R) C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.C.S.F., Admty., C.A.F.A.C., U.S. Routeing Officer Curacao, N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Kingston, N.C.X.F., U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda.)

On leaving Norfolk keep following wireless watch.

(2) Attention is drawn to A.M. 1209/6th Nov. (157 A.Z.)

(B.A.D., 2307Z/2 to RACEHORSE, (R) REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH, etc.)

ITCHEN, LAGAN. Your 1028/14 Oct. N.S.H.Q.'s 1907/17 Nov. and C. in C. W.A.'s 1015/30 Dec, request confirmation that both ITCHEN and LAGAN will be loaned to R.C.N. and dates ships will be available.

2. In view of shortage of destroyers it is intended that both these ships be allocated to F.O.N.F. for mid-ocean C groups.

3. F.O.N.F. report which Groups these two ships should join. (N.S.H.Q., 1446Z/2 to Admty.)

QUEEN CITY. Overdue Trinidad British QUEEN CITY. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1536R/2 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

TREWORLAS. British TREWORLAS torpedoed sunk 0845 G.M.T. 28th Dec. in 10° 52' N. 60° 45' W. 9 survivors out of 48 crew landed Trinidad. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1551R/2 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

U/B. N.O.B. reports U-Boat sighted in 011° 00' N. 061° 05' W. If in vicinity carry out sweep for 1½ hours and then proceed on passage. MILFORD pass to YESTOR. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad (Port of Spain), 1552Q/2 to YESTOR, (R) MILFORD, N.O.B. Trinidad.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Request information regarding immediate destination of QUEEN ELIZABETH on completion of refit and whether she will recommission in the U.K. (B.A.M.R., 1616Z/2 to Admty.)

Russian S/Ms. My 1640Z/2nd (N.T. in W.D.) add U.S.S.R. Submarine L.15 unescorted 051° 59' 047° 45', 002° alter to 023° in 053° 00' N. and to 054° in 055° 39' N. speed of advance 192 miles per day.

U.S.S.R. Submarine S.56 and S.51 unescorted 051° 46' 048° 52', 001° alter 020° in 048° 10' and to 055° in 056° 00' N. speed of advance 240 miles per day.

(C.O.A.C., 1642Z/2 to G.B. 7A.)

/Provision ...



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Provision  
of Convoy  
Escort  
vessels.

J.S.M. 650, 2nd Jan. 1943.  
U-Boat menace and construction programme of escort vessels was discussed by C.C. of S. yesterday on paper put forward by Admiral Noble, main object of which was to accelerate and if possible increase U.S. escort vessel programme.

U.S. Chiefs of Staff showed themselves fully aware of seriousness of situation.

2. Following were conclusions reached:-

(a) Agreed that in view of paramount importance of reducing the present rate of merchant shipping losses, C.C. of S. requested Combined Production and Resources Board:-

(i) To take immediate action to accelerate and expand as far as possible the present programme of escort vessel construction.

(ii) To report what effect such acceleration and expansion will have on any other critical items of munitions.

(b) Agreed that representatives of the British C. of S. and J.C. of S. would separately inform the Prime Minister and President respectively of action taken in (a) above and request them to give their approval.

(c) Agreed that Combined Staff Planners be directed to make a study and to submit appropriate recommendations as to all measures which can be taken to effectively combat the submarine menace.

3. U.S. insisted that request to C.P.R.B. would have no effect unless backed up President and conclusion (b) was inserted to meet this point. Request you make necessary submission to Prime Minister and keep us informed of action taken your end.

4. Planners' study, which was U.S. suggestion, will at least help to focus U.S. attention on importance of provision of long-range air protection for Atlantic convoys.

(J.S.M., 1711Z/2 to War Cabinet Offices, London.)

SS. GLOXINIA. Master reports that you advised him bunker capacity must be increased. Enlargement of bunker capacity beyond present which is 29 days East going and 31 days West going has been considered but is not worth the cost. The ships will remain in New York - United Kingdom trade and her deficiency on normal bunker capacity will be accepted.  
(D.T.D., 1739A/2 to B.R.L.O. New York, (R) B.R.L.O. Philadelphia, N.S.H.Q.)

Russian  
S/MS.

My 1115/2nd. U.S.S.R. S/M S.51 and S.56 altering in 53.10 48.50 at 0430/3rd to course 0210.  
(Cominch, 1831/2 to Admty.)

SEAWOLF,  
GRANBY.

1. Intend to sail SEAWOLF surfaced escorted by GRANBY at 2000Z/3 routed through A. 44.30 N. 61.01 W. B. 46.10 N. 52.36 W. C. 47.32 N. 52.11 W. to St. Johns N.F., E.T. in U, 1100Z/6, speed 10 knots.

2. Request total bombing restrictions 20 miles ahead 40 miles astern and 15 miles either side of track.

3. S/M is painted grey and has N.47 painted on C/T.  
(C.O.A.C., 1916Z/2 to S.O.C.E.A.C., C.T.F., (R) Cominch, C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q., F.O. Subs, F.O.N.F.)

/PRESCOTT ...



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

PRESCOTT,  
PRESIDENT  
FRANCQUI  
(O.N. 154). Picked up 26 survivors from PRESIDENT FRANCQUI Belgian tanker between 1700Z and 1800Z/2nd in 043° 42' N. 029° 00' W. approx. Survivors report captain taken prisoner, 3 killed, 19 still missing. Also report sighting several U-Boats in the vicinity. Remaining in immediate area. Weather report.  
(PRESCOTT, 2008Z/2 to C., in C. W.A., (R) Capt. (D) 3rd, Admty., LONDONDERRY, WOODSTOCK.)  
W.D. Note;- This makes a total of 15 ships torpedoed in O.N.154. (D.O.R. 1233.)

A.T. 34. Sailed A.T. 34 to arrive 09.01 W. at 0830/11th via (j) 38.45, 71.55. (k) 38.45, 59.40. (l) 42.10, 47.55. (m) 50.40, 36.45. (n) 55.35, 25.30. (o) 56.20, 13.50. (p) 56.15, 08.30.  
"Chop" 0830Z/10th Jan.  
(Connav, 2021/2 to U.S. Port Director New York, (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.), C.E.S.F., etc.)

A.T. 33. Cancel my 1738/28th and my 1741/30th. Sail A.T.33 to R/V 056° 09' 009° 01' at 0830Z/13th via (B) 038° 20, 071° 40'. (C) 038° 55', 059° 40'. (D) 041° 15', 050° 25'. (E) 050° 45', 046° 20'. (F) 056° 50', 039° 55'. (G) 059° 20', 028° 35'. (H) 058° 10', 019° 10'. (J) 056° 05', 008° 45'. "Chop" 0830Z/12th.  
(Connav, 2022/2 to U.S. Port Director New York, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.E.S.F., etc.)

OROPOS. OROPOS (Greek) O.N.152 has not arrived Halifax. 1345/18 from C.T.U. 24.1.13 refers.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2026Z/2 to Admty., Connav, F.O.N.F., (R) C.O.A.C.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. B. Start Point 2 subs at scene. One possibly Italian with "Garter motto" over White Horse. C.O. claimed sinking tanker previous day. Para. C. Fisherman sights sub. headed South area 44° N. 64° 25' W. 1000Z/2.  
(Cominch, 2045/2 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

OAKBANK (torpedoed 27th Dec.) OAKBANK reported torpedoed 272015 position 00.46 S. 37.58 W. This position apparently places vessel approximately 4 days ahead of schedule. No diversions or change of route received prior to F.O.C.W.A. 0915/27 for comparison request your plotted position for 1200Z/27.  
(Connav, 2055/2 to Admty.)  
W.D. Note;- Another report gave long. 27° 58' W. which perhaps explains the matter.  
Reply: Admty. 1415/3.

/NORDANGER ...



War Diary.2.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

NORDANGER. My 2325/25. Norwegian Tanker NORDANGER called Buenaventura 2nd Jan. due Balboa 5th. Master reports main port engine compressor damaged steaming starboard engine only at 6 knots. No trouble with boilers.  
(British Consular Agent, Buenaventura, 2215/2 to Admty., (R) B.R.L.O. Panama, B.R.L.O. Cristobal, Connav.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. 345th Digest for Jan 1st 1943.  
Early morning four Fortresses bombed Lakunai three Liberators Vunakanau four Fortresses three Liberators shipping Rabaul Harbour. Results those (? 3) vessels including large transport hit by 1000 pound bombs seen burning fiercely. Direct bomb hit on searchlight Akunai other damage unknown. Five Zeros attacked and slightly damaged one Liberator, one probably two destroyed. Bombs also dropped on Lae and Gasmata Airfield, one Zero Gasmata probably destroyed.  
2. Some troops have established Beach head south-east Giropa Point isolating Japanese pocket south of Mouth Sinemi Creek. Corridor to Sea Mission Area widened but enemy still holding positions Skputaga Sanananda Line.  
3. Correction to Digest No. 344. For Moemi read Maemormo (1° 35' S. 135° 8' E.) (Amended).  
4. Early occupation Aliambata (Timor) anticipated. Submarine activity suspected between there and beach which is strong enemy post.  
5. Three Bostons strafed Sanananda Point also bombed Salamaua destroying Customs House and setting fire to other buildings. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0750Z/2 to Admty., etc.)

Personnel in Transports. Following from M. of W.T. New York (begins) - Our air mail letter 22nd Dec. reference to passenger certificate of sea transports. In view of your recent signal to Capetown and N.S.H.Q. ref. Admty. 1934/11th August 1942, reference limiting of numbers embarked to passenger certificate, we feel must have clarification of general policy particularly as regards number to be embarked in unescorted ships other than those included in para. 11 above Admty. signal also in ships proceed H into convoy. (B.R.O. New York, 2250Z/2 to Admty. for D. of S.T., (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

Movements. Arrival 31st Dec. Sydney (N.S.W.) U.S.D. TREVER, U.S.D.R. ZANE from Brisbane. (A.C.N.B., 1350Z/2 to Admty., etc.)



War Diary.

2.1.1943.  
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1331A/2, 1410A/2.)



War Diary.

3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Aircraft at 0845 reported two vessels, later identified as a large coastal trawler and a 9000 ton merchant vessel, steering 80° in 47° 8' N. 5° 19' W. at 7 knots and attacked without success.

At 0330Z today a searchlight Wellington attacked a fully surfaced U-Boat in 45° 0' N. 6° 50' W.; the attack was probably lethal, but owing to the darkness no results were seen.

72 Fortresses and 13 Liberators with fighter escort were despatched to attack the dock area at St. Nazaire today. Results were not observed.

31 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night in Biscay ports.

About 20 casualties reported in the Danish Sound and Belts during September, October and November may be attributed to British aircraft mining.

"Torch" Area.

N.C.X.F. reports that the packing, loading and stowage of cased petrol in merchant ships coming to the "Torch" Area remains as unsatisfactory as it was in the Eastern Mediterranean during the last two years. The wastage is appalling and the danger to the ships, to their crews, and to the dockers discharging them is quite unacceptable as a normal operation. There is the added risk to the port. Representations have been made both from "Torch" Area and from the Middle East to the War Office, the D.S.T., and to M.W.T., and N.C.X.F. now asks the Admiralty to take the matter up urgently.



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

Vice Consul, Ceara reports that SS. BARON DECHMONT was torpedoed and sunk in 3.11 S. 38.41 W. at 1800 G.M.T. today and 36 survivors landed next day, 25 miles N.W. of Fortelaza.

Mediterranean.

10 Wellingtons bombed Bizerta docks area between 0500 and 0520 today. 24 U.S. B.24s and B.25s were despatched with 36 Baltimores to attack aerodromes in Crete and port installations at Suda Bay.

Force H (see 2nd Jan.) and Convoy K.M.F.6 arrived at Algiers today.

N.L.O. Jibuti was installed today.

*of "Amiral"*  
British assault craft termed "Charlots" attacked the Naval Station at Palermo this morning. At 0745 a serious explosion took place under the hull of the Italian Cruiser ULPIO TRAIANO, berthed beside the quay at Palermo Dockyard. The cruiser broke in two and subsequently sank. (N.I.D. 07035/44)

East Indies.

NORMAN, one of the destroyers lent from the Eastern Fleet to C. in C. South Atlantic arrived at Kilindini today. NIZAM arrived on 4th Jan. and FOXHOUND on 5th Jan.

The S.O. Aircraft Carriers, Eastern Fleet (short title S.O.A.C.E.F.), will carry out administrative and other duties formerly undertaken by R.A. A.A. E.F.



War Diary.

3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Attack on  
T.M. 1.

Convoy T.M.1, the first tanker convoy from Trinidad for "Torch" Area which sailed on 28th December 1942, escorted by HAVELOCK's portion of B.5 Group which has been released by C. in C. U.S. Fleet, was attacked by a U-Boat this evening and the tanker BRITISH VIGILANCE was torpedoed at about 2145Z in approx. 20° 58' N. 44° 40' W. (about 1200 miles N.E. of Trinidad). A Second tanker, whose name is given as NORVIMETRE, is also reported to have been torpedoed in the same position. No contact was made with the U-Boat. The convoy was attacked again on 8th January (q.v.) Y-257



3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of the U.K.

Seidisfjord Loops. My 2210/29. Number one indicator loop Seidisfjord has again broken down. Repairs are being undertaken by OPHIR.  
 (A.C.I.C., 1216A/3 to Admty., (R) C. in C. H.F.)

Movements.

S.54, S.55. Our bearing and distance from point (E) 233°, 100 miles. Course 053°. Speed reduced to six miles. E.T.A. 7th January.  
 (S.54, 0325A/3 to F.O.S.)  
 ST. ELSTAN will meet you in 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 0930A/4th and escort you direct to Rosyth.  
 (F.O.S., 1059A/3 to S.55.)  
 My 1327/2nd, 1548/2nd. S.54 is delayed ST. ELSTAN is to proceed to Rosyth with S.55.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1102A/3 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

UREDD. My 1603/2. Due to technical breakdown, trials and sailing postponed 24 hours.  
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0943A/3 to A.C.O.S.)

SCYLLA. Arrived SCYLLA.  
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0946A/3.)  
 A.M. 1940/26.  
 Request you sail SCYLLA to Hebburn-on-Tyne as soon as practicable where she is to be taken in hand for fitting for Arctic fitting F.D.O. and R.D.F.  
 (D.O.D.H., 1321A/3 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
 Intend sail SCYLLA for Tyne p.m. 3rd to comply with A.M. 1940/26. E.T.A. 0830A/5.  
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1554A/3.)  
 Sailed SCYLLA in accordance with my 1534A/3.  
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2134A/3 to N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne.)

ANSON. Scapa arrival 1012 V.A.2 in ANSON with IMPULSIVE, ICARUS, FORESTER.  
 (A.C.O.S., 1031/3.)

OBERON, P.229, P.31. S.5's 1230A/1. Sailed Needles 1140/3.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1152A/3 to C. in C. Plymouth)

W.A. Command. Situation at 2002A/3. Details.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1356A/3, 1725A/3, 1734A/3.)  
 See Lion Copy.

O. 10. My 1210/1st. Sailed.  
 (Capt. S.6, 1614A/3.)  
 My 1607/2. Add new para. O.10 leaves Blyth 1600/3rd with M.L. escort. E.T.A. Dundee 0730/4th.  
 (F.O.S., 2031A/3 to Admty.)



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

FOXGLOVE. Capt. of Dockyard's Letter of 17th December.  
Auxiliary steam should be maintained in FOXGLOVE during tow to Londonderry.  
2. Additional ratings required should join at Portsmouth.  
(D.O.D.H., 1622A/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

S/M At 0800/4. Details.  
Positions. (F.O.S., 1629A/3, 1858A/3, 2351A/3, 1104A/4, 1054A/4.)  
See Lion Copy. *p. 82a.*

BODO. Your 1045A/30. E.T.A. 1000/4.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2115/3 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Enemy M/V Your 0256A/2. Coastal Command gratefully sunk by acknowledges signal of congratulations. The SCYLLA on aboriginal methods of homing SCYLLA adopted by 1st January. Z/10 seem to have been very successful.  
(C. in C. C.C., 1015/3 to Admty.)

Coastal Patrols. 1. Intend M.L. 247 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 497 to patrol tonight lat. 50° 20' N. between 1° 30' W. and 2° 05' W.  
2. Leave Portland 1700 via Q.Z.S. 382 to patrol-line, adjusting position so as to cover passage of P.W. convoy. Leave patrol-line at dawn and return to base.  
3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1102A/3.)  
During dark hours tonight M.G.Bs 611 (S.O.) and 615 are to patrol between 050° 31' N. 000° 35' E. and 050° 30' N. 000° 05' W., keeping south of C.W.146 during its passage. Codeword "Advent".  
(2) Chasers 11 (S.O.) and 14 to patrol south of E.A.5 Buoy.  
(4) M.L.247 (S.O.) and rescue M.L. 497 from Portland patrolling 050° 20' N. between 001° 30' W. and 002° 05' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1115A/3 to GLAISDALE.)  
1. 2 M.G.Bs patrolling south of Beachy Head.  
2. 2 Chasseurs patrolling off E.A.5 Buoy.  
3. Convoy C.W.146 passing Beachy Head 0445/4 E.T.A. Spithead Gate 0950/4.  
4. 1 M.L. and 1 R.M.L. patrolling South of Anvil Point.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1536A/3 to Admty.)  
M.Ls 137 and 139 in Dungeness East Roads on night 3rd/4th.  
(V.A. Dover, 1621A/3 to Admty.)  
My 1102A/3. Sailed 1720 "Device".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1744A/3.)



3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Positions of submarines at 0800/4 and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) P.216 leaves vicinity 71° 15' N. 24° 25' E. at 1600/4th then on surface through 71° 26' N. 17° 01' E. to S.W. P.312 leaves vicinity 71° 10' N. 23° 45' E. at 1600/4th then on surface through 71° 10' N. 16° 02' E. to S.W..  
P.49 leaves vicinity 71° N. 23° E. at 1600/4th then on surface through 70° 54' N. 16° 40' E. to S.W.  
GRAPH leaves vicinity 70° 50' N. 22° 05' E. at 1600/4th then on surface through 70° 22' N. 12° 45' E. to S.W.  
(B) P.55 in Zone K.104.  
(C) U.S.S SHAD off Bilbao.  
(D) U.S.S BARB off Vigo.  
(E) U.S.S HERRING in Zone K.505.  
(F) U.S.S BLACKFISH in Zone K.506.  
Submarines (B) to (F) diving by day.  
(G) CLYDE 50° 07' N. 18° 20' W. diving by day to 50° 05' N. 20° 01' W. then probably on surface through 50° N. 26° W. at 1530/6th.  
(H) H.43 escorted by Dutch Trawler ROTTERDAM returning to Holyhead a.m. 4th from Eastward.  
(J) P.339, P.223 and TORBAY escorted by AYRESHIRE vicinity Ailsa Craig from St. Georges Channel to Holy Loch.  
(K) SOKOL and O.14 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH arriving Dundee 0900/4th January from north.  
(L) Russian Submarine S.55 arriving on surface from N.W. makes R/V with ST. ELSTAN 270 Barra Head 10 at 0930/4th thence to Rosyth.  
(M) Russian Submarine S.54 60° 30' N. 32° 35' W. probably on surface 12 knots through 60° 30' N. 26° 02' W. towards 59° 45' N. 15° 01' W.  
(N) OBERON, P.229 and P.31 escorted by UNST E.T.A. 180 Lizard 12 0830/4th from eastward thence escorted by STAR OF INDIA to Clyde.  
(F.O.S. 1629A/3, 1858A/3, 2351A/3, 1054A/4, 1104A/4)



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Enemy M/V attacked. P.C.S. of two unknown enemy vessels 47° 08' N. 05° 19' W., 080°, 7 knots.  
(A/C, 0845/3.)  
Have attacked enemy merchant vessel with depth charges and estimate no hits.  
(A/C G1AK, 0851/2.)  
Have attacked enemy merchant vessel with bombs level and estimate no hits. Position 47° 8' N. 5° 19' W.  
(A/C 435 Sqdn., Duty 'K', 0900/3.)  
Enemy has altered course to 360° approx.  
(A/C, 435 Sqdn., Duty 'K', 0900/3.)  
Enemy previously reported are one coastal trawler 500 tons, and one cargo vessel 9000 tons.  
(A/C 435 Sqdn., Duty 'K', 1055/3 to 19 Group.)

Convoy Cover Patrol. Whitley and Sunderland aircraft will carry out anti E-Boat cross-over patrols from 1830 today till dawn 4th to cover passage of convoys. Object is to report, attack, and shadow E-Boats.  
Particulars.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1327A/3 to Escorts P.W.273 and W.P. 273.)

EBBRIX. Following from Coast Guards, Cromer. Begins.  
Smoke Bombs Friendly A/C observed circling small cargo vessel dropped by own A/C. bearing 045° 2 miles southbound, dropped smoke bombs aimed at vessel. Last bomb dropped struck vessel amidships whereupon vessel opened fire on A/C which altered course proceeding inland apparently returning to station. Recognition signal fired by A/C when crossing coastline and after it had been fired upon.  
1325/3. (Ends.)  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1356A/3 to Admty.)  
My 1356. M/V believed EBBRIX on passage Humber to Great Yarmouth.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1624A/3 to Admty.)  
My 1356A/3 and 1624A/3. Following verbal report received from SS. EBBRIX. "Off Cromer at 1320 a Hudson or Boston A/C flew over the ship from the West clearing masthead by approx. six feet. A/C came in again over port bow almost colliding with W/T aeriels and dropped smoke bombs off starboard bow. The crew were ordered not to open fire. A/C crossed ship a third time dropping a smoke bomb on starboard twin Hotchkiss. Seaman was injured by splinter from bomb. A/C made a fourth run and gunner of after Oerlikon was ordered to fire a warning burst. A/C then flew off to westward dropping recognition signals. No details regarding bombs were obtained".  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2135A/3 to Admty.)



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation Q.V. 1. Carry out operation Q.V.1 tomorrow weather permitting.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1026A/3 to F.O.I.C. Humber, PLOVER, PUFFIN, TENBY.)

Departure at 1600 PLOVER, TENBY, BLYTHE, and PUFFIN to anchorage in Area L.F. to proceed at 0600/4 to carry out operation Q.V. 1 in accordance with PLOVER's 1200A/3.  
(F.O. Humber, 1630A/3 and 1759A/3.)

15th M/S Flotilla. Hvalfjord 3rd Jan., departure S.O. M/S.F. 15 in FRASERBURGH, BOOTLE, BEAUMARIS in company at 1550 routed from Reykjanes passage through 062° 01' N. 015° 02' W. to Scapa. E.T.A. 0905/6th.  
(A.C.I.C., 1637A/3 to A.C.O.S.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Minesweeper. P.C.S. of one enemy minesweeper 47° 25' N. 04° 15' W., 270°, 6 knots, at 1452.  
(A/C, 1624/3 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Am over enemy S/M in 45° 00' N. 06° 50' W.  
(A/C, 0430/3 to 19 Group.)  
Following from U.S.A.A.F B.17 124020 to H.F. D.F. Station Staddiscombe. Begins. SSS 45.05 N. 10.00 W., course 352°, speed 7 knots. Ends.  
(O.A.C. Glos, 1202Z/3 to D.O.N.C.)  
A/C just arrived from Gibraltar reports sighting submarine at 0958Z today in position (by dead reckoning) 43.50 N. 09.42 W. Submarine, which was steering 010°, submerged immediately.  
(TAC, Prestwick, 1700A/3 to Admty.)

U-Boat attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 45° 39' N. 5° 25' W.  
(A/C, 1143/3 to 19 Group.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges, estimate no hits.  
(A/C, 435 Sqdn., 1155/3 to 19 Group.)

Casualties and Defects.

VENUS. Received at 0518 G.M.T. de VENUS. VENUS run ashore Polanfheinn Rock, Sound of Islay, making water number 1 hold. Master.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 0618/3.)  
Received at 0828 G.M.T. de VENUS. Situation dangerous. Send fast boat at once for assistance.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 0928/3 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/KITTIWAKE ...



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- KITTIWAKE. My 1226/1st. Postponed a further 24 hours.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0952A/3.)
- REGENT LION. When SEA GIANT has joined LORD ESSENDEN is to be detached to Milford Haven with personnel from ALERT on board.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1119A/3 to MELBREAK.)  
My 1601/1st. Tanker now in tow proceeding Falmouth. My P.C.S. 051° 09' N. 007° 32' W., 134°, 5 knots. SEA GIANT not in company. Weather force 2 from N.N.W. Sea slight no swell. Maximum visibility.  
(MELBREAK, 1145A/3 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- STORK. N.C.X.F's 1521/31. On STORK's arrival in U.K. with M.K.S.5 about 25th January she can be taken in hand by Messrs. Silley Cox Falmouth.  
(D.O.D.H., 1832A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)
- VARDEFJELL. I have observed VARDEFJELL from air p.m. today under unfavourable weather conditions and could see no trace of forward end of ship. Consider it possible that forward end has broken off and that only half or two-thirds of the ship remains. Propellers are clear of water and the fourth oil tank cover from aft was just awash. Draught forward is uncertain but may exceed 60 feet. If vessel or the remaining section thereof can be towed to reasonably sheltered water where salvage craft, pumps etc. can operate I consider salvage is possible. The value of the ship and cargo is very high.  
(C.S.V.O. Lyness, 2105/3 to A.C.O.S.)
- Raft. Fuel permitting detach one trawler to search raft with at least 3 persons on board sighted by aircraft at 1515A/3rd in 060° 07' N. 011° 30' W.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2226A/3 to ANGLE.)  
Am proceeding in accordance with your 2226A/3. R.U.55 in charge? of Comdr. HUGH WALPOLE with defect.  
(ANGLE, 2334A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- J.W. 51B. ONSLOW's 1958A/31. Have you any news of ACHATES and BRAMBLE?  
(D.O.D.H., 0050A/3 to OBEDIENT, S.B.N.O. North Russia, (R) S.O. Force R, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

/R.A. 51 ...



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- R.A. 51. Reconnaissance Trondheim unsuccessful yesterday.  
(D.D.I.C., 0736A/3 to A.I.G.47, A.I.G. 21.)  
P.216, P.312, GRAPH, and P.49 are to be ordered to leave patrol at 1600A/4th for Lerwick.)  
(F.O.S., 1058A/3 to Capt. S.9.)  
From Seidisfjord escort is to consist of BLANKNEY, LEDBURY, MONTROSE, WORCESTER with GLEANER and trawler provided the latter does not require fuel. Destroyers and GLEANER escort to position NN and proceed Scapa.  
(2) Capt. (D) 8th detach one escort to Seidisfjord to effect timely exchange of escort. Remaining destroyers of ocean escort enter Seidisfjord after being relieved and fuelled. H.F. Destroyers destination Scapa.  
(3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to indicate instructions for all W.A. Escort.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1150A/3 to Escorts R.A. 51.)  
1. GRAPH, P.49, P.312, P.216 leave patrol 1600A/4th for Lerwick passing through following positions -  
(a) GRAPH 070° 22', 012° 45', thence by route "Pink".  
(b) P.49 070° 54', 016° 40', thence by "Orange".  
(c) P.312 071° 10', 016° 02', thence by "Black".  
(d) P.216 071° 26', 017° 00', thence by "Black".  
(Capt. S.9, 1641A/3.)  
Arrived at Seidisfjord 1600/3 MONTROSE.  
(A.C.I.C., 1930A/3 to C. in C. H.F.)  
My position 66° 33' N. 14° 35' W., waiting entry Seidisfjord. JAMAICA in company. A.C.I.C. pass to Seidisfjord.  
(S.O. Force R, 2200A/3 to A.C.I.C., (R) C. in C. H.F.)
- U.R. 56, SNELAND. SNELAND in company. She reports slight damage port side. Am escorting her to Reykjavik 7½ knots.  
(STAFNES, 0545Z/3 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N. 159. Intend to sail MIGNONETTE, SWEETBRIAR, and HEATHER 1000A/4 for Lough Foyle to fuel and join O.N.159.  
E.T.A. 0300A/4.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1012A/3.)
- K.M.S. 7. Noon R/V 8th 055° 40' N. 007° 21' W. Noon R/V 9th RALLUS. 055° 40' N. 012° 41' W.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1109A/3 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)  
A.M. 1851/1 para. 2.  
When ordered to part company route for SS. RALLUS through positions BB 32° N. 11° W. CC 29° N. 12° W. thence keeping within 50 miles of the coast as far as safe navigation permits, to DD 21° N. 18° W. EE 12° N. 18° W. thence to Freetown.  
3. V.A. Gibraltar and F.O.C.W.Af. are requested to arrange such air protection as is practicable.  
(D.O.D.H., 1833A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.X. 8. Ships and destinations.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1256A/3.)  
~~See Lion Copy.~~



3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- K.X. 8.                    K.X. 8 sail 1111A/3. Codeword "Henbane". Routed  
(Contd.)                    in accordance with Admty. 1301A/24th Dec. amended  
by Admty. 1452A/28th Dec. 27 merchant ships and  
1 salvage vessel. Cdre. in SS. SPERO. Escort  
LANCASTER S.O., TANATSIDE, NEWARK, LAUDERDALE, ILFRACOMBE,  
DORNOCH, FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC, CARNATIC. R/V with Belfast  
section as in Admty. 2100A/30 at 0900A/4th. Speed 7 knots.  
E.T.A. 12th January.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1901A/3 to V.A. Gibraltar.)
- R.A. 51.                    OLIGARCH is required to proceed to Hvalfjord.  
OLIGARCH.                    2. Request you will detach her accordingly from  
position FF escorted by 2 ships which may be  
trawlers.  
3. Remainder of convoy is to proceed to Loch Ewe in accordance  
with previous orders.  
(D.O.D.H., 1320A/3 to Capt. D.8.)
- F.N. 7.                    UBARI and EASTERN SUN missing from Muster.  
UBARI mentioned steering trouble last (? night)  
and probable retirement to Yarmouth. Convoy  
extends 30 miles from H.3.  
(VICEROY, 1414A/3 to C. in C. Nore.)
- K.M.F. 7.                    Admty. 2346/31 and 1352/2.  
                              (1) S.O. WAYLAND.  
                              (2) A/S escort (a) Liverpool portion SHIPPIGAN from  
Londonderry to R/V Bar Light Vessel 1330A/8th and return London-  
derry from Oversay R/V. (b) Clyde portion WESTON S.O. to arrive  
Clyde in time for conference. (c) To join from Londonderry at  
Oversay R/V WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, GORLESTON.  
(3) Request you sail ships accordingly.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1459A/3.)
- M.K.S. 4.                    M.K.S.4. PENDEEN is straggling. S S S at 2127/2  
PENDEEN.                    was contact with LULWORTH and should have been  
cancelled. Ship will probably have to proceed  
Queenstown for better coal. FORT LAC LA RONGE  
is proceeding Belfast with EMPIRE HEYWOOD.  
(LONDONDERRY, 1507A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)  
M.K.S.4. Bristol Channel section. K.X.8 R/V in 180° Old  
Head of Kinsale 10 miles at 0900A/4. You are to keep clear to  
southward and not enter Q.Z.L.18 before daylight.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1959A/3 to BIDEFORD, HASTINGS, LULWORTH.)
- O.N.S.154.                    Admty.'s 1303/3. If possible take action on this  
Search for                    report.  
Survivors.                    (C. in C. W.A., 1345A/3 to BATTLEFORD, WOODSTOCK,  
PRESCOTT, SHEDIAC.)

/My ...



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.S.154. My 1720A/30 and Admty.'s 1505A/31.  
 Search for Request you instruct WOODSTOCK and PRESCOTT again  
 Survivors. to search for survivors in vicinity of 042° 01' N.  
 (Contd.) 028° 01' W. on their way to Azores for fuel. Area  
 searched should be adjusted to drift according to  
 weather experienced since noon 31st assuming  
 survivors may be making for Azores.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1550A/3 to Capt. D.3.)  
 D.3's 1158/3. Request you give destination of BATTLEFORD,  
 SHEDIAC.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1616Z/3 to F.O.N.F.)  
 Your 1345A/3rd and my 1158Z/3. BATTLEFORD and SHEDIAC  
 diverted to this area.  
 (Capt. D.3, 1634Z/3 to C. in C. W.A.)  
 C. in C. W.A. 1550A/3rd. Comply up to the remaining safe  
 limit of fuel endurance before proceeding to Azores. My estimate  
 of area for search is 041° 50' N. 027° 20' W., 042° 30' N. 026°  
 59' W., 041° 54' N. 024° 42' W., 041° 15' N. 024° 59' W.  
 (Capt. D.3, 1713Z/3 to WOODSTOCK, PRESCOTT.)

O.N. 157. C.T.U. 24.1.17, 1700Z/3 to C. in C. W.A.  
 See America and West Indies.

Use of A/C W.A.G.M. 512N. Aircraft beacon type 251M is to  
 Beacons. be switched on continuously one hour before the  
 expected time of arrival on every occasion of  
 aircraft joining and when identifying to friendly  
 aircraft is necessary.  
 2. Type 251 is to be used if no escort is fitted 251M. Sweep  
 to be detailed by S.O. Escort.  
 3. R.D.F. W.A.G.O.0334 will be amended.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1758/3 to Ships.)

JAMAICA Request N.C.S.Os and Routeing Officers be instructed  
 PRODUCER. that SS. JAMAICA PRODUCER is in future to be sailed  
 inconvoy and not independently.  
 (D.T.D., 1907A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

M.K.S.4F. P.C.S. at 1800A/3 051° 10' N. 012° 13' W., 020°,  
 M.K.S.4S. 10½. Convoy first set course southabout through  
 misunderstanding of your 1339A/2.  
 M.K.S. 4(slow) course 15° to give room for fast  
 section of convoy to pass to eastward.  
 KITCHENER, CALGARY, HELVIG, and 11 merchant ships in company.  
 (LANDGUARD, 1917A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

Possible Request you will promulgate substance of A.M.  
 use of 1956/18 December to Senior Officers of Escorts.  
 R.D.F. by (C. in C. W.A., 1919A/3 to Cdre. Londonderry,  
 U-Boats. Cpts. D. Liverpool, Greenock.)



War Diary.3. 1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

- Landing Craft.** Your 2001/9 Dec. Approved to retain permanently following British landing ships and craft in West. Med. (a) QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ROYAL SCOTSMAN with landing craft embarked namely a total of 22 L.C.A., 2 L.C.S. (M) and 4 L.C.M.1. (b) 6 L.C.T. increasing to 24 when weather permits their passage to the station. (c) 4 L.C.A. and one L.C.M. (1) additional to (a) as pooled reserve (for L.S.I. (M) and (h).) (d) L.C.M. 3 up to total of 36. (e) 3 L.C.S. (M) in addition to (a). (f) L.C.P. up to a total of 36.
2. In addition 2 Flotillas (24 of L.C.I.(L) and 1 Squadron (12) of L.S.T. (2) will be permanently stationed in Western Med. in due course.
3. It is regretted that L.S.G. and additional L.S.T.(2) are required for overseas Assault Force which must be available for action wherever it is required not only in the Western Med.
4. Provision of means for repair and maintenance of L.C.I.(L) and L.C.T. in Med. is under active investigation. Spares for L.C.I.(L) are at present lacking. Until the position is clearer, it is necessary to limit numbers of L.C.I.(L) and L.C.T. based in Western Med. to 24 of each, and the Eastern Med. to 24 L.C.I.(L) and numbers of L.C.T. now there. When required the two forces of L.C.I.(L) can be combined to provide 48 for an actual operation in either theatre.
5. We are very short of L.C.A. but L.C.P. provided should be used when possible to take their place. L.C.A. should not be used for harbour administrative work except in cases of urgent necessity.
6. Approved in principle to set up appropriate landing craft base, a commander R.N. has been appointed as S.O.L.C. (Hd. of M. Approved by Dep. 1st S.L. 0103A/3 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gib. etc.)

**Dangers of Cased Petrol.** The packing, loading and stowage of cased petrol in Merchant ships coming to this Station remains as unsatisfactory as it was in the Eastern Med. during the last two years. (Remarks). It is considered that Admty should take this up urgently with the appropriate authorities and that regulations should be made which should ensure the safety of the ships and the men who work them. (.N.C.Z.F. 1142A/3 to Admty.)

**French Factions.** Your 1828/29. We are only too anxious for the 2 French factions to agree together but until Giraud and de Gaulle are a good deal nearer to each other the considerations in para 3 of A.T.0020/11 must retain full force. The French Naval factions obviously cannot proceed in front of their Leaders. For your personal information we believe the Free French Navy to be very ready to come to an arrangement with the French Navy in Africa and that once the main question is settled little difficulty need be expected from them.

2. Maertens appears to be influential in French Naval circles but he has been most difficult and intransigent whilst in this country. When the time comes to appoint a Liaison Officer in the U.K. it would not, we think, be advisable to begin with him.

/Capt ...



War Diary.

3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area Contd.

French  
Factions.

Capt. Maertens is leaving shortly for N. Africa with the party of prisoners from Madagascar.  
(M. Branch Approved 1st. Lord, 11711A/3 to N.C.X.F.)

A/S Training.  
STURGEON,  
URSULA.

The provision of A/S training for the large number of A/S vessels under your command has been under consideration.  
2. Request information whether safe areas exist for sea training and whether exercises can be arranged.  
3. No special training submarines can be sent out from Home Waters, but reinforcements of operational submarines are being sent, and they should be used for training if practicable.  
4. STURGEON and URSULA will be required for A/S Training in Home Waters.  
(D. A/S W. Approved by A.C.N.S. (U.T) 1713A/3 to N.C.X.F.)



War Diary.

3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements My 1748/1. Cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, H.M.T. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE sailed 0810, Cable ship MIRROR, H.M.T. ARCTIC RANGER sailed 0830. (V.A. Gibraltar, 0931A/3 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)  
Arrival ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH.  
(V.A. Gib, 0933A/3 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)  
Sailed M.Ls. 175 and 173 escorting SS. EMPIRE CABOT to Melilla thence to R/V. SS. EMPIRE FRANKLIN from Melilla and escort to Gibraltar.  
(V.A. Gib., 1704A/3 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)  
Arrival VANOC.  
(V.A. Gib., 1756A/3 to Admty etc).  
Arrival BURDOCK.  
(V.A. Gib., 1758A/3 to Admty).

Minelaying Your 1155A/2 (N.T. in W.D.). Mines available Casablanca. 1456 all in SAUEM and CEEHAWKEN. Request instructions number desired also depth of mine cases and lengths of antennae floats for operations contemplated. Storage not available at Casablanca. Request authority send one or two minelayers to Gibraltar to transfer mines and spare tracks in time to join G.U.S.3. Commindiv 50 has nominated Lt. Cmdr. Kremer for temporary duty this frontier to assist as required by you. (S.N.O.C.A., 1035Z/3 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty etc).

L.C.I.(L) S.B.N.O. W.A., 2152/23. When north of 32° N., DESTINY. route may be altered at your discretion to put into Gibraltar if condition of craft or crews or weather necessitates.  
2. In this case W/T silence should be broken to report position and route after dark.  
3. Weather forecasts for 24 hours from 1430A will be passed daily from 3rd Jan.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1135Z/3 to L.C.I.(L) 164, (R) Rescue Tug DESTINY, V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.)

HAYDON My 2340A/2 (N.T. in W.R.) Intend sailing HAYDON for Mers el Kebir at 1900/3 routed through 78, 68, 93 109 E.T.A. Mers el Kebir 0800/3.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1233A/3 to S.O. Force H., (R) N.C.X.F., Admty etc).

ESKIMO, My 2248A/2 (N.T. in W.R.) and S.O. Force (H) TARTAR. 1229/1 para. (4) Intend to sail ESKIMO, TARTAR for Mers-el-Kebir at 0800/4 routed through 78, 50, 86, 109 E.T.A. Mers el Kebir 1800/4.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1235A/3 to S.O. Force (H) (R) N.C.X.F., Admty. etc).



War Diary.

3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Situation  
2001A/3.

6. T.M.1, HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL,  
SAXIFRAGE, 021° 49' 042° 59', 057°, 9.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1334A/3.)



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ALSACE ALSACE, French Cable ship, arrived Casablanca 3 Jan.  
(Comseafon, W.Y.F., 1245/3 to Fairmiss (R) N.C.X.F. Connav)

Special Tanker Convoy. C.S. Gibraltar 2023A/1 and my 1835A/30. Serials (A) and (B) destinations of NORVIK and VANJA should be interchanged.  
(N.C.X.F., 1459A/3 to V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran, Com. Algiers (R) Admty).

O.N.154 Commodore. Have you any news of Commodore Egerton of O.N.154? (D.T.D., 1520A/3 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) MILNE, WOODSTOCK) Reply: 1405/4.

LLANGIBBY CASTLE, O.N.S.154 survivors. If LLANGIBBY CASTLE is considered sufficiently seaworthy and has capacity available, request you will route her with EXE and SOUTHERN PRIDE to Ponta Delgada to embark survivors of O.N.S.154 for passage to U.K.  
2. Estimated number of survivors is 300.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1559A/3 to V.A. Gib).  
Alter course forthwith to proceed direct to Ponta Delgada with LLANGIBBY CASTLE and SOUTHERN PRIDE.  
(2) Further orders following\*  
(V.A. Gib., 2357A/3 to EXE, (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.)  
\*See 0015A/4.

M.K.S.5 Intend sailing following in M.K.S.5 on Jan. 11th GIRONDE, EMPIRE FRANKLIN, BLAIRESK, BEGUM, EMPIRE CABOT (Iron Ore) JADE, RONAN, RAVENSPINDAN, EMPIRE GAT, META (Oranges), SWRIAM (Oranges and wolfram) EILDON (General) also EMPIRE SPINNEY, MARRAKECH (Fr). WILLIAM JOHNSON, MOANDA (Belg.) SEAPOOL, DELANE, MANCHESTER TRADER (Cargoes unknown) SHETLAND, CASTILLIAN, CAITHNESS (General cargo). Request destinations.  
(V.A. Gib., 1645E/3 to Admty).

ANGELITA Spanish Trawler ANGELITA arrived Corunna Dec. 31st sailed Jan. 3rd.  
(Corunna, Guyatt, 1910/3 to Admty. (R) Gibraltar).

SCHARLACH-BERGER. German 55 returned to Bilbao 30th owing to stress of weather.  
(Bilbao, 1927/31 to Admty. Min. of E. Warfare, B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

HAYDON Sailed HAYDON in accordance with N.C.X.F's 1616/3 (see 0628/4) E.T.A. 1500/4 Jan.  
(V.A. Gib. 2008A/3 to S.O. Force H. (R) N.C.X.F., Admty. F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers).



3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- DESPATCH E.T.A. 1430Z today. Require 900 tons fuel. Acknowledge on 500 k/cs. (DESPATCH 0503D/3 to B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, (R) F.O.C.W.A.F.)  
Refuel return to Freetown at best speed through position (Q) 002° N., 008° W.  
Report S. of A. and E.T.A. (F.O.C.W.A., 0925Z/3 to DESPATCH (R) Admty. B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire).  
Arrival Pointe Noire 1430Z/3 DESPATCH. (B.N.L.O.W.Af. 1625Z/3 to F.O.I.C. W. Af. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)
- CARNARVON CASTLE. Intend to sail CARNARVON CASTLE at 1300Z/3rd Jan to patrol through position (A) 007° 50' N., 014° 30' W. (B) 003° 42' N., 012° 09' W. (C) 001° 12' S., 017° 37' W. (D) 004° 38' N., 015° 38' W. (E) 000° 18' 020° 01' (F) 007° 04' 017° 22'.  
thence to Freetown S. of A. 16 knots. (F.O.C.W.A., 0919Z/3 to Admty).
- PICT etc. Intend to sail at 1730Z/3rd Jan. PICT, M.Ls. 209 and 244 escorting PHRONTIS and AMSTEL KERK by brown route to Takoradi. S. of A. 10 knots E.T.A. p.m./7th Jan. PICT carrying demolition stores for onward shipment to Lagos. (F.O.C.W.A., 0921Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) PICT, N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty).
- W.S. 25 My 1545Z/1st and C. in C. S.A., 1135Z/2nd Intend BALUCHISTAN to sail as A/S escort in lieu of CYCLAMEN and to be detached at dusk 6th Jan. to escort HIGHLAND BRIGADE to Takoradi.  
Intend CROCUS to be detached at dusk 9th Jan. to proceed Pointe Noire. (F.O.C.W.A., 0923Z/3 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty etc) See also 2019/3.
- ILEX, C.F.10. Departure 0200/3rd ILEX to rejoin convoy C.F. 10 before dark today. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1040Z/3 to F.O.C. West Africa, (R) Admty. Escort C.F.10).
- WOODRUFF C.F.10 Convoy C.F.10. Detach H.M.S. WOODRUFF as A/S escort to LARGS BAY when LARGS BAY detached at dusk 3rd Jan. Further orders will be passed to WOODRUFF Pass to Cdre. (R.A.W.A., 1107Z/3 to ASTURIAS, (R) Admty. Escorts C.F.10 V.A. Gibraltar N.O.I.C. Bathurst)



*Should be*  
~~93A~~ 93A  
~~93B~~  
~~93C~~

3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Movements  
 Summaries.

HYDRANGEA, COMMANDANT DROGOU, INKPEN, DUNKER, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN with F.T.T.6 (?07).30 23.20 270°, 7½. *See So (Freetown) 2359/3 - Admty. Page 95.*  
 CHESHIRE, ALCANTARA, CROCUS, QUILLIAM, BALUCHISTAN with W.S.25 off Freetown through 07.50 (?14).40 and 04.24 14.42 thence 104°, 12½.  
 CARNARVON CASTLE 07.35, 14.25 to 03.42, 12.09 thence 228°, 16.  
 (? ASTURIAS), 2 M.Ls escorting off Freetown to south-east 10.  
 NORTHERN ISLES 02.55, 07.01 to Takoradi, 8.  
 HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY escorting 03.40 (?04).30 to Takoradi 8.  
 RUMBA 02.10, 04.25 116°, 8½.  
 D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, ORFSAY, BREDON 3 motor launches with T.S.28 off Takoradi to west 7.  
 S/M 0.19, 007° 20' S. 005° 10' W., 326°, 8.  
 (F.O.C.W.Af., 0935Z/3.)  
 Oiler OLWEN off Massel Bay to Capetown 8 knots.  
 MANCHESTER CITY 033° 40' S. 027° 00' E. to Capetown 10 knots.  
 NIZAM 031° 30' S. 030° 00' E. to Durban 20 knots.  
 GAMBIA, FROBISHER, FOXHOUND, INCONSTANT, FRITILLARY with M.C.2, 028° 50' S. 035° 40' E. to Durban 10½ knots.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 1126C/3.)  
 P.615 on surface 15.05 18.35 to 12.59 18.01 thence 153, 8½..  
 ASTURIAS, ILEX, WOODRUFF, HOLCOMBE, BELLWORT with C.F.10, 17.15, 19.59 to 22.01 (?19).(758) thence 045°, 12½.  
 P.614 on surface (?8).15 19.10, 078°, 9.  
 Three motor launches patrolling about 08.30 14.25.  
 (F.O.C.W.Af., 1055Z/3.)



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

WOODRUFF, Amend position J on route of LARGS BAY to 022°  
C.F.10 N., 024° W. and alter course accordingly.  
Contd. WOODRUFF pass to LARGS BAY.  
(F.O.W.A., 2001Z/3 to WOODRUFF, (R) ASTURIAS,  
Admty. V.A. Gib. Connav).

Movements. Arrival Simonstown 2nd ARCTIC EXPLORER Capetown  
3rd MANCHESTER CITY.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1108C/3 to Admty. Cdre. 1/c  
Durban).

Expected sailing from Matadi shortly CALMAR (U.S.A.)  
Takoradi. (Route). Reference.  
(E) Libreville, (F) Equator 001° W. (G) Lagos (Nigeria) days 10.  
Carrying Gas oil and ammunition for U.S. Army at Dakar.  
Requires bunker.

(N.C.S.O. Duala, 1145/3 to Admty. S.O.(I) Freetown).  
Arrival 3rd COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, H.M.S. ORFSAY.  
Departure COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, ORFSAY, BREDON, M/Ls  
296, 290 and 271 escorting T.S.28, Freetown 9th.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi (Gold Coast) 1802Z/3 to Admty etc).

GLENROY, C. in C. S.A's 1919C/27, GLENROY and JANUS  
JANUS. are to be sailed for Takoradi through position (S)  
001° 55' S., 004° 10' E. Report S. of A.  
E.T.A. and fuel requirements. Onward route from  
Takoradi will be signalled to N.O.I.C. Takoradi.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1205Z/3 to B.N.L.O. W.A., (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi,  
N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty. C. in C. S.A.)  
Situation survey 1319/27th. Arrivals and departures Pointe  
Noire for Freetown (GLENROY) escorted by JANUS. E.T.A. Takoradi  
(2 corrupt groups) Z 7th Jan. S. of A. 12 knots routed through  
(A) (?002°) 00' S. (?005°) (?34') (2 corrupt groups) 58.  
(B.N.L.O. West Africa, 1414/3 to R.A.W.A.) W.R. Note.  
Repetition of corrupt and doubtful groups being obtained.

MILFORD, S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1102/2nd Jan. On relief by  
AMARANTHUS, MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, MORRIS DANCE, and YESTOR in  
MORRIS DANCE, position 009° 12' N., 037° 07' W., at 1100Z/8th  
YESTOR, Jan. all escorts from Freetown are to return  
F.T.T.6. independently direct to Freetown. Pass to escorts  
in company and Commodore.  
(F.O.W.A., 1303Z/3 to HYDRANGEA, (R) MILFORD,  
Admty. B.A.D., S.B.N.O. W.A., S.B.N.O. Trinidad,  
N.O.B. Trinidad). Amended by 1913/4 q.v.

O.19 From position (c) Equator 010° W., at 1200Z/6th  
January proceed through  
(d) 004° 00' N., 015° 30' W., at 1500Z/8th and  
(e) 008° 10' N., 015° 30' W., at 2200Z/9th.  
thence to Freetown. Bombing restrictions imposed.  
(F.O.W.A., 1313Z/3 to O.19 (R) Admty).  
My 1313Z/3rd. All times 28 hours early.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 2024Z/3 to O.19).

/Dakar...



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Dakar Liaison. British Liaison Officers arrive Dakar 1700 today 3rd Jan. at Glassfurd's request. Glassfurd states his understanding with Boisson is that these officers form part of his Mission. I have also had requests from both Michelier and Collinet for Liaison Officers including Signal Officer. Have sent Captain Henderson Lieut. C.D. Best and Lieut. (S) Hanron. Henderson who is particularly well suited will only stay short period to establish cordial relations and put me into picture. Henderson instructed to report to Glassfurd but I gather Collinet anxious to establish direct liaison which necessary now for operational reasons. Anxious to send request to Collinet for French Liaison Officer to come Freetown. Request reply to my 0955/1. Following signal publications taken to Dakar. (list). Will report on best means of communication with B.N.L.O. Dakar as soon as known.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1415Z/3 to Admty (R) Resmin).

KHYBER Capetown departure 1630C/3rd Jan. KHYBER for Durban S. of A. 9 knots. E.T.A. 0800C/7th. Shift to W/T organization for area J at 1600/6th. (C. in C. S.A., 1634C/3 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., etc).

T.S.28 Sailing telegram.  
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 1706Z/3 to Admty etc).

QUEEN MARY. P.S.T.O. Middle East 1928/2 is being repeated to you. Request you will reply.  
(D.O.D. (F), 1904A/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

Airfield Saldanha, Walvis Bay. AX. 378 3rd Jan. Following signal has been sent to U.K. H.C. in Union of South Africa through Dominions Office and is repeated to you for information (Begins).  
Reference my AX. 260 of 19th Dec. and Dechief's GG/32574 of 21st Dec. Grateful for your information regarding Saldanha and Walvis Bays. As long range landplanes may not be available we now require any information you can supply on airfields suitable for operating medium range aircraft such as Venturas. Convoy routes will be coastal and additional airfields will be required near Angola and Mozambique borders and in vicinity Port Nolloth/Orange River for cover to be given by medium range aircraft. (Ends).  
(A.O.C. W. Africa, 1950Z/3 to Air Min).

W.S.25 Sailing Telegram. 2. 1500/3rd Jan. 3. Takoradi 7th Jan. Capetown 15th Jan. 4. S. of A. 12½ knots. Route etc.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2019Z/3 to Admty).

F.T.T.6 Departure 31st Dec. HYDRANGEA, DUNKER, DUNCTON, INKPEN, COMMANDANT DROGOU, with F.T.T.6.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2359Z/3 to Admty. S.O.(I) Kingston, N.O.I.C. Liverpool, S.B.N.O.W.A.)



War Diary.3.1.1945  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.

Supplies for 8th Army. Your 1830/31st Dec. and 1814/1st Jan. On the understanding that there are no suitable British alternatives to U.S. vessels named we are supporting the request to Washington. 2. Request information regarding programme proposed for these ships. 3. In future in order to co-ordinate U.S. assistance generally it is desired to centralise all requests for use of U.S. tonnage in London. 4. When submitting proposals request you will name all suitable ships available both British and U.S. in order that decision may be reached whether application is to be made to W.S.A.  
(D. of S.T. 0316A/3 to P.S.T.O., M.E., (R) B.A.D. for B.M.S.M.)

WELSHMAN N.C.X.F.'s 1350/2nd sailed.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 0715A/3 to Admty., etc.)  
N.C.X.F.'s 1350/2nd para. 1. Final route confirmed.  
2. Fighter Protection codeword and W/T call sign after passing Cape Bon - Marittimo Line - "BOSOM", BAZ. 3. Berth number 5 dock.  
4. Two of our submarines in the vicinity of positions (E)(F) have been ordered to keep 15 miles from your route.  
(V.A. Malta, 1028A/3, to WELSHMAN (R) S.O.I.S. etc.)  
WELSHMAN (?on passage) to Malta P.C. and S. at 2330A tonight  
038° 08' 010° 48' 115° 29 knots. Keep 15 miles clear of her.  
(Capt. S.10, 1109A/3, to P.211, P.42.)

Malta Convoys and Stocks. Following for Governor from C. in C. Malta's AO/6193 T.O.O. 1035/1st. Regret it will not be possible to build up stock at Malta at the rate you propose. 2. About 25,000 tons is going in M.W. 19 in three days' time and similar amount will go early in February. 3. Transportation and loading facilities and number of escort vessels available in Eastern Mediterranean are inadequate to provide greater rate of supply than that now arranged without detriment to Eighth Army supplies which are vital at this stage. Nor is shipping readily available. 4. When convoys are running to Tripoli we hope to be able to supply at a faster rate by combining convoys over most of the passage and at a more even rate of flow.  
(C. in C. M.E., 0900Z/3, to Gov.& C. in C. Malta, (R) War Office.)

Movements. Departures 2nd Jan. ROMEO, PUNNET (B.D.V.).  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0927B/3 to Admty., C. in C. Med)

Transports, Oran. Divisional S.T.O. Oran reports arrival of ORMONDE, ORONTES and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1115/3 to D.S.T.)

P.45 Arrival.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1118A/3 to Admty., etc.)

/Situation...



War Diary3.1.45  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.)

Situation Report No. 41. Bone. 4 M.T.Bs arrived 29th from Malta. 6 moored mines and two type R (R) German mines on 29th and 30th. 3 Swordfish destroyed by fighter bombers on aerodrome 1st. Heavy air raids A.M. 1st by 30 JU87 P.M. 1st by large number of fighter bombers escorted by FW 190. AJAX hit A. and B. boiler rooms flooded. One Officer and 4 ratings killed. S.S. NOVELIST machinery space flooded being pumped out. S.S. VILLE DE STRASBOURG Superficial damage. S.S. HARPALYCE forehold flooded. Naval oil fuel installation damaged. A.M. 2nd in further raids ALARM damaged, believed back broken. S.S. EMPIRE METAL with 100 Octane petrol total loss. 2. ? U.S. Ship ARTHUR MIDDLETON of UGS 3 blew up in position 038° Cap Falcon 9 miles at 1447/1. 3 survivors landed Oran. 3. CAMERONIA arrived Algiers a.m. 1st, has half of enemy aircraft torpedo on board. 4. Force H due Algiers a.m. 3rd.  
(N.C.X.F., 1157A/3 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Orders to S/Ms. Take following action:- P.43 move to a waiting position 090° Ustica 6. (?P.) 46, if you have personnel on board withdraw to 038° 40' 012° 40' and signal report of their operation and yours in one time pad after dark. If you have no extra personnel proceed 038° 30' 014° 00' and report after dark thence proceed via Cape Milazzo northward to operate S. of Naples off Bocca Piccolo. THUNDERBOLT set (?course) to pass through 038° 50' 012° 00' to arrive G. at 0800A/4th. Thence by normal route to R/V with sweepers 0800A/6. TROOPER to follow THUNDERBOLT's route 24 hours later. P.311 if transfer of Kerr allowed follows 24 hours (?behind) TROOPER to arrive Malta 0800A. 8th Jan.  
(Capt. S.10, 1203A/3, to S/Ms on patrol (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Movements. HURWORTH, HURSLEY, EXMOOR, ?ALDENHAM, sailed.  
(V.A. Malta, 1205A/3 to A.I.G.72)

COSITREP No.644. 3. Air. Night 1/2 Jan. Wellingtons bombed aerodrome and harbour at Heraklion in Crete and mined approaches to harbour, cloud hampered observation of damage. Malta Wellingtons attacked Palermo Harbour, bombs bursting among shipping at Naval jetties. Two fires started on N. and S. sides of harbour. 2 Jan. Combined operation by Baltimores and American B 24's and 25's against aerodromes in Crete full report not yet available.  
(C. in C. M.E., 1320B/3, to W.O.)

Air R/C P.R.U. 3rd Jan. visuals. 1030, Taranto, 2. Battleships. 1130, Messina, one Cruiser only seen, Harbour obscured.  
(V.A. Malta, 1426A/3, to C. in C. Med. etc.)  
P.R.U. 3rd Jan. 1300, Palermo and Naples. Nothing seen.  
Low cloud. My 1426A/3rd Messina 3 - 6 inch cruisers confirmed by photographs.  
(V.A. Malta, 1501A/3, to C. in C. Med. etc.)

/Enemy...



War Diary3.1.1943  
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Units P.42. 3 Merchant ships one destroyer at 1100A in 037° 29' 010° 24', course 065°, speed 14 knots. (Capt. S.10, 1445A/3 to P.42 (R) S/Ms on Patrol.) Cancel my 1445/3rd. Proceed to Malta as previously ordered. (Capt. S.10. 2152A/3 to P.42, (R) Subs. on Patrol.)

U/B attacked. Following read. Am over enemy S/M in position 36.10 N, 00.23 W. Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (Aircraft using call sign G7GB, 1447/3)

VALKYRIEN Salvage Ship VALKYRIEN at Tobruk temporarily manned by Fleet Salvage Party because Chief Engineer, Second Officer, Third Engineer and all Chinese Ratings refused to sail her further Westward. All Officers and men returned to Alexandria and proceedings before Naval Court in hand. Hope to make use of Captain and those Danish Officers and Ratings who are willing to continue duty in Western Ports. (Supt. of Salvage E.M., 1455/3 to Admty.)

K.M.F.6 Algiers Section arrived plus LANARKSHIRE for Bougie and WINDSOR CASTLE for Philippeville. (Cdre. Algiers, 1520A/3, to Admty., etc.)  
K.M.F.6. Sailed forward section at 1930A/3rd in accordance with N.C.X.F's 0850A/3rd. LANARKSHIRE to Bougie WINDSOR CASTLE to (?Philippeville). Close escort BICESTER, ZETLAND, AVON VALE. Commodore - Master of WINDSOR CASTLE. (Cdre, Algiers, 2113A/3, to N.O. i/c Bougie. N.O. i/c Philippeville (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar. CONNAV.)

Bone Air Raid losses. Further casualties resulting from bombing P.M. 2nd. SAINT MERRIEL total loss. 6 crew missing believed killed. DALHANNA suffered further near misses. Steering gear disabled. Midship accommodation gutted by fire, raising of main steam doubtful. STAR fired but only damage is scorched hull fore part of bridge starboard side. EMPIRE METAL is now total loss believed 7 crew killed. Details of personnel casualties follows. (S.T.O. Bone, 1553A/3 to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. X.F.)

URSULA, information. Your escort will be SPEEDWELL. 2. 4 H.S.L. leaves Algiers dawn 4th to Eastwards. French convoy sails 0500/4th to Westward. 3. P.54 leaves Algiers 1600/3rd course 037° STURGEON leaves Algiers 0830/4th for exercise off Carbon. (Capt. S.8, 1614A/3 to URSULA)

KROM (Turkish) Your 2019 31st. (Repetition of N.A. Ankara's 1135/30) confirmed. (N.C.X.F., 1627A/3 to C. in C. Med.)

/NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM...



War Diary.3.1.1943  
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM. Sailed 2nd Jan. tons Fuel Oil Bunkers taken Suez 2512. Total sailing 4450.  
(D.S.T.O. Suez, 1709B/3 to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. M.E.)

Malta  
Air  
Report. AI.6 3rd Jan. C.S.R. Malta Part I. Night 2/3rd Jan. No enemy air activity locally.  
Day 3rd Jan. Bad weather curtailed all operations. 0634 hrs. 1 He.111 approached Malta from S.W. at 3000 feet in 9 tenths cloud and was probably destroyed by 4 Spitfires. Another 12 Spitfires have been airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1830Z/3.)  
Part 2 of my AI.6. Night 2/3 Jan. 7 Wellingtons attacked Sousse Docks as secondary target from 1855 to 2029 hrs. scoring hits on railway sidings and across quays starting 3 fires. 3 Wellingtons attacked Tunis and La Goulette from 1840 to 2014 hrs. Bombs fell in target area but very bad weather prevented observation of results.  
(A.H.Q. Malta 2015/3)

ST. ISSEY. Reference situation report 313 (1413/29). On the evidence of A German broadcast the sinking of H.M. Tug ST. ISSEY is now attributed to a U-Boat.  
(C. in C. Med., 1853B/3 to Admty.)

Landing  
Craft lost. L.C.R. 139. Beached near Mersa Matruh 20th Nov. is a total loss.  
(C. in C. Med. 2030B/3 to Admty.)

E.A.C.  
Report. WX 8175. A/41 3 Jan. Op. Summ. No. 53 covering period 1800 hours 1st Jan. to 1800 hours 2nd Jan.  
Night 1/2 Jan. 12 Wellingtons airborne to attack Docks at Bizerta. Visibility poor over target. 6 aircraft bombed target fires started, one large. 4000 lb. seen to burst on railway quay. 1 aircraft bombed short into harbour and remaining aircraft unable to locate target. 1 jettisoned after 70 minutes search 3 dropped bombs in Karaba Bay area 1 brought bombs back. Day 2nd Jan. 2 attacks made on Bone Harbour during day (1) at 0845 hours 20 Ju.87s 18 FW. 190s and 18 Me.109s approaching Bone were intercepted. 10 Ju. 87s and 3FW. 190s got through to bomb harbour. 1 tanker and 1 M/V damaged in encounter 4 Ju. 87s and 2 FW.190s destroyed. 1 Ju. 87 probable 1 Me.109 damaged. Own losses 5 Spitfires missing 3 damaged (1 due to engine failing). (2) At 1440 hours 8 FW.109s and 12 Me.109s approached Bone. 4 FW 190s and 2 Me.109s attacked Harbour. Damage not yet reported. In encounters 3 Me.109s damaged, 1 Spitfire damaged. Patrols maintained over Bone (Fighters) and Algiers areas (Fighters and G.R. A/C) Hudsons out on A/S escort and sweeps. No incidents. 1 P.R.U. sortie made.

/12th...



War Diary3.1.1942  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

E.A.C. Report. Contd. 12th U.S. Air Force. Day. Remarkable for number of E/A claimed destroyed or damaged. 23 E/A destroyed, 12 probable, 22 damaged. U.S. losses 2 aircraft. Objectives at La Goulette and Sousse were bombed (3 separate attacks on Sousse) at La Goulette hits by B.17s observed in Ore loading depot, Military camp, dry dock power house, and 2 M/Vs (1 probably sunk) large fires visible from 40 miles started in oil tanks on S. Jetty, 40 to 50 enemy fighters (Me.109s and Italian aircraft) came up to intercept. An incomplete report stated that 17 of these E/A were destroyed, 10 probables, 15 damaged. 2 U.S. aircraft missing from this Mission. At Sousse, DB 7s report many hits on docks and in town and direct hit on M/V. Many bursts seen in Military Camp at Sousse and N.E. portion of city with much smoke and fire.  
(E.A.C., 2050A/3)

Force H. Force H sailed from Algiers 2000/3rd to North and then to West.  
(Capt. S.8, 2052A/3, to P.54, (R) URSULA.)

P.54 Algiers departure P.54.  
(Cmdre. Algiers, 2103A/3 to Admty.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrival: EGRET, LOYAL BANFF, FISHGUARD, CLARE, TEST with K.M.F.6, LUNENBERG, IMPERIALIST, SUMMERSIDE. NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, BARBARIAN with T.E.12. Force H with K.M.F.6. French patrol vessel LA SETOISE from Oran, ACUTE, ALBACORE, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND escorting DINGLEDALE from Bone, merchant ship. Departure: WELSHMAN to the east, LUNENBERG, IMPERIALIST, SUMMERSIDE forward with T.E.12 Force H and LAMERTON, AVON VALE, BICESTER, ZETLAND forward with K.M.F.6.  
(Cmdre, Algiers, 2107A/3, to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.)

Use of Gliders. J.S.M. 656. Following is text of Algiers telegram No. 1438 (T.O.O. 1611/31) from Doolittle to Arnold. (Begins) Gliders would be of great value in this theatre but cannot be shipped at the expense of replacement aircraft. If towing across southern route is practicable request this means of delivery be used. (Ends.)  
(J.S.M. Washington, 2147Z/3, to W.C.O. London.)

ST. DAVID. Your 0934/30 not to D.G.P. and L. Request you will make the necessary arrangements with both F.O.R.S.C.A. and D.G.P. and L. for the immediate return of ST. DAVID to Alexandria to resume work of great Pass.  
(C. in C. Med., 2357B3 to S.C.E. E.M. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. Admty. S.C.E. C.A. D.G.P. A.N.D.L.)



3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- Movements. Arrival 2nd ALCOA PROSPECTOR, RELIANT, R.F.A., RESOLUTE (Tug). Arrival 3rd EMPIRE WOODLARK. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0519Z/3 to Fairmiss)
- BRITISH COLONEL. Request oiler BRITISH COLONEL be sailed for Karachi for repairs to D/G., equipment and that N.O.I.C. Karachi be informed of expected date of arrival.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0607Z/3 to Cdre. R.I.N. (R) N.O.I.C. Karachi, Admty. S.N.O.P.G.)
- ALBERT HILL. My 1304/28 (re ALBERT HILL towed to Sitrah and repairs to high pressure piston proceeding). Anticipate repair of ALBERT HILL will be completed approximately Jan. 8th.  
(N.O.I.C. Bahrein, 0721Z/30 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf, (R) Admty. etc).
- Disguised Raiders, Procedure for H.M. Ships. PPCA 3 CA A.M.1734/11 August (see Policy P.310 August). appears to differ from para. 80 of Naval Prize Manual. Concurring Master leaving his ship.  
(2) It is suggested that N.P.M. be amended accordingly.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0922Z/3 to Admty).
- Manza, Tanga defences. Underwater defences of Manza Bay and Tanga B.D. drawings 1128 and 1116 has been received by B.D.O.E.A.  
2. Manza Bay. The present defences consist of indicator nets controlled minefield and A/T baffle. These augmented by patrol vessels are considered adequate for the protection of the anchorage and it is therefore not intended that the proposed A/B A/T Boom shall be laid.  
3. Tanga. This harbour is no longer required as an overflow anchorage for Eastern Fleet and is only occasionally used by H.M. Ships.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0931Z/3 to Admty. (R) F.O.E.A.)
- Dispositions. Eastern Fleet weekly disposition signal No. 17 (a) and (b) no change. (c) DEVONSHIRE at Aden. (d) GAMBIA and FROBISHER at Durban, CERES on passage to Kilindini, MAURITIUS at Kilindini, CAPETOWN on passage to Persian Gulf. Remainder as in signal number 16.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0933Z/3).



War Diary.

3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Movements Arrived a.m. CAIRNS, CAPETOWN, left p.m. CAPETOWN.  
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 1000Z/3 to Admty. etc).  
Arrival 3rd Jan. NORMAN, BRITTANY.  
(F.O.E.A., 1211Z/3 to Admty).

EKMA,  
LURCHER. Your 0709Z/30th (N.T. in W.D.) EKMA was  
instructed by Tamatave to proceed Cape Amber  
escorted by MASTIFF. Have now instructed  
LURCHER to relieve MASTIFF and escort EKMA  
to Kilindini passing South of Aldabra Island.  
Speed of advance 11 knots as routed in N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez'  
0831Z/30th not to F.O.E.A. EKMA is to pass through position  
000° Cape Amber 10 miles at 1200Z/3rd. Expected time of arrival  
Kilindini 0300Z/6th. LURCHER W/T single operator period only  
500 k/cs.  
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 1017Z/3 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.E.A. etc)

S.O.A.C.E.F. S.O. Aircraft Carriers E.F. (Short title  
S.O.A.C.E.F.) will carry out administrative and  
other duties formerly undertaken by R.A. A.A.  
Eastern Fleet. E.F. Temporary Memoranda 287 old  
edition and 19 new edition are cancelled.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1253Z/3 to Admty. Eastern Fleet  
R.A.N.A.S., Indian Ocean).

ALBATROSS It is intended that at the end of her refit  
probably end of Jan. ALBATROSS will proceed to  
Bombay where she will be allocated temporarily for  
duties with Combined Operations H.Q.  
(2) She will be administered by R.A.(A) E.F. and is to be  
at 14 days' notice for normal operations. A/C will be taken to  
India.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1254Z/3 to Admty. (R) Armindia (?R.A.N.A.S.,  
Indian Ocean) R.A.(A) E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.R.I.N., R.N.O.  
Bombay, F.L.O. Delhi, Comdre. i/c Durban, F. O. Ceylon).

DUNERA P.A.I.C. state essential vessel carrying Jewish  
children be routed direct to Haifa to avoid  
complications in Egypt. Request immediate  
permission sail DUNERA direct. Agreed P.A.I.C.  
and Mov. Mideast.  
(D.S.T.O. P.G., 1900Z/3 to D. of S.T. (R)  
P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. Egypt, P.A.I.C.)  
Reply from P.S.T.O. India, 0629/4. Reply from  
D.S.T., 1921/4.



# MOST SECRET

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(\*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:  
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1254Z/3 January,  
IN.

FROM. C. in C. E.F.

DATE. 4.1.43.

RECD. 0026.

NAVAL CYPHER A3 BY W/T.

ADDRESSED. Admiralty, repeated ARMINDIA, R.A.(A) E.F.,  
R.N.O. Bombay, Comdre. i/c Durban;  
C. in C. S.A., (?R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean)  
F.O.C.R.I.N., F.L.O. Delhi, F.O. Ceylon.

ALBATROSS 393. It is intended that at the end of her refit probably  
the end of January H.M.S. ALBATROSS will proceed to Bombay  
where she will be allocated temporarily for duties with  
Combined Operations H.Q.

2. She will be administered by R.A.(A) E.F. and is to be  
at 14 days notice for normal operations. A/C will be  
taken to India.

1254Z/3.

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

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.(2)  
D.F.S.L.  
3rd. S.L.  
Vice Contr.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(UT)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(A)  
A.C.N.A.S.  
C.N.A.S.  
N.A.1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim.  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.O.D.(H)(2)  
D.F.D.(M)  
D.G.(2)  
U.S.N.  
D.A./S.W.  
Hd. of M.  
E.D.I.C.(2)  
I.P.(2)  
W.D.  
D.N.A.D.  
D.A.C.D.

D. of P.(2)  
D.N.I.(4)  
D. of P.(Q)  
C.C.O.(2)  
D.A.M.  
D.A.M.R.  
N.A.2nd. S.L. (Air)  
Hd. of C.W.  
Hd. of N.  
D. of D.  
Hd. of Air.  
D. of S.(2)  
D.A.S.  
Dep. Contr.  
D. of D.  
D.A.S.  
Hd. of S.W.R.

BATH.

*Recd 17/Jan*



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
SundayFOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Convoy  
T.F.1. In accordance with my 1052/2 sailed BRIDGEWATER and ARMERIA.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 0902Q/3 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Admty. B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.A., N.O.B. Trinidad.)

T.M.1.  
U/B. U-Boat bound S.W. estimated in your vicinity today.  
(D.D.I.C. 0935A/3 to Escorts of T.M.1 (R) Cominch.)  
See also 1411/3.

U.S.  
Movements. Departure 2nd U.S. Army Transport FRANKLYN LEISINGRING escorted by Y.P.428, Miami 3rd.  
(R.N.O. Nassau 1100/3 to Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica)

O.N.S.154,  
search for survivors. 1. Admty. 1505A/31st. Vicinity swept over by 3 pairs of ships successively.  
2. Your 1221Z/31st area covered.  
3. My 0002Z/31st area covered.  
4. WOODSTOCK, PRESCOTT ordered to Ponta Delgada for fuel.  
5. MILNE, METEOR proceeding area of casualties night 26th/27th.  
6. Request destination for BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC. SHEDIAC suggest Liverpool for completion R.D./F fitting. (?Meanwhile) these ships are searching area bounded by 047° (706') N. 027° 41' W. 045° 59' N. 026° 58' W. 044° 19' N. 028° 32' W. 045° 33' N. 029° 18' W. until p.m. 4th when they must leave for destination.  
7. My P.C. and S. at 1100Z, 046° 16' N. 027° 28' W. 045° 16.  
8. Weather.  
(Capt. D.3 1158Z/3 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)  
Capt. D.3's 1158/3rd. Early return of BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC to St. Johns, N.F. most urgent to meet next eastbound assignment having cleaned boiler. Request they proceed St. Johns N.F. now at best prudent speed.  
(F.O.N.F. 1704Z/3 to C. in C. W.A. (R) D.3 etc.)  
C. in C. Western Approaches 1616/3rd (requesting destination of BATTLEFORD and SHEDIAC) Request ships be sent to St. Johns, N.F. at best prudent speed.  
(C.C.N.F. 1832Z/3 to Capt. (D) 3, (R) C.T.G.247, C. in C. Western Approaches, Admty., Comtask 24, BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC.)  
Comply with F.O.N.F.'s 1704/3.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2002Z/3 to BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC (R) Admty., D.3., F.O.N.F.)

MORRIS  
DANCE. My 1102/2. MORRIS DANCE returned, unable to maintain speed of escort.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1212Q/3 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty., B.A.D., S.B.N.O. W.A., N.O.B. Trinidad.)

/T.F.1 ...



# MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET 1104Z/3rd January  
MESSAGE OUT  
TO:- OPNAV. DATE 3.1.42.  
Repeated COMNAVU.  
TYPE X (U.S.A)

From Admiralty

Movements Summary at 1800 G.M.T. 3rd January.

<u>SHIP</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	<u>SPEED</u>
9 L.C.I's ) 1 Tug )	29 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>o</sup> N, 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>o</sup> W	088 <sup>o</sup>	10
Tug LARIAT	30 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>o</sup> N, 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>o</sup> W	079 <sup>o</sup>	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Convoy TM.I ) HAVELOCK ) 2 corvettes )	22 <sup>o</sup> N, 43 <sup>o</sup> W	057 <sup>o</sup>	9
CORINTHIAN	15 <sup>o</sup> S, 30 <sup>o</sup> W	054 <sup>o</sup>	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
A.T.32	58 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>o</sup> N, 35 <sup>o</sup> W	070 <sup>o</sup>	19
U.S.S.R. S/M S.54	60 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>o</sup> N, 35 <sup>o</sup> W	053 <sup>o</sup>	6
U.S.S.R. S/M L.15	55 <sup>o</sup> N, 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>o</sup> W	023 <sup>o</sup>	8
U.S.S.R. S/M S.51 ) " " S.56 )	54 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>o</sup> N, 48 <sup>o</sup> W	020 <sup>o</sup>	10
MILFORD ) AMARANTHUS ) 2 trawlers )	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>o</sup> N, 57 <sup>o</sup> W	093 <sup>o</sup>	10

1104Z/3  
for D.O.D.(F) 164.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H).
- A.C.N.S.(F) (2).
- A.C.N.S.(UT).
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Captain Fin.
- D.O.D.(H) (2).
- D.O.D.(F) (2).
- D.T.D.(M).
- Duty Captain (2).
- U.S.N.
- D.A/S.W.
- Head of M.
- D.D.I.C.(2).
- I.P.(2).
- W.D.
- C.C.O.(2).
- D.T.D.(3).
- D.T.D.(C).
- D.N.I.(4).
- F.O.S. by courier.



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- T.F.1. BENJAMIN SMITH (U.S.), DAVID STONE (U.S.),  
War Supplies, Marshall.  
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 1228Q/3 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I)  
Kingston, N.S.H.Q.)
- P.554 and A/S training. C.O.A.C. 1330Z/2. Submarine P.554 is being used  
at every available opportunity for the training  
of escorts, aircraft and other vessels basing at  
Argentina. Removal of the submarine would  
seriously hamper training of these units.  
(C.T.F. 24 1247Z/3 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.O.A.C.,  
F.O.N.F.)  
C.O.A.C. 1330/2. Capt. D. Halifax is misinformed.  
P.554 is now being continuously employed not only with ships  
but also convoy escorting Aircraft of R.C.A.F., U.S.N., and  
U.S. Army and is invaluable to this Command. The necessity for  
a submarine at Halifax is fully realised but it is urged that  
some other solution be looked for. If Submarine cannot be  
obtained from U.S. or other source concur in P.554 being sent to  
Halifax for the period in question.  
(F.O.N.F. 1400/3 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.O.A.C. Admty.)  
Reply: N.S.H.Q. 1642/4.
- U/Bs,  
D.3. Several D/F fixes since noon 2nd Jan. on Series  
1 indicate two or three U-Boats still within 30  
miles of 44° 00' N. 28° 45' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 1303A/3 to D.3 (R) WOODSTOCK, PRESCOTT,  
BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAS C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.)
- SEAWOLF,  
GRANBY. U.S. S/M notice. British S/M SEAWOLF marked  
N - 47 departs Halifax at 2000Z/3rd for 044° 30' N.  
061° 01' W, speed 10 on surface, escorted by  
GRANBY.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1312/3 to All Commands con-  
cerned with submarine reports in Atlantic North of  
40°, North and West of 26° West less E.S.F. Admty.)  
At 2030Z/3rd sailed SEAWOLF escorted by GRANBY in accordance  
with my 1916/2nd. Amend E.T.A. St. Johns 1130Z/6th.  
(C.O.A.C. 2034Z/3 to A.O.C.E.A.C., C.T.F. 24 (R) C. in C.  
U.S. Fleet, C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., F.O.S.)
- WITCH. WITCH expected to be ready to sail a.m. Friday  
8th Jan.  
(B.A.M.R. Washington 1352Z/3 to Admty.)

/Convoy T.M.1 ...



War Diary.

3.1.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Convoy T.M.1. Ref. my 1613/21st (re route and sailing of special tanker convoy) T.M.1 consisting of 9 ships sailed 2100Z/28th routed as follows:-  
(m) 011° 38' 060° 41'.  
(n) 012° 07' 058° 48'.  
(o) 018° 20' 048° 40'.  
(h) 021° 01' 031° 59'.  
(r) 031° 40' 015° 30'.  
(s) 035° 53' 032° 18'.  
(t) 035° 55' 005° 50'. S. of A. 8.5. E.T.A. Gibraltar 14 Jan.  
(Connav 1411/3 to N.C.X.F., N.S.H.Q., V.A. Gib.)  
Attacked by U/B, see 2147/3.

U/B sighted 2/1. My 1331Z/2nd. Boats of a fishing fleet on their way out from Liverpool sighted U-boat on surface during dark hours. Wake of U-boat actually seen. One fisherman attempted without success to follow up and further identify U-boat. Fishing fleet returned to harbour.  
(C.O.A.C. 1412Z/3 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.)

OAKBANK (torpedoed 27/12.) Your 2055/2 Jan. Concur your plot. Assistant S.O.(I) Recife has been instructed to interview surviving officers and report what route was followed.  
(D.T.D. 1415Z/3 to Connav.)

MORMACSWAN. H.X.221. Your 1519/31st December U.S. MORMACSWAN has not arrived Halifax. Escort pass to Comdre.  
(C.O.A.C. 1436Z/3 to Connav (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q. C.T.U. 24.18.4.)

W.L.E.F. Your 1515/30 (N.T. in W.R.) Approved to reorganize W.L.E.F. into nine groups as a temporary measure until Convoy Cycle is opened to ten days.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1441Z/3 to C.O.A.C. (R) Cominch, C.T.F. 24, F.O.N.F., Admty.)

U/B Positions. S/M situation Jan. 3rd and U.S. S/M notice.  
(Cominch 1518/3, 1519/3, 1623/2, 1640/3, 1641/3, 1907/3.



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

CAPETOWN  
CASTLE. Admiralty 1500Z/1st (? N.S.H.Q.'s 1500Z/1 intended re CAPETOWN CASTLE) Sailing CAPETOWN CASTLE via (p) 42.15 58.50. (q) 42.15 49.45 (r) 50.20 43.35 (s) 54.30 33.25 (t) 56.15 19.30 (u) 56.05 08.15 "Chop" 0001Z/11th. (Connav 1616/3 to C.O.A.C. (R) N.S.H.Q. etc.)

O.N.157  
CITY OF  
EXETER. Your 1029A/29th 1117A/29th and 1138A/3rd. Is CITY OF EXETER to proceed New York with convoy? This ship has prospective? passenger for India. Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.1.17 1700Z/3 to C. in C. Western Approaches, (R) Admty.)  
Your 1700/3. CITY OF EXETER and ships for South Atlantic to remain with convoy until further orders. (D.T.D. 2130Z/3 to Escorts O.N.157 (R) C. in C. W.A., Connav.)

Tanker  
Convoy. B.A.D. 0341/22 and A.M. 1853/31. Fast tanker convoy due to sail 8th Jan. comprises SEAKAY, ESSO PATTERSON, BUNKER HILL and COLORADO for Gibraltar. ESSO GETTYSBURGH for Ponta Delgada.  
2. Admiralty estimate E.T.A. Curacao SEAKAY a.m. 7th ESSO PATTERSON p.m. 7th. Request you will expedite loading to ensure against postponement of convoy sailing date (Tanker Message.)  
4. Immediate message should be despatched p.m. 7th informing Admiralty situation and prospects reference para. 2. (D.T.D. 1805A/3 to S.B.N.O. Curacao, (R) B.R.L.O. Aruba, Connav, B.A.D.)

COWICHAN. E.T.A. St. Johns 1100Z/4th with 2 ships. Require 85 tons fuel. R.D.F. not working. (COWICHAN 1901Z/3 to First 6 groups missing, C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q. C.T.U. 24.18.7.)

BUTTERMERE,  
WASTWATER. Route BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER via  
F. 010° 56' N. 060° 55' W.  
G. 006° 30' N. 051° 20' W.  
H. Equator 040° 45'.  
J. 004° 10' S. 034° 35' W.  
K. 007° 03' S. 032° 45' W. thence Recife.  
Onward route to Freetown via  
L. 007° (? 20') S. 032° 44' W.  
M. 002° 25' S. 026° 30' W.  
N. 003° 30' N. 019° 30' W. thence destination.  
(Connav 1912/3 to N.O.B. Trinidad (R) Admty. etc.)

/S/M attack ...



3.1.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

Movements  
summary.

Section southwest. O.N.155 Western Local Escort Task Units 24.18.6 40° 48' N., 64° 31' W. 240°. 8 alter to 272° in 39.40 N., H.F.26 MAHONE, THUNDER 42.48 65.39 270° 7 altering in 42.48 66.30 to 325°. BROCKVILLE 44.46 62.(965 or 00) coastwise to Sydney (C.B.) 13 knots. H.S.78 NORANDA 45.46 59.44 en route Sydney (C.B.) 8 knots. SEAWOLF surfaced and escorted by GRANBY departs Halifax 2030Z/3rd routed through (A) 44.30 N., 61.01 W. (B) 46.10 N., 52.36 W. (C) 47.32 N., 52.11 W. S. of A. 10 knots. MEDINA (U.S.) 44.14 63.39 240° 14 to 5 miles off Cape Sable thence to Boston. Swedish relief ships MONGABARRO, BARDALAND, FENRIS, FORMOSA 38.37 66.31 359° 12 en route St. John, N.B. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1715Z/3, 0048/41, 0322/41, 0513/4).



War Diary.3.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

S/M attack & sighting summary. Para. C. Submarine sighted 11 N. 61.05 W. 1845Z/2. Submarine contact 12.20 N. 67.17 W. 0640Z/3. (Cominch 1950/3 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Floating Dock Escort Conference. Following is a repetition of my 1635/2 sent indecypherable. (Begins) addressed S.B.N.O. Trinidad (R) S.B.N.O. W.A., F.O.C.W.A. Admty. from B.A.D. F.O.C. W.Af's 1437/30 and my 1535/30 para (B) indicates that MILFORD group will return to Trinidad about 17th Jan. Suggest you arrange with N.O.B. Trinidad to sail them as soon as possible after arrival at Trinidad so that they will have time to boiler clean and attend the conference at New Orleans. T.O.O.1635/2 (Ends) (B.A.D. 2009Z/3 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad, S.B.N.O. W.A., F.O.C.W.A., Admty.)

Movements. PRESIDENT MONROE arrived San Francisco 1st Jan. SEA MATCH, MAUI and ROCHAMBEAU all U.S. Army Transports sailed San Francisco 31 for Suva. (N.S.H.Q. 2114Z/3 to Admty.)  
E.T.A. 1200Z/4th escorting W.B.19. Boiler hours. In company PICTOU, THREE RIVERS. (STRATFORD 2115Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Sydney (R) SPARLING.)

T.M.1 attacked. T.M.1. Submarine attack. Ship torpedoed probably NORVIK at 2145Z my position 020° 58' N. 044° 40' W. (HAVELOCK 2147Z/3 to Cominch (R) C.C.S.F., Admty., N.O.B. Trinidad.)  
W.D. Note. Ship was BRITISH VIGILANCE, see 0010Z/4.

Australia and New Zealand.

ILE DE FRANCE, ADELAIDE. D. of S.T. 0106A/19th Oct. 1942. ILE DE FRANCE with 7000 U.S. troops for Bombay. E.T.D. Fremantle a.m. 5th January.  
(2) Route (C) 030° 48' 104° 03'  
(D) 027° 44' 099° 18'.  
(E) 013° 02' 084° 28'.  
(F) 003° 18' S. 075° 10'.  
(G) 008° 45' N. 076° 14'.  
(3) ADELAIDE will escort to 024° 20' S. 095° 35' E. Request you will arrange onward cover. (A.C.N.B. 0714Z/3 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Cdre. W. Australia, P.S.T.O. Bombay, F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N. Admty.)

/Movements ...



3.1.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - contd.

Movements. Departure Papeete 2nd Jan. F.S. CHEVREUIL for Bora Bora, expects return Papeete 4th January. (S.O.(I) Wellington 0947Z/3 to Admty.)  
Departures Auckland 1830Z/2 ATREUS and ALSEY for Akoroa E.T.A. 0400Z/5 and 230Z/5 (as received) respectively. Arrival Wellington 2256Z/2 U.S.S. FOMALNAU. (D.N.I. Wellington 1258M/3 to Admty.)

Situation. Digest serial No.346 for Jan. 3rd.  
Buna Mission captured Jan. 2nd.  
Only one small enemy pocket remaining Buna Area completely surrounded west of Giropa Point. Mopping up of snipers continues.  
(2) 6 Bostons, 6 Marauders, 6 B.25s, 7 Beaufighters covered by 13 P.38s attacked Lae Aerodrome area at midday starting many fires including one supply dump damaging one probably two aircraft silencing one A.A. position. Nil interception.  
(3) Armed R/C Liberator attacking Lae earlier made direct hit on bomber and probably damaged two Zeros. Also observed three fighters Madang.  
(4) 3 Bostons bombed and strafed Sanananda Point. 20/30 Japanese swimming between Buna and Sanananda were strafed.  
(5) Air R/C Rabaul revealed little change shipping position. Photographs showed one minelayer off Mioki is (DUKE OF? YORK group) and one in Rabaul Harbour.  
(6) Aircraft reported 1 medium, 2 small merchant vessels Koepang Area.  
(7) 9 enemy planes reported as divebombers attacked Government Station Tufi without damage.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 1824/3 to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1411A/3, 1449A/3.)



War Diary.

4.1.1943.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

S.O. Force R, in SHEFFIELD with JAMAICA arrived at Seldisfjord at 0840A today from covering convoy J.W.51 B.

Norwegian Whaler BODO was sunk by a mine about 0510 today in approx. 56.54 N., 1° 25' W. (about 30 miles S.E. of Aberdeen). Three survivors were picked up next day, one of whom died.

38 aircraft of bomber Command laid mines last night off Biscay ports and the Texel.

North Atlantic.

SS. RAVENSPOINT went aground after an explosion in No. 3 hold p.m. today at Gibraltar.

South Atlantic.

U/Bs

U.S. M/V DONA AURORA is reported from Trinidad to have been torpedoed and sunk at 0938 G.M.T./25 Dec. 1942 in 2° 2' S., 35° 17' W., by a U-boat which hoisted the Italian flag. P.614 sighted a U-boat at 0725 today in 8° 56' N., 17° 25' W.

HYDRANGEA and COMMANDANT DROGOU and trawler MORRIS DANCE were ordered to carry out an A/S sweep in the Atlantic west of the Cape Verde Is. after completing with fuel and relief as escort of convoy F.T.T.6.



War Diary.

4.1.1943.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean

13 Wellingtons attacked Sousse late this evening, obtaining hits in the port and docks area.

F.W.190 attacked Bone harbour at 1630 today but caused no damage.

Gale weather and sandstorms along the coast of Cyrenaica have been dislocating all traffic. Last night a very heavy westerly gale breached the outer mole at Benghazi in two places, causing high seas to enter the inner harbour where there were 82 lighters, small craft and minor war vessels, and 14 merchant ships. LYEMOON, HELLAS and LLANGCHOW became total losses, and JENNY MOLLER, beached but watertight. HANNAH MOLLER which was bombed and damaged at Benghazi on the night 14/15 Dec. was reported as total loss.

All power boats are sunk or stranded, but L.C.Ts. 2 craft and tugs are all safe. One harbour patrol launch has been sunk off Alexandria, but the crew were saved.

P.211 has returned from patrol, the only incidents in which were the sinking of the small schooner ELEANORA ROSA carrying 100 tons of petrol at 0752/27 Dec. 1942, 5 miles east of Zuara; and two hits on a 1500 ton northbound merchant vessel at 0950/29 in 34° 20' N., 10° 54' E.

P.48 lost.

P.48 has not answered signals to leave patrol in the Gulf of Tunis and must be considered lost. Rome Radio made 4 claims during the period of P.48's patrol.

Jibuti

The port is open to commercial trade. Commodore, Aden, reports he is satisfied there are no mines, though a buoyed and swept channel has been established.

East Indies.

Six Liberators bombed Mandalay railway yards and 3 Liberators shipping at Rangoon where two hits were made on an estimated 15,000 ton transport.



4.1.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

In order to accelerate the movements of tankers Commander Eastern Sea Frontier today gave orders that tankers normally proceeding in N.K. (New York to Key West and Gulf ports) and K.N. convoys, if of speed 10 knots or above are to be sailed independently via the convoy route, and if under 10 knots speed they are to be sailed via convoy routes if delayed more than 48 hours awaiting convoy. This does not apply to tankers carrying aviation spirit of 100 octane or above.



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- UREDD. My 1603/2/1 amended by my 0943/3/1. Trials and sailing further postponed.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 0947A/4 to A.C.O.S.)
- O.10. S.6's 1210/1. Arrived.  
(Capt. S.9 0951A/4.)  
A.C.O.S. 1130/2. (1) PARRSBORO from Londonderry is to relieve LEICESTER CITY escorting O.10 at southern end of Minches a.m./6 and escort to Rothesay.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1029A/4 to Cdre. Londonderry.)
- BULOLO. A.M. 2148/1st. Intend sailing BULOLO passing Clyde Boom 1800A/5th to R/V with escorts as in my 0954/4th, thence as in C. in C. W.A.'s 1651/2. S.O.A. 13½ knots. Codeword "Princess".  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1018A/4.)
- S.54. After dark 4th report your P.C.S. and E.T.A. 270° Barrahead 10 miles.  
(F.O.S. 1046A/4 to S.54.)
- AGAMEMNON.  
WINDSOR. WELLS will not now be ready for service before 16th January and I have no other Destroyer available. Request you will provide screen for AGAMEMNON on passage from Sheerness and for working up practice at Scapa as it is not desirable to delay her return to Port Z.A.  
(R.A.M. 1114/4 to C. in C. Nore.)  
My 1428/4. Am sailing WINDSOR in order that she may be available to provide escort required in R.A.(M)'s 0924/29 for AGAMEMNON.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 1430A/4 to C. in C. Nore.)
- North Atlantic dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic. Operating in Northern Waters - KING GEORGE V. HOWE, BERMUDA, BERWICK, KENT, 10 Destroyers. Area Iceland (C) - JAMAICA, SHEFFIELD, CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK. Area Scapa - ANSON, MALAYA, GLASGOW, 4 Destroyers. Area Clyde - ARGUS. Area Gibraltar - NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FURIOUS, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, SIRIUS, 7 Destroyers  
(D.O.D. H. 1138A/4 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)
- CLYDE. F.O.S. 1056A/29. Sailed Portsmouth 1700/31st. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1231A/4 to Cominch.)  
1. D/F activity indicates large numbers U-Boats in area bounded by latitude 047° and 051° and longitude 022° and 027°.  
2. Proceed diving by day until West of 030° W. Estimate you will cross Meridian 030° at 0400/7th.  
3. My 1056/29 to Cominch for 026° W. read 030° W. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged to 030° W.  
(F.O.S. 1236A/4 to CLYDE.)

/Capt.(S) 5's ...



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- CLYDE  
(contd.)                      Capt. (S) 5's 1105/29. Cancel para. 2 and substitute A. Submerge line 20 B. (E) to (F) 2000/4 to 1200/6. (F) to (K) 048° 47' N. 030° 01' W. 2000/5 to 2300/7. (F.O.S. 1237A/4 to H.Q.C.C.)  
CLYDE P.C.S. at 2000A/4, 050° 08', 019° 50', 267°, 11 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 1615A/4 to Capt. D.3.)
- H.43.                              H.43 arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1241A/4.)
- MILNE,  
METEOR.                          MILNE and H.M.S. METEOR are required to provide escort at Scapa January 7th. Proceed as necessary, fuelling at Londonderry if required. (C. in C. W.A. 1309A/4 to Capt. D.3.)  
My 1620/4 and C. in C. W.A. 1309/4. If METEOR requires Boiler cleaning she is to be detached to Clyde. (Cdre. D. 1752A/4 to Capt. D.3.)  
E.T.A. Scapa MILNE, METEOR 0930A/7. My P.C.S. at 2200Z/4, 048° 29' N. 023° 26' W. 050°, 17, altering at 0600Z/5 to pass through 057° 40' N. 009° 50' W. (Capt. D.3 2333Z/4 to R.A.D. H.F.)
- W.A.  
Command.                          Situation at 1955A/4. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1359A/4.) See Lion Copy.
- S/M  
Positions.                          At 0800/5. Details.  
(F.O.S. 1641A/4, 0732A/5.)  
See Lion Copy.
- NEWFOUNDLAND.                  On successful completion of trials at Rosyth request you will sail NEWFOUNDLAND for Scapa to work up.  
(D.O.D. H. 1832A/4 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- QUAIL.                              On completion of satisfactory trials on 7th January request you sail QUAIL for Scapa to work up before joining Eastern Fleet.  
(D.O.D. H. 1933A/4 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- WORCESTER.                        Seidisfjord. Arrival WORCESTER at 1935/4.  
(A.C.I.C. 2231A/4.)



4.1.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Submarines.

Position of submarines at 0800/5th Jan. and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) P.216, 71° 26' N. 17° 01' E. through 69° 00' N. 09° 56' E. and 62° 02' N. 00° 11' E. speed 9 knots.
  - (B) P.312, 71° 05' N. 15° 51' E. through 69° 00' N. 09° 56' E. and 62° 02' N. 00° 11' E. speed 10 knots.
  - (C) P.49, 70° 50' N. 16° 22' E. through 68° 59' N. 11° 00' E., 62° 01' N. 01° 02' E. speed 8 knots.
  - (D) GRAPH 70° 28' N. 14° 18' E. through 70° 22' N. 12° 45' E., 69° 00' N. 08° 52' E. and 62° 01' N. 00° 38' W.
- Submarines in (A), (B), (C), (D) are proceeding probably on the surface.
- (E) P.55 in zone K.104.
  - (F) P.31, OBERON, P.229 escorted by STAR OF INDIA 52° 59' N. 5° 30' W. for Clyde.
  - (G) U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao.
  - (H) U.S.S. BLACKFISH in zone K.506.
  - (J) U.S.S. HERRING in zone K.505.
  - (K) U.S.S. BARB off Vigo.
  - (L) Russian S/M 54, 60° 30' N. 25° 55' W. probably on the surface speed 10 knots through 59° 45' N. 15° 01' W. (see amendment 0732A/5.)
  - (M) Russian S/M S.56 expected to pass through 60° 30' N. 34° 42' W. at 2200A/5 thence through 60° 30' N. 26° W. speed 10 knots.
  - (O) Russian S/M S.55 escorted by SAINT ELSTAN vicinity Pentland Firth for Rosyth (see amendment 0732A/5.)
  - (P) CLYDE 50° 05' N. 22° 55' W. through 50° 02' N. 26° 01' W. and 46° 45' N. 36° 35' W. diving by day until west of 30 W.
  - (Q) UREDD escorted by SWITHA leaves Lerwick 1100A/5 for exercise on surface and submerged in vicinity 59° 35' N. 00° 28' W. vessels return Lerwick 1600A/8.
- (F.O.S., 1641A/4 to Admty.)



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

M.G.B. 318.

Intend to sail M.G.B. 318 at 1630/4 to southward, returning Dartmouth 0900/5th. codeword "Wheel".

2. Request surface bombing restrictions one each side a line joining Start Point and Ilesdebas.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1059A/4 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 1059A/4. "Wheel" sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1628/4.)

Operation  
"Gear-box".  
CHULMLEIGH.

My 0624Z/3rd. Information about the crew of CHULMLEIGH. The ship was shipwrecked south of South Cape on 5th November and bombed by 5 planes on 6th October when 2 lifeboats left for Barentsburg. The lifeboats kept within sight

of each other for 3 or 4 days. One lifeboat was washed ashore at the Hut east of Cape Linne about 12 October. Everyone frostbitten and exhausted. Exact date not known. We had left some provisions and fuel in the Hut for emergency in the winter when ice conditions (~~3 corrupt groups~~) communications. Following are known to be dead, either during abandoning ship, under way, or frozen to death after arrival. Names. The names of 9 survivors still living were given in my signal yesterday. The 2 worst and 2 best ones are brought to Barentsburg and the rest will be brought along today. The other lifeboat with the rest of the crew is missing. We will send 2 expeditions southwards try to find traces or perhaps survivors if they have happened to find Huts with provisions left. ("Gear-box" 1220Z/4 to Admty.)

again  
will  
make

Coastal  
Patrols.

Patrols tonight. Chasseurs 10 (S.O) and 14 to patrol from their normal patrol area to 50° 31' N. 0° 35' E, keeping 8 miles to southward of convoy C.E.144. Return to patrol area after convoy has passed out of Portsmouth Command. Codeword "Advent".

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1355A/4.)

Chasseurs 10 and 14 from Portsmouth patrolling 8 miles to southward of C.E.144 until proceeding to patrol south of E.A.5 Buoy at 2345/4.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1531A/4.)

M.G.Bs.  
317 and 312.

Intend sailing M.G.Bs 317 and 312 at 1800/4th to southwards returning 0800/5th. Codeword "Limited".

(2) Request surface bombing restrictions 10 miles each side of line joining Berry Head, Roches Douvres, and Grand Lejon.

(4) In view of time of return fighter protection not required. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1459/4 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 1459A/4. "Limited" returned.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1910/4.)



War Diary.

4.1.1943.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Clearance of Q.Z.X. 866. Swept two laps today in 'K' formation. One moored mine from neighbourhood of U-buoy was dragged to Ramsgate. It is hoped that it is now in possession of R.M.S.O. complete with sinker. Reference M/S report No.167 para. 2, as far as known all mines swept in Q.Z.X.866 were watching and none below surface. It is suspected, however, that (1) a number of swept mines escaped mine destruction force (2) a number of moored mines were sunk by mine destruction force. This is in amplification of last paragraph of my 1444A/1 which was last report.  
(M/S 9 2246A/4 to V.A. Dover.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. D/F activity indicates large numbers of U-Boats in area bounded by latitudes 047° and 051° N. and longitudes 022° and 027° W.  
(F.O.S. 1236A/4 to CLYDE.)

U-Boat attacked by MILNE and METEOR. Suspect submarine in 048° 24' N. 023° 34' W, now submerged.  
(Capt. D.3 1704Z/4 to Admty.)  
My 1704/4. Initial sighting was a U-Boat conning tower at 5 miles. On arrival in 048° 24' N. 023° 36' W. at 1713Z, MILNE and METEOR carried out attack 7 in (2 corrupt groups) on contact and later on a second contact. Contacts were similar to those U-Boats very deep but were not conclusive as to U-Boat target. Last attack delivered at 1939Z. Area searched until 2150Z when passage was resumed, no further contact being made.  
(Capt. D.3 2207Z/4 to Admty.)

Technical.

Practice Bombs against S/Ms. For the purpose of aircraft A/S Exercises 11½ lb. and 8½ lb. bakelite bombs may be used against all British and Allied Submarines when fully submerged with the exception of those in para. 4 below. The latter should be used whenever possible.

2. 8½ lb. Bakelite Bombs, but no larger size, may be used against British and Allied Submarines on the surface, with the following exceptions.

(a) British 'H' Swordfish, P.511 and P.551, Classes.  
(b) Norwegian Submarine 'B.1'.  
(c) Netherlands Submarines, O.9, O.10, O.14, O.15 and K.14 Class.

3. When used against submarines on the surface, the following conditions are to be observed.

(A) No personnel are to be on the bridge or casing.  
(B) Aircraft are not to drop bombs until a set period after a pre-arranged signal has been received from the submarine.  
(C) a time limit is to be imposed for each run.  
(D) Bombs are not to be dropped from a height greater than 300 feet.



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.Practice  
Bombs  
against S/Ms.  
(contd.)4. U.S. submarine of Subron 50 and Free French submarines JUNON, MINERVE and RUBIS are not to be used in any exercises or trials with practice bombs.  
(D.A/S W. 1241A/4: A. Message 11A.)Casualties and Defects.

REGENT LION. MELBREAK 0520 take tow to Falmouth. At 0730 plot shows MELBREAK in 313° Longships 16 and another ship which may be SEA GIANT in 270° Longships 12. SEA GIANT is to join with all despatch.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 0651/4 to MELBREAK, SEA GIANT.)  
SEA GIANT arrived St. Ives Bay.  
(R.N.O. Penzance 1521A/4.)  
Tow is now in vicinity Wolf Rock proceeding through 180° Lizard Head 3 miles. Proceed immediately to overtake. If not met during the night R/V with tow in position D.1 buoy at 0900 tomorrow.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1635/4 to SEA GIANT.)  
My 1521/4. SEA GIANT sailed from St. Ives Bay at 1700/4.  
(R.N.O. Penzance 1704A/4.)

BARRISTER S O S. BARRISTER. Ashore off Skird Rocks approx. position 53.30 N. 10.00 W. requires immediate assistance.  
(Burnham Radio 0755/4 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)  
Following from BARRISTER. Ashore possibly off Slyne Head. Numbers 2, 3 and engine room making water rapidly. Further pumping impossible. Vessel bumping heavily but upright. Send assistance. Wind S E five, sea rough.  
(Burnham Radio 0823/4 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)  
Have detached KITCHENER to assist BARRISTER.  
(LANDGUARD 0943/4 to C. in C. W.A.)  
If vessel not already been detached render any assistance possible to BARRISTER ashore on Skird Rocks.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1047A/4 to LANDGUARD.)  
Following intercept from Valentia Radio begins. From BARRISTER. 20 ft. water in engine room. Am attempting abandon ship ends.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1050/4 to Admty.)  
Intend to muster convoy with Commodore and send them on with CALGARY. I will go back to BARRISTER as KITCHENER has no large-scale charts.  
(LANDGUARD 1055/4 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Dept. of External Affairs have no information about BARRISTER But are enquiring. In the meantime they say permission would be given if necessary for ships flying White Ensign to go and help. Fire Authorities are enquiring as to possibility of refloating ship without necessity of trans-shipping passengers. Please repeat to C. in C. W.A. and C. in C. Plymouth.  
(U.K. Representative, Dublin 1110/4 to Admty.)

/Following ...



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

BARRISTER Following from Lands End radio. Intercept  
(British, from BARRISTER. Master and volunteers remaining  
6348 tons.) aboard. 1159/4.  
(contd.) (C. in C. Plymouth 1159/4 to Admty.)

Intercepted 1128 G.M.T. De G.C.K. Dublin.  
Arran lifeboat proceeding to your assistance.  
(Niton Radio 1228/4 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Dublin has granted permission to render assistance.  
You should embark personnel recovered by lifeboat from  
BARRISTER.

(C. in C. W.A. 1229A/4 to KITCHENER.)

My 1110/4. Latest (information from) Eire Authorities  
may be summarised as follows. Ship is about six miles N.N.W  
of Point Aughris, is bumping heavily, and probably total loss.  
Three lifeboats on spot (KILRONAN, CLEGGAN, and auxiliary boat  
INISBOFIN) and Dunangus Ferry Boat on way to scene. Eire  
Authorities say some danger to life but feel situation in hand  
and propose to take off crew to CLEGGAN.

(U.K. Representative, Dublin 1305/4 to Admty.)

Intercepted 1329. G.M.T. 500 k/cs. De G.C.K. Dublin.  
Arran lifeboat expects to reach you 1830 zero hours G.M.T. Am  
trying to contact auxiliary lifeboat IRISH BOBBIN to go to your  
assistance also. Transmarine Dublin.

(Niton Radio 1429/4 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

All BARRISTER's Ship's Company embarked but party of 5  
remaining ashore to watch ship. Am sending KITCHENER to  
Londonderry with 66 survivors. I shall stay off shore and  
return tomorrow to recover or blow up confidential books which  
are still in ship but cannot be reached in present weather  
conditions. On completion will go to Londonderry with 3 more  
survivors. Ship's back broken, fore part almost detached.

(LANDGUARD 1801A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

Following from Transmarine Dublin. Arran lifeboat advises  
obliged to seek shelter Roundstone Bay.

(Burnham Radio No.T.O.O. Recd 2321 G.M.T./4.)

Raft. My 2226/3rd and 2228/3rd. Estimated drift since  
raft was sighted by aircraft at 1515A/3rd, West  
to W.N.W. 1 knot.

(C. in C. W.A. 0916A/4 to ANGLE, ARAB, FRASERBURGH.)

My P.C.S. 059° 41' N. 010° 23' W. 299°, 11.

(ANGLE 1100A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

Take ANGLE and ARAB under your orders and organise search  
for missing raft. If nothing sighted by dusk 5th FRASERBURGH,  
BEAUMARIS and BOOTLE proceed to Clyde in accordance with A.C.O.S's  
1545A/4th. Aircraft will be searching tomorrow between 059° 40' N.  
and 060° 10' N. and 011° 30' W. and 012° 50' W.

(C. in C. W.A. 2142A/4 to FRASERBURGH.)

R/V with me in 060° 05' N. 012° 50' W. at 0930A fifth.

(FRASERBURGH 2340A/4 to ANGLE, ARAB.)

/LEO ...



War Diary.

4.1.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

LEO. Fishing Trawler overdue LEO sailed from Scrabster 1110/29/12 for Grimsby in company with Trawlers RECORDO, CONISTON, and KINGSWAY. Last seen by CONISTON N.E. by N. of Kinnaird Head 1800/29. Whole N.N.E. Gale and Snow. N.C.S.Os all stations North of Humber have no news. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1252/4 to Admty.)

Unknown Warship. Following has been read: Message begins. Engine trouble 59.52 W. (sic) 00.55. Ends. (Warship N.G.C.S. A.D. 1335/4.)

BRODRENE. My 2033/13th and my 1100/30th December. May I please have a reply to these signals. (S.S.T.O. Iceland 1806A/4 to D.S.T.)

BODO. Norwegian Whaler BODO overdue at Aberdeen. Following signals received and passed. From BODO to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen: E.T.A. 1000/4 T.O.O. 2000/3. From BODO to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen: Position at 2359A/3 56° 41' N. 00° 08' E. course 282°, speed 10 knots. Request position by R.D.F. at 0200A/4 if possible. OXMO.O.0030A/4. From C. in C. Rosyth to BODO. Transmit Call Sign on 500 k/cs at 0300 for two minutes. Bearings will be transmitted on Port Wave. T.O.O. 0229A/4. From C. in C. Rosyth to BODO. Nothing heard. Repeat your Call Sign at 0400. T.O.O. 0335A/4. From C. in C. Rosyth to BODO. Have you transmitted your Call Sign. Nothing heard. T.O.O. 0410A/4. Above messages passed by Aberdeen W/T and receipt acknowledged. Since when complete failure to establish any W/T communication. Area has been searched by Aircraft throughout the day. Excellent visibility. No signs of Wreckage. One floating mine seen in area. Further search of area will be carried out during daylight hours tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth 1907A/4 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

A.T.32. Convoy A.T.32 comprising ANDES, is due Tail of  
T.A.32. the Bank p.m. 6.1 with following personnel on board. Total 3987.  
2. Vessel will sail as convoy T.A.32 on 14/1. Approximately 1,000 personnel will embark at Tail of the Bank 13/1 and 14/1. (D.S.T. 0239A/4.)

R.A.51. My P.C.S. at 0800/4th is 065° 15' N. 006° 09' W. 185°, 17 knots, altering to 175° at 1100A/4th. (C. in C. H.F. 0731/4 to H.F. Operational.)

Unless other instructions have been received from C. in C. H.F. BLANKNEY, CHIDDINGFOLD, LEDBURY are to R/V with R.A.51 off Iceland and provide escort to Loch Ewe. (2) A.C.O.S. is requested to inform BLANKNEY of time and place of R/V as a result of air R/C.



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- R.A.51 (Contd.) (3) When met Capt. (D) 8 and present destroyers of close escort are to proceed Seidisfiord and complete with fuel. If convoy is not being shadowed H.F. destroyers are then to return to Scapa, BEAGLE as ordered by C. in C. W.A. (R.A.D. H.F. 0830A/4.)
- Arrival Seidisfiord 0410 S.O. Force "R" in SHEFFIELD with JAMAICA.  
(A.C.I.C. 0840A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Expect A/S air escort today by one Catalina from approx. 1431 till last light.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1036A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Cancel my 1036A/4.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1257A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)  
R.A.51. Destination of BEAGLE Greenock.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1420A/4 to Capt. D.8.)  
Unless orders to the contrary received intend sailing direct Scapa JAMAICA in company at 0930A/5th, S.O.A. 19 knots, routed (?East of) Faeroes. E.T.A. 1600A/6th.  
(F.O.C. Force "R" 2037A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)  
(R.A.(D) H.F. 0830/4. For CHIDDINGFOLD read WORCESTER.  
CHIDDINGFOLD is to proceed Scapa on special instructions from C. in C. H.F.  
(S.O. Force "R" 2225A/4.)
- Convoy W.P.273. Plot indicates you are 4 miles South of your route. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0745/4 to Escorts W.P. 273.)  
Your 1020/4. Comply with C. in C. Plymouth 1049/4th.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1215A/4 to GLAISDALE.)
- Oil Fuel in North Russia. C. in C. H.F. 1147/30th December which I have just received. I am refusing to give up any fuel oil from merchant vessels now here until I can see sufficient westbound cargo for them all. It is probable that a number will sail with surplus oil still on board acting as ballast. Is this satisfactory.  
(2) Of the vessels in J.W.51 A discharging at Murmansk only BEAUREGARD has any real surplus. Fuel oil tanks in GREYLOCK and GATEWAY CITY have been contaminated. Admiralty pass to Ministry of War Transport.  
(Dalgleish, Murmansk 0747A/4 to Admty.)
- M.K.S.4. C. in C. W.A.'s 2117/2nd. M.K.S.4 Bristol Channel slow E.T.A. The Smalls 0400A/5th, less LACLAROUGE, OCEAN VICTORY, EMPIRE HEYWARD, plus EMPIRE HAVEN and PENDEEN short of coal. Request destination for 2 latter ships.  
(ALYNBANK 0925A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Detail 1 sloop to escort ships to destinations. Remaining escorts of Londonderry from 06° W. ALYNBANK to comply with my 1008/4.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1103/4 to ALYNBANK.)

/Have ...



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- M.K.S.4. Have left convoy in 053° 48' N. 010° 59' W.  
(contd.) 1200A/4, course 320°, speed 8 knots, with  
CALGARY escorting. All ships present except  
ETHEN ALLANC. Am joining KITCHENER who reported  
in visual signal touch with BARRISTER and taken off crew 1866.  
(LANDGUARD 1305A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 1703/4. Loch Ewe portion, for 2 ships read one,  
EMPIRE MASSEY. Propose she proceeds independently.  
(LONDONDERRY 1651A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)  
M.K.S.4 fast and M.K.S.4. Ships for Loch Ewe are to  
proceed independently from 008° W. One escort is to be  
detailed to escort Liverpool Section of both fast and slow  
portions.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1743A/4 to LONDONDERRY, CALGARY.)  
M.K.S.4. Destination of ROBERTS is Clyde.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1916A/4 to ROBERTS.)
- J.W.51 B. Break W/T silence at night and report P.C.S.  
BRAMBLE. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1002A/4 to S.O. M/S F.1.)  
My 1954A/2nd. After meeting with C.O. of  
JAMAICA and from portions of shells now on board  
that ship, target which was hit would appear to be German  
Armoured Ship LUTZOW who may have been hit by as many as 5  
salvoes.  
(S.O. Force "R" 1556A/4 to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)  
I congratulate you on bringing the convoy safely into  
harbour under very difficult local conditions.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1654A/4 to OBEDIENT, GARTH.)
- P.W.F.273. CUSHENDUN sailed from Mounts Bay at 0945 without  
CUSHENDUN. instructions presumably owing to weather. R.N.O.  
Penzance is endeavouring to contact vessel and  
bring her into St. Ives Bay to await convoy.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1019A/4 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- U.R.56. U.R.56 arrived SNELAND, ROLFSBORG, HORSIA,  
ROSENBERG.  
(N.C.S.O. Iceland 1102A/4.)
- D.F.1. Intend sailing LEINSTER p.m. 6th January to R/V  
with escort in 270° Cape Wrath 18 miles at  
1600A/7th, thence as ordered by A.C.O.S.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1108A/4 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes.)
- Convoy "Status" is cancelled. Lack of ships.  
"Status". (C. in C. Rosyth 1156A/4.)
- K.M.S.7. Sailed Bristol Channel Section as in my 1201A/2  
escorted by POTENTILLA.  
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1215A/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- O.N.S.158. C.T.U. 24.1.14 in CHURCHILL (H/F D/F) plus RESTIGOUCHE (H/F D/F) COLLINGWOOD, BRANDON, AMHERST, SHERBROOKE sailed to meet O.N.S.158. (C.T.G. 24.7 1332Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
- SAN CIPRIANO. My 2011A/3. As thick fog and ice likelihood of further delay SAN CIPRIANO consider it better you await her at Iokanka. Further report follows. S.B.N.O. North Russia pass to N.O.I.C. Murmansk. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1342A/4 to S.O. M.F.6.)
- P.S.5. P.S.5 and S.P.5 postponed 24 hours.  
S.P.5. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1357/4.)
- O.N.159. Intend sailing JONQUIL and COREOPSIS 1000/5th for Lough Foyle to fuel and overtake O.N.159 in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1232/2nd. E.T.A. 0200/6th. S.O.A. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1428A/4.)  
Intend to sail VANESSA 1700A/5 for Lough Foyle to fuel and overtake O.N.159. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1452A/4.)
- Trawlers in North Russia. Request your intentions regarding trawlers LADY MADELEINE, NORTHERN WAVE, NORTHERN GEM and VIZALMA. They can be very useful here for local escort and A/S patrol particularly during the period between departure R.A.52 and arrival of J.W. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, Polyarno 1538A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)
- O.N.S.154. Search for survivors. Your 1720/30 para.5. Have searched to a distance of 120 miles Western and Eastern limit of Sector. 345° and 045° from position given. Am proceeding according to your 1309A/4th, Scapa. (Capt. D.3 1611Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 1525A/4. (?Search will be) completed in accordance with your 1550A/3rd and Captain (D) 3's 1713Z/3rd (?latters) 1700Z/6. PRESCOTT do this searching between position and Azores on passage to Ponta Delgada. F.O.C. Gibraltar Force informed by PRESCOTT of E.T.A. will report my movements. Position 42.04 N. 28.42 W. (WOODSTOCK 1625Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N. and O.N.S. Convoys. When ships for South Atlantic port are included in O.N. and O.N.S. convoys they are not to be detached from the convoy until orders to do so are received from shore authority. (C. in C. W.A. 1621Z/4.)  
Cancel A.M. 1618/18th October, 2137/27th October, 1328/29th October, 1906/8th November and 1859/31st December.



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.O.N. and  
O.N.S.  
convoys  
(contd.)

2. Ships which would normally sail in O.S. convoys should until further instructions be sailed in all O.N. and O.N.S. convoys.
3. Such ships should have minimum bunkers for 2,500 miles at convoy speed plus an independent voyage of 4,000 miles to cover from dispersal point to either Freetown or Recife. Ships able to bunker for destination beyond these ports should do so on the basis that the voyage from dispersal point to Capetown for ships not intending to bunker at an intermediate port should be assessed at 7,500 miles, and for other ports in proportion. The usual safety margin for adverse weather should be added.
4. Where the resulting margin of endurance is small, an intermediate bunkering port should always be given, and in such borderline cases ships for the Cape and River Plate should be given a route through to destination, with a suitable position at which to leave for the bunkering point. The Masters should be told that they may omit the bunkering port provided that when in this vicinity they have a margin of 1,000 miles endurance for the Cape and 500 miles for the River Plate over and above requirements for the original route ordered. If the bunkering port is omitted Master must report his intentions by W/T giving his position as laid down in C.A.M.S.I.52.
5. Bunkers at intermediate ports are obtainable at (A) Bahia for oil burning steamers of not more than 28 feet draft, (B) Recife (Pernambuco) for oil burning and motor ships of over 28 feet draft and all coal burners, (C) Freetown for coal or oil.  
(D.T.D. 1936A/4.)

Naval  
Hospitals  
in North  
Russia.

As a result of first British Convoys to Kola Inlet there are now four Officers and 38 Ratings at R.N. Hospital Vaenga including 31 action casualties and two air raid casualties.

(2) This is proof, if it were required, that policy adopted in forcing through hospital ship plan in face of Soviet opposition was sound. I hope nothing will be allowed to interfere with establishment of hospital at Archangel. My 1418 of 2nd December refers.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1721/4 to Admty., C. in C. H.F., S.B.N.O. Archangel, Adm. Miles.)

H.X.219.

H.X.219. Average speed 8.7 knots. Arrived off Oversay 2200Z/27. All arrived.  
(D.T.D. 1738A/4 to Connnav.)

S.C.114.

Loch Ewe ships are to be escorted from Split to 57° N. by 1 corvette, thence proceeding unescorted.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2043A/4 to Escorts of S.C.114.)

Tankers for  
Milford Haven.

Your 1051/4. Such ships will not be sent to you between 12th January and 4th February.  
(D.T.D. 2321A/4 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

A/S Air Escorts. Your 1054/2. I concur that these arrangements are suitable for providing A/S Air Escort for O.L.-S.L. convoys but I must have a clear appreciation of the effect this will have on A/S Air Sorties from Gib. for protection of "Torch" convoys.

2. Your para 6. It is proposed to send a detachment to Agadir for period when O.L.-S.L. convoys are passing or to keep a permanent detachment there. In either case what additional G.R. aircraft are required at Gib. to maintain present A/S effort. ( N.C.X.F., 1701A/4 to V.A. Gib. (R) Admty., H.Q.E.A., F.O.C. W.A. F. S.N.O.C.A. )  
Reply: 1546/5.

N.C.X.F. at Bone. N.C.X.F. is proceeding in LOOKOUT to Bone 0800/5 returning p.m. same day. (N.C.X.F. 1823A/4 to Admty.)

Situation re. K.M.S. convoy berthing. Your 91146 (Q.(M) 2) 2 Jan. (2100/2) For Q. (M) 2 from G. 4 Mov and Th. Signed C. in C. Anticipated berth occupation during next four weeks makes acceptance of K.M.S.8 in advance of programme date impracticable. Weather effects on K.M.S.5 acceptance of Malta shipping bomb damage at Bone and coastal shipping for Tunisian operations have placed Algiers and all ports east behind programme. Have been compelled to hold twelve ships of K.M.S.6 at Gibraltar temporarily owing to lack of berths. Memorandum on present situation forwarded with Lieut. Colonel Wood leaving here by Air today Jan. 4th. Every effort being made to avoid postponement of present convoy arrival date but anticipate it will be essential to open schedule to sixteen days if ships are to catch their return convoys.

N.C.X.F. concurs.  
( Freedom Algiers, T.O.O. Nil. to W.O. (Recd. in W.O. 1235/6)  
Recd. in Admty. 2020/6.



4.1.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area.

Supply of  
wheat.

This is not a directive from C.C.O.S. but is a statement from Committee of Combined Boards.  
1. We will make wheat or flour shipments at the 10,000 ton monthly rate subject to the questions raised in our Fan 54 of 3rd January. However, since U.S. ships are going only to Casablanca and Oran, the question arises as to the supply of wheat or flour to the Algiers area. How do you propose that this be handled? As there are strong shipping reasons against supplying Algiers from U.K., it is essential for us to know how you propose to meet Algiers need.

2. Similar questions arise with respect to the supply of other civilian goods. Are all supplies for Algiers area to come out of supplies to which you refer in your 3189 or are you obtaining additional supplies from U.K. for Algiers?

3. Combined Shipping Adjustment Board has been informed that Nasbo has given North African Economic Board an estimate of about 10,000 tons of French imports from West Africa a month. Combined Food Board is most anxious that import requirements of North Africa for vegetable oils and seeds should be most carefully screened and that the maximum use be made in North Africa of substitutes such as olive oil.

(Agwar, Washington, 0639Z/4 to Usfor, Algiers).



War Diary

4.1.1945  
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

LLANGIBBY CASTLE, O.N.S.154 Survivors. My 2357/3rd. On arrival Ponta Delgada, LLANGIBBY CASTLE is to embark maximum possible number of survivors of O.N.S.154 for passage to U.K. 2. If Master considers it inadvisable to enter harbour, survivors are to be ferried off by escort. 3. N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada has been informed that your E.T.A. is 1000A 6th. 4. On completion of embarkation proceed to U.K. through position (P) 045° 01' N. 019° 59' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Western Approaches. 5. Report time of sailing through N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada. 6. Attention is called to my 1330 3rd para. (14)

(V.A. Gibraltar, 0015A/4, to EXE (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Your 0015A 4th and C.A.F.O. 1924/43 para. 6. 2. LLANGIBBY CASTLE has requested 300 tons water on arrival allowing for ship being filled to capacity. Ship can accommodate 1000 on troop deck. My P.C. and S. at 1800A (?4th) 038° (?17') N. 015° 48' W. 265° 12 knots. Weather Report.

(EXE, 1807A/4, to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Movements. Arrivals ARGONAUT, VENOMOUS, VELOX, WIVERN. (V.A. Gib. 0545A/4, to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O. Force "H" Admty., Cdre., Algiers. F.O. Oran.)

HAYDON. Your 0230A/4th (Sent by W.R. requesting repetition of 1616/3 referred to in V.A. Gib's 2008/3.) Following is a repetition of N.C.X.F.'s 1616/3rd: Addressed: HAYDON (R) V.A.Gib. S.O. Force "H" F.O. i/c. Oran from N.C.X.F. Proceed Algiers. Pass through position 80 and 12 Report E.T.A. T.O.O. 1616/3rd (Ends.) (V.A. Gib. 0628A/4 to Admty.)

ABDIEL. E.T.A. 0645 A/5th with Capt. Parry and 2 passengers, 80 bags G.P.O. mail and 75 special bags. Require 600 tons fuel and 900 pounds fresh vegetables. Request Med. chart folios navigation publications and requisite S.Ps and Med. Fleet orders be placed on board on arrival. Shall be ready to sail on completion of fuelling. (ABDIEL. 0945A/4 to V.A. Gib.) Intend sailing ABDIEL for Algiers at 1600/5th routed through 78.32 49.12 100 (?E.T.A.) 0900 6th. (V.A. Gib., 2228A/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., S.O. Force "H", ABDIEL, F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers.)

LARIAT. Following from LARIAT to Admty. (R) C.C.R.T., Position 31° 17' N. 35° 10' W. course 080° engine unreliable main engine fuel atomization becoming more difficult incomplete combustion and passing piston ring, lubricating oil affected, speed reduced to 8½ knots. Submit a tug should be sent to stand by. (Burnham Radio, 1045GMT/4, to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

/PRESCOTT...



War Diary

4.1.1942  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic - Contd.

PRESCOTT E.T.A. off Ponta Delgada 1200Z/5th Requirements.  
 C.A.F.O. 1924/42 not held. Request instructions.  
 26 survivors from PRESIDENT FRANCOU Belgian  
 tanker, on board, some require medical attention. Wireless watch  
 kept on B.N. routine.  
 (PRESCOTT, 1058Z/4 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) WOODSTOCK, B.C. Ponta  
 Delgada, N.A. Lisbon, C. in C. W.A., LONDONDERRY.)  
 Your 1058Z/4th. Enter Ponta Delgada on arrival and make  
 immediate contact with N.C.S.O. Your stay is limited to 24 hours.  
 (V.A. Gib., 1725A/4, to PRESCOTT. (R) C. in C. W.A., N.C.S.O.  
 Ponta Delgada, B.N.A. Lisbon.)

Germans from Boat with 38 Germans picked up by Spanish fishing  
 RHAKOTIS boat landed Corunna night Jan. 3rd. 127 Germans  
 (sunk 1/1 by said missing. Germans report having sighted our  
 SCYLLA). submarine, before being captured they scuttled their  
 ship. Name unknown.  
 (Corunna, 1300/4 to Admty., (R) Gibraltar and B.N.A.  
 Madrid.)

Your 1300/4th: Please endeavour to learn names. Watch  
 carefully attitude adopted by Spanish authorities in regard to  
 treatment of men. Also inform me when and by what means they  
 leave Corunna. London and Gibraltar to be informed.  
 (A.N.A. Madrid, 1722/4, to R.O., Corunna. (R) Admty., S.O.(I)  
 Gibraltar.)

My 1300/4th. 37 more men landed Corunna Jan. 4th among them  
 one British, one Swedish, and 8 Norwegians, all in my charge.  
 Name of German vessel RHAKOTIS sunk by gunfire by British warship  
 Jan. 1st some 140 miles N.W. Cape Finisterre. Vessel from Japan  
 and Batavia bound to Bordeaux.  
 (Corunna 2130/4, to Admty., (R) Gibraltar and B.N.A. Madrid.)

O.N.154 Your 1520/3rd (Requests news of Cdre. Egerton of  
 Commodore. O.N. 154.) Master of VILLE DE ROUEN reports as  
 follows. SHEDIAC received message from FIDELITY  
 reporting Cdre. and 42 survivors from EMPIRE  
 SHACKLETON on board. Ship proceeding Azores speed 2 knots.  
 FIDELITY not yet arrived Azores.  
 (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1405/4, to Admty., (R) V.A. Gib.)

Gibraltar My 1418/29. Personnel and a considerable quantity  
 Shipments of stores, including bullion arrived in LOYAL and  
 and Signals EXE, no prior information had been received from  
 K.M.F. 6. Admty., resulting in hasty arrangements having to  
 be made for disembarkation during period of  
 fuelling of ships during the night. 2. It is  
 believed mails and stores for Gibraltar are also embarked in  
 remaining escorts of K.D.F.(?K.M.F) 6 who proceeded direct to  
 Algiers. 3. A considerable number of signals dated 15th Dec.  
 arrived by air mail on 30th Dec. It is useless to send details  
 by this means unless it can be assured that bag will arrive within  
 reasonable period. In this case the ships had arrived long  
 before the signals, and ARGUS actually arrived back in U.K. one  
 /day...



MOST SECRET.

125A  
125B  
125C  
125D

4.1.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions.

Situation report Area Z at 2017Z/4.

(1) G.U.F.3 Task Force 35 031° 50' 027° 46' 289° 12.

(2) L.C.I. (L) S. tug DESTINY 029° 49' 032° 23' 088° 10.

(3) Tug LARIAT 031° 38' 034° 02' 080° 9½.

(4) T.M.L. HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL, H.M.S. SAXIFRAGE 023° 46' 039° 43' through 024° 59' 037° 38' thence 060° 9.

(5) ERNE, LEITH, SANDWICH 026° 08' 015° 32' to R/V C.F.10 in position 024° 18' (017° 33') at 1000A/5 and escort to 045° 12½.

(6) C.F.10 ASTURIAS, ILEX, CYCLAMEN, BELLWORT 022° 16' 019° 45' 045° 12½ escort part company in position 024° 18' 017° 33' at 1000A/5 through 022° 02' (015°) 01' thence 181°.

(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1341A/4).

My 1341A/4 add new para. (7). Hospital ship ATLANTIS 43.32 32.37 through 41.01 37.01 thence to southwestward 15.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 2020A/4).

Situation Area X. at 2002A/4.

(1) U.S. S/M BARB on patrol off Vigo.

(2) D.S. DOLFIJN 38.32 10.01 through 36.55 09.11 at 1000/5th and 36.37 07.26 at 2200/5th on surface 7½ knots.

(3) K.M.S.6 (?together with) one sloop 8 corvettes 35.58 06.20 through Straits of Gibraltar (?7)½.

(4) M.K.S.4 (Y) SLAZAK P.D., COMMANDANT DETROYAT F.S., H.M.S. STARWORT, WENSLEYDALE, 43.13 15.01 02,10 knots.

(5) U.S. Destroyer TRIPPE, P.C.481 2 tankers 34.06 06.55 coastwise 11 knots arriving 180° Tarifa 4 at 0830A., 5th thence to Gibraltar. Escort part company to return to Casablanca, 15.

(V.A. Gib. 2244A/4).

(6) EXE, SOUTHERN PRIDE, one merchant ship (37).46 16.35 268 11½.

(7) HAARLEM 36.09 12.19 93.7.

(8) DRANGEY 36.23 09.07 101 7.

(9) PETUNIA 36.21 13.18 through 36.01 10.01 to Gibraltar 12.

(10) EMINENT 38.08 17.22 104 10.

(11) ABDIEL 37.08 10.08 through 36.30 09.10 and 35.59 06.01 to Gibraltar 23.

(12) ARCTIC RANGER, H.M.S. MIRROR repairing cable in position 37.07 09.21.

(13) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MARIE LOUISE MACKAY repairing cable in vicinity of 35.56 05.58.

(14) ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER repairing cable in Casablanca area.

(15) Italian repatriation ships DUILIO, GIULIO CESARE expected sailing from Las Palmas a.m./5th course 31° 16 knots.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1342A/4).

/Situation...



MOST SECRET.

125A  
125B  
125C  
125D

War Diary.

4.1.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions  
Contd.

Situation at 1958A/4th.

1. G.U.F.3, Task Force 35, 031° 50' 027° 46' 289° 12.
2. L.C.I.Ls Tug DESTINY, 029° 49' 032° 23' 088° 10.
3. Tug LARIAT at 031° 38' 034° 20' 080° 9½.  
Midnight WOODSTOCK, PRESCOTT expect proceed to Ponta Delgada from Northward.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1345A/4).



War Diary4.1.1943  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- Gibraltar Shipments and Signals, K.M.F.6. (Contd.) day after receipt of A.M. 0012/13 giving details of passengers she brought out to Gibraltar. (V.A. Gib. 1513A/4, to Admty.)
- Force H. NELSON, RODNEY and 6 Destroyers E.T.A. Boom 0940A 5th Jan. Remainder (? carrying out) wind gauge exercises E. of Gibraltar entering harbour before dark. 6 Martlets, 3 Albacores, 3 Seafires will be disembarked, E.T.A. 1530A 5th Jan. (S.O. Force H., 1518A/4 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar. FORMIDABLE.)
- WOODSTOCK. Report to V.A. Gibraltar E.T.A. Ponta Del Gada and amount of fuel required. V.A. Gibraltar is requested to make necessary arrangements. (C. in C. W.A., 1525A/4, to WOODSTOCK, V.A. Gibraltar. (R) Admty.)
- U/B. Following has been read by Gib. Am over enemy S/M in 37.06N., 00.44W. (Gib. A/C JIS Duty C., 1610A/4)  
Enemy S/M previously reported. Periscope only sighted. S/M has dived. (Gib. A/C J.I.S. Duty C., 1640A/4)
- BULOLO and escort. C. in C. W.A. 1651/2. Onward route from position (G) to (H) 40.01 14.10 (J) 34. 01 08.01 thence Casablanca as ordered by S.N.O. Casablanca. (V.A. Gib., 1723A/4 to N.O.I.C.'s Greenock, Belfast, Liverpool, Milford Haven (R) Admty, C. in C. W.A., N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca, WIMBOURNE, WOLVERINE, BADSWORTH.)
- BALSAM. Am detaching BALSAM to enter Gibraltar with condenseritis causing large densities in her water tube boilers. (BLACK SWAN, 1743A/4 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) A.S.Gibraltar, N.C.X.F. Capt. (D) 13.)  
E.T.A. Gibraltar 0130A/5th. (BALSAM, 1957A/4 to V.A. Gib.)
- S.S.RAVENS POINT. Explosion occurred in No. 3 hold of S.S.RAVENS POINT at 1535/4th, No. 3 and 4 holds flooded and ship now aground in 3½ fathoms. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1758A/4.)
- S.S.MIERES. 2884 gross tonnage speed 7½ knots, National and Swiss colours and Switzerland painted on sides, sailed 1815 4th for Genoa by approved route. Not to be interfered with this voyage. (2) N.O.I.C. Malta pass to A.O.C. Malta and N.C.X.F. to E.A.C. C. in C. Med. pass to Capt. (S) 1st. (F.O.C.N.A. 1819A/4 to N.C.X.F. N.O.I.C. Malta. Capt.(S) 1st. Capt.(S) 8th Capt. (S) 10th. (R) Admty.)

/DELHI...



War Diary4.1.1943  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic - Contd.

- DELHI. Admty. 1821/18 Dec. and N.C.X.F.'s 2110/29 Dec. DELHI docked in No. 2 Dock on 1st Jan. Report Temporary repairs. Anticipate undock and complete 14th Jan. 20° helm each side and 16 knots should not be exceeded unless in emergency. No major items of electrical equipment require replacement. She will be sailed subsequently in 1st fast convoy or when escorts are available. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1944A/4, to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)
- G.U.F. 3 By D/F on 12,260 Kc/s at 1330Z/4, U-Boat estimated U/B. to be anywhere within 100 miles of 31° 30' N. 33° 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 1945A/4 to Escorts G.U.F.3. (R) Cominch., V.A. Gibraltar.)
- Minelaying S.N.O.C.A's 1035/3 to V.A. Gibraltar. Mines Casablanca. required 450. Depth of mine case 30 feet, length of Antennae wire 20 feet. Mines will be required to be laid in depths up to 200 fathoms. 2. Minelayers should be sent to Gibraltar to transfer mines and spare tracks to EMPIRE GAT or other coaster as arranged by V.A. Gibraltar. 3. Lieut. Cdr. Kremer should accompany ship to Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F. 1958A/4 to S.N.O.C.A., V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty., Cominch, Cinclant, Comindiv. 50.)
- K.M.S.6 Sailed ROCHESTER, WISHART, VANOC, VERITY, BOREAS, JAUNTY CONVULVULUS, WEYBURN and Gibraltar section K.M.S.6 to R/V and relieve escorts K.M.S.6. H.M. Tug JAUNTY sailed in company in accordance with N.C.X.F. 1228/4. (V.A. ?Gib., 2350A/4 to N.C.X.F., Cdre. Algiers. F.O.I.C. Oran (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q.)
- LARGS Your 2001Z/3. Request route of LARGS BAY. BAY (V.A. Gib. 2356A/4 to F.O.C. West Africa. (R) Admty.)



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

W.S.25                   Departure 3rd Jan. QUILLIAM, CHESHIRE, ALCANTARA, ROCKWOOD, CROCUS, BALUCHISTAN with W.S.25. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0017Z/4 to Admty etc) List of ships and details. (D.S.T.O.W.A., 1741/4)

F.T.T.6                   D/F bearings on 10827 k/cs at 2258Z/3 indicate U-boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 0415A/4 to Escorts of F.T.T.6 (R) F.O.C.W.Af. , C. in C. S.A. Cominch).

P.614,                   Sighted U-boat bearing 065° 4 mile course 060° U/B                   8 knots. U-boat dived. My P.C. and S. 008° 54' N., 017° 27' W., 340° for 2 hours thence 095° 9 knots. (P.614, 0725/4 to F.O.C.W.A.)  
Your 0725/4th. Remain submerged from 1600Z until 2100Z. Air search is being made. Report position at 2100Z. Acknowledge reporting position and situation. (F.O.C.W.A., 1123Z/4 to P.614).  
U-boat sighted by P.614 in 008° 56' N., 017° 25' W., at 0725/4th. (F.O.C.W.A., 1041Z/4 to P.615, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C.Bathurst).  
Expect my arrival at 1730/5th Jan. Acknowledge. (P.614, 2131Z/4 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Capt. (D) 18).

DESPATCH                Departure Pointe Noire 0700Z/4 DESPATCH routed in accordance with your 0925/3 S. of A. 18.5 knots. E.T.A. Freetown 1030Z/8. (B.N.L.O.W.Af. 0955/4 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. DESPATCH, C. in C. S.A.)

Air Cover for           Addressed to Ukrep Pretoria, (R) by Air Ministry  
Convoys,                to A.O.C. West Africa.  
Freetown to            Following from D.N.O.C. Air Ministry.  
Cape.                   Ref. my AX/206 (1745/19 Dec) to Dechief, Pretoria and Dechief's GG/32574 of 21st Dec. Grateful for your information regarding Saldanha and Walvis Bay. As long range landplanes may not be available we now require any information you can supply on airfields suitable for operating medium range aircraft such as Venturas. Convoy routes will be coastal and additional airfields will be required near Angola and Mozambique borders and in vicinity Port Nolloth/Orange River for cover to be given by medium range aircraft (Ends).  
(Dominions Office, No T.O.O. to U.K. High Commissioner in Union of South Africa).

/NORDANGER...



War Diary.

4.1.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

NORDANGER Your 1751A/30. NORDANGER arrived Buenaventura 2nd, due Balboa 5th.  
(S.O.(I) Callao, 1040R/4 to Admty).

T.S. 28, (1) Part company with convoy T.S. 28 as necessary  
W.S. 25 to R/V with convoy W.S. 25 in 002° 20' N., 006°  
24' W., at 0800Z/6th Jan. Approach course and  
Speed of convoy 104° 12½ knots. Capt. (D) 4 in  
QUILLIAM S.O. of Escort.  
(2) BREDON takes over S.O. of escort T.S. 28, Pass to BREDON.  
(3) Further orders follow.  
(R.A.W.A., 1212Z/4 to D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi,  
N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty. Escorts W.S. 25).

INDOCHINOIS INDOCHINOIS deserted Convoy D.N. 6 from Durban  
3 days before dispersal date. Master gives  
as reason speed of convoy too low. Refer  
report of Commodore W.S. 24 regarding similar  
behaviour.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 1232Z/4 to Admty (R) C. in C.  
E.F., C. in C. S.A., Com. Durban).

French Your 1205/29. We are ready to accept a French  
Liaison Liaison Officer at Freetown as we have at  
Officers. Gibraltar if F.O.C. West Africa considers this  
desirable for operational reasons. We cannot  
admit the position that the Officer nominated has  
to be approved by Free French, though we should  
certainly notify any appointment to Free French Naval Authorities  
as a matter of courtesy. It is plainly very desirable that  
an Officer should be selected who is likely to work in smoothly  
with his Free French colleague.  
2. Subject to further views of F.O.C. West Africa a suitable  
Officer may therefore be proposed to us for early appointment.  
It will probably also be easier from Free French point of  
view if we begin with a junior Officer since there will be  
less risk of him dominating the French element in the Colony.  
Preliminary reports by Security Authorities are unfavourable to  
Lieut. Halle and his name should not therefore be put forward.  
We should hope to have an opportunity of vetting any Officer  
put forward for appointment.  
3. Your 0955/1. If a liaison officer is accepted we will also  
see what can be done through Free French Naval Authorities  
to minimise the risk of friction.  
(Head of M. Approved 1st Lord, 1325A/4 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) N.C.X.F.)

CERION Your 1710A/2nd (CERION to join B.T.1. at Bahia)  
was received after ship had sailed for Trinidad  
but Consolant is being requested to divert her  
to Bahia.  
(B.R.L.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1410Z/4 to Admty (R)  
B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro).



129A  
129B  
129C4.1.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. KHYBER 034° 20' S. 023° 50' E. to Durban 9 knots.  
 NORTHERN DUKE standing by DUNEDIN STAR in the vicinity 018° 12' S. 011° 42' E.  
 ROCKROSE about 036° 30' S. 023° 20' E. to Simonstown, 12.  
 W.S.25W, 033° 10' S. 016° 25' E. to Capetown 25½.  
 MEAD 034° 00' S. 026° 30' E. to Durban 8½.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 1143C/4 Area 'Q'.)  
 P.615 about 11.57, 11.27 to 10.01, 16.30 at 1200Z/5th, 8½.  
 P.614 09.05, 16.25 to Freetown 9.  
 HYDRANGEA, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, INKPEN, DUNKERY, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN with F.T.T.6, 07.30, 26.20, 270°, 7½.  
 (F.O.C.W.A., 1249Z/4 to Area 'P' North.)  
 PICT, 2 M.Ls escorting 06.01, 12.12, 125°, 10.  
 QUILLIAM, CHESHIRE, ALCANTARA, CROCUS, BALUCHISTAN, ROCKWOOD with W.S.25 04.10, 13.46, 104°, 12½.  
 CARNARVON CASTLE about 02.25, 13.33 to 01.12 S. 17.37 thence 018°, 16.  
 Netherlands S/M 0.19, 01.20 S. 09.08 through Equator 10.01 at 0800Z/5th thence 306°, 8.  
 RUMBA 00.50, 00.55, 117°, 8½.  
 COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, F.S., ORF(?SA)Y, BREDON, 3 M.Ls with T.S.28, 04.07, 04.47, 261°, 7.  
 JANUS, GLENROY off Pointe Noire 289°, 12.  
 DESPATCH off Pointe Noire 288°, 17.  
 Allied Naval Units on patrol to south-west of Equator 18.00.  
 (F.O.C.W.A., 1343Z/4 to Area P, South.)



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Attack on U/B. My 1906Z/1. At 1755/1 Catalina at 3,000 feet sighted U-boat range about 3 miles in 8° 21 N. 14.25 W. Aircraft attacked down sun dropping from 50 feet 6 torpedoes (as received. ?Torpex) Mark 11 charges set to 25 feet, with one foot of C/T still visible. All charges exploded to port nearest 30 feet from C/T. One hour later bubbles and oil patch sighted 5 miles distant. Aircraft considered U-boat Italian. Subsequent search by A/S vessels negative. (F.O.C.W.A., 1425Z/4 to Admty).

PENRITH CASTLE, suspicious. Following has been read:- PENRITH CASTLE followed by suspicious vessel 31.38 S., 34.08 E. 1500/4 De ZSQ. (Simonstown W/T, 1508 G.M.T./4).

Dockings, Durban. Your 0748/1. Following docking programme for Durban is concurred in by C.S.R. TYNDAREUS and TAIREA 5th to 12th Jan. VALIANT and EREBUS 13th to 20th. RESOURCE and INDIA 21st to 7th Feb. ATLAS 7th Feb. to 13th Feb. in Outer Dock. MOONREST 7th Feb. to 7th March in Inner Dock. C.S.R. states that is essential that VALIANT arrives in time to dock 13th January. (C. in C. S.A., 1514C/4 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty. etc).

STANFORD Your 1353/2. STANFORD arrived Durban 24th Dec. N.C.S.O. Durban, 1401/24 refers. (C. in C. S.A., 1636C/4 to Admty).

A/S Trawlers. Simonstown arrival, 3rd, NORTHERN CHIEF, Capetown 4th ST. LOMAN. (C. in C. S.A., 1728C/4 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.)

French West Africa. My 0013Z/1. Have just seen full text of agreement between Glassfurd and Collinet brought to Freetown by Cdr. Harris U.S.N. who has fully explained Glassfurd's views. My doubts as to division of strategic responsibility are entirely set at rest and the arrangements proposed seem to me good as could be made under the circumstances. Under these arrangements I do not foresee any difficulties over Bathurst being in French Naval District. A.O.C.W.A. concurs. (F.O.C.W.A., 1747/4 to Admty (R) Resmin, N.C.X.F.)

GOOD HOPE accommodation. In view of increasing demands for officers for Eastern Theatre and these recently presented by F.O.C.W.Af's 301/73 of 15th Nov. 1942, an increase in accommodation of GOOD HOPE is an urgent matter. 2. Request early decision on proposals in my 1440/30th Nov. (C. in C. S.A., 1752C/4 to Admty (R) R.A.T.E. GOOD HOPE).

/ACTIVE...



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.ACTIVE,  
attack on  
U/B.

ACTIVE's attack on Oct. 8th 1942, probably achieved the destruction of a German U-boat. We congratulate ACTIVE on this success.  
(D.A/S.W., \*1807A/4 to ACTIVE)  
\*Approved 1st S.L.

PIERRE LOTI

My 0953Z/31st (re SS. PIERRE LOTI reports aground on sandy bottom fourth West Corisco Is. Gulf of Guinea).

HYDRANGEA,  
COMMANDANT  
DROGOU.

Amend my 1303/3 (ordering escorts of Convoy F.T.T. 6 to return to Freetown on relief)  
(1) Completing HYDRANGEA and COMMANDANT DROGOU with fuel before relief.  
(2) On relief HYDRANGEA, COMMANDANT DROGOU, proceed to position X, 011° 30' N., 037° 30' W. and carry out zigzag A/S sweep mean line advance 353°. At 1100Z/10th turn reciprocal course and sweep back through X to Y 013° 58' N., 033° 08' W. from Y return direct to Freetown.  
(3) On relief trawler\* proceed to X and carry out zigzagging sweep to Y. From Y return direct to Bathurst. If endurance does permit return to Bathurst direct.  
(4) Attention is called to C.B.4097 article 353 and 354. Ships are to be at half visibility distance by day and night and good lookout kept aloft.  
(5) HYDRANGEA pass to (warship?) in company.  
(F.O.W.A., 1913Z/4 to HYDRANGEA, (R) S.B.N.O. W.A., Admty. B.A.D., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, MILFORD) \*MORRIS DANCE.

OAKBANK  
(torpedoed  
27 Dec.).

Ref. 1530/31 Dec. from R.O. Fortelaza, not to Admty. OAKBANK survivors who arrived Fortelaza landed here by COMMANDANTE RIPPER. Following is further information. Correct time of attack 2250 G.M.T. Ship sank immediately after 2nd torpedo struck. Submarine which was not seen before attack and only vaguely seen afterwards searched for lifeboat with searchlight but did not contact them; described as large S/M with over hanger on fore part of C/T and armed with 2 guns. Captain's boat not yet reported.  
(R.O. Recife, 1940Z/4 to Admty).

U.S.Movements. Departure 1st Jan. U.S. Dest. WINSLOW departure 3rd arrival 4th U.S. Dest. SOMERS.  
(R.O. Recife, 2035Z/4 to Admty).

/Shipping...



4.1.1943.

Monday,

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

- Shipping at Bahia  
T.B. Convoys.
- Connav's 1627 and 1956 of 31st Dec. (re U.S. controlled vessels departing Red Sea be routed to Bahia - N.T. in W.D.) It is estimated that approx. 60 such ships per month sail on this route
2. Information is requested (A) if the anchorage at Bahia is protected (B) Scale of escort.
  3. Presumed that possibility of Bahia approaches becoming equally dangerous as Trinidad approaches has been considered, and we should be grateful for information as to amount and extent of air cover available.
  4. Existing bunkering facilities allow oil-burners of not more than 28 feet draft and a few coal-burners only to bunker at Bahia. All others must bunker Recife, A.M. 2002/4 refers. Will there be facilities for joiners from Recife?
  5. Ref. Connav's 2035/8th Dec. and subsequent signals, is it the intention to include all or any of this traffic in T.B. convoys?  
(D.T.D., 2256A/4 to B.A.D.)



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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- PERSEUS  
(overdue  
Dec. 1941) Official Italian announcement 4th January 1943  
claims PERSEUS was sunk by gunfire from Italian  
submarine ENRICO TOTI.  
(The Times, 5th January 1943.)
- M.W. 18. Total unloaded to 1800/3rd, 16(\*?04) tons plus  
7613 tons oil fuel.  
(V.A. Malta, 0105A/4 to C. in C. Med.)  
\* Could also be 23, 52.
- P. 42. Your 2152/3rd. Intend waiting near G for N.W.  
gale to abate, sea 64.  
Expect me 0800/6th or 7th.  
(P.42, 0117Z/4 to Capt. S.10, (R) S/Ms on Patrol.)
- CROOME. My P.C. and S. 032° 10' N. 025° 04' E. 104°, 20  
knots. Westerly Alexandria 1600B/4th.  
(CROOME, 0405B/4 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria, (R)  
C. in C. Med., etc.)
- HURWORTH. Your 1235B/3rd Dec. Delayed by bad weather  
cannot reach position 20 from? north of "Mist"  
before 0900B/4th. My P.C. and S. are 032° 53'  
018° 42', 117°, 17 knots.  
(HURWORTH, 0600B/4 to S.O. Force I.)  
Speed further reduced by bad weather. My P.C. and S. 032°  
35' 019° 22', 115°, 14 knots altering to 070° at 1000B.  
(HURWORTH, 0900B/4 to S.O. Force I.)  
My P.C. and S. 032° 40' N. 020° 14' E. 065°, 20 knots.  
(HURWORTH, 1200B/4 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C.(D) Med.  
Fleet, N.O.I.C. Alexandria, Chief of Staff Med. Fleet,  
S.O. Force I.)
- P. 42,  
THUNDERBOLT. Owing to delay of P.42 you will both be coming  
through Q.B.B.255 together. P.42 keep East and  
THUNDERBOLT West of route.  
(Capt. S.10, 0757A/4 to P.42, THUNDERBOLT, (R)  
S/Ms on Patrol.)
- L.C.M. 26. L.C.M.26 sunk off Taifa Rocks 2nd Jan.  
(No Originator, 0904/4 to Admty., (R) D.G. C.O.  
M.E., R.A.L., SAUNDERS.)
- T.E.12,  
DINGLEDALE. T.E.12 Algiers section arrived 1145/3.  
(2) R.F.A. DINGLEDALE arrived from Bone 1845A/3.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 0922A/4 to Admty., Connav, N.C.X.F.  
V.A. Gibraltar.)

/Movements ...



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Movements. Arrival 3rd Jan. DULVERTON, TETCOTT, ERICA, G.S. SAKTOURIS, LA MOQUEUSE, F.S. COMMANDANTE DOMINE, HAILSTORM, ANTWERP, M.T.B.309. Departure 3rd Jan. BELVOIR.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria, 0932B/4 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
- ALBARO (Italian) ALBARO arrived Istanbul 1st Jan. S.1 and N.L.O. Black Sea informed. Delay in reporting regretted.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 0941C/4 to S.O.(I) Med., (R) D.N.I.)
- WELSHMAN. Arrival.  
(V.A. Malta, 0947A/4 to N.C.X.F., etc.)
- Black Sea. N.L.O. Black Sea reports naval staff now gradually returning to Tuapse.  
(Adm. Miles, 1014C/4 to Admty.)
- Jibuti Situation. Com. Aden report reference Jibuti. Have returned to Aden after seeing Legentilhomme and Gen. Platt. N.L.O. Jibuti installed and cypher staff arrived yesterday. Port opened to commercial trade. Still a lack of stevedore labour but this is being rectified. All naval and S.T.O. requirements most willingly afforded by new Governor Bayardelle. Satisfied no mines and though a buoyed and swept channel has been made on line of leading marks from Maskali Island it is not considered any Q message necessary.  
(F.O. Red Sea & Canal Area, 1049/4 to Admty., C. in C. Med., D. of S.T., (R) Com. Aden.)
- URSULA. Arrived Algiers.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1058A/4 to Admty.)
- P. 46. Your 2005/3rd and your 0605/4th acknowledged. Patrol area within 30 miles Cape St. Vito, leaving as requisite to pass by usual route through J at dawn Jan. 7th and enter swept channel at 1200A/8th.  
(Capt. S.10, 1109A/4 to P.46, (R) S/Ms on Patrol, etc.)
- P. 54. Capt. S.8's 1344/1st. Onward route proceed direct to operate in area bounded by lat. 038° 00' to 038° 42' and long. 012° 00' to 012° 45'. S/Ms are not to be attacked unless definitely identified as enemy.  
(Capt. S.10, 1126A/4 to P.54, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. S.8, Capt. S.1, C. in C. Med., S/Ms on Patrol.)

/Bone ...



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Bone,  
berthing  
situation.

Owing to recent bombing only 5 discharging berths available in addition to "Torch" requirements. Suggest future commitments be strictly limited to berths available and two additional days be allowed for discharge of each K.M.S. vessel.

Recommend 18,000 tons collier monthly instead of present distribution of coal in several bottoms otherwise passengers delayed and risk inevitable.

(S.T.O. Bone, 1204A/4 to D. of S.T., (R) P.S.T.O. X.F.)

Cositrep  
645.

Air. Night 2nd/3rd Jan. Malta Wellingtons bombed Tunis, and Sousse harbours starting three fires at latter. Bad weather prevented observation of damage at Tunis.

Ref. Cositrep 644 para. 3. 24 American B.24s and B.25s despatched with 36 Baltimores to attack Heraklion, Tymbaki and Kastelli Pediada aerodromes in Crete and port installations at Suda Bay. Bad weather with low cloud hampered observation of damage at aerodromes although bombs were seen to burst on runways and in dispersal areas at Tymbaki and Kastelli Pediada. At Suda Bay bombs burst near jetty and on camp in vicinity. B.25s and Baltimores were attacked by three enemy fighters of which B.25s shot down 1 and damaged another while Baltimores damaged the third. Two B.25s forced landed in sea on return journey, both crews rescued.

(C. in C. M.E., 1205B/4.)

P. 48  
presumed  
lost.

Regret P.48 has not answered my 1736/31st (? nor) Capt. S.1 0908/3rd and must be considered lost. She was operating in Gulf of Tunis within 15 miles of position 037° 06' N. 010° 35' E. There were 4 claims by Rome Radio during P.48 period of

patrol. P.51 reports hearing some depth charges from P.48 area though never heavy or persistent. C. in C. Med. pass to (? Capt. S.1.), N.C.X.F. pass to Capt. S.8. (Capt. S.10, 1217A/4 to C. in C. Med., (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.1.)

Note by W.R.:— Message passed to F.O.S. by C. in C. Med.

Air R/C.

P.R.U. Maddalena failed owing to weather. Further attempt will be made tomorrow.

(N.C.X.F., 1249A/4 to V.A. Malta.)

Visuals a.m. Jan. 4th. 1000 Naples, no apparent change, photographs taken. 1100 Palermo, 18 destroyers, 7 merchant ships.

(V.A. Malta, 1300A/4 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Visuals Jan. 4th. 1115 Taranto, two battleships. 1215 Messina, 3 cruisers, 5 destroyers.

(V.A. Malta, 1600A/4 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

P.R.U. Jan. 4th. Damaged 8-inch cruiser located at Castellamere by photograph.

(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1851A/4 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

/M.K.S.5 ...



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K.S. 5. Intend sailing (excluding Gibraltar section).  
From Bone DALHANNA, WILLIAM JOHNSON, FORT  
LACLORNE, MELAMPUS, VILLE DE STRASBOURG, EMPIRE  
LANCER. From Philippeville MIDDLESEX TRADER, FORT ST. JOHN.  
From Bougie EMPIRE MALROY, CLAN MACINNES. From Algiers MASIRAH,  
FORT DOUGLAS, OCEAN GALLANT, OCEAN COURIER, LAGOSIAN, STAAD  
MAASSLIUS, PACIFIC SHIPPER, HARBURY, ST. BERNARD, DIRECTOR.  
French Ship MARRAKECH. From Oran HASTINGS, MICHIGAN, WEIRPOOL,  
ROSARIO, UCLRIO, EXCHESTER, EXPOSITOR.  
2. Ballast.  
3. Belfast for orders.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1430A/4 to Admty., Connav, N.C.X.F., V.A. G1b.)

UNA, P.44. UNA and P.44 sailed from Malta 1300A Jan. 4th  
routed through 035° 45' 012° 34' thence through  
K, J, and H. P.44 to patrol area west of line  
Keith Rock - Cape Bon and south of Q.B.201. UNA proceeding  
through G thence direct patrol area south of 038° 43' and between  
longitude 012° 45' and 013° 33'. They have orders not to attack  
submarines unless definitely identified as enemy, and to be at  
120 feet while submerged between K and G.  
(Capt. S.10, 1556A/4 to Submarines on Patrol, (R) C. in C. Med.,  
Capt. S. 1st S.F., Capt. S. 8th S.F., N.C.X.F.)  
Sailed UNA, P.44.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1820A/4 to Admty., etc.)

Enemy Ship Report B.3. Vessel now loaded Trieste for  
Trieste. Istanbul. Departure delayed owing to military  
priority, S.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1619C/4 to S.O.(I) Med., (R)  
S.1, S.10, Admty., (D.N.I..))

P. 228. P.228 leaves Algiers 1600A/5th routed through 038°  
01' N. 005° 01' E. 038° 38' N. 009° 45' E. to  
patrol in vicinity 039° 42' N. 009° 45' E.  
(Capt. S.8, 1720A/4 to S/Ms on Patrol, (R) Capt.  
S.10.)

M.N.B.D.O.II. Your SD/87229 of 21st December.  
1. In view relatively small number of items  
which you can provide without early replacement  
against total listed our 86457 (S.D.2c) of 13th Dec. now decided  
all items our cable will be despatched ex U.K.  
2. If any items issued to M.N.B.D.O.II on arrival these can be  
replaced from those despatched, vide para. 1.  
3. Para. 4 your cable. Organisation M.N.B.D.O.II not comparable  
with M.N.B.D.O.I. New organisation result of latest developments  
and involves increase personnel by approx. 50 per cent and self-  
contained first line transport of units based on reduced army  
scale. New organisation for transport avoids necessity for  
allotment additional transport from Army sources as in case of  
M.N.B.D.O. I where transport was on pool basis.



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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.N.B.D.O.II. 4. Despatch of M.N.B.D.O. vehicles to complete scale must therefore cause some interference your normal vehicle shipment programme. Interference will be reduced as far as possible by spread of shipment M.N.B.D.O. II vehicles.  
(W.O., 1727A/4 to C. in C. M.E.)

M.K.F. 6. Cdre. Algiers is requested to sail M.K.F.6 1800A/6th routed through 100, 39, 109, 70, 37 letters A to E stragglers as convoy.  
(2) Ocean route 036° 20' N. 010° 00' W. 037° 40' 013° 30' W. 040° 00' 016° 15' W. 049° 18' 015° 32' W. 055° 00' 010° 45' W. 055° 25' 008° 30' W. letters F to J omitting I. Stragglers letters M to R with instructions as amended 30 miles to port speed of advance 13.  
(3) Escorts EGRET, CLARE, BANFF, TEST, FISHGUARD.  
(4) Out section joins position 109 1030A/7th with local escort.  
(5) First 2 letters of convoy W/T call sign TX.  
(6) Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Manicure".  
Outcon 326.  
(N.C.X.F., 1742A/4, 1526A/5 to Cdre. Algiers, (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, Capt. (F), H.Q. E.A.C., C.G. 12th Air Force, EGRET, H.Q.C.C., S.O.I.S., A.O.C. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H, Capt. S.8, Admty., C. in C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar.)

LOTUS,  
POPPY  
attack  
on U/B.  
*U. 505 sunk.  
(Lt. Frobenius  
& Lt. 6643.)*

The attack by LOTUS and POPPY on 13th Nov. 1942, probably achieved the destruction of a German U-Boat. We congratulate both ships on this success.  
(D.A/S.W. Approved 1st S.L., 1757A/4 to LOTUS, POPPY.)

Malta  
Intelligence  
Summary  
2000A/3 to  
2000A/4.

Naval. WELSHMAN arrived from Algiers. One of our subs. sank 100 ton schooner laden with petrol southbound for Africa. Two torpedo hits scored on medium sized M/V northbound.  
Air. R/C. Photos 4th Jan. Damaged 8-inch cruiser BOLZANO, last seen Naples 17th Dec, now arrived at Castellamere.  
(Govr. Malta, 1845A/4.)

Malta Air  
Report.

A.I.7, 4th January. C.S.R. Malta. Night 3rd/4th Jan. Bad weather curtailed all operations. No enemy air activity locally. Day 4th January. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1915Z/4.)

/Situation ...



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation Western Desert. Gale weather and sandstorms  
Report along Cyrenaican coast dislocating all traffic.  
No. 315. Several ships broke adrift Benghazi Harbour but  
all now reberthed except one aground. One Harbour  
patrol launch sunk off Alexandria, all crew safe.

2. Submarines. P.211 gunned small schooner ELEANORA ROSA  
carrying 100 tons petrol at 0752/27th Dec. when five miles East  
of Zuara. Two Italian seamen taken prisoner.

3. At 0950/29th Dec. in 34.20 N. 10.54 E. scored two hits on  
1500 ton northbound M/V.

4. P.51 during six days in Marittimo - Bizerta - Pantellaria  
area reports being located five times by enemy A.S.V. aircraft.  
This resulted in twice being hunted by aircraft and once by  
destroyer.  
(C. in C. Med., 1940B/4 to Admty.) *See also 2035B/5, p.171-2.*

FLAMINGO, Admty. 2005/19th Dec. It is hoped to dock  
ERIDGE. FLAMINGO mid January in which case it is possible  
she could be made ready for towage by mid February.  
As new engines are understood to have arrived  
Bombay, it is intended to arrange towage to Bombay subject to  
confirmation after docking.

2. ERIDGE is not fit for Osdan (sic) towage at short notice, but  
is not being prepared for towage in view of para. 3 of my 2214/18.

3. Both ships are being reduced to care and maintenance.  
(C. in C. Med., 2052B/4 to Admty., (R) Commodore (D), A.S.  
Alexandria.)

E.A.C. A.49, 4th January. Operational summary No. 54,  
Report. 1800 hours 2nd Jan. to 1800 hours 3rd Jan.  
Part 1. Operations night. 10 Wellingtons  
detailed to attack Bizerta docks. All bombed  
target or target area between 0500 hours and 0520 hours. All  
returned safely. Some cloudcover obscured detailed observation  
of results but fires started by first aircraft along quay were  
useful guide. Many bursts observed in and near docks and more  
fires seen. Flak moderate. Beaufighters patrolled Algiers  
and Bone Areas.  
(E.A.C. Africa, 2053A/4.)

Movements. Algiers arrival FELIXSTOWE from eastward. HAYDON  
from westward. Departure JULIET with French  
convoy to Oran. LOOKOUT to eastward.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2204A/4 to Admty.)

Situation 1. Bone. Further casualties in air raids 2nd.  
Report ST. MERRIEL on fire, will be sunk. DALHANNA  
No. 42. damaged by near misses and fire. ALARM now  
beached.

2. Force H sailed from Algiers for patrol near  
Balearics then Gibraltar.

3. Oran. ORMONDE and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA in collision at  
2100/2 now arrived Mers-el-Kebir. Extent of damage not yet  
reported.

4. Quiet day at Bone today 4th.  
(N.C.X.F., 2210A/4 to Admty.)

/Jibuti ...



War Diary.

4.1.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Jibuti  
Agreement.

Your 1809/26. Your formula was not acceptable to Free French who were obsessed by the fear that the French N.O.I.C. Jibuti, might have to take directions from a junior British Officer. We have obtained their acceptance to the following. (Begins).  
"In accordance with the directions of the Naval officer Commanding in Chief in the strategic zone of which the Colony forms part either direct or through the Flag Officer in Command, Canal and Red Sea Area or the Commodore Aden".  
2. This seems to us to give you the substance of what you asked for, and an agreement containing a Naval Article in this form is being submitted to the National Committee.  
(Head of M.I. Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 2211A/4 to C. in C. Med.)



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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- TANJORE. Departure TANJORE in tow of tug ZERANG for Bombay. (N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0237Z/4 to Admty. etc.)
- GOLDEN RANGER. Your letter 0405 A.R.N. of 18th. Dec. and 1807/1st not to all addressees.  
2. Propose sailing GOLDEN RANGER shortly on loan to you to act as Fleet attendant oiler at Durban. Request she may be docked and given a short refit in the course of next 2 months. 3. It may be necessary to withdraw her at short notice.  
( C. in C. E.F., 0548Z/4 to Cdre. i/c. Durban, (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty. C.S. Durban.)
- DUNERA. Your 1900/3 Jan. DUNERA is long overdue for general overhaul and suggest if possible LANCASHIRE in B.P. 66 due yours about 23 Jan. be used instead if movement is direct to Haifa.  
( P.S.T.O. India 0629Z/4 to D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf, (R) D. of S.T., P.S.T.O. Egypt.) See also 1921/4
- ILE DE FRANCE Your 0714 3rd. Jan. ( ADELAIDE to escort ILE DE FRANCE.) Onward escort will not be available.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0719Z/4 to A.C.N.B. (R) Cdre. W. Australia etc.)
- JEANETTE SKINNER. Your 0531 2nd. ( Originated by W.R.) Following is a repetition of my 1028/30th. (Begins) Admty. from N.C.S.O. Calcutta, Gladstone Wyllie Agent JEANETTE SKINNER on informing Lloyd's ship ashore on 27th. off Devi River and cargo on fire. Fire extinguished vessel refloated and proceeded under own power on 30th. (Ends.)  
Position 019° 57' 45" N. 086 ° 23' 15" E.  
( N.C.S.O. Calcutta 0852Z/4 to Admty)
- Movements. Arrival 4th. Jan. NIZAM departure 4th. Jan. F.F.S. LEOPARD.  
(F.O.E.A. 1146Z/4 to Admty.)  
Colombo departure 4th. Jan. 1000, ASTER, 1135Z, TRUSTY.  
( S.O.I. Colombo 1208Z/4, to Admty.)
- H.M. Ships out of Action Report. Report by signal to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. the name of all H.M.S's administered by you over 10 years of age which have been out of action for an aggregate total of more than 5 months over the past 2 years for repairs not directly due to enemy action.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1452Z/4 to F.O. E.Africa, F.O.I.C. Ceylon, S.N.O.P.G., (R) Admty.)

/PENRITH ...



War Diary.

4.1.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

PENRITH  
CASTLE.                    Suspicious Ship. 1508 G.M.T. See South Atlantic.

Docking  
Programme.                C. in C. S.A., 1524C/4 See South Atlantic.

Trincomalee  
Defence.                    Your 0342/2 Jan. (N.T. in W.D.) para 7 (Re defence  
of oil tanks when valuable ships at Trincomalee.)  
concur.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1521Z/4 to C. in C. Ceylon. (R)  
Admty. Armindia, F.O.C.R.I.N. )

VALIANT  
destroyers.                Your 1318/31st Dec. Para 3 approved. Para 4, this  
will be arranged.  
(D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C,N.S.(F) 1618A/4 to C. in  
C. E.F.)

Capt. D.2.                Your 0652/1 para. 4 approved.  
(M. Branch. 1900A/4 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C.  
S.A. )

DUNERA,  
ILE DE  
FRANCE.                    Your 1900/3. Cannot agree DUNERA proceeding  
direct from Persian Gulf to Haifa.  
2. P.S.T.O. Middle East should make appropriate  
arrangements for oncarriage from Suez to Haifa of  
Jewish personnel ex ILE DE FRANCE.  
( D. of S.T. 1921A/4 to D.S.T.O. P.G. (R) P.S.T.O.  
India etc.)



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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.BRITISH  
VIGILANCE  
T.M.1.

My 2147Z/3. Ship torpedoed was BRITISH VIGILANCE number 71. No contact made with submarine. SAXIFRAGE picked up 14 survivors 40 unaccounted for. Other escorts have rejoined convoy. (HAVELOCK, 0010Z/4 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty. C.C.S.F. (R) N.O.B. Trinidad). Amended by HAVELOCK 0059Z/9. See North Atlantic.

BATTLEFORD,  
SHEDIAC.

Proceeding in accordance with your 2002Z/3rd SHEDIAC in company. Completed search 043° 30' N., and 044° 30' N., and 027° W., and 028° W. nil result. Completed search in Admty's 1303., A 30th no U-boats (?contact). (?Weather Report). (BATTLEFORD, 0600Z/4 to C. in C. W.A., (R) F.O.N.F., Admty. Capt. (D) 3, WOODSTOCK).

CLAN RANALD  
U/B

Following from Demerara Radio (begins) Received at 1056 G.M.T. X near X SS. CLAN RANALD observed sub. position 11.03 N., 60.49 W., heading East at 1050 G.M.T. (ends). (Kingston J, 0655R/4 to Admty).

DONA  
AURORA  
(sunk 25th  
Dec).

Trinidad report arrival master and 49 survivors U.S. DONA AURORA torpedoed sunk 0938 G.M.T./25th Dec. in 002° 02' S., 035° 17' W. 3 injured taken aboard destroyer. 3 Rafts with about 16 men still adrift. John Oliver passenger, Salvatori Albano, Mess Boy, taken on board U-boat which hoisted Italian Flag. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0959R/4 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Recife, S.O.(I) Montevideo).

H/F position  
Reports  
from M/Vs.

Your 1939A/1. Concur in your desire that four letter call sign be always augmented by an arbitrary numeral. Request instructions be issued. (Connav, 1054Z/4 to Admty).

Floating  
Dock Escort.

Your 2009/3. Arranged. Time permitting request MILFORD and AMARANTHUS be docked for bottom cleaning on arrival. AMARANTHUS also requires renewal all zinc protector plates. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1102Q/4 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A., F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.B. Trinidad).

Overdue Ship.

Cancel my 1114/29 Dec. ship arrived. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1201R/4 to Admty etc).

/OUTARDE...



War Diary.4.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.- Contd.

OUTARDE My 1637/1. OUTARDE ashore Point Aux Allouettes, Miquelon Island.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns Nfld. 1202Z/4 to Admty).

Movements Departure SEAWOLF escorted by GRANBY for St. Johns N.F., BROCKVILLE for Sydney.  
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1301Z/4 to Admty. N.S.H.Q., etc).

Fairmiles (1) Your 1624/30th para. 3 QO.52 QO.62 and for Fighting QO.63 details. Fairmile will be ready to commence French. working up (corrupt group) by 13th Jan.  
(2) Intend Sheathing QO.62 and QO 63 before they (?sail) to Newfoundland.  
(C.O.A.C, 1314Z/4 to N.S.H.Q., (R) F.O. N.F., D. Halifax, D. Newfoundland, C. N.L.O.St. Pierre, Admty. Cominch C.T.24).

U/B Following from Kingston W/T (begins).  
Intercepted at 1644 G.M.T. Submarine sighted 012° 40' N., 068° 32' W., at 1620Z/4.  
(S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1441R/4 to Admty).

A.S.10 Following is repetition of my 1858/29. U.S.N.O.B. Rio de Janeiro Brazil (R) C. in C. S.A. Admty from Connav. "Sail A.S.10 for Suez via  
(L) 28.55 S., 34.10 W. (M) 35.20 S., 21.50 W.  
(N) 40.30 S., 06.45 W. (O) 43.20 S. 09.05 E.  
(P) 41.55 S., 18.45 E.  
Request C. in C. S.A. provide onward route to U.S.N.O.B. Rio".  
Sail when ready if onward route not received C. in C. S.A. inform ship direct. MARIPOSA holds one ship pad 857 and General Tables (21 and (22). U.S.N.O.B. Rio has received this for action.  
(Opnav, 1512/4 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., for information).

U/B Positions. S/M estimate Jan. 4th and U.S. S/M Notice.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1522/4, 1523/4, 1601/4, 1602/4, 1603/4, to Admty).

W.L.E.F. (1) Your 2102/27 Dec.\* Western Local Escort Force is ready to complement.  
(2) Gas Oil fuel is available at New York, Shelburne, Halifax and St. Johns N.F. request consideration be given to deferring the application of your 2102/27 until W.L.E.F. groups can be maintained at greater strength than three or four ships.  
(C.O.A.C., 1523Z/4 to C.T.F.24 (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q.) \* not received.



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- G.U.F.3 By D/F on 5,650 k/cs at 0950Z, U-boat estimated to be anywhere within 100 miles of 32° 00' N., 30° 30' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 1539A/4 to Escorts G.U.F.3 (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q., V.A. Gibraltar).
- S/Ms for C.O.A.C's 1330/2 and C.T.F.24's 1247/3 and  
A/S Training. F.O.N.F's 1400Z/3 are passed for information.  
(2) At present time 3 submarines are fully employed by R.C.N. and R.N. ships on this side of the Atlantic. In addition a large training establishment will be opened shortly at Digby N.S., for which it is desirable that a training submarine be allocated.  
(3) Request therefore the allocation of P.553 to Bermuda may be reconsidered and that the whole question of allocation of submarines for R.C.N. may be gone into by Admty. and Cominch. Letter follows by bomber. B.A.D. Pass P/L to N.M.C.M. (N.S.H.Q., 1642Z/4 to Admty (R) Cominch etc).
- T.M.1. U/B D/F on 12,260 k/cs at 1609Z indicated U-boat in your vicinity which has probably reported you.  
(D.D.I.C., 1845A/4 to Escorts T.M.1. (R) Cominch, V.A. Gibraltar).  
U-boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made a sighting report on a convoy or important unit at 1608Z/4th. 12220 k/cs.  
(Cominch, 1847/4 to HAVELOCK)
- FLINT, Regret to report FLINT, TEXADA and GATESHEAD  
TEXADA, are frozen in at Quebec until 15 April  
GATESHEAD. (approximately) W. GATESHEAD left in builders hands with one engineman and one stoker standing by. Engineroom ratings of FLINT and TEXADA remaining until machinery has been placed in state of preservation. Subsequently care and maintenance party will be retained for two vessels as follows Lieut. Steart R.C.N.V.R. one Ldg. Sea. six seamen two Chief Enginemen two Stokers one Signalmen one telgraphist remaining officers and men of three crews being discharged to CANADA pending your instructions CANADA is requested to inform you if any officers and men are required for casual ratings or pool. N.O.I.C. Quebec is requested to inform CANADA when personnel will be discharged.  
(B.A.T.M. Ottawa, 1916Z/4 to Admty).
- ST. LAURENT, My 1943Z/4 (N.T. in W.D.)  
VANSITTART, (1) ST. LAURENT has extensive defects in both  
H.X.222 generators which cannot be repaired St. Johns due lack spares, also hull damage requiring docking about ten days to complete.  
Ship will be sailed to repair port but this necessitates missing next eastbound assignment with H.X.222 leaving St. Croix as only destroyer in T.U.24.1.11 (2).  
(2) Propose to augment escort with two destroyers of Western support force to prudent limit of endurance.



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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

ST. LAURENT, (3) C.T.F.24's 1801Z/1. Request VANSITTART  
VANSITTART, be held and sailed with this group. C.T.F.24  
H.X.222. please reply paras. (2) and (3).  
Contd. (F.O.N.F., 1953Z/4 to N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Western  
Approaches, C.T.F.24., (R) Admty, C.O.A.C.,  
Cominch).

O.N.154 (1) Connav's 0255/2. JASPER PARK, ZARIAN,  
UMGENI, NORHAUK, WISLA, PRESIDENT FARNQUI, JAMES  
HAWSON, EUTHALIA, FORT LAMY, VISTULA, ESTURIA,  
TOWARD, BERKEL, SEUBERT, BONITA, IC RAMO,  
BARON ELGIN, KIRUNA, VEST, BRONHOLM.  
(2) Connav's (?1505)/2nd. Following detached ADRASTUS and  
CALORY at (?1700) 30th in 43.15 N., (?34) 30 (?W.) FANA at 1700  
/1st in 43.20 N., 42.41 W. ALGCRAB, EMPIRE SIMBA, BARON INCHCAPT  
at 1800/2 in 43.06 N., 45.34 W. DUNDRUM CASTLE, JANETA, EMPIRE  
GERAIT at 1700/3 in 43.40 N., 49.25 W.  
(3) C.O.A.C. Halifax's (?1334) 4th (N.T. in W.R.) SS. TOWARD  
(?unchanged).  
(4) ? At (2 groups omitted) 4th position U H.M.S. HERALD 5  
knots weather report 7570 1665.  
(C. Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.1, 2000Z/4 to Connav,  
C.O.A.C., (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., Commandant 3rd U.S. Naval  
District, New York).

Tanker Admty's 1805/3rd (not to RACEHORSE)  
Convoy. (1) ESSO PATTERSON broken down and cannot join  
convoy. (2) U.S. Authorities have agreed to  
SHELDON CLARK due Curacao shortly from Cristobal  
to take her place. Request you load her with  
cargo earmarked for ESSO PATTERSON.  
(B.A.D., 2001Z/4 to S.B.N.O. Curacao, (R)  
Connav, Admty, B.R.L.O. Aruba, RACEHORSE).

Trinidad - Ref. message from B.M.S.M. Amast 4076 of 2256/28th  
Capetown Dec. to M.O.W.T. Admty. and M.O.W.T. jointly  
Convoys. propose following to meet the present position:-  
(a) Apart from the 15 ships per month, nominated  
for Paranam loading, M.O.W.T. will instruct  
Campbell Capetown to Nominate 8-10 ships per  
month from S. Africa to proceed Trinidad load bauxite. These  
25 ships should preferably be under 12 knots speed.  
(b) As all ships of under 12 knots northbound will be proceeding  
Trinidad for convoy we presume it is intention they will sail  
in B.T. convoy en route. Connav's 1956/31st Dec. refers.  
(c) Although all ships in para. (b) will have sufficient  
bunkers to reach at least Trinidad, M.O.W.T. are anxious to  
avoid coal bunkering congestion at this port and propose asking  
Capetown to arrange that where capacity permits, coal burners,  
except those loading bauxite at Paranam, should be bunkered  
at Cape to reach U.S.A. without supplementing at Trinidad,  
also up to 2 ships and 4 ships per week should coal bunker  
at Bahia and Pernambuco respectively, remainder, if any, of  
coal burners bunkering at Trinidad (or Port Royal, Jamaica),  
subject to local situation at the time, but not at St. Thomas.

/This...



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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Trinidad-  
Capetown  
Convoys.

This will mean a number of ships proceeding from the Cape direct to Pernambuco and joining B.T. convoys from that port which presume is acceptable to U.S. Naval authorities.

(d) We presume that all oil fired and motor ships in para.(b) above will bunker at Trinidad.

(e) Ships from U.K. southbound may, at intervals, depending on U/B appreciation, call at Pernambuco or Bahia instead of Freetown to supplement bunkers and cause temporary congestion.

(f) Please repeat this signal to B.M.S.M. and request them to confirm if it meets with W.S.A. and Sparks' approval.

(D.T.D., 2002A/4 to B.A.D.)

U.G.F.4

Sailed U.G.F.4 via. (C) 35.01 67.02  
(D) (?36).30 56.45 (E) 37.05, 42.20 (F) 36.10  
29.30, (G) 33.55 17.30 (H) 35.20 09.55 (J) 33.55  
06.59. 1st "Chop" 40° W., 0800/14th 2 "Chop"  
10° W. 2100Z/19th. C.E.S.F. pass to Port Director.  
(Connav, 2026/4 to Port Director (R)  
N.S.H.Q., Cinclant, N.C.X.F., C.E.S.F., Comtask  
34, Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, N.O.B. Bermuda, S.N.O.  
Casablanca).Landing  
Craft.

My 1955/1st (re sailing of landing Craft convoy to Gibraltar via Bermuda). Landing craft will be directed to report to you when loaded at ports indicated B.A.M.R. 1632Z/2nd (N.T. in W.R.) Destination L.S.T. beyond Gibraltar as by C.O. A.F.

Destination L.C.I.(L) as directed by Admiralty. On arrival Gibraltar escorts proceed as directed by you. Departure U.S. landing craft my serial 001392 and my 1821/24 (N.T. in W.R.) delayed until March 1 or later pending completion of training and availability of escorts. Admiralty pass to Comnav, V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., C. in C. A.F. and Comnob Oran (passing action being taken by W.R.) B.A.D., and B.A.S.R. received by hand. Com. 5 pass to Port Director Norfolk, Virginia, and Com. 3 pass to Port Director New York.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2029/4).

W.B.19

Arrived W.B.19 less OUTARDE (U.S.) HOLLYWOOD and (U.S.) EASTERN GUIDE.  
(N.O.I.C. Sydney (C.B.) 2050Z/4 to N.S.H.Q. Admty,Shipping U.K.  
destinations.

Your 1923/31 to Admty only. My 2009/25th April, 1940 and 1402/30th June, 1940 may be regarded as cancelled.

2. All independent ships whose destination is in Bristol Channel should be ordered to Belfast for the purpose of being given up to date coastwise routing instructions.

3. All independent ships whose destination is Clyde or Mersey should be ordered direct to these ports.

(D.T.D., 2106A/4 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.Cs. Northern Ireland, Greenock, Liverpool, Milford Haven, Cardiff).



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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

Para. A. BRITISH VIGILANCE torpedoed presumed sunk 20.58 N., 44.40 W., 2145Z/3. Action to Admty. for O.I.C. from Cominch. Para. C. DONA AURORA Italian Sub. reported. SS. CLAN RANALD sights Sub. course East 11.03 N., 60.49 W. 1050Z/4. Eastern airlines sights Sub. 11.38 N. 61.32 W., 1630Z/4 course 25. Sub. sighted 12.40 N 68.32 W., 1620Z/4.  
(Cominch, 2110/4 to Admty for O.I.C.)

A.T.33

My 0310/31st A.T.33 will sail Jan. 6th. C.J.S.W. and B.A.D. informed.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2135/4 to C.E.S.F.)

Shipping  
Casualties.

Connav Serial 2 and 3 and 4. HAMILDOC foundered sank 1st Jan. 09.15 N., 60.29 W. BRITISH VIGILANCE and NORVIMETRE both reported torpedoed 3rd Jan. 20.58 N., 44.40 W. Convoy T.M.1 MAIDEN CREEK reported foundering 31st Dec. survivors picked up 3rd Jan. 39.36, 71.00 W.  
(Connav, 2135/4 to Comnav).

Rescue Tugs.

It is intended to attach H.M. Rescue Tugs to the groups of Trans-Atlantic Convoys and to establish Tug Pool Base at Campbeltown in U.K. with Western Base in Newfoundland where administration rest and recreation can be provided for 2 or 3 Rescue Tugs. 2. Request your remarks as to suitability of Argentia or alternative.  
(D.T.D., 2212A/4 to N.S.H.Q., (R) B.A.D., F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A.)

G.U.F.3  
U/B.

By D/F on 12,260 k/cs at 1624Z/4, U-boat estimated to be anywhere within 100 miles of 32° 30' N., 33° 30' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 2221/4 to Escorts of Convoy G.U.F.3  
(R) Cominch, V.A. Gibraltar).

EUREKA

Tug EUREKA sailed Gaspe Dec. 15th and has not been reported since that date.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2238Z/4).

SHEDIAC,  
BATTLEFORD  
U/B.

By D/F on 13,768 k/cs at 1631Z, U-boat estimated to be anywhere within 100 miles of 43° 30' N., 32° 30' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 2255/4 to SHEDIAC, BATTLEFORD (R)  
N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.

4.1.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements

Arrivals Port Hedland 2nd January U.S. Dest. HENLEY. Brisbane 1st Jan. U.S. Dest. RALPH TALBOT Fremantle 2nd Jan. (?U.S. Seaplane Tender AVOCET) Departures Brisbane 2nd Jan. U.S. Dest. RALPH TALBOT for Melbourne. Townsville 2nd Jan.

U.S. Dest. HENLEY for Palm Island.

(N.B. Melbourne, 0742Z/4 to Admty etc).

Departure Auckland 1946Z/4 U.S.S. EBONY for Noumea except time of arrival 0300Z/? (B) 31.07 S., 170.54 E. (C) 24.14 S., 166 10 knots 10. Arrival Wellington 2058/4 U.S.S. SHAW,

(D.N.I., Wellington, 2339Z/4 to Admty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1300A/4, estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 1341A/4, 1404A/4).



War Diary.

5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

BULOLO left the Clyde today for Casablanca.

C. in C. H.F. returned to Scapa at 0858 today in KING GEORGE V, with HOWE, BERMUDA, QUEENBOROUGH, PIORUN, RAIDER and MUSKETEER from covering convoy R.A. 51.

A B.2 report states that TIRPITZ escorted by 4 destroyers and 4 E-Boats is due to leave Trondheim Fiord for Ofot Fiord on 8th Jan. The following S/Ms will be on patrol: P.49 and P.216 south of Vest Fiord, P.312 and GRAPH north of Fro Havet, P.55 and UREDD off Bredsund.

An unknown ship made a submarine distress report at 1341 G.M.T. in 74° N. 18° E. (25 miles S.W. of Bear Island). This may be the Russian SS. KRASNOZNAMYA, independently routed from Iokanka to Iceland, or Russian SS. VANZETTI.

Four of the 5 ships in the White Sea section of Convoy J.W. 51B became detached from their escort in thick weather and are reported to have run into ice in the White Sea and on account of fog and snow have not yet been located by icebreakers. The fifth ship straggled but has been picked up. All five ships arrived in the Dvina estuary by 0826A/6. It now appears that no merchant vessel in the convoy has been sunk by enemy action.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft is suspected in the Thames Estuary last night.

North Atlantic.

ABDIEL, on passage to the eastern Mediterranean arrived at Gibraltar at 0800A today and sailed at 1633A.

The German SS. SCHARLACHBERGER, which put back to Bilbao on 31st on account of the weather is reported to have sailed again at 0800 G.M.T. today.

/The ...



War Diary.

5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - Contd.

The rescue tug LARIAT, which reported engine trouble and asked for a tug yesterday, reported at 1500 G.M.T. today that her situation was critical. At noon today she was in 32° 14' N. 30° 51' W. V.A. Gibraltar ordered her to proceed to Ponta Delgada if necessary, and she arrived there under her own power at 1730 G.M.T./7.

A Wellington aircraft made daylight attacks today on 2 U-Boats in 45.35 N. 9.55 W. After one attack a large patch of oil was seen.

South Atlantic.

Tristan da Cunha reports that a British ship sighted at 1730/3 a large unknown cargo vessel resembling a Hansa liner in 34° 30' S. 6° 28' W., steering between 0° and 20°. On 6th January CARNARVON CASTLE was ordered to patrol to attempt to intercept her on the assumption that she was running the blockade from the Far East.

Mediterranean.

U.S. B.17s escorted by P.38s attacked Sfax power station today and left it in flames. Fighters reported hits on 2 vessels and possibly on a cruiser, and the dock area in flames.

Owing to greatly increased escort and minesweeping requirements in North Africa, C. in C. Med. is very anxious to withdraw destroyers and minesweepers from the Aden area. He asks C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.F. to review the U-Boat threat in the Cape and Arabian Sea area, with a view to relieving Mediterranean Fleet ships working between Aden and the Persian Gulf or possibly allowing them to be withdrawn without relief. C. in C. S.A. proposed (7th Jan.) to assist by returning the corvettes NIGELLA, FREESIA, JASMINE and FRITILLARY to the Eastern Fleet on completion



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

of boiler cleaning in sequence. C. in C. E.I. pointed out (10th Jan.) that he has only 8 destroyers for the Fleet and all other purposes, of which 2 are Hunts and one is out of action, if therefore C. in C. Med. is compelled to withdraw the destroyers from Aden it will have to be accepted that fast ships go unescorted. He is sending minesweepers IPSWICH (to arrive Aden 25th January) and CESSNOCK (to arrive Aden about February.)

America and West Indies.

Cominch reports the following attacks on U-Boats:-  
14th December U.S.S. WAHOO claims to have destroyed a Japanese S/M north of Bougainville. On 16th December naval aircraft obtained a direct hit on a surfaced S/M in Rakata harbour, Solomon Is. Promising attacks on 28th December by ST. LAURENT and CHILLIWACK with O.N.153; on 29th Dec. by naval aircraft off Trinidad; and on 1st January a Naval Catalina damaged a U-Boat off Georgetown.

Australia.

6 Fortresses and 6 Liberators which attacked shipping in Rabaul Harbour at midday destroyed or set on fire 9 medium cargo vessels, and scored near misses with 1000 lb. bombs on others. Photographs show 87 vessels in this area.



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S.54, My 1641/4. Amend Para. (L) to read S.54 60°  
S.55. 25' N., 24° 59' E., probably on the surface, speed  
9 knots, through 59° 45' N., 15° 01' W.  
(O) Add S.55 E.T.A. 0400A/6.  
(F.O.S., 0732A/5 to Admty).  
Adjust speed to arrive with S.55 off Burntisland at 0930/6th  
(2) S.55 will carry out degaussing ranging and degaussing officer  
with all instructions will board on arrival.  
(3) After completion of ranging proceed with S.55 to Rosyth  
Dockyard.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1101A/5 to ST. ELSTAN).  
Estimate S.54 will be in 059° 45' N., 015° 01' W., at 1200/6  
Proceeding on surface speed 9 knots to 270° Barra Head 10 miles.  
Submarine can identify herself by lamp and flare only.  
(A.C.I.C., 1702A/5 to WINCHELSEA, BEVERLEY)  
POTENTILLA is to meet S.54 in 270° Barrahead 10 miles at  
0900A/7 and escort standard route to Rosyth.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2332A/5 and 1321A/6).

METEOR Cmdre (D)'s 1752A/4. Delete Ref. to METEOR in  
my 2333Z/4. Intend to detach METEOR at 2000Z/5  
in 053° 01' N., 016° 37' W. for boiler cleaning.  
METEOR E.T.A. Clyde 2100A/6.  
(Capt. D.3., 1122Z/5).

W.A. Command Situation at 2005A/5. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1357A/5) See Lion Copy.

S/M At 0800A/6. Details.  
Positions. (F.O.S., 1726A/5, 0014A/6, 1416A/6) See Lion Copy.

BULOLO *for* My 1018/4. Sailed. Onward route as in V.A.  
*Cavallanca* Gibraltar 1723/4.  
*Confiance* (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1754A/5 to V.A. Gibraltar).

BRITOMART Owing to urgent operational commitments regret  
it will be necessary to advance date of completion  
to p.m./13th January in order that ship may sail  
p.m./15th for destination.  
(Cdre. D. 2220A/5 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

MILNE Admty's 1404A/2. As MILNE will be available  
earlier than anticipated intend to sail her to  
arrive Tyne a.m./9th.  
2. It is requested that only those defects and  
A and A's that can be completed by 6th February  
be undertaken and that ship be sailed for Scapa  
8th February.  
(Cdre. D. H.F., 2338A/5 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).



152C

5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/Ms.

Position of S/Ms at 0800A/6th and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) P.216 68° 50' N. 09° 35' E. through 62° 00' N. 00° 11' E. speed 9 knots.

(B) P.49 68° 31' N. 10° 05' E. through 62° 01' N. 01° 00' E. speed 8 knots.

(C) P.312 68° 10' N. 08° 30' E. through 62° 02' N. 00° 12' E. speed 10 knots.

(D) GRAPH 67° 37' N. 06° 41' E. through 61° 59' N. 00° 38' W. speed 10 knots.

Submarines in (A) to (C) are proceeding probably on the surface until crossing 68° N. thence S/Ms to patrol as follows:-

(1) P.216 off Vest Fiord

(2) P.49 off Vest Fiord

(3) P.312 off Fro Havet

(4) GRAPH off Fro Havet.

(E) Russian S/M S.54 60° N. 18° W. probably on the surface through 59° 45' N. 15° 01' W. due 270° Barra Head 10 miles 0900/8th.

(F) Russian S/M S.56 60° 30' N. 31° 20' W. probably on surface speed 10 knots through 60° 30' N. 26° 01' W. and 59° 45' N. 15° 01' W.

(G) O.10 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leaves Dundee 1600/6th expected time of arrival 36 Buoy 1100/7th for onward escort to Rothesay.

(H) OBERON, P.31, P.229 vicinity Corsewall Point, RHINNS OF GALLOWAY due Clyde 1630/6th.

(J) U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao.

(K) U.S.S. BLACKFISH in zone K.506.

(L) U.S.S. HERRING in zone K.505.

(M) U.S.S. BARB off Vigo.

(N) P.55 62° 40' N. 04° 52' E. dived by day to patrol off Bred Sund.

(F.O.S. 1726A/5, 0014A/6 to Admty.)



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

M.G.B. 318

My 1059/4. "Wheel" returned.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0924A/5).Coastal  
Patrols.Proceed to anchor off Humber light float, thence  
as necessary to carry number 3 patrol tonight,  
returning to Harwich on completion of patrol.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0954A/5 to WINDSOR).Patrol tonight. 3 WINDSOR, 4 TERN, 5 MENDIP,  
6 QUORN, 7 SOUTHDOWN, 8 SHEARWATER.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1008A/5).Intend R.M./L 552 (S.O.) and M.L.123 to Patrol tonight  
on lat. 50° 20' N., between 1° 30' W., and 2° 05' W.2. Leave Portland 1700 via Q.Z.S. 382 on patrol line, adjusting  
position so as to cover passage of P.W. and W.P. convoys.

Leave patrol-line at dawn and return to Base.

3. Object. Anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Service".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1135A/5).

Chasseurs 15 (S.O.) and 11 are to patrol tonight southward  
of E.A.5 buoy.3. R.M.L. 522 (S.O. and M.L.123 from Portland patrolling 50°  
20' N., between 2° 05' W., and 1° 30' W.4 M.G.B. 616 (S.O.) 613, 611, M.T.B.86,89, 243 immediate notice  
at Newhaven.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1139A/5).

M.Ls. 142 (S.O.) and 138 patrolling between Rye and D Buoys.

M.G.Bs. 110, 108 and 109 from Ramsgate and M.T.B.38 from Dover  
patrolling near Berck buoy passing D buoy at 1800 and 0230/6.

M.Ls. 108, 107, 101, 102, 210, 128 and 213 supported by M.G.Bs.

329 and 324 carrying out operation N.L.45 A, E.T.D. 1730,

E.T.R., 0145/6, route via D Buoy each way.

(V.A. Dover, 1657A/5).

Norwegian  
Coastal S/M  
Patrols.  
UREDD, P.55,  
GRAPH.  
P.312,  
P.49,  
P.216.My 1603/2 and 1517/4. Sailed (UREDD)  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1108A/5 to A.C.O.S.)  
Leave patrol and proceed North forthwith dive by  
day through P.061° 20' N., 002° 21' E.Q. 062° 23' N., 004° 28' E. R. 064° 01' N.,  
007° 02' E.

(F.O.S., 1614A/5 to P.55).

My 1614/5th (A) submerge line (P) to Q 1700/5 to  
1000/6. Q. to R. 0100/6th to 2359/7.

(F.O.S., 1615A/5 to H.Q.C.C.)

Return to Lerwick forthwith.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1641A/5 to UREDD).

My 1641/4th paras. (A) and (C) these submarines after  
crossing 68° N., proceed to patrol off Vestfiord.Paras. (B) and (D) after crossing 68° N., proceed to patrol off  
Fro Havet.Para. (E) add. Leaves patrol after dark and proceeds dived by  
day to patrol off Fro Havet.

Para. (Q) UREDD returns to Lerwick, E.T.A. about 2300/5.

(F.O.S., 1718A/5 to Admty).

UREDD is to be recalled at sea forthwith and completed with  
stores and fuel for patrol. As soon as ready UREDD is to be  
sailed with despatch to northward to 285 position, 061° 02' N.  
000° 47' E.

(F.O.S., 1738A/5 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

/After...



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Norwegian  
Coastal S/M  
Patrols.  
UREDD.  
P.55, GRAPH  
P.312,  
P.49,  
P.216.  
Contd.

After crossing latitude 068° submarines are to proceed dived by day as follows.

- (a) GRAPH to vicinity 064° 35' N., 009° 44' E.
  - (b) P.312 to vicinity 064° 44' N., 009° 26' E.
  - (c) P.49 to vicinity 066° 42' N., 011° 56' E.
  - (d) P.216 to vicinity 066° 56' N., 012° 01' E.
- (F.O.S., 1814A/15).

My 1738/5. UREDD is to be sailed to patrol in 065° 07' N., 009° 34' E. You are requested to arrange route and bombing restrictions.

(2) UREDD is to proceed on surface at C.Os. discretion until within 60 miles Norwegian coast.

(3) P.55 after passing through position (r) in my 1614/5 is to proceed to 064° 55' N., 009° 56' E.

(F.O.S., 1837A/5 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

My 1614/5th. Amend position (r) to read 062° 30' N., 005° 23' E. Carry diving patrol in vicinity of this position. Object cruisers and above. My 1615/5th. A.O.C.C.C., is requested to amend position (r) as above. Time remaining as before.

(F.O.S., 2329A/5 to P.55).

My 1837/5. Para. three. Cancel and substitute. P.55, after passing through position Q in my 1614/5, is proceeding to position R. 062° 30' N., 005° 23' E.

(F.O.S., 2354A/5 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

ALERT,  
ST. KILDA,  
(cable  
repairs).

A.M.1938/21 Dec. Intend sailing at 0900/7 subject to weather ALERT to position A, escorted by ST. KILDA. Request Admiralty furnish long range weather forecast for area to F.O.I.C., Milford Haven by 0700 daily until ships sail, then by 2000 daily.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1149/5 to Admty).

Operation  
"Outward".

Operation "Outward" from 1400 to 1800 today at Oldstairs.

(D.B.D., 1207A/5 to A.B.O. Oldstairs).

Allied Air Activity.

Lyme Bay  
Convoy  
Patrol.

Whitley and Sunderland aircraft will carry out anti-E-boat cross over patrols from 1830 today till dawn 6th to cover passage of convoys. Details.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1321/5 to Escorts P.W.274, W.P. 274).

My 1321/5. Cross-over patrol cancelled.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1913A/5).



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Enemy A/C  
shot down.

Sunk Head Fort, claims to have shot down enemy plane at 2035/4 on bearing 140° 4 miles from Fort. Claim supported by Observers from shore. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1619A/5).

Mining.

Q.V.1

Humber departure at 0503 PLOVER, TENBY, BLYTH, and PUFFIN to carry out operation Q.V.1. (N.O.I.C. Humber 0520A/5).

PENDEEN

Arrived ex M.K.S.4. PENDEEN. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0932/5).

15th M/S  
Flotilla.

Departure CIRCE, FLY, PETERHEAD at 1755 in accordance with my 2310/1st. (A.C.I.C., 1758A/5 to C. in C. H.F.)

Q.Z.X.866

Swept one Lap 1-1/4 miles wide North along East side, of south Falls, then South along Southern ten miles of Q.Z.S.117, then South along West side of South Falls, from 51° 19' N., to 51° 14.8' N., No mines swept. Sank one Z type two miles South of U Buoy. Consider it unnecessary to sweep further North along West side of South Falls. My last report 2246A/4. (M/S 9., 1835A/5 to V.A. Dover).

BODO  
sunk.My 1907/4. High speed launches sent to search for wreckage reported by aircraft in approx. 056° 54' N., 001° 25' W., at 1026 picked up three survivors and landed them at Aberdeen. One of the survivors has since died. The 2 living survivors are the First Lieut. William Johansen and Engine Room Petty Officer Sitzholm.  
2. It would appear that BODO struck a mine at 0510 yesterday 4th  
3. Search will be continued tomorrow at daylight. One High Speed launch has not yet returned to harbour. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2331A/5 to Admty).Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy M/V.

P.C.S. of one enemy merchant vessel: 43° 57' N., 7° 14' W., 070° 4 knots. (A/C 1020/5 to 19 Group).

Two Naval  
Craft.

2 Unknown. 090° Cromer 15 miles. (OYSTERMOUTH CASTLE, 1105/5 to Nore W/T). My 1105. Naval craft (medium or small) (OYSTERMOUTH CASTLE, 1108/5).



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

TIRPITZ. B.2 source reports TIRPITZ escorted by 4 destroyers and 4 E-boats is due to leave Trondheim Fiord for Ofot Fjord on 8th January.  
(D.D.I.C., 1325A/5).

Unknown Vessel. Unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in position 060° 3 C Buoy three at 2045.  
(C. in C. Nore, 2047A/5).

E-boats. Suspected E-boat activity.  
(Harwich, W/T, 2328/5 to Falmouth W/T).

U-boats.

U-boats reported. By D/F at 1917Z/4, U-boat possibly inward bound, estimated to be in the vicinity of Cape Finisterre.  
(D.D.I.C., 0021/5 to S/Ms).  
Am over enemy submarine in 45° 53' N., 14° 4' W.  
(A/C, 0843/5 to 19 Group)  
Am over enemy submarine in 045° 33' N., 09° 53' W.  
(A/C 1050/5 to 19 Group)

Ship attacked ( ?KRASNOZ-NAMYA) Received at 1341 G.M.T. de Sheigra Radio begins. At 1335 SSSS latitude 74° N., long. 18° O.S.T., U2W9 1300 G.M.T.  
(Wick W/T, 1442/5 to Lyness).  
Following received by Russians at 1300 G.M.T./5th begins. 074° N., 018° E. SSS? S Torp? U 2 V 9 ends.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1659A/5 to Admty).

Navigational.

Forth - Clyde Canal. Forth-Clyde Canal icebound and impassable.  
(R.N.O. Grangemouth, 1000/5).

North Russian Ice on 15th January. Russian forecast of ice edge for 15th Jan. Details.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2148A/5 to C. in C. H.F.)

Casualties & Defects.

WILLIAM M. STEWART. Following from American Steamer WILLIAM M. STEWART Hole in bottom, proceeding Belfast Harbour, require pilot and tug to meet me Mew Island. E.T.A. 0300.  
(Port Patrick, Radio, 0925/5).



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.NAMSOS.  
CELEROL.

NAMSOS and CELEROL when proceeding in company from Akureyri to Hvalfjord were in collision on night of 4th/5th January. CELEROL is proceeding independently to Hvalfjord. Damage to NAMSOS appears extensive and she has proceeded Patrick Fjord for shelter.  
(A.C.I.C., 1224A/5 to Admty).

DORNOCH.

DORNOCH returned with defect.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1239A/5).

BARRISTER

Party boarded BARRISTER, searched Captain's cabin for steel perforated safe containing confidential books. Found sea had washed right through cabin completely gutting it. No trace of safe. Am convinced safe was washed overboard into 20 feet of water. 3 ship's Officers remaining ashore will watch for attempts salvage safe. Safe could probably be recovered by diver. Wreck in position 263° from Shark's Head, Inishshark 3¼ cables, broken in two decks awash. Unable salvage guns. Am leaving at 1400A/5th. E.T.A. Merville, 0500A/6.  
(LANDGUARD, 1328Z/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

VARDEFJELL

My 1714/2. Half tanker VARDEFJELL beached in Inganess Bay Kirkwall.  
(A.C.O.S., 1614/5 to Admty).  
Stern section of VARDEFJELL safely grounded at S.W. end of Inganess Bay 1400 today, sounding 7 fathoms. Forward end broken off at number 6 oil tank. Length of stern section approximately 250 feet. After tanks contain fuel oil estimated quantity 2000 to 3000 tons. Oil in tanks near break will probably be contaminated with sea water. Request suitable tanker be sent as soon as possible. Engine room is intact but contains some water.  
(C.S.V.O. 1645A/5 to A.C.O.S.)

REGENT LION.

Arrived MELBREAK.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1622/5 to Admty).

JOHN MARSHALL

Ashore south of Black Head Scotland. No immediate danger. Ends. No bearing obtained. (Burnham Radio, No T.O.O./5th Recd. 2200/5). Endeavour to check position and report.  
(Navy Charge, Greenock, 2359A/5 to JOHN MARSHALL)

Unknown  
Vessel.

Following from W K T T. Vessel approximately 7 miles W.S.W. of (?Galloway) unable to proceed. Vessel not steering. A craft is standing by. Send a tug to tow to near dry dock. 10,500 tons displacement.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 2330/5 to Admty).



5.1.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.51 B. 4 ships of J.W.51 B having become detached from escort in thick weather have run into ice on Zimni Coast between Intzi and Zimnegorski and on account of fog and snow have not yet been located by icebreakers. One straggler has been picked up by (corrupt group) patrol number 20 and is being brought to Gulf of Archangel. SAN CIPRIANO escorted by SEDOV proceeding Ponoï where patrol vessels 35,39 and 101 will take over and escort her as far as Iokanka.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0934A/5 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, M/S 6).

For information the following signal has been made:-  
S.O. Force R and Force R D.17, Escort of J.W.51 B. (R) H.F.  
From C. in C. H.F., Your defence of the convoy was most gallant. The boldness of your action was entirely responsible for the safe conduct of the ships under your escort, a feat of which you may all be well proud. T.O.O. 1030A/5.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1035A/5 to Admty).

R.A. 51 Scapa arrival 0858 C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with HOWE, BERMUDA, QUEENBOROUGH, PIORUN, RAIDER, MUSKETEER.

(A.C.O.S., 1949A/5 to Admty).

R.A. (D) Home Fleet's (?)0830/4 para. 2. Regret air R/C cannot be carried out today.

(A.C.I.C., 1135A/5 to R.A.D. H.F.)

My 1431/5th. Add CHIDDINGFOLD 061° 28' N., 005° 30' W. to Scapa.

(A.C.O.C., 1741/5).

C. in C. H.F.'s 1150/3 and R.A.(D)'s 0830/4. No air R/C possible today. Estimate that R.A.51 will be in 067° 15' N., 013° 42' W., at 1400/6th.

Unless other orders have been received or more accurate information of convoy position is available sail with LEDBURY, MONTROSE, and WORCESTER in company to R/V at 1400/6.

(A.C.I.C., 2122A/5 to BLANKNEY).

S.C.114 Your 2043A/4. WALLFLOWER detailed Loch Ewe portion. DAHLIA detailed B portion. E.T.A. 057° N., 1000Z/6.

(WATCHMAN, 0957Z/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

Stragglers CIDONIA, ANTIETAM, ALCOA PILOT, escorted by MONKSHOOD. Speed 7.5 knots. Please confirm destination SLEMMESTAD is Clyde.

(WATCHMAN, 1034Z/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

Request you sail MOLDE to meet S.C.114 in position (A) at 1300A/6.

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1036A/5 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

e ANTEQUERA

Unladen. Position of Spanish ANTEQUERA 42° 50' N. 9° 25' W. speed 6 knots.

(A/C 1050/5 and 1125/5 to 19 Group).



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- M.K.S.4 F. M.K.S.4 (F). HELVIG is to be detached forthwith for Clyde.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1053A/5 to CAMROSE, CALGARY).  
CALGARY has misunderstood her orders and is now at Merville. There is therefore no escort with M.K.S.4 fast.  
(LONDONDERRY, 1202A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)
- M.K.S.4 ROBERTS is to continue to Liverpool.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1054A/5 to SOUTHERN GEM).
- M.K.S.4 Y My P.C.S. at 1400A, 046° 12' N., 014° 09' W.  
327° 21 knots, altering to 345° at 1815A.  
Rejoining M.K.S.4 (Y).  
(WENSLEYDALE, 1430A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)
- SAN ZOTICO Admty.'s 1755A/1. SAN ZOTICO now ready to sail.  
To avoid delaying until W.N.81 request escort may be provided if available, or instructions as to whether she should sail independently.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1102A/5 to A.C.O.S.)
- WAR PINDARI Intend sailing loaded Tanker WAR PINDARI escorted PRESTON NORTH END to Scapa leaving Cromarty at 0100/6 routed Q.Z.S.150, 352, to 35 Buoy thence by standard route.  
Request Fighter protection. E.T.A. Scapa 1300/6th  
(N.C.S.O. Invergordon, 1452/5).
- K.X.8 Following by hand from DORNOCH. Begins.  
Address N.O.I.C. Milford Haven from LANCASTER.  
Position at 1730/4, 051° 12' N., 010° 30' W,  
course 266° speed 7½. T.O.O.1744A/4. Ends.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1537A/5 to Admty).  
My 1256/3rd. Destination of NORTON should read Bougie, destination of EMPIRE DRIVER should read Bone, destination of SOUTHGATE should read Gibraltar and Oran. Add N.C.X.F. to repeated addressee of my 1256A/3rd.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1746A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)
- R.U.57 My 1320/3. A.C.I.C. is requested to arrange with  
J.W.52, N.O.B. Iceland for OLIGARCH to load full cargo  
OLIGARCH. furnace-oil and sail in R.U.57 destination Loch Ewe where she is required by p.m./16th without fail to join J.W.52.  
Request consideration be given to sailing date of R.U.57 being advanced if necessary.  
(D.T.D., 1650A/5 to C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.D.F.I.  
LEINSTER.

F.O.I.C. Greenock 1108A/4. OAKLEY will R/V in 270° Cape Wrath 18 miles at 1600A/7. Onward route through 060° 20' N., 004° 40' W., and 061° 52' N., 005° 42' W.

2. N.O.I.C. Faeroes report by signal whether destination is Sorvaag or Thorshavn.

3. Speed to be adjusted so as to arrive in daylight 8th.

(A.C.O.S., 1700A/5).

Your 1700/5. Para. 2. Request troop-ship proceed to Sorvaag, thence onwards to Thorshavn.

(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1925/5 to A.C.O.S.)

BLACK RANGER

Intend sailing loaded tanker BLACK RANGER to Scapa leaving Cromarty 0730/7, speed 13 knots, routed Q.Z.S. 150 and 352 to 35 buoy, thence by standard route.

(N.C.S.O. Invergordon, 1702/5).

Use of  
"Snowflakes".

To holders of C.B.03058 (2) only.

I.C.O.C. 72. In future the decision as to whether Snowflakes are to be used by ships in convoy is to rest with the S.O. Escort who is to indicate his requirements daily, prior to dusk,

to the Commodore. The Commodore will convey the necessary instructions to ships in convoy as to whether projectors are to be loaded with Snowflakes or not.

(2) N.C.S.O's are to be informed accordingly.

(3) I.C.O.C's will be amended.

(D.T.D., 1816A/5).

S.C.L.114

S.C.L.114 arrived Reykjavik 1700Z/5.  
(C.T.G.24.6., 1852Z/5).

K.M.S.7

My 1851/1.

1. RALLUS will not sail with convoy.

2. Following additional ships will sail with convoy For Lisbon SS. CITY OF LANCASTER

SS. EMPIRE USK. For Bone SS. FORT SIMPSON, SS. URLANA.

(D.O.D. H., 1903A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S.154  
Search for  
survivors

After leaving Ponta Delgada PRESCOTT is to continue search in an area defined by WOODSTOCK. After fuelling WOODSTOCK is to arrange R/V with PRESCOTT and vessels are to proceed in company to Londonderry sweeping through position 45° N. 29° W.

(C. in C. W.A., 2345A/5 to WOODSTOCK, PRESCOTT).



War Diary.

5.1.1943  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area.

French Naval Forces. Re technical arrangements for communications and liaison. (Hd. of M, 1332A/5 to F.O.W.A., (R) N.C.X.F. etc.) See Lion Copy.

HAVELOCK T.M.I. Admiralty's 1316A 5th. My P.C. and S. at 1500Z 023° 46' N. 040° 02' W. 055° 8.2 knots altering at old position (p) 024° 59' N. 037° 38' W. to 070° thence through (q) 029° 38' N. 023° 31' W. to (r'). this course was necessary to obtain calm water before escort ran out of fuel. (HAVELOCK 1528Z/5 to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. ILEX, (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gib. )

A/S Air Escorts. Your 1701/4. 2. No appreciable effect on air cover to "Torch" Convoys. Detachments would be small and sent to Agadir only as required, therefore no extra G.R. Aircraft would be needed. It may result in a temporary and very small reduction of offensive sweeps. ( V.A. Gib., 1546A/5 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

Dakar, Exchange of Officers. Your 1909/31. We concur in (a) exchange of signals officers. Approval has already been given for acceptance of Liaison Officer at Freetown in Admty. Telegram 1325/4. (b) inclusion of French ships in O.S. and S.L. convoy whose normal route is of course, likely to be inside Canaries. (c) the passing off U-Boat summaries. (Hd. of M. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1735Z/5 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gib F.O.C.W.Af. Cominch.)

Landing Craft. Your 1915/2nd. Jan. to Admty. Cdr. Vyner has been appointed S.O.L.C. and will take air passage about 21st. Jan. 2. It is understood that Lieut. Cdr. (E) Armstrong R.N.V.R. (ex Gib.) is now carrying out duties of Base Engineer Officer for L/C. Cannot this officer be retained? C.C.O. concurs. 3. Your 2001A/9th. Dec. para 2. Request statement of maintenance and base landing craft personnel, both officers and ratings ex "Torch" retained in North Africa together with early information as to additional personnel required to be sent out. ( D.N.C.X.F. 1823/5 to N.C.X.F. (R) C.C.O. Admty.)



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

Communications My 0025/23 Dec. and your 1415/3.  
with French In his despatch 301525 to Chiefs of Staff,  
Forces, Washington, and London, Adm. Glassford mentioned  
W. Africa. a number of points upon which "understanding has  
been reached between Vice Adm. Collinet, Commanding  
French Naval Forces in French West Africa, and  
the Mission in regard to Naval operations in the  
West African Strategical Area". Point No.10 reads as follows  
"That French Naval and Naval Air Forces and Merchant Ships be  
provided with necessary Allied communication facilities  
including current codes, cyphers and recognition signals and  
procedure as necessary for complete and safe co-operative  
operations with the Allies".

2. Meanwhile, discussions on similar lines but initiated by  
N.C.X.F. have been proceeding with French Naval Authorities at  
Algiers, and since it is obviously important that British and  
U.S. policy on matters concerning Anglo-French Naval Communica-  
tions should be co-related and expressed in similar terms at  
both places, following brief resume of situation at Algiers, as  
known up to now in Admiralty, is communicated for your information.

(3) (a) We have emphasised to French that fullest value can only  
be obtained from French warships if latter will accept Liaison  
Officers and communications personnel, thus enabling ships to  
conform to Allied W/T organisation and receive necessary  
operational information through Liaison Officers who would of  
course hold requisite British and/or U.S. codes and cyphers.  
Close tactical co-operation would also be possible.

(b) We do not consider any of the French cyphers now in use in  
Africa to be wholly secure. French have agreed that all communica-  
tions between British, French and American shore authorities  
should be in our cyphers and that when French cypher is used  
for other purposes, messages should be passed by L/T whenever  
possible.

(c) French have agreed to their more important warships carrying  
Liaison Officers. These ships would then carry full establishment  
of British S.Ps (see A.F.O. S.159/42, para. 14) and would be  
allocated British D.Gs and call signs.

(d) Provisional arrangements as follows for minor French war  
vessels not carrying a Liaison Officer. These ships can be  
supplied with the reduced establishments of S.Ps mentioned in  
para.15 of S.159/42. (Details).

(e) Self-evident code and Naval aircraft code can be supplied to  
all French authorities and warships. Syko and full recognition  
memoranda would of course be issued to French warships having a  
Liaison Officer (vide (c) above). Where no Liaison Officer is  
borne, Syko to be issued at discretion of Senior Officer but  
cards to be limited if possible to cover period at sea only.  
Necessary extracts only of recognition memoranda to be supplied  
to warships without Liaison Officer.

(f) French Merchant Vessels. British signal letters to be  
allocated to provide them with secret call signs from S.P.02182.  
Mersigs and General Recoding Tables to be supplied. S.P.02182  
not to be issued to French authorities or warships, except to a  
Liaison Officer. Necessary extracts only should suffice for  
French shore authorities without a Liaison Officer.

(4) At Algiers we have taken our stand throughout by S.159/42 and  
N.C.X.F. states discussions with French have been most cordial.  
In the absence of a Liaison Officer, we should be exceedingly  
reluctant in any circumstances to consider supplying French  
authorities or warships with Naval code or Naval cypher.

(Hd. of M.Br.(1) Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1332A/5 to F.O.W.A., (R)  
N.C.X.F., etc.)



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. My 1003A/29.

(1) No further reports of German or Japanese raiders.

(2) Blockade runners.

RHAKOTIS sighted by aircraft and later sunk by H.M. ship at 1800A/1 Jan in 45° 01' N. 10° 50' W. whilst attempting to enter Biscay. One or more further ships probably on passage to Europe. Unknown deeply laden vessel sighted in 34° 30' S. 6° 28' W. at 1530/3. Course when sighted approximately 010°. No allied ship known to have been in vicinity. Description does not permit identification. Report graded C.2 states 3 tankers will leave St. Nazaire outward bound in near future. One of these stated to be MONSUN (ex Norwegian SANDEFJORD) sailing about 14th January. Report graded C.2 states that UCKERMARK has proceeded to Batavia.

Comment: UCKERMARK was probably the Altmark type tanker which left Biscay about 15th September 1942.  
(D.D.I.C. 2001A/5 to A.I.G. 13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

U/B. A.M. 2140A/4. Cross bearings indicate U-Boat to be anywhere within 100 miles of 38° 00' N. 21° 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 0347A/5 to V.A. Gib.)

ABDIEL. Arrival.  
(V.A. Gib. 0800A/5 to Admty.)  
My 2228/4th not to R.A.(M) sailed ABDIEL.  
(V.A. Gib. 1633A/5 to Admty.)

E.T.8. Arrived 0930 escorted by NASTURTIUM, BADDECK, ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR, VILLE DE QUEBEC.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0943A/5 to N.C.X.F. Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran.)

O.N.S.154 Survivors. My 0015/4th (LLANGIBBY CASTLE to embark survivors of O.N.S.154) Estimated number of survivors is 300.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1001A/5 to EXE.)

MIRROR. My 1758 (1748/1 intended re sailing of MIRROR.) 1st para 2. MIRROR completed operations. (A) 0400A/5th.  
(B) Proceeding operations.  
(V.A. Gib. 1013A/5 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.SCHARLACH-  
BERGER.German 55 left 0800 G.M.T. January 5th.  
(Consul Bilbao 1014/5 to Admty., M. of E.W.  
B.N.A., Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)Portugal  
and Rescue  
Tug.My 1549/17th July. Have (?approached) con-  
fidentially Mr. Canby British Manager of Bensaude  
and Company who owns repair and fuelling facilities  
Ponta Delgada and suggested his Company purchase  
and operate rescue tug based on Ponta Delgada.(2) He is of the opinion his Company would agree provided price  
reasonable.(3) If you concur request price and name of commercial from whom  
purchase would be made may be communicated.(4) To avoid difficulties with Portuguese Government it is  
essential this arrangement must appear purely a business deal  
without any official intervention.

(N.A. Lisbon 1052/5 to Admty.)

LARIAT.

Your 1045/4th January to Admty. If considered  
necessary proceed to Ponta Delgada in Azores  
to effect repair. Report intention.

(V.A. Gib. 1101A/5 to LARIAT (R) Admty.)

My position noon 5th Jan. 032° 14' N. 030° 51' W. course  
080°, situation critical, speed reduced to 7 knots, estimated  
48 hours limit of main engine further performance, request reply  
to my 1045/4th Jan.

(LARIAT 1500 G.M.T./5 to Admty. (R) C.C.R.T.)

ST. CERGUE.

My 1541/25. ST. CERGUE leaves Genoa 8/1 for  
Gibraltar by approved route. Not to be inter-  
fered with this voyage.(2) N.O.I.C. Malta pass to A.O.C. Malta and  
N.C.X.F. to E.A.C.(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1131A/5 to S. and As in Area  
G N.C.X.F. N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (S) 1st Capt. (S)  
8, Capt. (S) 10.)PRESIDENT  
FRANCQUI  
survivors.PRESCOTT arrived 1230 G.M.T. 5th with 26 survivors  
from PRESIDENT FRANCQUI on board. Propose re-  
embark them on LLANGIBBY CASTLE.(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1155/5 to V.A. Gibraltar  
(R) Admty.)Aircraft  
over  
Casablanca.Following received from 44 Group (begins) A.O.  
399 2 Jan. Information received through U.S.A.A.F.  
that any aircraft flying at night over Casablanca  
will be fired upon. (Ends.) Air crews proceeding  
to this area are to be briefed accordingly.  
(Air Min. 1204A/5 to Various.)

/Tankers ...



163A

War Diary.

5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions.

- Situation 2005A/5th.  
U.S. S/M BARB patrol off Vigo.  
(2) DOLFIJN D.S. 36.38 07.40 on surface through 36.37 07.26 at 2200/5th and 35.54 06.15 at 0800/6th thence Gibraltar 7½.  
(3) PETUNIA 35.57 07.20 to Gibraltar 12.  
(4) Tug EMINENT 37.09 12.32 104° 10.  
(5) C.F.10 ERNE, LEITH, SANDWICH, 25.47 15.55 through 27.54 13.34 thence 034° 12½.  
(6) ARCTIC RANGER, MIRROR, repairing cable in 38.28 09.22.  
(7) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MARIE LOUISE, MACKAY, repair cable in vicinity of 31.56 05.58.  
(8) ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER, cable operation vicinity Casablanca.  
(9) Italian repatriation ships DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE expected sailing from Las Palmas a.m. 5th course 031° 16 knots.  
(10) U.S. Des. TRIPPE P.C. 481 approx. 34.23 06.46 to Casablanca 15.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1330A/5, to Area X.)



War Diary.5.1.1945.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

- Tankers. Arrival U.S.S. TRIPPE, P.C.481 escorting tankers ESSO BAYWAY, ESSO CHARLESTON escorts left for Casablanca by reverse of outward route expected time of arrival 0730Z/6.  
(V.A. Gib. 1433A/5 to S.N.O.C.A., N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, C.T.F.33.)  
Sailed ESSO CHARLESTON, ESSO BAYWAY escorted by FLEETWOOD, VELOX in accordance with my 1038/5. (N.T. in W.R.)  
(V.A. Gibraltar 1553A/5 to Admty.)
- WOODSTOCK. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1600Z/7th. Request arrangements be made for supply 200 tons oil fuel, fresh provisions and water. C.A.F.O. 1924/42 not held. My position is 042° 23' 026° 48'.  
Weather report.  
(WOODSTOCK 1605Z/5 to V.A. Gib.)
- LLANGIBBY CASTLE. Ref. Admty. 1559/3rd. Request you will instruct LLANGIBBY CASTLE and escort to enter Ponta Delgada separately and at suitable intervals.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1701C/5 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty.)  
Your 1701. LLANGIBBY CASTLE unable to anchor. Admiralty instructs use discretion about entering as (corrupt group) could ferry out survivors.  
(Gibraltar 2359A/5 to Admty.) W.R. Note: This message has been forwarded to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada by War Registry.
- U/B. S/M sighted off Sagres steering south east 1100 G.M.T./5th A/nought.  
(N.A. Lisbon 1800/5 to Admty., (D.N.I.) (R) S.O.(I) Gib.)
- MANXMAN. N.C.X.F. 2110/29th December 1942. MANXMAN. Engine Room, Gear Room and Port Shaft Passage flooded. Temporary repairs at Algiers for voyage here consist of (details).  
Temporary hull repairs will take at least 3 weeks in dock dependent on dock examination when machinery report and electrical report and further hull report will be made if boiler room intact and in working order.  
(C.S. Gibraltar 1918A/5 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)
- K.M.S.6. Arrival BLACK SWAN, BALSAM, AUBRETIA, FOWEY, CARNATION, CAMPION, VIOLET, CAMELLIA, MYOSOTIS, F.F.S. LA MALOUINE Gibraltar portion K.M.S.6.  
(V.A. Gib. 1921A/5 to Admty.)
- Movements. Arrival 1050 F.O. 'H' in NELSON, RODNEY, ASHANTI, QUIBERON, QUALITY, LAMERTON, ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, PATHFINDER, ESKIMO, CALPE, TARTAR, PANTHER, PENN, PUCKERIDGE, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA.  
(V.A. Gib. 1941A/5 to Admty.)



War Diary

5.1.1943

TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic

French S/Ms Dakar condition This from Glassford. Pass to C.C.S. British Chiefs of Staff London, Buord, and Buships. Following understanding has been reached with French West African Authorities with respect to submarines. There are 10 submarines in Dakar as follows - CENATURE, ARCHIMEDE, ARGO, LA VESTALE, LA SULTANE, ATALANTE, ARETHUSE, LA PERLE, ANTIOPE, AMAKONP, (?AMAZONE) (Ships now engaged in training operations only.) General condition of all ships is as follows ballast tanks require inspection and repairs. Hydrophone listening gear generally old and unreliable and French suggest replacement. Batteries are old and require replacement. Electric cables generally in need of replacement. None of ships are soundproofed none have radar. Spare torpedoes available for less than one complete recharge. Submarine tender JULES VERNE adequate and in good condition requires additional closein machine guns. Recommendations follow - (First - all submarines overhaul in U.S. for installation new equipment and accomplishment major repairs list above. (2nd) - Buord investigate if practicable to modify French torpedo tubes to accommodate our repeat our torpedoes. Am sending plans their tubes via air mail Buord 6Z? (3rd) - That schedule of overhaul be prepared and discussed French High Naval Command and that ships proceed to U.S. without escort. (4th) - JULES VERNE not overhaul in U.S. and anti-aircraft battery be augmented with French guns removed from RICHELIEU and cruisers that overhaul U.S. (5th) - Request Buships furnish type plans for sound proofing of Auxiliaries so that work within capacity local dockyard can proceed. (Navcom, 0502/5 to Admty.)

U/B Following has been read from TARN (undecypherable) Periscope sighted 5° 26' 1° 50' W. (Burnham, 0710G.M.T./5 to Liverpool.)

BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER. N.O.B. Trinidad's 1912/3 (Connav 1912/3 intended) Request confirmation that BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER have sailed without motor minesweepers. My 1813/27 is passed to Connav. (F.O.W.Af., 0927Z/5 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad, (R) Admty., Connav.

Suspicious Ship. Following received from M.O. Tristan Da Cunha (Begins) Master of British Ship (?RE) ISBANK reports unknown ship large cargo hull down at 1730/3 034° 30' S. 006° 28' W. course between 000° (?and) 020°. 2 tall masts raised forecandle Samson searchlight post forward of foremast very large funnel resembling Hansa Line ends. 2. No allied ship known to have been in the vicinity. (C. in C. S.A., 1059C/5 to Admty., F.O. W.A. Cominch, C. and R. Comsolantfor.

C.F.10 LARGS BAY Following is a repetition of my 1655Z/1/1 begins: Convoy C.F.10 independent route for LARGS BAY from Approx. position 17° 00' N. 20° 00' W. 3.

/.E.T.A...



War Diary5.1.1943  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic

C.F.10 E.T.A. 14. All positions N. and W. J. 22.27  
 LARGS BAY K. 29.30 L 34.50 M.37.30 61.00 N.39.30 70 00  
 Contd. O. 40.04 50.73 31.45 31.45 S. of A. 12.5 knots.  
 Special reference positions Q.Bermuda, R.Delaware,  
 S. Boston, CHOP 8 January, AQJU 175 Ends.  
 (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1225Z/5 to Admty, Connav, V.A.C.N.A.-

ESPERANCE BAY, My 1901/30 paratwo and three and A.M. 2005/2 not  
 HIGHLAND to all addressees ordering ESPERANCE BAY, HIGHLAND  
 PRINCESS, PRINCESS and RANGITIKI to Capetown. In view of  
 RANGITIKI. fact that these three ships have 3500 personnel  
 for Mideast for whom NIEUW AMSTERDAM provides  
 excellent opportunity for on-carriage request  
 urgent approval for them to continue to Durban and turn round  
 there. Agreed.  
 (P.S.T.O. Capetown 1232/5 to D. of S.T. (R) Mideast Dechief  
 Pretoria D.S.T.O. Durban C. in C. E.F. Arminia C. in C. S.A.)

ILEX, Proceed to R/V with CALGARY in 020° 41' N. 023°  
 CALGARY 09' W. at 1200Z/6 and escort toward Freetown  
 CALGARY routed from (G) 038° 00' N. 033° 28' W.  
 to (S) 012° 30' N. 021° 06' W. speed 9½ knots  
 onward route will be signalled.  
 (F.O.C.W.Af. 1301Z/5 to ILEX (R) Admty. V.A. Gibraltar Escorts  
 C.F.10)

ALCANTARA ALCANTARA's 1705/31/12. Board of enquiry has  
 attempted failed to establish identity of saboteur. Beyond  
 sabotage. fact attempt was made by a man of above average  
 intellect in ordinary matters not strange to the  
 details of a depth charge. Peter Herbert Watson  
 AB D/JX 157517 has these qualities and opportunity. Request  
 details of any previous history of this rating. Although no  
 evidence is at present available on which to charge this rating,  
 in view of particularly serious nature of attempt I have ordered  
 him to be kept in preventive custody.  
 (F.O.C. W.Af., 1421Z/5 to Admty. and D.N.I.)

RANPURA Sailed RANPURA to Kilindini routed as in my 1116  
 Dec. 27th. 2. Shifts to group 5 at 1415 RU Jan.  
 8th. 3. S. of A. 14 knots E.T.A. Kilindini  
 0400Z/11th.  
 (Comm. Durban, 1555Z/5).  
 A.M. 1316A/5 (N.T. in N.D.). In view of Southbound movement  
 of U-Boat towards W. Africa Waters consider a second destroyer in  
 this area necessary. Would therefore prefer ILEX to comply with  
 my 1301Z/5 not to all addressees.  
 (F.O.C.W.Af., 1647Z/5 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. V.A.Gib.  
 HAVELOCK, ILEX.)

PENRITH Following has been read QQQQ QQQQ PENRITH CASTLE.\*  
 CASTLE, (Simonstown W/T 1555G.M.T./5.)  
 suspicious.

/BARON DECHMONT...

\* Cancel my 1500/4 de Z.T.N.



MOST SECRET.

166A  
166B  
166C

5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions.

Situation at 1959Z/5th, area P.  
P.615 09.31 15.26 to Freetown 8½.  
FANDANGO BUTSER escorting off Freetown 8.30 15.00  
thence 308 9.  
HYDRANGEA, COMMANDANT DROGOU, DUNCTON, INKPEN,  
DUNKERY PORTSDOWN with F.T.T.6, 07.30 29.18 to  
07.30 30.01 thence 277° 7½.  
WOODRUFF about 23.30 27.29 to R/V with NORTHMOOR  
in 22.08 31.17 Panama, 1400Z/6th.  
(F.O.C.W.A, 1125Z/5).  
KHYBER off Algoa Bay to Durban 7 ROCKROSE about  
034° 55' S. 019° 00' E. to Simonstown. MEAD off  
Port St. Johns to Durban 8½ RANPURA 029° 30' S.  
032° 10' E. to Kilindini 14. NORTHERN CHIEF off  
Cape Agulhas to East London 10½.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1203C/5, to A.I.G.125).  
PICT 2 M.Ls. escorting 003 41' 008° 54' to 002°  
55' 007° 49' thence 076° 10. CHESHIRE, ALCANTARA  
CROCUS, QUILLIAM, ROCKWOOD, BALUCHISTAN with  
W.S.25, 002° 56' 008° 55' 104° 12½. ORFSAY,  
BREDON 3 M.Ls. with T.S.28, 003° 40' 007° 46'  
300° 7. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES about 003° 25' 007°  
30' to join W.S.25 at 0800/6th CARNARVON CASTLE  
about 000° 20' S., 017° 17' 018° 16. Dutch S/M  
0.19 000° 57' 011° 18' 306° 8. DESPATCH about  
001° 02' S., 001° 01' E. 288° 18½. RUMBA about  
000° 42' S., 002° 04' E. to Congo River 8½.  
JANUS GLENROY off Pointe Noire 289° 12. Allied  
naval unit on patrol to S.W. of Equator 018° 00'.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1205Z/5 to Area P. South).



War Diary5.1.1945  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic - Contd.

BARON DECHMONT torpedoed 1800 G.M.T. 3rd. 003° 11'S. 038° 41' W. no warning 3 torpedoes ship sank 15 minutes afterwards. Cyphers etc. sunk ship's books 1 sunk 3/1. sunk. Total crew 44 master taken prisoner by S/M 36 survivors landed Fortelaza 7 reported killed by explosion. Voyage Barry to Recife. S/M reported as prisoners aboard master and chief steward of ship STONPOOL or STONGATE. (R.O. Ceara, 1615/5 to B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, (R) S.O. (I) Pernambuco, S.O. (I) Montevideo, Consul General Pernambuco, Admty. (for information).)

V.C. Ceara reports BARON DECHMONT was torpedoed 3/1 and 36 survivors landed 25 miles N.W. Fortelaza 4th. Further information to follow from Ceara.

R.O. Pernambuco, 1820Z/5 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Montevideo Rio de Janeiro.)

W.S. 25.W. Arrival Capetown 0930C W.S. 25.W. (C. in C. S.A. 1621C/5 to Admty.)

B.T. and T.B. Convoys R/V. Your 1656A/2. 1. Concur fully in principle. 2. Propose convoys from Freetown should R/V with B.T. convoys in Rocas Area, Freetown escorts thence proceeding Pernambuco. Freetown escorts to leave Pernambuco to R/V. with T.B. convoys in Rocas Area and take over escort of West African section to Freetown. 3. R/V in Rocas Area instead of ships proceeding Bahia will shorten voyages approx. eight days. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1707Z/5, to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

P.615 My position 010° 05' N. 016° 32' W. Attacked by submarine 010° 47' N. 017° 16' W. at 0430/5. Broadcast enemy report at 0700 dived until 1500, missed F.S.260 to 262. E.T.A. 1400/6. (P.615 1801Z/5 to R.A.W.Af.)

(i) P.615 reports being attacked by U-Boat in 010° 47' N. 017° 16' W. at 0430Z/5. This may be U-Boat reported in my 1041Z/4. (sighted by P.614 in 8.56 17.25 at 0725/4) (ii) All A/S vessels not allocated for escort duty are to be sailed at daylight 6th to carry out A/S patrol from (A) 14° N. 18° W. to (B) 11° 30' N. 17° 30' W. thence Bathurst. Report vessels detailed. (iii) A/C searching area. Sighting reports on 500 KC/S.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 2301Z/5 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst. (R) Admty.)

Movements. Arrival 4/1 Brazilian Minelayer CABEDELLO. Departures U.S. Destroyer SOMERS, U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1908Z/5 to Admty.)

O.19 (Netherland S/M) E.T.A. Freetown searched channel daybreak on 8/1. Are any bombing restrictions in force or am I to be escorted. Request acknowledgement. (O.19, 2004Z/5 to N.O.I.C. Freetown.)

/Your...



War Diary5.1.1943  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic

- O.19 Netherland S/M. (Contd.) Your 2006Z/5 to F.O.C. W.A.F. acknowledged. Proceed to (E) 008° 10' N. 015° 30' W. Report present position and E.T.A. (E). Total bombing restrictions working. No escort. (F.O.C.W.Af., 2317Z/5 to O.19 (R) Admty. F.O.S.)
- HYDRANGEA My 1303Z/3 (Covering escorts of F.T.T.6 to return to Freetown on relief) and my 1913Z/4 neither to all addressees. Amend R/V with MILFORD, AMARANTHUS and YESTOR to 010° 5' N. 039° 55' W. at 1100Z/9. Pass to escorts in company and Cdre. (F.O.W.Af., 2021Z/5 to HYDRANGEA. (R) MILFORD, AMARANTHUS. Admty. Cominch. B,A.D. S.B.N.O.W.At. N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)
- A.S.10 (MARIPOSA) A.S.10 S.S. MARIPOSA sailed 1830Z/5. (L) 28.55S. 34.10 W. (M) 35.20 S. 21.50 W. (N) 49.30 S. 06.45 W. (O) 43.20 S. 09.05 W. (P) 41.55 S. 18.45 W. C. in C. S.A. requested furnish MARIPOSA with balance of route to Suez approaches and E.T.A. arrival Suez. Knots 21 zig-zag 18. CHOP 7th. E.T.A. "L" 1154A/6. One ship Pad 857. Requirements at Suez. Approaches furnished only for Capetown Durban and Diego Suarez. (N.O.B. Rio de Janeiro, 2051/5 to C. in C. S.A.(R) Admty., Connav. Comsolant, Alusna, Capetown.)
- U/B U-Boat was in 010° 47' N. 017° 16' W. at 0430/5. (F.O.C.W. Af., 2125Z/5 to S. and A. afloat on the W.Af. Station. (R) Admty.)
- ILEX Bathurst E.T.A. 1230 (?Z)/6. W/T reception on N. Atlantic organization bad, B.N. 940 to 952 about 1800/5 were missed. Shifted watch to area P at 2000 Z/5 as instructed F.O.C. W.Af. 1959 Z/30/12/42. (ILEX 2157Z/5 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) F.O.C. W.Af.)
- Ships for Bahia-Trinidad Convoys, routeing. Ships of under 15 knots bound Trinidad - Guiana area are to be routed to Bahia for convoy. (2) Bahia - Trinidad propose convoy (short route) will commence operating on 13th Jan. and at interval of 8 days thereafter. (N.O.I.C. Capetown, 2145C/5 to N.C.S.O's Capetown, Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London; Walvis Bay. (R) Admty; Connav.)
- CAMBRIA Bahia 0900/6th CAMBRIA British Cable Ship proceeding to work in position. (A) 17° 46' S. 38° 50' W. thence to work in position. (B) 23° 18' S. 41° 45' W. thence to Rio De Janeiro. Coastal, Knots 8, Days 14. (21) H/F. (Alusnob, Bahia, 2347/5 to Admty.)



War Diary5.1.1943  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Burner Delayed by bad weather. E.T.A. Alexandria 1315B  
5th.  
(HURWORTH, 0730B/5.)

TRIBUNE Am assuming weather has delayed your operation.  
(Capt. S.8., 1006A/5 to TRIBUNE.)

S.S. KROM Your 1135 30th Dec., Para. I confirmed.  
(C. in C. Med. 1024B/5 to B.N.A. Ankara.)

PRINCESS BEATRIX. Fighters have left CHRYSTINE without relief my  
position now is 37.21 N. 6.19 E.  
(PRINCESS BEATRIX, 1035A/5)

DALHANNA My 1553A 3rd. (group missing ? intend) sailing  
(damaged DALHANNA in M.K.S.5 Vessel will require (?books)  
at Bone before leaving Mediterranean.  
2 Jan.) (S.T.O. Bone, 1108A/5)

Route for S/Ms. Owing to operations of friendly A/S V aircraft  
south of latitude 036°, the route from K to  
northwards (?) until further orders is to be  
through 036° 08' 014° 04' to arrive end of swept  
channel at 1300 A. Subs. are not to approach within 20 miles of  
Algiers (?) before 0400 A. This comes into force immediately.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1145A/5 to Subs. on Patrol. (R) C. in C. Med.,  
Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, N.C.X.F.)

P.R.U. 1010 Palermo? 11 Destroyers sighted. Photographs.  
Jan.5th. 1055 Taranto - No visuals. Photographs.  
(V.A. Malta, 1244A/5.)  
My 1244 5th. Palermo photographs show 18  
Destroyers still present. Others did not develop.  
(V.A. Malta, 1844A/5.)

Black Sea Situation. (1) Naval. No report of any recent activities  
received. Black Sea Naval Staff gradually  
returning to Tuapse from Poti. (2) Land Fronts.  
No substantial changes have taken place. Russian  
offensive action (?confined) to lightning raids  
and small scale attacks sufficient to prevent enemy withdrawing  
forces for use elsewhere. (3) Air Operations. Russians have  
carried out air attacks on enemy troops and communications  
including bombing of railway junction at Tihoretsk on 29th Dec.  
Majority of enemy aircraft based in Caucasus now being used on  
Stalingrad fronts. Small air raids Gelendjik Dec. 30th and  
Sukhum Dec. 31st no damage military objectives. Weather  
deteriorating rains recommenced.  
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 1327C/5)

/2 Enemy...



War Diary5.1.1942  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

- 2 Enemy vessels. Position of 2 enemy small vessels 37.25 N. 10.27 E. course 70° speed 10 knots. (A/C C/SGHSH 1425A/5.)
- M.K.F.6 Amendment to his 1742/4. (N.C.X.F. 1526A/5)
- P.54 Cancel my 1126 4th. Onward route through 180° Ustica 15' thence direct to operate within 30 miles of Cape Rasocolmo light in northern approaches to Strait of Messina. Main traffic routes are close to North of Cape Milazzo, Cape Vaticano and big ships route bound Naples east of Stromboli. Shore based hydrophones suspected Milazzo and Messina area. You may encounter P.43 on opposite course during next 48 hours. (Capt. (S) 10, 1530A/5 to H.M.S/M P.54 (R) S/Ms on patrol C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1. Capt. (S) 8.)
- P.228 My 1720/4th P.228 pass 038° 38' N. 009° 45' E. at about 2000A/7th. A/S Patrol special operation P.228 will proceed vicinity 040° 21' N. 011° 10' E. to report situation thence proceed to 039° 01' N. 012° 01' E. or as ordered by you. (Capt. (S) 8, 1622A/5 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) Subs. on Patrol.) Algiers departure P.228. (Cdre. Algiers, 2008A/5.)
- P.211 Your escort will be an M.L. (2) 4 trawlers arrive Algiers from eastward at 0730/6th. (3) 3 tank landing ships and 3 escorts pass Algiers from eastward to westward about 1200/6th. (4) Do not arrive R/V before 0730/6th. (Capt. (S) 8, 1642A/5 to H.M.S. P.211 (R) Cdre. Algiers.)
- P.37 Leave patrol P.M. Jan. 6th and proceed direct G thence through H, J and K to arrive Malta searched channel 1300A/9th by route given my 1145A/5th. You are to adjust speed to make passage J to K submerged daylight 8th. (Capt. (S) 10, 1705A/5 to H.M.S/M P.37 (R) C.E. in C. Med. S/Ms on patrol. N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 1. Capt (S) 8.)
- Destroyers and Mine-sweepers. Owing to greatly increased escort and minesweeping requirements in North Africa, I am very anxious to withdraw Destroyers and Minesweepers from Aden area. Request U-Boat threat in Cape and Arabian sea areas be reviewed with a view to relieving Mediterranean Fleet ships working between Aden and Persian Gulf or possibly allowing them to be withdrawn without relief. (C. in C. Med., 1745B/5 to C. in C. South Atlantic, C. in C. Eastern Fleet. (R) Admty., F.O. Red Sea and Canal Area, 788, Com. Aden, Com. (D)). Reply: C. in C.E.F. 0950Z/10.



War Diary5.1.1943  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Opsum No.55. WX.8524. Covering period 1800/3 to 1800/4. A. Operations. Night. Beaufighters patrolled Algiers Area no incidents. Day. Between 0745 and 1430 hours 4 small raids approached Bone all turned away, no contacts made. Later 29 FW.190s reached Bone Area 10 bombed aerodrome. Casualties enemy nil R.A.F. Nil. 22 B.17 escorted by 38 P.38 despatched to attack Bizerta. Aircraft brought bombs back owing target obscured cloud. All A/C returned. 22 other B.17 escorted by 18 P.38 despatched Bizerta also brought bombs back owing cloud. G. Attacks on enemy shipping. Nil. (E.A.C. Africa, 1831/5.)

Malta Stocks. Your 1130/30. Your first will be implemented as opportunity occurs. Your third is covered by my ST/67141 of 2 Nov. (C. in C. M.E. 1950B/5 to W.O.)

Movements. Algiers arrivals nil departures LOYAL, WHEATLAND, WILTON, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, PRINSES BEATRIX to Bone. ACUTE, CADMUS escorting SALVSTOR to Bone ROTHSAV, BRIXHAM, CLACTON escorting CAMERONIA in tow to Oran HAYDON to R/V M.S. five from Phillippeville. (Cdre. Algiers 2011A/5.)

Malta Air Report. Day 4th Jan. Palermo photos show damage to Regolo class cruiser which has stern under water and to the tanker 5/6000 tons which is down by stern. Night 4/5 Jan. 1 special Wellington on shipping reconnaissance patrolled from Cavoli to Marettimo but made no sighting. 13 Wellingtons attacked docks and shipping at Sousse as Tunis obscured by clouds from 1809 to? 1931 hours dropping 83 500 lb. and 15 250 lb. bombs starting fires on commercial quay and 1 on phosphates warehouse which received direct hit. Other hits across marshalling yards and in docks area slight heavy A.A. encountered. (Malta, 2021Z/5.)

Situation report No.316. Western Desert. Benghazi. Night of 3/4 Jan. very heavy westerly gale breached outer mole in two places causing high seas to enter inner harbour 82 lighters small craft and minor war vessels in harbour and 14 merchant ships. British ships LYEMOON and JENNY MOLLER Greek HELLAS believed total losses. One other ship may be a total loss other ships aground or out of control but weather now moderating and situation being rapidly restored. All power boats sunk or stranded. L.C.Ts and Z craft all safe. Tugs safe. 2. Tobruk. 2 R.A.F. high speed launches overdue from rescue search. Salvage vessel VALKYRIEN reached Bardia after being disabled. Damage not serious. 3. Sirte. Unloading of cargo suspended for 48 hours due to weather. One L.C.T. wrecked but salvage possible.



War Diary5.1.1943  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanSituation  
report  
No. 316  
(Contd.)

4. Submarines. P.48 overdue at Algiers and must be considered lost. Admty. please see S. 10's 1217A/4th Jan. to N.C.X.F. and V.A.M. which is being passed. P.48 left Malta 23 Dec. for patrol in the Gulf of Tunis. 5. Admty. pass to F.O.(S) V.A.M. pass to S. 10.  
(C. in C. Med 2035B/5.)

Supplies  
for 8th  
Army.

Your 0316/3. No other suitable British ships are available by required loading date. Every endeavour will be made follow procedure outlined in your para. 3 and 4 but this may complicate matters here and involve delaying American ships while final selection being made London. 2. Your para. 2 (a) and (b) duration of service depends on supplies for 8th Army being maintained through Tripoli estimated at 3000 tons per day including 500 tons civilian requirements but not including bulk petrol or water. Owing to our long line of communications majority of supplies must go by sea. 3. Ability of ships to discharge depends on condition of port as left by enemy but choice has been dictated by capacity to lift tugs and lighters also suitability for carrying petrol which is chief requirement. Cased petrol carriers will be fully employed initially on shorter voyage to Benghazi. In view of weather conditions great difficulty must be expected in getting Z craft or other landing craft forward to Tripoli. Allocation of BELRAY will greatly assist but highly improbable she can arrive in time to meet initial requirements. My 2045/4/1 refers. 4. Allowing for release of ANNITSA and LUCIJANA on completion of present voyage anticipate it will be necessary to take up additional shipping approx. 35000 tons capacity to cover requirements. This takes into consideration losses at Benghazi during recent gale details of which will be reported as soon as possible and allows 30% margin for casualties and repairs.  
(P.S.T.O. Middle East, 2130/5 to D. of S.T.)



War Diary.

5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

S.O.A. My 1253Z/3 reorganize number 175 Y  
C.E.F. (C. in C.E.F. 0637Z/5.)

Movement C. in C. E.F. 0804Z/5  
Summary. See Lion Copy.

Enemy destroyer off Andamans. Following received from R.A.F. R/C begins:  
1 Battleship or Cruiser in MacPherson Strait  
Andamans Islands stationary at 0545Z/5th. ends?  
2. Photographic confirmation promised.  
( N.O.I.C. Calcutta 1129Z/5 to C. IN C. E.F. F.O.  
Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N.)  
My 1129 5th. para. (ii) Photographic confirmation shows 270 foot  
Destroyer.  
( N.O.I.C. Calcutta 1337Z/5)

India air report. 296th. Daily Intelligence summary 5 Jan. (A) 1  
Hudson bombed and gunned Sampans Madegyun (R)  
Madegun Strait. (C) Night 3rd/4th. 4 Wellingtons  
bombed Mandalay railway yards. Bursts North  
end yard. Small fires started.  
(E) Description of aircraft shot down Calcutta night 24th/25th. Dec  
( A.H.Q. India 1153/5Z.)

TRUSTY. Colombo departure 1140Z/5 TRUSTY.,  
(S.O.(I) Colombo 1302Z/5)

2nd. I/C Eastern Fleet. The flag of R.O. second I/C will be hauled down at  
sunset on 6th. Jan. on his leaving the station.  
F.O.C. 4th. C.S. is to assure duties as Second in  
Command Eastern Fleet temporarily from that date.  
(2) 1st. Battle Squadron will be administered by  
C. in C. E.F., 3rd. B.S. by C.O. RESOLUTION (short title F.O. 3rd.  
Battle Squadron.) (3) Signals and correspondence are to be  
despatched accordingly.  
( C. in C. E.F. 1327Z/5 )

VALIANT. Request telegraphic report of essential defect list  
items for VALIANT which must be taken in hand by  
dockyard at home. A list of partially completed  
alterations and additions only should also be included in this  
report.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1331A/5 to C. IN C. E.F. )

/Facilities...



173A

5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movement  
summary 32  
Jan. 5th.

- (1) CERES left Aden 2nd Jan. due Kilindini 7th Jan.
- (2) CAPETOWN left Kilindini 1st Jan. due Bombay 7th Jan. thence to Bahrein arriving about 11th Jan.
- (3) (Corrupt group) left Fremantle 4th Jan. escorting 1 transport.
- (4) F.L.C. LEOPARD left Kilindini 4th Jan. due Tamatave 7th Jan. thence to Diego Suarez.
- (5) FOXHOUND left Durban 1st Jan. due Kilindini 5th Jan.
- (6) RANCHI left Bombay 31st December due Aden 8th Jan.
- (7) CHITRAL left Aden 30th December due Bombay 6th Jan.
- (8) TRUSTY left Colombo 4th Jan. for patrol
- (9) The following Y messages are cancelled 167Y of 13th Dec., 168Y of 18th Dec., 171Y of 22nd Dec., 174Y of 29th Dec.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0804Z/5 to E.F., etc.)



War Diary.

5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Facilities at Colombo A.M. 1439Z/13 Sept. ( N.T. in W. D. ) para 3.  
(A) Existing graving dock provides adequate facilities at present but if progress of war throws increased demands on Colombo this will not be so. Colombo patent slip is unsuitable for "T" class submarines.  
(2) If additional docking facilities are required, Colombo port commission offers to construct, using their engineers, workshops and plant, graving dock 350 feet by 50 feet by 16 feet adjacent to existing dock, if Admty. provide additional staff. Plant and materials and raw cost. Usable, but not complete, after 15 months. (3) Consider offer Worth investigation and have authorised bore holes as rock level affects plant and completion time. Project being reported in full by microgram, and further signal will be made after boring.  
( F.O. Ceylon 1435Z/5 ).

Reference positions. Pass to N.C.S.O. Reference positions ordered in A.M. 1921 16th. Dec. and repeated to E.I. station in my 0715 22nd. give letters S.T. for both line 13 and line 26 of period commencing 0001Z/10. (2) Line 13 is therefore to be amended to read S.V.  
( C. in C.E.F. 1445Z/5 to F.O.N.I.C. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. F.O.R.S.C.F. A.C.N.B. Melbourne, N.Z.N.B. Wellington, Cominch (C and R) ).

BRITISH  
WATCHMAN.

My 0832Z 29th Dec. Your 1040Z 31st. Dec.  
BRITISH WATCHMAN has clean bill of health sailed 5th. Jan.  
( S.T.O. Karachi 19?1Z/5 to F.O. Ceylon ).



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Provision of Convoy Escort Vessels. OZ.48. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 429. Reference J.S.M. 650 (1711/2). We entirely agree with the idea of accelerating and expanding escort vessel construction, but do not feel justified in suggesting to the Prime Minister that he should lend his personal backing to giving this absolute priority until we have some idea of what effect this would have on other critical items of munitions. We shall be glad to receive the report on this matter (see JS.M.650 para. 2(a)) as soon as it is ready. Reference para. 2(c) we feel that Americans are unaware of the efforts that have been made in this country to combat the submarine menace. There is a special Anti U-Boat Warfare Committee which has the P.M. in the Chair and whose membership includes, among others, Sir S. Cripps, S.O.S. for Air, M.W.T., First S.L., C.A.S. and various scientists. The Committee has for some time past had weekly meetings. Main facts and conclusion which have emerged from these deliberations are being sent by Admiralty to B.A.D. Washington. Facts and conclusions which emerge from future meetings will be similarly passed across. (Air Min, 0035Z/5 to Britman Washington.)

VANSITTART. F.O.N.F's 1953Z/4th.\* Propose sailing VANSITTART with H.X.222, provided you concur. (C.T.F.24, 0047/5 to C. in C. W.A.)  
\* Defects in ST. LAURENT require repair. 1 destroyer left with H.Z.222. Request VANSITTART be sailed. H.X.222. Your 0047/5 concur. (C. in C. W.A., 0922Z/5 to C.T.F.24.)

RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH. Norfolk sailed Jan. 4th for Curacao to escort Mediterranean bound tankers RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0201Z/5.)

F.H.27. My 2205/3rd F.H.27 will now sail 1100/5th Jan. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns, 0212Z/5.)

HORSEMAN, MARION. Arrival January British Telegraph Ship HORSEMAN sheltering from weather escort coast-guard cutter MARION. Departure 5th HORSEMAN and MARION to work on St. Croix - Ponce cable at Green Cay. (B.R.L.O. St. Thomas, 0913/5.)

S.V. CITY OF ALBERNI. The following received from Lands End Radio, Admiral Plymouth. Intercept 0828 G.M.T. 500 k/cs VGS de VCKM. Priority 335 0810. FFJ BYINGTON 680 Cherbrooke West Montreal Quebec. Wind and sea shifted against ship laying unread broadside on sand and beach arrange lightening equipment and tugs. I have filled tank to try and hold her find REDFEARN. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0939/5.)



War Diary.

5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

G.U.F. 3. D/Fs of enemy transmissions at 0511Z, 0550Z and 0635Z, all on 5650 k/cs indicate at least one U-Boat in your general vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 1005Z/5 to Escorts of G.U.F.3, (R) Cominch, V.A. Gibraltar.)  
A.M. 1005Z/5. Further bearings at 0913Z/5 on 5650 k/cs indicate that convoy G.U.F.3 was probably reported by U-Boat. (D.D.I.C., 1109Z/5 to Escorts of G.U.F.3, (R) Escorts of T.M.1, Cominch, V.A. Gibraltar.)

BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER. Your 0927/5th. BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER have not departed Trinidad. Approval requested from S.B.N.O.W.At. to delay ships for arrival of motor minesweeper. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1042Z/5 to F.O.C. Freetown.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	9 L.C.Is. }	29½° N. 28½° W.	077°	10
at 1800	1 Tug }			
G.M.T.	Tug LARIAT	32° N. 30° W.	079°	9½
	Convoy	21½° N. 37½° W.	084°	9
	T.M. 1. } HAVELOCK }			
	2 Corvettes }			
	Convoy	10½° N. 52½° W.	093°	10
	T.F. 1. } BRIDGEWATER }			
	ARMERIA }	59° N. 37½° W.	054°	8
	U.S.S.R. }			
	S/M L.15 }			
	U.S.S.R. }			
	S/M S.51 }	60° N. 36° W.	055°	10
	U.S.S.R. }			
	S/M S.56 }			
	(D.O.D.(F), 1105Z/5.)			

CHESTERFIELD. My 1444/31st. CHESTERFIELD will be ready to sail 2359/5. Request C.O.A.C. will inform Com. 1st U.S. N.D. Boston of destination. (B.A.M.R., 1330Z/5 to C.O.A.C.)  
1. CHESTERFIELD departs Boston 1600Z/6 en route for St. Johns N.F. speed 18. E.T.A. 1800Z/8.  
2. (Route).  
(Cmdr. 1st U.S. Naval District Boston, 1950Z/5.)

CLUMBERHALL. CLUMBERHALL diversion not received. In G.N.30 convoy. (C.S.A. Baltimore, 1520Z/5.)

/Sailings ...



5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Sailings from My 1847/4 (N.T. in W.D.) U.S. Army intend  
U.S. to E.I. sailing cargo ships as follows:

Ship and speed	Date of leaving Los Angeles.	Approx. T.O.A. Colombo.
NORMACDOVE, 14	10th January.	24th February.
FAIRISLE, 15½	16th January.	26th February.
WILLIAM L. ) MARCY, 11 )	18th January.	15th March.
JEREMIAH S. ) BLACK, 11 )	20th January.	17th March.
HARRISON G. ) OTIS, 11 )	24th January.	21st March.
ZANE GREY, 11	30th January.	27th March.

2. These ships will be loaded with a full cargo of boxed vehicles, boxed aircraft, heavy engineering equipment, ammunition, subsistence, hospital units, general maintenance supplies. It may, however, be possible to load all the cargo required into five ships.

3. Full details of personnel and cargo will be signalled as each ship sails.

4. MONTICELLO with about 6,300 troops is due to leave Los Angeles about 15th Jan. and should arrive Colombo about 22nd Feb. In view of para. 4 of your 1401/16 U.S. Authorities desire her to disembark troops at Bombay for rail transport across India.

5. In addition to the above, U.S. Authorities are anxious to sail one ship per month with Lend-Lease cargo for China to Colombo for onward routeing to Calcutta and propose that first of these ships shall arrive Colombo in April. Can these be accepted.

(B.A.D. Washington, 1535Z/5 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O. Ceylon, F.L.O. Delhi, Admty., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

S/M Estimates Cominch, 1609/5, 2202/5.  
and notices.

A.T. 34 Convoy sailing telegram part one A.T. 34.  
(QUEEN (1) 26.5 knots.  
ELIZABETH) (2) Time at position J 1715/6th.  
(3) R/V 0830Z/11th at 56.16 N. 09.01 W. with British escort.  
(4) None. (5) One H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH.  
(6) None. C.E.S.F. pass to C.O.A.C. Halifax for information.  
(P.D. New York, 1618Z/5 to Connv, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, F.O.N.F., C.E.S.F., C.T.G.24.6, Com.3, Admty., C.T.24, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Tug pool Request you will reply direct to Admty 2212/4.  
base. It is considered preferable to use St. Johns as the Western base due to its better geographic position, provided the facilities of the port can complete the probable reduction shortly of the number of mid ocean groups based on St. Johns should make this possible.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1632Z/5 to F.O. Northern Fleet.)



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

**EASTERN GUIDE.** My 2050/4. (U.S.) EASTERN GUIDE now arrived. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1717Z/5.)

**Western Local Escorts.** Your 1543/24 para. (B) not to C. in C. W.A. The low endurance of the majority of vessels in Western Local Escort necessitates this change. 2. The question of one centralised control was not raised at the conference. Cdre. Mansfield will explain this matter on his return. (B.A.D. Washington, 1729Z/5 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

**P. 512.** My 0121/31 Dec. Anticipate sailing P.512 12th Jan. to arrive Philadelphia 15th Jan. (C.O.A.C., 1743Z/5 to B.A.M.R.)

**Enemy and own movements.** Estimate own and enemy force your area. Same as yesterday. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1755/5 to U.S.S.R. S/Ms S.51, S.56, L.15.)

**Convoy O.N.S.154 casualties.** O.N.154. C.T.U. 24.18.1 2000Z/4 para. 1 not understood. SHEDIAC reports PRESIDENT FRANQUI sunk. ZARIAN sunk and JASPER PARK believed torpedoed 1630/29th Dec. from C.T.U. 24.1.11 refers. (D.T.D., 1758A/5 to Connav.)

**NORDANGER.** Norwegian mission prefer repairs NORDANGER carried out Balboa if ship has not already entered canal. (D.T.D., 1802A/5.)

**French shipping.** Your 2106/28/12. Following is latest information. GONNEVILLE - at Marseilles 9th Dec. 1942 (under repair. DJEBEL ARMOUR - arrived Marseilles 5th Nov. 1942. G.G. JONNART - arrived Marseilles 6th Nov. 1942. JANINE - arrived Oran 22nd Dec. 1942. PALLAS (Tanker) - laid up at Etang de Berre since Jan. 1942. PARAME - at Oran 1st Dec. 1942 (undamaged). CATHERINE SCHIAFFINO - arrived Leghorn 16th Dec. 1942. MARIE LOUISE LEBOURGNE - at Mostaganem 23rd Nov. 1942 in good condition. PENERF - arrived Nice 6th Nov. 1942. STE MATHILDE - at Glasgow for repairs. THESEE - arrived Nice 4th Nov. 1942. GG. GREVY - arrived Marseilles 5th Nov. 1942. VILLIERS - arrived Leghorn 15th Dec. 1942. LILLOIS - arrived Marseilles 6th Nov. 1942. MONTAIGNE - at Oran 23rd Nov. 1942 undamaged.

/STE JULIENNE ...



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

French Shipping. (Contd.) STE JULIENNE - sailed Port de Bouc 8th/14th Nov. 1942 possibly for Marseilles.  
THISBE - arrived Genoa 17th Dec. 1942.  
KROUMIR - sailed Marseilles 25th Oct. 1942 for Tunis and Sfax.

LIBERIA - torpedoed and sunk off the Tunisian coast on 21st Sept. 1942.  
MIN - at Tunis 19th Jan. 1942. No more information has been received concerning this vessel, except that she was reported as believed flying Italian flag and plying between Italy and Tunisia.  
MOSTAGANEM - sailed 24th Oct. 1942 for Tunis.  
ROUBAISIEU - reported sunk on 20th Nov. 1942 at the seaward entrance of the Channel of Bizerta.  
(D.T.D., 1810Z/5 to Connav.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. A. OS2N plane attacks sub 12.40 N. 68.32 W. 1620Z/4. My 042110.  
Para. C. Contact reported 10.45 N. 54.55 W. 1612Z/5. Sub sighted 04.25 S. 35.54 W. approx. 1458Z/5.  
Para. D. SS. ORMANDALE sights sub 34.35 N. 74.50 W. 0339Z/5.  
(Cominch, 2144/5.)

EDITH CARTER, Verna G. EDITH CARTER sailed Sydney C.B. Dec. 22nd for Burgee due 22nd has not arrived.  
VERNA G. (U.S.) Sydney C.B. 22nd due Argentina 23rd not arrived.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2204/5.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals 4th Jan. Port Moresby hired transport KATOOMBA, U.S. Transport SWARTHONDT. Thursday Island U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN, Dutch Naval Store ship SOEDOE. Brisbane U.S. Transport BANTAM. U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ departed Port Moresby 4th due Onobay 6th. U.S. Fleet Oiler VICTORIA departed Brisbane 4th due Townsville 7th.  
(A.C.N.B., 1107Z/5.)

ILE DE FRANCE. Following is a repetition of Cdre. Western Australia's 2231Z/4th. Addressed A.C.N.B., Navy Office Melbourne, (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N. Departure 2217Z/4th Jan. ILE DE FRANCE Bombay 0200Z/17th January route -



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.ILE DE  
FRANCE.  
(Contd.)

(C) 025° 30' S. 100° 31' E. (D) 014° 31' 090° 32'.  
 (E) 007° 15' 084° 03'. (F) 000° N. 079° 22'.  
 (G) 005° 00' 079° 00'. (H) 008° 45' 076° 14'  
 Speed of advance to position (G) 13 knots thence  
 20 knots Booby Island (21) (22) One ship 709.  
 (A.C.N.B., 1108Z/5.)

6 Battles.

Your 2039/5 Nov.  
 6 battles ex KAIPARA forwarded Melbourne  
 PERUKMAJA 30th Dec. Request N.Z.N.B. Melbourne  
 be informed.  
 (N.Z.N.B., 1735M/5.)

Digest  
Serial  
348, 4th Jan.

Liberator on armed R/C bombed strafed schooner  
 carrying freight entering Finschaffan also bombed  
 Madang. Liberator on similar mission bombed  
 Gasmata possibly hitting M.G. installation.  
 Another strafed schooner off Jacquinet Bay dropped  
 bombs Gasmata Lae dromes possibly destroying one bomber latter  
 place.  
 4. Enemy aircraft made unsuccessful attack on Cape Nelson.  
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 1840Z/5.)



War Diary.5.1.1943.  
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1425A/5, 1431A/5.)Submarines Attacked.Weekly  
Summary.

At 0330Z/3 a searchlight Wellington in the middle Bay of Biscay attacked a fully surfaced U-Boat straddling her with 6 Torpex depth charges.

From the data given the attack should have been lethal; but owing to the darkness no results were seen. On the 31st a U.S.A. Liberator attacked a U-Boat in 51° 20' N. 20° 58' W. and oil was seen 200 feet in diameter and the oil was visible two hours later.  
(D.A/S.W., 1233Z/5.)

U.S. Report.

Your 1059B/22 July.

Dec. 14th U.S.S. WAHO claims destruction

Japanese submarine north of Bougainville. Dec.

16th naval aircraft scored direct hit on surfaced submarine in harbour of Rekata Solomon Islands. Dec. 28th promising attacks by ST. LAURENT and CHILLIWACK with O.N.153 (? 154). Details not received. Dec. 29th Naval Catalina off Trinidad sighted submerging sub 29 miles astern convoy. Fired M.G. dropped no bombs. One hour later simultaneously sighted wake in moonlight and made Radar contact surfacing submarine. Dropped two Mark 29 and two Mark 17 depth bombs close aboard. Second RU dropped 12 mousetrap projectiles on still visible conning tower. Obtained one explosion, saw 8 foot water column. 50 and 30 Cal. M.G. fire observed to hit conning tower. Oil slick.

Jan. 1st, Naval Catalina off Georgetown dropped 4 Mark 29 depth bombs on C/T. Oil slick. Subsequent D/F indicates sub. was damaged. 49 attacks reported in week ending 2400Z/3.  
(Cominch, 1950/5 to Admty.)



War Diary.

6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

With the present U-boat packs experience has shown that unless a convoy has a surface escort quite prohibitive in numbers it is essential to have a combination of air and surface escort. The action which the Admiralty are taking and hope that the U.S. for their part will take to implement this is described in A.M. O180A/6, which also emphasises the necessity of employing every possible means of combating the U-boat menace, such as escort carriers, M.A.C. ships, helicopters for merchant ships and a policy of hunting all U-boats sighted to destruction.

The Germans have admitted the use of submarine tankers for supplying U-boats (German broadcast last night.)

A modified system of general call-signs and codress messages is to be introduced forthwith for use by merchant ships.

Home Commands.

E-Boats.

E-boats seen in the early hours of today in Lyme Bay and it is thought that 3 of them attempted to attack Convoy P.W.274 near 50° 28' N. 2° 54' W. about 0200 but retired on being engaged by GLAISDALE.

E-boats were also active off Cromer last night, but the F.N. convoy was not attacked although it was reported by enemy aircraft (there was no F.S. convoy); our coastal forces were unable to engage the enemy.

Operation N.L.45 A by 50th M.L. Flotilla from Dover last night had to be abandoned owing to collisions. M.L. 108 was damaged and M.Ls 102 and 107 slightly damaged.



War Diary.

6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

P.615 was attacked by a U-boat at 0430Z yesterday in 10.47 N. 17.16 W. Aircraft and all A/S vessels not allocated for escort were despatched for A/S patrol, during which a Sunderland attacked a submarine in 14.27 N. 17.36 W. at 1120Z today, but without obtaining any hits. After the attack the S/M was identified as French; no information had been received that a French S/M was in the neighbourhood.

In an attack by aircraft on a submarine off Fortelaza, Brazil today much miscellaneous wreckage and debris were obtained, in addition to several mangled bodies and 3 live survivors.

Mediterranean.

JERVIS and NUBIAN sailed from Malta at 1759A today to carry out a sweep between Lampedusa and Kerkenah. Nothing was sighted.

R/T indicated minelaying activity near Cape de Garde at 2345 by about 6 E-boats which retired to the eastwards on sighting WHEATLAND who was escorting AJAX who sailed from Bone at 2150A today for Philippeville.

L.C.Ts 106 and 107 were sunk in Benghazi harbour today as the result of heavy weather.

URSULA reports sinking a 7000 ton southbound troop transport similar to SEMIEN at 0553/28 in 38° 12' N. 11° 50' E. At 0504/30/12 in 360° Cape San Vito 12 miles both her periscopes were bent by a ship passing overhead whilst URSULA was attacking a convoy.

Tunis being obscured by cloud Malta Wellingtons last night bombed Sousse; fires were started in warehouses on the commercial quay and there were near misses on ships in harbour.

Liberators last night bombed Tunis and Sousse harbours.

Malta Spitfires today damaged 2 northbound F-boats off Lampedusa.

/About ...



War Diary.

6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

About 6 Ju.88s bombed Benghazi at dawn today, but caused no damage. F.W.190 attacked ships anchored in the bay of Bone at 1300 today, but caused no damage.

America and West Indies.

Convoy T.B.1 (Trinidad to Bahia) has sailed.

The Admiralty have proposed that the four Canadian Mid Ocean Escort Force groups, consisting of 5 R.C.N. destroyers, 5 R.N. destroyers, 20 R.C.N. Corvettes and 4 R.N. Corvettes should be transferred to the U.K. - Gibraltar convoys and based in the U.K.

Australia and New Zealand.

An enemy force of 4 transports escorted by 2 light cruisers and 4 destroyers, with strong fighter escort was located at 2335Z yesterday in 6.30 S. 150.45 E. (off the south of New Britain) on course 250°.

Strong forces of Fortresses, Liberators and Marauders 38s attacked during the day and secured 2 possible hits on the transports and many near misses in face of strong A/A and fighter opposition. At least 13 of the enemy fighters protecting the ships were shot down.



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

C.O. Training. It is proposed to hold a Meeting at C.O. H.Q. on 11th or 12th January regarding the transfer of all Naval and Combined Training to Dartmouth. The proposal is that all Boat Training of Naval personnel shall be transferred from Inverary to Dartmouth leaving Military Combined Training only at Inverary. Seven personnel flotillas in all for minor landing craft, approximately 40 Officers and 400 ratings, will require to be accommodated at Inverary.

4. The following information is required.

7. The present weekly intake of 200 Seamen will require to be increased to 350 Seamen as soon as practicable.  
(C.C.O., 1909A/6 to S.N.O.C.O.N.)

Movements.

S. 54. Estimated position of S.54 at 0800A/6, 59° 55' N. 18° 00' W. probably on surface through 59° 45' N. 15° 01' W. due 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 0900/8. S/M can identify herself by lamp and flare only. (C. in C. W.A., 0136Z/6 and 0602Z/6 to Escorts O.N.S. 158.)  
Weather improving, speed 14 knots, position 56 miles to (? Y) bearing 285°, course 097°. E.T.A. R/V (? M) tomorrow 7th Jan. 0900. Request confirmation of escort arrangements.  
(S.54, 0905Z/6 to F.O.S.)  
Intend to sail POTENTILLA p.m. today, to comply with C. in C. W.A. 2332A/5 as amended by 1321A/6.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1228A/6.)  
Your 0905/6. POTENTILLA will meet you in 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 0900/7 and escort you through Minches to Rosyth.  
(F.O.S., 1459A/6 to S.54.)  
Estimate S.54 will be in 059° 45' N. 015° 01' W. at 1200/6. Proceeding on surface speed 9 knots to 270° Barra Head 10 miles. Submarine can identify herself by lamp and flare only.  
(A.C.I.C., 1702A/5 to WINCHELSEA, BEVERLEY.)  
Sailed POTENTILLA in accordance with my 1228A/6.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1704A/6.)  
My 1358A/6. Amend position and speed S.54 58.50, 12.50, 14.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1732A/6.)

KENT, Scapa arrival C.S.1 in KENT with BERWICK.  
BERWICK. (A.C.O.S., 0300A/6.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic. Operating in Northern Waters: 8 Destroyers. Area Iceland (C): CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK. Area Scapa: KING GEORGE V, ANSON, HOWE, MALAYA, BERMUDA, BERWICK, GLASGOW, JAMAICA, KENT, SHEFFIELD, 6 Destroyers.

Area Clyde: ARGUS.  
Area Gibraltar: NELSON, RODNEY, RENOWN, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, AURORA, SIRIUS, 7 Destroyers.  
(D.O.D.H., 1308A/6 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

/W.A. ...



185B

6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Positions  
of S/MS at  
0800/7th  
and movements  
for following  
24 hours.

- (A) P.49 and P.216 on patrol south of Vest Fjord.
- (B) P.312 and GRAPH on patrol north of Fro Havet.
- (C) P.55 and UREDD on patrol off Bredsund.
- (E) O.10 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH vicinity Noss Head due Number 36 Buoy at 1100/7 thence escorted by LEICESTER CITY due in  $57^{\circ} 15' N.$ ,  $07^{\circ} 00' W.$ , at 0900/8th.
- (F) U.S.S. SHAD on patrol off Bilbao.
- (G) U.S.S. BLACKFISH in Zone K.506.
- (H) U.S.S. HERRING in Zone K.505.
- (J) U.S.S. BARB on patrol off Vigo.
- (K) Russian S/M S.54 due in  $270^{\circ}$  Barra Head 10 miles at 0900/7th January from North Westward, thence escorted by POTENTILLA by standard route to Rosyth 14 knots.
- (L) Russian S/M S.56 in  $60^{\circ} 25' N.$   $23^{\circ} 50' W.$  due  $59^{\circ} 45' N.$ ,  $15^{\circ} 01' W.$  at 0900/8th.
- (F.O.S., 1616A/6).



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

W.A. Command. Situation at 1959A/6. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1358A/6.)  
See Lion Copy.

BULOLO. My 1651/2. Amended route N U. From (P) direct to (F) omitting (E).  
(C. in C. W.A., 1542A/6 to BULOLO.)  
My 1358/6. BULOLO and escort sailing direct from Fastnet Rock to 49.01, 14.10.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1727A/6.)

SHEFFIELD, JAMAICA. Scapa arrival S.O. Force R in SHEFFIELD with JAMAICA.  
(A.C.O.S., 1604A/6 to A.C.I.C.)

S/M Positions. At 0800/7. Details.  
(F.O.S., 1616A/6.)  
See Lion Copy *1185 B.*

FAULKNOR, FURY, ECHO, INGLEFIELD, ECLIPSE. FAULKNOR, FURY, ECHO, INGLEFIELD, ECLIPSE, leave Seidisfjord 1000A tomorrow for Scapa east of mine barrier. E.T.A. 1200A/8.  
(Capt. D.8, 2145A/6 to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Norway Coastal S/M Patrols. My 1726/5 para. (N) for Fro Havet read Bredsund. Add new para. (O). UREDD leave Lerwick 0100/6th proceeding on surface at C.O's discretion routed through - (A) 091° Out Skerries 5 miles.  
(B) 62° 59' N. 02° 51' E.  
(F.O.S., 0014A/6 to Admty.)  
The quick replenishment and sailing of UREDD show good organisation and reflects credit on all concerned.  
(F.O.S., 1126A/6 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

1. I appreciate that enemy main units may be moving to the Norwegian coast shortly.
2. Object of S/Ms on patrol off Norwegian coast is cruiser(s) and above but S/Ms except P.312 may attack U-Boats if definitely identified as hostile. One full salvo is to be retained for main units.
3. If force retires at any time S/Ms have freedom of action as follows: P.216 North and P.49 South of 066° 50' N., P.312 North GRAPH South of 064° 45' N.
4. Landfalls have been satisfactorily made in past as follows: (A) Røst. (B) Myken. (C) SKlindenbank. (D) Nordoerne.
5. S/Ms are not to enter following areas unless ordered by F.O.S. Notices to Mariners 13 87 (T) 10 24 (T) and 14 82 (T).
6. Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged in patrol areas until further notice.  
(F.O.S., 1134A/6 to S/Ms.)

/1. My ...



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Norway Coastal S/M Patrols. (Contd.)
1. My 1814/5 para. (b). Correct position P.312 to read 064° 55' N. 009° 56' E.
  2. UREDD after passing 062° 59' N. 002° 51' E. proceed dive by day to patrol vicinity 062° 27' N. 005° 03' E.
  3. P.55 to operate East, and UREDD West of line 315 from flatter well, 002 19' N. 003 35' E. (F.O.S., 1651A/6 to S/MS.)
1. (A) submerging line 20. (B) 062° 59' N. 002° 51' E. to 062° 27' N. 005° 03' E. 2100/6th to 2100/7th.
  2. (A) submerging radius 30 miles. (B) 064° 45' N. 009° 49' E. 0800/7th until further directions.
  3. (A) submerging radius 30 miles. (B) 066° 50' N. 011° 57' E. 0100/7th until further directions. (F.O.S., 1727A/6 to H.Q.C.C.)

- E-Boats off East Coast. Number of groups of E-Boats operating appears to be three off R and T. (C. in C. Nore, 0013A/6 to S.E.E.C.C.D.) Number of E-Boats present is 8. (C. in C. Nore, 0030/6 to S.E.E.C.C.D.) R.D.F. bearings of E.Boats. (C. in C. Nore, 0016/6, 0026A/6, 0036/6, 0037/6, 0045A/6, 0051A/6, 0101/6, 0105/6, 0120/6, 0125/6, 0141A/6, 0145A/6, 0222/6, 0242/6, 0248/6, 0259/6, 0308/6 to S.E.E.C.C.D.) Fleet North. (Capt. D.21, 0341A/6 to PYTCHLEY, MENDIP, QUORN.) E-Boat bears 338 approximately from T by D/F. (C. in C. Nore, 0348/6 to S.E.E.C.C.D.) Enemy position by D/F is 59 Buoy. (C. in C. Nore, 0415/6.) Enemy course and speed 075/31. (HAMBLEDON, 0431A/6 to Yarmouth W/T.) Preliminary report of E-Boat activity last night 5th/6th.
1. Dispositions. Destroyer patrols in Q.Z.S. 311 and 350 between 57F and 54B buoys. Trawlers stationed at buoys in Q.Z.S. 308 North of 57F buoy. Coastal forces on 'Z' line guarding F.N. convoy in area off Yarmouth. No F.S. convoy. F.N. convoy was reported by enemy aircraft off Harwich.
  2. Y RAW MATERIAL at Winterton gave first indication at 2322. About 0015 one group of E-Boats was heard off 56 buoy, another off 54D buoy. Both groups moved to vicinity of Lemn Bank about 0055 until 0210, when they moved West on being joined by another group. Thereafter until about 0430 E-Boats appear to have been near Inner Cromer Knoll, also near Q.Z.S.308 and 277, also inshore of Q.Z.S. 277.
  3. F.N.11 containing 37 merchant ships must have passed close to one or more of these groups. Convoy escorts received Y RAW MATERIAL but sighted nothing. HAMBLEDON's Y RAW MATERIAL about 0430 indicates possibility of minelaying North of 57F buoy, but locality cannot be defined. As patrol destroyers obtained no contact it is considered that E-Boats did not approach close to Q.Z.S. 311.



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

E-Boats off East Coast. (Contd.)

4. Shore R.D.F. stations were unable to assist. K.65, which recently has not been working well, could scarcely follow destroyer on patrol East of 57F buoy. K.135 was off the air. Had K.133 which has for some time been due for transfer to Bard Hill, been in new position and operative R.D.F. information of considerable value might have been obtained.

5. Three units of M.G.Bs were moved North in hope of interception. M.G.Bs 610 and 606 close East of Ower Bank sighted lights at indeterminate range at 0450 and tried to engage. Otherwise no contact was made.

6. Weather - light S.E. wind until midnight when wind veered slightly and soon reached force 5.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1706A/6 to Admty.)

Coastal Patrols. No patrol.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1008A/6 to Capt. D.16, D.21.)  
My 1135A/5. "Service" arrived 1003A/6.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1016A/6.)  
My 1349A/6. Cancel reference to CLEVELAND.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1510A/6.)  
Paddle Gunboats withdrawn owing to weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1610A/6.)  
M.G.B. patrol tonight.

2. Forces employed M.G.B. 8 (S.O.) and 7.  
3. Patrol between 50° 10' N. 02° 40' W. and 50° 10' N. 03° 00' W.  
4. Object. To intercept E-Boats minelaying in Lyme Bay.  
5. Information. Own forces. 3 M.G.Bs will be returning from southward between 0800/7 and 0900/7. E-Boats are suspected of minelaying in Lyme Bay during night 5th/6th and may repeat minelaying tonight 6th/7th.  
6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth at 2200/6 and proceed to patrol. Leave patrol at 0800/7 and return to Dartmouth. Speed to and on patrol should not exceed 18 knots. M.G.Bs are not to enter Q.Z.X.834 unless chasing or attacking enemy.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1959A/6 and 2043/6.)  
Your 1959/6 sailed. Codeword "Evidence".  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 2244A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation H.J.A. Intend to sail M.G.B.317 and 312 at 1800/6th for operation H.J.A. returning at 0800/7th. Codeword "Scent".  
(2) Request surface bombing restrictions 10 miles each side of a line joining Berry Head, Roches Douvres, Grand Lejon.  
(3) In view of time of return no fighter escort is required.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1131/6 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) S.O. Force J, C.C.O.)

Operation "Witticism". My 2059/31st, and N.O.I.C. Portland 1141/6. Subject to your concurrence intend operation "Witticism" 8th/9th Jan. or first suitable subsequent night. 2. M.G.B.111 will act as escort to 112 as ordered by Force Commander.  
(S.O. Force J, 2259/6 to C. in C. Plymouth.)



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Fleet R/C. Cancel A.M. 1236/19th December. A.M. 1506/31st December also refers.  
(D.O.D.H., 1104A/6.)

Mining.

ADVENTURE. A.M. 1152/28th December.  
ADVENTURE is not required by N.C.X.F. for the present.  
(A.C.N.S.H., 1149A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Sailed ADVENTURE. E.T.A. point of arrival 0830/7th, speed 14 knots.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1709A/6.)

Minelaying and Nets in Sound and Belt. Russian report dated 23rd December states - Periodical laying of mines from British aircraft in Danish Sound and Belt give no results because of systematic minesweeping by Danish and Swedish minesweepers.  
2. Russians confirm previous reports about anti-C.M.B. Nets in Sound between Vgken Light and Danish Coast. (Ad. Miles, 1157C/3 to Admty.)  
N.I.D. Comment:) This information is incorrect, and the following reply has been sent to Admiral Miles:-  
Report contained in your 1157C/3 para. 1 is incorrect. About twenty casualties reported in these waters during September, October and November, may be attributed to British aircraft mining.

BODO. My 2331/5 para. 3. H.S.L. has now returned to base. Nothing to report.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1345A/6 to Admty.)

My 2331/5 para. 3. Search carried out by 2 Rescue Motor Launches and one destroyer in co-operation with aircraft, with negative result. No further search intended.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1843A/6 to Admty.)

C. in C. Rosyth 2331/5. Further details from Lieut. Johannsen. He left bridge at 0400 when ship was on a course from point "A" to 26 buoy. Thinks ship hit mine after proceeding about 14 miles on this course from point "A" and 10 to 15 miles eastward of 26 buoy. Could not give position of point "A". Messages from C. in C. Rosyth received. Thinks some discussion followed about changing wave length. Ship sank at 10 to 15 minutes. Lifeboats and rafts starboard side were underwater before they could be lowered. Lifeboat on forward deck was not lowered and one raft only got away. On raft were Capt. Johannsen, Fitzholm, Solberg, and Sub.-Lieut. Butler R.N.V.R. The Captain and Sub.-Lieut. Butler died.  
The Captain had stated he thought Lieut.-Commander Marstander was injured, he went overboard but did not come up.  
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2215/6 to Admty.)



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Q.Z.X.866. Extended clearance of North-east end to south-eastwards as far as line joining  $51^{\circ} 21' N. 2^{\circ} 2' E.$   $51^{\circ} 17.4' N. 1^{\circ} 56.5' E.$  Positions based on taut wire measurement. No mines. My last report 1835A/5/1. Mine reported in my 2246A/4/1 had lost its sinker by the time it reached Ramsgate. (M/S.9, 1422A/6 to V.A. Dover.)

4th M/S Flotilla. Two ships of 4th M/S Flotilla are to be sailed to Plymouth as soon as possible. Remainder to remain at Swansea pending further orders. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1553A/6 to M/S. 4.)

Q.Z.X.885. Q.Z.X.885 has been extensively swept without result and it is accordingly requested that this Q.Z.X. may be cancelled. Temporary traffic diversion promulgated in my 1126A/3rd. December, 1942 should now be discontinued and normal searched channels resumed. (V.A. Dover, 1927A/6 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boat in Lyme Bay. Your 0707A/6. Following is repetition requested. From GLAISDALE to C. in C. Plymouth. My 0203. E-Boat first seen  $50^{\circ} 28' N. 02^{\circ} 53' W.$  Minelaying suspected. (GLAISDALE, 0355A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Unknown vessel. Unidentified vessel 250 P 6 Vectoring 080 slide 14. (NTJ, 0510/6 to GPP.)

Casualties and Defects.

WILLIAM STEWART. Request you sail BUSTLER to assist WILLIAM STEWART broken down in approx.  $025^{\circ} 11$  miles from New Island at 0317A/6th, drifting N.N.W. Ship to be towed to Belfast. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0353A/6 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

JOHN MARSHALL. Intercepted at 0816 G.M.T. de JOHN MARSHALL. Ashore between Mull of Galloway and Blackhead, forward half resting on Rock, after end clear at low water, grounded near high water. (Port Patrick Radio, 0916/6 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) Request you sail BUSTLER to arrive off Port Ayew which is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles south of Port Patrick Harbour at 1200A tomorrow to assist refloating JOHN MARSHALL. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1803A/6 to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

/M.L.108 ....



War Diary.

6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

M.L.108, Operation (N.L.45A) by 50th M.L. Flotilla last  
M.L.102, night had to be abandoned owing to collisions.  
M.L.107. M.L.108 damaged, M.L.102 and 107 slightly damaged.  
(V.A. Dover, 0959A/6 to Admty.)

VARDEFJELL. VARDEFJELL moved further inshore and grounded  
at high water today. Now finished with tugs.  
Intend to sail at 1300. Consider that BUCCANEER,  
MARAUDER, and escorts have done extremely good work under very  
difficult conditions.  
(C.S.V.O., 1145/6 to A.C.O.S.)

T.L.C.403. Tank Landing Craft 403 refloated from Flotta  
and beached in Ore Bay for temporary hull  
repairs.  
(C.S.V.O. Lyness, 1157/6 to A.C.O.S.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S. 26R. Following is proposed composition of convoy  
W.S. 26R.  
Code No. Ship  
P. 8 DURBAN CASTLE  
P.13 STRATHNAVER  
P.31 CIRCASSIA  
P.32 DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.  
P.42 DUCHESS OF YORK  
P.50 SAMARIA  
P.55 EMPIRE PRIDE  
Proposed embarkation dates are 19th Jan. to  
21st Jan.  
(D.S.T., 0424A/6.)

W.S. 26. Sailing date of convoy W.S.26 has now been  
further delayed to 22nd January.  
2. Embarkation will however take place from 14th  
Jan. to 18th Jan.  
(D.S.T., 0425A/6.)

R.A. 51. Seidisfjord departure my 2122/5, 0420A/6th.  
BLANKNEY, Negative WORCESTER.  
LEDBURY, (A.C.I.C., 0650A/6 to Capt. D.8.)  
MONTROSE. Arrived Seidisfjord 1900/6 Capt. (D) 8th in  
FAULKNER with INGLEFIELD, ECLIPSE, ECHO, FURY,  
BEAGLE.  
(A.C.I.C., 2101A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

/J.W. 51B ...



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

J.W. 51B. My 0934A/5. J.W. 51B White Sea section. All 5 ships arrived Dvina Estuary and expect to berth today.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0826A/6.)

Following account of the fine actions of Captain R.S.V. Sherbrooke during the recent engagements has been received from ONSLOW. It is completely concurred in by OBEDIENT and is forwarded with view to recommendation for an immediate award. "Captain Sherbrooke, as S.O. of Escort protecting the convoy, led the ships of his flotilla into action against an enemy force consisting of one 8-inch cruiser and two or three destroyers which were endeavouring to (? surprise) the convoy. Splitting his forces to allow one sub-division to engage the destroyers he led the other sub-division against the 8-inch cruiser. During the ensuing action the enemy was four times forced to retire under cover of smoke to avoid the threat of torpedo. Each time the enemy retired he gave chase forcing him outside gun range (corrupt group) the convoy and towards our own cruiser covering force. After 40 minutes the leader was hit and he was severely wounded in the face by shrapnel losing sight of one eye. Despite this severe handicap he continued to direct the flotilla and his ship until compelled to disengage as result of further hits. Only when he was satisfied that the next S.O. of Escort had taken over control did he (? agree) to leave the bridge for medical assistance. Whilst the convoy was endangered he insisted on being kept fully informed of the situation in his smoke-filled sea cabin and (? gave) his advice.

His bravery, coolness and calculated decision inspired and steadied all in touch with him. By his actions our convoy was brought (corrupt group) and successfully to (corrupt group) and the convoy escaped damage".

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1042A/6 to R.A.D.H.F.)

J.W. 51B. Request early summary of composition and tactics of enemy forces encountered by escort.

(C. in C. H.F., 1233A/6 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

K.M.F. 7. K.M.F.7 sailed in accordance with my 1536A/4th and my 1538/4th.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1620A/6.)

O.N. 159. VANESSA proposes to sail about 1300/6 to overtake O.N.159.

COREOPSIS reports she will be ready to proceed 1600/6, over maximum speed 13 knots. JONQUIL has defective dynamo probably will complete p.m. today. Request COREOPSIS and JONQUIL may be given amended sailing orders.  
(E.G. B.2, 1130A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

Expect to join you in 057° 02' N. 020° 56' W. at 1500Z/7th. COREOPSIS and JONQUIL not in company.

(E.G. B.2, 1200A/6 to TAY.)

Escort Group B.2 1130/6th. When ready proceed at best speed to overtake O.N.159. Even if unable to overtake O.N.159 you are required to meet S.C.115.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 1434A/6 to COREOPSIS, JONQUIL.)



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Oil fuel in North Russia. Dalgliesh Murmansk 0747/4. I cannot believe it is intended to return to U.K. furnace oil carefully conveyed to North Russia.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1239A/6 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
C. in C. H.F. 1147A/30. 6000 tons was based on my estimate of fuel remaining after departure of R.A.51. This estimate included 2000 ?tons in cargoes of American ships ex J.W.51A. If proposals in Dalgliesh's 0747/4 are approved fuel remaining in Kola Inlet immediately after departure of R.A.52 will be 7500 tons. To ensure adequate stocks in Kola Inlet in event of tankers in J.W.52 being lost it is considered essential to discharge all surplus oil ex American ships in J.W.51A and J.W.51B ?at Kola Inlet.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1548A/6 to Admty.)

Following for Dalgliesh from M.O.W.T.

Your signal 73. Harriman reaction is that no U.S. Ship should miss homeward convoy through discharging oil at Murmansk.  
2. In view Admiralty's anxiety regarding oil position, however, it is important that you should make every endeavour to discharge all surplus consistent with paragraph 1 above.

(D.T.D., 1648/6 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

EMPIRE EMERALD with 7700 tons white oil will be ready to leave White Sea in about 2 days time.

PONTFIELD has been aground and cannot go to White Sea until docked for repairs. To Archangel shipment of 5280 tons white oil at Molotovsk necessary to transfer it to SAN CIPRIANO for passage.

In view of recent ice difficulties with SAN CIPRIANO and future ice conditions do you consider EMPIRE EMERALD and SAN CIPRIANO will be able to reach Molotovsk and leave again after discharge without being frozen in.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1951A/6 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

M.K.S. 4Y. My observed position at 1200A/6th 049° 67' N. 014° 24' W., course 025°, 6 knots.

OCEAN SEAMAN and PROMETHEUS straggling since 0300/6. WENSLEYDALE has been detached to search for them.

(SLAZAK, 1258A/6 and 1519A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 1859/6. Cancel my 1647/6. The whole convoy is to proceed via North Channel. Every endeavour should be made to locate stragglers and to rejoin them to main convoy.

(C. in C. W.A., 2126A/6 to Escorts M.K.S. 4Y.)

Russian Independent M/Vs. The arrival of six Russian independents was reported in your 1709/29 and one of these ships was also reported in your 1952/27.  
2. From sailing signals it appears probable that five further independents should have arrived.  
3. Request that in future arrival reports may be notified to the necessary authorities as soon as practicable after the arrival of each ship.

(D.O.D.H., 1324A/6 to A.C.I.C.)

/URITZKY ...



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- URITZKY  
KARA,  
ALDAN. Arrived Russian motor vessels URITZKY KARA,  
and ALDAN.  
(A.C.I.C., 1626A/6 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- A.T. 32,  
(ANDES). Arrived A.T.32.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1338A/6.)
- R.U. 57. No objection to Admiralty's 1650/5.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1447A/6 to Admty.)
- H.X.220,  
H.X.220F. Your 1215 and your 1316A/6th. H.X.220 (31 ships  
and BATTLE) P.C.S. at 1300/6th 057° 33' N. 017°  
27' W., 102°, 7.5 knots.  
H.X.220F (2 ships). BATTLE and NOESNIWI are  
being detached at 1630/6 escorted to 007° W. by LAVENDER and  
ASPHODEL, S.O.A. 13 knots. Escort detailed Loch Ewe portion  
ANEMONE. Stragglers STADT VLAADINGEN and PORT WEDDERBURNE  
have rejoined. JOHN CARVER destination Mersey directed to  
Belfast with D.G. trouble.  
(CLOVER, 1500Z/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
- A.T. 34. QUEEN ELIZABETH sailed New York as convoy A.T.34.  
Routed through position (J) 38.45 N. 71.55 W.  
(K) 38.45 N. 59.40 W. (L) 42.10 N. 47.55 W.  
(M) 50.40 N. 36.45 W. (N) 50.35 N. 25.30 W. (O) 56.20 N. 13.50  
W. (P) 56.15 N. 08.30 W.  
2. Time at position (J) 1715Z/6.  
3. Speed 26½ knots.  
4. R/V in 56° 15' N. 09° 01' W. at 0830Z/11.  
5. Fighter protection codeword "Donkey".  
6. Destination Clyde.  
7. Ship will sail independently and maximum air protection both  
A/A and A/S should be arranged.  
(D.O.D.H., 1523/6.)
- U.R. 58,  
U.R. 59. My 2144/23/12.  
Coal position is now clarified. Owing to  
unexpected demands request one collier containing  
Yorkshire hard and two colliers containing  
steaming coal may be included in each of convoys  
U.R.58 and U.R.59.  
(A.C.I.C., 1649A/6 to Admty.)
- D.F. 1. My 1108A/4. Sailed E.T.A. Sorvaag daylight 8th.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1608A/6.)

/A.T.33 ...



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

A.T. 33 (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND) A.M. 1920A/26. Convoy A.T.33 sailed New York routed through position (B) 38.20 N. 71.40 W. (C) 38.55 N. 59.40 W. (D) 41.15 N. 50.25 W. (E) 50.45 N. 46.20 W. (F) 56.50 N. 39.55 W. (G) 59.20 N. 28.35 W. (H) 58.10 N. 19.20 W. (J) 56.05 N. 08.45 W.

2. Time at position (B) 1700Z/6.
3. Speed  $19\frac{1}{2}$  knots.
4. R/V in 56.09 N. 09.01 W. at 0830Z/13.
5. Fighter protection codeword "Gosling".
6. Destination Clyde.
7. Ship will sail independently and maximum air protection both A/A and A/S should be arranged.  
(D.O.D.H., 1532/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

Navigation Lights. When in B.A.M.S. Area 3C, merchant ships are normally to burn dimmed navigation lights in the approach channel to any port.

2. In B.A.M.S. Area 7A, they are normally to burn dimmed navigation lights -
  - (a) In approach channel to any port.
  - (b) In Persian Gulf and its approaches between the longitudes of  $55^{\circ} 30'$  E. and  $57^{\circ} 30'$  E.
  - (c) In approaches to Gulf of Aden through Guardafui Channel when northward of  $10^{\circ} 30'$  N. and eastward of  $50^{\circ} 30'$  E. only in low visibility.
  - (d) Within 20 miles of Perim or Aden.
3. With the above exceptions, navigation lights should not be exhibited in Areas 3C or 7A except as provided for in C.A.M.S.I. 155/42, Section (A), paragraph 1.
4. C.A.M.S.I. 155/42 will be amended.  
(D.T.D., 1715Z/6 to B.A.M.S.)

O.N.S. 154. Search for Survivors. Area within 40 miles 42.00 N. 28.02 W. and as contained in Capt. (D) 3rd's 1713Z/3 searched without result. Now proceeding Ponta Delgada with intention join PRESCOTT a.m./9th to comply with your 2345A/5. Position 41.15 N. 25.11 W.  
(WOODSTOCK, 1755Z/6 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Arrival Clyde METEOR with survivors from WINSOR, MELMOREHEAD, EMPIRE SHACKLETON, PRESIDENT FRANCQUI.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1956A/6.)

S.C.L. 114. S.C.L.114 arrived Reykjavik 1700Z/5. U.S. Flag-ship SHINNY, ICELANDIC, GODAYOSS, and BRUARFOSS. Escorted by C.T.U. 24.6.5 in DUANE plus SCHELDT BABBI which is dissolved. U.S. Flag (? ships) CARTAGO and FAIRFAX already arrived. HERNOR, JOHN LIND unreported.  
(C.T.G. 24.6, 1851Z/6 to C.T.F.24.)

/O.N.S.160 ...



War Diary.

6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

O.N.S. 160,  
SAN TIRSO.

On completion repairs in Clyde, SAN TIRSO should be sailed as escort oiler in O.N.S.160 destination New York, to load full cargo Admiralty furnace oil and return U.K.  
(D. of Stores, 1916A/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Call signs.

The following modified system of general call signs and codress messages is to be introduced forthwith for use by Merchant ships. Details.  
(D.S.D., 1927A/6 A.G. Message 22A.)

O.N. and  
O.N.S.  
Convoys.

My 1936/4. Amend para. 4 delete last sentence and substitute. If on receiving orders to disperse from convoy the Master decides to omit the bunkering port he is to report his intention to the Commodore for transmission to Admiralty before parting company.  
(D.T.D., 2124A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.6. 1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch Area."

Smoke  
Defence. Revised procedure for camouflage, decoys and static smoke screens. (Note Navy is concerned only in so far as where there is no local Air Defence Commander, responsibility will rest in first instance with local naval or military Commander subject to general responsibility of A.O.C. in C. or A.O.C.)  
(Admty. 1032A/6) ~~See Lion Copy.~~

P.55  
P.219 N.C.X.F. 1840/3rd not to all addressees. By delaying work in P.55 which can be accepted, P.219 can be taken in hand for repairs at the end of January by Messrs. Blythe Ship-Building Company. Request you will report expected date of arrival in U.K.  
(D.O.D.(F)1537A/6 to N.C.X.F., F.O.S., Capt. S.8, C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Tyne, Capt. S.3.)

BRAMHAM C.S. Gibraltar's 0133/2 and A.M. 1839/30/12/1942. On re-consideration concur in BRAMHAM permanent repairs being undertaken in U.K. She will be sailed in convoy when ready.  
(N.C.X.F.1615A/6 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib., C.S. Gib.)

S/M  
Exercises. Your 1713/<sup>3</sup>~~B~~. Exercises can be arranged, areas being delineated as convenient in vicinity of bases.  
2. Need for A/S practices is great and it is intended to employ STURGEON for this purpose for a short period. She is not fit for patrol.  
3. This together with provision of mobile A/S training unit requested in my 1657/16 December should be of value.  
4. URSULA is at present out of action with fractured standards.  
(N.C.X.F.1643A/6 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib., C. in C. W.A.)

Port Defence, Rocket  
Apparatus, ADVENTURE. An urgent requirement has arisen for the provision of Military A.A. rocket apparatus (Z batteries) for the defence of ports against glide bombing attack by night. I entirely agree particularly for ports of Bone, Philippeville, Algiers and later Bizerta.  
2. Allied C. in C. is cabling W.O. but understand these could not be loaded before a.m. 9.  
3. Request ADVENTURE may be offered immediately to bring at least the essential equipment for Bone.  
(N.C.X.F. 1905A/6 to Admty.) Reply: Admty 2005A/11.

French  
Naval  
Forces. Re technical arrangements for communications and liaison.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1925Z/6 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)  
See ~~Lion Copy.~~ p197a.



197B

6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area.

Codes &  
Cyphers  
for French  
warships.

A.M. 1332/5. In view of lack of liaison personnel and S.Ps at Freetown, I propose to provide all operating French warships in West Africa with following S.Ps as temporary measure.

(1) Anglo-French cypher and decypher with recyphering table. Anglo-French codes are not available at Freetown.

(2) Mersigs Vol.2 with General Recoding Table.

(3) Operating Signals.

(4) Self-evident Code.

(5) Small Ships Code, Home Edition.

(6) Extracts from Minor War Vessels Key

Memorandum.

(7) Local Minor War Vessels Call Signs.

2. Merchant ships. Mersigs Vol.2 with General Recoding Table and Secret Call Sign.

3. Propose original secret call sign method of identification should be employed pending appointment of liaison personnel.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 1925Z/6 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.)



War Diary.

6.1.1943.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Ships entering N.C.S.O. San Miguel (Ponta Delgada) request that San Miguel. ships entering do so separately and at suitable intervals. Has been informed LLANGIBBY CASTLE cannot anchor.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0002A/6 to EXE (R) Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon).

Search 2345A/5 C. in C. W.A., Continue search in Area for O.N.S.154 between 39° 00' and 42° 00' N., 26° 30' and 28° Casualties. 30' W. working from Southward to Northward. R/V will be signalled later.  
(WOODSTOCK, 0132Z/6 to PRESCOTT (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, Cdre. Londonderry).

Air Report, Gibraltar. Opsum to midnight 5 Jan.  
(2) No enemy activity over Rock no operational fighter sorties.  
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 0433Z/6 to Air Min).

Movements Arrival PETUNIA.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0730A/6 to Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. W.A.)  
PRESCOTT left Ponta Delgada 1000 G.M.T./6th EXE arrived 1000, LLANGIBBY CASTLE and H.M. Trawler SOUTHERN PRIDE, at 1215.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1031/6 to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) Admty).

DOLFIJN Arrival DOLFIJN.  
(2) Admty. pass to B.D.Z.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1428A/6 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. (R) F.O.C. Subs. B.D.Z., 1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th S/M Flots.)

RHAKOTIS survivors. Your 1722/4. Germans left Corunna this morning 6th by rail with passes for Irun Frontier.  
(Corunna, 1210/6 to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty. and Gibraltar).  
Corunna's 2130/4. Corunna informs me by telephone 8 Norwegian, 1 British and 1 Swedish have been handed to him. I have asked him to obtain exit permit to Gibraltar via La Linea. If permits granted I will inform Gibraltar with view being met at station with transport Gibraltar.  
(B.N.A. Madrid, 1310/6 to Admty (R) Gibraltar).  
W.D. Note. Survivors of German vessel RHAKOTIS (sunk 1 Jan. by SCYLLA) landed at Corunna.

M.K.S.5 M.K.S.5. My 1521/31 para. 4 (E) for 36° 56' N. read 35° 56' N.  
(N.C.X.F., 1413A/6 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

/QUANZA...



MOST SECRET.

198A  
198B  
198C

6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements  
Summaries.

Situation at 2000A/6.

1. FLEETWOOD, VELOX 35.53 N. 03.50 W. to Gibraltar 13½ knots.
2. LOCH OSKAIG 36.10 N. 05.08 W. through 36.23 N. 04.38 W. and 36.32 N. 02.40 W. 9 knots R/V with S.S. BLAIRESK 1800/7th off Almeida escort to Gibraltar by reciprocal route.
3. M.K.F.6, EGRET, CLARE, BANFF, HAYDON, TEST, FISHGUARD 36.51 N. 02.33 E. through 39 to R/V Oran section 1030/7th in position 109 thence 70.37 13 knots.
4. One Merchant ship in tow of tug escorted by ROTHESAY and 2 escorts 36.02 N. 00.10 W. through 109.35.48 N. 01.10 W. 36.26 N. 00.44 E. coastwise to (corrupt group) thence 260° 3½.
5. One destroyer patrolling East of the Straits during dark hours.
6. RHYL and 2 escorts escorting 3 L.S.Ts. 36.59 N. 02.25 E. through 89 (?84 or 96) 109 to Oran 7 knots (V.A. Gibraltar, 1142A/6, Amended 2320A/6.)

Situation 1955A/26th.

- (1) G.U.F.3 Task Force 35, 34.25 38.40 278° 12.
- (2) T.M. One, GODETIA, HAVELOCK, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE 23.22 36.13 110° 8 (?2.)
- (3) WOODRUFF one merchant ship 21.29 28.29 168° 9. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1335A/6.)

Situation at 2002A/6th.

- (1) U.S. S/M BARB on patrol off Vigo.
- (2) EMINENT 35.56 08.12 Gibraltar 10.
- (3) C.F.10 ERNE, LEIGH, SANDWICH 29.30 12.30 034° 12½.
- (4) ARCTIC RANGER, MIRROR repairing cable in vicinity 38.28 09.22.
- (5) KINGSTON, CHRYSOLITE, MARIE LOUISE, MACKAY repairing cable in vicinity of 035° 56' 005' 58'.
- (7) 1 U.S. destroyer 1 P.C., 1 merchant ship 034° 21' 006° 54' coastwise to Gibraltar 11.
- (8) PETUNIA, BURDOCK, DRANGEY, 3 merchant ships sail 1600/7th through 035° 52' 006° 01' 8.
- (9) ST. NECTAN 034° 54' ? 007° 03' coastwise to Gibraltar 10½ (V.A. Gibraltar, 1341A/6.)



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.QUANZA  
(Portuguese)

QUANZA 6636 gross tonnage left Loanda 25 Dec. for Funchal speed about 12 knots. If encountered and found not to have obtained clearance at Freetown, ship is to be sent in to Gibraltar or Freetown ? under armed guard. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1712A/6 to S. & A. Areas X and Z. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. W.Af.)

ST. CERGUE  
(Swiss).

My 1717/5. Swiss ST. CERGUE sailing postponed until 10th. (D.E.W.D., 1915A/6 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F)

LARIAT,  
repairs.

From Burnham Radio. Follow from BJXY (LARIAT) Addressed Admiral Liverpool. Acknowledge your 1055\*(two corrupt groups) proceed Ponta Delgada refer you to my 0010/6. (LARIAT, 2100/6 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty). \*1055/6. Repetition of 1101/5. LARIAT to proceed to Ponta Delgada if necessary to effect repairs.

ASTURIAS,  
C.F.10.

E.T.A.1400A/8 C.F.10 and escorts in company. (ASTURIAS, 2200A/6 to V.A. Gibraltar).

L.C.I.(L),  
DESTINY.

Your 1135/3. L.C.I.(L) 7 in tow DESTINY with faulty propeller. Towing considered impossible in heavy weather. L.C.I.(L) 168 leaking forward and unreliable. Propose detaching DESTINY and L.C.I.(L)s 168 and 7 to Gibraltar at point H named in Cominch 1920/8 Dec. and to continue unescorted to U.K. Course North from H until route from U-V is regained in approx. 045° 40' N., 018° 58' W. My P.C. and S. 0500 G.M.T./7 031° 00' N., 022° 40' W., 052° 10 knots. (L.C.I.(L) 164, 2245Z/6 to Admty (R) V.A. Gibraltar).

South Atlantic.ESPERANCE  
BAY,  
HIGHLAND  
PRINCESS,  
RANGITIKI.

Your 1232/5. has been repeated to C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. Middle East, P.S.T.O. India, F.O.R.S.C.A. (D.O.D. (F), 0026A/6 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) Mideast, Dechief, Pretoria, D.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C. E.F., Armindia, C. in C. S.A.)

O.19

Your 2317Z/5. E.T.A. position E 0100Z/8. Present position 002° 21' N., 011° 30' W. (O.19, 0101Z/6 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. F.O.S.)

/ILEX...



War Diary.

6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

ILEX,  
CALGARY,  
HAILEE. Your 1301Z/5 received 0040/6. If R/V with CALGARY is to be made in daylight 6th ILEX neither stay with convoy nor reach Bathurst due to lack of fuel. ILEX fuelled Cape Verde Is. in Nov. Am therefore proceeding direct to Bathurst now.  
(ILEX, 0201Z/6 to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, V.A. Gib).  
ILEX 2137/5 and 0201/6 not to all addressees. ILEX is to augment escort HAILEE to Freetown.  
(F.O.C.W. Af. 0930/6 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) Admty. ILEX).

P,615 attacked Your 2301Z/5.\* BIRDLIP and M.L. 302 and 287  
by U/B. sailing 0700Z/6.  
A/S Patrol. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 0255/6 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty). \*P.615 attacked by U-boat.

ORION,  
BRITANNIC,  
Italian  
P.O.W. from  
S. Africa. A.M. 2005/2. Intend to use ORION and BRITANNIC turning round at Durban in W.S. 25 to their maximum capacity on escorted basis for Italian prisoners of war from South Africa to U.K. For your guidance this movement is being specially arranged to help the very heavy programme of 44,000 P.O.W. from S.A. to U.K. in 1943 and it is envisaged here that at least 6,000 will be embarked in the two ships.  
3. If any accommodation is available after maximum number of prisoners of war and voyage guards have been accommodated it should be utilised for personnel awaiting passage to U.K. particularly R.A.F. Air Training scheme personnel.  
4. Proposed sailing date from Durban is about 23.1, and ORION and BRITANNIA should load cargo for U.K. to the extent practicable without postponing this date by more than say one or two days. 5. Agree.  
(D. of S.T., 0422A/6 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) D.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C. S.A., F.O.W.Af. C. in C. E.F.)

EMPRESS OF  
RUSSIA  
Italian  
P.O.W. Desired to embark in EMPRESS OF RUSSIA at Durban 500 Italian P.O.W. for U.K. plus guard subject to the limitations of the Passenger Certificate.  
2. Request you will arrange accordingly.  
3. Request you will also advise as to speed which she will be able to maintain on leaving Durban. D.S.T.O. Kilindini should report speed she has actually made from Bombay.  
4. Agreed.  
(D. of S.T., 0423A/6 to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) D.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C. S.A., D.S.T.O. Kilindini).



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. P.S.T.O. Capetown's 1232/5, His 1901/30 Dec. was only received 3 Jan. after despatch of A.M. 2005/2 not to all addressees.  
2. Agreed that NIEUW AMSTERDAM should embark personnel for middle east ex W.S.25, subject to approval of C. in C. Med., and C. in C. E.F. to the delay in sailing NIEUW AMSTERDAM to 19 Jan. observing that W.S.25 will not arrive Durban until probably 18 Jan.  
3. If agreed C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange for ESPERANCE BAY, RANGITIKI and HIGHLAND PRINCESS to proceed to Durban and not Capetown as requested in A.Message 2005/2.  
4. Agreed.  
(D. of S.T., 0426A/6 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A., (R) P.S.T.O. India, D.S.T.O. Durban, P.S.T.O. M.E., F.O.R.S.C.A.)

KHYBER Correction to my 1634/3. S. of A. 7 knots. E.T.A. 0800C/9th.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0956C/3 ? 6).

W.S.25 W.S.25 COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S. is to be detached with BALUCHISTAN at dusk 6th to escort HIGHLAND BRIGADE to Takoradi.  
(F.O.I.C. W. Af. 1051Z/6 to Capt. (D) 4, QUILLIAM (R) Ships escorting convoy W.S.25., N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Admty).

BALUCHISTAN BALUCHISTAN is to be boiler cleaned on arrival 7th and then sailed for Capetown.  
(R.A.W.Af. 1107Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Lagos, BALUCHISTAN).

QUANZA QUANZA sighted by A/C in 010° 30' N., 017° 50' W. at 1040Z/6.  
Sail HOLCOMBE to intercept and escort to Freetown. Course will be signalled when known. Acknowledge.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1127Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) Admty. CARNARVON CASTLE, HOLCOMBE).  
Your 1127Z/6. My position at 1800Z/6 005° 20' N., 015° 20' W. course and speed 019° 16 knots. Request instructions.  
(CARNARVON CASTLE, 1750Z/6 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Reference positions. Your 1445/5. Reference position in line 13 for (?period) commencing 0001/10 was corrected by A.M.1148 (?23rd) from S.T. repetition S.T. to S.P. and has been promulgated as such to N.C.S.Os on this station. No action is being taken on your 1445/5 for the present.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1148C/6th to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty. F.O.R.S.C.A., N.B. Melbourne, N.B. Wellington, Cominch, C. and R).



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.WOODRUFF,  
NORTHMOOR.

My 1915/5 not to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, After R/V with NORTHMOOR escort to Z 014° N., 018° W. If not met by dark proceed to Bathurst reporting position and expected time of arrival. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1201Z/6 to WOODRUFF (R) C. in C. S.A., Station, Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

Your 1200Z/6 (1201Z/6 intended) and your 1853Z/6 (N.T. in W.D.) not to all addressees. Not met. My observed (as received) position course and speed at 2200Z 023° 51' N., (7039°) 04' W., 132° 10 knots. E.T.A. Bathurst 1100Z/10. Weather report.

(WOODRUFF, 2200Z/6 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A., St., N.O.I.C. Bathurst,)

Zigzagging.  
South  
Atlantic.

For consideration that area in which ships are to zigzag be extended to parallel 025° S., from South American coast to Meridian 030° W. thence to 042° S., 004° E. (C. in C. S.A., 1225C/6 to Admty. Connav, (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

Adm. Collinet  
request for  
information  
of movements.

Admiral Collinet would like to have information of movements of Allied Warships, convoys and merchant ships as well as enemy information in order to operate his ships. I consider this desirable as soon as possible as it would also show our willingness to help. He already receives U-boat dispositions. There is, however, an obvious risk to security and early guidance is requested whether any of the following may be passed to Collinet. (A) Movements of Allied Warships in and adjacent to Collinets district command. (B) Movements of British convoys passing through his command. (C) Movements of Independent Allied Merchant shipping passing through his command. (D) Information of enemy surface ships, such information could be passed through N.L.O. Dakar for the present. Henderson reports Collinet most cordial and willing to co-operate in any way. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1319Z/6 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F.)

Attack on  
French S/M.

Submarine reported as French sighted by A/C on surface in (X) 013° 27' N., 017° 36' W. at 1120Z/6. ILEX is to be brought to immediate notice. Further orders follow. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1345Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) ILEX, HOLCOMBE, (?N.C.S.O. Dakar).

During search for U-boat referred to in my 2301Z/5 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) Admty. a Sunderland aircraft attacked submarine in 14° 27' N., 17° 36' W., at 1120Z/6. (W.D. Note. Different latitude from former message).  
2. There were no hits.



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South AtlanticAttack on  
French S/M.  
Contd.

3. After attack S/M was identified as French and was subsequently escorted into Dakar by three French escort vessels.

4. No information had been received that a French S/M was in vicinity.

5. I have instructed Captain Henderson (at present B.N.L.O. at Dakar) to express to Admiral Collinet my great regret that this incident should have occurred, at the same time pointing out under present conditions it is essential that our forces should have a free hand to attack any submarine of whose presence they have not been notified.

6. This incident stresses the necessity for the very early establishment of secure communications and exchange of operational intelligence between Admiral Collinet and myself. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1925Z/6 to Admty).

DIAMOND

Departure 1300Z/6. DIAMOND Takoradi 13th. Pointe Noire E.T.A. 0700Z/12. Speed 8 knots through B. 001° 00' N., 003° 00' E. C. 002° 32' S., 008° 00' E. D. 004° 37' S., 011° 02'. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1610Z/6 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F. N.O.I.C. Lagos, B.N.L.O., W.Af. C. in C. S.A.)

A.S.10 $\frac{1}{2}$   
MARIPOSA.

C. in C. E.F.'s 1414/4. MARIPOSA already sailed, and furnished with route only to position P.041° 55' S., 018° 45' E. Request onward route be signalled to MARIPOSA. (B.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1923Z/6 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.C. R.S.F., U.S. Naval Operating Base Rio de Janeiro)

Suspicious  
Ship.

(1) C. in C. S.A. 1059/5 is passed to CARNARVON CASTLE and N.O.I.C. Ascension. Unidentified ship may be RHAKOTIS running blockade from Far East.

(2) CARNARVON CASTLE carry out patrol between 005° S., and 00° 015' W., and 019° W.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 1931Z/6 to CARNARVON CASTLE (R) Admty.

C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Ascension, Comsolant, CORINTHIAN)

W.D. Note. RHAKOTIS was sunk by SCYLLA 1 Jan.

(SCYLLA, 1251A/2) See Home Commands. 2 Jan.

NORTHERN  
DUKE.

NORTHERN DUKE sailing 1930/6 coastwise E.T.A. Capetown a.m./10th. (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1936C/6 to C. in C. S.A. Admty).

BELLWORT,  
WOODRUFF.

BELLWORT and WOODRUFF are to be sailed Freetown as required for escorting. (F.O.C.W.Af. 2032Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) BELLWORT, WOODRUFF).



MOST SECRET.

203A  
203B

6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Movements  
summaries.

Situation at 2000Z/6th.

BIRDLIP about 14.00 18.00 to Northward.

2 M.Ls. about 1400 18.00 to southward.

BELLWORT about 17.10 18.01 to Bathurst  $12\frac{1}{2}$ .

WOODRUFF escorting about 21.26 28.(?47)  $127\ 9$ .

FANDANGO, BUTSER escorting 09.48 16.44 to 10.01  
17.00 thence 343 9.

CYCLAMEN off Freetown to West.

HOLCOMBE and possibly ILEX off Bathurst to  
South West.

HYDRANGEA, COMMANDANT DROGOU 4 trawlers with  
F.T.280 6 07 46 32 28 to 08.01 34.00 thence 292  
 $7\frac{1}{2}$ .

Netherlands S/M O.19 arrives position 08.10 15.30  
W. from South at 0100Z/8th then proceeds Freetown  
9 knots.

(R.A.W.Af. 1351Z/6).

ORFSAY, BREDON 3 M.Ls. with T.S.28 05.06 10.12 300  
7.

PICT 2 M.Ls. escorting 03.34 05.12  $076^{\circ}\ 10$ .

CHESHIRE, ALCANTARA, CROCUS, ROCKWOOD, QUILLIAM  
with W.S.25 01.44 01.01 to 01.30 03.15 thence  
 $137\ 12\frac{1}{2}$ ,

COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, BALUCHISTAN  
escortng 01.56 04.06  $038^{\circ}\ 12\frac{1}{2}$ .

DESPATCH 01.20 06.02 to 02.01 08.00 thence  
(?311)  $18\frac{1}{2}$ .

RUMBA about 02.18 S. 05.04 E. to Congo River  $8\frac{1}{2}$ .

CORINTHIAN 05.00 S. 15.59 ( $?011^{\circ}$ )  $13\frac{1}{2}$ .

JANUS, GLENROY maybe off Pointe Noire 289 12.

CARNARVON CASTLE on blockade runner patrol  
about 03.46 16.30 (?225) 16.

(R.A.W.Af. 1405Z/6).



War Diary.

6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

PRIMERO DE MAYO. Your 2024/31. We are anxious to have urgently all available information concerning voyage of PRIMERO DE MAYO in particular:  
(a) Date of sailing. (b) Order of visits to the Islands. (c) Numbers and composition of crew and passengers.

Any necessary enquiries should be made with great discretion, since we have good reason for not wishing the Argentines to learn of our special interest in this season's expedition of PRIMERO DE MAYO.  
(Head of M. 2011A/6 to N.A. Buenos Aires).

Mediterranean.

THUNDERBOLT. Cancel my 2023/4th. Expect me 1300 today 6th. (THUNDERBOLT, 0605A/6 to Capt. (S) 10).

Movements. Arrivals 5th Jan. EXMOOR, HURSLEY, (?HURWORTH), ALDENHAM, PAKENHAM, BELVOIR, DELPHINIUM, BASILISSA OLGA, ST. MONANCE, PETARD, WOLBOROUGH M.L.351 AGHIOS GEORGIOS.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0924B/6).

Supplies for 8th Army. Your 0316/3rd paras. 3 and 4. Additional ships required to commence loading heavy tanks for Benghazi on 10th Jan. 50 ton Derrick essential. Only ships available are U.S. EDWARD EVERETT, MARK HANNA, WILLIAM FEW. Request immediate nomination.  
(P.S.T.O. Middle East, 0943B/6 to D. of S.T. (R) B.A.D., for B.M.S.M.)

M.K.F.6 Tact M.K.F.6 my 1840/5th.

Name	Speed	Pendant	Destination
ORMONDE	16	12	U.K.
ORONTES	18	11	U.K.
EXIRIA	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	Gibraltar
ZOELLA LYKES	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	Gibraltar

Sailing time 0915A/7th.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 0945A/6 to N.C.X.F.)

Tact. M.K.F.6 ORMONDE considered too badly damaged to proceed U.K. and is being routed to Gibraltar for repairs.  
(F.O.C. Oran, 1725A/6 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty. EGRET, V.A. Gibraltar).

1. M.K.F.6. 2 and 3. 1730/6. 4. 13 knots. 5 and 8. As in N.C.X.F., 1742/4. 6. EGRET ?S.O. CLARE TEST, BANFF, FISHGUARD 15. TG\* repetition TX\*  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1801A/6) \* as received ? TX.



# MOST SECRET

204A.

**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.)

MOST SECRET                      MESSAGE                      2045/6th Jan.  
To: Governor (Sir A. Cardinall),                      DATE: 6.1.43.                      OUT  
Falkland-Islands.

## CYPHER.

From: Secretary of State for the Colonies.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

*Argentina and Antarctic Islands.*

No. 1 Most Secret.

Your telegram No. 243.

News has been received that the Argentine transport PRIMERO DE MAYO is likely to leave for the Antarctic shortly and to call at the South Shetlands and the South Orkneys of which it is believed that the ship will take formal possession in the name of the Argentine Government.

2. Legal advice is that the only effective method of safeguarding British claims to these dependencies is by occupation. Two proposals are under immediate consideration (a) that expedition suggested in your Secret despatch of the 29th July should take small parties which should be landed on Deception Island and either Signy or Coronation Island where they would remain during the summer. Purpose would be to assert British authority by actual occupation, and to forestall possible Argentine moves to strengthen their claim by occupation or other means. A further visit would have to be paid to the Islands at the end of the summer to take these parties off: (b) that on relieving summer parties personnel should be landed to occupy these Islands for the remainder of the year.

3. It would be desirable that summer parties should be provided with boats from which they could reach other Islands in the group which they should visit during their tour of duty. But landing should not repeat not be made on Laurie Island.

4. I should be glad to be informed with the least possible delay whether proposals under (a) and (b) are practicable. I have not as regards (b) overlooked your telegram No. 221 of the 6th November but I should be grateful if possibility of winter occupation could be re-examined.

5. In considering these matters you should assume (although final decisions have not yet been taken) that H.M.G. will wish that both proposals should if at all possible be put into effect and will be prepared to give you every assistance and support in their power. You should

also.....

[Reply. p. 238A]



also immediately initiate preliminary action with a view to giving effect to one or both of these proposals as may be practicable although a final decision should be awaited before definite commitments are incurred.

6. War Office would have no objection to military officers as proposed in your despatch of the 29th July visiting the Islands subject to views of O.C. Troops, but would be most reluctant to agree to any military personnel being included in parties of occupation.

2045/6.

Received from Colonial Office 0055/8.

Colonial Office Circulation:-

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.(UT).  
Naval Sec.  
Parl.Sec.  
Sec.  
N.A.1st S.L.  
P.A.S.(S).  
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).  
Ad. Bellairs.  
Ad. Blake.  
D.P.D.  
Hd. of M.(27).  
D.T.D.(3).  
I.P.(2).  
W.P.

Foreign Office - Mr. J.B. Perowne.  
Admiralty - Mr. C.H.M. Waldock.  
Mr. M.J. Fox.  
War Office (M.O.8) - Col. J.F. Snow.  
Min. of Agriculture  
& Fisheries - Mr. A.T.A. Dobson.  
Dominions Office - Mr. J.R.S. McLeod.

DEC.



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Bi-weekly Night 1/2 Jan.  
Opsum No.88. 8 Wellingtons bombed Heraklion Aerodrome Crete. 1 small fire started remainder results obscured by low cloud. Further 6 Wellingtons unable to locate Heraklion and returned. 2 Wellingtons crashed landed on return crews safe. 90 250 lb. He. 5 SB K 40 lb. fragmentation. 3 Wellingtons laid 6 mines off Heraklion Harbour. 2 Wellingtons provided diversion bombing of harbour. Results unobserved 20 25 lb. HP.

2 Jan. 36 Baltimores 12 B.24s 12 B.25s despatched to attack stores and fort installations at Suda Bay and Aerodromes at Heraklion Tymbaki and Kastelli Pediada. At Suda Bay bombs fell near jetty and on camp in vicinity. Bombs burst on runways and in dispersal areas at Tymbaki and Kastelli Pediada but low cloud prevented observation of damaged. Results at Heraklion obscured by cloud.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1016Z/6).

3 Jan. Bad weather prevented operations over forward area. 45 Hurricanes protection of shipping between Delta and Benghazi. 4 Marauders shipping reconnaissances in Aegean Sea. 1 Marauder attacked a merchant vessel 2000 tons off Agios Giorgios Island at entrance to Saronic Gulf results unobserved. Second aircraft signalled that torpedo attack has been made but this Marauder was damaged by enemy aircraft and forced landed in sea south of Crete.

(A.H.Q., M.E., 1034Z/6).

4 Jan. Bad weather prevented operations. 5 Jan. Ten B.24s despatched to attack shipping in Tunis found Harbour completely obscured by cloud and bombed alternative objective Sousse Harbour scoring hits on commercial and phosphate quays and buildings behind Commercial Quay. Some bombs burst near small vessels in North West corner of harbour. 50 1000 lb. He.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1059Z/6).

CAMERONIA Your 1848A/5. Have averaged only 3.4 knots during last 24 hours. ST. CHARLES quite unable to help CAMERONIA if weather deteriorates. Suggest more powerful tug be sent for proceeding further destination and request escort be reinforced from Oran onwards. Sea rising slightly but condition (?appears) fair. My position (?009°) Cape Tenez 3 miles. E.T.A. Gibraltar about 1200A/10th.  
(ROTHESAY, 1045A/6 to N.C.X.F., (R) N.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers V.A. Gibraltar).

Landing craft. Following from C.O.S. Your CC/171 (1745Z/2)  
1. We fully appreciate reasons which make it desirable that you should have one of each type of vessel as soon as possible.  
2. Practical difficulties make it undesirable to send these craft round the Cape. We therefore intend to send you one of each type as soon as they can be routed through the Mediterranean (Air Min. 1115Z/6 to Cs. in C. M.E.)

/Sweep...



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Sweep by  
JERVIS,  
NUBIAN.

Two destroyers of Force K leaving Malta at 1800 today 6th to carry out sweep between Lampedusa and Kerkenah.

(V.A. Malta, 1126A/6 to C. in C. Med., No. 201 N.C.G., H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 247 Wing (R) Admty. N.C.X.F.)

JERVIS, NUBIAN sailed on operations.  
(V.A. Malta, 1759A/6).M.T.Bs. 316,  
311.

Intend sailing M.T.Bs. 316 and 313 at 1600A today 6th for Bone. (Route) S. of A. 25 knots. E.T.A. 0730A/7th. Codeword Recognize (communication)

(V.A. Malta, 1151A/6, 1556A/6).

Sailed M.T.B. 311, 316 in accordance with my 1151/6 (V.A. Malta, 1610A/6).

P.44

Move as convenient to operate in area previously allocated to P.54 between longitude of Marittimo and Cape San Vito and South of latitude 038° 43' P.311 and P.46 may be encountered tonight between H and your new area.

(Capt. (S) 10, 1237A/6 to H.M. S/M P.44, (R) French S/M LA SULTANE, Capt. (S) 1 Capt. (S) 8, N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med).

M.W.18

Total unloaded to 1800/5th 4478 tons.

(V.A. Malta, 1238A/6).

Total unloaded to 1800/6th 5740 tons.

(V.A. Malta, 2350A/6).

Oran Base.

Your 1645/31 Dec. I regret that the extent of other commitments prevents it being possible to take over Oran base with British personnel and Admiralty state they also are unable to provide the necessary resources, I consider it would be highly undesirable to place the French in charge of a forward Fleet operating base such as Oran which is also extensively used for U.S. and British Merchant vessels. We are fortunate enough to have control of the base despite fact it is in French territory and we should be unwise to relinquish that control. (N.C.X.F., 1315A/6 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, (R) Admty. B.A.D., Washington)

French  
Ship  
movements.Arrivals, French ships DUNKERQUE, MARIGOT, PROS-  
P. QER SCHYAFFINO, Convoy K.M.S.6 names will be  
signalled tomorrow. Departures. WALT WHITMAN,  
RHODE ISLAND, OVVIVA, MARGA, T.B.ROBERTSON.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1405/6).



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.35 P.35 leaves Malta swept channel at 1500A today January 6th routed as in my 1145 5th to (K), through (J) (H) and (G) thence course 40° until crossed latitude 040° when she alters to 090° in- to her patrol area South of Bocca Piccola and East of line 180° from Carena light. She has orders to proceed at 120 feet daylight 7th.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1442A/6 to S/Ms on patrol (R) C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8).

P.42 Arrival P.42, THUNDERBOLT . Departures P.35.  
THUNDERBOLT, (V.A. Malta, 1446A/6).  
P.35

AJAX AJAX will proceed at 2030A/6th to comply with your 1838A/5th. E.T.A. Philippeville 0730A/7th. Request Fighter protection. N.C.X.F. acknowledge. (C.S.12, 1505A/6 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.S., AJAX, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bone). My 1505/6th sailed. (C.S.12, 2150A/6).

Shipping and WILLIAM JOHNSON loaded 200 Cork Bone for U.S.A. damage at will join next G.U. convoy. Owing bombing at Bone impossible to load Phosphates for Bone. considerable period. ST. MERRIL total loss. DALHANNA damaged but can probably sail. BARON RUTHVEN returned here to discharge coal. Am pressing Salter urge U.S.A. authorities for greater use of Phosphate berth at Casablanca. (M.W.T.R. Algiers, 1540A/6 to D.S.T. London).

Underground Your 1843/1. Following is underground unfilled Tankage at tankage available at present: Malta. (A) Furnace Fuel 25000 tons. (B) Diesel Oil 10500 tons (C) Kerosene 3500 tons. (D) Will be increased by 1000 tons in one month. Underground Aviation Spirit and Benzine storage is at present full, but 2000 tons Aviation Spirit storage could be made available at one month's notice. Limited quantities of Aviation Spirit and Benzine can be accepted in overground tanks at Birzebbugia which are already being used for Aviation Spirit. Capacity is approx. 5,000 tons. 2. We should welcome running of White Oil Tanker. Suggest allocation will be signalled as soon as I am informed of its capacity. Grateful if date of sailing could be signalled as early as possible as cased oil requirements for M.W. 20 are affected, as well as decanting arrangements at Malta for (?MW 19) & MW 19. \* 3. Tanker should if possible not draw more than 28 feet but ship of greater draught can be accepted with difficulty. (V.A.M. 1623A/6 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med) \*As received.



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

SS KROM

My 1135/30th Dec. National markings are as follows.  
(B.N.A. Ankara, 1645C/6 to C. in C. Med).

Situation  
report No.43.

(1) Bone. Air attack by F.W.190 on harbour at 1630/4. No damage. Negligible air activity 5th. L.C.M. Transport Service to Tabarka resumed. Sitrep 41. EMPIRE METAL discharged 1400 tons 80 octane before loss.

(2) Algiers, N.C.X.F. returned from Bone p.m./5th M.C. CAMERONIA sailed for Gibraltar in tow 5th.

(3) Gibraltar. RAVENSPOINT aground after explosion in Number 3 hold p.m./4.

(4) Casablanca. A.K. LANCASTER aground 30th Dec. Ship and cargo total loss.

(5) URSULA reports sinking 7,000 ton Southbound Troop Transport similar to SEMIEN at 0553 on 28th Dec. in 38.12 N., 11.50 E. 3 torpedoes all hit. At 0504/30th Dec. in position 360 Cape San Vito 12 miles during attack on 3 southbound Escorted Merchant Ships both periscopes bent by ship passing overhead. URSULA returned Algiers without further incident.  
(N.C.X.F., 1655A/6).

M.K.F.6

1. My 1801A/6 Secret. (10) 15 ORONTES, 15, ORMONDE, 13½ ZOELLA LYKES 'U.S.) 14 STAFFORDSHIRE, 14 EXIRIA, 15 NEA HELLAS, 18 WINDSOR CASTLE, 19 STRATHAIRD, 17½ BOISEVAIN (Du). 14 DERBYSHIRE, 14½ GLOUCESTER, 14 AJAX.  
(12) Clyde for orders, except GLOUCESTER and AJAX for Gibraltar.  
(Com. Algiers, 1805A/6).

Opsum No.56

Covering period 1800/4 to 1800/5.

F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 2 11 out of 18 B.17s escorted by 25 P.38s attacked Sfax Power Station dropping 132 500 lbr. Power Station left in flames - fighters reported hits on 2 vessels and possible hit cruiser and dock area in flames. All A/C returned.  
(E.A.C. Africa, 1805/6)

Jibuti

Your 2211/4.\* This is satisfactory.  
(C. in C. Med., 1837B/6 to Admty. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A.)  
\*Re person who is to give directions to French N.O.I.C. Jibuti.

Malta C.S.R.

MS. 6254 Part 1. AI 12 6th Jan. C.S.R. Part 1. 4 Spitfires sighted 2 F-boats and 2 escorting MC. 202 10 miles N. of Lampedusa course N. 1 Spitfire engaged the Mc. 202s probably destroying 1 of them while the other 3 Spitfires attacked the F-boats scoring numerous hits. 4 Spitfires bombers attacked Lampedusa Aerodrome.

(A.H.Q., Malta, 1914Z/6).



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.211 Arrived Algiers.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2031A/6).

ISIS Intend ISIS to join 12th Destroyer Flotilla.  
(Cdre. (D) 2102B/6).

Situation Western Desert. My 2035/5 Jan. not to S.N.O.L.A.  
report No. Benghazi Shipping situation. LYMEMOON total  
317. loss crew saved. JENNY MOLLER beached crew  
saved ship watertight. HELLAS aground North  
Corner of breakwater probable total loss.  
2. Hoped to attain minimum discharge figure of  
1500 tons a day.  
3. Ref. para.2 of my 2035, both H.S.Ls. now safe.  
4. Levant. Egyptian Coaster GHEORGHIA aground 0825/5 Jan.  
in position 35° 29.5' N., 35° 49.3' E., all crews saved.  
(C. in C. Med., 2202B/6 to Admty).

Enemy P.C.S. of one enemy destroyer 37° 42' N., 10° 50'  
destroyer. E. 030° 20 knots.  
(A/C C/S FCY 4 2235A/6).



War Diary.6. 1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

FOXHOUND

Arrivals 5th Jan. FOXHOUND, ROSALIND.  
(F.O. E.Af. 0631Z/6)EUGENIE  
LIVANOS,  
EKATERINA  
COUMANTAROU.Following have not arrived. BNRD EUGENIE LIVANOS  
due Bombay 21st Dec. BLCN EKATERINA COUMANTAROU due  
Colombo 3rd.  
(S.O.(I) Colombo 0634Z/6).Arming of  
ILLUSTRIOUS  
with  
Albacores.Admty. 1745/24. Some A/C crews of this squadron  
will be required to complete UNICORN's squadron  
after her arrival. (ii) Apart from this it is  
desirable to have spare squadrons available in case  
of emergency for embarkation if required during  
period 810 squadron is rearming with and training

on BARRACUDAS.

(iii) For above reasons request retention of spare squadrons may  
be approved until rearming of 810 squadron is completed.(iv) If it is intended that ILLUSTRIOUS should return to U.K.  
within next 3 months for modernising of R.D.F. and fighter  
direction I recommend rearming of 810 squadron should take place  
concurrently. In this case spare squadron can be disbanded with  
exception of crews required for UNICORN. Should surplus pilots  
and observers be sent back to U.K.?

(C. in C. E.F. 0702Z/6 to Admty.) Cancelled by 0953/9 q.v.

W.S.  
ships.A.M. 1650/30 Dec. para 3. D. of S.T.'s 0422/6 Jan.  
gives instructions for returning W.S. ships.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1223A/6 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.,  
F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C. W.A.)EUGENIE  
LIVANOS.Have you any news of EUGENIE LIVANOS (Greek) due  
Bombay 21st Dec. from Capetown.  
(D.T.D.1231A/6 to S.O.(I) Colombo)

CLIVE

Movement Summary No.32 of 6th January.  
CLIVE left Karachi 1st Jan. for special duty  
returning Karachi 9th Jan.  
(F.O. Ceylon 1321Z/6, 0422Z/7)India  
Air  
Report.(A) Andamans P.R.U.(1(5TY.Sic)). 8 by 150 foot  
vessels dispersed in Bay round Coast only one at  
Port Blair. 260 foot destroyer possibly Sagi type  
anchored 11 degrees 29 mins. N. 92 degrees 42 mins.E.  
(B) Offensive 5th. 8 Blenheims attacked MandalayYards 3 bombs in target most overshoot. 3 Hudsons low level  
machine gun and bomb attacks on coastal shipping Qyebon to  
(Tauagot?) 8 Hurricanes in 4 flights of 2 damaged Mayu River Craft  
Area Rathedaung. 6 Hurricanes attacked Saepana Irrawaddy and  
wireless Station (Yenaungyat?)(C) U.S.A.A.F. Reports. 4th. 6 Liberators bombed Mandalay Yards  
4th and 3 Liberators shipping Rangoon. 2 hits scored on

/estimated ...



War Diary.6. 1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.India  
Air  
Report.estimated 15000 ton transport which left smoking.  
3 medium ships seen at Docks.  
(A.H.Q. India 1804/6)M.N.B.D.O  
(I)Your 1320/2. Accommodation in India will not be  
ready before 1st May earliest.  
(C. in C. India No. T.O.O. to C. in C. M.E.)ILE DE  
FRANCE.Your 0247/6th (N. T. in W.R.) Regret no escort  
is available. After parting company with ADELAIDE,  
ILE DE FRANCE must rely upon her speed for  
protection. This is the normal practice for this  
type of ship in Indian Ocean.  
(C.in C. E.F. 1954Z/6 to Cmdre. West. Australia.(R)  
A.C.N.B. Melbourne. Comsowestpac Unit).N.T. in W.R.

FIDELITY

F.O.I.C.Liverpool's 1736/17.  
Regret FIDELITY has been sunk.  
2. List of survivors will be forwarded to C. in C.  
when received.  
(D.O.D.(F) 2013A/6 to C. in C. E.F.)



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- Measures to protect convoys. J.S.M. 650. Para. 2 (c). Present U-boat packs. Experience has shown that unless a convoy has a surface escort quite prohibitive in numbers it is essential to have a combination of air and surface escort.
2. To implement this we are taking the following action:-
    - (a) Providing as rapidly as possible sufficient very long range aircraft to cover the convoys at a maximum working distance from Iceland (C) and U.K. bases.
    - (b) Urging the Canadians, with the assistance of U.S. to provide air forces which can stretch out to meet our V.L.R. aircraft and to improve operational bases.
    - (c) Seeking the co-operation of U.S. and French in making arrangements for air escort for Sierra Leone convoys to fill the gaps in British air cover.
    - (d) Taking steps to provide bases for shore-based aircraft and/or flying boats between Freetown and the Cape as we expect to have to meet a recurring threat on this route.
    - (e) Intensifying attacks on U-boats on passage.
  3. It is very much hoped that the Americans will be able to provide shore-based aircraft from the westward for such convoys as D.W.I. and Tortank.
  4. The provision of shore-based aircraft by itself is not sufficient and it is most desirable that every convoy should have an escort carrier with it, and essential in the case of D.W.I. and Tortank convoys.
  5. It is urgently necessary that in some way the attack on U-boats in the Trinidad and Recife areas should be intensified. It is also desirable that area Natal - Sierra Leone should have air cover.
  6. We attach great importance to M.A.C. ships and provision of helicopters for other merchant ships.
  7. We lay the greatest emphasis on (a) The training of aircraft crews, ships and escort groups, and consider the provision of submarines for this training to be most desirable.
    - (b) Co-operation between escort groups and aircraft.
    - (c) Minimum changes in personnel and in composition of escort groups.
  8. When our resources permit we must pursue a policy of hunting all U-boats sighter to destruction by - (a) Reinforcing groups of A/S vessels accompanied by escort carriers. (b) Persistent attack by armed aircraft on U-boats round convoys. (c) Aircraft to sweep wherever U-boat density warrants.
  9. We can only compete with the present increase in the U-boat threat if we use our combined resources to the best advantage. An early ascendancy is necessary both to prevent the accumulative effect of shipping losses and the gain in morale and experience of U-boat crews.
- (1st S.L. 0100A/6 to B.A.D. Washington.)

T.M.1. U-boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F 2350Z 5th has made a sighting report of convoy or important unit. 5660 k/cs.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0120/6 to HAVELOCK (R) Admty., Cdr. Caribbean Sea Frnt, N.O.B. Inchcolm.)

/U.S. Movements ...



# MOST SECRET

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*Production of convoy escort vessels.*

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1848Z/6 January

From RANDEL Washington.

Date 7.1.43.

CYPHER

Recd. 0217A

Addressed Air Min. Whitehall for Joint American Secretariat.

WX.8790

DORPOC 3 Jan 5 for Lyttleton

From Sinclair

Escort vessels and merchant ships

1. Following is text of letter Jan 2 addressed to C.P.R.B. by C.C.S. begins The combined Chiefs of Staff are deeply concerned over the successes of the German submarine warfare campaign. While it is true that production of merchant shipping has surpassed sinkings in the past several months. The margin has been relatively small considering the amount of construction? completed. Shipping has proved to be the critical element of all military operations either undertaken or planned. We shall continue to operate under these limitations until more positive results against the German submarines can be obtained in this connection the Combined Chiefs of Staff are convinced that this can not be accomplished until additional escort vessels are obtained. They therefore desire that you adopt every means possible to effect an immediate acceleration and expansion of the escort vessel construction programme, and also that you submit a report to them as to the effects of such expansion on other critical items of munitions. Ends. This letter marks definite advance in relationship between C.C.S. and C.P.R.B. and you will appreciate importance from every angle in its receiving fullest and prompt consideration.

2. Special meeting of Executive Committee of Board held today to consider the letter. Dorling and Admiral Horne U.S. Navy were present to enable board to give complete answer to question in last para A statement from U.K. is required. Dorling has telegraphed Admiralty setting out questions as regards U.K. construction, etc. His wire and this arm sent after consultation between us and you and Admiralty should have copies of both. Both telegrams have been shown to Salter and I have explained position in some detail to Lowellin who considers course of action we are pursuing to be sound.

3. Taylor has telegraphed Howe for further information as to possibilities of increased production of corvettes in Canada. Canada has undertaken additional 8 twin screw and 11 single screw corvettes without reduction in merchant ship any further increase in corvettes should be in Dorling's view of twin 7 screw type. Possibility of further expansion in 1943 of Canadian corvette programme will be examined and close estimate of cost in terms of merchant tonnage obtained.



4. C.C.S. consider the probable total of escort vessels exceeds by end 1943 any qty that could be produced in the period, and consider it unlikely that full requirements could be met by mid 1944 existing escorts aggregate approx 600 including of course some relatively inefficient vessels and also some Fleet Destroyers which are badly needed for the Naval operations are employed on escort duty only because of the degree of deficiency in escort vessels now production 1943 as at present planned in U.K. U.S and Canada of destroyer escorts, corvettes and sloops is estimated at 470 this excludes Fleet destroyers or minesweepers possibly available for escort work. On that programme the deficiency in escorts below the desirable level is probably around 500.

5. Horne made it clear that U.S. Navy cannot give escorts absolute priority over all other Naval vessels but he implied quite definitely that any acceleration or expansion which could be achieved without putting back completion dates on remainder of revised Navy programme is of greatest importance. Wilson is pretty confident as to completion of existing Navy programme for 1943 by due dates. He considers however that possible acceleration of destroyer escorts in 1943 will not be great and will certainly be negligible in early months. Through first half of 1943 synthetic rubber and high Octane plants definitely conflict with any acceleration or expansion of escorts. Valve capacity for example will be very tight in that period.

6. Conclusion of meeting this morning as regards U.S. production was that while the needs of rubber and Octane programmes must be kept in the forefront everything possible should be done. - (A) to accelerate existing D E programme in 1943. (B) To plan for its continuance on the most efficient lines (C) To plan now for acceleration and expansion of corvette programme in all three countries, and (D) to consider in conjunction with Maritime commission reduction in number of Merchant ships now being or proposed to be constructed in U.S.

7. Wilson has assisting him on this work Gibbs who has great reputation here. These questions have been very carefully studied here for some weeks and Wilson's views, subject of course, to 6(D) above are (A) in general that a substantial expansion could only efficiently achieved if all measures taken to standardise design and equipment (B) in particular (1) continuance of D E programme beyond U.S. present commitments should be standardised on turbine electric of gear - available capacity will probably necessitate approximately 50% (each type) (2) U.K. and Canada should expand as far as practicable on existing twin screw corvette design and U.S. corvet expansion should be standardised in every possible way consistent with operational efficiency reciprocating engines only will be employed (3) As soon as practicable C.1 and C 2 types should be dropped. Mainly in favour of C 3 and thereafter by cargo merchant ships confined to Liberty and C 3 types and work already begun on adaptation of some Liberty Ships to oil carrying (AEW some?) to troop transport work should be pressed on. Some C.3 already accepted as transports

8. On the U.S. escort programme Wilson will make himself responsible for seeing that the essential operational devices, listening gear Axdec, etc, are available in required quantities. But it is possible Canada may be able to

/help



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- 3 -

help on Aztec and U.K. on steam and water valves and on certain other component bottlenecks. Dorling will get list of items and quantities and will cable full details.

9. The contingency that some part at least of an expanded programme of escort vessels could be achieved only at some sacrifice of merchant shipping tonnage may have to be faced. This however may be cheap price for increased protection and the extent if any of such sacrifice so far as U.S. production is concerned can only be ascertained after more detailed examination now being instituted result would for part of Board's reply to Combined Chief of Staff

1848Z/6

Rec'd in War Registry at 1750/8

Air Ministry Circulation:-

Standard COPROD/DORPOC

Captain Clifford

Colonel Grove

War Cabinet Offices

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (2)  
3rd S.L.  
4th S.L.  
D.F.S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
A.C.N.S. (UT)  
Sec  
NA 1st S.L.  
P.A.S. (S)  
P.A.S. (PR)  
A.S. (L)  
D.O.D. (H) (2)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D. of P. (2)  
D.C.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D. of P. (Q)  
Head of M. (2)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
Admiral Blake

M.A.S (3)  
E. in C (for Eng Rear Adml. Parnell)  
Adml. Bellairs  
D T S D.



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.U.S.  
Movements.

Pacific: COPAHEE at Pearl Harbour, SANGAMON, SUWANEE, CLEVELAND, WICHITA in South Pacific. CONCORD, TRENTON in Balboa, CHICAGO at sea, INDIANAPOLIS in Alaskan area.  
Atlantic: ARKANSAS, BOGUE, TUSCALOOSA at Norfolk. MEMPHIS in Recife, MASSACHUSETTS in Casco Bay, TEXAS at New York.  
(Commaveu 060831.)

U.S. S/M  
Notice.

My 1528/5th (N.T. in W.D.) S.17 movement.  
Delete RENSHAW as escort.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0715/6.)

Command set-  
up in  
French W.  
Africa.

The following is a repeat of Admiral Glassfurd despatch 052111 Action to the British Chiefs of Staff London.  
"While Vice Admiral Collinet offers no objection to serving in a subordinate capacity to Rear Admiral Pegram under the proposed Command set-up in my opinion some consideration should be given for reasons that have been made obvious to me in regard to situation of V.A. Collinet to immediate designation of F.O.C.W.A. as at least Vice Admiral. In this connection the Mission now augmented by the British Staff Officers is proceeding to implement our command understanding by initially establishing British liaison in French District operation centre Dakar with direct French radio communication to F.O.C.W.A. at Freetown Gibraltar and Casablanca. I shall proceed on the basis that the command understanding is acceptable in principle unless you direct me otherwise. Admiral Pegram has just sent word to me that the proposed command set-up is most desirable with possible minor reservations".  
(Washington 0749Z/6 to Commaveu, London.)

T.B.1.

List of 12 ships and destinations.  
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 0918Q/6.)

9 Minesweep-  
ers,  
BUTTERMERE,  
WASTWATER.

F.O.C.W.A. 1813/27 December. Minesweepers are at present at Miami repairing weather damage. It is anticipated they will not arrive at Trinidad for at least 10 days.  
2. S.B.N.O. Trinidad reports BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER ready for sea 7th Jan.  
3. Can this further delay in arrival of trawlers at Capetown be accepted.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 1032/6 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. West Africa, S.B.N.O. Trinidad, S.O.(I) Jamaica, B.A.D.)

Movements.

Estimated positions of H.M. and Allied ships at 1800 G.M.T.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1130Z/6) See Lion Copy.

/Base for ...



# MOST SECRET

213A

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MOST SECRET 1130Z /6th January  
MESSAGE OUT

TO: OPNAV DATE: 6.1.43.  
Repeated Comnavou

Type X (U.S.A.)

FROM: Admiralty.

Estimated positions of H.M. and  
Allied ships at 1800 G.M.T.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
S/M CLYDE	49 $\frac{1}{2}$ °N, 28°W.	245°	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Convoy T.M.1.)			
HAVELOCK )	25 $\frac{1}{2}$ °N, 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ °W.	070°	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 Corvettes )			
WOODRUFF )	22°N, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ °W.	129°	10
escorting 1 ship)			
QUICKMATCH )			
RACEHORSE )	17°N, 68°W.	188°	14
REDOUBT )			
Convoy FTT6 )			
2 Corvettes )	07 $\frac{1}{2}$ °N, 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ °W.	277°	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 Trawlers )			
MILFORD )			
AMARANTHUS )	10°N, 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ °W.	090°	7
1 Trawler )			
Convoy T.F.1)			
BRIDGEWATER )	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ °N, 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ °W.	093°	10
ARMERIA )			
USSR S/M S56	60 $\frac{1}{2}$ °N, 28°W.	090°	10
" " S51	61 $\frac{1}{2}$ °N, 32°W.	052°	10
" " L15	61° N, 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ °W.	049°	8

1130Z/6  
for D.O.D.(F) 164

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(UT)  
N.A.1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim.  
D.O.D.(H)(2)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.T.D.(M)  
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)  
F.O.S.(by Courier)



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- Base for rescue tugs. A.M. 2212/4. Consider St. Johns most suitable Western Base. Facilities of Port can compete and we already have Rescue Tug Administrative Organization.  
(F.O.N.F. 1259Z/6.)
- SS CORNWALLIS Your 1959/25 not to all addressees.  
SS ROODE ZEE. 1. SS CORNWALLIS now at Kingston Jamaica required to be towed to Mobile. Both ZWARTE ZEE and ORIANA are now out of action and will only just be completed in time to tow A.F.D.IV from New Orleans. No U.S. tug at present available.  
2. To avoid immobilising SS CORNWALLIS for a long period SS ROODE ZEE is being sailed from Bermuda 2000 G.M.T./6 to Kingston Jamaica to tow CORNWALLIS to Mobile proceeding thence to Montevideo. Estimate she will arrive there before 15 Feb. but she will then require one week for cleaning main motor. She may therefore be a few days late on dock sailing date.  
(B.A.D. 1312Z/6, 1423Z/6.)
- A.T.33. Time of arrival point (?Z) 1400Z. Amend (?all times) accordingly. Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier pass to C.O.A.C. Halifax for information.  
(Port Director, New York 1348Z/6.)
- BENJAMIN HAWKINS SSSS report. Intercept 1429 G.M.T. SSSS KHCR (BENJAMIN HAWKINS) 35.30 N. 61.15 W. Submarine sighted.  
(Halifax W/T 1450Z/6.)
- S/M estimates & notices. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1512/6, 1513/6, 1540/6, 1541/6, 1542/6.
- U/B sighted. Intercepted by Kingston W/T from Curacao begins. Submarine sighted 013 40 N. 069 00 W. at 1720Z/6.  
(Kingston, Jamaica 1532R/6.)
- WASAGA. My position 049° 30' N. 054° 30' W. ice condition very bad unable to pass Steering Island. Intend trying Lewis Port via North Fogo Island.  
Weather report.  
(WASAGA 1615Z/6 to F.O.N.F.)
- ? BENJAMIN HAWKINS, SSSS report. Following intercepted from K H C R at 1431Z/6 SSSS, K H C R/BRODICK, HAWKINS at 1400 S/M sighted wind W.N.W. 7 sea high W.N.W. overcast latitude 35.30 N. longitude 61.15 W. Comment K H R C/bore 43° from Bermuda W/T.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 1629Z/6 to Admty., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (U.S.) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa Cominch, C.O.A.C. (R) U.S. Naval Operating Base at Bermuda.)  
/ K H C R are signal letters for BENJAMIN HAWKINS but message decyphers as BRODICK HAWKINS.  
ø As received ? K H C R intended.

/SEAWOLF ...



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

SEAWOLF. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1642/4 (not to all addressees). SEAWOLF is not to be sailed from St. Johns pending further instructions.  
(D.A/S W. 1824A/6 to F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. W.A., F.O.(S), SEAWOLF, Capt. D. N.F, S.5, S.7.)

ITCHEN,  
LAGAN. Your 1446Z/2/1. Request ITCHEN be allocated to Group C one. LAGAN to C two.  
(F.O.N.F 1850Z/6 to Admty.)

SS BARON  
DECHMONT. Torpedoed, sunk, 3 January 003 11 S. 006 41 W.  
(Connav 2007/6.)  
W.D. Note ? Longitude incorrect.

O.N.S.154. (? U.S. Destroyer COLE) detached to fuel Halifax 1600Z/6th. H.M.C.S. MANSFIELD same to St. John 2100Z/5th.  
(Mid ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.11 2015Z/6 to C.T.F. 24, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.G. 24.7.)

1st D.W.I.  
Convoy  
ATTACKER. As first D.W.I. convoy will consist of 40 tankers and not more than 8 Surface Escorts it is apparent that self contained air cover will be a major factor in its safety.  
2. As at present arranged ATTACKER will not have more than 7 Swordfish and in view of  
(A) Length of voyage (about 20 days).  
(B) Importance of the convoy.  
(C) Probable high degree of wastage of aircraft it would appear that the number of aircraft carried will be insufficient to provide adequate air cover.  
3. The only extra aircraft available would appear to be some of the Albacores ex VICTORIOUS at present destined for Piarco.  
4. Request permission therefore to hold back 4 Albacores from Piarco and allot them to ATTACKER.  
5. Captain of ATTACKER has been consulted.  
(B.A.D. Washington 2023Z/6 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Sub.attack  
& sighting  
summary. Para. A. Sub. attacked 03 S. 31.50 W. 1223Z/6.  
Para. C. Sub. sighted 04.25 S. 35.54 W. about 1458Z/76 13.40 N. 69 W. 1720Z/6\* SS BENJAMIN HAWKINS sights sub.35.30 N. 61.15 W. 1400Z/6 sighting 1050Z/4 my 042110 cancelled.  
(Cominch 2042/6.)  
\* W.D. Note. This U.B. was attacked and possibly damaged. See Cominch 1433/7.

/Coal ...



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Coal bunkering Your 2002/4. All paras.confirmed except last at Bahia and sentence Para. C for C Navy Dept. request that Pernambuco. ships calling at Recife should be reduced to minimum on account of congestion. In this connection what are the prospects of improving the coaling facilities at Bahia and what is present capacity.  
(B.A.D. Washington 2055/6 to Admty.)

L.S.Ts and Cominch 042029. Nine L.S.Ts are expected to L.C.I (L)s complete loading at New York by 15th Jan. for U.K. Capt. Burgess Watson R.N. is in command of these vessels and will report direct to you any change in number that will be ready by this date.

2. Propose Captain Burgess Watson's status should be exactly similar to that of a Commodore of a trade convoy in relation to C.O. of escort.

3. Commander Rainier R.N. is in command of L.C.I.(L)s. It is expected that 12 will be ready to sail from Norfolk (Va.) by 15th January.

4. Request you will issue foreign sailing orders to both of these officers.

(B.A.D. Washington 2101Z/6 to C. in C. Lant.)

Special L.S.T. convoy sails about 15th Jan. in which it is expected to include 9 L.C.Ts. CALPE special L.S.T. convoy is expected before March.

2. Following numbers of L.S.Ts will probably be ready to load New York after this. British M.W.T. is requested to arrange British cargo for U.K: 3 by 15th Jan., 4 by 23rd. Jan., 3 by 31st Jan. 5 by 8th Feb.

3. Loading time average 7 days, request British routing L.O. arrange to sail ship(s) in first S.C. convoy to U.K. as they complete loading.

(B.A.D. Washington 2305Z/6 to British M.W.T. New York.)

Convoy 2000Z/6 convoy estimated P.C. and S. movements. (Commaveu 062107, 062109, 062113.)

U.G.F.4. My 2107/31st. Convoys further delayed. U.G.F.4 will sail Jan. 11th and U.G.S.4 Jan. 12th. My 1735/28th. Change destination of EXAMINER and SANTA MARIA to Med. Ports. Add A O ESSO PATTERSON to W. Africa port. Admiralty pass to N.C.X.F. C. in C. A.F. and V.A. Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2202/6.)

R.C.N. Your 1350/2nd (see Torch Area). Request corvettes. information as to operational and administration authorities under which these 17 Corvettes will be placed and the Port or Ports on which they will be based.

(2) Re arrangements.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2213Z/6 to Admty.)  
Reply: Admty. 2334/9.



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Canadian mid-Ocean escort groups. Admiralty have proposed that the 4 Canadian mid-ocean escort force groups consisting of 5 R.C.N. destroyers, 5 R.N. destroyers, 20 R.C.N. Corvettes and 4 R.N. corvettes be transferred to the U.K. Gibraltar convoy and based in the U.K.

(2) If this proposal is approved by the Canadian Govt. certain additional personnel and administrative arrangements will probably be required in the U.K.

(3) Request you will consult the Admiralty and forward your proposals by signal.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2214Z/6 to C.C.C.S.)

Provision of Convoy Escort Vessels. J.S.M.669 6th Jan. 1943. Reference J.S.M.650 (1711Z/2) and C.O.S.(W) 429 (0035/5).

This matter was brought up with the full backing of Admiral King as it appeared to us that the completion of escort vessels in U.S.A. in 1943 was likely to be behind time. The result of a general speed-up in construction is unlikely to do more than keep delivery up to schedule aimed at before.

2. Ref. para.2. (c) of J.S.M. 650. Americans were informed at the meeting as to the special Anti-Submarine Warfare Committee you mention in C.O.S. (W) 429. We welcome your promise of full information at regular intervals.

3. You will note that the P.M. and the President were only to be requested to give approval to the action taken in para.2 (a) of J.S.M. 650.

(J.S.M. Washington 2225Z/6 to War Cabinet Office, London.)

Shipping at Bahia, T.B. convoys. Your 2256/4 (See South Atlantic) Para.2 (A) No. U.S. Authorities consider natural obstacles to U-Boat attack will suffice. (B) Escort groups planned to consist of 1 destroyer and 2 P.C. boats.

Para.3. Bahia approaches although similar in some respects are not considered equally dangerous to Trinidad as scope for wider dispersal of approaches allows for more evasion. Also southbound ships can be detached en route. 1 Squadron of Catalinas is stationed at Recife also a 2nd Squadron has been sent to this area but disposition of these by Comsolant is unknown. There is a gap in air coverage off the Amazon Delta but convoy route is in shallow water. This convoy in common with all other coastal convoys is not fully escorted but its adoption is looked upon as a step in the right direction for future onward convoys.

Para.4. There will be facilities for joiners at Recife where escorts are changed but ships should if possible be bunkered to at least Trinidad. My 2055/6 refers.

Para.5. No. But Cominch (C and R) is considering including Cape Horn category ships of under 15 knots. They intend to make a despatch on this subject shortly. 2 Bauxite loaders will be detached from B.T. convoy off loading port. After loading bauxite ships proceed independently to Trinidad.

(B.A.D. Washington 2301Z/6 to Admty.)



War Diary.6.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Movements.

Arrival Wellington 2222Z/5 U.S.S. SOLACE.  
Departure Wellington 2357Z/5 U.S.S. SHAW escorting  
U.S.S. (BUCANLEY?) to Noumea. E.T.A. 1900Z/9  
route direct, S. of A. 14 knots.  
(D.N.I. Wellington 0014Z/6.)

Departure Papeete 5th January F.S. CHEVREUIL for Austral Is.  
expected date of return 21st Jan.  
(D.N.I. Wellington 0109Z/6.)

U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN departed Thursday Island 5th  
Jan. due Port Moresby 7th. Dutch Naval Store Ship SOEDOE  
Departed Thursday Island 5th due Merauke 6th. U.S. Transports  
CEL MER, TASMAN MERKUR departed Townsville 4th due Brisbane 7th.  
R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK departs Townsville 5th for Cidharbour.  
Hired Transport KATOOMBA departed Port Moresby 5th due Townsville  
7th. U.S. Transport BONTEKOE arrived Brisbane 5th. U.S.  
Transport AMERICAN LEGION arrived Melbourne 6th.  
(A.C.N.B. 1004Z/6.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1400A/6, 1420A/6.)



War Diary.

7.1.1943.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

C. in C. Home Fleet again emphasizes that newly commissioned ships cannot possibly attain a high standard of fighting efficiency during the working up period allowed before proceeding to foreign stations.

Home Commands.

The new cruiser UGANDA, having completed all her trials successfully, arrived at Scapa this morning.

North Atlantic.

Two of the 9 Landing craft on passage from U.S.A. to U.K. are reported to have broken down and to be in tow of tug DESTINY for Gibraltar. DESTINY is in difficulties on account of a defect, but she arrived at Gibraltar on 12 January with one Landing craft, and the other 8 reached Plymouth. The remainder of the Landing craft are continuing unescorted to the U.K.

South Atlantic.

A message from Washington today gives details of the understanding reached with the French West African Naval Authorities with regard to patrol and escort vessels.

The Portuguese SS QUANZA, suspected of blockade running, was intercepted by our forces and taken to Freetown for examination today.

Mediterranean.

Fleet  
bases.

As soon as the threat of air attack has materially subsided, Malta is to be re-established as a repair base.

After the capture of Bizerta and as soon as air attack has been sufficiently reduced Bizerta is to be redeveloped as a repair base to the maximum

/extent ...



War Diary.

7.1.1943.

Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - contd.Fleet  
bases  
(contd.)

extent of the repairable facilities and local labour.

Coastal  
Force  
Craft &  
Bases.

By agreement between N.C.X.F. and C. in C. Med. the Mediterranean Coastal Force craft and bases in the whole Mediterranean are being placed under the command of Captain, Coastal Forces, Mediterranean, with H.Q. at Malta.

M.T.Bs 260 and 264 sailed from the neighbourhood of Gozo at 1620A today, to carry out an offensive sweep between Pantellaria and Kelibia (Returned to Malta 1038A/8).

WELSHMAN sailed from Malta at 1445 today, to lay mines off Skerki Bank. (Returned to Malta 0900A/8)

A/S Trawler HORATIO is missing from patrol off Bone (see 9 Jan.)

Two M.T.Bs which arrived from Malta today reported a large explosion felt 7 miles north of Keith Reef 37° 55' N. 11° 2' E., possibly caused by an acoustic mine.

A/S Trawler JURA was torpedoed and sunk<sup>by U371</sup> at 1112 today in 36.58 N. 3.48 E. STRONSAY rescued 20 survivors.

SS TRAJANUS which was sunk during an air raid on Benghazi on 19 Dec. is now ready for towing to a repair port.

Convoy K.M.S.6 was attacked by torpedo aircraft and Ju.88s at 1805 in 37.07 N. 04.38 E. BENALBANACH and AKABAHRA were sunk. BICESTER rescued 28 from the former, but about 420 are missing. All the crew of AKABAHRA were saved. WILLIAM WIRT was damaged forward by near misses, but reached Philippeville. VILLE DE STRASBOURG in M.K.S.5 was torpedoed 55 miles East of Algiers. (no time given) but reached Algiers.

? qix Jan - Dec. 1941

Last night 4 Naval Albatrosses and 4 Beauforts laid 6 mines at the entrance to La Goulette; 8 Wellingtons attacked Sousse as Tunis was obscured, 8 Bisleys attacked Tunis; one Wellington attacked Pantellaria harbour. Spitfire bombers escorted by Spitfire fighters attacked Lampedusa Aerodrome and Licata Sulphur Factory, Sicily today.

/In the ...



7.1.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

In the week ending today, 365,540 lbs. of bombs were dropped on targets in Tunisia by R.A.F. aircraft based on Malta or Algeria.

East Indies.

VALIANT left Kilindini today for Durban, to refit.

Australia and New Zealand.

Air attacks  
on troop  
convoy off  
New Britain/  
New Guinea.

16 attacks by aircraft on an enemy convoy in the Gasmata - Lae area today resulted in the sinking of two transports and the damage of two more, one of these latter by 2 direct hits. At least 16 enemy fighters were destroyed in these operations. During the night Beaufighters sank boats and rafts with survivors.

3 Hudsons which bombed an OTORI class torpedo boat scored a direct hit amidships, 6 miles N. of Tocal (Kai Island).



War Diary.

7.1.1943.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.DUNCAN,  
DECOY,  
GRIFFIN.On completion of refits in February 1943,  
DUNCAN, DECOY and GRIFFIN are allocated to W.A.Cmd.  
(D.O.D. H. 0310A/7 to C. in C. W.A.)Movements.

MILNE.

Scapa arrival Capt. (D) 3rd D.F. in MILNE.  
(A.C.O.S. 1008A/7.)

UGANDA.

Your 0008A/7. Arrived.  
(A.C.O.S. 1055A/7.)

Force "J".

S.O. Force J. in LOCUST has sailed for Portland  
with all available forces.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1227A/7 to Admty.)C. in C. Portsmouth's 1227/7. Following sailed:-  
LOCUST, PRINCE CHARLES, PRINCES JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE, PRINCE ALBERT,  
DUKE OF WELLINGTON, Twenty five L.C.T. Fifty eight L.C.P.L,  
L.C.F.3, L.C.F.6, L.C.S.L 203 and 205, M.Ls 347 and 297, Danish  
Trawler KARINA, and three Motor Boats.

(VECTIS 1646/7 to Admty.)

Your 1227A/7. All groups of Force J arrived 1715/7.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1747A/7.)

S.56.

After dark tonight report your P.C.S. and E.T.A.  
270° Barrahead 10 miles.  
(F.O.S. 1302A/7 to S.56.)W.A.  
Command.Situation at 1956A/7. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1355A/7, 1719A/7.)  
See Lion Copy.

BEAGLE.

Seidisfjord departure BEAGLE at 1330/7th, E.T.A.  
Greenock 0805/9th. 2 Russian diplomatic couriers  
on board require Russian Embassy meet on arrival.  
(A.C.I.C. 1501A/7 and 1821A/7 to Admty.)

GUNNEL.

Request you arrange routeing instructions, escort,  
and bombing restrictions for GUNNEL leaving  
Roseneath at 1100/15, thence clearing British Isles  
and westwards to Chop, final destination New London. Daily speed  
of advance 265 on the surface or 150 when diving by day. C. in  
C. U.S. Fleet will be requested to take over routeing at Chop  
when I can inform him of time and place of crossing that meridian.  
(Comsubron 50 1515Z/7 to F.O.S.)

BATTLER.

C. in C. W.A. 1208A/7. Fly off aircraft as  
arranged with N.A.S. Machrihanish. On completion  
proceed to Campbeltown and anchor as convenient in  
Campbeltown Loch to disembark stores and personnel for Machrihanish.  
You are required to arrive at Bar Light vessel at 1130A/9th.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1608A/7 to BATTLER.)

/S/M ...



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.S/M  
Positions.At 0800A/8. Details.  
(F.O.S. 1712A/7, 2326A/7, 0223A/8.)  
See Lion Copy. p 223 BP.314,  
P.224,  
TRIDENT.Intend sailing P.314, P.224, and TRIDENT escorted by QUALICUM from 180° Garrock Head 6 miles at 1100A/9th January by searched channel and Minches and through  
(?A) 01 Cape Wrath 3 miles  
(B) 59.17 03.40  
(C) 01 Noup Head 5 miles to Lerwick.  
E.T.A. 0900A/11th. Speed 11 knots.  
(Capt. S.3 1559A/7.)7 L.C.I (L)s  
returning to  
U.K. from  
"Torch".L.C.I.(L) 164 2245/6 is being passed to you for information. Point "H" referred to is in 35° N. 18° W.  
(D.O.D. H. 1850A/7 to C. in C. W.A.)  
My position 2200/7th, 230 miles 272° from Point Y, course 98°, speed 8 knots. E.T.A. rendezvous 1000/10th. All times given G.M.T.  
(S.56 2345Z/7 to F.O.S.)Operations.Coastal  
Patrols.

Your 1959/6. "Evidence" returned owing to weather.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0628/7.)

1. Intend M.L.247 (S.O) and R/M L 523 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.
2. Leave Portland at 1700 via Q.Z.S.382 to patrol line, adjusting position so as to cover passages of P.W. and W.P. convoys. Leave patrol line at dawn and return to base.
3. Object anti-E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Service".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1040A/7.)  
M.G.Bs 616 (S.O) and 613 are to patrol tonight between 50° 31' N. 00° 35' E. and 50° 30' N. 00° 05' W. during dark hours keeping southward of C.W. 147 during its passage. Codeword "Advent".
2. LORD WAKEFIELD and KINGSTON TOPAZ to patrol southward of E.A.5.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1255A/7.)  
Patrol tonight.
- (2) Forces employed TYNEDALE, M.G.B.'s 8, 9.
- (3) Patrol between positions as in para. 6 below.
- (4) Object to intercept E.Boats.  
Enemy. E.Boats may operate from Guernsey or Cherbourg.
- (6) Execution. If ordered to take up patrol, TYNEDALE and M.G.Bs 8 and 9 are to leave Dartmouth as requisite to patrol between positions (A) 50° 05' N. 03° 30' W. (B) 50° 05' N. 03° 08' W. until 2200. Thence between position (B) and (C) 50° 13' N. 02° 47' W. until first light/8. On completion TYNEDALE is to return to Plymouth M.G.Bs to Dartmouth.
- (7) Patrol is not to proceed South of Patrol Line unless ordered or called by aircraft to attack damaged enemy.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1413A/7 to TYNEDALE.)

/M.Ls 140 ...



223B

7.1.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Positions  
of S/MS at  
0800/8th and  
movements for  
following  
24 hours.

A - C. P.49, P.216, GRAPH, P.312, UREDD, P.55  
as yesterday.  
D. Russian S/M S.55 59° 45' N. 15° 01' W.  
probably on surface due R/V in 270° Barra Head  
10 miles at 1330/9th.  
E. Russian S/M S.54 escorted by POTENTILLA  
vicinity Kinnaird Head for Rosyth.  
F. O.10 escorted by LEICESTER CITY vicinity Little  
Minch due 57° 15' N. 07° 01' W. at 0900/8th  
thence escorted by PARRSBORO to Rothesay.  
G. H.43 carrying out special trials vicinity  
Great Ormes Head.  
H - L. U.S.S. SHAD, BLACKFISH, HERRING, BARB as  
yesterday.  
(F.O.S., 1712A/7.)



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal  
Patrols  
(contd.)

M.Ls 140, 293 at Inner Lade Buoy. M.Ls 101, 102, 107, 210, 213, 128 supported by M.G.Bs 329, 330 carrying out operation N.L.45. E.T.D. 1730, E.T.R. 0145/8.

M.G.Bs 110, 109, 108 from Ramsgate and M.T.Bs 38, 221 from Dover patrolling near Berck Buoy, passing D buoy at 1800 and 0200/8.  
(V.A. Dover 1607A/7.)

My 1413. Collective call sign for TYNEDALE, M.G.B.8, and M.G.B.9 is 3 Queen, Sugar, Jig. D.C.O.35. Alternative Port Wave, 2000 k/cs will be manned by Plymouth W/T from 1800. If enemy jamming occurs on 2300 k/cs Plymouth W/T will transmit all operational traffic on both frequencies and traffic from ships received on either frequency will be retransmitted on the other. For M.G.B.9 read M.G.B.7 in this signal and in my 1413.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1647A/7 to TYNEDALE, M.G.B.8, M.G.B.7, Escorts P.W.275, W.P.275.)

My 1413. Proceed at 1730 to carry out patrols "Limited". Restriction in para.7 is cancelled as Whitley Patrol given in my 1403 will not operate. CLEVELAND pass my 1413 to M.L.159.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1659A/7 to TYNEDALE, M.G.Bs 8 and 9.)

E-Boats on  
6th January.  
Convoy  
P.W.274.  
GLAISDALE.After interrogation of C.O. GLAISDALE, S.O. of escort P.W.274, it is considered 3 E-Boats attempted to attack P.W.274 in the vicinity 050° 28' N. 002° 54' W. at about 0200/6th. E.Boats retired on being engaged by GLAISDALE. There is no evidence any torpedo attack was delivered nor that mines were laid. No contact was made by enemy on W.P.274 which was slightly to Eastward of position given. Minesweeping search is being carried out.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1021A/7 to Admty.)Operation  
"Witticism".Your 2259/6. Concur subject to restrictions in my 1941A/1st.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1544A/7 to S.O. Force J.)Allied Air Activity.Convoy  
Cover Patrol.Whitley aircraft will carry out anti. E-boat cross-over patrols from 1830 today till dawn 8th to cover passage of convoys. Object is to report, attack, and shadow E-boats. Details.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1403A/7 to Escorts, P.W.275, W.P. 275.)Henstridge  
Air Station.Due to increase in number of Fighter Pilots to be trained it appears essential to get Naval Air Station Henstridge in to commission as soon as possible. Request forecast of date when some accommodation and limited flying facilities will become available.  
(R.A. N.A.S. 1445A/7 to Admty.)



War Diary.

7.1.1943.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Flares. Sighted flashing light and flares on water at 49° 40' N. 06° 45' W. (A/C 0815/7 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats.

Ship attacked. Admiral Devonport. De unknown station 71 torpedoed. Ends. (Valentia Radio 1744/7 to Admty.)

U-Boat reported. Submarine sighted in 45° 24' N. 14° 44' W. (NEWARK 1857Z/7 to LANCASTER.)

Navigational.

Forth-Clyde Canal. My 1000/5. Forth Clyde Canal still ice-bound. (R.N.O. Grangemouth 1018/7.) My 1018/7. Passage of Forth Clyde Canal will be possible from noon tomorrow. (R.N.O. Grangemouth 1615/7.)

Technical.

A/A efficiency of newly commissioned ships. I wish again to emphasize that it must be realized that newly commissioned ships and destroyers cannot possibly attain a high standard of fighting efficiency during the working up period allowed before proceeding to foreign stations. The situation has been aggravated in proportion to the increase in dilution of ships companies. This applies particularly to A/A shooting, the meteorological conditions at Scapa not only limits the number of practices but generally restricts those to short ranges and low heights and clear skies are practically unknown. I consider it most necessary that ships should do further practice after arrival on their station and as far as possible should be afforded opportunity of coming under a reasonably light form of air attack before being sent where a really heavy scale may be expected. In my 1723/28th April 1942 I drew attention to the absolute necessity of providing adequate and modern F.R.Us at all bases abroad. The state of affairs described in para. (C) of C. in C. E.F. 1402/31st December is dreadful. (C. in C. H.F. 1839A/7 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

JOHN MARSHALL. Received 0503 G.M.T. de JOHN MARSHALL. Please arrange Rescue Tug to attend Port Patrick case mid-day today, position critical. (Port Patrick Radio 0603/7 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/Intercept ...



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

JOHN MARSHALL Intercept 0511 G.M.T. de JOHN MARSHALL.  
(contd.) Unsuccessful last tide, position critical.  
(Port Patrick Radio 0617 B.S.T./7.)  
Refloated 1130 G.M.T. Windlass broken and our  
anchor still down. My opinion vessel can proceed Clyde or  
Liverpool but must be accompanied by rescue tug. As soon as  
anchor is slipped vessel will proceed Clyde pending other  
instructions.  
(Port Patrick Radio 1440/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Refloated JOHN MARSHALL. Now towing towards Clyde.  
(BUSTLER 1635A/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Distress My 1659/5. This may have been VANZETTI.  
Signal. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0959/7 to Admty.)

L.C.T.398. My 1126/14. L.C.T.398 refloated and is now  
being examined for defects.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1007A/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
My 1007/7. L.C.T.398 has defective compass and degaussing  
gear. Otherwise seaworthy. Request escort to take her to  
refitting destination.  
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1621/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

COREOPSIS. COREOPSIS is still delayed by engine defects.  
(Cdre. Londonderry 1141A/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

Z.8. Z.8 sheltering Yarmouth stress of weather and  
resultant damage. Endeavouring repair leaks  
without docking.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1417A/7 to C. in C. Nore.)

SHEFFIELD. Intend sailing SHEFFIELD to Clyde arriving 9th  
January, ship being at 12 hours notice. Request  
ship may be taken in hand for miscellaneous slight  
damage caused by gun blast and panting in forward  
compartments. Docking of ship is not required.  
Ship will be required to sail from Clyde 16th Jan.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1434A/7 to Admty.)

REGENT My 1505/5. REGENT LION in tow ABEILLE (IV)  
LION. escorted by LORD ESSENDON and SEA GIANT entered  
harbour 1457/5. MELBREAK proceeded Plymouth  
from Falmouth at 1427/5th.  
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1618A/7.)

/Landing ...



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

Landing S.O.A.S.C. reports 8 L.C.A., 10 L.C.M. (1), 6  
Craft. L.C.M.(3), 28 L.C.P.(R), 7 L.C.V., and 5 L.C.S.(M)  
totalling 64 operational craft at Port Glasgow  
still awaiting hull and/or engine repairs.  
F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1827/6 refers.

2. Up to 111 more operational craft may return from North Africa at dates unknown.
3. QUEBEC has 55 training craft requiring dockyard repair. C.C.O.'s 1111/5 refers.
4. Rate of building up Force "W" depends on dates by which operational craft can be repaired and put into service. Force must be complete with craft by mid-February if present target dates are to be adhered to.
5. All military training has been stopped at Inveraray (QUEBEC) to enable craft to be repaired, but must reopen on February 15th or future operational dates must be set back.
6. Request action to place the craft in paragraphs 1 and 3 above for repairs now, and that I may be informed where craft should be moved if necessary accordingly. Request also completion dates.
7. Request any further returns from North Africa may be similarly placed for repair on arrival U.K.
8. Above craft are apart from over 200 others at C.O. Bases in North shown as status D and E in Green List with which C.C.O.'s resources are attempting to deal.  
(C.C.O. 1937A/7 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- M.K.S.4 Y. Aircraft reports 1 merchant ship in 049° 43' N. 015° 21' W. at 1208A/6th course 13°, and another merchant ship in 049° 17' N. 015° 48' W. at 1334A/6th course 360°. (C. in C. W.A. 0320A/7 to SLAZAK.)
- W.N.81. At 2015/6 in 053° Cape Wrath 10.5 miles and at 2315/6 in 307° Cape Wrath 9.7 miles transmission in German heard over Radio Telephony 2410 k/cs, strength 4. Immediately before each transmission convoy had shown lights. (VALSE 0645A/7 to A.C.O.S.)
- R.A.51. Northrop aircraft will give A/S escort during daylight today. (A.C.I.C. 0655A/7 to Escorts R.A.51.)  
Seidisfjord departure Capt. (D) 8th Flotilla in FAULKNER, FURY, ECHO, INGLEFIELD, and ECLIPSE in company at 1010/7. (A.C.I.C. 1325A/7 to A.C.O.S.)  
You have provided safe conduct for 2 convoys, I congratulate you most heartily.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1546A/7 to Capt. D.8, Escorts J.W.51 A, R.A.51.)
- K.M.F.7. Clyde arrival Liverpool portion K.M.F.7. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0724A/7.)  
Intend sail Clyde portion escorted by WAYLAND and WESTON passing Clyde boom 2300A/8 to R/V with Liverpool portion and escort from Londonderry in position (M) at 0930A/9. Thence in accordance with A.M. 1352/2. Codeword "Material". (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1004A/7.)

/My 1514A/6 ...



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- K.M.F.7  
(contd.) My 1514A/6. Amend to read WESTON and TOTLAND.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1711A/7 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- LLANGIBBY  
CASTLE. V.A. Gibraltar's 0015/4. Onward route from  
(P) to (Q) 050° 01' N. 016° 30' W.  
(R) 053° 01' N. 012° 59' W.  
(S) 055° 27' N. 010° 30' W.  
(T) 055° 35' N. 007° 00' W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1114A/7 to EXE.)
- D.F.1. Scapa departure OAKLEY to R/V D.F.one.  
(A.C.O.S. 1120A/7.)
- H.X.220.  
BATTLER. H.X.220. Admiralty 1842/23rd December.  
BATTLER is expected off Mull of Kintyre at  
0100A/8th. F.O.I.C. Greenock in consultation  
with Naval Air Station Machrihanish is requested  
to make the necessary arrangement for flying off  
aircraft. On completion of flying off F.O.I.C.  
Greenock is to sail BATTLER to Liverpool.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1208A/7 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Your 1601/7. Swordfish with 3 Martlet pilots will stand by  
from 0945/8. In view of C. in C. W.A. 2027/7 and N.O.I.C.  
Greenock's 1608/7 request amended R/V.  
(Macrihanish R.N.A.S. 2255A/7 to BATTLER.)  
H.X.220 Fast. Your 1305/7. BATTLER has been instructed to  
proceed Campbeltown.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2337A/7 to LAVENDER.)
- J.W.51 B. Request early information regarding ACHATES  
action.  
(C. in C. H.F.1234A/7 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
Your 1233/6 and 1234/7. Reports are being forwarded  
earliest possible moment. Dense fog in Kola Inlet has prevented  
all communication.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1655A/7 to C. in C. H.F.)  
It is important that the enemy should not learn the strength  
of escort and covering forces engaged in the action on 31st  
December in defence of Convoy J.W.51 B. Consider therefore that  
names and types of ship larger than destroyers should not be  
published nor the names of S.O. Force 'R' and C.Os of cruisers.  
2. There is no objection to revealing:  
(A) That enemy forces of greatly superior strength attempted four  
times to attack the convoy but were repelled by a small force of  
destroyers from the escort. Details of this part of the action  
can be published.  
(B) That more powerful forces then arrived in support and engaged  
the enemy who escaped in the darkness and returned forthwith to  
harbour suffering the loss of one destroyer and damage to at  
least one cruiser.  
(C) That no merchant vessels were lost.  
(D) Loss of ACHATES.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1829A/7 and 1845A/7 to Admty.)  
Note by W.D: Para 2 (D) of this signal originally read  
"Loss of ACHATES and BRAMBLE".



War Diary.

7.1.1943.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Oil Fuel in North Russia. Your 1951A/6th. Yes. 2 large Ice breakers will be available for each ship if necessary. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1332A/7 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

W.S.26. To economise escorts from U.K. Convoy W.S.26 and K.M.F.8 will leave U.K. in company on 22nd Jan. 2. In order to vacate berths for the loading of K.M.F.8 the Liverpool portion of W.S.26 will be embarked by 18th January and proceed to Clyde anchorage for Convoy Conference and to await sailing. 3. Liverpool portion of K.M.F.8 will join Convoy at Oversay R/V. 4. Further signal will be made as regards composition of convoys but K.M.F.8 is expected to consist of 8 troop-ships and ARGUS. W.S.26 of 15 troop-ships, 1 or 2 M.T. ships, and 2 A.M.Cs. (V.C.N.S. 1339A/7 to C. in C. W.A.) My 1333/26 December. Convoy W.S.26. Date of leaving U.K. is postponed to 22nd January. (D.O.D. H. 1341A/7 to R.A.D. H.F.) Convoy W.S.26, about fifteen ships, is due to leave U.K. on 22nd January for Middle East and India via Freetown and the Cape. 2. Ocean escort will consist of CANTON and CILICIA. Through destroyer escort will consist of QUADRANT and RELENTLESS. (D.O.D. F. 1834A/7\* to C. in C. Med., S.A., E.F., V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.C. W. Africa.) \* as amended 1805A/9.

S.C.112. S.C.112. Average speed 6.2 knots. Arrived off Oversay 1700Z/24. All arrived. (D.T.D. 1501Z/7 to Connnav.)

Destroyers in North Russia. ORIBI. ORIBI has assumed command of Destroyers at present in North Russian Waters. Majority of Flotilla Staff are being transferred from ONSLOW. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1510A/7 to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

P.W.D.275. P.W.275. Take LINCOLNSHIRE and LORD ESSENDEN under your orders and pass gate at 0930/8th escorting P.W.D.275 to R/V with and relieve the trawler escorts of P.W.275 at Eddystone. S.O. of Escort P.W.S. CLEVELAND. (C. in C. Plymouth 1541A/7 to ROWAN.)

EMPIRE EMERALD. Russian staff request EMPIRE EMERALD may be sailed to pass Cape Gorodetzki at 1600C. Recommended route southward from Ponoï will be signalled after ice R/C tomorrow. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1613A/7 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

/ANDES ...



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.ANDES.  
EMPRESS OF  
SCOTLAND.  
Breaking of  
W/T silence  
for E.T.As.Add to A.M. 1619/15th August 1942 ANDES and  
EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.  
(D.T.D. 1933A/7.)M/V  
Position  
Reports.Amendment No 94 to M.A.R.I. Section II Para 11  
delete and substitute: Masters of all United  
Nations managed ships fitted with H.F.  
transmission and sailing independently in the  
Atlantic are to report their positions in  
accordance with the following instructions.  
Details.

2. The above instructions do not apply to vessels proceeding on the route between Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn or Magellan Strait.
3. The note regarding QUEEN MARY type troop transports remains in force.
4. Attention is drawn to Admiralty General Message 22A of 6th January 1943.  
(D.T.D. 1943/7.)

K.M.S.7.

R.D.F. plotting indicates your position at  
2241A/7 in 055° 28' N. 006° 27' W.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 2245/7 to BATTLER.)R.D.F. Plot indicates head of K.M.S.7 at 2320A/7 in 055°  
10' N. 005° 21' W. and BATTLER at 2311A/7th in 055° 30' N. 006°  
14' W.

(F.O.I.C. N.I. 2328A/7 to PELICAN.)

K.M.S.7. The following sailed. EMPIRE USK and Pendant  
Nos. of 45 other ships.  
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 2355/7 to D.S.T.)Escort  
Group B.5.Ships of B.5 group are expected to return to  
Liverpool on following dates in January:-  
LAVENDER 8th. COLUMBINE, BUTTERCUP 15th  
WARWICK 13th. HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL,  
SAXIFRAGE 25th.

2. Unless special circumstances arise, all ships of the group will remain three weeks in harbour on return, and the maximum leave is to be given within these limits.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2322A/7 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

J.W.52.

J.W.52. Anticipate escorts required as follows.

- (a) LOTUS, ST. ELSTAN, STARWORT, NORTHERN PRIDE to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. 16th.
- (b) BEAGLE, BULLDOG to arrive Seidisfjord p.m. 18th.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2326A/7.)



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

Completion  
of RICHELIEU  
& repair of  
French Naval  
Units.

1. To co-operate with us on the matter of the eventual completion of the warship RICHELIEU and the repair and refitting of other naval units now in Dakar and similar matters, General Giraud proposes to send Washington a Naval Mission headed by Vice Admiral Raymond Fenard.

2. I recommend approval of this proposal as I believe the Mission will serve a useful purpose. Cunningham concurs in my recommendation.  
( Algiers 0943Z/7 to Usfor and War.)

French  
troop  
Convoy.

For British Chiefs of Staff London. ( C.C.S. and O.P.N.A.V. have this). Glassfurd's 061812 " Convoy 4 transports 2 supply ships 2 tankers leaving Dakar for Casablanca about 12th. Pegram Eisenhower informed. 1036/7 Ends.  
( D.O.D. (F) 1847A/7 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib. )

M.T.B's,  
M.G.B's.

Your 2000/4 Dec. not to V.A. Malta and my 1524/1. When is it anticipated that first two flotillas of 110 foot M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. can be sailed. They are urgently required.

2. Important that spare gear and maintenance staff arrive at approx. same time. F.O. C.C.F. schedule of base requirements being examined but essential requirement is provision of three cradles Mark III in addition to two cradles already received. ( N.C.X.F. 1911A/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta.)  
Reply: Admty. 1757/8.



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Movements. Arrival FLEETWOOD, VELOX.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 0210/7 to N.C.X.F.)

O.N.S.154 EXE left Ponta Delgada 0930 G.M.T. 7th. SOUTHERN  
Survivors. PRIDE and LLANGIBBY CASTLE left 1030 after  
embarking 248 survivors.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1024/7 to V.A. Gibraltar,  
(R) Adnty.)

C.F. 10, C.F.10 composed of JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT  
M.K.F. 6. (Commodore) ALMANZORA, STRAAT SOENOS and ASTURIAS  
is to adjust speed so as to join convoy M.K.F.6  
who is expected to pass through 036° 05' N. 007°  
30' W. at 1200A/8.  
M.K.F.6 composed of NEA HELLAS (Cdre.), ORONTES, ZOELLA LYKES,  
U.S. STAFFORDSHIRE, EXIRIA, (? STRATHAIRD), WINDSOR CASTLE,  
BOISEVAIN, DERBYSHIRE codeword "Manicure" is routed through  
following positions (F) all positions North and West. 036° 20'  
010° 01'. (G) 037° 50' 013° 30'. (H) 040° 01' 016° 15'.  
(J) 049° 18' 015° 32'. (K) 055° 01' 010° 45'. (L) 055° 25'  
008° 30'.  
Stragglers route 30 miles to port of convoy route. S. of A. 13  
knots. S.O. of Escort EGRET. On joining ERNE, LEITH, SANDWICH  
return to Gibraltar at best speed, report E.T.A. when 30 miles  
clear of convoy. Adnty. is requested to signal destination of  
ships in C.F.10.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1136A/7 to Escort C.F.10 for Commd., (R) N.C.X.F.,  
M.K.F.6, Adnty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.W.A.)

K.X. 8. K.X.8 ships bound for North African ports have not  
been issued with T.S.G.O.28 and are routed as far  
as Gibraltar only.  
(D.T.D., 1303A/7 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F.,  
N.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)

ARRAIZ My 1644/31. ARRAIZ departure postponed 7th.  
(Spanish) (D.E.W.D., 1330A/7 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F.)

Bombing The extensive bombing restriction area enforced  
restrictions by H.Q.C.C. for D.S/M DOLFIJN seriously hampered  
and A/S A/S operations from Gibraltar.  
operations. 2. Consider that on N.A. Station the limits  
imposed by T.C.A.O. No.16 should be adequate.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1504/7 to Adnty., (R) N.C.X.F.,  
F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., Capt. S.8.)  
See also N.C.X.F. 1121/9 and F.O.S. 1626/11.

/WOODSTOCK ...



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

WOODSTOCK. Arrived Ponta Delgada 1530 G.M.T. 7th.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1532/7 to S.O.(I)  
Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

K.M.S. 6, K.M.S.6. Request information whether PACIFIC  
PACIFIC EXPORTER is proceeding to destination.  
EXPORTER. (D.T.D., 1543A/7 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F.)

RHIND, Intend to sail RHIND and P.C.473 for Casablanca  
P.C.473. at 1830/7 routed through (A) 35° 51' N. 06° 01'  
W. (B) 35° 43', 06° 32' W. (C) 34° 03' N. 07°  
50' W. S. of A. 14 knots, E.T.A. 0830/8.  
(2) Communications RHIND keeping Gibraltar broadcast and  
Casablanca Port Wave when South of 35° N.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1553A/7 to S.N.O. Casablanca Area, (R) N.C.X.F.,  
Admty.)  
My 1553/7. Ships sailed Q.K.3, Q.K.A.83.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2235A/7 to S.N.O. Casablanca, C.T.F.33, C.T.U.  
26.7.1, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)

LARIAT. LARIAT arrived Ponta Delgada 1730 G.M.T. 7th in  
accordance with Admty.'s 0945/7th.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1635C/7 to V.A. Gib.,  
(R) Admty., N.A. Lisbon.)  
Tug LARIAT wearing Red Ensign, expected arrive Ponta Delgada a.m.  
tomorrow Friday for engine repair.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1853A/7 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) Admty.,  
B.N.A. Lisbon.)

RHAKOTIS My 2130/4. I am sending men by tomorrow morning  
survivors. train due Madrid 9th. Please meet at station and  
collect from British steward (corrupt group)  
letter.  
(Corunna, 1640/7 to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty.,  
and Gibraltar.)

L.C.I.(L)s Your 2245/6 approved.  
DESTINY. (D.O.D.(H), 1730Z/7 to L.C.I.(L) 164, (R) V.A.  
Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Your 1730 G.M.T. 7th. Proceeding with second  
flight. DESTINY towing number 7, parted company against orders  
at 2000 G.M.T. 6th probably bound for U.K. My P.C. and S.  
(?0001)/8 033° (?32') N. 018° 35' W. 000°, 10 knots.  
(L.C.I.(L) 164, 2117 G.M.T.7 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)  
Took L.C.I.7 in tow 5th. Lost touch with convoy night 6th  
and have been unable to locate it.  
Starboard engine crank case welding has cracked causing loss of  
lubricating oil. Endeavouring to reach Gibraltar with tow. P.C.  
S. 034° 00' N. 022° 01' W., 081°, 9 knots 2130 G.M.T./7th.  
(DESTINY, 2211 G.M.T./7 to Admty., (R) L.C.I.164, V.A.  
Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O.W.At.)

/ U/B ...



233A  
233B  
233C7.1.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Movements  
summaries.

Situation 2002A/7th.

- (1) U.S. S/M BARB as yesterday.
- (2) C.F.10 ASTURIAS, ERNE, LEITH, SANDWICH 033° 56' 008° 50' through 035° 01' 008° 01' to join M.K.F.6 at 1200A/8th in position 036° 05' 007° 30' thence ERNE, SANDWICH proceed to Gibraltar.
- (3) ARCTIC RANGER, MIRROR as yesterday.
- (4) K.M.S.6 Freetown section PETUNIA, BURDOCK DRANGEY 3 merchant ships sailed 1600/7 through 035° 01' 009° 01' thence 211° 8.
- (5) M.K.F.6 EGRET, BANFF, TEST, FISHGUARD, CLARE passes Europa Point 0400A/8th through 036° 20' 010° 01' thence 295° 13.
- (7) BULOLO, WOLVERINE, BADSWORTH, LIMBOURNE 048° 23' 014° 10' 180° 13½.
- (8) LEITH(E) 33° 08' 09° 27' through 31° 01' 08° 01' to Gibraltar 12.
- (V.A. Gibraltar 1312A/7, 1704A/7) Amended 2346A/7. My 1312A/7th (?add) New para. (8). U.S. Ships U.S. Destroyer RHIND P.C.473 sailed 1830A/7th through 035° 51' 006° 01' 035° 43' 006° 32' and 034° 03' 007° 50' to arrive Casablanca 0830A/8th. (V.A. Gibraltar 1556A/7). My 1342A/7th\* add new para. (8). L.C.I.(L)s tug DESTINY with 2 L.C.I.(L)s in tow. (E) 032° 51' 021° 01' to 035° 01' 018° 58' where DESTINY with 2 L.C.I.(L)s in tow to be detached to Gibraltar and remaining 7 L.C.I.(L)s steering 000° 10.
- (V.A. Gibraltar, 2230A/7) \*1312/7 intended - Situation 2002/7.
- Situation 2002A/7th.
- EXE, SOUTHERN PRIDE on merchant ship 038° 57' 025° 08' 032° 12.
  - L.C.I.(L)s Tug DESTINY as 2230A/7.
  - Tug LARIAT 037° 10' 026° 10' to Ponta Delgada 7.
  - PRESCOTT searching area between parallels 039° 01' and 042° 01' and meridians 026° 30' and 028° 30'. WOODSTOCK leaves Ponta Delgada p.m./7th to R/V a.m./9th thence proceeding in company through 045° 01' 029° 01'.
- (V.A. Gibraltar, 1314A/7 amended 2246/7).  
Situation 2002A/7.
- (1) (?T).M.1. HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE 022° 17' 032° 53' through 022° 01' 032° 01' thence 057° 8.2.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1317A/7).



War Diary.

7.1.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B Reports. Following has been read by Gib.  
Am over enemy S/M in position 36° 26' N. 1° 42' W.  
(A/C C/S 3LT Duty 'E', 1730A/7 to C/S TD8.)

Following has been read from A/C using call sign  
3LTZ. Am over enemy S/M in position 37° 21' N. 5° 36' E. Enemy  
S/M previously reported was on surface when first sighted was  
on course 279°, speed 12 knots.  
(Gibraltar, W/T, 1900/7 to Admty.)

WEEHAUKEN. Your 1958/4. U.S. Minelayer WEEHAUKEN has  
arrived Gibraltar with 750 mines and 500 feet  
rails.

2. The transport of 450 mines in a coaster will entail fitting  
rails and securing arrangements for mines in holds of ship  
which will delay WEEHAUKEN.

3. In view of above can WEEHAUKEN be used to transfer mines  
direct to base from which ABDIEL will load.

4. Lt.-Cdr. Kremer has not yet arrived.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1754/7 to N.C.X.F., (R) S.N.O.C.A., Admty.)

Delay in  
sailing  
of U.G.F.4  
and U.G.S.4.

WINOOSKI has estimated readiness for sea Feb. 1st.  
C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2202/6th it would be appreci-  
ated if date could be advanced to permit sailing  
with G.U.F. 4 about Jan. 28th. Request information  
whether feasible.

(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1841Z/7 to V.A. Gibraltar,  
(?R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. A.F. (U.S.),  
Cdr. Task Force No.29, N.C.X.F.)

C.F.10,  
LEITH.

Parted company with C.F.10 at 1015A in 031° 55' N.  
010° (?29') W. owing to boiler defect. My P.C.S.  
033° 08' N. 009° 27' W. 034°, 12 knots, temporary  
repairs completed.

(LEITH, 2001A/7 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F.,  
Escort C.F.10, Escorts of convoy M.K.F.6, Capt.  
(D) Gibraltar.)

South Atlantic.

Escort of  
French  
Troop  
Convoy.

B.N.L.O. Dakar informs me that Giraud has personally  
asked, through Glassfurd, for British sea and air  
escorts for troop convoy consisting of 4 transports  
and 2 tankers which leave Dakar for Casablanca  
about 12th.

2. DUMONT D'URVILLE is the only French A/S escort  
available.

/3. Intend ...



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Escort of French Troop Convoy. (Contd.) 3. Intend to make necessary arrangements. 4. B.N.L.O. states that provisional French cruiser escort is under consideration. (F.O.C.W.Af., 0921Z/7 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.) Your 0921/7. You should obtain Allied C.in C's concurrence through N.C.X.F. before getting committed to any such arrangements. (For 1st S.L., 2335A/7 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) N.C.X.F.)

HAI LEE, ILEX, HOLCOMBE. Departure 1930Z/6 SS. HAI LEE escorted by ILEX, HOLCOMBE, and motor launch 277 routed through (A) 013° 11' N. 017° 29' W. (B) 011° 29' N. 017° 29' W. (C) 010° 29' N. 016° 40' W., E.T.A. Freetown a.m. 8th. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 0950Z/7 to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) Admty.)

QUANZA intercepted. A.M. 1535A/31 not to CARNARVON CASTLE. Portuguese QUANZA sighted by aircraft in 010° 30' N. 017° 30' W. at 1040Z/6 and is being escorted to Freetown by CYCLAMEN. (F.O.C.W.Af., 0953Z/7 to Admty., (R) CARNARVON CASTLE, V.A. Gibraltar, Connav.)

A/S Trawlers. S.B.N.O.W.At. 1032/6 para. 3. No objection. (C. in C. S.A., 1031C/7 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O.W. At., F.O.C.W.Af., B.A.D., S.B.N.O. Trinidad, S.O. (I) Jamaica.)

EMPIRE TROOPER. EMPIRE TROOPER sailed 7th E.T.A. 8th for repair. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 1031Z/7 to N.L.O. East London, (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown, D. of S.T.)

W.S. 25W. Your 1825/6 not to all addressees. W.S. 25W sailed 7th, E.T.A. Aden 0500Z/15. N.O.I.C. Aden is requested to inform addressees E.T.A. Suez. (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1055C/7 to P.S.T.O. Mid East, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Red Sea Force, N.O.I.C. Aden.)

ESPERANCE BAY, RANGITIKI, HIGHLAND PRINCESS. A.M. 2005/2. ESPERANCE BAY, RANGITIKI and HIGHLAND PRINCESS are to proceed Durban with remainder of W.S. 25. (2) QUILLIAM pass to Cdre. (3) Acknowledge. (C. in C. S.A., 1056C/7 to QUILLIAM, (R) D. of S.T., D.S.T.O. Durban, N.O.I.C. Durban, P.S.T.O.M.E., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. India, F.O.R.S.C.A.)

/Return ...



War Diary.

7.1.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Return of  
Corvettes  
to E.F.C. in C. Med. 1745/5 and your 1002/26 not to all  
addressees. Intend to return NIGELLA, FREESIA,  
JASMINE and FRITILLARY to E.F. on completion of  
boiler cleaning in sequence.(C. in C. S.A., 1135C/7 to C. in C. E.F., (R)  
C. in C. Med., Admty., F.O. Red Sea and Canal  
Area, Com. Aden.)Suspicious  
Ship,  
RHAKOTIS.Your 1931/6. RHAKOTIS was sunk on 1st by H.M.  
Ship in the N.A. but see my 2001A/5 and A.G.M.  
948A of 22nd Dec.

(D.D.I.C., 1137A/7 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

1931/6th. RHAKOTIS was sunk in North Atlantic  
on 1st Jan.(F.O.W.Af., 1647Z/7 to CARNARVON CASTLE, (R)  
C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Ascension, Comsolantfor  
144, Admty.)

Movements.

Arrivals Saldanha Bay 4th CAPE WARWICK, INDIAN  
STAR. Simonstown 6th ROCKROSE. Departure  
Simonstown 2240C/7th ARCTIC EXPLORER for DurbanS. of A. 10 knots, E.T.A. 1000C/11. Shifting to W/T organisation  
for area J at 1200C/10.

(C. in C. S.A., 1139C/7 to Admty.)

Arrival 6th Jan. P.615.

(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1221Z/7 to Admty., V.A. Gibraltar,

C. in C. W.A., F.O.S.)

Arrivals 7th GLENROY, JANUS, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES,  
PICT, BALUCHISTAN, M.Ls 209, 244. Departures GLENROY, JANUS  
Freetown 12th.(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1923Z/7 to Admty., R.A.W.A.F., N.O.I.C.  
Lagos.)

BOLT HEAD.

Capetown departure 1045C/7 H.M. Tug BOLT HEAD  
for Durban S. of A. 10 knots, E.T.A. 1200C/10.

(C. in C. S.A., 1141C/7 to Admty., etc.)

P.615  
attacked  
by U/B.My 2301/5. Submarine P.615 attacked by U-Boat  
in 10° 47' N. 17° 16' W. at 0430/5. U-Boat was  
not sighted and tracks of two torpedoes only  
were seen one ahead and one astern. Visibility  
poor.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 1211Z/7 to Admty.)

PIERRE LOTI.

Your 1829/4th. PIERRE LOTI still aground in  
(?000°) 47' 24" N. (?009°) (?18') 57" E. Making a  
little water in number 1 tank but hull apparentlyintact. List 2½°. Passengers embarked TOUEDG leaving Pointe  
Noire 8th for Cape. Crew remain on board. Attempt made to  
refloat continues but tugs EMPIRE PAT and SAM are inadequate.  
Ship now has steam for winch.(B.N.L.O.W.A., 1215/7 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty., R.N.O. Lagos,  
N.C.S.O. Duala, C. in C. S.A.)

/Sinking ...



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Sinking of OAKBANK by U/B 27th Dec. 1942. My 1940Z/4 (R) S.O.(I) Montevideo and S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro. C.O. of OAKBANK states that between nine and ten hours before attack when in approx. 001° 45' S. 036° 30' W. the ship experienced three sudden jolts followed after intervals of one to two minutes by two similar jolts as if a submerged object had been struck. These were felt by all on board but nothing was seen in the vicinity. Weather was fair and ship zig-zagging at time. Bilges were opened for inspection and tanks were sounded. (R.O. Recife, 1405Z/7 to Admty., (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

B.T. 2. Your 1530/3 not to all addressees. Propose about 6 ships with 3 escorts shall sail Freetown to join convoy B.T.2 in Rocas area about 25th. After M.O.M.P. Freetown escort to proceed to Recife (Pernambuco) for fuel and sail to M.O.M.P. with T.B.2 convoy in Rocas area and escort West African ships to Freetown. If you concur request early indication of M.O.M.P. with B.T.2 convoy. Hope we may make this regular arrangement. (F.O.W.Af., 1537Z/7 to Comsolant, (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, Admty., B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At., Connav C & R.)  
Reply: Comsolant for 1141/8.

CARNARVON CASTLE. No Allied merchant shipping is expected in area of your patrol during next (6?) days. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1731Z/7 to CARNARVON CASTLE.)

Patrol by P. 614. Your 1103/29th Dec. and 2301/30th Dec. Employment of "P.614" on operational patrol suggests that A/S Training commitment at Freetown is insufficient to employ her fully on this work. 2. Request your views on this and on the subject of the recent patrol. (D.A/S.W\*, 1825A/7 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) F.O.S.)  
\* Approved by A.C.N.S.(F).

BIRDLIP. CALGARY not met proceeding Bathurst. Position 015° 25' N. 019° 52' W., E.T.A. 1800Z/8. (BIRDLIP, 1930Z/7 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

C. of S. comments on understandings with French. Following from Chiefs of Staff. 1. Following are our comments on Admiral Glassfurd's despatches 1620Z/31 and 301525. We note you are in general agreement with the understandings arrived at with Admiral Collinet which we assume are purely tentative as indicated by Admiral Glassfurd, until confirmed by us on your advice.

/2. We ...



War Diary.

7.1.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- C. of S. comments on understandings with French. (Contd.)
2. We are glad to observe that Admiral Glassfurd has succeeded in inducing the French to recognise the need for undivided control of all sea communications from the U.K. and Gibraltar to the Cape. It would clearly have been impossible to accept anything in the nature of an independent Command, cutting British responsibility for the convoy routes into two, and we much appreciate U.S. assistance in securing French recognition of this principle.
3. Some difficulty arises from the attempt to fit in arrangements derived from U.S. Naval Organisation into a British strategical area, and we are not indeed sure that we have grasped the full significance of the proposals in Admiral Glassfurd's 301525. The proposals would be acceptable on the purely Naval side subject to the following:-
- (a) It is undesirable that the French Naval district should be partly in F.O.C.W.A.F.'s area and partly in Western Meditn. area. The Southern limit of the Western Meditn. Station is at present 20° N. and we consider that this will require to be amended to 26° 10' N. so as to bring the whole French district inside the West African Station. It would then be necessary to amend S.N.O.C.A.'s Command so as to make it contiguous with the French District.
- (b) The French Commander has command of all the French warships based on the territories within his district. When any of these forces are employed in the Atlantic they will be under the operational direction of F.O.C.W.A.F. or any other Allied strategic authority concerned.
- (c) Seaward depth to the district is not such as to interfere with the free movements of Naval forces or shipping under F.O.C.W.A.F.'s strategic directions. If the French consider it is essential to set a seaward depth it should, therefore, be strictly limited but we see no object in having one at all the more especially as this conception has no place in British Naval organisation.
4. Admiral Glassfurd's proposals place the port of Bathurst within a French Naval zone but we are prepared to accept this provided that the Naval Officer in charge of the port and the Naval Administration remain British.
5. From the Air point of view we consider that the control of shipping and its air protection in the Eastern Atlantic must be a British responsibility exercised North of 26° N. by the V.A. and A.O.C. Gibraltar respectively working from the Combined Area H.Q. at Gibraltar, and south of 26° N. by F.O.C.W.A.F. and A.O.C. W.Af. from the Combined Area H.Q. at Freetown.
6. We, therefore consider that the U.S. Navy Flying amphibians in S.N.O.C.A.'s area should collaborate in the above tasks in the Northern area as required by A.O.C. Gibraltar.
7. In the area South of 26° N. the control of any French air forces, when they become available for employment in this area, must similarly be exercised by the A.O.C. W.Af. from Freetown. For the present, however, we are convinced that the French have neither equipment, the experience, nor the training to justify our placing any reliance on them for the air protection of Allied convoys. We must, therefore, for the present insist on the right to operate R.A.F. units from French bases to the extent that may be necessary for this purpose.

/8. We ...



Sa  
238A

# MOST SECRET

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**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.)

08  
MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

No T.O.O./7th January  
IN

FROM: Falkland Islands  
(Sir A. Cardinall).

DATE: 8.1.43  
RECD: 0145

CYPHER

ADDRESSED: S. of S. Colonies.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 6

*Assertion of British Sovereignty  
of South Shetlands & South Orkneys.*

Your most secret telegram No. 1.

08  
I do not think that either proposal (a) or (b) is practicable unless carried out from the United Kingdom. The suggestion made by me of a visit did not envisage establishment of shore parties. The only vessel available is S.S. FITZROY for details see Lloyd's register. In order to make that visit she would have no cargo space whatsoever for the necessary hutments food fuel etc. for those parties since the whole of her cargo space would have to be filled with her own bunkers nor could it be guaranteed that she would be able to relieve the parties. The summer shore parties would also have to take with them full supplies for twelve months because of the risk of them not being relieved owing to weather and possibly ice thus requiring very considerable cargo space.

2. One must not forget that if anything happened to FITZROY it would probably be an Argentine ship that would have to rescue her as well as the shore parties, even if the catchers from South Georgia were called upon they also flying the Argentine flag.

3. Use of FITZROY cannot (repeat not) be made for any purpose other than tip and run visit and even then it must be realised that the weather conditions might be such that she would have to return without even sighting either of the groups owing to her very limited bunker capacity preventing delay. If it is decided to send S.S. FITZROY on such a visit the Admiralty might be asked to authorise for that voyage the flying of the White Ensign as under the Red Ensign she might be treated as a poacher or trespasser. But the idea of a tip and run visit under the altered

/circumstances ...



2.

circumstances of threatened annexation would be dangerous and may provoke humiliating incident.

4. In view of obstacle threat it would seem that occupation parties of six would be insufficient. Civilians might well be arrested as unauthorised trespassers by the Argentines and therefore parties would have to be armed and of sufficient strength to avoid anything in the nature of a setback. The War Office might consider making use of garrison here. Presumably you in London will have early information as to the size of proposed Argentine expedition.

5. With reference to your paragraph 3, no boats of this description are available here: they would have to be vessels of very sturdy character and transport of their fuel from here is unfeasible; they would have to have experienced crews as well as specially designed accommodation. It must be remembered that the distances between the islands even when confined to either groups are very great. Unless whale catchers were used smaller vessels would require some form of slipway and hauling up gear.

6. In view of apparent urgency of the situation created by Argentine threat, in my opinion the only practicable suggestion is that a warship be sent forthwith (repeat forthwith) in order to forestall PRIMERO DE MAYO's arrival in the dependencies and to remain so long as summer permits after the departure of that vessel. Expeditions (a) and (b) could then follow in the season 1943/1944.

7. I should like to draw attention to the fact that the proposed annexation of dependencies by Argentine is obviously an anti-British move that it is possible Axis bases might be established there, refuelling being carried out from Chile. This alone would seem strongly to reinforce suggestion of sending a warship.

8. If contention is right that without permanent occupation claim to sovereignty cannot be maintained then all other powers claiming sovereignty in the Antarctic are in the same position..

/9. With ...



# 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.)

3.

9. With all deference I would suggest that the time has come for a most emphatic reaffirmation of our determination to maintain our sovereignty over these dependencies by declaring that any attempt to upset our claim would be considered a most unfriendly, even hostile, act, that any expedition or temporary occupation without our consent would be considered equivalent to an invasion of British soil, and that appropriate measures would have to be taken to restore the status quo. If Argentine are bluffing let us call their bluff, if they are serious let us face them. Such a declaration strengthened by the presence of a warship in those waters should convince Argentine that we are not to be trifled with.

10. The O.C. Troops has been in consultation with me in the drafting of this telegram.

No T.O.O./7.

Received in War Registry 1225/9.

## Circulation:-

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. (UT)  
Nav. Sec.  
Parl. Sec.  
Sec.  
P.A.S. (3)  
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)  
Admiral Bellairs  
Admiral Blake  
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D.T.D. (3)  
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Foreign Office - Mr. J.V. Perowne  
Admiralty - Mr. Waldock  
Admiralty  
(Military Branch) - Mr. M.J. Fox.  
War Office (M.O.8.) - Mr. T.F. Snow  
Dominions Office - Mr. Mcleod.



238B  
238C  
238D  
238E

War Diary.

7.1.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Movements  
Summaries.

BREDON, ORFSAY, 3 motor launches with T.S.28 about 007° 38' 014° 30' to Freetown 7.  
CORINTHIAN 005° 45' 014° 28' to Freetown 13½.  
GLENROY, JANUS 001° 28' 005° 37' to 001° 06' 006° 12' thence 291°, 12.  
LADY ROSEMARY, HERTFORDSHIRE 000° 16' 003° 58' E. 125°, 8.  
CHESHIRE, ALCANTARA, CROCUS, QUILLIAM, ROCKWOOD with W.S.25, 005° 43' S. 003° 30' E. to 006° 53' S. 004° 38' E, thence 157°, 13.  
RUMBA about 005° 23' S. 011° 08' E. to Congo River, 8½.  
Allied Naval Unit 004° 50' 022° 31' 028° 15.8.  
CARNARVON CASTLE on blockade runner patrol between equator and 005° S. 015° W. and 019° W. (R.A.W.Af., 1131Z/7.)  
KHYBER off Port St. Johns to Durban 7 knots.  
ST. LOMAN 034° 20' S. 023° 30' E. to East London 8.  
JASMINE, THYME with D.N.11 028° 55' S. 036° 00' E. to 028° 40' S. 038° 23' E., 8.  
ARCTIC EXPLORER 034° 40' S. 021° 00' E. to Durban 10.  
Tug BOLD 034° 40' S. 020° 30' E. to Durban 10.  
W.S.25SW 038° 30' S. 025° 00' E. to Aden 25½.  
EXPRESS about 035° 00' S. 018° 50' E. to Simonstown.  
NORTHERN DUKE off Luderitz Bay to Saldanha Bay 9. (C. in C. S.A., 1151C/7.)  
BIRDLIP escorting about 16.38, 20.39, 133, 9.5.  
M.Ls 302, 287 about 12.30, 17.24 to Bathurst 10.  
WOODRUFF 21.27, 26.08, 132, 10.  
FANDANGO, BUTSER escorting 13.08, 18.01 to Bathurst 9.  
ILEX, HOLCOMBE escorting from Bathurst to join 12.5.  
HYDRANGEA, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, 4 trawlers with F.T.T.6, 08.28, 35.11, 292, 7.5.  
Netherlands S/M 0.19 arrives position 08.10, 15.30 from S. at 0100Z/8th then proceeds Freetown 9. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1231Z/7.)  
BREDON, ORFSAY, see 1131Z/7.  
TURCOMAN escorting off Cape Point to Takoradi. 0.19 see 1231Z/7.  
(?H.M.S. CORINTHIAN) 00.22, 14.58 011°, 13.5.  
H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE, Allied Naval Unit see 1131Z/7.  
DESPATCH 05.32, 12.04, 311, 18.5.  
JANUS, GLENROY, CHESHIRE, ALCANTARA, CROCUS, ROCKWOOD, QUILLIAM, RUMBA, LADY ROSEMARY, HERTFORDSHIRE see 1131Z/7.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1413Z/7.)



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

C. of S.                    8. We recognise, however, the desire of the  
 comments of                French to take a share in this work themselves  
 understandings             and are ready to give them assistance to fit  
 with French                them to do so. We are prepared for them to  
 (Contd.)                    undertake immediately such local operations as  
                                  they may be capable of providing it is made quite  
                                  clear that they must be under the direction of

A.O.C. West Africa and that they do not prejudice in any way  
 British air operations for protection of shipping. A.O.C. is  
 fully aware of importance of tactful handling in the interest  
 of getting the most effective collaboration from Collinet both  
 in respect of French air forces and facilities for our own.

9. It is, however, clear that they will not be much use and  
 may be something of a hindrance until they can be properly  
 equipped and trained. If it is clear that the French Air Forces  
 in West Africa will operate under our control we are prepared  
 to accept the responsibility for their equipment, the aircraft  
 being found from our own resources or from our allocations from  
 the U.S. The re-equipment of French squadrons could not be  
 undertaken immediately, but will be effected as soon as possible  
 having regard to other essential commitments. We are also  
 prepared to extend to them the necessary facilities in the United  
 Kingdom for training on coastal air operations.

(Admty., 2318A/7 to F.O.C. West Africa (pass to A.O.C. West  
 Africa), (R) N.C.X.F., A.O.C. Gibraltar (by Air Min.), J.S.M.  
 Washington (by Air Min.).)

Reply: F.O.C.W.A., 0041Z/9.

CITY OF  
 LILLE.

Your 1530/7 (N.T. in W.R.) (not to all addressees).  
 Ship one funnel 2 masts flush deck little super-  
 structure cruiser stern which passed 10 miles to  
 northward of St. Helena at 1400 G.M.T. today  
 steering south-east is identified as (GSLN)  
 CITY OF LILLE from U.K.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 2335C/7 to Gen. St. Helena, (R)  
 Admty., F.O.C.W.Af.)



War Diary7.1.1945  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanE. Boat  
Minelaying.

At 2345 (?yesterday) R/T indicated minelaying activity in vicinity of Cape de Garde by about 6 E. Boats. On sighting destroyer E. Boats retired to eastwards.  
(WHEATLAND 0010A/7).

Destroyer  
Sweep.

JERVIS, NUBIAN returned from operation.  
(V.A. Malta, 0906A/7)  
My 1126 6th. Nothing sighted.  
(V.A. Malta 1150A/7).

Malta  
Dockyard.

Your 1906/4 not to Admiralty. Use of No. 2 dock is restricted by following factors:-  
(A) Small opening of caisson. Further work on caisson recess has now enabled it to be opened to 60 feet. (B) Sunken wreckage in the approaches. Further clearance has been effected and in conjunction with (A) above it would be practicable to take a Hunt Class destroyer in under best weather conditions only. (C) There is still a considerable amount of work to be done on clearance of debris on dock bottom and fixing dock blocks. (D) There is only a very limited air supply from a portable air compressor. Additional compressors have been asked for from Alexandria for this and other urgent requirements. 2. These restrictions have been acceptable for small craft but the use of this dock even for them has been confined to vessels whose date of completion is not dependant on docking or for whom a longish period in dock can be accepted because frequent opening of dock would delay work on the caisson of No. 3 dock and the ultimate availability of that dock, and also on repairs to the caisson recess and docking blocks. 3. If work progresses as expected it is hoped to have No. 2 and No. 3 docks available sometime in March. But the size of ship which can be docked depends on the extent to which the approaches can be cleared. Salvage plant at present available at Malta is not capable of carrying out this work. 4. Subject to the above, No. 2 dock should be available for a Hunt about end Jan. but it is considered that its use should be restricted to emergency in order to hasten availability of both No.2 and No.3 docks. 5. It is intended to pump out No. 5 dock on 10th Jan. and its condition will then be reported. My 1201/1 refers.  
(A.S. Malta, 1104/7 to C. in C. Med.)

P.247

Intend sailing P.247 for patrol at 1700 A 8th routed through: 038° 10' N. 003° 15' E. to pass 038° 10' N. 008° 01' E. at 0800 A 10th thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.  
(Capt. (S) 8, 1142A/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O.I.S. Capt.(S) 10 Subs. on patrol S.O. Force Q Cdre. Algiers)

M.K.F.6.

Tact. Sailed as in my 0945 6th as amended by my 1725 6th not to Cdre. Algiers. EXIRIA has mails and cargo for U.K. loaded in error. Outcon 326 issued.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1145A/7.)



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

P.219 Your 1537/6th. P.219 will be able to arrive Blyth about 27th Jan.  
(Capt. (S) 8 1200A/7.)  
Intend to sail P.219 for Gibraltar for passage to U.K. at 1700 eightrouted through A. 038° 18' N. 002° 30' E. at 0200 9th. B. 135° Cape Palos 10 miles, at 0200 10th. C. 180° Cape de Gata 10 miles, at 2030 10th. D. 180° Cape Calaburras 10 miles at 0700 11th arrive Gibraltar 1100 11th unless otherwise ordered by V.A. Gibraltar. (II) P.219 carries one stern torpedo only and 3 rating passengers.  
(Capt. (S) 8 1236A/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. F.O.(S) V.A. Gibraltar. H.M.Sub. P.219. S.O.(S) Gibraltar. Cdre. Algiers.)

K.M.S.6. (?Arrivals) K.M.S.6 HAVILDAR.(?MACHARDA) EDWARD RUTLEDGE, WILLIAM FLOYD, MARK TWAIN, CLAN MURRAY, KARACHI (D) (?9th) EMPIRE CONFIDENCE, KAIPAKI, EXILONA, IRENE DUPONA, FORT STIKIWE. Departures ORMONDE, ORONTES, EXIRIA, ZOELLA LYKES.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1210A/7)  
K.M.S.6 Algiers Section arrived plus JOHN DAVENPORT, TIBA, CITY OF WORCESTER, TRISTAN, DALTON, ESSO BAYWAY, Rhode Island add HAMPTON LODGE less EMPIRE KANGAROO and LEVERNBANK diverted to Gibraltar. EMPIRE DARWIN 98E Yaverland.)  
(Comm. Algiers, 1646A/7).

L.C.Ts L.C.Ts 106 and 107 sunk Benghazi Harbour 6th Jan.  
106 as a result of heavy weather.  
107 (C. in C. Med. 1236B/7)  
Sunk.

Coastal My 1524/1. By agreement with C. in C. Med. coastal force craft and bases in the whole Med. are being placed under command of Captain A.G.V. Hubback. R.N. Captain Coastal Forces Mediterranean with H.Q. at Malta. (2) Propose to appoint Lieut. Comdr. R.H. Thornton, R.N. as Commander Coastal Forces Western Med. with acting rank of Commander while holding appointment. 3. A Lieut Comdr. is required for Coastal Force/ Base, Bone.  
(N.C.X.F. 1241A/7 to Admty.)

P.35 Cancel previous patrol orders, proceed through 036° 00', 11 40 to establish patrol in area to westward of line 340° from Kerkenah No. 4 buoy, if you attack or are sighted off Mahedia move to Gulf of Hammamet and vice versa. South and northbound coastal traffic is your objective.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1257A/7 to P.35. (R) C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F. Capt. S.1. Capt. S.8 Subs. on Patrol.

ALBARO My 0941C/4th (1550C/31st Dec. to Beirut) ALBARO has sailed for Constantza 7th Jan. after two false starts N.L.O. Black Sea informed.  
(S.O.(1) Istanbul, 1258C/7th to S.O. (I) Med. (R) S.D.N.I.)

/M.T.B...



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.B. Sweep. Two M.T.Bs leave Malta at 1600A today Thursday to carry out sweep between Karmibia and Hammamet returning Malta daylight 8th. They will keep South of Pantellaria.  
(V.A. Malta, 1306A/7 to C. in C. Med. 877. 201 Group 247 Wing. (R) N.C.X.F. Admty. H.Q.E.A.C. H.Q.R.A.F. Middle East. F.O.C. Coastal Forces. WELSHMAN.)  
2. M.T.Bs leave vicinity Gozo 1700 A tonight proceeding direct to carry out offensive sweep between Pantellaria and Kelibia ?returning to arrive Malta at dawn. They have orders not to attack submarine.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1526A/7, to Subs. on patrol.)  
Sailed for operations M.T.B. 260 (corrupt group.)  
(V.A. Malta, 1620A/7.)

Cositrep 648. Air. Night 5/6 Jan. Liberators bombed Tunis and Sousse harbours starting two fires near quays at Sousse. Results at Tunis obscured by cloud. Malta Wellingtons bombed Sousse scoring hits on railway station and sidings where fire started and on quayside buildings. Other bombs burst near ships in harbour. Six Jan. about six Ju.88s bombed Benghazi at dawn no damage. Malta Spitfires bombed Lampedusa Aerodrome scoring hit on buildings. Malta Spitfires on offensive patrol damaged two northbound F. boats off Lampedusa.  
(C. in C. M.E., 1310B/7.)

EASTON. My 1857/29 May para. 1 (e) EASTON is allocated to the Eastern Med. 2. It is anticipated that she will be ready to leave U.K. early in February and that she will proceed through the Med.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1336A/7 to C. in C. Med. (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar R.A.D. Med. C. in C. H.F. R.A.D. H.F.)

QUEEN MARY, NIEUW AMSTERDAM, ILE DE FRANCE. Ref. D. of S.T's 2220 2nd. Request QUEEN MARY be sailed so as to arrive Suez 22 not before that date. Depending on QUEEN MARY maintaining this date NIEUW AMSTERDAM to arrive Suez 28. P.S.T.O. Bombay to sail ILE DE FRANCE so as to arrive Suez 26 Jan. Important arrival date should be adhered to.  
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 1415B/7.)

WELSHMAN Sailed WELSHMAN  
(V.A. Malta, 1445/7.)

S.S. KROM. Your 1135/30. Request you will signal urgently port of destination in U.S.A. for S.S. KROM as onward route from Gibraltar cannot be adjusted until this is known. Route will be required to be adjusted with U.S. and agreed with Axis. Accordingly you should request Turkish Gov. to postpone sailing until onward route has been agreed with Axis otherwise we are faced with the unwelcome

/problem...



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

S.S. KROM                      problem of accommodating the vessel at Gibraltar  
Contd.                            until Axis agreement is obtained.  
   (Admty., 1602A/7 to B.N.A. Ankara.)

Situation                      1. Bone. HORATIO missing from patrol 7th search  
report                            in progress. Two M.T.Bs arrived from Malta 7th  
No. 44.                            report large explosion felt 7 miles N. of Keith  
   Reef possibly caused by acoustic mine. 37.55 N.  
   11.2 E. L.S.Is. ferrying troops ex BOISSEVAN  
arrived 5th. Air attack of ships anchored in bay at 1300/6 by  
F.W. 190. No damage. At 2345/6 WHEATLAND escorting AJAX heard  
loud R/T indicating presence of about 6 minelaying E-boats off  
Cape Delg?arde. E-boats retired on sighting destroyers.  
2. Philippeville. AJAX arrived in two 7th (sic) and sails  
tonight westwards under own power. 3. JURA torpedoed at 1112/7  
in 36.58 N. 03.48 E. STRONSAY rescued 3 severely wounded and  
17 other survivors. 4. SITREP 44. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA requires  
6 weeks hull and machinery temporary repairs before being fit for  
sea passage. ORMONDE hull damage but fit for sea passage.  
(N.C.X.F., 1730/7).

P.R.U.                            P.R.U. Maddalena not flown today. Request  
Maddalena.                      confirmation that daily R/C is still required.  
   (N.C.X.F., 1747A/7, to V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10,  
   (R) Admty, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8)  
Your 1747/7. No longer required thank you.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 2350A/7 to N,C.X.F.)

Movements.                      Algiers arrivals ROCHESTER, WISHART, VANOC, VERITY,  
   BOREAS, M.L.469 from K.M.S.6. PRINSES BEATRIX,  
   ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, LOYAL. LIGHTNING  
from Bone. Departures LOYAL, LIGHTNING, STRONSAY, RUSKHOLM,  
JURA to Philippeville. BICESTER, ZETLAND, AVONVALE, join K.M.S.6  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2001A/7).

Repair                            The following policy is intended. (A) Malta. As  
facilities                            soon as threat of air attack has materially  
at Malta                            subsided, Malta should be re-established as a  
and                                    repair base. (B) Bizerta. After its capture,  
Bizerta.                            and as soon as air attack has been sufficiently  
   reduced, Bizerta should be re-developed as a  
   repair base to the maximum extent of the  
repairable facilities and local labour. 2. To avoid delay in  
implementing (A) when opportunity arises, V.A. Malta, is  
requested to forward proposals for the rapid and balanced  
re-development of Malta Dockyard.  
(Controller, 2003A/7).

/Malta...



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ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Malta MS.6289. AI.13. 7th Jan. T.O.O. 1940Z. Part 1.  
C.S.R. C.S.R. Day 7th Jan. 11 Spitfires sorties have been made in offensive sweeps against Axis transport aircraft and shipping west of Malta 4 Spitfire bombers escorted by 5 Spitfire fighters attacked Lampedusa aerodrome. Spitfire bombers with close escort of 4 Spitfire fighters and high cover of 8 Spitfire fighters made successful attack on Licata Sulphur Factory Sicily. 2 bombs hit Factory buildings. 2 hit railway and 4 scored direct hits on buildings and tower in W. corner of factory causing large explosion and orange coloured smoke up to 300 feet. Night 6/7th Jan. 1 special Wellington co-operating with Naval force in Lampedusa area found no enemy shipping. 2 torpedo carrying special Wellingtons despatched to locate and attack enemy shipping in Gulf of Tunis made no sightings 4 Albacores of F.A.A. and 4 Beauforts were despatched to mine approaches to La Goulette. 6 mines were laid at entrance to Harbour. 1 Albacore and 1 Beaufort missing. 9 Wellingtons despatched to attack Tunis docks found target obscured by low cloud. 1 Wellington attacked through gaps in cloud at 1909 hours dropping 8 x 500 lb and 2 x 250 lb bombs scoring hits on electric railway depot followed by blue flashes. Remaining 8 Wellingtons attacked alternative target Sousse from 2008-2025 hours dropping 46 x 500 lb and 13 x 250 lb bombs starting large fires N. and S. of town and scoring hit or near miss on medium vessel at W. Quay. Fairly accurate heavy flak and some light flak was encountered and enemy night fighters were operating 1 of them using a searchlight. 1 Wellington is missing. Albacores and Beauforts on mining operation on Goulette saw large fires at Sousse and La Goulette visible 100 miles away. 1 Wellington on special Mission dropped 4 250 lb bombs on Pantelleria Harbour starting 3 fires.  
( Malta 2017Z/7.)

Shipping losses at  
Benghazi.

My 2130/5/1 para. (4). To meet temporary shortage of shipping occasioned by recent losses at Benghazi and pending arrival of new tonnage from India. Propose to allocate CORONA and MICHALIOS. Propose earmarking CITY OF FLORENCE, FORT TADOUSSA, OCEAN VOYAGER and U.S.A. DANIEL H. LOWNSDALE for Tripoli. Date of commencement of loading last four vessels will be about 23rd Jan. No other alternative suitable ships are available. 2. Detailed report of losses during recent gale Benghazi not yet received but from information available HELLAS (Nor.) LYEEMOON and JENNY MOLLER believed total losses. Crews landed. LIANGGHOW after hold flooded aground in inner harbour. Casualties previous to gale caused by enemy action reported in my 1740/24 Dec. HANNAH MOLLER now considered total loss. TRAJANUS damaged but ready for towing repair port. 3. Having regard extensive damage inner harbour need for small ships which can be discharged southern part outer harbour now very great. Your 1530/28/12 refers. Agreed Marrant.  
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 2021/7, to D. of S.T.)

/Protection...



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Protection of Bone Harbour. Your 1617/26 Dec. Since Mills Loops are only effective in depths under ten fathoms they will afford little or no protection to Mers-el-Kebir. Harbour entrance where baffles are sited as in my 1051/5. 2. Intend to use these loops for protection of Bone Harbour entrance where complete lay can be made in eight fathoms.  
(N.C.X.F. 2130A/7 to Admty.) Reply Admty. 1828/9.

E. A. C. Report. Operational Summary No. 57 - covering period 1800/5 to 1800/6. E/A. repeatedly approached Bone during the day and bombs were dropped near dispersed shipping off Harbour and near aerodrome without damage. P.R.U. Sorties on 5 Jan. show direct hits on dockside, railway and commercial quay Sousse. No movement at Sousse end of the Sfax-Sousse railway or the dockside railway since 2 Jan. At Sfax no repairs made to seriously damaged railway sidings.  
(E.A.C. Africa, 2140A/7.)

AJAX, GLOUCESTER, ORMONDE. M.K.F.6. Expect to pass Europa Point at 0630A/8. ORMONDE, GLOUCESTER and AJAX will be detached to Gibraltar at the same time escorted by HAYDON.  
(EGRET, 2309A/7, to V.A. Gibraltar.)

M.W. 18 Unloading completed.  
(V.A. Malta, 2359A/7.)



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies.

ILE DE FRANCE, DUNERA. D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf's 0755/6. No delay to ILE DE FRANCE can be accepted. 2. In the circumstances propose that DUNERA should proceed to M.E. with the Polish children either direct or via Karachi. 3. She could then continue to Haifa and avoid transshipment at Suez. (D. of S.T., 0114A/7 to P.S.T.O. India.)

ISIS. Departure ISIS S. of A. 21 knots. (S.O.(1) Bombay, 0116Z/7)

B.P.65. (2) Sailed 0200Z/7, Route &c. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0220Z/7, 0222Z/7).

Movement Summary No. 33. VALIANT escorted by HOTSPUR and BLACKMOOR leaves Kilindini 7th Jan. due Durban 12th Jan. routed through Mozambique Channel. 2. RANPURA left Durban 5th Jan. due Kilindini 11th Jan. routed through Mozambique Channel. (C. in C. E.F., 0526Z/7, to E.F. 179 Y Admty. C. in C. S.A. F.O.C. Red Sea Force N.O.I.C. Durban.)

Convoy C.37. Arrival 0506Z/7. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0624Z/7.)

B.P. 65. Sailed from Bombay 7th Jan. (Details). (P.S.T.O. India, 1002/7, 1027Z/7.)

EKATERINI COUMANTAROU. Overdue Shipping. My 0634/6 Cancel B.L.L.W. EKATERINI COUMANTAROU Arrived. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 1108Z/7)

Disposition of U.S. Forces in Pacific. My 1111/31 Dec. Following changes:- COPAHEE At Pearl Harbour. SANGAMON, SUWANEE, CLEVELAND and WICHITA, South Pacific Area. CONCORD and TRENTON Balboa. CHICAGO At Sea. INDIANAPOLIS Alaskan Area. (D.O.D.(F), 1109A/7 to C. in C. E.F.)

India Air Report. 6th Jan. (A) 2 Hudsons offensive recce. Arakan coast bombed and gunned boats. 2 shipping escort sorties negative. (A.H.Q. India, 1132Z/7)

Movements. Arrivals 7th Jan. CERES. Departure 7th Jan. VALIANT, HOTSPUR, BLACKMOOR. (N.O.I.C. East Africa, 1241Z/7.)

/?Move...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

?Move of S.A. Div. P.S.T.O. M.E's. 1926/2. In view of possible difficulty in moving these 2000 personnel by other means, suggest you consider using QUEEN OF BERMUDA, either sailing with PAMPHLET or independently. Her capacity is 1800.  
(D.O.D.(F), 1848A/7, to C. in C. E.F. 570 (R) A.C.N.B. 774 P.S.T.O. Middle East.)

CEDARDALE, GOLD RANGER. Your 1354/5 suggest if time permits that CEDARDALE and GOLD RANGER be modified for oiling at sea with rubber hose vide A/L. N.S.O. 18587/42/39887 dated 18th Dec. 1942 in anticipation of arrival of rubber hose from U.S.A. (D. of S., 2253A/7 to C. in C. E.F.).



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Landing  
Craft.

Ref. U.S. Fleet 2029/4. Change text now reading "Beyond Gibraltar as by C.O. A.F." to "Beyond Gibraltar as directed by C. in C. A.F". Admiralty pass to C. in C. A.F. and N.C.X.F. (Radio Washington, 0211/7 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) (R) V.A. Gib. O.B. Bermuda, B.A.S.R., C.E.S.F., Com. 3rd U.S. Naval District New York, Com. 5th U.S. Naval District, C. in C. A.F., S.B.N.O.W.A., Comamphforl, N.C.X.F., Admty. Port Director New York, Comnavu, Cdr. N.O.B. Oran, Port Director Norfolk, B.A.D. Washington)

Production  
of escort  
vessels.

Ref. Dorpoc No.3 estimates of new production in 1943 prepared by Nathan are as follows  
Destroyer Escorts U.S.260, U.K.6. Corvettes U.S. Maritime Commission 69. U.K. Twin Screw 25. Single Screw 3. Canada Twin Screw., 39. Single Screw 43. Australia 9. Sloops U.K. 16. Total

470. To which are added as potentially available for escort duty - Fleet Destroyers U.S.N.42 - U.K.9. Fleet minesweepers U.S.N. 27. Grand total 548.

2. We were told yesterday that Maritime Commission feel that they may be able to produce up to 70 additional Corvettes in 1943. This of course will be examined in discussion with them in next few days.

3. In reference to para. 9 of Dorpoc 3 Salter feels that there should be some reason to hope that the extent of the sacrifice of U.S. Merchant Shipping tonnage might be within the potential increase over the programme of 18,800,000 tons.  
(Washington 0229Z/7 to A.M.) (Rec'd in War Reg. 1245/8 Jan).

Provision  
of escort  
vessels.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. (W) 434. Reference J.S.M.669 (2225/6).

We must know what effect acceleration and expansion of programme of escort vessel construction will have on other critical items of munitions before agreeing that this shall be given absolute priority. The quicker we can have the report which is being prepared (see para. 2 (a) (ii) of your J.S.M. 650) the sooner will we be in a position to give a definite opinion and to invoke Prime Minister's backing.  
(Air Min. 1635Z/7 to Britman Washington). Received from Air Ministry 0100/8.

Movements.

St. John's N.F. Jan. 6th arrivals H.M. S/M SEAWOLF GRAMBY, NEW WESTMINSTER, VANSITTART ex Halifax MANSFIELD ex O.N.154, Q 060 Q 077 E.G. Wabana. Departures ST. LAURENT to Halifax U.S. ESCANABA, TAMPA, TAHOMA to S.C.17 U.S. MOJAVE, MOHAWK to Argentinia.  
(F.O.N.F., 0341Z/7).

Special  
fast  
tanker  
convoy

Your 1805/3rd all 5 vessels in Port and expected sailing in Convoy at noon 8th Jan. SEAKAY has small repairs details not yet available but if expected to delay Convoy, further signal will be made.  
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 0953QR/7)

/French...



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.French  
Convoy.

For British Chiefs of Staff London. (C.C.S. and Opnav have this). Glassfurd's 061812 "Convoy 4 transports 2 supply ships 2 tankers leaving Dakar for Casablanca about 12th Jan. Pegram requested to furnish escort". Eisenhower informed.  
(Radio Washington, 1036/7 to Admty).

Understanding  
re Patrol and  
escort  
vessels.

For British Chiefs of Staff. (Opnav and C.C.S. informed).  
Following is Glassfurd's 061400.  
"Following understanding has been reached with French West African Naval Authorities with regard to patrol and escort vessels. Ships capable employment as ocean escorts and their condition are as follows. DUMONT DURVILLE has French type asdic minimum required depth charge tracks and projectors. Main engines are large old constant speed merchant type diesels with present speed limited 14 knots due bad state of repair resulting from lack of spare parts. French request ship be re-engined with 2 about 2500 horse power engines. Condition otherwise very good. Need additional close-in A.A. machine guns. Next 3 Avisos Comot Bory class all fitted with French asdics have adequate depth charge armament. Need additional close-in A.A. gun. Diesel engines in good condition but spare parts have been expended. Ships otherwise in good state repair. Next. ADMIRAL MOAVEZ converted hydrographic and sound school ship, has limited battery and (4 garbled groups). Ship speed 12 knots, ship generally in good condition. Next. CAEAIS, ship old in good condition, speed 14 knots. Has asdic and depth charge armament. Next. ASPIRANT BRUN converted trawler coal burning condition fair has depth charge tracks and projectors, French asdic, speed 10 knots. French asdic reported not completely reliable and local authorities request it be replaced in all ships where fitted. Following ships suitable only for inshore patrol. Three small converted Air France Station ships also used for minesweepers protection as discussed Minesweeper Despatch. Ships not fitted with asdic. Have small depth charge tracks speed 16 knots. Next, EDITH GERMAINE, small trawler, speed 7 knots, has asdic and small depth charge tracks. As French Naval Authorities state following vessels required for inshore patrol. Four asdic and depth charge fitted trawlers for patrol of Approaches to swept channel. O.T.R. Motor Launches fitted with depth charge and machine guns for patrol of anti-submarine nets and swept channel to have speed 12 knots".  
Comment and recommendations following.  
1. Believe speed DUMONT DURVILLE can be increased to approx. 19 knots by re-engining (?but) before, recommend she be assigned as escort S.C.X.E. convoy destined for U.S. port to permit detailed inspection to determine if practicable re-engine, and if so to permit advance planning. Ship to return at later date for actual overhaul.  
2. Recommend required spare parts for Annamite class Avisos be manufactured U.S. and shipped Dakar.  
3. Recommend echo ranging equipment be shipped Dakar for installation in all ships fitted with French asdic.  
4. Recommend at least 6 sound operators be sent out sound schools for indoctrination in echo ranging equipment.



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Understanding re Patrol and escort vessels. Contd.

5. Do not recommend any other patrol craft overhaul in U.S.

6. Recommend additional echo ranging equipment and depth charge armament be shipped Dakar for installation in 4 converted trawlers discussed Minesweeper Despatch. When 6 minesweepers recommended therein have arrived, then the above 4 trawlers function as off shore patrol for swept channel approaches.

7. That 6 M.Ls. as described above be delivered Dakar as soon as practicable.  
(Radio Washington 1039/7).

Movements.

Summary at 1800 G.M.T./7.

(D.O.D. (F) 1104Z/7) See ~~lien~~ Copy *Copy Returns.*

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH,  
EMPRESS OF  
SCOTLAND.

Left New York 1300Z/6.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1113Z/7).

WASHINGTON  
EXPRESS  
attacked.

SSSS From WASHINGTON EXPRESS no address.  
Periscope sighted 53.54 N., 39.05 W.  
(Liverpool W/T 1225 G.M.T./7) (Halifax N.S. 1305Z/7).  
S/M sighted Lat. 53.45 N., long. 29.05 W. at 1225 G.C.T./7.  
(Cominch, 1326/7 to AAGGG Area 2 A 1 A. B.A.M.S. 2A, 1A, 2A, 1A.)

My 1305/7th. Following received from WASHINGTON EXPRESS:  
"My 1225 nothing in sight later 1400/7th".  
(C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1520Z/7).

WITCH.

Appearance of WITCH altered as follows: -  
(Details).  
(B.A.M.R. Washington 1350Z/7 to Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., S.B.N.O.W.At. H.M.S. WITCH, C. in C. U.S. Fleet)

BUTTERMERE,  
WASTWATER.

Your 1032/6. BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER should be retained to escort minesweepers.  
(D.A./S.W., 1414A/7 to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R)  
C. in C. S.A., B.A.D., F.O.C.W.A., S.B.N.O. Trinidad, S.O.(I) Jamaica).

S/M estimates  
and notices.

Includes one from attack 1720/6\* possibly damaged.  
(Cominch, 1432/7, 1433/7 C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1511/7, 1512/7, 1513/7, 1611/7) \*13° 40' N., 69° W. See Cominch, 2042/6.

/BRIG. GEN.H.F. ...



War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

BRIG. GEN. (U.S.A.T.) sailed Trinidad Jan. 4th for Recife.  
H.F. RETHEKS. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1438Z/7).

Tanker service.

It is important that convoy schedules now under discussion should provide for a tanker shuttle service between New York and U.K. on a 50 day round voyage.

2. Ideal schedule would provide 6 loading days and 12 discharge days for these tankers and shuttle fails if sufficient time is not allowed for discharge. It appears that this essential may be obtainable only by cutting loading time to absolute minimum.

3. In order that our proposals may be based on what is reasonably possible the following information is requested:-

(a) Number of loading berths in New York from which ocean going tankers will take cargo from this newly established pool, and where situated.

(b) Rate of loading cargoes.

(c) Is a 3 day or a 4 day turn round time (from O.N. arrival to H.X. sailing) likely to allow of 15 to 20 tankers loading and getting away.

4. It is also requested that you will send a large scale chart or plan on which is shown the oil loading berths and also the anchorages which have been allotted for various purposes. (D.T.D., 1449A/7 to B.R.L.O. New York).

NORDANGER

Your 1802/5th NORDANGER arrived Balboa 6th repairs estimated at least 10 days being taken in hand Balboa. (B.R.L.O. Balboa, 1452R/7 to Admty).

O.N.S.154

Using Group 11 my 0030 January 7th remain at Group One line 7 page 71. (Mid Ocean Task Escort Unit 24.1.11 1550/7 to Connav).

Sailing of tankers.

Following directive has been issued by Comeastseafon on 4th Jan. "Effective until further notice the following procedure will govern Tankers normally proceeding N.K. and K.N. convoys.

1. Tankers with speed of ten knots or more will be sailed independently via convoy routes "Bard" and "Wind" respectively.

2. Tankers under ten knots speed will be sailed independently via convoy routes "Bard" and "Wind" respectively if delayed more than 48 hours awaiting convoy.

3. This procedure does not apply to Tankers loaded with aviation gas of 100 Octane or above".

(B.A.D., 1609Z/7th to Admty).

/Transfers...



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- Transfers of ships      Your 2033Z/5th to F.O.N.F. and C.O.A.C. Halifax only.  
Standing instruction to R.C.N. Command are that no R.C.N. ship or R.N. or Allied ship placed under R.C.N. orders are to be transferred from one command to another without the concurrence of N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.
- (2) Request therefore signal such as your 2033Z/5th (N.T. in W.D.) be made to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and repeated to F.O.N.F. or C.O.A.C. Halifax as appropriate. This will make it unnecessary for the command to refer the matter to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Will thus ensue quicker action.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1634Z/7 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.M.C.J.S., C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)
- B.1.                      B.1. 2100/7 9½ J. 012° 40' N., 060° 40' W.  
K. 010° 45' N., 061° 45' W. U.S. Submarine Chaser 981 one Column one L. 012° 10' 060° 01' HOLDEN DRAMATIST British ship (21) (22) B.T.C.3. (Harbour Master, Barbados, 1701/7).
- Zigzagging.            C. in C. S.A.'s 1225/6 concur. Propose to amend C.A.M.S.I. 221/42 to conform.  
(D.T.D., 1752A/7 to Connav, (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. West Africa).
- CHESTERFIELD.      Sailed Boston 1935/6 for St. Johns N.F.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1802Z/7 to Admty).
- DAUPHIN  
(O.N.156).              DAUPHIN detached O.N.156 at 1700Z/7th for St. Johns N.F. for following urgent voyage repairs requiring drydocking. Estimated time 10 days.  
(C.T.U.24.1.3., 1830Z/7).
- A.T.34                      Paraphrase of my 1338/6th. Cdre. Eastseafrent pass to C.O.A.C. Halifax for information.  
A.T.34 time at (?point) Z 1400 Z. Amend all times G.C.T. accordingly.  
(Port Director, New York, 1930Z/7 to Connav, (R) S.B.N.O. W.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier, Comdt. 3rd U.S. Naval District New York, C.T.24, C.T.24.6., Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F.)
- Collision  
13 Sept. 42.              Schooner FREDDIE M. BURT reported cut in two by Swedish ATLAND approx. 12 miles off Renesse at 0830Z/13 Sept. 1942.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1931Z/7 to Admty. Connav).

/Landing...



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- Landing craft. Your 1835/29th Dec. and 2039/1 13 L.S.T. (2) (1 flotilla (12 ships) for Western Med. and 1 for Eastern Med.) should be sailed in the special convoy to Gibraltar all other L.S.T. (2) should be sailed to U.K. Further signal will be made whether they should sail in H.X. or S.C. convoys depending on experience of L.S.T. (2) 301.
2. In view of V.A. Gibraltar's 1944/10 Dec. L.C.I.(L) sailing in special convoy should have discretion to part company if this becomes necessary.
3. Subsequent to the sailing of special convoy L.C.I.(L) should be sailed unescorted by Southern route. Destination will be U.K. or Gibraltar for Mediterranean as ordered by Admty. Craft need not call at Bermuda unless desired by you, and though destined U.K. may call Gibraltar if necessary at S.O's discretion.
4. Size of batches need no longer be limited to eight craft and can be at your discretion. Best size probably flotillas of twelve. Also at your discretion 1 ocean going C.O. only need be used for every 2 craft.
5. B.A.M.R. 1850/29 Dec. para. 3. two of the first batch of Fleet tenders may be retained temporarily, if still required in view of above.  
(D. of P., 1935/7 to B.A.D.)

A.T. 33

Paraphrase of my 1348/6th. Cdr. Eastseafrent. pass to C.O.A.C. Halifax for information. A.T. 33 time at point Z 1400Z. Amend all times G.C.T. accordingly.  
(Port Director, New York, 1938Z/7 to Connav, (R) S.B.N.O. W.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier, Comdt. 3rd U.S. Naval District New York, C.T. 24, C.T. 24.6., Admty. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, F.O.N.F.)

SEAWOLF

Your 1824A/6\*acknowledged.  
(F.O.N.F., 1950Z/7 to Admty).  
\*SEAWOLF is not to be sailed from St. Johns pending further instructions.

Convoy  
Movements.

Comnaveu 1954/7. See Convoy Returns.

Vessels to  
carry supplies  
for 8th Army.

Reference 0943/6 from P.S.T.O. M.E. (R) to you via B.A.D. Washington.  
2. We have no doubt that you are already in touch with W.S.A. and trust that they will agree to the allocation of the U.S.A. vessels EDWARD EVERETT, MARK HANNA and WILLIAM FEW for the proposed service.



War Diary.7.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Vessels  
to carry  
supplies for  
8th Army.  
Contd.

3. This requirement is deemed of the highest military priority and it appears that there are no other suitable vessels available, which view is confirmed by P.S.T.O. M.E.'s reference to our 0316/3rd Jan. which was repeated to you via B.A.D. Washington, and which gave explicit instructions in this respect.  
(M.W.T., 2031/7 to British Merchant Shipping Mission Washington).

ST. CLAIR

My P.C. and S. at 2000Z 047° 08' N., 050° 58' W.  
120° 14 knots.  
(ST. CLAIR, 2038Z/7 to HEPATICA)

ATTACKER

Your 2023Z/6 not to ATTACKER or Palisadoes. It is intended that ATTACKER should embark torpedoes and depth charges from Palisadoes en route to the port of assembly of the A.W.I. convoy. Admty. records show three Swordfish reserve aircraft at Palisadoes. It is intended that these be embarked by ATTACKER as spare operational A/C. Albatrosses will not therefore be embarked.  
(D.N.A.D., 2059A/7 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. W.A., ATTACKER, R.N.A.S. Palisadoes).

Sub attack  
and sighting  
summary.

A. Aircraft attacks sub. 02. S., 39.24 W., 1605Z/6. PBY sights sub. 19.33 N., 75.12 W. 1136Z/7. Sighting 1720Z/6 my 2042/6 attack on sub on surface course 90.  
B. COLORADAN my 2125/30 Dec. also number 11 below device. FRANZ HALS No. 25 on conning tower.  
(Cominch, 2119/7).

OUTARDE

My 1202/4. Refloated undamaged proceeding in next convoy.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 2123Z/7).

Design of  
A.C.Vs.

Your 1742/23 Dec. Arrangement of bomb rooms in 1942 A.C.V.s and Kaiser A.C.Vs. does not lend itself to this modification without major re-arrangement of compartments. General feeling in Navy Dept. is that risk has to be accepted but possibilities in 1942 and later Buships designs still being considered. Most unlikely any alteration will be made in Kaiser design. Can your definite proposals for Attacker class be signalled. Also reason for buoyancy drums. Buships dislike anything in these ships which will produce heel when damaged. They would make longitudinal bulkheads if fitted non-watertight.  
(B.A.D., 2221Z/7 to Admty).



War Diary7.1.1945  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Movements. Departures. Sydney (N.S.W.) 5th Jan. U.S. Destroyer PATTERSON for Brisbane. Arrivals. Brisbane 5th Jan. U.S.S. WEST POINT 6th Jan. U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY Melbourne 6th Jan. U.S. Destroyer RALPH TALBOT. (A.C.N.B., 0546Z/7.)  
Arrival 6th Jan. Port Moresby American transport VAN DER LIJN. (A.C.N.B. 1424Z/7.)

Intelligence Summary for Jan. 6th. 2 enemy light cruisers Digest 350. 4 destroyers 4 medium transports with strong fighter escort located 6° 30' S. 150° 45' E. at 2335Z/5 on course 250°. Strong forces of Fortresses Liberators Marauders 38s attacked during the day scoring 2 possible hits on transports and many near misses in face of strong A.A. and fighter opposition. 13 of fighters protecting ships were shot down 4 probably 4 possible. 1 Liberator unable locate convoy bombed Gasmata Drome hitting runway and starting large oil fire. 2. Six Beaufighters strafed mouth Amboga River. Nil activity apparent. Enemy positions Sanananda joint bombed and strafed by 6 B.25s. 4 Marauders bombed supply dumps Lae 2 hits observed. 6 Bostons strafed 10 and runway at Lae. 3. All villages vicinity Finschafen reported occupied by Japanese. Pinnaces active between Lae - Finschafen. (G.H.Q. S.W. Pacific area, 1235Z/7.)

Mines off Norwegian personnel ex RAMSES who were prisoners Capetown. temporarily in DOGGERBANK (ex SPEYBANK) state vessel carried 60 torpedoes for supply to U-Boats also mines. Some mines laid off Capetown March-April 1942 vessel armed with one 4 inch gun on poop and one Oerlikon each side of bridge. Fitted with artificial fog apparatus forward hull believed to be now painted grey-green. (D.N.I. Melbourne, 1427/7.)  
O.I.C. Comment. Mines were probably laid off Capetown about 12th March 1942 and one ship was sunk by mine in this area on 16th March 1942. A vessel purporting to be LEVENBANK and subsequently INVERBANK was spoken by H.M. Ships on 13th and 14th March S. of Cape Agulhas.

Attack on 8th Jan. 16 Strafes by Catalinas Liberators Convoy of Fortresses B.25s. Marauders Kittyhawks P.48s on Transports. enemy convoy ten ships Gasmata-Lae area 7th resulted as follows. Catalina early morning hit large transport approx. 12000 tons which later blew up and sank. Later attacks resulted one transport sunk one damaged by 2 direct hits one by very near misses. 16 enemy fighters destroyed these operations seven probably destroyed 11 damaged. (2) 13 Beaufighters sank boats and rafts with survivors from vessel sunk during night. 15 Zeros intercepted 0100 2(?) shot down. (3) 1 Catalina bombed Gasmata Drome before attacking convoy started large fire near three grounded aircraft several

/small...



War Diary

7.1.1945  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand.

Attack on  
Convoy of  
Transports.  
Contd.

small fires silenced A.A. position.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 2550Z/7.) W.D. Note - For  
Section 3 of this signal see 0555/9.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines reported

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C. 1412A/7, 1415A/7)



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.

Messages today from the Admiralty to B.A.D. Washington for Admiral King give information of our present position in respect of escort vessels in all areas and the intended disposition. The Admiralty are asking Admiral King to provide similar information, so that we may review the whole escort situation in order to determine how the escorts available can best be disposed to the common good.

A message today from B.A.D. Washington to the Admiralty deals with the question of the present programme of escort vessel construction.

Home Commands.

C. in C. W.A. intends to include an ocean tug for salvage purposes, accompanied by a trawler for escort, with North Atlantic trade convoys.

"Torch" area.

N.C.X.F. reports that the situation regarding A/S trawlers is becoming difficult and he asks for the early despatch of two additional A/S trawler groups to replace casualties and bring the cover of ports in use east of Gibraltar up to one group per port.

U-boats are troublesome and are working unpleasantly close in, escort commitments being such as to prohibit the formation of striking forces at the ports.

North Atlantic.U/B attacks  
on T.M.1.

Convoy T.M.1, which was attacked on 3 Jan. (in A. & W.I. Station), was attacked again by U-boat at 2139 G.M.T. in 27° 59' N. 28° 50' W. (600 miles west of the Canary Islands) and two more tankers were torpedoed, OLTENIA II and ALBERT L ELLSWORTH. The former was sunk and the latter is reported burning furiously and salvage impossible. (Search for her was abandoned on the night 15/16 Jan.) HAVELOCK attacked one U-boat but no results were seen.



War Diary.

8.1.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Survivors of Swedish SS BRAGELAND who arrived at Parnahyba today report their ship torpedoed at 0853 on 1st Jan. in 00.19 N. 37.55 W.

It is reported that SS YORKWOOD was torpedoed and sunk at 1057 G.M.T. today in 4.9 S. 35.40 W. 46 survivors reached the coast at Macao.

Mediterranean.

N.C.X.F. reports that attacks by T/B aircraft on our convoys are causing us serious losses. They usually occur when no fighter protection is available, and he asks that at least one more A/A cruiser may be sent out to the western Mediterranean. At present, N.C.X.F. has only POZARICA, since DELHI has been and will be out of action for some months.

The 32nd M.T.B. Flotilla (8 boats) and the 19th M.G.B. Flotilla (8 boats) are allocated to the western Mediterranean.

NUBIAN and JAVELIN (another message gives KELVIN) sailed from Malta at 1555A today, to carry out a sweep off Kuriat tonight. At 2359 they sank 3 schooners of 100 - 200 tons off Kuriat.

P.45 has returned from patrol. On Xmas Day off Mahedia she gunned an M.L.C. accompanied by a schooner but met a Tartar and had to dive. Next day she sank a small schooner north of Kerkenah, probably carrying ammunition; and on 31 Dec. she sank the 450 ton auxiliary MADDALENA carrying wheat for Tripoli.

WELSHMAN successfully completed a minelaying operation last night off Skerki Bank.

2 Wellingtons mined and bombed Heraklion Harbour last night. Benghazi and Tobruk areas were bombed by the enemy last night without causing damage. American B.24s bombed Tunis today as alternative to Bizerta, but results were obscured by cloud.



8.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Two Liberators bombed Akyab town last night.

SS WILLIAM H. SEWARD reports sighting a submarine at 1430/26/12 in 9° 23' S. 42° 30' E. using a sail as a disguise.

America and West Indies.

In messages today and on 10 Jan to the Admiralty Connav describes the routeing orders for shipping which he has given consequent upon the introduction of Bahia - Trinidad convoys.

SS AMERICAN TRADER reported that she was attacked by a U-boat at 0855 today in 38° 17' N. 73° 47' W. One torpedo was seen, which missed the ship.



War Diary.

8.1.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

32nd and  
33rd M.T.B.  
Flotillas.  
19th and  
20th M.G.B.  
Flotillas.

The 32nd M.T.B. Flotilla consisting of M.T.Bs. 633, 634, 635, 636, 638, 639, 640 and 656 and the 19th M.G.B. Flotilla consisting of M.G.Bs. 641 - 648 inclusive are allocated to the Western Mediterranean.

2. Allocation will be made later of the 33rd M.T.B. Flotilla which will consist of M.T.B. 637, 649, 651, 654, 655, 665, 667, and 670 and of the 20th M.G.B. Flotilla consisting of M.G.Bs. 657, 673, 674 and 659 - 663 inclusive.  
(D.D.O.D. C., 2008A/8 to R.A.C.F.)

Movements.

S.56

Your 2345/7. Pass position Y. Bombing restrictions only cover 30 miles either side of line joining X Y, Y Z.

(F.O.S. 0852A/8 to S.56)

COREOPSIS  
1000Z/10th and  
(C. in C.

is to meet S.56 in 270° Barra Head 10 miles at  
escort by standard route to Rosyth.  
W.A., 1149A/8 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

FAULKNOR,  
FURY, ECHO,  
INGLEFIELD,  
ECLIPSE.

Scapa arrivals Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNOR with  
FURY, ECHO, INGLEFIELD and ECLIPSE.  
(A.C.O.S., 1057A/8 to A.C.I.C.)

BULOLO

To avoid K.X.8 alter course forthwith to new  
position X 43.02 N., 13.25 W., thence to rejoin  
route in 39.10 N., 13.25 W.  
(D.O.D. H., 1125A/8 to BULOLO).

S.51, L.15

Request you will report date on which Russian  
Submarines S.51 and L.15 will be ready to sail  
from Reykjavik for N. Russia.

(D.O.D. H., 1227A/8 to A.C.I.C.)

Your 1100Z/8. Report your position THIRLMERE is waiting  
for you in position (G). WINDERMERE is at F awaiting L.15.

(A.C.I.C., 1325A/8 to S.51).

Your 2030/8. This will be arranged. WINDERMERE will meet  
you in position F at 1100Z tomorrow.

(A.C.I.C., 2242A/8 to L.15).

W.A. Command

Situation at 2003A/8. Details.

(C. in C. W.A., 1356A/8, 1729A/8, 1734A/8)  
See Lion Copy.

S/M Positions

At 0800/9. Details.

(F.O.S., 1639A/8) See Lion Copy. *p. 260B*



260B

8.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M  
positions  
at  
0800/9th  
and  
movements  
in  
following  
24 hours.

- (A) - (C) P.49, P.216, GRAPH, P.312, UREDD, P.55 as yesterday.
- (D) Russian S/M S.56 59° 40' N. 14° 40' W. probably on surface due R/V 270 Barra Head 10 miles with COREOPSIS at 1100A/10th
- (E) Russian S/M 54 escorted by POTENTILLA due Rosyth 1100/9th from North.
- (F) O.10 escorted by PARRSBORO due Rothesay 0930/9th from North Channel.
- (G) H.43 carrying out trials in vicinity Great Ormes Head.
- (H) - (L) U.S.S. SHAD, BLACKFISH, HERRING, BARB as yesterday.
- (M) TRIDENT, P.224 and P.314 escorted by QUALICUM leave vicinity Garroch Head 1100/9th via Minches for Lerwick 11 knots.
- (F.O.(S), 1639A/8).



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.- Contd.

BATTLE C. in C. W.A., 1208/7. Aircraft have been flown off and stores and personnel for Machrihanish are being disembarked. Intend to sail BATTLE from Campbeltown at 1900A/8th. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 1130A/9th.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1644A/8).  
My 1644A/8 delayed 24 hours.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2154A/8).

P.312, Capt. (S) 3rd 1201/4.  
H.32. 1. MALLOW is to arrive Holy Loch (?before) 12th and is available to escort P.312 and H.32 to vicinity of Plymouth.  
(C.in C. W.A., 1049A/8 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).  
C. in C. W.A's 1049/8 and N.O.I.C. Sheerness's 1913/5.  
C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange that MALLOW escorts P.312 and H.32 to seaward end of Q.Z.S. 278 where Plymouth escort will take over. Two trawlers will escort H.32 to Portsmouth to await onward passage to Sheerness.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1732A/8).

Operations.

Operation 1. Intend sailing M.G.B. (?M.T.B.) 344 from  
"Backchat". Portland at 1800 today.  
Speed on passage 28 knots, E.T.R. approx. 0430/9th  
3. Codeword "Artful".  
5. Request fighter protection and bombing restrictions be arranged, also fighter escort if M.T.B.344 has not returned first light 9th.  
(?N.O.I.C. Portland, 1019A/8).  
My 1019A/8. Sailed 1830A/8.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1840A/8).  
My 1019A/8 and 1840A/8. "Artful" returned 1947.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 2003A/8).

Coastal Patrols. Patrol tonight M.G.B.616 (S.O.) 613, during dark hours between 50° 31' N., 00° 35' E. and 50° 30' N., 00° 05' W., keeping south of C.E.145 during its passage. Patrol may return to harbour after convoy has passed Dungeness.

Codeword "Advent".  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1058A/8).  
M.G.Bs. 616 and 613 patrolling south of the C.E.145 between Selsea and Beachy Head. Two trawlers will patrol S O F E A 5 buoy.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1525A/8).  
M.Ls. 140 and 293 patrolling between Rye and Fairlight buoys  
M.Ls. 101, 210, 213, 128 and 102 supported by M.G.Bs. 41 (S.O.) and 3.3 carrying out operation N.L.45A E.T.D.1830, E.T.R.0240/9. Route via D buoy each way. M.G.Bs. 110, 108, and 109 from Ramsgate patrolling near Berck buoy. E.T.D. 1640, E.T.R.0245/9.  
(V.A. Dover, 1709A/8 to Admty).

/Operation...



War Diary.

8.1.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Witticism". (1) Intend sailing M.G.Bs. 112 and 111 from Portland at 2000 today.  
(2) E.T. (?A) approx. 0900/9th.  
(3) Codeword "Artful 2".  
(5) Request fighter protection and bombing restrictions be arranged, also fighter escort if M.G.Bs. have not signalled E.T.A. by 0830/9th.  
(N.O.I.C. Portland, 1101A/8).  
My 1101A/8. Sailed 2030A/8.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 2032A/8).  
My 1101A/8 and 2030A/8. "Artful 2". returned 2245/8 owing to weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 2315A/8).

"Outward". Operate "Outward" from 1300 to 1730 today at Oldstairs.  
(D.B.D., 1146A/8 to A.B.O. Oldstairs).

Biscay S/M Patrol. (1) BARB and BLACKFISH are to leave patrol after dark ~~on arrival~~ 12th January and proceed diving by day as follows: (A) BARB is to pass through 042° 40' N., 010° 01' W., at 2000/10th, thence 044° 02' N., 013° 22' W., thence by route Brown to R/V in 360° Round Island Scilly Isles 7 miles a.m./28 Jan.  
(B) BLACKFISH is to pass through 044° 24' N., 006° 50' W., at 2000/10th, thence to 044° 40' N., 012° 26' W, thence by route Red to R/V as in (A) above.  
(2) Capt. (S) 3rd is requested to arrange escort to meet submarine in R/V for onward escort to Roseneath.  
(3) Estimated speed both submarines 14 knots during the night of 10th - 11th, then advance 200 miles per 24 hours.  
(F.O.S., 1638A/8).  
Your 1049A/8. An escort to Clyde is required for BARB and BLACKFISH who arrive 000° Round Island 7 miles at 0830/16. Can MALLOW carry out this duty.  
(Capt. S.3., 1819A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 1049/8. F.O.S.'s 1638/8. MALLOW is available to escort BARB and BLACKFISH from vicinity of Scilly Isles to Roseneath. Request you will arrange as convenient.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2213A/8 to Capt. S.3.)

Allied Air Activity.

Operations V.P.2 and V.P.2 A. 139. Carry out V.P.2 V.P.2 A. SJOLIVET  
(i) Patrol between F and A. (ii) SJOLIVET  
(iii) 1600/8th. (iv) 3. V.P.2 H.  
(i) Patrol between H and R. (ii) GULBORG.  
(iii) 16(00)?/8th. (iv) 3.  
(A.C.O.S., 1312A/8 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick, R.A.F. Sumburgh, R.A.F. Wick).



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

LYDD, ROSS. Intend sailing LYDD, ROSS at noon tomorrow for Dartmouth to reinforce ELGIN in clearance-area mentioned in your 1930/6th.  
(M/S 4, 1459/8 to C. in C. Plymouth).

U-boats.

U-boats reported. By D/F at 0004Z/8, U-boat estimated within 60 miles of 44° 20' N., 8° 30' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 0218A/8 to S/Ms).  
By D/F at 0351Z U-boat estimated to be anywhere within 150 miles of 43° 00' N., 26° 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 1019A/8 to PRESCOTT, WOODSTOCK).  
It is estimated that three German U-boats moving W. or S.W. may now be in area enclosed by latitudes 60° 01' N., and 61° 29' N., and longitudes 19° 02' W., and 22° 03' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 1339A/8 to S/Ms S.51 S.56).

Diving depths. W.A.G.O.0216 is cancelled. Confidential Book 4097 (10)(42) Para. 603. gives latest information regarding depths to which U-boats may go when attacked.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1913A/8 W.A. Message 519 N).

Navigational.

Forth Clyde Canal. Cancel my 1615/7. Forth-Clyde Canal again icebound.  
(R.N.O. Grangemouth 1000/8).

Technical.

Destroyer Ammunition for North Russia. As much as possible of the following ammunition for O Class destroyers is to be transported to North Russia at first opportunity subject to not reducing action or seagoing efficiency of transporting ships. (A) Q.F 4 inch mark 5 S.A.P. fixed 200 rounds. (B) Q.F.4 inch mark 5 high explosives fixed with 230 fuse 500 rounds.  
(C) Q.F. 4.7 mark 9 2 star S.A.P. shell with full charges D.E.F.300 rounds.  
(D) 230 fuses for fitting to high explosive shells as required 500.  
2. If more of items (A) become available at Scapa before ships sail it should be taken in place of similar amount of item (B).  
(C. in C. H.F., 1145A/8 to R.A.D., H.F.)



War Diary.

8.1.1943.

Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

KALE

Following from C. in C. W.A. begins:-  
 KALE is to sail with B.1. Group. Request every effort be made to complete H/F D/F. Ends. Unless all gear is despatched forthwith completion will not be possible. Request details of despatch. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1024A/8 to S.S.E.)

SHEMARA.

SHEMARA has been docked for repairs after grounding. Sternpost gudgeon is broken off, rudder stock bent, and the plating to rudder trunk torn and distorted. Repairs have been taken in hand by Messrs. Barclay Curle Govan. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1026/8 to Admty).

C.T.08

E.R.O. Poole reports C.T.08 arrived at British Power Boats after grounding whilst entering harbour. Will be defuelled and de-stored and slipped for examination of bottom and underwater fittings. (N.O.I.C. Poole, 1210/8 to D. of D. London).

SHEFFIELD.

My 1434/7. Amend para. 1 to read. Intend to sail SHEFFIELD to Clyde arriving 9th Jan. Home leave may be granted at discretion of C.O. (C. in C. H.F., 1215A/8 to Admty).

Z.8

My 1417/7. Anticipated repairs at Z.8 will be completed and should be ready to sail a.m./11th. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1600A/8).

FORT DE  
TROYON.

Following received begins:- To Minister War Transport. FORT DE TROYON aground Barrow No.15. Assistance required. (North Foreland Radio, 2355A/8 to Admiral Chatham, F.O.I.C. Dover).

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.26 R.

Following is proposed embarkation programme for W.S.26 R. Details. (D.S.T., 0106A/8).

A.T.34  
(QUEEN  
ELIZABETH)

Convoy A.T.34 is due Clyde 11th Jan.  
 2. Total of approx. 10,500 personnel will disembark 12th Jan.  
 3. Approximately 3,000 personnel will embark at the Tail of the Bank on a.m./18th Jan.  
 4. Convoy should be ready to sail p.m. /18th Jan. (D.S.T., 0107/8).

/W.S...



War Diary.

8.1.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- W.S. 26                      Following is agreed embarkation programme for W.S. 26. Details. (D.S.T., 0108A/8).
- A.T. 33,  
T.A. 33.                      Convoy A.T. 33 comprising EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND is due U.K. 13 Jan. with approx. 4,000 personnel on board.  
2. Vessel is required to be ready to sail again as convoy T.A. 33 on p.m./22nd Jan.  
3. Approx. 2,000 personnel will embark at the Tail of the Bank on 22nd Jan. (D.S.T., 0109A/8).
- BANFORA,  
survivors  
from M/Vs.                      BANFORA is due Glasgow about 13th Jan.  
2. No cargo on board. Details of personnel on board. Merchant Navy Survivors 2 ex OCEAN VANGUARD, 1 ex HOLMPARK, 6 ex MATTAWIN, 1 ex LACONIA, 6 ex EMPIRE TENNYSON, 1 ex GLENLEA, 4 ex ANDREAS, 1 ex CITY OF BATH, 15 ex EMPIRE CROMWELL. 1 ex TREVALGAN, 16 ex EMPIRE STARLING, 13 ex LLANDILLO 52 ex NIGERIAN, 33 ex D'ENTRECASTEAUX. (D.S.T., 0117A/8).
- LAFONIA,  
survivors  
from POLYDORUS,  
NAGPORE,  
TINTERN  
ABBEY,  
CAITHNESS.                      Reference my 2051/2nd Jan. Para. 3.  
2. Personnel on board should read Merchant Navy survivors British Officers II, Dutch 7, D.E.M.S. R.N. 6, Army 6, Chinese 46 ex POLYDORUS. British Officer 1 D.E.M.S. R.N., 1 Lascar 15 ex NAGPORE. Merchant Seamen 2 and Master TINTERN ABBEY ex CAITHNESS and Mr. and Mrs. Humbleback (Danish) Superintendent Mercantile Marine should be advised regarding survivors. (D. of S.T., 0118A/8 to D.S.T.O. Leith, D.S.T.O. London, (R) P.S.T.O. Scottish Ports).
- R.A. 51                      Hudson Aircraft will give A/S escort from 1300 until 1400 today.  
(A.C.I.C., 0638A/8 to Escorts R.A. 51)  
My 0638/8. Cancelled.  
(A.C.I.C., 1134A/8 to Escorts R.A. 51).  
On arrival at NN BLANKNEY proceed to Clyde for boiler cleaning.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1211A/8 to BLANKNEY).
- H.X. 220                      Ships escorting Convoy 220 report E.T.A. relief at 055° 35' N., 007° 00' W.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0749/8 to CLOVER).  
GOOD GULF. Every reasonable effort is to be made to expedite arrival of tanker at Liverpool, she is to be given priority in entering river.  
A.M. 2020A/7 refers.  
(N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1026A/8 to Escorts H.X. 220).



War Diary.

8.1.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- K.M.S.7            My 2355/7. K.111 sailed 0050/8 Jan.  
                  (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0921/8).  
                  Following 33 ships sailed with D.G. switched off  
                  in accordance with A.M.1624A/1st January. Names.  
                  (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1014A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)  
                  Convoy sailed in accordance with A.M.1851A/1st, A.M.1601A/2  
                  and A.M.1903A/5th. Escort as in C. in C. W.A., 1236A/2.  
                  Following ships did not sail BARFOIL, WILLIAM STEWART, JOHN  
                  MARSHALL, SKELDER GATE. Commodore in SOBO, Vice Commodore  
                  MAHSUD, Rear Commodores INVENTOR and OCEAN VETERAN.  
                  (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1034A/8 to A.I.G.190).  
                  Sailed WESSEX, ROTHER, SENNEN, GERANIUM, SPIREA, AZALEA  
                  at 0600A and SPEY at 1050A for K.M.S.7.  
                  (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1130A/8 to Admty).
- P.W.275.            CLEVELAND is to continue as escort to Milford  
                  Haven.  
                  (C. in C. Plymouth, 1011A/8 to CLEVELAND).
- EMPIRE            My 1613A/7. EMPIRE EMERALD will be met by  
EMERALD.            icebreaker KAGANOVICH and SEDOV off Cape  
                  Gorodetski or Ostraya Luiski according to ice  
                  condition. She will be met by Russian patrol  
                  vessel north of Cape Gorodetski which will lead  
                  her to icebreaker. Owing to constant changing conditions not  
                  practicable, to give fixed route southward. Request earliest  
                  possible intimation sail EMPIRE EMERALD as icebreakers must  
                  leave Molotovsk 6 hours beforehand.  
                  (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1017A/8 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
- R.A.52            Request you will sail FORESTER and ICARUS a.m./9th  
FORESTER,            January for Seidisfjord to fuel and proceed to  
ICARUS.            Kola Inlet.  
                  (2) These destroyers are to provide additional  
                  escort for convoy R.A.52.  
                  (3) Routes (1) through A.M. Q.Z.S.15 to position  
                  (a) 62.20 N., 05.26 W. (b) 66.07 N., 12.10 W.  
                  thence via A.M. Q.Z.L.51 and 52 to Seidisfjord.  
                  (2) From Seidisfjord to position (c) 73.05 N., 14.10 E.  
                  (d) 73.05, 32.32 E. (e) 71.08, 35.36 E. thence Kola Inlet as  
                  ordered by S.B.N.O. North Russia.  
                  (C. in C. H.F., 1045A/8 to R.A.D. H.F.)  
                  FORESTER with ICARUS proceed passing Switha 0900 tomorrow  
                  to comply with C. in C. H.F.'s 1045/8.  
                  (S.O.D.F., H.F., 1458A/8 to FORESTER, ICARUS).
- D.F.1            Your 1608/6. Arrived.  
                  (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1142A/8 to N.O.I.C.Greenock).
- F.S.6            F.S.6 is to proceed by A.M. Q.Z.S. 277 and 287.  
                  VICEROY acknowledge and pass to TURQUOISE.  
                  (C. in C. Nore, 1215A/8).



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

J.W. 51 B. Your 1233/6. Convoy was sighted by 3 German destroyers who retired after making contact.  
 2. Subsequently enemy was in at least 2 groups. Group one was 8 inch Cruiser and 2 destroyers. Group 2 was one 8 inch cruiser or heavier but not known if accompanied by destroyer. Possibility existed of 3rd group of one five-point-nine-inch cruiser and this is borne out by destroyer of close escort engaging one eight-inch cruiser whilst two other engagements were in progress over northern horizon.  
 3. Apparent intention evident during third engagement to one group to draw off and destroy escorting destroyers whilst other groups attacked convoy.  
 4. German destroyers took no part in any of actions with our destroyers and in one action were following engaged cruiser in single line.  
 5. Enemy undoubtedly had not prior knowledge of Force R. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1359A/8 to C. in C. H.F.)

H.X. 221. H.X. 221 P.C.S. 058° 06' N., 033° 27' W, 058° 9. 31 ships present. FORT LA MONTEE, CLAN ALPINE, stragglers. LA MALBAIE with (?WILUAM) BRADFORD (? in company) in 058° 12', 031° 01', has been ordered to proceed along-side stragglers route to 009° W., when LA MALBAIE will detach Londonderry with defective steering engine.

ASSINIBOINE not in company but in vicinity. M.T. K. J.H.SENIOR reports finding 2 detonator-bombs on lower bridge, dimension and markings being taken before disposal, his last Port of call New York, request B.A.D. Washington, N.C.S.O. New York be informed accordingly.  
 (C.T.U. 24.1.13, 1400Z/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

Iceland. Your 2025/6. Question of withdrawal of Tanker SCOTTISH AMERICAN is being referred by Commandant N.O.B.I. to Navy Department Washington for decision. In view of probable withdrawal of SVITHIOD and CULPEPPER (vide my 1503/2) from Iceland the only Tanker which could relieve SCOTTISH AMERICAN at Seidisfjord would then be MATINICOCK from Hvalfjord and this would leave at Hvalfjord only EMPIRE GARDEN who is not fully mobile and CELEROL at present only fit for Harbour service. Vide my 1805/7. GOUGER is fully employed carrying light oils for all U.S. requirements in Iceland. The necessary shuttle service to replenish the Seidisfjord Tanker could not therefore be maintained, and facilities for fuelling the Fleet at Hvalfjord would be seriously reduced.  
 (A.C.I.C., 1405A/8 to Admty).

K.M.F. 7 My 1016A/6. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD not sailed owing to collision damage. Estimated delay at least 24 hours.  
 (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1452A/8).



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.K.M.F.7  
Contd.My 1016/6. Sailed codeword "Material 1",  
negative DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1500A/8).Sailed SKATE R/V with DUCHESS OF BEDFORD in 270°  
Oversay 6 miles at 0001A/10, thence join Escorts  
of Convoy K.M.F.No.7 routed as in Admty. 1352/2.

2. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD will burn navigation lights till met.

3. SKATE to Londonderry on completion.

(C. in C. W.A., 1607A/8 and 1927A/8).

My 1452/8. Intend to sail DUCHESS OF BEDFORD 1100Z/9  
independently to 270° Oversay 6 miles, then escorted by SKATE  
to overtake M.K.F.7. Commodore Londonderry is requested to sail  
SKATE to arrive R/V at 2301Z/9. S.O.A., 18 knots.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1806A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

Atlantic M/V  
weather  
reports.On all occasions when British-managed Merchant  
Ships break W/T silence on high frequency in  
the North or South Atlantic to make a coded  
message, a weather report is to be included at  
the end of the message.2. Weather reports are to be in the following  
form. Details.3. All previous instructions regarding the occasions on which  
weather reports are to be made are cancelled.

4. C.A.M.S.I.181/42 will be amended.

(D.T.D., 1536A/8).

Tug and  
Trawler for  
Atlantic  
Convoy  
Escorts.It is intended to include an Ocean Tug for  
salvage purposes accompanied by a Trawler for  
escort with North Atlantic trade convoy.  
2. N.O.I.C. Greenock is to detail tug from Tweed  
Pool at Campbeltown to accompany convoy  
informing C. in C. W.A. and F.O. N.I. of alloca-  
tion as far in advance as possible. N.O.I.C.  
Belfast is then to allocate an escort trawlerinforming N.O.I.C. Greenock and C. in C. W.A., name of ship  
detailed. C. in C. W.A. will promulgate this information to  
authorities concerned. Diesel tugs are not to be allocated  
to slow convoys.3. N.O.I.C. Greenock and N.O.I.C. Belfast are to sail ships as  
requisite. After joining convoy tugs and trawlers are to be  
under the orders of S.O. Escort who is to station them and is  
to detail them for afterwards duty. The S.O. of Escort may  
use his discretion having regard to weather and position in  
ordering the destination of any tow. Action taken is to be  
reported to the operating authority.4. Tugs and trawlers will be under the operational control of  
C. in C. W.A., whilst east of "Chop".5. At Eastern terminal tugs will be based at Campbeltown and  
trawlers at Belfast. At Western terminal tugs and trawlers will  
be based at St. John's N.F.6. C.T.24 is requested to assume operational control of these  
auxiliary vessels west of "Chop" and also to operate themselves  
on the above lines for eastbound convoy.7. Tugs will be fitted with a limited supply of rescue  
equipment and maybe used to assist rescue vessels.

(C. in C. W.A., 1818Z/8).



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS"Torch" Area.

Port defence personnel. Your 1315/6 and C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1645/31 Dec. In considering future combined operations it is clear that one of the bottlenecks as regards naval personnel will be the provision of Port Parties including local defence personnel, administration and repair staffs at the captured ports. 2. This provision will depend to a certain extent on the return of British personnel from N. Africa. 3. Request you will report to what extent and how soon you anticipate you may be able to relieve by French personnel any of those referred to in para. 1 above. (V.C.N.S., 0104A/8 to N.C.X.F.) Reply: 1537/9.

C.J. BARKDULL U.G.S.3. Port Director New York Message 2056/14th Part 5 Tanker C.J. BARKDULL has not arrived. Did ship sail with convoy? (N.C.X.F. 1050A/8, to Connav, (R) S.N.O.C.A.) Reply affirmative (Connav 1340/11)

A/S Trawlers. The situation regarding A/S Trawlers is becoming difficult. Originally six groups were allotted additional to those already at Gibraltar. Of these HORATIO and JURA are sunk. FLUELLEN and ROUSAY are out of action for a long period and SCOTTISH of Gibraltar Force in like case. 2. Request early despatch of two ? additional A/S trawler groups which are urgently required (A) to replace casualties (B) to bring the cover of ports in use E. of Gibraltar up to one group per port, observing that Oran is in fact three separate harbours requiring individual protection. 3. U-Boats are troublesome and are working unpleasantly close in. Escort commitments being such as to prohibit formation of striking forces at the ports. (N.C.X.F. 1229A/8 to Admty.)

French Troop and Tanker Convoy. F.O.C. W.A.F. 0921/7. (1) The running of this convoy to Casablanca is approved subject to ships arriving A.M. 16th and leaving A.M. 21st. S.N.O.C.A. is requested to assist with escort from 20° making arrangements direct with F.O.C.W.A.F. Speed of convoy about 10 knots. Names of ships as in para. 2 plus NIVOSE and RHEA. Destination of CEPHEE and FORMALHAUT is Safi thence U.K. after loading phosphates. 2. V.A. Gibraltar is requested to arrange escort for DUNKERQUE from Gibraltar to Casablanca to arrive p.m. 20th and subsequently to bring a convoy consisting of CHAMPOLLION, JAMAIQUE, GROILG and MEDIE II to Gibraltar sailing a.m. 21st. Ships subsequently to be sailed to U.K. in next appropriate convoy. 3. S.N.O.C.A. is requested, (A) To sail DUNKERQUE, RHEA and VENDOME to Dakar a.m. 21st with original French escort of convoy on para.1 (B) To sail NIVOSE to U.S.A. with next appropriate convoy. (C) To include in convoy in para. 2. any other ships bound for U.K. (D) To sail CEPHEE and FORMALHAUT when loaded from Safi to Gibraltar at next opportunity. (N.C.X.F. 1645A/8 to F.O.C. W.A.F., S.N.O.C.A., V.A. Gibraltar. (R) Admty.)

/M.T.B.6...



War Diary.8.1.1945.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS"Torch" Area.

M.T.Bs. Your 1911/7. First two flotillas should be  
 M.G.Bs. equipped by 15th Feb. 2. C.Os. and about 60%  
 of ratings will have had previous experience in other  
 types of Coastal Forces. Do you wish boats to be  
 given a working up period before being sailed? 3. In any event  
 boats will be sailed in batches of about 8 as they become ready and  
 sailing will not be delayed to await completion of all 16 boats.  
 4. Should spare gear for these boats be sent to Gibraltar,  
 Algiers or Bone?  
 (D.D.O.D.(C), Approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 1757A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R)  
 C. in C. Med. V.A.M.) Reply: N.C.X.F. 1644/12.

Movements Arrivals and departures of warships are to be  
 Reports. reported to Admty. N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar, in one  
 signal daily about 2000. Blank reports are not  
 required. 2. V.A. Malta is to be added to  
 addresses for movements affecting him. 3. Cominch is to be  
 added to address when reporting U.S. Warships and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa  
 for R.C.N. ships. 4. Previous instructions in my 1148 12th  
 Nov. and 1644 4th Nov. are superseded.  
 (N.C.X.F. 1855A/8, to F.O's I.C. French N.Africa. N.O's I.C. French  
 N. Africa, V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty. V.A.Malta.)

M.T.Bs. The 32nd M.T.B. Flotilla consisting of M.T.Bs 633,  
 634, 635, 636, 638, 639, 640 and 656 and the 19th  
 M.G.B. Flotilla consisting of M.G.Bs 641-648 inclusive  
 are allocated to Western Med. 2. Allocation will be made later of  
 the 33rd M.T.B. Flotilla which will consist of M.T.Bs 637, 649,  
 651, 654, 655, 665, 667 and 670 and of the 20th M.G.B. Flotilla  
 consisting of M.G.Bs. 657, 673, 674 and 659-663 inclusive.  
 (D.D.O.D.(C) 2008A/8 to R.A.C.F. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)



War Diary8.1.1945  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

**LOCH OSKAIG, BLAIRESK.** Following is repetition of my 1800A/6 (Begins) - sailed LOCH OSKAIG to R/V S.S. BLAIRESK off Almeria p.m. 7th and escort ship to Gibraltar (V.A. Gibraltar, 0121/5 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.) Arrival LOCH OSKAIG U.S.S. BLAIRESK from Almeria. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1249A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)

**WOODSTOCK.** Left 2200 G.M.T. 7th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0901/8 to S.O.I. Gib.)

**TARTAR, PANTHER, CALPE, ?PUCKERIDGE.** Sailed 0445 TARTAR, PANTHER, CALPE, ? PUCKERIDGE in accordance with N.C.X.F.'s 1758/7 not to Admty. (V.A. Gibraltar, 0929A/8 to Admty. Cdre. Algiers. F.O.H.)

**EMPIRE AIRMAN.** Propose Tanker EMPIRE AIRMAN proceed New York for Orders in next U.G.S. Convoy expected shortly. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1137A/8 to Admty.)

**ST.NECTAN.** My 1613/7. Intend sailing ST. NECTAN 1600A/8. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1141A/8 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) Admty. (N.C.X.F.))  
 Sailed ST. NECTAN. My 1613/7 refers. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1625A/8 to S.N.O.C.A. (S) Admty. N.C.X.F.)

**ARRAIZ.** My 1203/1 ARRAIZ sailing from Genoa postponed to 7th. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1148A/8 to S. and A. in area G. N.C.X.F.. N.O.I.C. Malta. Capt. (S) 1st S.F., Capt. (S) 8th S.F. Capt. (S) 10th S.F.)

**DELHI.** Your 1944/4. Not to F.O.I.C. Tyne DELHI can be taken in hand for permanent repairs at Messrs. Palmers Hebburn about the 6/2. (D.O.D.(F), 1220A/8 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F. Cmdre. C.S. Gibraltar, DELHI F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

**LARIAT** Sail LARIAT for Gibraltar on completion of repairs routed through (A) 035° 30' N. 013° 00' W. (B) 035° 51' N. 006° 00' W. S. of A. 10½ knots. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1244A/8 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada. (R) Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon.)

**PACIFIC EXPORTER.** Your 1517A/7. ? 1543/7 intended. Presumed PACIFIC EXPORTER passed in K.M.S.6. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1429A/8 to Admty.(R) N.C.X.F.)

/QUANZA...



271A  
271B

8.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements  
Summaries.

Situation Report for Area X at 2002A/8th.

1. U.S. Sub. BARB as yesterday.
2. K.M.S.6 (Freetown Section) PETUNIA, DRANGEY, BURDOCK 034° 32' 009° 21' 211° 8.
3. K.X.8 LANCASTER 3 destroyers 4 Fleet minesweepers 042° 56' 014° 43' 159° 6½.
4. (Corrupt group) WOLVERINE, LIMBOURNE, BADSWORTH, 042° 42' 13° 25' through 39° 10' 13° 25' thence 141° 13½.
5. 8 L.C.I.(L)?s (E) 036° 40' 018 ° 35' 000° 10
6. M.L.341 MIRROR repairing cable approx. 215° Europa Point 3½.
7. ST. NECTAN 270° Spartel 4 coastwise to Casablanca 10 knots.
8. M.K.F.6 EGRET, ASTURIAS (TEST) CLARE, BANFF, FISHGUARD, 036° 13' 008° 52' through 036° 20' 010° 01' to 037° 40' 013° 30' thence 317° 13.
9. ERNE, LEITH, SANDWICH 035° 59' 006° 17' to Gibraltar 12.

(V.A. Gibraltar 1340A/8)

Situation Report Area Y.

- (1) EXE, SOUTHERN PRIDE, 1 Merchant ship 042° 59' 021° 45' 032° 12. Situation 2004A/8th.
  - (2) PRESCOTT, WOODSTOCK 04° 10' 028° 02' searching towards 045° 00' 029° 00' approx. 10 knots.
- (V.A. Gibraltar 1342A/8)



War Diary.

8.1.43.

Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

QUANZA Cancel my 1712/6.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1519A/8 to S. and A. Area X and Z. (R) Admty., F.O. i/c W.Af.)

PAGAO. Ex Italian Tanker PAGAO left Algeciras 0900/6th Jan. for Cadiz joined by 2 Spanish Government tugs. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1555A/8 to Admty., N.A. Madrid.)

Cables. Sailed 1400 cable ship MIRROR, M.L. 342 to repair Gibraltar Tangier Cable in Strait.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1833A/8 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

Movements. Arrival 1510 ERNE, SANDWICH, 1830 LEITH.  
(V.A. Gib. 1835A/8, to Admty.)

Survivors of My 1310/6 to Admty., these men are (leaving?)  
RHAKOTIS 9th by train and will be sent Gibraltar by  
landed at Embassy Bus, arriving 10th. They may have  
Corunna. valuable information. They have safe conduct to  
Gibraltar. Bus will be instructed to call on  
Vice Consul at La Linea so he can be present when  
they pass frontier.  
(N.A. Madrid, 1844/8 to Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

RHIND, Your 2235A/7 RHIND and P.C. 473 arrived.  
P.C.473. (Comseafon W.T.F. 1950Z/8 to V.A. Gibraltar (R)  
N.C.X.F. Admty.)

U/B D/F bearings at 2025Z/8 on 12260 kc/s indicate  
you may have been reported by a U-boat.  
(D.D.I.C. 2200A/8 to Escorts of T.M.I. (R) V.A.  
Gibraltar, Cominch.)

DESTINY P. C. and S. at 1900 G.M.T. 8th Jan. 034° 32' N.  
(towing 017° 45' W. 081° 10 knots. Weather report  
L.Cs.) 7572, 2632. Ref. 1602/8 Jan. from Admty, my  
engine defects necessitates diversion to  
Gibraltar, E.T.A. a.m. 11th Jan.  
(DESTINY, 2200 G.M.T./8 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., etc.)

WEEHAUKEN. My 1754/7. As no reply has been received and  
C.O. of U.S.S. WEEHAUKEN states he is required  
back in Casablanca as soon as possible intend to  
transfer 450 mines to ALMAACK for temporary stowage. 2. Intend  
to sail WEEHAUKEN for Casablanca on completion of transfer.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2232A/8 to N.C.X.F.(R) S.N.O.C.A. Admty.)



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

French Troop Convoy, request for sea and air escort. A.M. 2335A/7 and my 0921Z/7. Request concurrence of Allied C. in C. may be obtained. (F.O.C. W.Af. 0107Z/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.) Your 0107/8. Concurrence has been obtained. (N.C.X.F. 1815/8 to F.O.C. W.Af.(R) Admty.)

Mine Sweepers, W. Africa. Adm. Glassfurd at Dakar sends this as his 071410 to Combined Chiefs of Staff "Buships" and pass to Admty. for British Chiefs of Staff. "Following understanding has been reached with French West African Naval Authorities with respect to mine sweepers. Existing equipment at Dakar for moored mine sweeping is as follows. Magnetic mine sweeping facilities are as follows. Local naval authorities estimate their requirements as follows. Six ships equipped for moored mine sweeping and six ships equipped for magnetic and acoustic sweeping. Comments and recommendations follow. First, existing sweeping facilities considered totally inadequate for Dakar Harbour and inshore protection. Second, recommend that six mine sweepers similar our large Y.M.S Type equipped for all types sweeping be delivered to French for their use here. Third, recommend that French crews take delivery these ships in United Kingdom or United States port to permit (period ? group missing) for indoctrination. Fourth, recommend that when opportunity permits present seven converted trawlers be outfitted with proper sweep gear for three types of mines at which time new ships can be diverted to other use". (Opnav 0470/8 to Admty.)

NORTHERN CHIEF. Arrived. (N.L.O. East London 0806Z/8 to Admty. etc.)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Please report time G.M.T. of reaching H. 026° 00' S. 048° 30' E. From H steer direct to Durban. Destroyers INCONSTANT and FORTUNE will meet you. Omit position J. (C. in C. S.A. 0909/8 to NIEUW AMSTERDAM.)

Inter-communication. Proposals in F.O.C. W.A. 1925/6 concurred in generally. Remarks. Anglo-French Code will ultimately be normal book used. (Admty. 1131A/8 to F.O.C. W.Af., N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A.) N.I.D. 10 for D.N.I.(430) S.P.02383 - Small ships signal code. S.P.02308 - Recoding table for use with Anglo-French code. S.P.02385 - R/T for use with A/F cypher (Free French)

/B.T.2 ...



War Diary.

8.1.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

B.T.2.

Until T.B. - B.T. Convoys are (?regularly) established believe Bahia rendezvous more reliable and safer. Your 1537/7th and 1707Z/5th. Recommend M.O.M.P. for berths be deferred for the present.  
(Comsolantfor 1141/8 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C.C.S.F. etc.)

QUEEN MARY,  
NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM.

Your 1415/7\*(N.T. in W.D.) Movement of QUEEN MARY as in my 1055/7. Doubtful if NIEUW AMSTERDAM can arrive Suez before 29th at earliest. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 1143C/8 to P.S.T.O. M.E. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. India, F.O.R.S., G.H.Q. M.E., D. of S.T.)  
\* Times of arrival at Suez for QUEEN MARY, NIEUW AMSTERDAM and ILE DE FRANCE.

Movements.

Arrival 7th U.S. M/Sweeper FLICKER. Arrival 8th Brazilian Battleship MINAS GERAES and U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW.  
(R.O. Bahia 1303Z/8 to Admty.)

Arrivals 8th Dutch S/M O.19.

(S.O.I. Freetown 1923Z/8 to Admty.)

Arrivals 8th HOLCOMBE, ILEX.

(S.O.I. Freetown 1927Z/8 to Admty.)

Arrival 8th. DESPATCH.

(S.O.I. Freetown 2040Z/8 to Admty., B.N.L.O. W. Af.)

GLENROY,  
JANUS.

GLENROY and JANUS sailed from Takoradi for Freetown at 1700Z/7. Route  
Y. 001° 06' N. 006° 12' W.  
X. 003° 33' N. 012° 28' W.  
A. 007° 38' N. 014° 30' W.  
thence Freetown estimated speed of advance 12.5 knots.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1627Z/8 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, JANUS, GLENROY.)

B.T.  
Convoys.

Your 1537/7th it is not desired that ships of 12 knots and above bound for U.S.A. east coast ports or to U.K. for convoy via these ports should join B.T. convoys. Such ships should be routed in accordance with A.M. 2125/31st Dec.  
2. Ships joining B.T. convoys should be limited to those of under 12 knots which are now routed to Trinidad for convoy.  
(D.T.D. 1646A/8 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Connav, S.B.N.O. Trinidad, S.B.N.O.W.A., B.A.D.)

Enemy Unit.

At 2258Z/7 single line bearing of 220° obtained from Durban on 8470 k/cs. Unit concerned could be raider, blockade runner or supply ship.  
(D.D.I.C. 1831A/8 to F.O.C. W.A. Comsolantfor, (R) C. in C. S.A.)

/Reference ...



MOST SECRET.

274A  
274B

8.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Movement  
Summaries.

Situation at 1958/8th.  
WOODRUFF 018° 48' 023° 01' 132° 10.  
HYDRANGEA 08 4 trawlers with F.T.T.6 009° 31'  
037° 58' to 010° 00' 039° 01' thence 274° 7½  
Allied Naval Units 004° 50' 022° 31' 028° 15.8.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1111Z/8.)  
KHYBER off Durban from South E.T.A. 9th.  
ST. LOMAN off Port Alfred to East London 8 knots.  
JASMINE THYME 029° 05' S. 036° 10' E. to Durban 12.  
ARCTIC EXPLORER off Cape Recife(?to) Durban 10  
NORTHERN DUKE 029° 30' S. 016° 40' E. to Sainte  
Marie 9.  
LADY ELSA WELLARD 014° 30' S. 011° 10' E. to  
Walvis Bay 10.  
A.S.10 036° 45' S. 018° 00' E. to Bombay 21.  
(C. in C.S.A., 1245C/8.)



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.Reference  
Positions.

Standard reference positions (Atlantic) suggest references be allotted to (one) Freetown (two) Takoradi.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1846C/8 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. W.Af.)

Attack on  
S/M  
afterwards  
identified  
as French.

My 1925Z/6. I have now seen Captain Henderson. There were no unfortunate repercussions; in fact Adm. Collinet laughed.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1925Z/8 to Admty.)

WILLIAM H.  
SEWARD.  
U/B,  
use of sail.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD reports sighting submarine at 1430 26th December in 009° 23' S. 042° 30' E. Submarine made use of small later sail as disguise. When close enough for conning tower to be seen plainly sail was lowered.  
(C. in C. S.A. 2203C/8 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Durban, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Ceylon.)



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Following read. 4 unknown vessels in 37° 40' N. 11° 23' E. course 090°, speed unknown. (A/C call sign FFDR 0130A/8.)

Following read by Alexandria. P.C. and S. of 1 enemy M/V and two enemy destroyers 39.00 N. 12.45 E. 180° 9 knts. (Aircraft Call Sign GGS Duty B 0230A/8 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of one medium sized vessel (not exceeding 10,000 tons) and 4 M.T.Bs 34.08 N. 11.00 E. 350° 9 knots. (A/C C/S FDOL 1028B/8 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of one small merchant vessel (not exceeding 2,000 tons) and one M.T.B. 34.05 N. 10.38 E. 320° 8 knots. (A/C C/S FDOL 1030A/8 to Air Hq. Malta.)

One small merchant vessel stationary in position 34.54 N. 11.33 E. (A/C C/S FDOL 1046A/8 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Following has been read addressed K.T.L. from A/C Call sign FDOE. P.C. and S. of one enemy tanker 2 destroyers 39.50 N. 13.05 E. 180° 10. (Alexandria W/T 1200A/8 to Whitehall.)

A/C reports 4 large ships 4 escorts 036° 57' 010° 39' course uncertain at 1455. (V.A. Malta 1656/8 to N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Bone, S.O. Force Q. ABDIEL.)

Position of 3 enemy units 39.30 N. 13.15 E. course and speed unknown. (A/C Call Sign GGS Duty M. 2220A/8 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Following has been read by Malta. P.C. and S. of one merchant vessel and two destroyers 39.00 N. 12.45 E. 180° 9 knots. (A/C Call Sign GGS Duty B. 2230A/8 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Movements. Sailed SIRIUS, DIDO, ABDIEL. (Comdre. Algiers 0731A/8 to Admty.)

Arrivals 7th Jan. PRIMULA, PROTEA, BOREALIS, M.L.349. Departures 7th Jan. BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, HURSLEY, EXMOOR, HURWORTH, BELVOIR, DULVERTON, ALDENHAM, CROMARTY, BURRA, WHITEHAVEN, SOUTHERN ISLES, Greek Ship SAKTOURIS, QUEEN OLGA (G.S) WOLBOROUGH, ST. MONANCE, M.L.355, M.T.Bs 61, 65, 77, 82. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 0924/8 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Sailed PARTHIAN, P.51. Arrival P(?46). (V.A. Malta 1545A/8 to Admty. etc.)

E.T.A. 0300A/9th. (STRONSAY 1642A/8 to N.O.I.C. Philippeville.)

ARPHA arrived. (N.O.I.C. Massawa 1735Z/8 to Admty.)

Arrival M.L.359 departure BULLFINCH, H.D. M.L.1038\*, H.D. M.L.1017. (N.O.I.C. Palestine Ports 1811B/8 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

\* Alternative Greek Destroyer SPETSAI.

Algiers arrivals ACUTE, LUNENBURG, SUMMERSIDE, IMPERIALIST with M.K.S.5. AJAX, LOYAL, LIGHTNING, WILTON, WHEATLAND tug JAUNTY and salvage steamer SALVESTOR, CADMUS with M.V. in tow, tug HENGIST. Departures ROCHESTER, WISHART, VANOC, VERITY, IMPERIALIST, NORTHERN FOAM, NORTHERN GIFT, BOREAS with M.K.S.5. SIRIUS, DIDO, ABDIEL to East. HENGIST to R/V with damaged M.V. (Com. Algiers 2008A/8 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.)



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- P.43. P.43 at dawn 8th in 038° 30' 008° 30' proceeding through 039° 00' 008° 00' thence direct to operate in the Gulf of Asinara.  
(Capt. S.10 0815A/8 to S/Ms on patrol (R) C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8.)
- Convoy B.A.36. Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 0840Z/8 to Admty.)
- Force K. 2 destroyers of Force K leave Malta at 1530A today 8th to carry sweep off Kuriat between about 2300 8th and 0100 9th.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 0850A/8 to C. in C. Med., 201 Group, 247 Wing, H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. (R) N.C.X.F. Admty.)  
NUBIAN and JAVELIN, see 1555/8. 3 schooners sunk, see 1117/9.
- WELSHMAN (minelaying) Arrived WELSHMAN.  
(V.A. Malta 0900A/8 to N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S. Cmdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, C. in C. Med. (R) S.O. Force Q. Admty.)
- P.247 My 1142/7th. Sailing of P.247 delayed, further signal will be made.  
(Capt. S.8 0918A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O.I.S. Capt. (S) 10, S/Ms on Patrol, S.O. Force Q, Cmdre. Algiers.)
- Jibuti. D.S.T.O. Kilindini reports that on information received from G.O.C. 12th Division the port of Jibuti to be now considered open as far as shore arrangements concerned. Your authority is requested to set up Sea Transport organisation in the port. Fully prepared to concur Commodore 438. Lt. Commander Carrs S.T.O. Aden is proceeding Jibuti in EL HAK on 10th Jan. with view survey port facilities and explain to local authorities the working of Sea Transport organisation.  
(P.S.T.O. M.E. 1026/8 to D. of S.T. (R) D.S.T.O., Aden, N.O.I.C., Aden, F.O.C. Red Sea Force, D.S.T.O. Kilindini.)
- M.T.Bs. Returned from operations M.T.B.260, 264.  
(V.A. Malta 1038A/8 to Admty., C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)
- P.35. Move North of latitude 036° 00' by 2200 tonight owing to own surface forces operating South of Kuriat.  
(Capt. S. 10 1105A/8 to P.35.)



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- M.K.S.5. Sailing telegrams.  
(Comm. Algiers 1106A/8, 1139A/8 to Admty. etc.)  
M.K.S.5. My 1139/8 (?intended 1429/8)  
Following ships did not sail: OCEAN GALLANT,  
VILLE DE STRASBOURG, DALMANNIA.  
(Comm. Algiers 1214A/8 to Admty. etc.)  
M.K.S.5. Algiers Section arrived plus SS EGRET.  
(Comm. Algiers 1429A/8 to Admty. etc.)  
M.K.S.5, ORKLA returned.  
(Comm. Algiers 1714A/8 to Admty. etc.)  
M.K.S.5. P.C. and S. at 2000A/8th 036° 55' N. 002° 20' E.  
257° 6 knots. Owing to adverse weather conditions shall be  
late at R/V position 109. Propose Oran section be sailed  
towards position 44 to R/V in daylight, ships for Oran being  
detached with local escort.  
(ROCHESTER 1900A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Oran, V.A.  
Gibraltar.)
- KROM  
(Turkish) My 1645/6th (Turkish SS KROM sailing for  
Gibraltar) Additional markings are the name  
KROM abaft and the word "Turk" before flag  
abreast the bridge. Both painted on hull in  
large letters.  
(N.A. Ankara 1143C/8 to C. in C. Med.)
- S/Ms. S/Ms are not to enter the area south of Skerki  
Bank and West of line Cape Bon - Keith Rock until  
further orders.  
(Capt. S. 10 1154A/8 to 8th S/M Flotilla, 10th  
S/M Flotilla (R) C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., Capt.  
(S) 1, Capt. (S) 6.)
- P.217. Leave patrol after dark January 9th and proceed  
through  
(1) 040° 30' 013° 24'.  
(2) 037° 50' 007° 59' at 2000A/11th thence  
Algiers as ordered by Capt. (S) 8.  
(Capt. S.10 1220A/8 to P.217 (R) Subs. on patrol  
Capt. (S) 8, N.C.X.F.)
- P.37. 2 Fleet destroyers operating between Malta and  
Kuriat tonight. You are not to cross 036° N.  
before dawn. They have orders not to attack  
S/M north of this latitude. My 1105A/8th  
(new position for P.35) refers.  
(Capt. S. 10 1231A/8 to P.37 (R) Subs. on  
Patrol.)
- Oilers. Admiralty 1513/5. It has been agreed with Shell  
Cairo that BRITISH HUSSAR should discharge complete  
cargo at Suez. When ready BRITISH SOVEREIGN  
should be sailed to Port Said to discharge  
Admiralty diesel oil. R.N.G.H.Q. pass to Shell  
Cairo.  
(C. in C. Med. 1301B/8 to F.O.R.S.C.A. (R) N.O.I.C.  
Port Said, Admty., N.O.I.C. Suez, R.N.G.H.Q.)

/Salvage ...



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Salvage Ships. From Massawa, needed in Western Med. (J.S.M. 1521Z/8)  
See America and West Indies.

Sweep off Kuriat. NUBIAN and (?JAVELIN) sailed on operations. (V.A. Malta 1555A/8 to Admty., C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.)

Supplies for 8th Army. Your 0943/6 interpreted to mean one ship required out of three ships named, request confirmation. (B.M.S.M. Washington 1601Z/8 to P.S.T.O. Egypt (R) Admty., for D. of S.T.)  
Reply: 1121/9.

Malta A/C. T.B.R. A/C from Malta will be operating tonight in the Marittimo area. (V.A. Malta 1720A/8 to N.C.X.F., S.O. Force Q., N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) C. in C. Med.)

SIRIUS, DIDO, AURORA. Do not consider it safe for SIRIUS and DIDO to enter after dark. Propose they return to Algiers through same route as they came. Intend remain Bone in AURORA and sail tomorrow Saturday. (C.S.12 1747A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) SIRIUS, F.O.I.S.S. N.O.I.C. Bone.)

? PARTHIAN. Capt. (S) 10's 1150/8th (N.T. in W.D.) From a position 035° 22' 019° 00' pass through 033° 18' 028° 36' at 0600B/13th thence direct arriving at end of (corrupt group) searched channel at 0615B/15th. Not approved to proceed on the surface during daylight. Estimate your S. of A. 165 miles per 24 hours. (Capt. S.1 1857B/8 to (?PARTHIAN) (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10, C.S.15, V.A. Malta (3 corrupt groups))

Attacks by Enemy T.B. A/C. Request for A/A cruiser. The attacks by T/B aircraft on our convoys are causing us serious losses. They usually occur when no fighter protection is available owing to unfitness on aerodromes or at dusk when fighters have departed. I feel that some mitigation may be obtained by the employment of A/A cruisers. I have at the moment only POZARICA, ALYNBANK having been sent home as more suitable for Northern Waters. DELHI has been and will be out of action for some months. I should be grateful if consideration could be given to providing the Western Mediterranean Force with at least one A/A Cruiser at the earliest possible date. (N.C.X.F. 1858A/8 to Admty.)



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

P.51. P.51 leaves end of searched channel 1530A/8th routed through  
 1. 035° 22' 014° 14'.  
 2. 034° 40' 014° 14' thence operating in area bounded by line joining Tripoli to Kerkenah No.6 buoy.  
 (Capt. S.10 1920A/8 to Subs. on Patrol (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.)

Meditn.  
 Coastal  
 Force Craft  
 & Bases.

Your 1237/5 and 1241/7. Terms of amended appointment of Capt. Hubback as stated in my 0839 and duties as in para. 1 on your 1241/7.  
 2. Cdr. E. Courage appointed as Commander, C.F., Eastern Mediterranean MOSQUITO 2 at Alexandria.  
 3. Act. Lieut. Cdr. R.A. Allen, R.N.V.R. appointed MOSQUITO 2 as C.O. of C.F. Base at Bone. (C. in C. Med. 1930B/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

DEBRETT  
 M.Ls etc.  
 for Turkey.

Freightship DEBRETT speed 11 knots sailed from U.K. on 2nd January carrying H.D.M.Ls 1124 and 1135, M.T.B.79 and Mine Recovery Launch No.8 for discharge Middle East.  
 Ship unable to lift with own derricks. Special slings not placed on board. Weight of Mine Recovery Launch 60 tons. H.D.M.Ls and Mine Recovery Launch are to be handed over to Turkish Government. N.A. Ankara is requested to arrange details and place of transfer with C. in C. Med. (D.D.O.D.(C) 2011A/8 to C. in C. Med., B.N.A. Ankara, (R) P.S.T.O. M.E., C.C.F. Med. V.A. Malta, MOSQUITO.)

Situation  
 Report  
 No.318.

Submarines. P.45 at 0615/25th December in position two miles East of Mahedia (M.E) gunned M.L.C. accompanied by Schooner. No smaller lighter. Enemy opened fire simultaneously with Oerlikon and machine guns, killing one of P.45's gun's crew. P.45 having scored hits with Vickers gun but not 3 inch, broke off action and was inaccurately depth charged.  
 2. At 1510/26th December in position 35° 32' N. 11° 5' E. gunned and sank small Schooner probably carrying ammunition.  
 3. At 0617/31st December in position 35° 18' N. 11° 23' E. sank 450 ton auxiliary MADDALENA (E.L) carrying wheat for Tripoli and took three prisoners.  
 4. Convoy of four Merchant vessels and one Tanker on passage to Malta.  
 (C. in C. Med. 2012B/8 to Admty.)

P.219.

Algiers departure P.219 to patrol.  
 (Cdre. Algiers 2017A/8th to Admty. (R) S.8 etc.)

/SIRIUS ...



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- SIRIUS. My 2016/8th. (N.T. in W.D.) On arrival fuel with all despatch as arranged by Cdre. Algiers. Sail by 0800A/9th to arrive Bone by 1800A/9th. Route 24/27 96. Fighter protection priority, (codeword) "Ferguson".  
(N.C.X.F. 2147A/8 to SIRIUS (R) F.O.I.S. Capt. (S) 8th, DIDO, F.O. 12th C.S., ABDIEL, Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, H.Q. E.A.C. )
- E.A.C. Report. A.97 8th Jan. Operational summary No.58 1800 hours 6th Jan. to 1800 hours 7th Jan.  
A. Operations. Night. 8 Bisleys attacked Tunis docks. In spite of intense darkness target located and 2 large fires started. Flak heavy accurate and intense. 1 Bisley missing. 14 Wellingtons attacked docks and shipping Bizerta. Results difficult observe owing 9/10ths cloud but bursts seen on dock area with many small and 1 large fire. (E.A.C. Africa 2225A/8.)
- Distress. Following has been received. Distress signal from GGSR (Undecypherable in War Reg) S O S. Position 36.18 N. 13.50 E. T.O.R. 2307/8. (Alexandria W/T 2311/8.)
- SIRIUS. N.C.X.F. 2016 (N.T. in W.D.) At racing speed without damage cannot arrive Algiers Bay before 0430A/9th E.T.A. 0400A. Request oiler and lights accordingly.  
(SIRIUS 2358A/8 to Cdre. Algiers (R) N.C.X.F. 12 C.S.)



War Diary.

8.1.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LEOPARD. (Groups missing) hours late on my 0700Z/7  
(re E.T.A. at Tamatave).  
(LEOPARD 0008Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

Movements. Departure 0123Z/8th Jan. HOXA with BARMILL.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0129Z/8 to Admty.)  
Departure 1326Z/8th Jan. ASTER escorting H.T.  
KAROA.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1329Z/8 to Admty.)

U/Bs. Japanese U-Boats. (Corrupt group) by D/F at  
0013Z/6th in North Malacca Strait. 1 or  
possibly 2 very doubtful sighting reports in  
vicinity of Masirah Island, Oman Coast, 3/1 and  
5/1 ships. 2 reported as sighted off Porbandar  
South of Gulf of Cutch.  
(C. in C. E.F. 0723Z/8 to S. & A. E.I.S.)

B.A.38. ALAVI and RIZWANI ready to sail 25th Jan. for  
Aden and Red Sea each 784 250 passengers. Also  
one possible, 4 small Netherlands vessels.  
2. Propose to form convoy B.A.38, S. of A.  
8 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots. Will escort be provided?  
(Cdre. R.I.N. 1035Z/8 to F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F.)

Enemy Unit. By D/F at 1220Z/8th on 40220 k/cs position of  
unknown enemy unit was 008° S. 103° E. Call  
sign N A R A E possibly Raider. Unreliable  
fix.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1439Z/8 to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)



8.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S.  
Construction  
programme.

1. Security of sea communication against U-boats has recently been under examination by C.C.S. vide 1711/2, and amongst other measures the Combined Production and Resources Board were asked (1) To take immediate action to accelerate and expand as far as possible the present programme of escort vessel construction.  
(2) To report what effect such acceleration and expansion will have on other critical items of munitions.
2. Preliminary meeting of C.P.R.B. reported little chance of material acceleration in 1943 except possibly towards end of year but that expansion in 1944 is possible if planned now.
4. At meeting on 5th Jan. it was clear that U.S. Navy agree in stressing the importance of escorts but not to the extent of an overall priority above rest of U.S. Naval programme. In fact, however, escorts have highest priority except for six Fleet Carriers expected to complete in 1943. In this U.S. Navy Department policy seems very similar to that of Admiralty.
5. In considering practical measures for acceleration and expansion American member of Combined Production and Resources Board stressed in the first place the importance of standardisation and simplification of vessels in both warship and merchant ship programmes to utmost degree if full use is to be made of capacity and mass production is to be achieved.
6. Proposals are under consideration here to reduce merchant ship dry cargo types to two, one the C three and the other the Liberty types, and escort types from six to two, one the D.E. type with turbine machinery and the other a corvette type.
7. If in the light of the foregoing Admiralty consider any corresponding changes in U.K. programmes we shall be grateful for early information.
8. U.S. Naval Member present also suggested that existing U.S. corvette programme of seventy be delivered in 1943 could with advantage be expanded at expense of merchant ship programme over and above 18.8 million tons planned. This matter will be investigated with Maritime Commission and Salter by C.P.R.B.
9. We know that corvette programme in U.K. is being largely expanded within available capacity but we would like to have reasons for or against its further expansion at expense of merchant vessels.
10. Final point of special interest was that U.S. escort programme is running into bottlenecks such as steam and liquid valves of all types also required by synthetic rubber and high Octane petrol programme and also turbine gearing required by other parts of shipbuilding programme.
11. Further particulars of specific shortage are not yet available but are expected shortly. Possible you may think it worth while to investigate what capacity could be made available for these items and what effect would be on other parts of U.K. production. Advance information as to possibilities would be appreciated to link up with U.S. investigation.
12. In general we would emphasize that there is no desire here to interfere with U.K. programmes but this combined examination of vital escort situation seems to us an important step which we would like to foster by free interchange of views.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 0011Z/8 to Admty).



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U.S. Question of relative importance of escort vessels  
Construction and merchant ships.  
Programmes. (B.A.D., 0011Z/8 to Admty.)  
See ~~Lien Copy~~ p. 282A.

Escort Personal from First Sea Lord.  
vessel As we are discussing the U-Boat situation and as  
dispositions. the escort problem forms such a vital part of it  
you are requested to put the following information  
regarding our present position before Admiral  
King.

- A. The average ocean escort strength in the North Atlantic convoys is only 2 destroyers and 4 corvettes and this will remain so even when we open out to a 10 day cycle. These escorts are obviously too weak.
- B. In order to deal with the oil situation we have had to open out the North Atlantic cycle to 10 days but to avoid U.K. stocks falling dangerously low and congestion in the ports in the last half of the year when "Bolero" programme is in full strength it will be necessary to revert to the 8 day cycle as soon as possible so as to import as much as possible during the first half of the year. This will require three new groups of escorts.
- C. The S.I. convoys which we are about to institute will only have 4 sloops each as escort.
- D. The Dutch West Indies to U.K. oil convoys will only have 5 sloops each as escort.
- E. The North Russian convoys absorb the whole of the destroyer strength of the Home Fleet and even then it will not be possible to run convoys at a less interval than 42 days unless the U.S.A. are prepared to lend us 12 destroyers.
- F. Any concentration of U-Boats in the Cape Area can only be met by partly or wholly immobilising the Eastern Fleet.
- G. In order to provide for "Torch" we had to remove all A/S vessels from the Freetown area but experience has shown that these must be replaced.
- H. The "Torch" forces under N.C.X.F. have suffered heavy casualties and I am hourly expecting a request for reinforcements.
- I. The Eastern Mediterranean is asking for reinforcements to deal with the increased length of the supply lines of the 8th Army but there is little chance of any being sent.
- J. The Americans have asked us to provide alternate escorts for the "Torch" oil convoy but I cannot see where to provide them from without further weakening some of the above.
- K. A further message follows giving the intended disposition of escort vessels. The strength of the groups is the total strength which is necessary to provide the operational strength I have referred to.
- L. The only pool which we might be able to draw on in the future are the escort vessels now employed on "Torch". It is quite impossible, however, to say how or to what extent we shall obtain any relief as this will depend on:
- (i) Length of the present campaign.
  - (ii) Any future operations.
  - (iii) Escorts found necessary for convoys through the Mediterranean.
  - (iv) Further loss of or damage to escort craft.

/M. ...



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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Escort vessels dispositions. (Contd.) M. I very much hope that Admiral King will provide similar information to the above and to that which follows in the further message referred to in para. K in order that we may review the whole escort situation in order to determine how the escorts available can best

be disposed to the common good.  
(1st S.L., 0132A/8 to B.A.D. Washington.)  
Personal from 1st Sea Lord.

My 0132/8 Part II.

The following table shows the intended disposition of the escort vessels referred to in para K of part I of this message.

Station	Fleet Destroyers	Ocean going Escorts
Home Fleet	25	4
Western Approaches:		
North Atlantic		72
D.W.I. - U.K.		18
O.S. - S.L.		15
North Russian		18
North African		42 (includes 1 A and 3 C Group)
Local		9
Canadian:		
Western Local		30
Western Support		12
Lent U.S. (G.N.)		6
"Torch" Area:		
Gibraltar Escort		34 (inc. 17 R.C.N. corvettes on temporary loan)
Western Med.	12	11 ("Hunts")
Eastern Med.	13	26
West Africa		22 (16 "Hunts", 10 Sloops and Corvettes)
South Atlantic		3
Eastern Fleet	11	18 (inc. Indian sloops and corvettes)
Western Atlantic		1
Under Conversion		12 (due to complete by end June)
On passage & working up	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>71</u>	<u>357</u>

2. In order to give a complete picture of our escort situation, vessels which are suitable only for coastal escort duty in the Home Commands are shown in the following table:

Home Commands:	Plymouth	9
	Portsmouth	5
	Nore	24
	Rosyth	19
	A.C.O.S. & R.A.M.	9

3. Trawlers and minesweepers are not included in either of the above paragraphs.

V.C.N.S., 1420A/8 to B.A.D. Washington.)

/Movements ...



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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements summary at 1800 G.M.T. 8th.	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
	S/M CLYDE	45½° N. 40° W.	239°	12
	Convoy T.M.1	27½° N. 29½° W.	070°	8½
	HAVELOCK			
	3 Corvettes	09½° N. 38° W.	292°	7½
	Convoy			
	F.T.T.6			
	2 Corvettes	10° N. 40½° W.	093°	10
	4 Trawlers			
	Convoy T.F.1	10½° N. 41½° W.	100°	7
	BRIDGEWATER			
	AMERIA	40½° N. 53° W.	071°	19½
	MILFORD			
	AMARANTHUS	43½° N. 46° W.	042°	26½
	A.T.33			
	A.T.34			
	(D.O.D. (F), 1044Z/8 to Opnav).			



War Diary.8.1.1945.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements. 7th Jan. St. Johns Nfld. Arrivals FRISKY ex attempting salvage CHAMPLAIN, ALGONQUIN ex G.S. 17. SHEDIAC, BATTLEFORD, O.N. 154 and Azores. Departures ST. CLAIR, HEPATICA, NEW WESTMINSTER, LACHINE, T.U. 24.18.4 O.N.156. DUNVEGAN, FENNEL, COWICHAN, T.U. 24.18.7 to O.N.157, ALGONQUIN to Argentina. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns Nfld., 0213Z/8 to Admty.)

COLE My 1535Z/7th (Situation report.) U.S. Dest.  
LAURIER. COLE departs Halifax 0430Z/8th en route New York. Q.O. 55, Q.O.85, Q.O.80, Q.O.53, returned Halifax. LAURIER patrolling area enclosed by Littlehope - Brazil Rock and position 043° 25' N. 064° (740') W. (C.O.A.C. 0420Z/8 to Admty.)

AMERICAN Intercept de Amagansett Radio, SSSS, AMERICAN  
TRADER TRADER, corrected position 38.17 N. 73.47 W.  
U/B. submarine just fired torpedo at port side QTE from NAE 204.5 NAD 201.6 approx. VAU 226, remainder unread (ends.)  
(Valentia Radio 0855/8 to Admty.)  
Sub. sighted 38.17 N. 73.47 W. at 0835 G.M.T.  
(C.O.A.C., 0910Z/8 to Area 7A C.T.F.24)

SEAKAY My 0953QR/7th. Expected completion of repair to  
D.W.I. SEAKAY p.m. today 8th Convoy has been delayed  
Convoy. 24 hours and will sail p.m. tomorrow 9th Jan.  
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 0927 QR/8 to Admty. (R) Connav. B.A.D.)

NORSEMAN. Arrival 8th Cable ship NORSEMAN St. Lucia working  
Cable West Coast.  
(B.R.O. Saint Lucia, 0948Q/8 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

T.P. 54 Departure 8th U.S. Army Transport T.P.54 Trinidad  
10th.  
(B.R.O. St. Lucia, 1207Q/8 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

A.M.C.40 Arrival 8th Jan. U.S. Minesweeper A.M.C.40.  
(Harbour Master Barbados, 1209/8 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

LESTELOIDE. My 1158/30, not to Trinidad. Pernambuco advises  
Brazilian LESTELOIDE at Para awaiting orders  
proceed Trinidad.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1244R/8 to Admty, N.S.H.Q., (R) B.R.O. Trinidad)

/Shipping...



War Diary.8.1.1943  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Shipping routes. With Bahia Trinidad convoy in operation have issued orders to USROS route in convoy to Trinidad those United Nations vessels with speeds 8 to 14.5 knots destined E. Coast S. America, S. Africa and Red Sea U.S. controlled vessels with speeds greater than 14.5 knots or 12.5 knots in case of motor vessels destined E. coast S. America S. of Santos S. Africa and Red Sea shall be routed via Panama and Cape Horn unless otherwise ordered in specific cases. Exception was made to motor vessels on account of their difficulty in maintaining convoy speed. Vessels destined Persian Gulf and India shall continue use of Transpacific route. Vessels from Indian Ocean designated lift bauxite should be routed via Cape of Good Hope and not Transpacific. Request Admty. issue instructions go conform for westbound vessels. (Connav. 1456Z/8 to Admty.) See also Admty. 1435/9.

S/M estimate 8th Jan. U.S. S/M Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1510/8 to Admty.)  
~~see prior copy.~~

U/B U.S. sources report submarine sighted by civilian pilot 1550. G.C.T. in 019° 20' N. 068° 50' W. course 018°. (Kingston, Jamaica, 1519R/8 to Admty.)

Salvage Ships from Massawa. J.S.M. 672 8th Jan. Following is text of Algiers telegram No.4300 (1502/5) to AGWAR and USFOR (R) TROOPERS from Eisenhower. (Begins). "Captain Ellsberg's salvage ships at Massawa with their complement of men and equipment including the six salvage pontoons are most urgently needed in Western Med. This is reply to your 646 Jan.1st. (T.O.O. 1752/1). It is requested that the ships with their equipment and pontoons be sailed as early as possible for Oran via the Cape." (Ends.) (J.S.M. Washington, 1521Z/8, to War Cabinet Office.)

CORNWALLIS, ROODE ZEE. My 1423/6 and S.B.N.O. W.A.'s 1312/6 not to F.O.C. West Africa. I have now been informed by Navy Dep. that U.S. commercial tug THOMAS E. MORAN has been ordered by U.S. Authorities to tow CORNWALLIS to Mobile. Therefore services of ROODE ZEE will not be required. (2) Cominch requests S.B.N.O. W.A. to issue such orders as he may consider necessary to divert ROODE ZEE. (B.A.D. 1655Z/8, to Admty., S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A. etc.) Cancel my 1312/6th Jan. not to N.S.H.Q. ROODE ZEE withdraw order to return to Bermuda, and (?will be) sailed to comply with A.M. 1959/25th Dec. para.1. (S.B.N.O. W.A., 2019Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Kingston, C.C.S.F., C.G.S.F. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. S.A., B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. N.O.I.C. Trinidad, N.O.I.C. Bermuda, Comsolant, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, N.O.B. Bermuda.)

/Movements...



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War Diary.

8.1.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements.

Section East. U.S. Dest. BADGER, SPENCER, CAMPBELL vicinity of 46.15 49.40 en route Argentinia TRILLIUM, ROSTHERN H.M.S. DIANTHUS 46.40 49.20 en route St. Johns N.F. J.H.27 THREE RIVERS, GEORGIAN VEGREVILLE 46.55 52.45 219° 7 altering to 270° in 46.30 N. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4 departed Argentinia 1930Z/8th en route St. Johns. ANNAPOLIS departs St. Johns N.F. 1830Z/8th to join O.N.157 CHESTERFIELD 46.26 52.45 en route St. Johns N.F. 18 knots. DESEADO 43.25 54.11 046° 13 altering to 049° in 45.05 51.48. CALIFORNIA EXPRESS 50.14 48.30 034° 13.5 altering to 042° in 52.02 N.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1510Z/8).  
My 1810/8 amend CHELSEA 046° 16' N., 054° 00' W. 252° 7 to join H.X.222 add U.S.S. SPENCER vicinity 045° 36' N., 049° 25' W. to Boston 15 knots U.S.S. BACHE U.S.S. PRINGLE vicinity 043° 35' N., 059° 09' W. 8 knots to Halifax.  
(C.O.A.C., 2244Z/8).



War Diary.8.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

**Movements** Bermuda arrivals U.S.S. HAMILTON, MERAK and ATASCOSA.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1842Q/8 to Admty).

**French Naval Mission.** J.S.M.676 8th Jan. 1943. IZ 129.  
Ref. N.A.F.91 (T.O.O.0943/7) U.S. Chiefs of Staff are informing Eisenhower that they approve his recommendation that a French Naval Mission should proceed to United States.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 2053Z/8 to War Cabinet).

**JASPER PARK** Connav Serial 7 and 8. JASPER PARK Serial 30 reported still in company O.N.154.  
(Connav, 2056/8, to Comnav) Ref. Serial 30 JASPER PARK reported torpedoed but afloat or status doubtful.

**S/M Detection.** Request information as to latest developments on submarine detection by underwater electrical potential method? and whether it is envisaged that this method will supersede detection by indicator loops. Preliminary experiments carried out at Halifax recently look very promising.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2105Z/8 to Admty. for D.A/S.W.)

**Sub.attack and sighting summary.** Para. C. U.S.S. ALGONQUIN attack sound contact 46.57 N., 52.49 W. 2030Z/7.  
Blimp contact 42.47 N., 69.48 W., 1600Z/8.  
Civilian pilot sights sub. 19.20 N., 68.50 W., 1550Z/8 course 18. Para. D. SS. AMERICAN TRADER sights sub. one torpedo miss 38.17 N., 73.47 W. 0835Z/8.  
(Cominch, 2148/8 to Admty).

**Hospital ships, marking.** Navy Dept. is giving consideration to notifying Japanese Government that after 1st April, 1943, illuminated red crosses on the stack of a ship will not be accepted as sufficient distinguishing mark for hospital ships and that to assure the immunity from attack as provided by the 1907 Hague Convention hospital ships must include measures at night to render the white hull and green band (special painting) clearly visible.  
2. Admty. comment has been invited. Navy Dept. would appreciate prompt reply.  
(B.A.D., 2225Z/8 to Admty).

**MOEMACSWAN** Your 1436/3 MORMACSWAN was routed independently to United Kingdom by Cominch C and R. B.A.M.S. 1950/2.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2227Z/8 to C.O.A.C. (R) Admty).



War Diary.

8.1.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand

Movements

Arrivals Brisbane 6th January U.S. Destroyer  
PATTERSON.  
Departures Gympie H.M. Australian Ship BOWEN  
for working up and trial.  
(N.B. Melbourne, 2341Z/8 to Admty etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1416A/8, 1425A/8).



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

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

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

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

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



War Diary.

9.1.1943.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Our air R/C of Trondheim today was unsuccessful owing to cloud.

A signal today from S.B.N.O. North Russia reports that ACHATES with convoy J.W. 51B was first damaged by gunfire at about 0930/31st., was down about 8 feet by the head by 1100, and after being hit on the bridge and damaged by a near miss at 1115 sank at 1330 when about 3 miles astern of the convoy. Her survivors were picked up by NORTHERN GEM.

The Swedish tanker SVEAJARL (10,382 tons) and the Swedish BRASIL (5294 tons) both sank at about 0300 today in about 58° 48' N. 03° 36' E. having presumably struck mines.

43 out of 79 aircraft laid 175 mines last night in N.W. German waters. Six out of 8 naval Swordfish which were despatched at 1830 today laid mines successfully off Le Havre.

"Torch" Area.

Admiralty propose that Cam ships, when sailed with K.M.S. convoys, should be fully operational. EMPIRE FOAM is scheduled to sail with K.M.S.8, and N.C.X.F. is asked if her Hurricane can be accepted at Bone for servicing.

North Atlantic.

U/B attacks  
on T.M. 1.

Convoy T.M.1 was attacked again at 0605Z today by 2 or possibly 3 U-Boats in 28.8 N 28.20 W. and 3 more tankers NORVIK, MINISTER WEDEL and EMPIRE LYTTON were torpedoed. Two of them continued to float and HAVELOCK stood by with crews, to attempt salvage.

/V.A. ...



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic.U/B attacks  
on T.M. 1.  
(Contd.)

V.A. Gibraltar is sending QUIBERON to act as additional escort, and is sending a tug (NIMBLE). At 0709 the Admiralty estimated that 6 or 7 U-Boats were in the neighbourhood of the convoy, and in consequence HAVELOCK signalled at 0947Z that she intended to sink all the damaged ships and rejoin the convoy. Half an hour after HAVELOCK left EMPIRE LYTTON was again torpedoed, and blew up.

At 1218, Admiralty asked V.A. Gibraltar how soon he expected to be able to reach T.M.1 with air escorts, and he replied that endeavour will be made to reach the convoy by p.m. 10th.

F.O.C. West Africa asked at 1625 G.M.T. for the estimated position of the convoy at 1200 G.M.T. 10th, in case some air cover is possible from Port Etienne: it proved, however, not to be possible.

An unsuccessful daylight attack was made on the convoy at 1453 G.M.T.

PATHFINDER and PENN (Force H) were sailed from Gibraltar to act as additional escorts to T.M.1 at 2223A/9.

HAVELOCK has hopes but no proof of damage to at least 4 submarines.

B.A.D. Washington reports that it would appear that a diversion signal passed to HAVELOCK at 1405/3 and repeated at 1337/4 was not acted upon.

HAVELOCK's explanation is given in V.A. Gibraltar 1240A/15.

A Wellington attacked a U-Boat at 0053 today in 37.32 N. 1.40 E. whilst the decks were awash; explosions of depth charges were seen near the hull, but no results were observed.

South Atlantic.

At 2310 G.M.T. SUSAN V. LUCKENBACH, Suez and Colombo for New York, reported that she had been missed by 2 torpedoes in 35.04 S. 18.38 E. (about 60 miles south of Cape of Good Hope).

Swedish SS. BRAGELAND is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk in 0.19 N. 37.38 W. (30 miles north of Point Natal, Brazil) at 1153Z/1.

/U.S. ...



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic - Contd.

U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE and 2 U.S. destroyers left Pernambuco today for patrol.

Mediterranean.

HORATIO, A/S M/S Trawler, is now considered lost off Bone with all hands. (See 7th January.)

ABDIEL successfully completed a minelaying operation last night in the Sicilian Channel. A Marauder mined Burj Channel, off Khalkis, Greece today.

East Indies.

An unknown ship was sighted by LEOPARD at 1900 G.M.T. in 15.34 S. 52.36 E., resembling a large liner. She did not answer a challenge and made off at high speed steering 340°.

America and West Indies.

J.H. SENIOR, H.X.221, reports finding 2 detonator bombs on her lower bridge. Connav is being asked to investigate.

Convoy  
T.B. 1  
attacked.

Convoy T.B.1, the first Trinidad to Bahia convoy was attacked by U-Boats about 60 miles N.W. of Surinam today and tanker BROAD ARROW was sunk in 7.21 N. 55.43 W. and SS. MINOTAUR, COLLINGSWORTH and BIRMINGHAM CITY were torpedoed and sunk in 7.12 N. 55.37 W. Later it became known that a fifth ship, SS. KING JAMES was sunk.\*

\* Incorrect: arrived at Bahia 26/1. /SS. JASPER PARK ...



War Diary.

9.1.1943.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

SS. JASPER PARK, in Convoy O.N.S.154, which was reported torpedoed on 29th December arrived at Halifax today.

Australia.

Navy Department, replying to the Admiralty request on 30th December, regret that owing to the cruiser situation in the Pacific, particularly the South and South West Areas, a U.S. relief for HOBART, which requires to be modernised, is not practicable.

A convoy of 7 vessels sighted retiring from Lae towards Gasmata this morning were attacked without result by Fortresses and Liberators. One transport left beached at Lae was hit this morning with ten 300 lb. and four 1000 lb. bombs and left on fire and exploding.

Dutch M.V. VAN HEUTSZ was bombed and hit at Oro Bay (north side of New Guinea) at 0300Z today and was damaged.



War Diary.

9.1.1943.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

"Hunt" Destroyers for H.F. Following is a repetition of my 1043/9 begins:-  
Your 1105/6. I am loath to agree to the exchange for the following reasons:-  
(a) Both the Captains of the Norwegian ships are Commanders one of Seniority 1938 and one of 1941. They would thus always be S.O. of any "Hunt" Group or Escort and also often when in company with Fleet Destroyers.  
(b) BRECON and BRISSENDEN are larger and would be better able to maintain their position on a Fleet screen in heavy weather.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1049A/9 to Admty.)

LA MELPOMENE. My 1055/8. LA MELPOMENE taken over by British Naval Authorities a.m. 9th January. Gunner T. in Command.  
(F.O.I.C. London, 1304A/9 to Admty.)

Rosyth Command. Withdrawal of 4 A/S Trawlers. Consequent on recent operations there is a shortage of A/S Trawlers in the Mediterranean and casualties must be expected in the future.  
2. Reinforcements must be sent it is not considered that any further transfers abroad can be made from Trawlers at present employed on escort duty in Home Waters.  
3. It has been decided, therefore, to withdraw some Trawlers at present employed on the Defence of Home Ports, the consequent reduction of patrols and security being accepted.  
4. In view of the reduced threat from U-Boats on the East Coast it has been decided to withdraw the 4 "Fish" Class A/S Trawlers from your Command thereby leaving only 5 A/S Trawlers for the loop patrols in the Firth of Forth.  
(V.C.N.S., 1307A/9 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Working-up of A/C Carriers. (A) In order to allow for the co-ordination of the working-up of newly commissioned Aircraft Carriers in Home Waters, and their squadrons, the following additional responsibilities will be assumed forthwith by the V.A.A. Home Fleet.  
(B) V.A.A. Home Fleet in addition to his present duties is to be responsible for co-ordination of training of all carriers and their Air Squadrons when working-up in Home Waters.  
(C) Ships to be administered by Cs. in C. in whose area they are working up.  
(D) R.A.N.A.S. to be responsible for carrying out the training ashore in accordance with V.A.A.'s requirements.  
(E) To assist V.A.A. in the Clyde area where most of the working-up will probably take place, the appointment of an experienced Naval Air Officer to serve jointly on the staff of F.O.I.C. Greenock and Staff of V.A.A. Home Fleet is under consideration.  
(F) It is intended that these arrangements should hold good until the projected re-organisation of Naval Air Stations under R.A.N.A.S. which has been under consideration for some time is effected.  
(D.F.S.L., 1449A/9 to C. in C. H.F., C., in C. W.A.)

/DASHER ...



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - Contd.

DASHER. A.M. 2007/7. DASHER is placed under the orders of C. in C. H.F. and will be administered by R.A.A.  
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail DASHER on 25th January for the Clyde to carry out two days trials as required by D.A.M. Admiralty.  
3. DASHER is then to work up in the Clyde or at Scapa as ordered by C. in C. H.F.  
(A.C.N.S.H., 1752A/9.)

Movements.

S. 51. Hvalfjord arrival at 2349/8th U.S.S.R. submarine 551 (? S.51).  
(A.C.I.C., 0015A/9 to C.O.A.C. Halifax N.S.)

FORESTER,  
ICARUS. Sailed FORESTER, ICARUS in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 1045/8 para. one. E.T.A. 1300A/10th.  
(R.A.D.H.F., 0941A/9 to A.C.I.C.)

P.314,  
P.224,  
TRIDENT. Sailed P.314, P.224 and TRIDENT escorted by QUALICUM for exercises, thence to comply with S.3's 1559A/7.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0946A/9.)

S. 56. COREOPSIS will meet you in 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 1100A/10th and escort you through Minches to Rosyth.  
(F.O.S., 1034A/9 to S.56.)

C. in C. W.A's 1149A/8th. Intend to substitute SHIPPIGAN for COREOPSIS.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1108A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Arrived SHIPPIGAN.  
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1140A/9.)  
My 1034/9. For corvette COREOPSIS read minesweeper SHIPPIGAN.  
(F.O.S., 1546A/9 to S.56.)

LARGS. A.M. 2353/15 Dec.  
Request you will arrange for LARGS to be sailed to Clyde on completion and placed at the disposal of F.O. Force W.  
(C.C.O., 1355A/9 to S.O.A.S.C.)

W.A.  
Command. Situation at 1958A/9. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1359A/9, 1832A/9.)  
See Lion Copy.

BATTLER. Sailing BATTLER. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 0800/10.  
(N.O.I.C, Campbeltown, 1420A/9.)



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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- S/M At 0800/10. Details.  
Positions. (F.O.S., 1541A/9, 0812A/10, 2116A/10.)  
See Lion Copy.
- S. 54. C. in C. W.A. 2332/5. POTENTILLA sailed 1515.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1602/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- L. 15. My 1529/9. SPOSA has also been ordered to R/V  
with you at position G.  
(A.C.I.C., 1651A/9 to L. 15.)  
U.S.S.R. Submarine L.15 may be in the vicinity of Sagifile.  
Can only identify herself by lamp and flare.  
(A.C.I.C., 1821Z/9 to CIRCE, BUSH, PETERHEAD, FLY, FEFLAR.)  
Following is a recoded version A.C.I.C.'s 2025/9th.  
Addressed WINDERMERE repeat SPOSA, L.15 from A.C.I.C.  
On arrival at position G take (? SPOSA) under your orders to  
search for L.15 in the vicinity.  
(A.C.I.C., 2040A/9 to L. 15.)
- H. 44. Intend sailing H.44 escorted by DORNOCH from  
Lough Foyle at 1900A/10, speed 8 knots, arriving  
Rothesay 0900A/11.  
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1726A/9 to Capt. S.7.)
- PENELOPE. A.M. 1728/31st Dec. PENELOPE will be ready to  
leave Clyde 17th Jan.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2354A/9 to Admty.)
- Operations.
- Unknown Your 2213/6, para. (4). M.T.B. 623 sailed.  
operation. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 0521A/9 to A.C.O.S.)  
(M.T.B.623) My 0521A/9. Returned. Weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 0905A/9 to A.C.O.S.)
- Coastal 1. Intend R.M.L. 497 (S.O.) and M.L.123 to patrol  
Patrols. tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 30' W.  
and 2° 05' W.  
2. Leave Portland at 1700 via Q.Z.S.382 to patrol-  
line, adjusting position so as to cover passage of P.W. and W.P.  
convoys. Leave patrol-line at dawn and return to base.  
3. Object anti E-Boat patrol.  
Codeword "Service".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1020A/9.)  
My 1012/9. Cancel patrol by MACKAY, ATHERSTONE and  
KITTIWAKE. MENDIP and CAMPBELL are to carry out patrol 5 and  
6 respectively until F.N.13 has passed 8 Buoy, then return to  
anchorage as convenient.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1158A/9.)

/UNST ...



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal  
Patrols.  
(Contd.)

UNST and FYLLA to patrol South of E.A5 buoy.  
M.G.B 616, 611, M.T.B.6, 89, 243 at short notice  
at Newhaven.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1305A/9.)  
Cancel patrols tonight. Proceed as ordered by  
Capt. (I) 21.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1434A/9 to Capt. D.21, CAMPBELL.)

Norway  
Coastal  
S/M Patrols.  
GRAPH, P.216,  
P. 312.

GRAPH and P.216 to leave patrol for Lerwick at  
0001A/10th as follows. GRAPH through 063° 30',  
003° 01', thence by route "Orange". P.216  
through 065°, 30', 003° 55', thence by route  
"Pink".  
(Capt. S.9, 2147A/9 to S/Ms.)  
(1) GRAPH and P.216 are to be ordered to leave  
patrol at 0001A/10th Jan. and proceed to Lerwick.  
(2) On arrival at Lerwick GRAPH is to be sailed for Holy Loch.  
(3) P.216 to remain at Lerwick.  
(F.O.S., 2156A/9 to Capt. S.9.)  
(1) My 1814/5th and 1134/6th Jan. At 0800/10 P.312 is to  
move to 064° 35' N. 009° 44' E. From this time P.312's  
restrictions on attacking U-Boats is cancelled.  
(2) Cancel para. (3) of my 1134/6th Jan.  
(F.O.S., 2216A/9 to S/Ms.)

Allied Air Activity.

Fleet R/C.

My 1215/19th December is cancelled.  
(D.O.D.H., 0353A/9 to A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.Murmansk  
bombed on  
night 7th/  
8th.

Several air raids on Murmansk during night of  
January 7th and early hours of January 8th.  
Small Russian vessel was sunk alongside one quay  
but there was no damage to British or American  
ships. Railway station received a direct hit and  
was partially demolished.  
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 2200A/9 to Admt.)

Mining.Operation  
H.S.

1. ADVENTURE is not required for special service.  
2. Request she may be directed to proceed with  
operation H.S. as convenient.  
(D.D.O.D.M., 1812A/9 to C. in C. Plymouth.)



9.1.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Position  
of  
Submarines  
at  
0800/10  
and  
movements  
for  
following  
24 hours.

(A) P.49, P.216, P.316, GRAPH, UREDD, P.55, H.43  
U.S.S. SHAD, U.S.S. BLACKFISH, U.S.S. HERRING,  
(L) U.S.S. BARB as yesterday.  
(M) TRIDENT, P.224, P.314 escorted by QUALICUM  
57° 50' N. 06° 24' W. routed west of Orkneys for  
Lerwick speed 11 knots.  
(N) Russian S/M S.56, 57° 13' N. 08° 38' W.  
probably on the surface due R/V with SHIPPIGAN in  
270° Barra Head 10 miles at 1100/10th January  
thence proceeding escorted on the surface through  
Minches for Rosyth.  
(F.O.(S) 1541A/9.)



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Trondheim.  
2 Destroyers  
sighted.

P.R.U. Trondheim unsuccessful owing to 10/10ths cloud. Two destroyers sighted in 62° 12' N. 05° 40' E., course S.W., about 15 knots, at 1400A/9. (D.D.I.C., 1659A/9 to A.I.G.47, S/MS on Patrol.)

U-Boats.WASHINGTON  
EXPRESS  
attacked.

Intercept 1925 G.M.T. de WASHINGTON EXPRESS. SSSS position 58.39 N. 22.46 W. Avoided attack. (Port Patrick Radio, 1900 G.M.T./9 to Greenock.)

Casualties and Defects.FORT DE  
TROYON.

Following received. From FORT DE TROYON. To Minister of War Transport. My 2355/8th. Am now afloat and at anchor Barrow 15A. (C. in C. Nore, 0315A/9 to M.W.T.)

PONTFIELD.

Damaged at Murmansk.  
See Shipping.

SHEFFIELD.

C. in C. H.F.'s 1434/7th. John Browns and Weirs will carry out necessary repairs. Ship must be at 24 hours notice. Gun mounting and torpedo tube items are being investigated. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1036/9 to Admty.) Clyde arrival SHEFFIELD. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1232A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

ST. MARYS.

On arrival anchor in 114° Methil Pier light 1.9 miles. (2) MARAUDER is to pass the tow at first light tomorrow and you are to proceed to Rosyth to de-oil and de-ammunition before being towed to Leith. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1100A/9 to ST. MARYS.)

BRASIL and  
SVEAJARL  
sunk.

Swedish authorities state that westbound traffic ships BRASIL 5294 tons and SVEAJARL 10,382 tons sank at approximately 0300 today in 58° 48' N. 03° 36' E. (N.A. Stockholm, 1201/9 to Admty.)

SVEAJARL now reported broken in two parts and abandoned by crew which is still missing. Two lifeboats were left standing by with instructions to make Norwegian coast. (N.A. Stockholm, 2231/9 to Admty.)

My 1201/9 and my 2231/9.

As these two vessels are now believed to have been sunk by mines in addition to REMMAREN near same area some weeks ago Swedish Government fears moored minefields may have been laid which interfere with agreed route for Gothenburg traffic. If you could give me an assurance that this could not have been British it would be very welcome by Swedish Government.

(N.A. Stockholm, 2232/9 to Admty.)

/FREY ...



War Diary.

9.1.1943.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- FREY. SPARLING's 1552. Head of convoy hour late 62D buoy. Instruct steam launch 292 to proceed to assist FREY anchored 135° 62G buoy 5 miles with engine trouble.  
(BROCKLESBY, 1515A/9 to GUILLEMOT.)  
N.O.I.C. Humber's 1516 to WOOLSTON and my 1515. Rejoin convoy with SEAMAN when relieved by HEADMAN and M.L. 478.  
(BROCKLESBY, 1639A/9 to GUILLEMOT.)  
Immingham departure at 1500 rescue tug HEADMAN escorted by M.L.478 to assist FREY broken down in vicinity of 62G buoy.  
(F.O. Humber, 1740A/9 to C. in C. Nore.)
- L.C.Ms. Your 1556A/16/11. Ex GEORGE B. MACLELLAN in Avonmouth L.C.Ms 101, 114, 128, 156, 77, 138 all damaged.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1529A/9 to Admty.)  
Your 1556A/16/11. Ex EMPIRE HEYWOOD in Newport L.C.A.225 damaged.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1705A/9 to Admty.)
- L. 23. Arrangements made for L.23 to berth James Watt Dock 1430 on 12th inst.  
(P.S.O. Scotts, 1545/9 to Capt. S.7.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- J.W. 51B. ACHATES, BRAMBLE. ONSLOW 1958/31st Dec. addressed A.I.G.47, para. 4, item 3. Please find out if any merchant ship has knowledge of BRAMBLE's movements.  
(C. in C. H.F., 0005A/9 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
Please pass to Admiral Golovko. Begins.  
I deeply appreciate (? your) kind message. If we have assisted the gallant Russian armies in their magnificent progress to victory, we are proud. Ends.  
(R.A.D.H.F., 1045A/9 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
Your 0005/9th. Endeavour is being made to obtain this information.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1226A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)  
The safe passage of the North Russian convoys J.W. 51A and B, and R.A. 51 is most valuable and is greatly appreciated. The spirited and gallant defence of J.W. 51B is highly creditable to those concerned and reflects the fine offensive spirit and careful training of the Fleet under your Command.  
(A.C.N.S.H., 1433A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your 1234/7th. Board of Enquiry being held. Following is provisional narrative.  
(2) ACHATES was 5000 yards on port quarter of convoy when at 0930/31st gun flashes sighted astern. Course and speed altered to screen convoy with smoke in accordance with S.B.N.O. instructions for surface attack. ACHATES very conspicuous came under fire and was damaged by near miss at 3rd straddle.  
(3) Meantime ONSLOW was leading other destroyers down port side of convoy and subsequently engaged cruiser on (? starboard side). Firing at ACHATES ceased as soon as ONSLOW engaged. ACHATES remained in her position on screen.



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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

J.W.51B, (4) By 1100 the numerous splinter holes initially  
 ACHATES, received had caused forward lower compartments to  
 BRAMBLE, flood and ship was down about 8 feet by the head.  
 (Contd.) (5) At 1115 ACHATES was joining other destroyers  
 when she was hit on bridge, in seamen's bathroom  
 on port side, and suffered much damage from a near  
 miss abreast number 2 boiler room port side. She then turned  
 to resume journey lying near convoy, but at about 1315 was  
 settling and had list of about 50° to port. She was then about  
 3 miles astern of convoy. NORTHERN GEM closed to pick up  
 survivors. At 1330 ACHATES? turned over and sank.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1655A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

It is now learned that BRAMBLE made "1 cruiser bearing 300°  
 T.O.O. 1039/1st".

(2) Supposition is she was sunk at about this time and may  
 account for previously unexplained engagement to eastward of  
 other engagements at about 1130.

(3) Further information being sought from (? merchant ships) in  
 accordance with your 0005/9, but fog is delaying communication.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1704A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

J.W.51B. All vessels due have arrived Kola safely except  
 BALLOT.

2. Hope berth SODORCH and CALOBRE very shortly.

3. Small Russian vessel has been sunk in number eleven berth  
 which is therefore not available meantime. This has happened  
 before and vessels are usually moved fairly quickly.

4. PONTFIELD has been ashore twice now refloated. Fear damage  
 to rudder and steering gear may be serious. Propellor tips  
 damaged. Probably required dry-docking. Further report later.  
 Inform owners.

(Dalgliesh Murmansk, 2241A/9 to M.W.T.)

KRASNOE Arrived Russian Motor Vessel KRASNOE ZNAMYA.  
 ZNAMYA. (A.C.I.C., 0024A/9 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

K.M.F.7. My 1004A/7. Sailed less LETITIA. Codeword  
 "Material".

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0024A/9.)

Convoy sailed as in A.M. 2346A/31st December less LETITIA.  
 Routed as in A.M. 1352A/2nd Jan. Cdre. in DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.  
 Vice Cdre. ORBITA.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0026A/9.)

The following sailed at 2359/8th. L.5, L.8, L.11, H.M.P.4,  
 H.M. P.34, H.M. P.35, H.M. P.65. H.M. P.5 reported damaged and  
 unable to proceed. Investigating.

(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0030/9 to D.S.T.)

In the event of a casualty occurring in K.M.F.7 you are to  
 detail 2 escorts to stand by the casualty. Ships detailed should  
 be prepared to home other escorts which will be immediately  
 detailed from nearest convoy to come to their assistance.

(C. in C. W.A., 0932A/9 to WESTON.)

My 1806A/8. Sailed DUCHESS OF BEDFORD at 1140A/9th.

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1256A/9.)

C. in C. W.A. 1607/8. Sailed SKATE.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 2114A/9.)

/EMPRESS ....



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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. My 0109/8. Following personnel are on board EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Total 4205. Details. (D.S.T., 0255A/9.)
- S.C. 115. My 1054/8th. Cancel DEWSBURY. (C. in C. W.A., 0822Z/9th to TAY, JONQUIL.)
- C.E. 145. Part company from C.E.145 at East Spile and proceed to Harwich. Warn convoy of wreck in approx. 060° 6 cables from the Nore Light Vessel. (C. in C. Nore, 0959A/9 to QUORN.)
- AMSTERDAM. Intend sailing transport AMSTERDAM from Cromarty at 2300/12th, speed 17 knots. Routed Q.Z.S. 150, 352 to 35 buoy, thence 5 miles east of Fair Island. E.T.A. Lerwick 1000/13th. Request fighter protection and escort. (N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1152/9 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- J.W. 52. Your 1316/31 Dec. In order not to cramp covering force requested Russian submarines on no account operate North of latitude 71° 40' N. during passage of convoys.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1239A/9 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
My 2326/7th. Commander Medley BEAGLE is S.O.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1448A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)  
(1) My 2326/7th. Every effort is being made to complete damage repairs in BEAGLE and BULLDOG but it is doubtful whether they will be ready to sail as required. Further signal will be made giving definite date of readiness.  
(2) Regret I have no other destroyer except "Esse" class available without weakening ocean convoy escorts which are already below strength.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1953A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)
- LLANGIBBY CASTLE. Under (? present) weather conditions LLANGIBBY CASTLE is capable of 14 knots. Propose to increase to this speed at position (Q) about 1200Z tomorrow leaving SOUTHERN PRIDE who can only keep A/S listening watch to continue at her best speed 12 knots. My P.C.S. are 046° 15' N. 018° 28' W., 019°, 11½. (EXE, 1501Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 1501/9. Approved.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2204A/9 to EXE.)
- Use of "Snowflakes". Your 1351Z/6 received slightly corrupt. However concur fully with essence of proposed change. Appears also that value of "Snowflakes" can be greatly increased with improvement of discipline among merchant vessels. Suggest consideration of S.O. Escort giving signal to fire over 500 R.D.S. (C.T.F.24, 1625/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Position...



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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Position My 1943/7.  
Reports. (a) Ships detached from convoy are to start the dead reckoning plot from position of parting company which will be passed by Commodore to controlling authority.  
(b) Stragglers from convoy proceeding towards their independent routes are to report position by H/F at night when not less than 24 hours clear of convoy and are to start dead reckoning plot from that position.  
(D.T.D., 1916A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

A.N.D. Masters of merchant ships fitted with N.D. are to  
Gear. be warned of necessity for brailing nets in heavy weather so as to prevent damage to booms. It is also important that N.D. boom guys should be set up before leaving harbour and that crews should be accustomed to working gear at night.  
(D.T.D., 1917A/9.)

TUNAHOLM, Intercepted TUNAHOLM and tanker FALSTERBOHUS 061°  
FALSTERBOHUS. 03' N. 018° 19' W. at 1930Z, both steering 240°,  
(Swedish) 12 knots.  
(ROCKINGHAM, 1940Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

EQUADOR, My 1201/9. Swedish authorities inform me  
PERU. EQUADOR is now returning Kristiansand where she is due tomorrow morning to land survivors of PERU. Though there is some anxiety regarding location of alleged minefield intention is to sail her again on her westward passage.  
Severe weather continues with driving snow storms, wind force 8.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 2231/9 to Admty.)



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

Development of G.C.I. Your 1122/16. Careful investigation has been carried out of possibility of installing an R.A.F. G.C.I. equipment in a ship, with following results:-

(a) Fitting in an H.M. ship is not a practical proposition.

(b) Fitting in a merchant ship will necessitate a complete redesign of the aerial and turning gear which would be a major undertaking.

(c) Even if (b) were successfully achieved, heightfinding would not be possible unless the aerial was at a maximum height of 5 ft. above water.

2. It is not intended to proceed with fitting G.C.I. in any ship. However, the urgent requirement for best possible ship-borne night fighter direction facilities are fully realised. Investigations are now proceeding into possibility of providing a M/V equipped with best possible R.D.F. system and complete F.D. equipment including necessary V.H/F and H/F R/T communications. Such a ship would permit large scale day fighter control and a form of night fighter control which although not ideal should prove practicable. A Naval R.D.F. set more suitable for night fighter control is under development on high priority but this cannot be available for a year or more.

(D.S.D., 1453/9 to N.C.X.F.)

Port defence personnel. Your 0104/8. Until ports in North Africa are adequately defended I am very reluctant to reduce British personnel. In any case when we settle down I must insist that all A/S loop and indicator devices and close defence at harbour entrances remain in British or U.S. hands.

2. One outstanding lesson of "Torch" in the post assault stage is that the improvisation of harbour defences requires a very active port defence Officer of considerable personality and knowledge to be in charge of all branches of Harbour defence including local patrols, A/S nets, minesweeping and arrangements with military coast defences. The present system of providing well meaning but ignorant retired officers as X.D.O's and then sending out a series of independent parties from each Admiralty division with appropriate scientists has resulted in inefficiency

3. When this situation has been cleared up, I intend to propose a reduction in port defence parties, with one port defence Officer in charge.

4. Further signal will be made about administrative and repair staffs.

(N.C.X.F., 1537A/9 1637Z/9 to Admty).

K.M. Convoys. Your 1640/5\* and 1744/5\* K.M.S.8 will sail 21st January K.M.F.8 22nd January other K.M. convoys at 16 day intervals from these dates.

(D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 1604A/9 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. W.A., etc) \*Hush distribution. Not acceptable, see N.C.X.F., 1105/12.



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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area. - Contd.

F.N.L.O. French point out that our Liaison Officers have  
Freetown. been accepted and have arrived at Freetown but  
we have still not given permission for a French  
Naval Liaison Officer at Freetown. I have replied  
that an F.N.L.O. has already been accepted in  
principle and that any delay is on matters of detail. Consider  
it most desirable that a decision be made very quickly on who  
is to come to Freetown and that French be informed; otherwise  
our Dakar negotiations may well be prejudiced.  
(N.C.X.F., 1612A/9 to Admty (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

C.A.M. It is proposed that, when C.A.M. ships are  
ships in sailed with K.M.S. convoys, they should be  
K.M.S. convoys. fully operational.  
2. EMPIRE FOAM is scheduled to sail with  
K.M.S.8 for Gibraltar or Bone.  
3. Can Hurricane be accepted at Bone for  
servicing? Aircraft can be flown off before arrival if there  
are crane facilities for re-embarking; alternatively, ship and  
aircraft would have to proceed independently to Gibraltar or  
some other port for re-embarkation. If the above is not  
practicable aircraft can remain on board and the risk of  
unserviceability be accepted.  
4. Information is requested as to the suitability of sailing  
C.A.M. ships in operational capacity to other North African  
ports.  
(D.O.D. (H), 2346A/9 to N.C.X.F.) Reply: N.C.X.F., 1040/12.



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Attack on Convoy T.M.1.

OLTENIA II, T.M.1 attacked by submarine 2139 G.M.T. P.C. and  
ALBERT L. S. 027° 59' N. 028° 50' W. 074° 8.5 knots.  
ELLSWORTH. 2 ships torpedoed, OLTENIA II Master killed, 8  
officers, 38 men saved, 17 missing. SS ALBERT  
L. ELLSWORTH, all saved. ALBERT L. ELLSWORTH  
afloat burning furiously salvage impossible. Contact made on  
submarine which dived when sighted, charge set 50 feet, dropped  
50 yards ahead of swirl. Further 14 charges, pattern medium  
setting, dropped on contact same approx. position, no further  
evidence. Escorts rejoining. Amend my 0010Z/4th. Captain  
and 26. 2 escorts have no Radar.  
(HAVELOCK 0059Z/9 to Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. U.S. Fleet,  
N.O.B. Trinidad.)

Further Convoy T.M.1 attacked by 2 or possibly 3 U-Boats.  
attack. Position 028° 08' N. 028° 20' W.  
(HAVELOCK 0605Z/9 to Admty., V.A. Gibraltar,  
C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.O.B. Trinidad.)  
W.D. Note.- Position in error, see HAVELOCK  
1546/10.

NORVIK, My 0605Z/9. 3 ships torpedoed, NORVIK, MINISTER  
MINISTER WEDEL and one other\* 2 still afloat. HAVELOCK  
WEDEL, standing by with crews to attempt salvage.  
1 other (HAVELOCK 0701Z/9 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Gibraltar,  
torpedoed. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.O.B. Trinidad.)  
\* EMPIRE LYTTON (D.O.R. 1240)  
My 0701 (?Z)/9th. Crews of NORVIK, MINISTER  
WEDEL saved, EMPIRE (3 corrupt groups) also sunk, all crew  
except Chief Officer saved (group missed) escorts will if  
(?attacks) continue run short of fuel depth charges and  
(corrupt group) Star Shell ammunition. Evidence suggests 4 or  
more U-boats in the vicinity. Intend continuing on present  
course (?after) position Q to close to Madeira.  
(HAVELOCK 1310Z/9 to Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.O.I.C.  
Gibraltar, N.O.B. Trinidad.)

6 - 7 From D/F activity 6 or 7 U-boats estimated  
U/Bs. probably in your vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C. 0709A/9 to Escorts TMI (R) Cominch,  
V.A. Gibraltar.)  
My 0709/9. Frequency used was 5650 k/cs.  
(D.D.I.C. 1038A/9)

Damaged My 0701Z/9th, in view of Admiralty's 0700A/9th  
Ships to be (0709A intended) intend to sink all damaged  
sunk. ships and rejoin convoy.  
(HAVELOCK 0947Z/9 to Admty. etc.)

/Additional ...



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Attack on Convoy T.M.1 - contd.

Additional escort, tugs. Convoy T.M.1 heavily attacked by U-boats in approx. 28° N. 28° W. Six tankers torpedoed, three still floating, three undamaged.  
(2) Intend sailing QUIBERON at 1200/9 to act as additional escort.

(2) Intend sailing Tug NIMBLE escorted by PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, at 1230/9.

(4) 6 or 7 U-boats estimated in vicinity convoy.  
(V.A. Gibraltar 1055A/9 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.C. West Africa.)  
Departure 1250 PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, Tug NIMBLE, 1450 QUIBERON to join convoy T.M.1.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1523A/9 to HAVELOCK (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca Area, F.O.C.W.A. )  
Your 0930Z/9th (N.T. in W.R.) Tug NIMBLE escorted by PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, sailed 1230/9th S. of A. 14½ knots.  
2. QUIBERON sailed 1430 to R/V and act as additional escort, S. of A. 20 knots.  
(V.A. Gibraltar 1620A/9 to HAVELOCK, (R) Admty., F.O.C.W. Africa, C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)  
Cancel para. 1 of my 1155/9th (N.T. in W.R.) Proceed to R/V T.M.1 routed in accordance with para. 2 of my 1155/9th, amend HAVELOCK's 1310/9th and act as additional escort.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 2342A/9 to PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, NIMBLE, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.C. W.A., QUIBERON, PENN, PATHFINDER, Escort T.M.1.)

Force H. T.M.1. Your 1055/9th. Cancel my 1155/9th.  
destroyers. Request you will sail 2 additional destroyers of Force H. to reinforce T(?M) 1.  
(N.C.X.F. 1606A/9 to S.O. Force H. V.A. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.I.C. Oran.)  
Note by W.R. No trace of 1155/9.

Air Escorts How soon do you expect to be able to reach convoy  
from T.M.1 with air escorts?  
Gibraltar and (D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. 1218/9 to  
W. Africa. V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.C. West Africa, (R) N.C.X.F.)  
Your 1218/9. Endeavour will be made to reach  
convoy p.m. 10th.  
(V.A. Gibraltar 1645A/9 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.,  
F.O.C.W.A.)

Daylight Unsuccessful daylight attack carried out on  
attack on convoy T.M.1 at 1453Z.  
convoy. (HAVELOCK 1502Z/9 to V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.,  
Cominch, N.O.B. Trinidad.)

Air Cover. From Port Etienne. F.O.C.W.A. 1625Z/9. See  
South Atlantic.

ILEX. Proposal to send. F.O.C.W.A. 1643Z/9. See  
South Atlantic.

/SOMERS ...



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Attack on Convoy T.M.1 - contd.

SOMERS.

Suggested assistance.  
F.O.C.W.A. 1709Z/9. See South Atlantic.

Situation.

HAVELOCK, PIMPERNEL and GODETIA with convoy of 3 ships. SAXIFRAGE should rejoin after dark. No ship considered salvable and a submarine is waiting in their vicinity. My P.C. and S. at 1800Z 028° 52' N. 025° 07' W. 071° to position 031° 56' N. 014° 57' W. 9.5 knots thence 061° to position S. I have hopes but no proof of damage to at least 4 submarines. Radio telephone wave in use is 3000 k/cs. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to tug NIMBLE. (HAVELOCK 1833Z/9 to Admty., F.O.C. West Africa, V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.C.X.F., PENTSTEMON, S.B.N.O. Casablanca, QUIBERON, SAMPHIRE, tug NIMBLE.)

PATHFINDER,  
PENN  
(Force H.)

Sailed PATHFINDER, PENN to join convoy T.M.1 and act as additional escorts.  
(V.A. Gibraltar 2223A/9 to Admty., (R) R.A.W.Af. S.O. Force H, N.C.X.F., Escorts, T.M.1, S.N.O. Casablanca area.)

Diversion  
not acted  
upon.

T.M.1. The diversion suggested in Admiralty 0912/3rd was passed to HAVELOCK in C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C & R) 031405.  
2. From the position given by HAVELOCK's 2147/3rd. C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C & R) assumed that the diversion signal had not been received. It was therefore repeated in C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C & R's) 041337 to HAVELOCK.  
3. From position given in HAVELOCK 0059/9th reporting second attack it would appear that convoy was still on the original route and that diversion signals had either not been obeyed or not been received and decyphered.  
4. Warnings of U-Boats in vicinity were also passed to HAVELOCK by Cominch under following T.O.Os: 022325, 031717, 040143, 041337, 041847, 060120, 060515 and by Admty. 0709/9th.  
5. V.A. Gibraltar is requested to report after arrival of HAVELOCK: (a) T.O.R. Connav 031405 and 041337.  
(b) If all signals mentioned in para.4 were received and decyphered  
(c) Was more than one escort guarding Washington Fox on the 3rd and 4th January.  
(d) When escorts actually shifted from Fox to North Atlantic routines.  
6. Communication orders to HAVELOCK are contained in N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0942/26th.  
(B.A.D. 2355Z/9 to Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F., S.B.N.O. W. At., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, HAVELOCK, N.S.H.Q.)



War Diary.

9.1.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

General.

U/B. Following has been read by Gibraltar W/T. Am  
over enemy submarine in 37.32 N., 1.40 E.  
(A/C call sign R.7.G.U. duty U., 0054A/9.)  
Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on the  
surface and seen to submerge. Have attacked enemy with depth  
charges.  
(A/C C/S R.7 G. duty U.. 0105A/9.)

DESTINY My 1340A/8th, (Situation Report Area X.) add new  
L.C.I.(L) para. (10) Tug DESTINY towing one L.C.I. (L), (e)  
034° 32' 017° 45' 081° 10. LCI no 7 acc p 233  
(V.A. Gib. 0932A/9 to S. and A. N.A.S.) 7/1/43

Bombing V.A. Gibraltar 1504/7, (re hampering of A/S  
Restrictions operations from Gibraltar by extensive bombing  
and A/S restriction area for D.S/M. DOLEIJN.) fully concur.  
operations. T.C.A.O. 16 page 3 dated 4th Dec. was ordered  
after consultation with S.8 and A.O.C. Gibraltar and  
it is particularly desired to have a standard  
procedure for bombing restrictions throughout TORCH area.  
(N.C.X.F. 1121A/9 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib., etc.) Reply F.O.S.1626 A/11.

ANTARKTIS According to information from German seaman,  
(German) tanker ANTARKTIS is now at Hamburg. Letter has  
been received from member of crew there.  
(R.O. Vigo, 1135/9, to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty.  
for D.N.I.)

Swiss A.M. 2024/7. All Swiss and Swiss chartered  
Shipping. vessels sailing from Gibraltar for Italy have been  
routed in accordance with your 1506/1 with  
instructions to return by reverse route.  
(V.A. Gib., 1138A/9 to N.C.X.F.(R) Admty.)  
Swiss chartered Spanish MIERES leaves Genoa 11th for  
Gibraltar.  
(D.E.W.D., 1521A/9 to V.A. Gib, (R) N.C.X.F.)

WEEHAUKEN Intend sailing U.S.S. WEEHAUKEN escorted by  
SCARBOROUGH and VETCH for Casablanca at 0100A/10  
routed through (a) 35.51 N. 06.01 W. (b) 35.41 N.  
06.31 W. (c) 34.03 N. 07.51 W. S. of A. 12 knots. 2. Codeword  
"Winky". 3. Escorts return to Gibraltar on WEEHAUKEN entering  
Casablanca.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1601A/9 to S.N.O.C.A.(R) N.C.X.F. Admty.)  
My 1601/9, sailed.  
(V.A. Gib., 2352A/9)

/Movements..



War Diary.

9.1.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements  
Summaries.

Situation report at 2002A/9.

1. P.219 037° 47' N. 000° 35' E. to pass 135° Cape Palos 9 at 0200/10 and 180° Cape De Gata 10 at 2030/10 10½ knots on the surface 2½ knots submerged.

2. M.K.S.5 ROCHESTER, WISHART, VANOC, VERITY, BOREAS, ACUTE, NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, 36.23 N. 00.03 E. through 109, 93 82 thence 269° 6 knots.

3. ANTELOPE on patrol east of Straits during dark hours.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1154A/9.)

U.S. S/M. BARB as yesterday.

(2) M.K.F.6. EGRET, ASTURIAS, BANFF, TEST, FISHGUARD, CLARE 38.31 14.30 through 40.01 16.15 thence 003° 13.

(2) BULOLO, WOLVERINE, LIMBOURNE, BADSWORTH, 37.44 11.48 to Casablanca 13½.

(3) K.M.S.6 (Freetown section) PETUNIA, BURDOCK, DRANGEY 31.50 11.15 through 30.01 12.30 thence 204° 8.

(4) K.X. 8 LANCASTER, TANATSIDE, NEWARK, LAUDERDALE, ILFRACOMBE, FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC, CARNATIC 40.30 13.29 159° 6½.

(5) 8 L.C.I (L) 40.42 18.35 000° situation 20.05 9th.

(6) Portuguese Naval Tanker SAMBRAS leaves Lisbon p.m. 9th 242° 11.

(7) Tug DESTINY towing one L.C.1.(L) 35.08 12.55 081° 10.

(8) QUIBERON 35.14 07.22 242° 20.

(9) PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE tug NIMBLE 35.17 07.37 246° 14½.

(10) ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON-PENDER cable repairs in vicinity of Casablanca.

(11) SCARBOROUGH VETCH one Merchant ship sailing 0100/10th through 35.51 06.01 35.41 06.31 and 34.03 17.51 thence Casablanca 12. SCARBOROUGH and VETCH then return to Gibraltar.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1330A/9.)



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic - Contd.

Movements. Arrival ROTHESAY, BRIXHAM, CLACTON, Tugs RESTIVE, ST. CHARLES, S.S. CAMERONIA, IBSTOW. (? in tow intended.)  
(V.A. Gib. 1806A/9 to Admty.)  
Arrival Cable ship MIRROR, M/L 341.  
(V.A. Gib, 2025A/9, to Admty. N.C.X.F.)

K.X.8. Detach Lisbon portion escorted by 2 M/S after dark Jan. 10th to proceed direct. Escorts part company outside territorial waters and proceed to Gibraltar. 2. LOCH OSKAIG, NASTURTIUM\*, KINGSTON, CHRYSOLITE GIRL HELEN position 036° 40' 010° 50' at 1200/11. 3. Detach Freetown portion escorted by ships in para. 2 in position Q, 036° 01' 007° 50' routed through A., 034° 10' 007° 50'. B., 033° 45' 009° 08' S. of A. 8½ knots. (as amended 1053A/10 4. S.N.O. C.A. is requested to arrange onward route and escort from position (B). 5. On relief by Casablanca escorts Gibraltar escorts are to return to Gibraltar.  
(V.A.N.A., 2330A/9 to S.E.O.C.D. K.X. 8 for Commdre., S.N.O. Casablanca Area, (R) LOCH OSKAIG, Admty., Force "L", N.C.X.F., F.O.,W.A. 10th C.S.)\* ? "Following (?2) ships from Warship Index."

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 37.44 N. 4.44 E. S/M was on attacked. surface course 090 speed 10 when first sighted.  
(A/C Call sign, G.79 W. 2336A/9 to Gibraltar.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.  
Enemy submarine still on surface. When first sighted on course 090° speed 4 knots.  
(A/C C/S 9 H.Y.W., 0016A/10 to Gibraltar.) See also A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 0195/10 in Diary 10/1.



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dakar Capt. Henderson has returned from Dakar and his Negotiations. general impressions are as follows - (a) Glassfurd has always been fully alive to British strategical views and has done everything possible to get them accepted. (b) Adm. Collinet is keen to play, is quite frank in the expression of his views, and likely to prove easy to work with. (c) French officers as a whole distinctly chilly but correct at first. Relations became easier on acquaintance and they will follow Collinet's lead. (d) Henderson well received when calling on Adm. Longan in GEORGES LEYGUES. (e) Henderson met Giraud at reception of American Mission (corrupt Group) high officials were present. Giraud in hearing of all commenced by expressing pleasure at seeing old comrades of R.N. and R.A.F. and stressed necessity to drop personalities and get on with the war quickly. (f) Collinet's Chief of Staff is visiting me Monday 11th Jan. and will then arrange my visit to Dakar probably after return of Glassfurd from Algiers and Boisson from tour towards end of next week.

(F.O.C.W.Af.0018Z/9 to Admty.)

Your 2318/7 After discussion with Henderson after return from Dakar I do not think there will be any great difficulty in obtaining Collinet's agreement to provisos in the A.M. referred to. 2. Both Glassfurd and Henderson feel that Adml Collinet is willing to work with and under the direction of British Officer and provided he can be given a reasonable measure of authority in his district command he will be content. I see little difficulty in affording this without interference with British control of convoy movements and protection and general direction of operations in this area. 3. Ref. para. 3(A) and (B). I anticipate no objection by Adml. Collinet. 4. Ref. para. 3(C). I agree it is preferable not to define any depth of French district and do not think there will be insistence on this point. 5. Ref. para. 4. As regards Bathurst Collinet has indicated he is perfectly satisfied that British administration should remain unchanged and I see no difficulty in his having operational command for local purposes of such units British and French as may be temporarily based there. So far as Navy is concerned this command would be exercised through British N.O.I.C. 6. Ref. para 5 and 7 to 10. A.O.C.W.A. appears to see no difficulty in British Air Forces in this French Naval District coming under French Operational Command provided the control of air operations remains as now in his hands. A.O.C.W.A. will be reporting separately to Air Ministry. 7. My strong general impression is that if this agreement can be accepted in principle meetings between myself, A.O.C.W.A., Glassfurd and Collinet will be able to smooth out any difficulties and a satisfactory modus operandi be achieved.

(F.O.C.W.A. 0041Z/9 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., A.H.Q.W.A., A.H.Q. Gibraltar, J.S.M. Washington.)

Add to my 0041/9. I have discussed this matter fully with Resident Minister who informs me I may state he is in complete agreement with my views.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1711Z/9 to Admty.)

/LEIGHTON...



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic - Contd.

LEIGHTON. British Ship LEIGHTON arrived Tristan Da Cunha 1145/6th Jan. and sailed for Buenos Aires 1640/7th Jan. Report 1 boat lost, 3 damaged, after peak leaking, superstructure damaged, cargo slightly shifted, engine strained. Present speed  $6\frac{1}{2}$  knots. Identity signals will be obsolete 6 days before arrival.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0021C/9 to Admty. Connav. (R) Assistant S.O.(I) Recife.)

French Troop and Tanker Convoy. Your 1645A/8th. B.N.L.O. Dakar reports it is ? intended to sail convoy from Dakar P.M. 12th Jan. I am very doubtful if convoy can be ready before this. Assuming S. of A. 9 knots, convoy would arrive Casablanca 19th Jan. Can this be accepted? (F.O.C.W.A. 0027Z/9 to, N.C.X.F. (R) Admty, V.A. Gib, S.B.N.O. Casablanca.  
Your 0027/9th. Convoy from Dakar can be accepted 19th Jan. but must sail before arrival of U.G.F.4 on 23rd Jan. (N.C.X.F. 1045A/9, to F.O.C.W.A.(R) Admty,etc.)

MEMPHIS, SOMERS. Pilots will meet U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS and U.S. Destroyer SOMERS in  $015^{\circ} 34'$  N.  $016^{\circ} 49'$  W. at 1400Z/10th Jan and pilot in. 2. Important signals to MEMPHIS while in area P. will be broadcast by Freetown W/T on 4295 Kc/s.  
(F.O.W.A., 0915Z/9 to MEMPHIS (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, B.A.D. C/T 23, Cominch.)

C.M. 37. Sailed (A) GAMBIA (B) FROBISHER escorting convoy C.M. 37 routed in accordance with C. in C. E.F. 1156/2nd. 2. GAMBIA shifting to group V. at 1415Z/14th. FROBISHER shifting to group N.U. at 1415Z/12th. 3. C. in C. E.F. is requested to instruct escort of C.M.37B when to shift to group V.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1003Z/9 to Admty., etc.)\*  
Convoy C.M.37 B.sailed 9th Jan. for Bombay E.T.A. 27th Jan. Personnel on board.  
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 1244C/9, to S.S.T.O.Bombay.)  
Convoy C.M. 37 A. sailed 9 Jan. for Aden E.T.A. 25 Jan. Personnel on board for Mid. East. CITY OF CANTERBURY, CAP TOURANE, ELIZABETHVILLE.  
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 1213C/9, to D.S.T.O. Aden.1237C/9 to D.S.T.)  
\* Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Durban 1052Z/9 to Admty.)

French S/M Area. The area S. and E. of Dakar bounded to W. by Meridan of Goree Islands, to N. and E. by the coast, and to S. by the parallel of  $014^{\circ} 28'$  N. is a French Submarine exercise area. Submarines should not be attacked in this area.  
(F.O.W.A., 1011Z/9 to Admty. (R) Comsolantfor, Cominch.)  
(F.O.W.A., 1021Z/9 to N.O.I.C.'s A.O.C.W.A. etc.)

Proposed Mining. Dakar. Cominch 1330Z/3. Vice Admiral Michelier most appreciative of inquiry regarding need for our mines at Dakar but after consultation with his

/local...



War Diary.9.1.1943  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South AtlanticProposed  
Mining,  
Dakar.  
(contd.)

local Commander believes visibility conditions and lack of patrol vessels and sweepers make it inadvisable plant fields at this time. I concur. propose sail Mindiv 50 in G.U.S. 3, returning about 1000 mines to U.S.  
(C.S.F.F.W.T.G., 1030Z/9 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cominch, Cinclant, Comindivfifty.)

French  
Convoys for  
Casablanca.

Ref. A.M. 2335A/7 and your 1645A/8, my liaison with Dakar at present consists of one Lieut. Cdr. attached to Glassfurd's staff and I am not yet in a position to organize French convoy sailings. On this occasion I was strongly urged by Glassfurd at Giraud's request to reinforce escort of French convoy, arrangements for which I presumed had already been agreed between Giraud, Allied C. in C., and yourself. I hope soon to have better and direct Liaison with Collinet which should make things easier.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1045Z/9 to N.C.X.F. Personal.)

Your 1722/4th and your 1045/9th. Can arrangements be made for my escort to arrive Casablanca about 19th to escort southbound shipping ex K.X. 8?

(R.A.W.A., 1513Z/9 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca.)

EMPRESS OF  
RUSSIA.

Your 0423/6. Presume, in allocating EMPRESS OF RUSSIA for P.O.W., due consideration has been paid to my 0918/10th Nov. and Armindia's number 31415/(?). 2. Request confirmation they are to be embarked as it is considered undesirable to use ship for movement of P.O.W.

(D.S.T.O. Durban, 1101C/9 to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown C. in C. S.A.) Reply: C. in C. S.A. 1055C/10.

Landing  
grounds  
for  
Venturas.

WX 9411. G.33666/9 Jan. Ref. Sec. of States No.14 of Jan 3. Following land grounds suitable operation Venturas. 1. Nearest L.G. to Angola border, Ohopuho 18° 05' S. 13° 50' E. 2. Walvis Bay, Rooikop, 22° 58' S. 14° 35' E. 3. Luderitziecht, Hardcastle, 26° 28' S. 15° 50' E. 4. Orange River, Mouth Kortdoorn, 28° 35' S. 16° 37' E. 5. Adjacent Mozambique border, Kosi Bay, Maputa, 27° 05' S. 32° 42' E. (copies Coastcom to pass to C. in C. S.A.) (Dechief, 1122C/9, to Air Ministry). Note by A.M.C.S. No trace S. of S's telegram No.14 in A.M.C.S. but A.X.378 T.O.O. 1950Z/3 appears to be relevant.

Reports of  
Shipping  
losses from  
Lourenco  
Marques.

My 1320/3 Dec. It has now been possible to arrange unofficially that Lourenco Marques papers will report shipping losses. Arrangements with South African censorship will prevent stories reaching S. African papers direct from Lourenco Marques. Request therefore that proposal made in para. 6 of above signal may be strongly pressed on London censorship.

/(2)...



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Reports of shipping Losses from Lourenco Marques. (Contd.) (2) Arrangements with Lourenco Marques papers must be regarded as secret and would be jeopardised if known in Lisbon. (C. in C. S.A., 1135C/9, to Admty.)  
*Reply: Admty 2025/3/2.*

Port Etienne, flying boat facilities. A.X. 808, Ref. V.A. Gibraltar's 461 T.O.O. 1054/2, (R) to F.O.i/c.W.A. Confirm that facilities are available for operating Catalinas and Sunderlands from Port Etienne. Escort will be required S. of 28° N. for convoy routed inside Canaries. Provisional date air escort required from Port Etienne A.M. 14 Jan. (Air Ministry, 1145Z/9 to A.O.C. West Africa. (R) A.O.C. Gibraltar Admty.) Reply 1515/11.

Freetown Shipping Escort. Your 1722/4th and your 1045/9th. (N.T. in W.D.). Can arrangements be made for (?an) escort arrive Casablanca about 19th to escort southbound shipping ex K.X.? (F.O.C.W.A., 1313Z/9, to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca.)

U.S. Movements. Arrival 9th U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD, U.S. Destroyer DAVIS. (R.O. Bahia, 1450Z/9 to Admty.) Departure 7th Jan. U.S. Sloop HUMBOLDT. Arrival 9th U.S. Destroyer MOFFETT. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1757Z/9, to Admty.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. (1) Proceed direct to Rio De Janeiro forthwith. Report position, S. of A. and E.T.A. (2) Keeping advanced wireless watch from 2000Z/9th. Washington Broadcast, 4295 Kc/s, 500 Kc/s. Loudspeaker, Rugby G.M. and G.B. Series. (3) Further orders follow. (F.O.C.W.A., 1615Z/9 to (? CARNARVON CASTLE) (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. S.A.B.A.D., Comsolantfor, Cominch, N.A. Rio De Janeiro.) Your 1615Z/9th. My position 2000Z/9th 005° 00' S. 015° 30' W. S. of A. 17, E.T.A. 2000Z/14th. Shall require 950 tons diesel oil. Unable to transmit on 4295 kc/s. (CARNARVON CASTLE, 2124Z/9, to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Comsolantfor N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)

Attacks on Convoy T.M.1. Your 1055A/9 (Convoy T.M.I. attacked by U.Boats.) Request estimated position of convoy T.M. at 1200Z/10, in case possible to arrange some air cover from Port Etienne. (F.O.C.W.A., 1625Z/9, to V.A. Gib. (R) N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A. Admty.)

/BRAGELAND...



312A  
312B

9.1.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Movements  
Summaries.

KHYBER tugs PRUDENT and BOLD standing by MELISKERK vicinity 031° 33' S. 029° 40' E. ARCTIC EXPLORER 032° S. 029° 20' E. to Durban 10. LADY ELSA, WELLARD 018° 20' S. 011° E. to Walvis Bay 10.

A.S.10 040° S. 008° 20' W. to Bombay.

GAMBIA, FROBISHER, FORTUNE, NIGELLA, JASMINE, INCONSTANT, THYME, with C.M.37 029° 20' S. 033° E. to the East 10.

SONDRA escorting 3 tugs 027° 30' S. 033° E. to Lourenco Marques 5½.

(C. in C. S.A., 1121C/9).

Weekly state S.A. Stn. 9th Jan. Simonstown

D.S. 0.21 H.M.S. P.552 DAUNTLESS, GENISTA, ROCKROSE, EXPRESS, VIVIANA, SPHENE, LE TIGRE, NORWICH CITY, CAPE WARWICK, INDIAN STAR, PACHECO. Capetown F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC, QUEEN OF BERMUDA, ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN, COVENTRY CITY, MAGNOLIA, STELLA POLARIS, OLWEN BARBRAKE, EMPIRE WAR LOCK. Durban EREBUS, RESOURCE, ALBATROSS, NAPIER, ATHENE, FRITILLARY, FREESIA, EMILE BAUDOT.

Port Elizabeth KHETI, STORMWRACK, MEAD.

East London Colombia NORTHERN CHIEF, ST. LOMAN, SARKA SATSA, CECILE MAPLESON.

?Saldanha Bay FERNMOOR (corrupt group) MANCHESTER CITY, NORTHERN DUKE, BARCROSS.

(C. in C. S.A., 1233C/9).

GLENROY, JANUS 002° 40' N. 010° 15' W. to 003° 33' N., 012° 28' W. thence 334° 12½.

HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY 001° 37' S. 006° 36' E. 125° 8.

(?CHESHIRE) ALCANTARA, QUILLIAM, ROCKWOOD with W.S. (?198) 187° 23' S. 006° 02' E. 157° 13.

CROCUS 009° (53' or 17'?) S. 006° 22' E. 047° (12.6?)

(?CARNARVON CASTLE) on blockade runner patrol between (?landfall) and 005° S. 015° W. and 019°

W. SARABANDE, COPINNAR escorting about 005° 06' N. 000° 27' E. 073° 9.

(R.A.W.Af., 1359Z/9).



War Diary.

9.1.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

BRAGELAND 28 survivors Captain and crew Sweden ship  
(Torpedoed BRAGELAND in 3 life boats arrived Tutoya Jan 6th  
1/1) and Parnahyba Jan. 8th. Captain reports as  
follows, ship torpedoed Jan. 1st, 8 hours 53  
minutes, latitude 00° 19' N. 37° 35' W.  
(Consul, Para, 1632/9, to Admty., B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

ILEX. V.A. Gibraltar, 1055A/9. (re attack on T.M.1.)  
1. ILEX carrying out repairs and boiler cleaning,  
is being brought to immediate notice. Intend  
sailing ILEX when ready to refuel Bathurst and proceed towards  
position of damaged tankers. Endurance will not permit her to  
remain long unless able to fuel from tankers. (2) Am also  
hailing tugs AIMWELL and CHARON from Freetown escorted by  
BELLWORT from Bathurst.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1643Z/9, 2359Z/9, to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib. etc.)  
ILEX not to be sailed, see Admty. 0144A/10.

SOMERS, V.A. Gibraltar 1055A/9 not to B.A.D. U.S.S.  
suggested MEMPHIS and SOMERS due Bathurst 1400Z/10 Suggest  
assist Cominch be asked if SOMERS could assist.  
T.M.1. (F.O.C.W.A. 1709Z/9 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

PRIMERO Your 2011A/6th Jan. Ship will probably not sail  
DE MAYO. until end of Jan. probable speed 9 knots, no  
further information at present, enquiries  
proceeding.  
(B.N.A. Buenos Aires, 1835Z/9, to Admty.)

VALIANT. Your 1015/8 and C. in C. E.F.'s 0911/9. (HUSH  
distribution) VALIANT should be used.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1908A/9, to C. in C. S.A.(R) C.in C.  
E.F.)

U.S. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Connav wishes following  
Shipping routes. routing to be brought into force forthwith for  
U.S. managed ships. (A) Ships of more than 14½  
knots, or more than 12½ knots in case of motor  
vessels, bound from South Africa, Red Sea and  
East Coast of South America south of Santos to U.S.A. east coast  
to proceed via Cape Horn and Panama unless otherwise ordered in  
specific cases. (B) Ships from Persian Gulf and India to  
continue to proceed eastabout by Pacific except those from Indian  
Ocean designated to lift bauxite which should be routed by Cape  
of Good Hope and Atlantic. Request you will comply. 2.  
Existing instructions as regards British managed ships remain in  
force for the present.  
(D.T.D., 1921A/9, to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)  
Reply: C. in C. S.A. 1817/11. /W.S.25...



War Diary.9.1.1945.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic - Contd.

W.S. 25. P., C. and S. at 2000Z, 010° 02' S. 005° 57' E.  
157° 12½. 2. My P., C. and S. 009° 27' S. 005°  
33' E. 311° 15. E.T.A. Freetown 0700 Thursday 14th.

3. Weather report.  
(ALCANTARA 2001Z/9 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)  
Your 2001Z 9th. acknowledge.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 2252Z/9 to ALCANTARA.)

CORDILLERA grounding. CORDILLERA grounded on Norfolk Island in position  
053° 09' S. 070° 50' W. on 6th Jan. but refloated  
later without assistance or damage.  
Ref. Admty. Chart 545 it is suggested Masters  
should be warned to keep well clear of buoy marking Punta Arenas  
and Kio D Las Minasa as sandbanks marked by them are reported to  
be extending. S.O. (I) Callao informed.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro, 2016Z/9 to Admty. (R) C, in C. S.A.)

Movements. Departure 1700Z/9th ARRAN and ST. WINSTAN E.T.A.  
Dakar daylight 10th Jan. B.N.L.O. Dakar.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 2100/9, to R.A. W.A.F.(R)  
Admty.)

P.615 Your 1159/4th. 615 arrived Freetown 6th Jan.  
P.614 P.614 sails about 12th on completion of repairs  
via Takoradi and Pointe Noire E.T.A. Capetown  
about 8th Feb. Propose that change round of  
submarines between Capetown and Freetown should take place every  
four months instead of as in Admty. 1559/26th July 1942. If  
change is made every two months more than half the period away  
from Freetown will be spent on passage to and from Capetown and  
frequent changes will adversely affect A/S training. C.O. P.614  
concur in proposal with existing accommodation arrangements.  
With arrival of MERCATOR in few weeks accommodation will be  
improved.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 2117Z/9, to C. in C. S.A.(R) Admty. etc.)  
Connav (C.in C. S.A. 1053/11)

SUSAN V. LUCKENBACH. Following has been read - SSSS, SUSAN V. LUCKENBACH.  
Position 35.04 S. 18.38 E. missed by two torpedoes.  
missed by (Capetown W/T Stn., 2310GMT/9)  
U/B.



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Repatriations. Italian repatriation liners DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE left Gibraltar 1630/8 through (a) 180 Cape de Gata 15, (b) 38° 30' 10° 00' (c) 360° Ustica 5 (d) 18° Vulcano 5 thence Messina and Brindisi. Speed 16 knots. Not to be molested if on this route.  
(Capt. S.8., 0730A/9 to S/Ms on patrol).

Movements Arrivals 8th Jan. REDWOOD, ST. MINVER (?MAGNET) GAMTOOS Greek Destroyer IERAX. Departures 8th Jan. PAKENHAM, JAVELIN, ERICA, M.L.357.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0926B/9 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

Salvage Ref. your 2016/27 and N.C.X.F., 2355/24.  
Ships. Pontoons mentioned are aviation spirit storage tanks from Massawa Aerodrome. Tanks were borrowed to salve floating crane and OSTIA on undertaking they would be returned when operation finished.

2. Am informed that E. Command has already allocated these tanks to Port Sudan. Request instructions. C. in C. Med. please pass to R.N.G. Hq. Middle East.  
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 0933Z/9 to C. in C. Med).

PACIFIC Your 1517A/7th. PACIFIC EXPORTER arrived Bone  
EXPORTER. with K.M.S. 6.  
(N.C.X.F., 1010A/9 to Admty. (R) F.O. Gibraltar).

ABDIEL (Corrupt Group) Arrival.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1037A/9 to N.C.X.F. etc).  
From operation in Sicilian Channel, see 1900Z/9.

Bi-weekly Night 5/6 Jan. 6 Liberators despatched to  
Opsum No. 89. attack Tunis Harbour found low cloud over objective and only 2 were able to locate and bomb main basin with unobserved results, remaining 4 bombing Sousse Harbour, starting fires near seaplane Station and commercial quay. Shortly before dawn about 3 enemy aircraft bombed Benghazi Harbour. No damage. 2 Beaufighters 3 Hurricanes up but no interceptions.  
Night 6/7 Jan. 1 B.24 on special operation bombed Piraeus Harbour scoring 6 hits on Miaouli quay with 500 lb. bombs.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1040Z/9).

Part 2. 7 Jan. 35 B.24s despatched to attack shipping and harbour installations at Palermo owing to bad weather en route 25 B.24s returned early. Remaining 10 found low cloud over harbour which largely obscured results. Some bombs seen to burst in harbour and near power station and seaplane station causing explosion. 2 Baltimores despatched against W/T stations in Crete abandoned operation owing to lack of cloud cover. 1 Baltimore bombed Camp on Gavdos Island scoring near misses on tents.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1101Z/9).



War Diary.

9.1.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (cont.)

Bi-weekly  
Opsum No.89.  
Contd.

Part 3 my A. 670.  
Night 7/8 Jan. 6 Wellingtons despatched to mine and bomb Heraklion Harbour. 1 Wellington laid 2 mines in approaches to harbour. Second Wellington bombed warehouses and gun positions south of harbour. Remainder unable to locate Heraklion owing to bad weather. During night total 6 enemy aircraft bombed Benghazi and Tobruk areas. No damage reported either place. Beaufighters damaged 2 He.111's over Tobruk. 2 Beaufighters up (corrupt group) but no interceptions. Shortly before dawn 5 Hurricanes machine gunned lights near Zliten causing 2 explosions. Also attacked camps near Khoms and Garibaldi with unobserved results. Another Hurricane reconnoitred Khoms area.

8th January. 16 B.24s despatched to attack shipping in Bizerta Harbour. 7 aircraft returned early owing to technical troubles. Remainder found Bizerta completely obscured by cloud and bombed alternative objectives.

Tunis Harbour. Results obscured by cloud. 3 enemy fighters attacked B.24's which shot down 1 Me.109. 2 B.24s hit by A.A. fire and landed Malta. 3 Baltimores despatched to make independent attacks on W/T stations in Crete. 2 Baltimores abandoned operation owing to lack of cloud cover, 1 of them bombing camp on Gavdos Island and scoring near misses on tents. 3rd Baltimore attacked W/T Station near Ierapetra. Results obscured by cloud.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1121Z/9).

Force K,  
sweep.

My 0850/8th. 3 Schooners of 100/200 tons were sunk off Kuriat.  
(V.A. Malta, 1117A/9 to C. in C. Med., (R)  
N.C.X.F., Admty).

Supplies  
for 8th  
Army.

Your 1601/8 (re ships required for loading heavy tanks at Benghazi) Confirm only one vessel required. Immediate allocation necessary as vessel required to start loading tomorrow 10th Jan. All 3 vessels mentioned my 0943/6 complete discharge 10th Jan.

(P.S.T.O. M.E., 1121/9 to Milstaff for B.A.D.,  
for B.M.S.M. (R) D. of S.T.)

Your 1121/9th. W.S.A. have already authorized their representative nominate one of the 3 ships.

(B.M.S.M., 2001Z/9 to P.S.T.O. Middle East, (R) D. of S.T.)

Situation  
report No.  
44.

1. Bone HORATIO now considered lost with all hands. E-boats mined approach channel to Bone night 7/8. This is now being cleared.
2. WELSHMAN and ABDIEL successfully completed lays night 7/8 and 8/9 respectively.
3. K.M.S.6 attacked by torpedo aircraft and Ju.88 in 37.07 N., 04.38 E., at 1805/7. BENALBANACH and AKABAHRA sunk. BICESTER rescued 28 from former from which about 420 missing. All crew of AKABAHRA saved. WILLIAM WIRT damaged by near misses forward, now at Philippeville.



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (cont.)Situation  
report No. 44  
Contd.

4. M.K.S.5. VILLE DE STRASBOURG torpedoed 55 miles East of Algiers, now at Algiers.  
5. Algiers. AJAX arrived 8th Jan.  
6. Oran obstruction to entrance Inner Harbour now removed. Channel 150 feet wide and to charted depth.  
(N.C.X.F., 1135A/9 to Admty).

P.35

You have freedom of action in your area.  
(Capt. S.10., 1144A/9 to P.35 (R) S/Ms on patrol)

ANTONIA

Your 1705A/1st Dec. not received until 0405/2nd Jan. while Tanker ANTONIA had sailed for U.K. in M.K.S.4. Request ANTONIA be returned to Algiers loaded Furnace Oil as a tanker of this capacity is urgently required for ferry maintenance of shore stocks at Bone.  
(N.C.X.F., 1155A/9 to Admty)

Cositrep  
No. 650.

4. Air. Night 7/8 Jan. Two Wellingtons mined and bombed Heraklion Harbour, other Wellingtons unable to locate owing to bad weather. During night enemy bombed Benghazi and Tobruk Areas. No damage reported. Beaufighters damaged two He.111s  
5. 8 Jan. American B.24s despatched to attack shipping in Bizerta found objective hidden by cloud. Nine out of sixteen bombed alternative target Tunis Harbour Results doubtful and obscured by cloud. Three enemy fighters attacked and B.24s destroyed one M.E.109 Single Baltimore attacked W/T station in Crete and camp on Gavdos Island. Escorted Spitfires from Malta bombed Aerodrome on Lampedusa Island. In evening Beaufighters on patrol over shipping off Tobruk shot down one enemy aircraft and probably destroyed another.  
(C. in C. M.E., 1225B/9).

Oil Supplies. (C. in C. Med., 1233B/9) Received corrupt see repetition 0150/13.

SS. KROM,  
(Turkish).

Your 1602/7th Minister Health informs me port of destination is New Orleans. Turkish Govt. being informed of request for postponement and reasons for it. Minister also informs me delay in loading at Smyrna may occur.  
(N.A. Ankara, 1240C/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med).

MERANO

My 1619/4th MERANO expected Istanbul within next 15 days. B.3.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1245C/9 to S.O.(I) Med., (R) S.1., S.10. D.N.I.)



War Diary.

9.1.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

P.217. Capt. (S) 10, 1220/8th. In view of own aircraft A/S patrols P.217 after crossing  $010^{\circ}$  E. is to proceed to pass  $038^{\circ} 30'$  N.,  $007^{\circ} 59'$  E. at 2000A/11th thence through  $038^{\circ} 30'$  N.,  $004^{\circ}$  ( $?23'$ ) E. at 2100/12th proceeding on surface at discretion to R/V escort Algiers in  $037^{\circ} 00'$  N.,  $003^{\circ} 02'$  E. at 0800A/13.  
(Capt. S.8., 1250A/9 to P.217 (R) Cdre, Algiers, S/Ms on Patrol, N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.)

P.247, My 0918/8th. Intend sailing P.247 1700/(?10th)  
P.212. for patrol routed through ( $?038^{\circ}$ )  $20'$  N.,  $004^{\circ}$   $10'$  E., to pass  $038^{\circ} 20'$  N.,  $007^{\circ} 59'$  E. at 0430/12th thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.  
2. Intend sailing P.212 1700/10th routed through  $038^{\circ} 20'$  N.,  $003^{\circ} 15'$  E., and  $042^{\circ} 00'$  N.,  $008^{\circ} 00'$  E., patrol in Gulf of Genoa, retain operational control.  
(Capt. S.8., 1314A/9 to N.C.X.F., (R) S.O.I.S. (?S/Ms on patrol) Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers). See also 1433A/9.

TURBULENT. Leave patrol area tonight and spend 10th and 11th Jan. off Calabrian Coast between latitude  $039^{\circ} 00'$  and  $040^{\circ} 10'$  with a view to destroying train by gunfire before or after sunset at your discretion.  
At 2100A/11th leave patrol and return to Malta through  $038^{\circ} 48'$   $012^{\circ} 24'$  thence by normal route as amended by my 1145/5th to arrive Malta Jan. 14th.  
(Capt. S.10., 1345A/9 to TURBULENT, (R) S/Ms on patrol C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8., V.A. Malta).

BADARPUR Cancel my 1521/6 and my 1257/8. Oiler BADARPUR is to complete with full cargo Admiralty Furnace Fuel at Port Said and await orders.  
(C. in C. Med., 1412B/9 to N.O.I.C. Port Said  
(R) F.O.R.S.C.A., S.N.O.L.A., N.O.I.C. P.P., A.S. Alexandria, R.A. Alexandria, M.W.T., Admty)

P.247 Capt. (S) 8's 1142/7th. Onward route through  $038^{\circ} 01'$   $012^{\circ} 01'$  thence into your patrol area North of line  $240^{\circ}$  from Carena point Capri. Concentrate your patrol 5 miles either side of line  $210^{\circ}$  from your focal point which is  $210^{\circ}$  Imperatore point - 4. P.217 is returning to Algiers by route in my 1220/8th. S/Ms are not to be attacked unless definitely identified as enemy.  
(Capt. S.10., 1433A/9 to P.247 (R) Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, N.C.X.F., S/Ms on patrol) Cancelled by 1210/10, q.v.



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

TRIBUNE Para. 2. of my 1314 P.212 will be arriving R/V in your area (?longitude) 007° E., You are to keep to West of 007° E., after 2000/12th.  
(2) Leave patrol to pass 041° 41' N., 004° 59' E? at 0801/15th 039° 13' N., 004° 31' E., at 0758/16th to R/V escort Algiers in 037° 01' N., 003° 10' E., at 0800/17th. (Capt. S.8., 1516A/9 to TRIBUNE (R) N.C.X.F., Cdre. Algiers).

P.37 Arrival.  
(V.A. Malta, 1537A/9 to Admty etc).

Tunisia J.S.M.674. 9th Jan. 1943. IZ 146. Following is Boundary. text of Telegram No. 895 dated 8th Jan. 1943 from J.C. of S., to Eisenhower (Begins):-  
"The President has authorised the Secretary of State to come to an agreement with the British Foreign Office in establishing the Eastern boundary of Tunisia as the boundary between the areas of administrative responsibility between the U.S. and the U.K. in North Africa. This is in response to your No. 1526 dated Dec. 9th 1942". (Ends).  
(J.S.M., 1631Z/9 to War Cabinet Offices, London).

KELVIN, Arrival.  
NUBIAN. (V.A. Malta, 1634/9 to Admty etc).

WELSHMAN Sailed.  
(V.A. Malta, 1723A/9 to C. in C. Med) For Alexandria, see 1900Z/9.

E.A.C. (Pt. 3) Opsum No. 59 A 102 9th Jan.  
Report. H. Miscellaneous. For week ending Jan. 7th 365540 lbs. of bombs were dropped on targets in Tunisia by R.A.F. aircraft based on Malta or Algeria..  
(E.A.C., Africa, 1730A/9).

EURYALUS, Departure.  
JERVIS, (V.A. Malta, 1742A/9 to Admty etc) To meet convoy  
KELVIN. for Malta, See 1900Z/9.

Movements Arrived and left 9th Jan. Greek destroyer SPETSAL.  
Arrival 9th Jan. BULLFINCH M.L., 1038 and 1017.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus, 1759B/9 to Admty etc)

/Malta...



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Malta Air  
Report.

AI. 16 9th Jan.  
Night 8/9 Jan. No enemy air activity locally.  
Day 9th Jan. Bad weather curtailed all operations.  
6 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned  
back before reaching Malta.  
(A.H.Q., Malta, 1815Z/9).

Protection  
of Bone  
Harbour.

Your 2130/7. Mill loops may be effective in  
depths greater than 10 fathoms in the favourable  
conditions which are expected at Mers-el-Kebir.  
2. In view of value of targets for enemy attack  
at Mers-el-Kebir it is suggested that one mill  
should be laid outside baffle B in about 13  
fathoms and tested by towing 21 inch torpedo across it, and  
that if test is successful it should be repeated outside baffle  
A in about 16 fathoms.  
3. Additional mill equipment is expected to be available for  
shipment in February.  
(D.A/S.W., 1828A/9 to N.C.X.F.)

Malta  
Intelligence  
Summary.

2000A/8 to 2000A/9. Naval.  
The two destroyers which sailed yesterday evening  
for a sweep off Kuriat sank three schooners of  
100-200 tons. ABDIEL arrived at 1000 hours  
from Algiers after a successful operation in the  
Sicilian Channel. H.M.S. WELSHMAN sailed at  
1730 hours for Alexandria. A cruiser and two destroyers sailed  
at 1745 hours to meet a convoy approaching Malta from the East.  
(Govr. Malta, 1900Z/9 to A.F.H.Q., Algiers).

Air R/C.

P.RU. Jan. 9th. Visual. Messina, 1545 - 3  
cruisers Taranto not covered aircraft unservice-  
able. Forenoon photographs show: Naples, 9  
destroyers Palermo, 16 destroyers.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1902A/9 to C. in C. Med., etc).

U.S. Air  
Report.

Daily Intelligence cable, 12th Air Force, 8th  
Jan. Operations, Part 1. 18 B.17 of 97th  
Group bombed Ferryville Docks through holes in  
overcast, dropping 30 tons of H.E. with good  
results from 23,000 feet. Encountered slight  
heavy flak over target and approx. 10 to 25 E/A in immediate  
vicinity. 2 E/A destroyed, 5 E/A probably destroyed. All  
of our planes returned safely. 19 B.17 attacked Bizerta Naval  
Base through 7/10 cloud cover. 40 tons H.E. dropped with  
results not observed. Bombers report they saw one B.17 crash  
land on coast north of target. A second B.17 crippled by enemy  
action was escorted by P.38 to Souk El Arba. Neither of these  
2 B.17 are from the 12th Air Force. Have radioed Souk El Arba  
for particulars. Could they be from the 9th Air Force?  
12 B.25 attacked bridges and RR junction at Graiba 35 miles  
south-west of Sfax. Results excellent. E Bridge towards  
Mahares and S Bridge destroyed, with severe damage to W Bridge

/tracks ...



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

U.S. Air Report. (Contd.) tracks and installations are PP. 6 B.25 attacked Kalaa Srrira RR junction 5 miles West of Sousse. Results thought good. (Algiers, 1921Z/9 to Usfor.)

Situation Report No. 319. Western Desert. My 2202/6th January.  
1. Benghazi. HELLAS, LYEEMOON and LIANGCHOW confirmed total losses. JENNY MOLLER ashore to the South of Harbour entrance. Over 2000 tons of Cargo discharged 8th January. Enemy Air slight no Naval damage.  
2. Tobruk. Raided 7th and 8th January scattered objectives.  
3. Naval R/C party has entered Burat. Pier in state of considerable disrepair. Few Lighters remain but all useless.  
4. Malta, KELVIN and NUBIAN sank three Schooners (100 - 200 tons) at 2359/8th Jan. off Kuriat Island. (C. in C. Med., 2003B/9 to Admty).

Movements Algiers arrivals. SIRIUS, DIDO from Eastward. QUEEN EMMA, TARTAR, CALPE, PANTHER, PUCKERIDGE, from Oran. Departures SIRIUS, DIDO to Bone. (Cdre. Algiers, 2011A/9 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar).

SEAHAM, T.L.C. Your 1055B/8th (N.T. in W.R.) Estimate dawn position 31.20 N., 19.50 E. S. of A. 6 knots, T.L.C.138 in tow. Benghazi pass to S.N.O.I.S. (SEAHAM, 2121B/9 to N.O.I.C. Benghazi (R) S.N.O. I.S., N.L.O. 211 Group, N.L.O. Fighter H.Q., Benghazi.)

14 M/S Flot. Wind force 7. Have anchored TANGO in position 6 miles south of Tortosa Cape. Will get under way at 1300 tomorrow weather permitting. ST. MONANCE towing VALKYRIEN at 5 knots E.T.A. Tortosa Cape 1600/10 Dragonera Island 2100/10th "Chop" 0300/11th 10 miles north of Port Edgar at 1400/11th Benghazi 0800/12th. (S.O.14th M/S Flot. 2325B/9 to S.O. Force I (R) A.I.G.72, Except N.Os. I.C. and Fighter Hqrs. Mersa Matruh).

Valencia Shipping. Arrivals 8th SEBASTIAN, Marseilles, coal. BACHI will sail Burriana for Marseilles tonight, 9th. (Valencia, ? T.H.I., 2400/9 to Admty).



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Sandheads arrival 8th Jan. LISMORE and KONKAN and convoy B.M.36.  
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 0249/9 to Admty.)

Departure CAPETOWN.  
(? S.O. (I) Bombay, 0302Z/9 to Admty. etc.)

Departure CHITRAL.  
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0603Z/9 to Admty., etc.)

F.S. LEOPARD sailed Reunion Is.  
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 0617Z/9 to C. in C. E.F.)

Colombo arrivals 9th Jan. 0230Z, RAJPUTANA. Departure 1215Z RAJPUTANA.  
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1234Z/9 to Admty., etc.)

M/V Recognition Procedure. 1. All concerned are reminded that at 0001 G.M.T. 16th Jan. the new recognition procedure (dispensing with A.G.M. 974A of 26th Dec.) comes into force whereby warships and aircraft who challenge merchant ships are subsequently to make a reply letter, to indicate their own friendly nature. 2. N.C.S.O.s are to take particular care that merchant ships are issued with their letters in addition to their identification signals. (C. in C. 0344Z/9, to East Indies Station (CC))

GOLD RANGER. (Tanker Message). My 0548 4th Jan. R.F.A. GOLD RANGER with full cargo of furnace left Kilindini 8th Jan. E.T.A. Durban 19th Jan. Routed as in N.C.S.O. Kilindini 0546/8th Jan. Request you will arrange for local antiS/M escort if possible. (C.in C. E.F. 0814Z/9, to N.O.I.C. Durban (R) C. in C. S.A. Admty. C.S. Durban.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. C. in C. E.F. 0922Z/9 to C. in C. S.A. (See Hush Telegrams.)

Spare A/C Squadron. Cancel my 0702/6. Retention of spare squadron no longer desired. 2. This squadron has had a very thorough shore training including runner attacks A.S.V. night and day R/C but had not done deck landing training. It would be a great pity to disperse these flying crews who have a fine squadron spirit and thus waste their combined training. 3. They are now surplus to requirements in Eastern Fleet. 4. Intend to return 12 flying crews in RANCHI and strongly recommend they form a squadron under Senior Officer, Lieut O'Neil. (C. in C.E.F., 0953Z/9, to Admty. (R) R.A. N.A.S. Indian Ocean.)

B.M.36½ Convoy B.M. 36½? arrived less HOPESTAR.  
(N.C.S.O.Colombo, 1000Z/9, to Admty.)

/MACKEREL...



War Diary.9.1.1945.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.MACKEREL  
(CORNCRAKE)

Can the date when MACKEREL may be expected in Kilindini now be given?  
(C. in C. E.F. 1202Z/9, to Admty. (R) F.O. East Africa.) W.R. Note: Now named CORNCRAKE.

3rd.  
B.S.

Ref. 83 C 5th Jan. (T.O.O. 1327Z/5th Jan.) Para. 2.  
Correct short title of C.O. RESOLUTION is S.O.  
3rd. Battle Squadron.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1346Z/9, to all ships etc.)

RECORDER.

Cable ship RECORDER sailed at 1445Z/9th to repair cable in position (Group omitted) 35° 18' S. 056° 08' 42" E.  
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1447Z/9 to C. in C. E.F.(R)

Admty., etc.)

U.S. Army  
Sailings.

B.A.D. Washington 1535/5th. Subject to your concurrence in (b) (c) and (d) below the following ocean escorts will be provided: (a) MONTICELLO through escort to Colombo by Eastern fleet cruiser(s) sailing from Fremantle about 19th Feb. (b) NORMACDOVE and FAIRISLE in convoy. A.M.C. escort to Colombo from M.O.M.P. in vicinity 020° S. 090° E. about 20th Feb. (c) WILLIAM L. MARCY and JEREMIAH S. BLACK in convoy. A.M.C. escort as in (b) about 10th March. (d) HARRISON G. OTIS and ZANE GREY in convoy. A.M.C. escort as in (b) about 23rd March.  
(C. in C.E.F., 1658Z/9, to A.C.N.B. (R) B.A.D. F.O. Ceylon, F.L.O. Delhi, Admty.)

Suspicious  
Ship.

Your 1519Z/9th. (N.T. in W.D.). Unknown ship steering 300° sighted in 015° 34' S. 052° 36' E. at 1900Z/Vessel resembling large liner did not answer challenge and made off at high speed steering 340° and vanished in 2 minutes. Vessel hunted for at full speed for one hour.  
(LEOPARD, 2201Z/9 to C. in C. E.F.)



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.S/Ms for  
A/S  
Training.

Ref. N.S.H.Q. 1642/4. From information available it is considered unlikely that the first A/S fitted vessel completed in U.S.A. will arrive at Bermuda before 1st April.  
(B.A.D. 0025Z/9 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O. W.A. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

U/B.

Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 0125 G.M.T.'s 500 k/cs de NAU (San Juan Puerto Rico Radio) Radio, unread, urgent 8 1637 Submarine sighted latitude 19.20, unread, longitude 68.50 W.

(C. in C. Plymouth 0227A/9 to Admty.)

Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 0521 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. De NAU (San Juan, Puerto Rico) here Radio War Warning Govt. Navy, urgent, unread, G.M.T. Submarine sighted 19.20 N. 68.50 W. at 1550Z/08. 081637.

(C. in C. Plymouth 0625/9.)

Movements.

St. Johns, Nfld. Jan. 8th. Arrivals: WASAGA returning from J.N.27, DAUPHIN ex O.N.156, STRATFORD escorting L.C.53 ex Sydney, THREE RIVERS ex Sydney, LEAMINGTON ex S.C.115, CHESTERFIELD ex Boston. Departures: THREE RIVERS, GEORGIAN, VEGREVILLE, escorting J.H.27 to Halifax, CHELSEA to join H.X.222.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. 0314Z/9 to Admty.)

G.Z.18.

Convoy G.Z.18 arrived 7th January.  
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal 0807R/9 to Admty. etc.)

MASSACHUSETTS. This is Cinclant 1939/8 to Comnavu for Admty. and information to Cominch. This is Lantflt location sheet 39. MASSACHUSETTS January 10 at Navy Yard Boston on 12 hours' notice. Movements of which Admiralty is informed such as Task Force 22 despatch 1751/7 and North African convoy movements, are not included in Lantflt location sheet.

(Comnavu 0846/9 to Admty.)

U.S.  
Movements.

Departure 9th January U.S. Army Transport EL LIBERTADOR Aruba 9th.  
(B.S.N.O. Curacao 0940QR/9 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

Arrival 8th U.S. Army transport LEISENRING escorted by Y.P.427.

(R.N.O. Nassau 0958/9 to Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

U.S. Armed Yacht S.C.655 arrived 9th.

(R.O. Barranquilla 1150/9 to Proximo London, (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- LOBELIA. Am proceeding Argentina for repairs to boiler. E.T.A. 0200Z/10th. Request instructions for berthing on arrival. (LOBELIA 1007Z/9 to C.T.24 (R) GARLAND, B.M.C.)
- LOUISE stranded. Your 1748A/7th. Following from Lloyds Agent Baltimore (begins) SS LOUISE ran into mountainous seas off Cape Hatteras and (corrupt group) stranded on sand bar. Vessel broke in two. Of crew of 13, 9 bodies were washed ashore, 2 are missing and there are 2 survivors. It is understood that both vessel and cargo are total loss. (Consul. Baltimore ?104/9 to Admty., Recd. 1944/9.)
- H/F D/F in convoys. Transatlantic convoys. When it can be foreseen that none of the ocean escorts will have H/F D/F it is requested that every effort may be made to include a rescue ship so fitted. (D.T.D. 1207A/9 to N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)
- NORDANGER. My 1452/7th (NORDANGER being taken in hand for repairs) Estimate delay NORDANGER now 25 days port main low pressure compressor cover damaged beyond repair must cast new (Tanker Message). (B.R.L.O. Balboa 1210R/9 to D.N.I.)
- J.H. SENIOR, ? sabotage. H.X.221. M/V J.H. SENIOR reports finding two detonator bombs on lower bridge. Request Connav be informed with view to investigation. (D.T.D. 1232A/9 to B.A.D. (R) B.R.L.O. New York.)
- Movements. 8th January departure TRAIL, MONCKTON, MELVILLE escorting H.X. No.222, Q 085, Q 055, Q 080 for Boston, Q 053 for Weymouth. 9th January arrival MATAPEDIA RINIUSKI, P.Q. MILLTOWN ex S.C. 116. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1301Z/9 to Admty. etc.)
- H.X.222. 1. Task Unit No. 24.1.11 VANSITTART (S.O) CHESTERFIELD, ST. CROIX, NAPANEE, KENOGAMI, SHEDIAC, CHILLIWACK, BATTLEFORD designated ocean escorts for H.X.222.  
2. Task Unit No. 24.12.2 ROXBOROUGH (S.O) GEORGETOWN designated support group for H.X.222 detaching in 35° W. (to) St. Johns N.F. (C.C.N.F. 1315Z/9 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) C.T.24, N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C., Admty., C. in C. W.A., C.T.G. 24.7, Cdre. Londonderry, C.T.U. No.24.1.11.)

/Shipping ...



War Diary.

9.1.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements  
summary.

At 1800 G.M.T./9.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
S/M CLYDE	42½° N. 45½° W.	233°	12
Convoy			
F.T.T.6	} 10° N. 41° W.	} 273°	} 7½
MILFORD,			
AMARANTHUS)			
HYDRANGEA)			
C. DROGOU)	10½° N. 39° W.	060°	11
4 Trawlers	10½° N. 39½° W.	060°	7
Convoy T.F.1)	} 09½° N. 36½° W.	} 093°	} 10
BRIDGEWATER			
ARMERIA			
A.T.33	45½° N. 44½° W.	050°	19½
A.T.34	51° N. 36° W.	054°	26½
(D.O.D. (F), 1045Z/9).			



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Shipping Routes. Your 1456/8th Jan, 1st and last sentence. Is it your desire that all British managed ships of these speed categories should be routed to Bahia or only those ships referred to in your 1956/31st Dec.? While U/B situation permits we should prefer to continue the policy of routing ships of 12 knots and above direct to Chesapeake thus reducing size of B.T. convoys which we understand are lightly escorted.  
(D.T.D. 1435Z/9 to Connav (R) B.A.D.)

ROSELYS. E.T.A. St. Pierre 1100Z/10th. (?Weather report 1131 9905 2892). Acknowledge.  
(F.S. ROSELYS 1500Z/9 to F.O.N.F. pass to N.O.I.C. St. Pierre, F.O.N.F., (R) (?N.O.I.C.) St. Pierre, C.T. 24, Mid Ocean Escort Task Units 24.1.17.)

S/M estimate 9th Jan. and U.S. S/M notice. Cominch 1511/9, 1512/9, 1532/9, 1533/9, 1534/9, 2256Z/9.

T.M.F.2. List. (5 tankers for Gibraltar and Ponta Delgada. (B.S.N.O. Curacao 1515QR/9 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)  
My 1515/9th in 2 parts. Sailings delayed at least 24 hours.  
(B.S.N.O. Curacao 1815R/9 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

A.T.33. For SS EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND, amend "Chop" my 2022/2 to 1200Z/11.  
(Cominch 1624/9 to EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND (R) Admty., V.A. Gibraltar.)  
(Cominch C. & R. 1643/9 to Cinclant etc.)

Tunisia Boundary. J.S.M. 1631Z/9. See Mediterranean.

JAN VAN BRAKEL. Arrival.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, Port of Spain 1702Q/9 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

Bahia. Reply to B.A.D. 2055/6 re facilities.  
(Shipminder, London, to B.A.D.)  
See Lien Copy. p. 325A

/Escort ...



326A

9.1.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Bunkering  
in South  
America  
and  
West  
Indies.

Your 2055/6. Baia (Bahia) space for coal stock maximum 6000 tons total. With present facilities maximum deliveries possible 1500 tons per week. Impossible increase facilities appreciably except by providing hulk have W.S.A. a suitable one they could send. Coal stocks at moment are only 2000 tons due sinking replenishment cargo. M.O.W.T. have cabled Capetown as follows.  
(1) Serious delays are occurring in coal bunkering at Trinidad. Recife is working to capacity.

2. Where capacity and cargo permit coal burners under 12 knots except those loading bauxite at Paranam should be bunkered at Cape to reach U.S.A. without supplementing at Recife or Trinidad.

3. Remaining coal burners under 12 knots must have sufficient coal on leaving cape to reach at least Trinidad and where possible Port Royal. Three coal burning ships per week requiring maximum total 2500 tons may be ordered direct to Recife for U.S.A. thus relieving Trinidad.

4. Coal bunkering facilities at Baia (Bahia) are poor and maximum which can be supplied is two steamers per week total 1500 tons. As all vessels under 12 knots other than those proceeding direct to Recife for coal bunkers or routed via the Horn will now proceed Baia (Bahia) for convoy you should nominate two coal burners per week as above to Bunker at Baia (Bahia) in preference to Trinidad.

5. Owing possible fresh water difficulties Baia (Bahia) all vessels should take maximum possible leaving Capetown Ends.  
(Admiralty 1737A/9 to B.A.D.)



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- Escort Personal for 1st Sea Lord. Your 0132/8th and  
Vessels, 1420/8th. Admiral King has left Washington but  
dispositions. in his absence the matter will be worked up with  
his staff against his return.  
(2) As result of Prime Minister's proposals to  
commence Netherlands West Indies tanker convoys and instructions  
given to Cde. Mansfield, Americans were informed that 4 groups  
of an estimated paper strength of 34 ships would be assigned this  
duty. Your 1420/8th only allocated 18 ships. Request I may  
be informed on what duty remaining 16 ships will be employed.  
(B.A.D. 1753Z/9 to Admty.)
- SEAKAY, B.A.D. pass to Connav. My 0953/7th and my 0927/8th  
D.W.I. SEAKAY further delay by boiler breakdown when  
Convoy. leaving. Convoy expects to be delayed 24 hours.  
Request instructions convoy sail if further delays  
are experienced. Now investigating possibility of  
transfer fuelling equipment from SEAKAY to another  
vessel of convoy.  
(B.S.N.O. Curacao 1806QR/9 to Admty. (R) Navy Dept.  
B.A.D.) Reply: Admty. 1314/10.
- TAMAROA, Following from M.W.T., New York. (begins) Your  
MORETON BAY. 1447/8th. It is anticipated that TAMAROA and  
MORETON BAY will sail in H.X.223.  
2. S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1109/3rd. does not apply to  
MORETON BAY.  
(B.R.L.O. New York 1825Z/9 to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D.  
D.S.T.)
- M.A.R.I. My 1943/7 (1934/7 intended - N.T. in W.D.)  
amendment 94 to M.A.R.I., propose to add:  
(a) Ships detached from convoy are to start the  
dead reckoning plot from position of parting company which will  
be passed by Commodore to controlling authority.  
(b) Stragglers from convoy proceeding towards their independent  
routes are to report position by H/F at night when not less than  
24 hours clear of convoy and are to start dead reckoning plot  
from that position.  
(D.T.D. 1909A/9 to Connav (R) B.A.D.)  
Concur. (Connav 1517/10.)
- U.K.A.R. Your 2251/8th Dec. (N.T. in W.D.) It is antici-  
pated that it will be not less than three months  
before U.K.A.R. is issued.  
(D.T.D. 1920A/9 to B.A.D.)
- M/V Call Ref. your 1927A/6 (Modified system for use of  
Signs. general call signs and coders messages by merchant  
ships) Request instructions for vessels which do  
not hold War Wireless Call Sign.  
(C.O.A.C. 1933Z/9 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- Sub. attack & sighting summary. Para. C. U.S.S. GOFF contact 07.13 N. 55.49 W. 0340Z/9. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2000/9 to Admty., for O.I.C.)
- O.N.154. Arrivals U.S.S. BACHEA, PRINGLE, H.M.C.S. ARROW-HEAD, CHICOUTIMI, DIGBY ex O.N.154. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 2001Z/9 to Admty. etc.)
- O.N.159 U/B. D/F bearings on 4955 k/cs at 1758Z indicate U-boat possibly in vicinity of convoy. (D.D.I.C. 2031A/9 to Escorts O.N.159.)
- Atlantic Convoy Cycles. Refer C.T.F. 24 23/2119 Dec. To provide a basis for common understanding the following data is presented. Present schedule is based on autumn voyages for which it was estimated O.N. convoys would average 17 days between Liverpool and New York O.N.S.21, H.X.15 and S.C.19 days and that west (Chop?) would be 49 W. or to eastward. On that basis the escort cycle is 88 days theoretically divided between 50 days at sea and 38 days in port. Latter subdivided into 4 periods averaging 9.5 days and using 11 Groups of escort. For proposed change using 8 groups and considering the last 16 Convoys average voyages were on 18.3 O.N.S.23.2, H.X.16.9 and S.C.20.1. Believed proposed change should be based on O.N.19, O.N.S.23, H.X.16, S.C.20. Using these duration figures the ocean escorts change their cycle to 80 days theoretically divided between 55 days at sea and 25 days in port. Latter subdivided into 4 periods of 6.5 days. The last 7 westbound convoys exchanged escorts at an average of 48.09 W. the last 4 H.X. at 49.45 W. the last S.C. at 49.03 W. or an average point of 48.31 W. Considering the western local northern escorts the present cycle is 16 days Groups 4, days at sea, 7, in port 9. The above study indicates M.O.M.P. must be moved eastward to allow sufficient time in port for Ocean Escorts regardless of convoy sailing dates. (Cominch C. & R. 2051/9 to Cinclant (R) C.T.F. 24, B.A.D., Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)
- U.G.F.4. My 2202/6 change sailing date as follows.  
U.G.S.4. U.G.S.4 to Jan. 13th. U.G.F.4 to Jan. 14th. N.M.C.S. and B.A.D. informed. Admiralty pass to C. in C. A.F., and N.C.X.F. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2057/9 to Cinclant, C.E.S.F. (R) Admty. etc.)
- SAWOLA. Connav Serial 9. SAWOLA overdue Capetown since 8th Dec. from Colombo now lost. (Cominch 2109/9 to Commaveu.)
- Relief for HOBART. Your 1834/30. Navy Dept. regret that present and prospective over-all cruiser situation in Pacific, including particularly South and South West areas, is such that a U.S. relief for HOBART is not practicable.



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Relief for  
HOBART  
(contd.)            2. When conditions permit it is planned to allocate another cruiser to South West Pacific Force but this depends on completion of ships now under repair.  
(B.A.D. 2121Z/9 to Admty. (R) A.C.N.B.)

T.M.F.2.            Sailing cancelled. N.R.O. Curacao 2202/9.  
See Cominch 0429/10.

R.C.N.  
Corvettes.            N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2213/6 para. 1 and A.M. 1350/2. The 17 R.C.N. corvettes will be operated by N.C.X.F. in Western Mediterranean.  
2. N.C.X.F. is requested to reply regarding the authority who will administer these corvettes.  
(D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S.(H) 2334A/9 to N.S.H.Q., N.C.X.F.)

Convoy  
T.M.1.                B.A.D. 2355Z/9.  
See North Atlantic.

Australia and New Zealand.

Attack on  
Transport  
Convoy.              Following is a repetition of Section 3 of my 2330Z/7 (begins).  
(4) 4 Bostons bombed strafed grounded aircraft Lae from low level. 1 direct hit in Bay among 2 Zeros, 1 bomber. 1 other bomber set on fire, another large fire observed.  
(5) 3 Hudsons bombed OTORI class torpedo boat 6 miles North Toeal (Kai Is.) scored direct hit amidships and 4 Hudsons unsuccessfully attacked stationary destroyer 21 miles N.W. Toeal. Following day 5 Hudsons bombed destroyer towing second vessel reported as destroyer 9 miles (North East) same place. Nil hits. T.O.O. 2330Z/7.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0535Z/9 to Admty. etc.)  
W.R. Note.- N/T receiving Sect. 3 previously.

Digests.              Digests numbered 347 to 350 inclusive have been delayed owing to misunderstanding and will be forwarded immediately.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0601Z/9 to Admty. etc.)

Digest No.  
347 for  
Jan. 3rd.              Only isolated Japanese stragglers now remain Buna. Our patrols active against enemy positions south west of Sanananda.



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Digest No. (2) Allied air operations. One Fortress attacked  
347 for three merchant vessels Rabaul harbour observed  
Jan. 3rd. large fire possibly fuel dump when leaving.  
(contd.) Six Marauders bombed Lae drome. One fire started  
and much smoke observed in Hangar area. Three  
grounded aircraft hit. Jap troops in water  
one mile off Buna were strafed by Kittyhawks and Wirraways.  
Liberator on armed R/C bombed Manang Township and runway results  
unknown. Similar R/C located enemy submarine 7° 20' S. 148°  
20' E.  
(3) Photographs taken Saumlaki (Tanimbar Is.) 2nd show A.A.  
positions indications many new M.G. posts.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0630Z/9.)

Digest No. Photographs show considerable constructions  
348, proceeding Lakunia Drome including new A.A.  
Summary for positions.  
Jan. 4. 2. Enemy still active Betano Betanoi same areas.  
200 troops observed on Ossu Beaco Road.  
3. Allied air operations. 6 B.25s and 6 Bostons  
with fighter cover bombed Lae setting one house on fire other  
damage unknown. No aircraft on drome appeared serviceable.  
6 Marauders, 3 Bostons bombed strafed Sanananda Amboga area  
firing possible ammunition dump. Only opposition inaccurate M.G.  
fire at Giruwa. 7 Beaufighters strafed Mubo and Komiatum  
villages. Liberator on armed reconnaissance bombed strafed  
Schooner carrying freight entering Finschaffan also bombed Madang.  
Photos showed Madang strip serviceable and blast under construction  
there. Liberator on similar mission bombed Gasmiha possibly  
hitting M.G. installation. Another strafed Schooner off  
Jacquinet Bay dropped bombs Gasmata Lae dromes possibly destroyed  
one bomber latter place. Fulloro drome successfully strafed by  
4 Beaufighters. One grounded aircraft destroyed. 2 Beaufighters  
strafed roads Laugem Baucau to beach. Nil interception all these  
operations.  
4. Enemy aircraft made unsuccessful attack on Cape Nelson.  
5. Enemy R/C plane shot down off Goodenough Island.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0607Z/9.)

Digest No. Shipping Rabaul harbour was attacked at midday by  
349, 6 Fortresses, 6 Liberators destroying or setting on  
Summary for fire 9 medium cargo vessels. Near misses with  
Jan. 5th. 1,000 pound bombs observed on additional ships.  
Approx. 15 fighters intercepted including 1 or 2  
Messerschmitts. 3 Zeros destroyed 1 probable 1  
possible. Photographs show 87 vessels in area and new landing  
strip preparing approx. 3 miles east Kokodo. 2 Fortresses missing.  
2. Midday attack Lae drome by 6 B.25s, 6 Bostons covered by 12  
P.38s. Bombs hit 4 known A.A. positions. 1 aircraft on ground  
seen smoking heavily other results unknown. Nil interception.  
3. Other air operations. 6 Marauders bombed and strafed Sanananda  
area in support of land forces. 4 Beaufighters strafed Mubo  
Komiatum villages. Searched coast Salamaua to Amboga without  
result. Fortress on armed recco. bombed Itsmaha drome Lae  
village results unknown.  
4. Patrol activity continues south west Sanananda.  
5. Rap patrol reported inland Finschaffan area where airfield  
reported there but without aircraft.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0615Z/9.)



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand. - contd.

Digest No. 350 (?) 16 strikes by Catalinas, Liberators, Fortresses B.25s, Marauders, Kittyhawks on enemy convoy 10 ships Gasmata, Lae, Gsek 7th resulted as follows. Catalinas G.N.W. K.Y morning hit large transport approx. 12,000 tons which later blew up and sank. Later attacks resulted one transport sunk, one damaged by two direct hits, one by very near miss. 16 enemy fighters destroyed these operations 7 probably destroyed, 11 damaged.

2. 13 B.E.P. fighters sank boats and rafts with survivors from vessel sunk during night/15 Zeros intercepted (ten or two ?) shot down.

3. One Catalina bombed Gasmata drome before attacking convoy started large fire near three grounded aircraft several small fires silenced A.A. position.

4. Bostons bombed strafed grounded aircraft Lae from low level. One direct hit in Bay among two Zeros, one bomber. One other bomber set on fire, another large fire observed.

5. Three Hudsons bombed OTOR class torpedo boat six miles North Toeal Kai Is. scored direct hit amidships and four Hudsons unsuccessfully attacked stationary destroyer 21 miles N.W. Toeal. Following day five Hudsons bombed destroyer towing second vessel reported as destroyer 9 miles Northeast(?) same place, nil hits.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0623/9.)

Digest No. 352 Jan. 8. One destroyer, one small unidentified vessel reported off West coast Buka morning 8th Jan heading south and one large cargo vessel in same area heading North at approx. same time.

Convoy seven vessels including one cruiser, two destroyers reported off East end Buka passage heading North afternoon 8th. Four fighters proceeded North from Buka aerodrome same day where enemy reported developing defences.

2. Further reports indicate original composition enemy convoy first sighted south Gasmata morning 6th included one light cruiser, four destroyers, five merchant ships. Two merchant ships sunk result our air attacks seventh as reported my 2330Z/7, Serial number 351, leaving one cruiser, four destroyers, three merchant ships, which arrived Lae harbour late same afternoon. One destroyer or light cruiser sighted operating area south Arawe early morning 8th. Remaining seven vessels attacked during 8th by Fortresses, Liberators, Marauders, B.25s and Prep.38s at Lae while unloading. Three direct hits several near misses claimed on transports, one of which destroyed, others damaged. Enemy fighter cover maintained over convoy during day resulting considerable interception our aircraft. 27 enemy fighters shot down 11 probably and 14 others damaged during day's operations. In addition Beaufighters and Bostons heavily strafed barges and supplies near beach also Lae aerodrome where several other grounded aircraft destroyed. Allied air losses two aircraft.

3. One Liberator dropped one thousand pound bombs on Madang runway noon 8th. Confirmed estimate 2000 Japanese this area. Gum and Gogol rivers (South Madang) now reported bridged.

4. Possible submarine reported off Mambare night 7/8.

5. Allied patrols active Sanananda area locating enemy positions.

6. Six Beaufighters strafed buildings and houses Baucau-Beaco



War Diary.9.1.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest No.  
352 Jan. 8  
(contd.)

road morning 7/1 without encountering opposition.  
7. Late report Allied air operations January  
7th 16 Kittyhawks detailed strafed Lae aerodrome  
intercepted by 18 enemy fighters. 13 destroyed  
one other probable two possibles. One  
Kittyhawk lost.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0750Z/9.)

Movements.

U.S. Transport CREMER departs Brisbane 8th due  
Sydney (N.S.W) 10th. U.S. Transport SWARTEN-  
HONDT departs Port Moresby 8th due Cairns 10th.  
U.S. Storeship GOLDEN STAR arrived Exmouth Gulf  
2nd departs 5th Fremantle 9th.  
(A.C.N.B. 1148Z/9 to Admty. etc.)  
Departures Brisbane 9th January U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY for  
Melbourne U.S. Ship WEST POINT for Melbourne. 9th January  
U.S. Hopkins and U.S. SOUTHARD for Noumea. Melbourne 9th  
January U.S. RALPH TALBOT.  
(A.C.N.B. 1549Z/10 to Admty. etc.)  
Departure Townsville 9th Jan. U.S. Destroyer SELFRIDGE.  
(A.C.N.B. 1759Z/9 to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines reported.

Approx. positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1431A/9, 1455A/9.)



10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

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War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Great Yarmouth was closed owing to fog at 1535A. Sailings for Convoy F.S.8 from the Humber were cancelled for the same reason.

C. in C. H.F. reports that BRAMBLE must now be considered lost. (see 31 Dec. 1942.)

S.C.115,  
 2 ships  
 attacked.

The tanker W.W. BRUCE, ex Convoy S.C.115, reported that she was attacked by a submarine at 1500 G.M.T. in 58.11 N. 26.48 W. (400 miles S.S.W. of Iceland (C)). SUNFLOWER was detached from Convoy S.C.115 to assist her, but on 12 Jan she was reported to be safe and SUNFLOWER was ordered to return to base. Two further corvettes, JONQUIL and PINK were detached to escort the rear portion of the convoy, consisting of the Commodore and 7 other ships, which at 2000A was estimated to be in 58.57 N. 33.18 W. At 2359 SS OCEAN VAGABOND ex the same convoy reported that she was torpedoed in 57.17 N. 20.11 W. (300 miles south of Iceland (C)). WANDERER, SKATE and EYEBRIGHT proceeded to her assistance and the former rescued all survivors on 11 Jan. and the ship was presumed sunk.

There were a few air raids by a small number of planes on the docks and ships in Kola Inlet today. The tanker SAN CIPRIANO was hit and her upper works damaged; she had several casualties.

97 aircraft out of 120 which took off laid 195 mines last night in N.W. German waters.

North Atlantic.

T.M.1,  
 renewed  
 attacks.

At 1115A, as it appeared that two ships of Convoy T.M.1 may be afloat V.A. Gibraltar ordered PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE and tug NIMBLE to search the area. QUIBERON is also on the way. The convoy was attacked again at 2330Z by 4 or 5 U-boats and BRITISH DOMINION was sunk in about 30° 11' N. 19° 46' W. (540 miles W.S.W. of Madeira.) Seven of the convoy of 9 tankers have now been torpedoed.



10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

U.S. B.24s despatched to bomb Bizerta today found the objective hidden by cloud and attacked the alternative target Tunis and La Goulette. Results were not seen.

WHEATLAND and WILTON were unsuccessfully attacked by 5 torpedo aircraft p.m. today whilst on A/S patrol off the coast of Algeria.

AJAX and SCYTHIA sailed from Algiers for Gibraltar today but had to take shelter from the weather at Arzeu.

America and West Indies.

Convoy T.M.F.2 sailed from Curacao today, escorted by RACEHORSE, REDOUBT and QUICKMATCH.

The First Sea Lord in a message to C.N.S. Ottawa regrets that the proposal that twin screw corvettes should continue to be known as corvettes, and not as frigates, was not accepted. The frigate was the fore-runner of the cruiser. Confusion may arise if twin screw corvettes, British and Canadian, employed in the same operational area, are not allocated a common class name. He asks C.N.S. Ottawa if the matter can be reconsidered.

Australia.

Further attacks were made by aircraft last night on the enemy convoy retiring from Lae towards Rabaul via the south coast of New Britain. Hits were scored on one transport, causing a fire, and also one possible torpedo hit was claimed. The convoy was reported east of Gasmata this morning consisting of 1 light cruiser, 4 destroyers and 2 or 3 transports.

Supply dumps on the waterfront at Lae were bombed and strafed this morning by 6 B.25s with 9 Lightnings as top cover. 11 Beaufighters also shot up grounded aircraft at Lae aerodrome.



10.1.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Attacks in  
Territorial  
Waters.

S.M.Z.40 applies to following ships SCHARLACH-BERGER, BALDUR, NORDFELS.  
(ii) If a successful attack is made no further ship should be attacked within territorial waters without instructions.  
(F.O.S. 1811A/10 to S/Ms South of 51° N.)

Defence of U.K.Orkneys.  
Indicator  
Loops.

7 out of 13 indication loops are now out of action in Orkneys Command due to break in cables. Cable vessel ST. ORAN has insufficient speed or power to carry out repairs except in very good weather and at slackwater. It is urgently requested a more powerful vessel be sent.  
(A.C.O.S. 1035/10 and 1859/10 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.)

Movements.

L.15.

Your 1250/9. WINDERMERE and SPOSA are waiting for you at position G. Report your present position.  
(A.C.I.C. 0135A/10 to L.15.)

Your 0120/10. You are to come on to position G. 2 trawlers are awaiting you in that position.  
(A.C.I.C. 0450A/10 to L.15.)  
Arrived at 1725A/10, L.15.  
(A.C.I.C. 1731A/10 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Rosyth  
Command.

Principal Ships present at 0900/10. Names.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 0910A/10.)

LA MALBAIE.

Alter course to pass through 57° 00' N. 13.00 W. thence to destination.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1245A/10 to LA MALBAIE.)

W.A.  
Command.

Situation at 2001A/10. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1355A/10, 2059A/10, 2109A/10.  
See Lion Copy.

OBDURATE,  
FORESTER,  
ICARUS,  
OFFA,  
MATCHLESS.

Your 1643/6. Approved to sail OBDURATE and 1 other destroyer for Scapa refuelling Seidisfjord if necessary. Promulgate route to H.F. operational.

2. In addition to FORESTER and ICARUS now on passage OFFA and MATCHLESS will be sailed for Kola p.m. today routed as in my 1045/8th to join escort for R.A.52.

(C. in C. H.F. 1430A/10 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Your 0941/9. Arrived. (FORESTER, ICARUS)  
(A.C.I.C. 1500A/10 to R.A.D. H.F.)

OFFA with MATCHLESS proceed when ready to Seidisfjord. On arrival complete with fuel and proceed to Kola routed in accordance with C. in C. H.F. (?10)45/8 para. 3.

(R.A.D. H.F. 1555A/10 to OFFA, MATCHLESS.)

/Sailed ...



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

OBDURATE, Sailed OFFA, MATCHLESS to Seidisfjord.  
 FORESTER, E.T.A. 1000A/12.  
 ICARUS, (R.A.D. H.F. 1820A/10.)  
 OFFA, C. in C. H.F. 1045/8th and 1430/10th. Route  
 MATCHLESS, (corrupt group) position E through (?M) U thence  
 (contd.) to Kola Inlet. Route given passes (?through)  
 Russian Submarine Area between positions D and E.  
 Russian Staff are being requested to keep  
 submarines clear.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, Polyarno 1943A/10 to  
 A.I.G. 47.)

S/M At 0800/11. Details.  
 Positions. (F.O.S. 1531A/10. 0952A/11, 1446A/11, 2129A/11.?  
 See ~~Lion Copy~~. pp. 336A

SEVERN. (1) Your 1940/9. SEVERN will not now be ready  
 to leave U.K. for Eastern Fleet until mid-  
 February. Propose she should be routed via Cape.  
 Call Gibraltar to embark certain spare gear.  
 (2) Although passage to Colombo via Cape is longer than through  
 Mediterranean by nearly 4 thousand miles time taken is approx-  
 imately the same, as passage can be made throughout on the  
 surface after leaving Home Station.  
 (F.O.S. 1614A/10 to Admty.)

H.44. My 1508A/10. Add H.44 due Rothesay from  
 Londonderry, E.T.A. 0900A/11th.  
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1658A/10 to Admty.)  
 Sailed DORNOCH and H.44.  
 (Cdre. Londonderry 1855A/10.)

WOODSTOCK. Your 1233A/10. Position 48.39 N. 23.16 W.  
 Weather 4488 9965.  
 (WOODSTOCK 1800Z/10 to Admty.)

P.216. E.T.A. P.216 at 0800A/12th.  
 GRAPH. (P.216 2045A/10 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)  
 UREDD. Own light force will be operating North East of  
 P.55. Shetlands during 11th and 12th Jan  
 2. Estimated following position at 0800A/11th.  
 (A) GRAPH 061° 15' N. 000° 10' E.  
 (B) P.216 064° 05' N. 001° 59' E.  
 3. GRAPH if unable to cross 061° 01' by 1200A/11th is to remain  
 North of 062° until 1200A/12th, diving by day.  
 4. P.216 is to remain North of 062° N. until 1200A/12th, diving  
 by day at C.O. discretion.  
 5. UREDD and P.55 are to keep North of 062° 30' until 0400A/12th.  
 (F.O.S. 2336A/10 to S/Ms.)



10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Position  
of S/Ms.  
at  
0800/11  
and  
movements  
for the  
following  
24 hours.

- A. P.49 on patrol off Vestfjord.
- B. P.312 on patrol off Fro Havet.
- C. P.55 on patrol off Bredsund.
- D. UREDD on patrol off Bredsund.
- E. P.216 64° 05' 001° 59' E. probably on the surface remaining N. of 62° N. until 1200A/12 January.
- (F) GRAPH 61° 15' 000° 10' E. for Lerwick 10 knots.
- (G) P.314, P.224, TRIDENT escorted by QUALICUM due Lerwick from Southward 0900/11.
- (H) H.43 exercising off Great Ormes Head.
- (J) U.S.S. SHAD on patrol off Bilbao.
- (K) U.S.S. BLACKFISH in zone K.506.
- (L) U.S.S. HERRING off Ferrol.
- (M) U.S.S. BARB off Vigo.
- (N) U.S.S.R.S. 56 escorted by SHIPPIGAN vicinity of Dunnet Head for Rosyth 11 knots.
- (O) TRIDENT sailed Lerwick 2100/11 through 61° 30' N. 00° 01' E. then towards 64° 10' N. 06° 10' E. probably on surface.
- (P) P.224 sailed Lerwick 2100/11 through 61° 30' N. 00° 01' E. then towards 64° 13' N. 05° 50' E.
- (F.O.(S) 1531A/10, 0952A/11, 1446A/11, 2129A/11)



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Backchat" (1) Intend to sail M.T.B. 344 from Portland at 1800 today.  
(2) Speed on passage 28 knots, E.T.R. approx. 0430/11.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1012A/10.)  
My 1012/10. Operation postponed on account of weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Portland 1805A/10.)

Operation "Witticism". (1) Intend to sail M.G.Bs 112 and 111 from Portland at 1900 today.  
(2) Speed on passage 23 knots, E.T.R. approx. first light 11th.  
(N.O.I.C. Portland 1015A/10.)  
My 1015A/10. Operation postponed on account of weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Portland 1802A/10.)

Norway Coastal S/M Patrol. (1) Following submarines are to leave Lerwick so as to arrive on patrol A.M. 17th January.

Submarine	Patrol Position.
P.224	R 2
TRIDENT	R 3
P.314	R 4

My 1512/11th December refers.  
(2) Capt. (S) 9 is to arrange route and bombing restriction.  
(3) Orders for UREDD to proceed to patrol position will be signalled later.  
(4) Pass your 1527/1st January and 1713/1st January to submarines concerned on their arrival Lerwick.  
(F.O.S. 1104A/10 to Capt. S.9.)  
Proceed forthwith to establish patrol in vicinity of 063° 20' N. 006° 44' E.  
(F.O.S. 1939A/10 to P.312.)

Coastal Patrols. UNST and FYLLA are to patrol southward of E.A.5 buoy tonight 10/11 Jan.  
2. GLAISDALE at immediate notice at Yarmouth.  
3. M.G.B.616, 613. M.T.B.86, 89, 243 at short notice at Newhaven.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1202A/10.)  
2 trawlers patrolling to southward of E.A.5 buoy.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1520A/10.)

Operation "Cabaret". A.M. 1252/2/12. Notice for this operation is now 48 hours.  
(D.O.D. H. 2044/10 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C.)



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

A/C H.F. Frequencies. Following has been received begins. "15 Group 1144/8/1". Addressed H.Q.C.C. Ref. S.343 8th January. Interference on 6666 k/cs by Budapest Radio is practically nullifying reception of aircraft messages on this frequency. Experience shows that A/C reception of control is not so affected. It is suggested (A) that the convoy H/F day wave be changed completely or (B) that the present frequency be retained for communication from ground to air and another frequency for air to ground and another frequency for air to ground be substituted. This should not affect the reception of aircraft reports by surface vessels if all reports by aircraft were repeated by the Control Station on the convoy H/F wave. It is considered that H/F homing of aircraft on to surface vessels could still be carried out on the present refrequencies. Request your views. T.O.O. 1144A/8/143. Ends. Alternative A is considered greatly preferable. (C. in C. W.A. 1129A/10 to Admty.)

Operation V.P. Carry out operation V.P. Details. (A.C.O.S. 1130/10 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick, R.A.F. Sumburgh, R.A.F. Wick.)

Mining.

Iceland. Hvalfjord arrival CIRCE, FLY, PETERHEAD at 2330. My 2310/1st. Sweep completed, negative results. (A.C.I.C. 0013A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your 1137/30. Intend to sail CIRCE, FLY, and PETERHEAD p.m. 12th to carry out sweeping on East coast of Iceland as in para.2. LLANDUDNO will join Flotilla on completion of defects and boiler cleaning. Intend to continue referring to this sweeping as Operation EY. (A.C.I.C. 2350A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Altenfiord on 9th January. Russian air R/C of Altenfiord 9/1 showed one cruiser, two light cruisers, six destroyers. Anchorage protected by mines and anti-submarine nets. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1320A/10 to Admty.)

Gossen Island. My 1659/2. Norwegian Press announces that from 1st January it is prohibited for all vessels to approach within 500 metres of Gossen Island (62° 49' N. 6° 52' E.) between 2200 and 0730. N.I.D. Comment. Object is probably to protect the aerodrome reported under construction on the island. (D.N.I. 1808A/10 to F.O.S., A.C.O.S.)



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10.1.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Escorting Spitfires report sighted submarine which submerged ENE from you at 1235. Graded D.5. (C. in C. Plymouth 1253A/10 to Escorts P.W.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 55° 38' N. 23° 30' W. (A/C 1721/10 to 15 Group.)  
By D/F at 1615Z, U-Boat estimated to be in your vicinity and may have reported you.  
(D.D.I.C. 1806A/10 to QUEEN ELIZABETH.)

Navigational.

Wick. Wick Harbour closed through weather. (R.N.O. Wick 0855A/10 to Admty.)

Portsmouth. Port of Portsmouth closed due to fog. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0906A/10.)

Gt. Yarmouth. Port is closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1535A/10.)

Casualties and Defects.

? EMPIRE CATO. Received at 0718 G.M.T. from BADY begins. Severe mast damage, proceeding Invergordon. May require assistance. Position Buchanness 270° 6 miles - 0715. (Wick Radio 0821/10 to Lyness.)

THEEMS. SS THEEMS ashore in 50° 11' 48" N. 5° 26' 9" W. broadside to beach. Vessel high and dry at low water. Salvage Officer now on board. (R.N.O. Penzance 1412A/10.)  
Instruct ABEILLE 20 to take tow into St. Ives Bay. Anchor for night and at 0800/11 to assist THEEMS aground on Hayle Bar. Salvage Officer will board you at St. Ives. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1539A/10 to R.M.L. 530.)

M.F.V. 2014. M.F.V. 2014 struck the Beacon Ledge on entering harbour and was beached inside the pool. All moveable gear and stores landed. An attempt to salvage vessel will be made at low water tomorrow. Confidential books are safe. (R.N.O. Scillies 1700A/10.)

WORCESTER. My position 005° Butt of Lewis five miles. Have very serious condenser trouble. Am proceeding to Stornoway to effect temporary repair. E.T.A. 2230A/10th. (WORCESTER 1901A/10.)



10.1.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.J.W.52.  
R.A.52.

Convoy J.W.52 16 ships sailing from Loch Ewe 17th Jan. speed  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots routed as follows:-  
 (A) 59.01 N. 05.20 W.  
 (B) 61.02 N. 04.40 W.  
 (C) 66.48 N. 10.11 W.  
 (D) 71.18 N. 04.32 E.  
 (E) 73.13 N. 14.16 E.  
 (F) 73.13 N. 31.09 E.  
 (G) 72.07 N. 35.42 E.  
 (H) 70.51 N. 36.05 E. (MZ)  $360^\circ$  Cape Teriberski 20 miles. Thence Kola Inlet. The above is route Brown.

(2) Escorts from Loch Ewe BLANKNEY, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON, BRITOMART, LOTUS, STARWORT, ST. ELSTAN, NORTHERN PRIDE. Conference A.M. 17th January which ONSLAUGHT will also attend subsequently proceeding independently to Seidisfjord. MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, OFFA, METEOR, BEAGLE and BULLDOG to arrive Seidisfjord p.m. 18th January. ONSLAUGHT is to sail with these Destroyers to join convoy in position (C). When Fleets join Hunts return to Seidisfjord. If Fleets fail to join Hunts remain with Convoy to prudent limit of endurance then return to Seidisfjord.

(3) Convoy R.A.52 about 16 ships speed 7 knots sails from Kola Inlet about 18th January. Date to be confirmed by S.B.N.O. North Russia as soon as known.

Route. From Kola Inlet through position Mz to

AA 71.16 N. 37.41 E.  
 BB 72.58 N. 35.50 E.  
 CC 73.45 N. 31.46 E.  
 DD 73.45 N. 14.27 E.  
 EE 72.02 N. 04.23 E.  
 FF 66.49 N. 15.05 W.  
 GG  $070^\circ$  Langanaes 10 miles.  
 HH  $090^\circ$  Glettinganes 2.5 miles.  
 JJ 64.53 N. 13.18 W.  
 KK 64.36 N. 13.28 W.  
 LL 63.29 N. 14.20 W.  
 MM 60.02 N. 10.12 W.  
 NN  $005^\circ$  Butt of Lewis 7 miles thence Loch Ewe.

Particular accuracy is necessary between HH and KK. The above is route Grey.

(4) Escort HARRIER (S.O. Minesweeping Flotilla 6th S.O.) ORIBI, ORWELL, OBEDIENT, OBDURATE, ICARUS, FORESTER, BOADICEA, 2 Corvettes and 2 Trawlers detail by S.B.N.O. North Russia. BLANKNEY, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON are to relieve destroyers escorting R.A.52 in the vicinity of position FF. S.O. of Escort is to send 1 Destroyer ahead to Seidisfjord to inform Hunts of position of convoy. Destroyer Escort enter Seidisfjord, fuel, and return to Scapa.

(5) Force R. C.S.1 in KENT with BERMUDA, GLASGOW leaves Scapa 13th January for Seidisfjord. This Force is to proceed from Seidisfjord so as to reach Longitude  $030^\circ$  E. 24 hours after R.A.52 sails and cover passage of R convoy as far as longitude  $005^\circ$  E. returning to Seidisfjord.

(6) Force S. C.S.10 in SHEFFIELD or BELFAST with BERWICK and JAMAICA is to sail from Scapa on 18th January for Seidisfjord to fuel and subsequently providing cover for J.W.52 from longitude  $010^\circ$  E., finally proceeding to Kola Inlet.



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- J.W.52  
R.A.52.  
(contd.)
- (7) Battle Fleet will reach a covering position approx.  $072^{\circ}$  N.  $011^{\circ}$  E. when J.W. 52 crosses longitude  $025^{\circ}$  E.
- (8) Russian local position for both convoys at discretion of S.B.N.O. North Russia in accordance with N,R.C.I.81.
- (9) S/Ms will be on patrol off exits Altenfiord from about 18th January depending upon date of sailing of R.A.52.
- (10) A/S air and long range fighter protection for both convoys from U.K. and Iceland is requested to limit of endurance.
- (11) Stragglers are to follow convoy route. Eastbound stragglers to Iokanka as in N.R.C.I.117 (a) (3) to (6). Westbound stragglers to Akureyri from position FF. Attention of all ships is drawn to N.R.C.I. 142.
- (12) S.B.N.O. North Russia pass to escorts R.A.52. C. in C. W.A. and R.A.(D) H.F. pass to Escorts in U.K. A.C.I.C. pass to NORFOLK and CUMBERLAND by hand. C. in C. H.F. will pass to Cruisers concerned.
- (C. in C. H.F. 0200A/10) See amendments 0904A/14.  
C. in C. H.F. 0200/10 has been passed to Admiral Miles.
- (2) C. in C. H.F. pass to C.S.10.
- (3) Pass in accordance with passing instructions in C. in C. H.F. 0200/10 para.12.  
(Admty. 2255A/10 to R.A.D. H.F. etc.)

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.  
(A.T.34.)

Request you will inform A.T.34 of details of air escort today.  
(D.C. 0349A/10 to A.C.I.C. (R) H.Q.C.C.)  
Your 0349/10th. R.A.F. have received instructions to escort "Donkey". Have assumed this to be A.T.34.  
(A.C.I.C. 0705A/10 to Admty.)  
Your 0705 confirmed. "Donkey" is A.T.34.  
(D.S.O. 0934A/10 to A.C.I.C.)

K.M.F.7. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD proceeding independently 17.5 knots westerly direction. SKATE (unable to maintain ?) speed owing to weather. Position  $055^{\circ} 16'$  N.  $010^{\circ} 00'$  W. Returning to base.  
(SKATE 0845A/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

K.M.F.7. P.C.S. at 2000Z/10th  $052^{\circ} 04'$  N.  $015^{\circ} 11'$  W.  $209^{\circ}$ , 11.75 knots.  
(WESTON 2001Z/10.)

O.N.161. Escort for O.N.161. C.T.U. 24.1.18 in HIGHLANDER, BEVERLEY, ANEMONE, ASPHODEL, ABELIA, COREOPSIS. HIGHLANDER fitted H/F D/F.  
(Cdre. Londonderry 1022A/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

J.W.51 B.  
BRAMBLE.

I regret we must now consider BRAMBLE as lost. S.B.N.O. N. Russia's 1704/9.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1210A/10 to Admty.)  
J.W.51 B. White Sea portion. EMPIRE ARCHER berthed Economia. Other 4 ships berthed Molotovsk.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1341A/7 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- AMSTERDAM. Intend to sail transport AMSTERDAM and escort at 1730/13th for Invergordon, speed 12½, E.T.A. 0830/14th. Routed 5 miles east Sumburgh 35 Buoy Q.Z. Message S 352 150. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1215/10 to A.C.O.S.)
- O.N.S.160. My 1107Z/8. Convoy delayed 24 hours. (C. in C. W.A. 1421Z/10 to C.T.G. 24.6.)
- R.A.51. R.A.51. at 1500A/10th was in 059° 13' N. 007° 21' W. speed 4 knots. Three stragglers, 2 being Russian KOTLIN and OKA. E.T.A. convoy Loch Ewe 0700Z/11th. (BLANKNEY 1546A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)
- S.C.115. From W.W. BRUCE. Submarine position 58.11 N. 26.48 W. at 1400 G.M.T. No bearing obtained. W.W. BRUCE attacked. T.O.R. 1455 G.M.T./10. OCEAN VAGA- (Burnham Radio No T.O.O. Recd. Admty. 1604/10.) BOND (Niton Radio 1611/10 to Portsmouth.) torpedoed. Intercept 1513 G.M.T. de W.W. BRUCE. Submarine attacking, position 58° 11' N. 26° 33' W. at 1500 G.M.T. (North Foreland Radio 1613/10 to Chatham.)
- If you have not already done so
- (i) Detach one corvette to assistance of W.W. BRUCE attacked in 058° (?35') N. 026° 33' W. at 1500Z/10th.
- (ii) Detach 2 corvettes to escort rear portion of convoy consisting of Cdre. and 7 other ships. Estimated position at 2000A/10th 058° 57' N. 033° 18' W., 7½ knots. Report situation. (C. in C. W.A. 1702Z/10 to Escorts, S.C. 115.)
- AAKKK area la. Submarine attacking 58° 11' N. 26.33 W. at 1515 G.C.T./10. (Connav, Washington 1640/10 to Admty.) Your 1635/10th.
- (1) CITY OF CALCUTTA is to remain with convoy.
- (2) At your discretion WARWICK should carry out duty as detailed in my 1702/10 para. one. (C. in C. W.A. 1808Z/10 to Escorts S.C. 115.)
- SSSS de OCEAN VAGABOND. 57° 17' N. 20° 11' W, torpedoed. Two boats away. (OCEAN VAGABOND 2359/10.) Your 1702 and 1808. SUNFLOWER detached to W.W. BRUCE. JONQUIL and PINK to rear portion of S.C.115. (E.G. B.7 1830Z/10 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Following read from OCEAN VAGABOND. Correct position 57.17 N. 20.1 W, bearing from Burnham Radio 215 unreliable. (Burnham Radio No T.O.O./10 Recd. Admty. 2353/10.)
- Following from OCEAN VAGABOND. Grade 2. 280°. Distress. (Tiree Radio 2355 G.M.T/10 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/K.M.S.7 ....



10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

K.M.S.7.           Your 1355A/10.   K.M.S.7.   1900 position 053°  
30' N. 015° 58' W., course 219°, speed 7½ knots.  
(PELICAN 1710Z/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

E.N.83.           E.N.83.   090° Duncansby Head at 1655.  
W.N.82.           W.N.82 sheltering in Scrabster Bay, sails 2100.  
(A.C.O.S. 1906/10 to Admty.)

F.S.8.            Sailings from Humber cancelled on account of fog.  
(N.C.S.O. Humber 2034A/10.)

O.N.S.U.J.  
160.            My 1112A/10.   All ships returned in accordance  
with C. in C. W.A. 1531A/10.   Intend sailing  
at 1015/11 plus BADJESTAN for Halifax.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 2158A/10 to Admty.)



10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area.

F.N.L.O. Your 1612/9 is not understood. We have agreed  
 Freetown. in principle and it is plainly for the French  
 to nominate the officer. You will appreciate  
 that the Free French complication renders it  
 advisable for the nomination to be referred to us, or otherwise  
 there may be risk of a repetition of the Gibraltar incident.  
 F.O.C. West Africa, may not have the necessary information at  
 his disposal.  
 2. The French have only to propose a suitable officer bearing  
 in mind paras. 1 and 2 of my 1235/4, and we shall accept him.  
 We shall deal with the proposal most expeditiously.  
 (Hd. of M.(1), Approved V.C.N.S., 0029A/10 to N.C.X.F., (R)  
 F.O.C.W.A.)  
 Reply: N.C.X.F. 1758/11.

Tugs. (1) There is a grave shortage of seagoing tugs  
 in the Western Mediterranean. Without tugs the  
 chances of getting damaged ships into harbour and  
 of subsequently towing them to a repair port are greatly reduced.  
 (2) The eastern ports are congested and there are several towing  
 jobs waiting.  
 (3) ST. DAY and HENGIST are out of action and must be refitted.  
 (4) Propose that DESTINY and EMINENT be allocated to Western  
 Mediterranean.  
 (N.C.X.F., 1031A/10 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)  
 Your 1031A/10. DESTINY and EMINENT may be retained temporarily.  
 (D.T.D., 2300A/10 to N.C.X.F.)

K.X. 8. Your 0451/10 (N.T. in W.D.) My 1124/9th (N.T.  
 in W.D.)  
 All ships for ports inside Mediterranean ex K.X.  
 8 are to be held at Gibraltar for orders.  
 (N.C.X.F., 1450A/10 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.I.C.  
 Oran, Cdre. Algiers, N.Os.I.C. Bougie, Philippe-  
 ville, Bone, Escorts K.X.8, Admty.)



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Attack on Convoy T.M.1.NIMBLE,  
PENTSTEMON,  
SAMPHIRE.

Am retaining NIMBLE in absence of instructions to the contrary. My P.C. and S. at 1100A, 034° 06' N. 010° 36' W. 243° 13½ knots. E.T.A. T.M.1 1800A/11th based on HAVELOCK's 1833Z/9th. Weather Report.

(PENTSTEMON 1114A/10 to V.A. Gib. (R) HAVELOCK.)

HAVELOCK 1833Z/9th. As it appears 2 ships may still be afloat cancel my 2342/9th. Proceed to search the area in which ships were torpedoed in accordance with my 1155/9.

(2) HAVELOCK report whether ships were sunk on next occasion of breaking W/T silence.

(V.A. Gib. 1115A/10 to PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, NIMBLE, (R) Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, F.O. W.A., N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca Area, Escort T.M.1.)

Your 1115A/10th. On leaving 028° 18' N. 027° 20' W. at 1205Z/9th the following were afloat. NORVIK badly damaged, probably sinking; MINISTER WEDEL not so badly damaged; may be afloat; EMPIRE LYTTON easily salvable. ALBERT ELLSWORTH was burning in 027° 59' N. 028° 50' W. About 30 minutes after HAVELOCK left, LYTTON was again torpedoed and blew up, (corrupt group). Wind E by S 2. Position given in my 0605Z/9th was in error. H/F D/F bearings on 5650 k/cs per S at 2246 2256 and 2306Z/9th indicated 3 U-boats ahead of convoy. All maximum strength. My P.C. and S. at 1400Z/10th, 030° 04' N. 021° 30' W. 071° 10 knots. Intend to shift R/T frequency to 2410 k/cs at 1800Z/10th.

(HAVELOCK 1546Z/10 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, PATHFINDER, PENN, PENTSTEMON, N.C.X.F., F.O.W.A., S.N.O. Casablanca, NIMBLE, QUIBERON, SAMPHIRE.

U/Bs. Inconclusive D/F of transmission on 12260 k/cs at 1154Z suggests a U-boat may possibly have reported you.

(D.D.I.C. 1250Z/10 to Escorts T.M.1, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.)

Inconclusive D/F bearings of transmission on 12,260 k/cs at 1345Z suggest you are being shadowed.

(D.D.I.C. 1440Z/10 to Escorts T.M.1 etc.)

A.M. 1440Z/10. No further transmission received on Series 3 Line 2. Between 1413Z and 1538Z six transmissions received on Series 3, Line 1, probably from your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C. 1630Z/10 to Escorts T.M.1 etc.)

A.M. 1630Z/10. Heavy W/T traffic from your vicinity continues. Series 3 Lines 1 and 2 both being used.

(D.D.I.C. 2031A/10 to Escorts T.M.1 etc.)

Air Escort. Admiralty 1218A/9 (Re air escort for convoy T.M.1.) Regret this cannot be provided.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1718Z/10 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)

BRITISH DOMINION. Convoy T.M.1 attacked at 2330Z. BRITISH DOMINION sunk. My P.C. and S. 030° 11' N. 019° 46' W. 060° 10 knots. 4 or 5 U-boats made the attack. (HAVELOCK 2341Z/10 to Admty., U.S.C.N.O. V.A. Gibraltar, N.O.B. Trinidad, QUIBERON, SAMPHIRE, PENTSTEMON.)



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.General.

- U/B attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 36.40 N. 00.51 E. When first sighted was on surface on course 060° 7 knots and was subsequently observed to submerge. (A/C C/S 9HYV 0107/10 to Gibraltar.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C C/S 9HYV 0114/10 to Gibraltar.)
- Air Report. A.128 10th Jan. Opsum to Midnight 9 Jan. U-Boat sightings and attacks Wellington U.179 A/S patrol east 0050/9 when in position LBNV 3035 made contact 6 miles to starboard and at 0053/9 attacked U-boat in 37.32 N. 1.40 E. 010° 3 knots with 4 d/Cs at time of attack. ? C/T was visible and decks awash. A/C approached from port quarter of U-boat at 45° and explosions of D/Cs were observed close to hull on starboard between bow and C/T. No results observed. Wellington W.179 at 2336/9 sighted U-boat on surface in position 37.44 N. 4.44 E. 090° 10 knots attacked with D/Cs further details not yet available. No E/A sightings or combats, no casualties. (A.H.Q. Gibraltar 0320A/10.)
- U/B attacked. A.I. 30 10th Jan. My A.I. 28 9th January. U-boat picked up by W.179 at 2336/9 and attacked at 0016/10 in 37.44 N. 4.44 E. while on surface. D/C explosions relative? to U-Boat not seen. A/C made further run in with S/N and stream of tracer passed under A/C. No result of attack seen. (A.H.Q. Gibraltar 0195Z/10 (as in signal) to Air Min. etc.)
- U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 37.03 N. 0028 W. Enemy submarine previously reported periscope only sighted: when first sighted was on course 065°. (A/C call sign RYG Duty D 1000/10 to Gibraltar.)
- SS MIERES (Swiss.) My 1819/4th. MIERES leaving Genoa 11th January for Gibraltar by approved route. Not to be interfered with this voyage. 2. V.A. Malta pass to A.O.C. Malta and N.C.X.F. to E.A.C. (V.A. Gibraltar 1123A/10 to V.A.M. etc.)
- T.E.13. Following is repetition of my 1217A/10 (begins). Addressed N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.H. Capt. S.8, Connav, C.S.12, Capt. F. F.Os i/c and N.Os i/c French North Africa except S.N.O. Casablanca etc. From V.A. Gibraltar, T.E.13. Have only CARA, BRITISH CHIVALRY, and tug ST. CHARLES for inclusion. 2. K.X.8 E.T.A. 1100/13. 3. Intend postponing T.E.13 48 hours. 1217A/10 (Ends.) (V.A. Gibraltar 1225A/10 to Admty. etc.)  
/Your ...



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- T.E.13 (contd.) Your 1217/10th. para.1, see my 1045/10th, para. (2) noted, para. (3) not approved.  
(N.C.X.F. 1530A/10 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) S.O. Force H, Capt. (S) 8th, F.O.C. 12th C.S., Connav, Capt. F.)
- MAURO CROCE Arrived.  
Italian. (Barcelona 1241/10.)
- K.X.8. Designate one A.M., 3 P.C. to R/V with K.X.8 consisting of 10 vessels escorted by LOCH OSKAIG, NASTURTIUM, ARCTIC RANGER, KINGSTON CHRY(?SO)LITE at position (B) 33.45 N. 098.08 W. Estimated A.M. 13th Jan. Vessels designated will relieve British escorts and proceed route as follows. Position  
(C) 31.24 N. 10.28 W.  
(D) 29.48 N. 10.28 W.  
(E) 27.56 N. 13.42 W.  
(F) 24.59 N. 15.50 W. S. of A. 8.5 knots.  
F.O.C. W.Af. is requested to arrange onward route and escort from position (F) A.M. and P.C. return Casablanca when relieved reverse route. Escort guards 2110 k/cs Gibraltar Fox 500 k/cs and within 100 miles of Casablanca 2333 k/cs. C.T.U. 26.7.2 provide air coverage to maximum range dawn to dusk mission 34.  
V.A. Gibraltar pass to escort K.X.8.  
(S.N.O. Casablanca 1622Z/10 to C.T.U. 26.7.1, V.A. Gibraltar, C.T.U. 26.7.2 (R) C.T.U. 26.7.3, F.O.C.W.A., N.C.X.F. Admty., Escorts K.X.8.)  
R.A.W.A.F's 1313/9th. Can K.X.8 ships be accommodated at Casablanca until 19th?  
(N.C.X.F. 1659A/10 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, R.A. West Africa.)
- O.N.S.154 Your 1024/7th Jan. Request report names of vessels survivors. from which survivors were rescued.  
(D.S.T. 1925A/10 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)  
Reply: 1632/11.
- M.K.S.5. Sailed LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS to R/V Lisbon portion convoy M.K.S.5 thence to join main convoy. Q.Z.H. 62 less 24. L.52. S.392. X.903. Y.371.  
(V.A. Gibraltar 1930A/10 to Admty., C. in C. W.A. (R) N.C.X.F.)
- T.C.A.O.11. Jan. 11th.  
A. M.K.S.5 "Cockatoo" One H 1200 to 1900.  
K. X.8 "Hengoe" One H 0830 to 1030 One Y 1030 to 1600 One H 1600 to 1900.  
B. 5 H between 036° 40' N. and 035° 10' N. to 014° W. 1130 to 1800 Two Y between 040° N. and 038° 30' N. 014° W. and 012° W. 0730 to 1530.  
(V.A. Gibraltar 2125/10 as amended 0217A/12, Situation report for Area X.)

/BURDOCK ...



War Diary.

10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

BURDOCK.

P.C. and S. at 2259Z/10 027° 00' N. 014°  
37' W. 230° 10. Weather.  
(BURDOCK 2315Z/10 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R)  
F.O.C. West Africa.)



War Diary.10.1.1945.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.F.N.L.O.  
Freetown.

Admty. 0029A/10. See Torch Area.

Hudsons  
in W. Africa.

Comminch 0054/10. See America and West Indies.

SOMERS.

Your 1709Z/9. (Whether SOMERS would be of any use to assist escort of T.M.I.) Three destroyers and two corvettes are already being sent from Gibraltar. SOMERS will not therefore be required. (V.C.N.S., 0104A/10, to F.O.C.W.A. (R) B.A.D.)

ILEX,  
HOLCOMBE.

F.O.C. W.A.F. 1643Z/9. ILEX should not be sailed from Bathurst unless asked for by V.A. Gibraltar. (D.C. Approved D.D.O.D. (F). 0144A/10 to F.O.C.W.A. V.A. Gibraltar.)

Proceed to arrive position A 001° 03' North 023° 57' West (R) 001° 03' North 023° 57' West at 0630Z/12th. Further orders following.

(F.O.C.W.A. 0901Z/10 to ? ILEX (R) Admty.)

Your 0144/10th and your 1608/9th. Have ordered ILEX and HOLCOMBE to hunt submarine in 001° 03' North 023° 57' West from day 12th Jan. Aircraft will be co-operating.

(F.O.W.A., 0953Z/10, to Admty., (R) V.A. Gibraltar N.C.X.F., B.A.D. W. S.N.O. Casablanca, HOLCOMBE, Comsolant, ILEX, C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

My 0953 10th. 1. T.U. 23.1.2. consisting of U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE and U.S. Destroyer ERICSSON arriving position (A) 03.00 North, 27 (734) West at 0800Z/12th, patrolling towards Bathurst on 11th, 12th, and then proceeding towards position 13 South 20 West. Estimated S. of A. 15 knots. 2. Maintaining guard on 4295 kc/s from 0800Z/12th until 2000Z/13th day.

(F.O.W.A., 1821Z/10, to HOLCOMBE (R) Comsolantfor, ILEX, Admty.)

My 1821Z 10th request information if R/C from U.S.S. MILWAUKEE will be carried out.

(F.O.C.W.A. 11857Z/10, to Comsolantfor (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Trinidad. ILEX, HOLCOMBE.)

ILEX,  
ADMWELL,  
CHARON,  
BELLWORT.

Request early information if ships referred to in my 1643Z/9 are not required as they are urgently required here. (F.O.C.W.A., 0831Z/10 to Gibraltar (R) Admty. etc.)

WELLARD,  
LADY ELSA.

My 1015/3.  
WELLARD, LADY ELSA delayed engine defects Bema. (B.N.L.O. West Africa, 0925/10 to F.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

/French...



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.French  
West  
Africa,  
Agreement.

Your 2318/7. I have discussed these questions with Admiral Glassfurd now in Algiers. I am in agreement with the amended station limits proposed in your para. 3. (A). 2. Although the West African Command is not my direct concern, the following comments may be of assistance since F.O.C.W.A. has not yet had opportunity for personal discussion with Admiral Glassfurd and as I am now in possession of Chiefs of Staffs' views 3. Para. 3 (b). Admiral Collinet is quite clear that he is under the direct operational control of F.O.C.W.A. but has suggested that any Allied warships based at Bathurst for specific purpose of operations on his station would receive their operational orders from him, or that if they receive orders from high authority he would be informed of the orders. In case of emergency he wishes to have the right to call on services of any allied warship on his station provided his orders do not conflict with the primary missions of the ships concerned. These points are tricky but will doubtless be resolved by direct discussion between Collinet and F.O.C.W.Af., 4. Para. 3 (c). Glassfurd is satisfied that there is no need to define the seaward depth of station limits. 5. Your para. 4 Collinet fully accepts the position of Bathurst as you have defined it. 6. Collinet's idea is that, as regards base convoys in his station, he would receive a personal directive from F.O.C.W.Africa and would then issue the operational orders insofar as his station is concerned. 7. As regards air operations to seaward Glassfurd considers there is likely to be some difficulty in the proposals as you have at present defined them. He considers that while French fully accept that they are under orders of West African Command they will stand out for some degree of operational control within their own station. The solution that would give them nominal charge while leaving us the actual control would be to set up a joint Anglo-French operations room at Dakar and Freetown to handle these matters. 8. A point which has emerged very clearly is that we shall get much better co-operation from French and agreement to our proposals if some definite token provision of aircraft can be made. They have made a relatively modest demand of three P.B.Y, three B. 25s for training purposes. If these could be provided they would feel that they are being allowed to start working for operations in their own area, whereas, if we only give them a rather indefinite promise, there will be a constant clamour for its fulfilment. 9. Admiral Glassfurd reports very favourably on Collinet and I think an early meeting between latter and F.O.C.W. Africa will be of much benefit. Admiral Glassfurd proposes to suggest this on his return to Dakar. He intends to stay at Casablanca to inform Admiral Michelier of the broad lines of the proposals, and to obtain his covering approval so that matters can be put quickly in train.

(N.C.X.F. 1024A/10, to Chiefs of Staff (R) F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

\* Tour No. 19. (begins.) F.O.C.W.A. and A.O.C. have shown me Glassfurd-Collinet proposals and all signals exchanged with Chiefs of Staff, Admty. and Air Ministry relating thereto, and have discussed the position fully with me. I think that this proposal gives us the essentials and that all working details can be settled satisfactorily between the Admiral, A.O.C. and French Command. I consider that acceptance of this agreement and

\* No. 31 from Resident Minister for Minister  
of Defence. /immediate...



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

French West Africa Agreement. Contd. immediate co-operation in this operation will have excellent effect on our other problems. (Sierra Leone (Sir H. Stevenson), No. T.O.O./10 to S. of S. for Colonies.)

O.N.S.154 Request CHOP dates for NORTHMOOR, AGORAB, EMPIRE SIMBA, BARON INCHCAPE. (F.O.C.W.A., 1037/10 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.) Reply to NORTHMOOR, 1625/11.

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Your 1101/9th. Prisoners are to be embarked in EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. (C. in C.S.A., 1055C/10 to S.S.T.O. Durban, (R) D of S.T.)

BOLD. Arrived H.M. Tug BOLD. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1112Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

French Convoy. This is a repetition of my 1145/10th to B.N.L.O. Dakar (begins) B.N.L.O. Dakar 1859/9th para. 2 and N.C.X.F. 1045/9th. N.C.X.F. states convoy can not be accepted unless it can be unloaded and clear of Casablanca by 23rd. As clearance by 23rd appears unlikely unless Collinet can guarantee that convoy will be clear of Casablanca by 23rd you should request him to postpone sailing. N.C.X.F. is requested to state next day subsequent to 23rd. when Convoy can be accepted at Casablanca. (Ends.) (F.O.C.W.A., 1149Z/10 to N.C.X.F., B.N.L.O. Dakar, (R) Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca.)  
F.O.C. West Africa 1149/10th. Request you will report date direct F.O.C. West Africa and other addresses. F.O.C. West Africa pass to B.N.L.O. Dakar. (N.C.X.F. 1903A/10 to S.N.O. Casablanca Area, Repeated Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.C. West Africa, B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Intend to sail QUEEN OF BERMUDA from Capetown 11th Jan. for Suez at 17 knots routed A. 035° S. 006° E. B. 038° S. 028° E. C. 027° S. 050° E. D. 012° S. 055° E. E. 005° S. 052° E. F. 011° N. 052° 30' E. G. 015° N. 051° E. H. 012° N. 045° E. (C. in C. S.A. 1221C/10, to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O. Red Sea Canal Area, Admty., N.O.i/c Aden.)

CORINTHIAN. Arrival 10th Jan. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1351Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

KEARNEY. Proceed to sea 1200P today for anti submarine hunt in accordance with secret instructions. (Comsolantfor, 1357/10 to U.S. Destroyer KEARNEY (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) F.O.C.W.A. C.D.D.21, V.P.83, C.D.2, SANTEE, Task Unit 23 T.6.)

/Shortage...



War Diary.10.1.1945.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Shortage of Destroyers. My 1835Z/18/12. Commitments such as escort of MEXICO, ILLUSTRIOUS, returning W.S. ships, and the strengthening of W.S. Convoy escorts give a continuous requirement for destroyer escorts in my command. I understand also that considerable additional troop movements are probable in the near future. With departure of ILEX and HOLCOOMBE and the delay in arrival of destroyers referred to in Admty. 2130A/22/10 I shall have no vessels capable of undertaking these duties. Request consideration be given to ILEX and HOLCOMBE remaining in the command until some destroyers of Freetown escort force return. (F.O.C.W.A. 1544Z/10 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar.)

BREDON. My E.T.A. at R/V 1900Z/11th. CHARON and AIMWELL in company. My position is 010° 00' N. 016° 05' W. (BREDON, 1705Z/10 to N.O.i/c Bathurst, (R) F.O.C. W.A. BELLWORT.)

T.M.I. Re air escort. (F.O.C.W.A. 1718Z/10) See Attack on Convoy T.M.I. North Atlantic.

WOODRUFF. Arrival (?16)00Z 10th. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1830Z/10, to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty.)

MEMPHIS, SOMERS. Arrival 1600Z 10th Jan. U.S. Ships MEMPHIS and SOMERS. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1835Z/10 to F.O.C.W.A.)

NIVOSE, LOT, ELORN. Agreed for French Naval manned tankers NIVOSE, LOT and ELORN now at Dakar to sail to U.S.A. to load oil fuel for Dakar. Minor repairs may be required in U.S.A. Sailing of NIVOSE is arranged vide my 1645/8. Request sailing arrangements for remainder may be settled through Liaison Officers. ELORN 11½ knots reported to be ready on 15th Jan. (N.C.X.F., 1954A/10, to F.O.C.W.A. (R) S.N.O.C.A. Cominch.)



War Diary.

10.1.1945.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

M.C.3. Sailing telegram. 2. 0400Z/10th. 3. G.S.PANTHER ROMNEY to position (L) CHOP 21st, Durban 0400Z/24th. 4. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots. 5. (Route) 6. DEVONSHIRE, CARTHAGE, G.S. PANTHER, ROMNEY.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0435Z/10. 0436Z/10 to Admty. C.in C.E.F. etc.)

Destroyers and Minesweepers. Your 1745/5. Your requirement for increased escort force is fully appreciated. I must however point out that A/S forces available for Eastern Fleet and South African Stations have been still further reduced by 4 destroyers. (2) This leaves 8 destroyers only for Fleet and all other purposes, of which 2 are Hunts and 1 is out of action. (3) If therefore you are compelled to withdraw the destroyers from Aden it will have to be accepted that fast ships go unescorted. (4) 2 Bathursts will be sailed for Aden in next few days and possibly a third towards the end of the month.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0956Z/10, to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. S.A. Admty. etc.)

Air R/C Visual Taranto 0800 reports one battleship left. Confirmation follows.  
(V.A. Malta, 1000A/10 to C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.etc.)  
Visuals Jan. 10th 0835 confirmed 1 Battleship had left Taranto. 0915, 3 Cruisers present.  
(V.A. Malta, 1046A/10.)  
Visuals 1200, Taranto, 1 battleship. 1245, Messina 3 cruisers. Photographs taken.  
(V.A. Malta, 1412A/10, to C. in C. Med. EURYALUS, DULVERTON.)  
Visuals Jan. 10th 1200, Taranto, one Battleship, 1245, Messina, 3 cruisers, 4 destroyers.  
(V.A. Malta, 1438A/10 to 201 Group, N.C.X.F. etc.)  
A.M. Jan. 10th. Photographs show two battleships still present at Taranto. One has moved to inner harbour.  
(V.A. Malta, 1638A/10, to N.C.X.F., etc.)  
Visuals Jan. 10th. 1445, Taranto, one battleship seen in outer harbour, but see my 1638/10th. 1530, Messina, 3 cruisers, 4 destroyers.  
(V.A. Malta, 1706A/10, to N.C.X.F. etc.)

T.E.13. The following ships should be sailed in T.E.13 for Algiers, ITTERSUM, EMPIRE KANGAROO, SALACIA, MARY SLESSOR, EMPIRE WORDSWORTH. For Bougie, THESEUS, LEVENBANK. For Phillippeville, OCEAN (Corrupt group) FORT MC. LAUGHLIN. For Bone, STAD HAARLEM, LYCAON, EMPIRE MORDRED, RECORDE. LEVENBANK H. (?D) M.(?L) should be discharged Gibraltar, if this not possible ship should be sailed to Algiers.  
(N.C.X.F. 1045A/10, to V.A. Gibraltar.(R) Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone. N.O.I.C. Bougie. N.O.I.C. Phillippeville.)

/Movements...



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements. Departure DEVONSHIRE and CARTHAGE in company 0501Z. Arrival ISIS. (Cdre., Aden, 1116Z/10, to Admty., etc.)

P.247. Cancel my 1453/9th. (Capt. S.10., 1210A/10, to S/Ms on patrol. (R) Capt. (S) 8. Capt. (S) 1, N.C.X.F.)

K.M.S.6 (attacked 7/1) AKABAHRA and BENALBANACH torpedoed total loss. AKABAHRA crew all saved. BENALBANACH only 40 saved out of 449. 14 M.N. survivors of BENALBANACH as follows: Also 5 D.E.M.S. survivors. Military survivors 10 Officers and 22 O/R reported by Army authorities. (S.T.01/c. Bone, 1215/10, to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. X.F.)

Cositrep No.651 (Air.) 7. Night 8/9 Jan. Torpedo Wellingtons on offensive R/C West of Sicily sighted a Southbound M/V but were prevented from attacking by effective smoke screen put up by escorting destroyers. 8. Three enemy aircraft bombed Benghazi area without causing damage. A Beaufighter shot down H.E. 111. 11. A Marauder mined Burj Channel, off Khalkis in Greece. 12. Enemy air activity was on small scale only. (C. in C. M.E. 1310B/10th)

WELSHMAN Your 1140. Proceeding. Request rendezvous. (Capt. D.12, 1346/10 to WELSHMAN.) My 1346. Returning to harbour. (Capt. D.12. 1432B/10 to A.I.G.72 (R) WELSHMAN.)

EMPIRE GNOME. (L.C.I.(L). Intend sailing EMPIRE GNOME and L.C.I.(L) 244 at 1800A 10th for Algiers routed 7 miles off shore speed 8 knots E.T.A. 0800A 11th. 2. Codeword CROWN. Request fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1411A/10, to N.C.X.F., (R) Cdre. Algiers, S.O.I.S.)

P.212, P.247. Sailed. (Cdre. Algiers. 1707A/10 to Admty.)

Landing Craft, Bougie. Your 0103/3rd. In view of number of landing craft allocated to Western Med. request early consideration be given to the establishment of an accountant unit under para 6 of C.A.F.O.1631/42 at Bougie. Present base complement allows of only sufficient accountant personnel for small base parties. (N.C.X.F. 1730A/10, to Admty. (R) S.O. I.S.)

/Movements...



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements. Algiers arrival Commodore C.S. (12) in AURORA. Departures M.L. 469, 458 Chasseur III escorting F.S.MARSOUIN to Oran, WILTON, WHEATLAND to Bougie AJAX, TARTAR, PANTHER, CALPE, PUCKERIDGE, ALERT, CADMUS, tug HENGIST with S.S. SCYTHIA to Gibraltar. (Cdre. Algiers, 1841A/10 to Admty.)

Malta AI.17, 10 Jan. C.S.R. Night 9th/10th Jan. No Air Report. enemy air activity locally. Day 10th Jan. 9 Beaufighter sorties have been made to escort convoy approaching Malta from S.E. and 1 Sunderland and 1 Beaufort have provided A/S protection. No attacks on convoy have been reported. 8 Spitfires have been airborne forraids which turned back before reaching Malta. At (? 0916 or 0816) hours 4 M.E. 109s approached Malta and were intercepted by 4 Spitfires but enemy had height advantage avoided combat and returned. 4 Spitfire bombers escorted by 4 Spitfire fighters attacked Lampedusa airfield. Another 4 Spitfire bombers escorted by 4 Spitfire fighters attacked Gela airfield. On their return 2 M.E. 109s were encountered and 1 of them was damaged by fighter Spitfires. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1925/10.)

AJAX, bomb damage. AJAX arrived Algiers under own power 8th Jan. maximum speed about 11 knots. Bomb exploded near bottom of B boiler room starboard having entered at base of funnel port side and penetrated decks and armour grating. A and B boiler rooms flooded immediately. Large hole and extensive splits in bottom structure Deck over B boiler room in bathrooms ruptured and buckled. 97 bulkhead strained and leaking. This bulkhead well shored and leakage reduced. Equipment in C boiler room in working order. 2. Ship sailed for Gibraltar P.M. 10th Jan. 3. Intend to dock for temporary repairs at Gibraltar after DELHI and before ARGONAUT. (N.C.X.F. 1950A/10 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib. etc.)

Tobruk. Med. Fleet's 1850 25th July. Routine sweeping carried out daily. Mining situation no change. (Tobruk C.C.O., 2001B/10 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

PICCADILLY Your 1054A/10. (N.T. in W.D.). Intend to sail PICCADILLY at 1100A/11 for Algiers by Standard Route S.of A. 15 knots E.T.A. Algiers 1950A/11. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 2110A/10, to N.C.X.F. (R) Cdre. Algiers WILTON, WHEATLAND, H.Q. E.A.C.)



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

UNICORN. Request information when UNICORN will join Eastern Fleet and what Squadron ? she will carry. (C. in C. E.F., 0035Z/10 to Admty.)

Movements. Departure 0235Z MARYBOROUGH with B.M. 36(?<sup>3</sup>), 0200Z SONAVATI with B.K.1, arrival 0500Z FALMOUTH, BATHURST with P.B.20. (S.O.I. Bombay, 0607Z/10 to Admty., etc.)

BOUVET. Arrival French Tug BOUVET. (Mauritius, 0730Z/10 to Admty.)

BURNIE. Arrival a.m. 10th January. (F.O.E.A., 0821Z/10 to Admty.)

Convoy for Beira. Intend sailing tug BARWICK, C.H. STEDDON, and JAMES E. HUGH to R/V with SONDRRA, 045° Inhaka light 10 miles at 1800C/11th for escort to Beira. E.T.A. p.m. 15th Jan. (C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 0901B/10 to Admty., etc.)

HILDESAY. Arrival 1500Z/10th January. (N.O.I.C. Tamatave, 1833Z/10 to N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F., F.O.E.A., S.O.(I) Kilindini.)



356B

10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

E.F. weekly  
disposition  
signal  
No. 18.

- (a) WARSPITE, RESOLUTION, REVENGE at Kilindini  
VALIANT to Durban.
- (b) ILLUSTRIOUS at Kilindini.
- (c) DEVONSHIRE escorting convoy off East Coast  
Africa.
- (d) 7.5 inch and 6 inch cruisers BIRMINGHAM,  
MAURITIUS, HAWKINS, CERES at Kilindini. GAMBIA  
and FROBISHER escorting convoys off East Coast  
Africa. CAPETOWN to Persian Gulf to relieve  
CARADOC. DURBAN and DAUNTLESS refitting at  
Bombay and Simonstown respectively.
- (e) Available units to continue training  
exercises off Kilindini during week 10 to 17 Jan.  
(C.in C. E.F., 1004Z/10).



War Diary.10.1.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Hudsons in  
W. Africa.

Following is a repeat of Admiral Glassford despatch 091519 action to British Chiefs of Staff London and Combined Chiefs of Staff. "After discussing with representatives F.O.C.W.A. Operations desired my recommendation is that the 12 VSO airplanes proposed in my 311620\* be changed to Hudsons. This in order to standardize equipment in this area with British and to afford better sea coverage. In order that French may actively participate allied convoy coverage their area immediately recommend that 3 PBV and 6 Hudsons be supplied to the French at once by Air Ministry; crews to indoctrinate French for short period of time before returning". (Cominch, 0054/10 to Comnav) \*For text see 1849/1st Jan. from Opnav to Admiralty.

Movements.

St. Johns N.F. January 9th 1943 arrivals  
LINCOLN ex H.X. 221 FAME, BURZA, ACANTHUS, EGLANTINE  
VERVAIN, KINGCUP ex Argentina, TRILLIUM, ROSTHERN,  
DIANTHUS ex O.N.156. Departures ANNAPOLIS to  
O.N.157, DAUPHIN to Argentina.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 0201Z/10 to Admty).

Corvettes  
and Frigates.

Personnal from First Sea Lord. Your 1501Z/14th  
Dec. I am sorry to see that you did not  
accept the proposal in my 1546B/10th April 1942  
that the twin screw corvettes should continue to  
be known as Corvettes and not be called Frigates.

2. We had carefully considered the suggestion originally made in your 2022Z/20th March but did not adopt it for the reasons given in my 1546B/10th April. Moreover the Frigate was the forerunner of the Cruiser.
3. A large number of Twin Screw Corvettes British and Canadian will soon be coming into service and many will be employed in the same operational area. Confusion may arise if these ships, of identical function, are not allocated a common Class name.
4. I am sure it would tend towards simplicity and operational efficiency if you could see your way to reconsider your intention promulgated in your 1501Z/14th December.  
(1st S.L., 0237A/10 to C.N.S. Ottawa).

SS. QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

Following is extract from U-boat situation issued  
at 1431A/9.  
(D.C. Approved A.C.N.S. (H), 0346A/10 to A.T.34).

T.M.F.2  
(postponed)

Following is re-encypherment of N.R.O. Curacao  
despatch 092202 addressed Connav (R) C.C.S.F.,  
S.O.(I) Jamaica, passed to you by Connav (begins)  
Sailing T.M.F.2 cancelled. My 082317.  
(Cominch C. and R., 0429/10 to Admty) See also  
1500/10.



War Diary.

10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

S Report. Following received, intercept 0415 G.M.T. 500 k/cs De WSL SSSS HRAV (Undecypherable in W.R.) position 11.01 N., 91.55 W., attacked by S/M 0517/10.  
(Plymouth, C.C.O. 0524/10 to Admty).  
Following received from Amagansett radio. Cancel SSSS from HRAV, distress ended.  
(Valentia, Radio, 0444/10 to Admty).

Movements 9th Jan. Departures U.S.S. BACHE for New York U.S.S. PRINGLE for Casco Bay. Arrivals CHEDABUCTO FORT WILLIAM escorting S.H.75, TIMMINS, BUCTOUCHE, MINAS, ex H.X.222. 10th Jan. departure GODERICH, KENTVILLE escorting H.J.27.  
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, N.S., 1301Z/10 to Admty etc).

SEAKAY, Your 1806/9. It is most desirable that convoy D.W.I. should sail as soon as possible.  
Convoy. 2. If repairs to SEAKAY cannot be completed in 24 hours fuelling equipment should be transferred to another vessel.  
(D.T.D., 1314/10 to B.S.N.O. Curacao, (R) Connav B.A.D.)

A.M.1314/10th. Request you inform B.A.D. as soon as known whether SEAKAY will sail or not since an immediate decision depends on this.

(B.A.D., 1627Z/10 to S.B.N.O. Curacao, (R) Admty. Connav).  
Your 1627Z/10. SEAKAY sailed with convoy 1500QR/10 Jan.  
(N.C.S.O. Curacao, 1615QR/10 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. Connav)

T.M.F.2 Departure 10th Jan. RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH escorting Convoy T.M.F.2.  
(N.C.S.O. Curacao, 1500QR/10 to Admty).

U.S. Departure 10 Jan. U.S. M/S A.M.C. 40 Trinidad Movement 11th Jan.  
(Harbour Master, Barbados, 1507/10 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica).

U/B Following has been read by Lands End Radio. SSSS de KSDU W.W. BRUCE. S/M 58.11 N., 26.33 W. at 1500 G.M.T./10th.  
(Liverpool W/T, 1512/10).

Shipping Your 1435Z/9th. During present U-boat situation Routes and until B.T. Convoys are more firmly established the routeing of British managed vessels of speed greater than 12 knots not suitable for Cape Horn routeing should be as at present.  
(Connav, 1512Z/10 to Admty).



358A

War Diary.

10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	A.T.33	47° N. 34° W.	089°	19½
at 1800	Convoy			
G.M.T./10th.	F.T.T.6			
	MILFORD	10½° N. 44° W.	274°	7½
	AMARANTHUS			
	Convoy T.F.1)			
	BRIDGEWATER	09½° N. 32° W.	093°	10
	ARMERIA			
	HYDRANGEA	11½° N. 37½° W.	059°	11
	C. DROGOU			
	4 Trawlers	12½° N. 35½° W.	059°	10
	S/M CLYDE	40° N. 50½° W.	233°	12.
	(D.O.D. (F), 1132Z/10).			



10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.- Contd.

Amendment  
to M.A.R.I.

Your 1909A/9. Concur.  
(Connav, 1517/10 to Admty).

T.M.F.2

My 1515/9 in two parts and my 1815/9.  
Convoy sailed 1500QR/10.  
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 1525QR/10 to Admty (R) S.O.(I)  
Jamaica).

R.C.N.  
Corvettes,  
working up  
and A/S  
training.

Request an early decision on N.S.H.Q. 1642/4th.  
If it is essential for P.553 to arrive Bermuda  
15th Feb. it will be necessary for P.554 or  
SEAWOLF to arrive Halifax by Feb. 1st in order  
to carry out working up practices for escort  
vessels after refit.

2. Re N.S.H.Q. 1647/27th Dec. In view of  
great waste in escort ship days on passage it is  
uneconomical to R.C.N. and R.N. new construction built in  
Canada to work up in Bermuda. In addition there is always a  
large number of completion items which can be carried out in  
Halifax concurrently with working up which would be impossible  
in Bermuda.

3. If however it is impossible to provide a second submarine  
at Halifax the following R.C.N. ships will commission in 1943  
and will require working up at Bermuda.

Type	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Frigates	2	2	1	1	2	4	6	2	20
Corvettes	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	24
Algerines	2	2	1	1	4	3	3	2	18

4. The above 62 vessels could arrive Bermuda approx. one month  
after the date of commissioning shown above. In addition it is  
presumed that the R.N. vessels building in Canada will also  
require working up.

(N.S.H.Q., 1552Z/10 to Admty).

S/M estimate  
Jan. 10th.  
U.S. S/M  
Notice.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1559/10, 1600/10, 1615/10,  
1616/10, 1617/10).

Movements

Section N.W. U.S.S. MIGHT BRISK accompanied by  
N.B. MACLEAN proceed down St. Lawrence as ice  
conditions permit S.H.76 DRUMMONDVILLE depart  
Sydney (C.B.) 1730Z/10th, speed 8.5 GANANOQUE  
BURGEO depart Sydney (C.B.) 1000Z/11th.  
(C.O.A.C., 1620Z/10 to Admty).

Shipping  
Casualties.

Connav Serial (9762). BRAGELAND Swedish sunk  
by torpedo 1st Jan. 00.19 N., 37.38 W.  
YORKWOOD sunk by a torpedo 8th Jan. approx. 05  
N., 36 W. Convoy T.B.1. attacked 9th Jan.  
BROAD ARROW sunk by torpedo 07.21 N., 55.43 W.  
COLLINGSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM CITY, MINOTAUR all sunk by  
torpedo 07.12 N., 55.37 W. Convoy T.M.1. (?attacked) 8th Jan.  
OLTENIA II and ALBERT ELLSWORTH in 27.59 N., 28.50 W. and on  
9th Jan. NORVIK, MINISTER WEDEL and EMPIRE LYTTON 28.08 N.,  
28.20 W. all sunk by torpedo. SOEKABOEMI serial 29 sunk.  
(Connav, 1958/10 to Comnav).

/MAIDEN...



War Diary.

10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

MAIDEN  
CREEK  
survivors.

Navy Department have received following from  
Comeastseafrent. (Begins) SS. STAGHOUND enroute  
Liverpool carrying 31 survivors of MAIDEN CREEK.  
Latter vessel sent S O S Dec. 31. Later same  
date messages presumably from MAIDEN CREEK  
annulled previous S O S following prescribed  
procedure first in plain language then by Mersigs about one  
hour later. Circumstances cause doubt as to authenticity of  
annulling dispatches. Request British authorities interview  
survivors to ascertain if MAIDEN CREEK actually sent annulment  
of her previous S O S (Ends).

(2) Request necessary action may be taken.  
(B.A.D., 2001Z/10 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty).

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

(A) BRAGELAND torpedo sunk 00.19 N., 37.38 W.  
1153Z/1st. YORKWOOD torpedoed presumed sunk  
04.10 S., 35.30 W., 1110Z/8th. BROAD ARROW, MINOTAUR  
COLLINGSWORTH and BIRMINGHAM CITY torpedo  
presumed sunk 07.12 N., 55.37 W., 9th January.  
S.S. W.W. BRUCE sights Sub area 59 N., 31.30 W.,  
1400Z/10, 59 N., 31.25 W., 1512Z/10 and attacked 1515Z/10.  
Surface craft attacks Sub. 32.07 N., 26.W. 2313Z/3 hits claimed.  
Surface craft attacks two Sub. sail 33.27 N., 32.50 W., 0215Z/5  
multiple gun and one torpedo, hits claimed U.S.S. GOFF attacks  
Sub. on surface 06.55 N., 55.30 W., 0730Z/9. Plane sights Sub.  
on surface 55.38 N., 25.30 W., 1721Z/9 course 270.  
(C) Surface craft shells U/B 39.05 N., 72.20 W. 1500Z/8.  
MINERO FABEDELRO makes sound contact 06 S., 33.30 W, 0300Z/9.  
Sub. sighted 19.52 N., 74.45 W., 1437Z/10.  
(Cominch, 2120/10 to Admty for O.I.C.)

TAIGETE  
(Italian)

Arrived January 10th.  
(R.O. Curacao, via New York, 2359/10 to Fairmiss).

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest  
No. 353 Jan.  
9th.

Small cargo vessel arrived Buka passage noon  
9th and unloaded. Escorting destroyer later  
departed northwards.  
(2) Fortresses dropping 40 100 lb. bombs from  
15,000 feet on dispersal areas Vunakanau  
Aerodrome early morning 5th intercepted by approx.  
15 Zeros, 7 of which definitely destroyed, others damaged, one  
fortress crash landed.  
(3) Convoy 7 vessels sighted retiring from Lae towards Gasmata  
during morning 9th attacked by Fortresses and Liberators  
without result. Interception by 10 Zeros which dropped



War Diary.

10.1.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest  
No. 353 Jan.  
9th. Contd.

phosphorous bombs ineffectively at Fortresses, one Zero destroyed. One transport left beached at Lae hit same morning with ten 300 lbs. from Kittihawks and 4 1,000 lbs., from Fortresses, vessel left blazing and exploding. Slight interception Lae area one Zero shot down.

Kittihawks also bombed fighters on Malahang strip (Lap) destroying one. Marauders and B.25s also heavily bombed supplies ashore Lae area causing fires.

(4) Lae Aerodrome bombed and strafed morning 9th by 11 Bostons causing fires and destroying two Zeros. Three Bostons bombed Salamaua Isthmus afternoon same day scoring hits on buildings and starting fires.

(5) Bostons dropped 11 500 lbs. and 8 250 lbs. on Mubo and Komiatum destroying several huts previous day eight.

(6) Possibly 200 Japanese reported occupying area Kumusi river mouth to Bakambari Patrols penetrated west of Girua River. Tarakena occupied 1030Z/8.

(7) One enemy Float plane unsuccessfully attacked small vessel at Merauke afternoon ninth.

(8) Six enemy dive bombers scored direct hit on Netherlands vessel VAN HEUTSZ at Oro Bay\* 0300Z/9. Some damage and three casualties reported. Our fighters intercepted 0305Z/9 causing enemy jettison remainder bombs.

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0715Z/10 to Admty etc).

\*North side of New Guinea.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1351A/10, 1359A/10).



11.1.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.C.

At 1307 today a Beaufighter reported sighting SCHARNHORST, a HIPPER cruiser and a destroyer in 57° 45' N. 10° 25' E. (10 miles east of the Skaw) steering 280° at 10 knots. Aircraft were despatched to attack, but returned without having sighted the enemy. (In this connection see C. in C. Home Fleet 1101A/13) Captain D.8 in FAULKNER with 6 destroyers left Scapa to intercept, but at 2242 he reported that he had abandoned the operation as the weather was "impossible". BERMUDA and GLASGOW left Scapa at 2005 to cover the return of the destroyers, but were recalled when the operation was abandoned, and they returned to Scapa at 1135/12. S/Ms P.216, P.224, P.314 and TRIDENT were ordered to patrol positions off Norway.

Convoy F.D.1 (Faeroes - Clyde, military convoy) arrived at Greenock today.

OBEDIENT and OBDURATE sailed from Kola Inlet for Scapa this evening. FORESTER and ICARUS sailed from Seidisfiord at 2055A/10 for Kola.

Yarmouth Roads and Lowestoft were attacked by A/C this morning, and one Heinkel was shot down by ships at Lowestoft.

Fog is still causing some dislocation of traffic. Peterhead, Dundee, Montrose and Arbroath were closed today on account of the weather and were not reopened until 14 Jan. but Yarmouth was reopened yesterday at 1710 and the Forth - Clyde canal is now open again. The photographic R/C of Trondheim was cancelled today.

N.A. Stockholm is authorised to inform the Swedish Government that no British Mines have been laid in or near 58° 48' N. 03° 36' E. where the Swedish BRASIL and SVEAJARL were sunk, presumably by mines, on the 9th January.

s.s. QUEEN ELIZABETH from New York arrived in the Clyde this evening.



War Diary.

11.1.1943.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

The commander W.N.T.F. reports that JEAN BART has been refloated at Casablanca by the French.

South Atlantic.

A message from the Admiralty (D.T.D.) today to F.O.C.W. Af. states that the "oil stock position is so generally serious that we try to save hours on tanker voyages".

SS DALCROSS, British, was reported torpedoed at 1415 G.M.T. in 06.11 N. 52.23 W. She was in ballast from Suez and Capetown for New York, but was subsequently reported to have arrived at Kirkcaldy on 12 Jan. and to have been missed by 3 torpedoes.

An aircraft reported sighting a U-boat at 1231 in 02.40 N. 26.47 W.

Mediterranean.

ISIS has rejoined the Mediterranean Station from Bombay and has been allocated to the 12th Destroyer Flotilla.

The sweeping of the approach channel to Bone was completed today. Ten moored mines were swept. (On 14 Jan, however, N.C.X.F. reported that mine sweeping was still going on and that 17 German R type mines were swept between 8 Jan and 12 Jan.)

Malta  
Convoy.

Convoy M.W.19 believed to consist of 4 M.Vs and 1 tanker arrived at Malta at 2320A escorted by EURYALUS and 11 destroyers.

PIERRE S. DUPONT grounded when entering harbour. The fairway is clear, but baffle must remain open for the present. The ship was refloated on 13 Jan.

/TURBULENT ...



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - contd.

TURBULENT drove ashore and destroyed by gunfire and torpedo today a 2500 ton laden southbound merchant ship in 39.31 N. 15.54 E. (west coast of Calabria). At 1912 she scored 8 hits on a southbound goods train stopped near Paola, and set one coach on fire. Shore batteries retaliated with machine gunfire.

Air Operations.

As Tunis was obscured, 10 Malta Wellingtons bombed Sousse Harbour last night, scoring hits on the commercial quay and in the southwest corner of the harbour. U.S. B.24s attacked shipping in Naples harbour today; low cloud obscured the results.

America and West Indies.W.L.E.F.

The loan of corvettes to Torch Area, and the transfer of destroyers to the Western Support Force, has so reduced the Western Local Escort Force that the groups now consist only of 2 corvettes and 1 "Bangor". N.S.H.Q. Ottawa wishes to transfer some of the "Bangors" from the Sydney Force to the W.L.E.F. which will be possible if the Admiralty agree to the 8 R.N. "Isle" class trawlers remaining in Canada until the Torch corvettes return.

It is reported that the British schooner C.S. FLIGHT was attacked and sunk off Curacao today.

Australia and New Zealand.

Particulars were announced tonight by the U.S. Navy Department of the loss of the Aircraft Carrier HORNET, the heavy cruiser NORTHAMPTON, the light cruisers JUNEAU and ATLANTA, and 7 destroyers, in operations off Santa Cruz Island on Oct. 26 and off Guadalcanal on November 13/15.

R/C aircraft reported at noon today a total of 62 vessels in the Rabaul area, including a probable A/C cruiser, 37 large and 24 small vessels. A Catalina bombed a small enemy warship last night off Cape Ward, but did not see the result.



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.New A/C  
Carriers  
Training.

V.A.A. Home Fleet has assumed responsibility for the co-ordination of training of newly-commissioned aircraft carriers and their air squadrons when working up in Home Waters in addition to his present duties.

2. R.A.N.A.S., will be responsible for training ashore in accordance with V.A.A.'s requirements.
  3. Carriers will be administered by Cs. in C. in whose area they are working up.
  5. Flag of V.A.A. is at present in INDOMITABLE with temporary offices ashore.
- (D.1. S.L., 2153A/11 A.G.M. 258 AZ).

Movements.FORESTER,  
ICARUS.

C. in C. H.F. 1045/8. Seidisfjord departed at 2055/10th FORESTER, ICARUS.

(A.C.I.C., 0150A/11 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).  
Following from FORESTER. E.T.A., Kola 1000A/14  
ICARUS in company. Have passenger and (portion

missed). (D) 17 requests group Y from 0500A to 0700A, group Z from 0700A to 0900A, group R from 0500 to 0800A. T.O.O. 1730A/10  
Ends.

(A.C.I.C., 0315Z/11 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

FORESTER and ICARUS sailed Seidisfjord 2055A/10 for Kola, E.T.A. 1000A/14. Route through position: (C) 73.05 14.10 E., (D) 73.05. 32.32. (E) 71.08 35.36, thence through M.U. to Kola. OFFA and MATCHLESS proceeding by same route, time of departure will be later.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2144A/11 to OBEDIENT).

P.216

Your 2045/10. Comply with F.O.S., 2336/10  
para. 4.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0921A/11 to P.216).

H.32,  
BARB,  
BLACKFISH.

Intend to sail H.32 escorted by MALLOW from  
Rothesay at 2300A/12th Jan. to seaward and Q.Z.S.  
278. E.T.A., 1500/15, speed 8½.

2. Thence MALLOW to 360° Round Island 7 miles,  
E.T.A., 0830/16.

3. Thence MALLOW escorted BARB and BLACKFISH  
to Clyde, E.T.A., 1600/17, speed 14 knots.  
(Capt. S.3., 1047A/11).

L.C.I.(L)  
Convoy.

Following from L.C.I.(L) Convoy.  
My P.C.S.1300 G.M.T. 11th 046° 24' N., 013° 29' W.  
040° 8 knots. Dead reckoning uncertain. Weather  
looking very bad. Hull leaking though not  
serious. Request weather forecast at 1600 G.M.T.  
and surface escort if possible.  
(Burnham Radio, 1103Z/11 to Admty).

/Your...



War Diary.

11.1.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

L.C.I.(L)  
Convoy.  
Contd. Your 1103/11. In view of weather and uncertainty of position surface escort is at present not feasible. Air reconnaissance will endeavour to locate you tomorrow and surface escort provided as soon as possible. You should endeavour to keep west of 11° W. until North of 49° N.  
(D.O.D. H., 1955Z/11 to E.C.1 (L))

CARLISLE My 2354/9 and your 1728/31st December. Weather permitting CARLISLE will complete working up 24th January and will be sailed for Clyde on that day.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1129A/11 to Admty).

North Atlantic dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic  
Area North Russia, 4 destroyers.  
Area Iceland (C) CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK, 4 destroyers  
Area Scapa. KING GEORGE V, ANSON, HOWE, MALAYA, BERMUDA, BERWICK, GLASGOW, JAMAICA, KENT, 4 destroyers.  
Area Gibraltar NELSON, RODNEY, RENOWN, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, AURORA, SIRIUS, 8 destroyers.  
(D.O.D. H., 1129Z/11 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

ESPIEGLE,  
CIRCE,  
HUSSAR,  
SPEEDWELL,  
RYE,  
HYTHE,  
FANTOME.

1. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail ESPIEGLE to arrive Greenock by p.m./4th February.
2. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail CIRCE to Greenock in time to boiler clean and to be ready for service by p.m./5th February.
3. ESPIEGLE and CIRCE will sail as additional escort to a Gibraltar convoy which will be determined later. On arrival in Western Mediterranean they will join 12th M.S.F. as directed by N.C.X.F.
4. HUSSAR and SPEEDWELL after relief by above ships should be sailed on first suitable opportunity to Malta to join 17th M.S.F. V.A. Malta's 2259/22/9/42 refers.
5. Subsequently RYE and HYTHE should be sailed to join 14th M.S.F. as directed by C. in C. Med.
6. FANTOME (S.O. 12th M.S.F.) will be sailed to join 12th M.S.F. on completion of work up.  
(V.C.N.S., 1232A/11).

W.A.Command Situation at 2005A/11. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1357A/11) See Lion Copy.

S/M Positions At 0800A/12. Details. *P.366B.*  
(F.O.S., 1709A/11, 2141A/11) See ~~Lion~~ Copy.



11.1.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Positions  
of S/MS at  
0800A/12th  
and movements  
for  
following  
24 hours.

- A. P.49 off Vestfiord.
  - B. P.312 off Gripholen.
  - C. P.216, P.55 and UREDD off Bredsund.
  - D. H.32 escorted by MALLOW leaves Rothesay 2300/12th. E.T.A. Seaward End Q.Z.S.278 1500 15th speed  $8\frac{1}{2}$  knots.
  - E. H.43 trials off Great Ormes Head.
  - F. U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao.
  - G. U.S.S. HERRING off Ferrol.
  - H. U.S.S. BLACKFISH in zone K.506 leaves after dark to pass through  $44^{\circ} 24' N.$   $06^{\circ} 50' W.$  at 2000/12th thence dived by day through  $44^{\circ} 40' N.$   $12^{\circ} 26' W.$
  - J. U.S.S. BARB off Vigo leaving patrol so as to pass through  $42^{\circ} 40' N., 10^{\circ} 01' W.$  at 2000/21st. thence dived by day through  $44^{\circ} 02' N. 13^{\circ} 22' W.$
  - K. TRIDENT  $61^{\circ} 40' N. 00^{\circ} 30' E.$  probably on surface through  $64^{\circ} 10' N. 06^{\circ} 10' E.$  thence to  $64^{\circ} 35' N. 09^{\circ} 44' E.$
  - L. P.224  $61^{\circ} 30' N., 00^{\circ} 01' E.$  probably on surface through  $64^{\circ} 13' N., 05^{\circ} 50' E.$  to  $64^{\circ} 45' N., 09^{\circ} 27' E.$
- (F.O.S., 1709A/11, 2141A/11).



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.OBEDIENT,  
OBDURATE.

OBEDIENT and OBDURATE sailed Kola Inlet for Scapa 1915A/11th route through position M X to J 71.55 N., 37.12 E., K. 73.30 N., 32.10 E. L. 73.30 N., 10.55 E, M 68.40 N. 06.03 W. S.O.A. 18 knots (2) C. in C. H.F., is requested to give onward route from position M.C. in C. H.F. 1452/10 refers.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1935A/11 to H.F. Ops).

LA MALBAIE

Position 056° 20' N., 009° 00' W., at 2230Z, speed 10 knots.  
(LA MALBAIE, 2300Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.Norwegian  
Coast S/M  
Patrols.

F.O.S., 1104/10. S.O. (S) Lerwick is requested to sail subs. as follows.

- (1) P.224 at 0600A/13 through (A) 062° 00' 001° E., by route Orange to (B) 071° 10' 017° 2' thence position R 2.
  - (2) TRIDENT at 0900A/13 through (C) 062° 00', 000° 11' E., by route Black to (D) 071° 02' 015° 40' thence position R 3.
  - (3) P.314 at 1200A/13 through (E) 062° 00' 000° 38' W., by route Pink to 070° 53', 014° 05' thence position R 4.
  - (4) Sub. to proceed on surface at C.O's discretion till within 60 miles Norwegian coast then dive by day.  
(Capt. S.9., 0947A/11 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).
- Capt. (D) 8th D.F. 0938/11 to C. in C. H.F., Following is subject-matter of H.D. 097 and 098 addressed to S/Ms operating north of 51° N., begins:-
- (1) Own light force will be operating N.E. Shetlands during 11th and 12th January.
  - (2) Estimate following positions at 0800A/11th (A) GRAPH 61.15 00.10 E. (B) P.216 64.05 01.59 E.
  - (3) GRAPH is unable to cross 61.01 N., by 1200A/11th is to remain north of 62° until 1200A/12th diving by day.
  - (4) P.216 is to remain north of 62° until 1200A/12th diving by day at C.O's discretion.
  - (5) UREDD and P.55 are to keep north of 62° 30 until 0400A/12th.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1209A/11 to 8th D.F.)  
P.216 proceed with despatch forthwith to patrol vicinity 062° 53', 005° 53'.  
(F.O.S., 1431A/11 to S/Ms).
- (1) TRIDENT, P.224, and P.314 are to be sailed as soon as possible for following patrol positions 064° 35', 009° 44' 064° 45', 009° 27', 064° 55', 009° 56' respectively.
  - (2) Object attack and report cruiser and above, but submarines are to be attacked if identification definite as hostile.
  - (3) Submarines to proceed with despatch through 061° 30', 000° 01' thence between 60 and 80 miles off the coast when south of 064° .  
(F.O.S., 1741A/11 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

/Cancel...



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations

Norwegian Coast S/M Patrols. Contd. Cancel my 0947/11. Submarines are to be sailed with despatch forthwith through  $061^{\circ} 30' 000^{\circ} 01' E.$ , thence as follows. (1) P.224 through (a)  $064^{\circ} 13' 005^{\circ} 50' E.$ , to patrol position  $064^{\circ} 45', 009^{\circ} 27'.$   
(2) P.314 through (a) to patrol position  $064^{\circ} 55', 009^{\circ} 56'.$   
(3) TRIDENT through  $064^{\circ} 10', 006^{\circ} 10'$  to patrol position  $064^{\circ} 35', 009^{\circ} 44'.$   
(Capt. S.9., 1837/11 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).  
F.O.S., 1741/11. After passing  $061^{\circ} 30' 000^{\circ} 01' E.$  P.314 and P.224 pass through  $064^{\circ} 13' N., 005^{\circ} 50' E.$ , and TRIDENT through  $064^{\circ} 10' N., 006^{\circ} 10' E.$ , thence to patrol position.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1939A/11 to P.314, P.224, TRIDENT).  
TRIDENT and P.224 left Lerwick 2130A/11 to pass through  $061^{\circ} 30' N., 000^{\circ} 01' E.$ , about 0600A/12.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2145A/11 to Capt. D.8.)  
F.O.S., 1814/11. The ships have been informed of your route.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2159A/11 to P.224, TRIDENT).  
P.224 and TRIDENT left Lerwick 2130A/11 routed through  $061^{\circ} 30' N., 000^{\circ} 01' E.$ , thence P.224 through  $064^{\circ} 13' N., 005^{\circ} 50' E.$  to patrol in position  $064^{\circ} 45' N., 009^{\circ} 27' E.$ , and TRIDENT through  $064^{\circ} 10' N., 006^{\circ} 10' E.$ , to patrol in position  $064^{\circ} 35' N., 009^{\circ} 44' E.$  Both vessels unescorted and proceeding with (corrupt group)  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2201A/11 to S/Ms).  
After passing through  $061^{\circ} 30' 000^{\circ} 01' E.$ , proceed through  $064^{\circ} 13' N., 005^{\circ} 50' E.$ , to patrol in position  $064^{\circ} 45' N. 009^{\circ} 27' E.$  Object attack and report cruisers and above, but S/Ms are to be attacked if identification definite as hostile.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2203A/11 to P.224).

Coastal Patrols. (1) Intend M.L. 303 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 522 to patrol tonight on latitude  $50^{\circ} 20' N.$ , between  $1^{\circ} 30' W.$ , and  $2^{\circ} 05' W.$   
(2) Leave Portland at 1700 via Q.Z.S. 382 to patrol-line, adjusting position so as to cover passage of P.W. and W.P. convoys. Leave patrol-line at dawn and return to base. Codeword "Device".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0959A/11).  
Weather permitting tonight M.G.B. 616 and 613 are to patrol during dark hours between  $50^{\circ} 30' N., 0^{\circ} 05' W.$ , and  $50^{\circ} 31' N. 0^{\circ} 35' E.$ , keeping southward of C.W. 148 (R), C.W.148, during its passage. Codeword "Service".  
2. KINGSTON JACINTH and ASIE to patrol South of E.A.5 Buoy. W/T watch on 1700 k/cs.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1120A/11, 1411A/11, 1445A/11).  
My 0959A/11. "Device" cancelled owing to weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1630A/11).

/Operation...



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Operation F.C. FORESTER, ICARUS, BERMUDA, GLASGOW. BERMUDA take GLASGOW under your orders proceed west of Orkneys to reach 61.02 N., 01.20 W. by 0700A/12.  
 (2) Object. To provide cover to 8th D.F. returning from operation F.C.  
 (3) Relevant signals addressed Capt. D.8. are forward as follows for information, C. in C. H.F. 1904/10, 2128/10, 2354/10, and 1549/11. Proceeding part 1601/11. C. in C. H.F. 1512/11, R.A.D. 0813/11, Capt. (D) 8 2045/10th, F.O.S. 2336/10.  
 (6) Decode signals intended for 8th D.F. or Capt. (D) 8. (C. in C. H.F., 1617A/11 to BERMUDA, GLASGOW).  
 Capt. D.8. and seven destroyers carry out sweep for enemy units passing west of Shetlands through 001° Muckle Flugga 7 miles to reach position Z 060° 55' 004° 02' at 0200/12th thence sweeping south for three hours, thence withdrawing north of A.M.Q.Z.X. 395 and west of Shetlands at best speed.  
 (F.O.S., 1814A/11 to S/Ms).  
 Scapa departures BERMUDA, GLASGOW.  
 (A.C.O.S., 2005A/11 to Admty).  
 Weather impossible. Have abandoned operation F.C.  
 My P.C.S. at 2300A, 061° 05' N., 001° 44' E., 280° 14 knots.  
 Weather 2852 9539.  
 (Capt. D.8., 2242/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

E-boats. Suspected E-boat activity.  
 (Ship, Block 6, 2154A/11 to Nore).

Allied Air Activity.

A/C for ARGUS. R.A.N.A.S., 1415A/10. Intend to embark aircraft at Tail O'the Bank A.M./18th January.  
 (ARGUS, 1109/11 to Admty).

Air Patrols. P.R.U. Kristiansund Skaw and Belt area took off Trondheim. 1035 P.R.U. Trondheim cancelled.  
 Three Beaufighters Rover Patrol in Stand. area 1st at 1010 /2nd at 1300 and 3rd at 1600.  
 (D.D.I.C., 1150A/11 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Convoy Air Escort procedure. Your 1823/23rd December. The new procedure will be adopted and will be fully in force for Iceland based aircraft by 18th January.  
 (A.C.I.C., 2022A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Yarmouth Roads attacked. Air attack on Roads.  
 (SOLON, 1155 G.M.T./11 to Yarmouth W/T).



War Diary.

11.1.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

Lowestoft attacked. Enemy A/C shot down. Lowestoft departure M.A/S.B. 25 to search for enemy aircraft reported shot down in sea 070° Lowestoft 5,000 yards. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1226A/11). At 1204/11, visibility 1 mile. Heinkel 111 plane seen to crash in sea in position 070° Lowestoft South Pier Light 5,000 yards.

Low flying attack from W.S.W. to E.N.E. over centre of Harbour and town. Direct hits observed. Hits claimed by number of Coastal Force Craft in Harbour and minesweeping Flotilla. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1309A/11 to Admty).  
My 1226 returned. Negative result. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1354A/11).

Murmansk and Kola Inlet bombed. SAN CIPRIANO damaged. A few air raids by small numbers of planes (?on) dock and ships in inlet during January 10th. Tanker SAN CIPRIANO hit whilst searching (?Inlet). Some damage to upper works, 5 killed, 4 injured. (N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 1231A/11 to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Force off The Skaw. One Battleship, one cruiser, and one destroyer bearing 010° 3 miles course 280° in position 57° 45' N., 10° 25' E. (A/C C/S J9ZP 1307/11 to 18 Group) (Pitreavie 1307/11 to O.I.C.)  
My 1307. P.C.S. 57° 48' N., 10° 24' E., 280° 10 knots. Am returning to Base ? (owing to weather). (A/C C/S J9ZP 1310/11 to 18 Group).  
At 1307 aircraft sighted 1 battleship, 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer 057° 45', 010° 25', course 280°. (F.O.S., 1501A/11 to S/Ms).  
At 1307A/11 A/C reported 1 battleship, 1 cruiser and 1 destroyer in 57° 48' N., 10° 24' E., Course 280° 10 knots. (D.D.I.C., 1505Z/11 to A.I.G.47, S/Ms on Patrol A.I.G.21).  
At 1307/11 in 57° 48' N., 10° 24' E. one SCHARNHORST, one cru. ahead HIPPER class, one dr. NARVIK class, co. 280° very slow. No discernible wake in rough sea, maximum speed estimated at 10 knots. First sighted from sea-level bearing 070° 6 miles. Force surrounded by fishing-craft of all types mainly to West. Cruiser fired pyrotechnic signal shower of red stars reaching height of about 200 ft. Seafighter then seen over Bc. flying 500 ft. South, apparently not sighted by fighter. Fishing vessels also fired red star pyrotechnics. P altered co. to 250° T and set co. for Base. (A/C report, Wick, 1640A/11 to 18 Group).

Altenfiord Russian Air R/C 9th Jan. Your 1320/10. Request information whether this and similar reports are from photograph with skilled interpretation or from visual reports. (C. in C. H.F., 1519A/11 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

Sound mining. Consul in Helsingborg reports that after mine laying operations night of Jan. 9th ferry service was not interrupted but through traffic was. Today 5 vessels totalling 7,400 tons passed south having been anchored off Gilleleje and 9 vessels totalling 10,000 tons passed north have been anchored off Humlebaek. Please repeat to Air Ministry.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 1821/11 to D.N.I.)

U-boats.U-boats  
reported.

By D/F at 2200Z/10, U-boat estimated to be anywhere within 75 miles of 48° 40' N., 21° 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 0130A/11 to PRESCOTT, WOODSTOCK). At 1242/11 in 58° 06' N., 08° 20' E. two S/Ms fully surfaced heading 100° apparently hove to head to sea. A/C R/C.  
(Wick, 1640A/11 to 18 Group, H.Q.C.C., Admty).

Navigational.

Peterhead

Peterhead closed owing to weather.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1025A/11).

Yarmouth.

My 1535/10. Port was opened at 1710/10 and normal routine has been resumed.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1046A/11).

Forth-Clyde  
Canal.

Forth-Clyde Canal now open.  
(R.N.O. Grangemouth, 1050/11).

Dundee,  
Montrose,  
Arbroath.

Ports of Dundee, Montrose, Arbroath closed 1210/11th on account of weather. Will remain closed until weather moderates.  
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1210/11).

West Coast  
of Iceland  
restrictions.

Cancel my 1947/5/12.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1434A/11 to H.F.)

Workington.

Harbour will be closed from 12th January for a few days during neap tides.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1439A/11 to Admty).



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- RUTH II                   Auxiliary Ship RUTH II, 321 tons, ashore south of Donaghadee at 0030A/11. Salvage Officer considers ship will be a total loss. Eight of crew landed, one reported missing. (F.O.I.C. N.I., 0945/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
- SHEFFIELD                Your 1555/10th. Much regret extension of time for repairs to SHEFFIELD cannot be granted. Request as much work as possible be done, remainder deferred. Ship will be required to sail from Clyde 16th Jan. (C. in C: H.F., 1102A/11 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).
- R.M.L.468                R.M.L.468 aground at 0410A/11 in position 200 yards south of Bank Quay, Larne Lough. (N.O.I.C. Larne, 1130A/11). R.M.L.468 Refloated without assistance. (N.O.I.C. Larne, 1945A/11).
- THEEMS                   Tug ABEILLE 20 and tow arrived St.Ives Bay. (R.N.O. Penzance, 1211A/11).
- EMPIRE  
  SPRUCE.  
(sunk).                 Tug EMPIRE SPRUCE sunk in collision in 237° Row Point Red Pile beacon 500 feet at 1522/9. Master of tug has since died and three of crew are missing presumed drowned. No casualties in KEREN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1256/11 to Admty).
- BRASIL  
SVEAJARL.                Your 2232/9. A definite assurance can be given that no British mines have been laid in or near this area. (V.C.N.S., 1302A/11 to N.A. Stockholm).
- RUSSELL                 Admiralty's 1216/8th October, 1941 RUSSELL, British Trawler, Grimsby, in Reykjavik Harbour subsequent to stranding on Landhusflaga Reef. Slight bottom damage. Refloated. Not necessary discharge fish cargo. (A.C.I.C., 1445A/11 to Admty).
- FOXGLOVE                A.M. 2124/23 October and my 1435A/15 November 1032A/1 Jan. Intend to sail FOXGLOVE towed by Tug EMPIRE LARCH on 13th January for Londonderry astern of convoy P.W.278 to off Milford Haven and thence independently. E.T.A. p.m./17th.  
2. Estimated speed of tow 6 knots. As no extra escort is available it is proposed, subject to concurrence of C. in C. Plymouth, that P.W.278 shall sail at 6 knots till day-light 14th and that two trawlers be detailed from P.W.escort in case of separation and after daylight on 14th.  
3. FOXGLOVE has Auxiliary steam for pumps and can anchor if required. The helm is lashed. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1640A/11).



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE My 1440A/11 and my 1403/11. CAMBRIDGESHIRE developed defects and will not sail. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1737A/11 to C. in C. Plymouth).

ROYAL EAGLE. ROYAL EAGLE was in collision with SS CORDALE in Sheerness Harbour 9th January. Spring beam of starboard paddle box bent in, side plating, deck planking and beams of store aloft paddle box extensively distorted and broken. Ship is being received at Chatham today for repairs. (C. in C. Nore, 1741A/11 to Admty).

BURNHAM Your 1709/28th March. On leaving convoy intend proceeding Liverpool. Have following defects. Docking not considered necessary. Ship requires boiler cleaning. (BURNHAM 2213A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.115 If fuel permits proceed to assist OCEAN  
W.W. BRUCE, VAGABOND torpedoed in 57.17 N., 20.11 W. Report  
OCEAN position and action taken.  
VAGABOND. (C. in C. W.A., 0128A/11 to WANDERER)

If fuel permits detach one escort vessel at best speed to assist OCEAN VAGABOND torpedoed in 57.17 N., 20.11. W. Report action taken.

(C. in C. W.A., 0133A/11 to C.T.U.24.1.13).

Your 0133. Have despatched EYEBRIGHT, seven days fuel remaining.

(BURNHAM, 0135Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.).

Your 0128A/11. My P.C.S. 056° 05', 017° 41' 315° 12.

Will not be able to search more than two hours after reaching position.

(WANDERER, 0200A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Am searching vicinity 058° 10' N., 026° 30' W. Has

W.W. BRUCE been found?

(SUNFLOWER, 0300Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 0300/11. W.W. BRUCE presumed torpedoed as she does not answer signals. No further information. Continue search.

(C. in C. W.A., 0941A/11 to SUNFLOWER).

Try to establish W/T communication with W.W. BRUCE on 500 k/cs. Call sign K S D U.

(C. in C. W.A., 0955 G.M.T./11 to SUNFLOWER).

All survivors from OCEAN VAGABOND recovered. Only man lost Chief W/T operator.

(WANDERER, 1102Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceed economical speed to assist OCEAN VAGABOND. EYEBRIGHT is searching the area. 2 boats are reported to have left ship.

(C. in C. W.A., 1104A/11 to SKATE).

/Your...



War Diary.

11.1.1943.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.115,  
W.W. BRUCE,  
OCEAN  
VAGABOND,  
Contd.

Your 0953A. Have 2 boats in sight. D/F set out of action.  
(WANDERER, 1125Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 1125/11. Confirm that there are no further boats to be rescued.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1253A/11 to WANDERER).  
B.7 1635/10th. If you have left S.C.115 pass through position of torpedoing of OCEAN VAGABOND and keep lookout for survivors making towards land.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1143A/11 to WARWICK).  
Proceeding to base from approx. position of torpedoed ship.  
Course 103° 13½ knots.  
(EYEBRIGHT, 1420/11 to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 1143/11. Survivors have now been rescued.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1429A/11 to WARWICK)  
1715Z contacted SUNFLOWER who reports (1) Area searched assisted by 1 aircraft.  
(2) 50% fuel stocks remaining. (3) Cannot transmit on high frequency wireless set. (4) Request instructions.  
Am leaving area P.C.S.058° 02' N., 026° 42' W., 103° 12½.  
(WARWICK, 1820Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your O P V A Z Gr. 55 only 38 groups received. Continue search until further orders.  
Allow for drift according to weather experienced. Air co-operation from Iceland has been requested for tomorrow.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2206A/11 to SUNFLOWER).  
Your 2206A/11th understood.  
(SUNFLOWER, 2200Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

C.F.10                      Convoy C.F.10 comprising JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT and ALMANZORA is due Tail of the Bank 14. Jan with following on board. Details.  
(D.S.T., 0328A/11).

P.W.D.277                      P.W.D.277 postponed on account of weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0917/11).

E.N.83                              Arrived less EMPIRE CATO reported in Invergordon (weather damage).  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 0940A/11)

F.N.14                              No sailings from Humber on account of fog.  
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 0952A/11).

R.A.51                              R.A.51 arrived. BELORUSSIA, VOLGA, OKA.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1330A/11).  
R.A.51. Arrived KOTLIN (U.S.S.R.)  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 2300A/11).

"Chop"                              Any diverting authority ordering a diversion of a merchant ship which entails change of "Chop" time is to pass amended "Chop" time by separate signal to authorities concerned.  
(D.T.D., 1612A/11).



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

O.N.S.160

O.N.S.160. Convoy delayed 24 hours by fog.  
Sails Oversay 1400Z/12.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1709Z/11 to A.I.G. 301).J.W.53,  
ALYNBANK.F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland's 1000/11. ALYNBANK  
will be required to sail with J.W.53 in February.  
(D.O.D. H., 1710A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)J.W.52,  
R.A.52.The following code words and W/T call signs  
have been allotted:-J.W.52 Code Work REDBREAST W/T call sign "J.C."  
R.A.52 Codeword "Skunk". W/T call sign "U.H."  
(D.T.D., 1720A/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

Provisional arrangements have been made with Air Ministry for a party of about three R.A.F. officers and four or five airmen to sail in escorts of convoy J.W.52 to Kola Inlet. Party will make arrangements for Coastal Command squadrons to be able to operate from North Russian bases. 30 Mission and S.B.N.O. North Russia are being informed.

2. Request you will inform Admiralty, Air Ministry and H.Q.C.C. of ship in which party will take passage and of embarkation arrangements.

(A.C.N.S. H., 2045A/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

F.D.1

Arrived LEINSTER.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1746A/11 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

A.T.34 arrived.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1746A/11) (D.S.T.O. Greenock 1805/11).

Position  
Reports.

1. Cancel Admiralty 1905/21 August 1942.  
2. Masters of all United Nations managed ships fitted with H.F. transmission and sailing independently are to report their positions in accordance with the following instructions.  
Details.

13. The above instructions do not apply:-

(a) to Vessels proceeding on the route between Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn or Magellan Strait.

(b) QUEEN ELIZABETH, QUEEN MARY, MAURETANIA, ILE DE FRANCE, NIEUW AMSTERDAM, AQUITANIA, PASTEUR, ANDES and EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.

(D.T.D., 1748A/11)

North Russia.

S.B.N.O. N. Russia's 1115/11. Icebreakers KAGANOVITCH and SEDOV will R/V 2300C/12th Cape Orlov Terski 090° 2 miles. 2 Russian patrol vessels will await convoy between Cape

Gorodetski and Cape Orlov Terski. No ice north of Cape Orlov Terski.

(2) Russians request if possible S.O. Minesweeping Flot. 6 carriers wireless Svyatoi Nos and Cape Gorodetski. S.B.N.O. N. Russia pass to all addressees

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1902A/11 to M/S F.6).

/Iceland...



War Diary.

11.1.1943.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Iceland.  
Tanker  
situation.

My 1405/8. Commandant N.O.B.I. informs me that release of SCOTTISH AMERICAN has been approved also that SVAHIOD is returning to U.S.A. and CULPEPPER is being retained in Iceland (C). Essential services can therefore be maintained but in view of possible fleet requirements at Akureyri it is urgently requested CELEROL be replaced by similar vessel fit for sea service. My 1805/7 refers.  
(A.C.I.C., 1906A/11 to Admty).

P.W.277.

Dartmouth unable to accommodate P.W.277 owing to congestion of shipping.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2119A/7 to GLAISDALE).



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

Oil Stocks. Request report showing stocks of Naval oil ashore and afloat at each forward base and disposition of tankers on Admiralty service. Request similar reports be made weekly in future showing position p.m. Saturday. (Director of Stores, 1427/11 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gib.)

R.C.N. A.M. 2334/9 (Refers to administration of 16  
Corvettes. R.C.N. corvettes to be operated by N.C.X.F.) These corvettes will be operated by N.C.X.F. in Western Mediterranean and are to be administered by Capt. (D) Gibraltar base ship H.M.S. CORMORANT. (N.C.X.F., 1757A/11 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty., etc.)

F.N.L.O. Your 0029/10.  
Freetown. The officer nominated by the French is Lieut. Halle whom Admiralty at first approved in their 1425/27 December and then withdrew approval in their 1325/4 January. I am therefore awaiting instructions. 2. It is unfortunate as French made no stipulations about approving our representative and if they are now asked to produce a second name and it also turns out to be unacceptable to security service we shall be in rather a quandary. (N.C.X.F., 1758A/11 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Landing Your 1249/10. It is regretted that landing craft  
Craft. at Gibraltar and those carried by inshore squadron ships were not included in my 1200/1. These comprise QUEEN EMMA 1 L.C.S.(M), 5 L.C.A., 2 L.C.M. Mark 1. PRINSES BEATRIX 7 L.C.A., 1 L.C.M. Mark 1. ROYAL SCOTSMAN 1 L.C.S.(M), 5 L.C.A. ROYAL ULSTERMAN 1 L.C.S.(M), 5 L.C.A. DEWDALE nil. At Gibraltar 1 L.C.I.(L) probably 2 L.C.M. Mark 1. 2. One additional L.C.I.(L) arrived Algiers today from Gibraltar. 3. Detailed report on above craft follows by Air Mail and will include estimate of craft lost in operations. 4. Action to implement your 0103/3 is under consideration. (N.C.X.F., 1821A/11 to Admty., (R) C.C.O., D.N.C.X.F.)

Aerial Your 1905/6. War Office message to A.F.H.Q.  
Minefield Algiers No.92450 timed 1015A dated 8th Jan. 1943  
for Port refers.  
Defence. 2. Following for your consideration after consultation with A.O.C. in C. A unit with Naval personnel and capable of providing floating aerial minefields and comprising small free balloons, to which are attached bombs and 2000 feet wire for defence of one mile front could be provided to supplement existing defences against night bombing attacks. About twenty minutes warning of an attack is required to allow minefield to reach effective height. 3. If desired an officer can be flown out immediately to explain operational details. (D.O.D.(F), 2005A/11 to N.C.X.F., (R) Air Min., W.O.)  
Reply: N.C.X.F. 1655/12.

/ U.S. ...



11.1.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area - Contd.

U.S. Payment Personal for First Sea Lord.  
of French I have just been shown by Eisenhower's Chief of  
Navy. Staff instructions issued to Halleat Casablanca  
by Navy Department.

(2) These instructions direct Halle to take on the duty of paying the whole French Navy, including ships and establishments at Dakar, Oran and Algiers. The orders have been issued without any reference to Eisenhower. As a result the anomalous position is created of a junior Flag Officer in the Command carrying out orders issued by one Department of State without any authority from his immediate superior.

(3) I do not know if paying the French Navy has the approval of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, in fact I doubt if you are aware of the action taken. It is unfortunate that the whole process should emanate thus from a purely American source as it once again raises an implication that U.S.A. is helping the French whilst British stand aside. It is also unsatisfactory that whilst on one day Michelier comes here to discuss Allied French naval policy with me a few days later he is dealing on such a major matter with the local U.S. Naval Commander.

(4) Whether the policy is sound is also doubtful. Hitherto the French have taken some pride in saying they will pay their own way, at least as far as Army and Civil Administration are concerned, and unless Giraud has given prior consent there will be difficulties.

(N.C.X.F., 2034A/11 to Admty.)

Reply: Admty. 2340A/18.



Torch  
378A

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE

2039A/11th Jan. JN

From:- N.C.X.F.

Date. 12.1.43.  
Recd. 0510

NAVAL CODE (KL) BY W/T

Addressed:- S.N.O. Casablanca. Cmdre Algiers. N.O. in C.  
Phillippeville. F.O. in C. Oran. N.O.I.C. Bone  
N.O.I.C. Bougie. Repeated:- S.O. Inshore  
Squadron. V.A. Gibraltar. S.O. Force H. Admiralty.  
F.O. 12th Cruiser Squadron.

200 (1) It is essential discipline should be preserved in the British and U.S. Merchant Navies in the Western Mediterranean Area.

(2) Discipline on board their ships is primarily the concern of the masters but F.O. and N.O.i/c are to give the Master their full support. On the representation of the Master a Guard may be sent to restore order but should be unnecessary in ships in which Naval ratings for manning the defensive armament are carried. If a serious offence is committed on board a British Ship the offender should be tried by Naval Court on the Representation in writing by the Master. The Regulations concerning Naval Courts are being distributed to all Flag and N.O. i/c.

In the case of ships of other nations their own law applies on board and offenders should be dealt with in accordance with practice of the nation concerned.

(3) When ashore a Merchant Navy Officer or man is bound by the law of the land. In North Africa, offenders will be tried by local French Court. A Merchant Navy Officer or man does not possess extra territorial rights ashore in North Africa since he is not in the direct employment of his Government and is not liable to trial by order of the allied C. in C. He may however be assisted in his defence by a representative of his Government.

(4) A copy of this signal is to be given to Masters by the N.C.S.O. or other appropriate authority at North African Ports.

2039A/11

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (2)

D.F. S.L.

2nd S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (U.T.)

Nav. Sec.

Sec.

P.A.S. (5)

N.A. 1st S.L.

O.D. (5)

M. (2)

N.L.

D.T.D. (4)

D. of S. T. (2)

D.N.I. (5)

D. of L. D. (2)

C.W. (2)

O.I.C. (2)

Ad. Blake. (2)

Ad. Ramsey (4)

U.S.N. (3)

I.P. (3)

W.D.

N.

D.P.S. (2)



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy What time do you expect to join?  
T.M.1. (HAVELOCK, 0105Z/11th to PATHFINDER, PENN, QUIBERON.)  
HAVELOCK'S 1546Z/10th and 2343Z/10th. Intend  
joining T.M.1. pending further instructions.

NIMBLE will have to reduce present speed to conserve fuel if  
search for and subsequent tow of MINISTER WEDEL is ordered.  
Escort will have 9 days fuel at 10 knots remaining on arrival at  
HAVELOCK 1205Z/9 position. My P.C. and S. 032° 17' 014° 50'  
243° 14. 8 Figure weather report 90 70 29 26.

(PENTSTEMON, 0327Z/11 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. (R) QUIBERON,  
HAVELOCK.)

Comply with my 1115/10th. Attention is called to C.A.F.O.  
1018/41 and 451/42 re weather report.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1514A/11 to PENTSTEMON. (R) QUIBERON,  
HAVELOCK.)

Your 0831Z/10 (re ships for damaged tankers.) ILEX not  
required. (2) HAVELOCK 1546Z/10. It would appear that tug  
will not be required.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1155A/11 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

Moderate W/T activity on Series 3 lines 1 and 2 since  
0525Z/11 indicate U-Boats still in your area.

(D.D.I.C., 1225A/11, to Escorts of T.M.1. (R) PENN, QUIBERON,  
PATHFINDER, V.A. Gibraltar, Cominch, C. in C. W.A.)

V.A. Malta 1817/9th. Onward route from position F.F. through  
positions 91 and 92. 2. Fighter protection from one until  
0800A/12th then from 2, codeword "BOSOM". 3. S. of A. 24,  
E.T.A. Algiers 1600A/12.

(N.C.X.F. 1536A/11 to HAVELOCK. (R) F.O.I.S., V.A. Malta,  
C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, Force "H", H.Q.E.A.C.,  
N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bougie, Cmdre.  
Algiers.)

Submarine sighted bearing 198° 7 miles. My position 031°  
08' N. 017° 41' W. Submarine increasing range on course 225°.  
Weather report.

(PENTSTEMON, 1710Z/11, to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.,  
HAVELOCK, QUIBERON.)

My 1710Z/11th U-Boat disappeared over horizon. Am proceeding  
to execute previous orders.

(PENTSTEMON, 1745Z/11, to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty., HAVELOCK,  
QUIBERON.)

G.U.S.3. Request routing for G.U.S.3. intended departure  
Casablanca section 16th Jan.  
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 0845Z/11 to Admty, (R) N.C.X.F.  
V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.i/c Oran, C.T.F.33, Comdre of Convoy.)

Have following for inclusion in G.U.S.3. CHILBAR 9½,  
LORRAINE 9, ANNA KNUDSEN 10, PRESIDENT DE VOGUE 11, ATHOS 11,  
WILLIAM JOHNSON 10, EMPIRE AIRMAN 10½. All speeds through  
water. 2 Request R/V.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1205A/11, to S.N.O. Casablanca Area, (R)  
N.C.X.F. Admty.)

/NEWARK...



War Diary.

11.1.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

NEWARK, NEWARK developed defective condenser after dropping  
LANCASTER. depth charge and since 1900A/7th has been steaming  
Port engine only and now running after considerable  
suspense. I am sending her ahead Gibraltar for  
necessary repairs. LANCASTER developed crack forward Main  
Condenser. Not at present serious but may be extending and  
temporary repairs requested before returning to U.K.  
(LANCASTER, 1200A/11, to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A. R.A.  
(M) A.C.O.S. Capt. (D))

DOLFIJN. (1) Intend sailing DOLFIJN p.m. 13th for working  
up patrol in area bounded. (A) Greenwich  
meridan. (B) Latitude 038° N. (C) Coast Spain.  
(2) DOLFIJN routed through (P) 180° Cape Calbuerras 5 miles  
(Q) 180° Cape Degata 5 miles. (R) 135° Cape Palos 5 miles. (S)  
038° 00' N. 000° 28' W. (3) Estimated time of passing (S) at  
2200/15th when Capt. (S) 8 is requested to assume operational  
control. (4) Communications Gibraltar broadcast west of  
Greenwich shifting to read M.S. (5) S. of A. 120 miles per day.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1214A/11 to Capt. (S) 8th (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta  
8th S/M Flot., DOLFIJN.)

V.A. Gib. 1504/7th and N.C.X.F. 1121/9th. This was an  
isolated instance where special action was necessary to ensure  
the Submarine was covered by Bombing restrictions. At time that  
DOLFIJN D.S. was expected to enter "Torch" area, H.Q.C.C. had  
received no instructions from V.A. Gib. to institute bombing  
restriction for DOLFIJN D.S. passage south of 43°. After  
consultation with F.O.(S) and pending further instructions H.Q.C.C.  
therefore imposed bombing restrictions in accordance with F.S.A.6,  
the instructions now in force on Home Station. These  
restrictions though possibly large by "Torch" area standard have  
been found after long experience to the minimum acceptable on  
Home Station.

(F.O.S., 1626A/11 to Admty., (R) H.Q.C.C.)

Casablanca Progress salvage Casablanca S.S. SAN PIETRO  
Salvage. floated, removed from harbour, stranded on beach  
outside transverse jetty and abandoned to French  
for ultimate salvage scrap metal, damage to  
machinery and hull too severe to rehabilitate. S.S. SAVOIE,  
operations underway, ship badly damaged, completion salvage  
indefinite. S.S. LIPARI expect to commence when SAVOIE is  
(corrupt group) well deck spaces decked over to permit handling  
cargo from ship moored outboard. S.S. PORTHOS and ST. BLAISE,  
survey in progress. French have floated JEAN BART and ALBATROSS  
and now working on PLUTON, small drydock, and one submarine.  
They plan with our assistance move remainder wreck of PLUTON then  
shift JEAN BART to jetty Delure.  
(Com. Seafreight, W.T.F., 1237/11, to Cominch. (R) N.C.X.F.,  
Buships.) W.D. Note - First report of PLUTON not in foreign War  
Vessels list, but apparently minelayer, 4775 tons, completed 1931.

/Cable...



380A  
380B

11.1.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements  
Summaries.

Area 'X' situation at 2001A/11.

- (1) BARB leaves patrol off Vigo after dark 12th course (? 300°) 14 knots to 042° 40', 010° 01' at 2000/12th.
- (2) K.X.8 LANCASTER, 3 destroyers, 2 fleet minesweepers, LOCH OSKAIG, NASTURTIUM, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, ARCTIC RANGER 036° 16', 009° 26' through 035° 34', 007° 50' thence to Gibraltar 7. LOCH OSKAIG, NASTURTIUM, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, ARCTIC RANGER part company a.m. 12th in 035° 34', 007° 50' to escort Freetown section through 034° 10' 007° 50' thence 241°, 8½.
- (3) M.K.S.5, BLACK SWAN, FOWEY, STORK, CAMELLIA, CARNATION, VIOLET, SILVER SPRAY, CAMP, BALSAM, SCOTTISH 035° 56', 006° 33' 281°, 7.
- (4) T.M.1, HAVELOCK, PATHFINDER, PENN, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE, GODETIA, QUIBERON 031° 29', 016° 25' through 031° 56', 014° 57' thence to 061°, 10.
- (5) VIOLET?, MYOSOTIS off Cape Espichel to rendezvous with 3 merchant ships off Tagus at 2300/11th and escort through 037° 01', 009° 25' thence 293°, 6.
- (6) ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER 033° 02', 008° 59', 230°, 9.
- (7) 2 Fleet minesweepers 038° 01', 009° 14' to Cape St. Vincent thence direct to Gibraltar 12 knots.
- (8) H.M. Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA 036° 02', 006° 14' through 036° 31', 009° 02' thence 318°, 11.
- (9) Portuguese naval tanker SAM BRAZ 034° 35', 018° 55', 242° 11.
- (10) Portuguese destroyer LIMA left Lisbon today for Ponta Delgada, 18 knots.
- (11) F.T.7 SERVANNAISE TAPAGEUS one (corrupt group) one P.C. leave Casablanca p.m. 11th for Gibraltar, 5.
- (12) PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, Tug NIMBLE 030° 58', 018° 12', 254° 13½.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1324A/11, 1704A/11.)

Area 'Z' situation at 2001A/11.

- (1) K.M.S.6 (Freetown section) PETUNIA, BURDOCK, DRANGEY (e) 25.01, 17.30, 191°, 10.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1328A/11.)



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Cable  
operations.LADY DENISON PENDER (? escorted by) ST. NECTAN  
departed Casablanca 1300A/11th Jan.  
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1245A/11 to N.C.X.F.)

M.K.S.5.

Gibraltar section sailed to join off Tarifa at  
1100 11th. All ships except EILDON hold S.P.  
02272 (21) and (22) and OUTCON 325.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1256A/11, to Admty.)M.K.S.5 Speed of GIRONDE less than 7 knots, am (?)  
detaching her with SCOTTISH as escort.  
(BLACK SWAN, 1803A/11 to V.A. Gibraltar) Repeated to Admty.  
and N.A. Lisbon (V.A. Gib., 1933A/11).Your 1803/11th. Approved, and main convoy routes to be  
used.

(V.A. Gib. 1931A/11 to BLACK SWAN)

List of Ships, Cargoes and Destinations.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 0803A/11 to Admty.)

Sailed BLACK SWAN, FOWEY, CAMPION, CAMELLIA,  
CARNATION, VIOLET AUBRETIA, BALSAM, STORK, SCOTTISH. Gibraltar  
portion M.K.S.5 to join main convoy and relieve Mediterranean  
escorts, Q.Z.H. 62, L.52, S.392, X.903, Y.371.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1806A/11 to Admty.)

DELHI

A.M. 1220/8th Jan. Request following items may  
be taken in hand concurrently with DELHI'S  
forthcoming repairs subject to no extension  
completion date. (list).(DELHI, 1502A/11 to Admty. Bath, Admty., (R) N.O. i/c Newcastle  
on Tyne, V.A. Gibraltar.)O.N.S.154  
Survivors.Your 1925/10th. 7 ships. LYNTON GRANGE, ZARIAN,  
VALOISE DE ROUEN, BARON COCHRANE, MELMORE HEAD,  
EMPIRE SHACKLETON, PRESIDENT FRANCOU.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1632C/11, to Admty.)French  
S/M.French submarine is expected to arrive from  
Barcelona Jan. 20th probably with crew for  
internment.  
(Cartegena, 1715/11, to V.A. Gibraltar. (R) Admty.)

ZE MANEL.

Portuguese ZE MANEL 926 G.T. usual markings on  
side, speed 8 knots, sailed 1715/11th, for  
Marseilles by approved route. Not to be  
interfered with this voyage. 2. V.A. Malta pass to A.O.C.  
Malta and N.C.X.F. to E.A.C.  
(V.A. Gibraltar. 1722A/11 to S. & A. in Area G., N.C.X.F., V.A.  
Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, repeated Admty.)

/Movements...



War Diary.

11.1.1943  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements. Arrivals ROCHESTER, WISHART, VANOC, VERITY, BOREAS, NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, IMPERIALIST, R.F.A. DINGLEDALE ex M.K.S. 5, SCARBOROUGH, VETCH. from Casablanca, Submarine P.219. Departures ALBERNI, BADDECK, VILLE DE QUEBEC, PORT ARTHUR, BRIXHAM, CLACTON with T.E.13, Q.B.203 and 95, Q.B.A. 22, Q.B.B. 316, Q.B.C. 575.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2000A/11 to Admty.)  
Warships Jan. 11th. ST. NECTAN escorting LADY DENISON PENDER departed. U.S.S. OSPREY P.C.474 French SERVANNAISE and TAPAGEUSE departed for Gibraltar escorting F.T.7.  
(C.S.F.W.T.F., 2015Z/11, 0803/14, to Admty.)

U/B

1 Submarine on surface bearing 300°. 1 mile course 180° position 39.27 N. 09.31 W.  
(LA MALOUINE F.S., 2200A/11 to Gibraltar, W/T.)  
Attacked, see 0100A/12.



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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

YORKWOOD R.O. Natal (? words omitted) 46 survivors SS.  
(torpedoed YORKWOOD torpedoed Jan. 8th 1057 G.M.T. Master  
8th Jan.) F.H. Fenn taken prisoner.  
(R.O. Recife, 0200Z/11 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I)  
Freetown, S.B.N.O. Rio de Janeiro.)  
See also 1415/12.

ATHLONE ATHLONE CASTLE sailed 9th Jan. for New York  
CASTLE. E.T.A. 31st Jan.  
2. Personnel on board.  
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 0622Z/11 to B.A.D., D.S.T.,  
(R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

CROCUS. Arrival Pointe Noire 0900Z/11th.  
(B.N.L.O.W.A., 1045/11 to F.O.C.W.A., Etc.)

S/Ms for Your 2117/9. Concur change round of submarines  
A/S Training. every 4 months.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1053C/11 to S.H.A.55, F.O.C.W.A.,  
(R) Admty., etc.)

HOLCOMBE (1) No Allied merchant shipping is routed through  
information. area equator 005° N. 020° W. 025° W.  
(2) One Catalina from Freetown will search near  
position given in my 0933Z/10th at 0730Z/12th  
Jan. Sighting report from 0600Z until 1100Z will be broadcast  
500 k/cs.  
(3) Catalina call sign DWYG. Catalina listens on 500 k/cs from  
10 to 30 and 40 to 60 past the hour.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1101Z/11 to HOLCOMBE, (R) Comsolantfor, Admty.)

MELISKERK Netherland ship MELISKERK aground in 031° 33' S.  
aground. 029° 40' E. Feared that ship will be total loss.  
KHYBER and Tug PRUDENT standing by.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1126C/11 to Admty.)

ATHELVICTOR ATHELVICTOR was detained at Lagos for about a  
Tanker fortnight in connection with enquiries into  
delays. cause of 5th December explosion.  
2. Oil stock position is so generally serious that  
we try to save hours on tanker voyages. Request  
your remarks as to whether the desired evidence could not have  
been obtained without holding ship for so long.  
(D.T.D., 1146A/11 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos.)  
Reply: R.A.W.A. 1647/17.

/Communications ...



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Communications in West Africa. A.M. 1332/5 Jan. Following is the present position:

(a) B.N.L.O. Dakar, telegraphic address Mailbag, Dakar, will have an N.O.I.C.'s set of S.Ps shortly.

(b) A Signal officer and very small cypher and coding staff have been provided from Freetown.

(c) Dakar carries out a naval fixed service with Freetown and Bathurst. The latter carries mostly R.A.F. traffic. Good cable communication exists between Freetown and Dakar.

(d) French have been informed of our views regarding Liaison Staffs in important warships but they are not at present willing to receive them. They have indicated their desire to have one or two such staffs available to go to sea in the Senior Officer's ship of any force leaving Dakar but I do not consider that this compromise is acceptable.

(e) French have started their willingness to join our Naval W/T and B.A.M.S. organisations but at same time have expressed their unwillingness to receive any British communication ratings in their shore stations even for a short period. An exchange of telegraphist ratings is being suggested.

(f) Operating French warships will shortly be issued with the following S.P. 02279, 02279A, 02279 NP (1), No. 02280, 02280A 02385(3), 2405, 02272 (22), 02383 (18) and (20), B.R.266/41.

(g) Extracts of minor war vessels key memorandum together with instructions are being issued to all operating warships and war signal stations.

(h) Self-evident code using latitude and longitude or bearing and distance from well known point of land as reference position is being issued.

(i) Collinet has been provided with S.P.02279 and 02280 and two way pads of S.P.02341 series.

(2) Intend keeping addressees of this message informed of progress of communication affairs in West Africa. Request reciprocal arrangement from North Africa.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1231Z/11 to Admty., N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib.)

French Convoy. Following is a repetition of my 1350/11th addressed F.O.W.Af., (R) Admty. Your 1145/10th. Following from Admiral Collinet after discussing with military. Subject to events at sea the convoy can arrive Casablanca 21st and be clear from Casablanca within 24 hours. Intend therefore to sail convoy 13th as arranged. Please pass to appropriate authorities.  
(B.N.L.O. Dakar, 1355/11 to Admty.)

Movements. Departures 10th Jan. M.Ls 1077, 1076 escorting PINZON.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1430/11 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

/Port ...



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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Movements  
Summaries.

M/B PRUDENT standing by MELISKERK in vicinity  
031° 33' S. 029° 40' E. A.S.10 (1 corrupt group)  
(?40') S. 013° 40' E. to Bombay 21 knots.  
QUILLIAM ROCKWOOD, CHESHIRE with W.S.25 018°  
30' S. 009° 30' E. to Durban 12½ knots.  
INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA escorting INTEGRITY towing  
crane lighter 034° 35' S. 018° 40' to Durban  
5 knots.  
VALIANT, HOTSPUR, BLACKMOOR 029° 25' S. 034°  
10' E. to Durban 15½ knots.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1123C/11).  
Situation at 2001Z/11th ALCANTARA 01.48 S. 03.31  
311 15 2 M/Ls with T.S.29 off Takoradi to (West?)  
8 H.M.S. ILEX HOLCOMBE 02.57 22.19 221 17 allied  
naval unit 00.04 27.31 to 03.00 27.00 thence 044°  
15.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1403Z/11).



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Port Etienne, A.534 11th Jan. Your A.X.808 9th Jan.  
flying boat facilities. There are no facilities at Port Etienne for operating flying boats other than three buoys, 1 refuelling (? barge) and 1 motor boat. No accommodation or rations and severe shortage water ashore. We can however operate for time being using flying boats themselves and setting up temporary flare paths and 1 or 2 tents? ashore. As nil stocks 100 octane petrol available Sunderlands only will be sent Port Etienne for time being. French are confident they can cover their own north-bound convoy on date given by you using land aircraft from Port Etienne and we are standing by to reinforce if required by French in an emergency. Arrangements in hand to ship petrol and other materials to Port Etienne from Bathurst about 20th Jan. Appreciate essential set up Port Etienne for operation Catalinas and Hudsons as soon as possible. Further details will be signalled to you very soon.  
(A.H.Q. W. Africa, 1515Z/11 to Air Min.)

Convoy Sailing telegram.  
W.S. 25W. 2. 0100Z/7th Jan.  
3. Aden 0500Z/15th Jan.  
4. S. of A. 25.4 knots.  
5. (Route).  
(C. in C. S.A., 1522C/11 to Admty., etc.)

O. 21. Your 1234/7th. Intended programme for D.S. O.21; departs Simonstown 15th Jan. departs East London 20th Jan, arrive Diego Suarez 26th Jan.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1540/11 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Capt. S.4, D.S. O.21.)

INTEGRITY, Capetown departure 1226C/11th H.M. Tug INTEGRITY etc. towing crane lighter escorted by INDIAN STAR and VIVIANA for Durban S. of A. 5 knots, E.T.A. 1200C/18th. Escorts shift to W/T organisation for area J at 0800C/17th.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1620C/11 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., Cdre. Durban, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. East London.)

Boom, To provide maximum protection against attack by Takoradi. small craft and in view of the increasing difficulty of maintaining efficiency of present defences, request consideration be given to the provision of A.B. type G boom for whole of perimeter of anchorage at Takoradi.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1621Z/11 to Admty.)



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

O.N.S.154. Your 1037/10. NORTHMOOR chopped 1800/7, my 1148/6 refers.  
(D.T.D., 1625A/11 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements. Arrival 1000Z/11 Jan. CYCLAMEN, M.L.289 and 278 escorting SS. HAI LEE.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1720/11 to F.O.C.W.A.)

F.N.L.O. N.C.X.F. 1758A/11.  
Freetown. See "Torch" Area.

French Convoy Escorts. (1) B.N.L.O. Dakar reports northbound convoys leave Dakar 13th Jan. arriving Casablanca 20th Jan. and be ready to leave 21st Jan\*.  
(2) Intend CYCLAMEN, BUTSER, BIRDLIP and FANDANGO to augment French Escort of this convoy.  
(3) Suggest Casablanca escort of K.X.8 transfer to Dakar Casablanca convoy and Freetown escort transfer to K.X.8 at M.O.M.P. which can be arranged when route of both convoys are known.  
(F.O.W.A., 1759Z/11 to N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) B.N.L.O. Dakar, CYCLAMEN, Admty., V.A. Gibraltar.)  
My 1759Z/11. Add BELLWORT.  
(F.O.W.A., 1016Z/12.)  
\* Amended to 21st Jan. and 22nd Jan. respectively by 1519Z/12, q.v.  
S.N.O. Casablanca's 1622Z/10th, is passed to CYCLAMEN for B.N.L.O. Dakar. B.N.L.O. Dakar is requested to signal route of northbound convoy and mid-ocean meeting place referred to in my 1759Z/11th.  
(F.O.W.A., 1841Z/11 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) B.N.L.O. Dakar, Admty., CYCLAMEN, N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)

U.S. Shipping Routes. A.M. 1921/9.  
1. N.C.S.Os on S.A.S. have already been instructed that all suitable U.S. ships are to be routed via Magellan and that there is no upper speed limit for these ships. Please confirm that this is a correct interpretation of Connav's wishes.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1817C/11 to Admty.)

DUNKERY. Under prevailing conditions E.T.A. Bathurst altered to 16th Jan.  
(DUNKERY, 1900Z/11 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

Negotiations with French at Dakar. I now hope to visit Dakar very shortly. To facilitate discussions request Admiralty intentions regarding Convoy Policy for French Convoys and information whether they may have any part of C.B.04234 communicated to them. I have already

/had ...



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- Negotiations with French at Dakar. (Contd.) had discussions with Captain Bonneaux C.O.S. to Admiral Collinet who appears anxious to co-operate and to use our experience. Collinet very anxious to receive information referred to which I feel should be given him through B.N.L.O. (F.O.C.W.A., 1919/11 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.)
- Movements, Takoradi. Departure 11th COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, PICT, M.L. No.265 with T.S.29, Freetown 16th, NORTHERN ISLES Lagos 13th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1943Z/11 to Admty., F.O.I.C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos.)
- Movements, Pernambuco. Departures 9th Jan. U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE, U.S. destroyers ERICSSON, MOFFETT. Arrival 9th Brazilian minelayer CABEDELO. Arrivals 10th U.S. Aircraft Carrier SANTEE, U.S. destroyers EBERLE, LIVERMOORE, MOFFETT. Departure 10th U.S. destroyer KEARNEY. (R.O. Recife/Pernambuco, 1948Z/11 to Admty.)
- DALCROSS. British Ship DALCROSS torpedoed 1415 G.M.T. today 11th in 006° 11' N. 052° 23' W. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 2044Z/11 to Admty.)



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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- P.228. Proceed direct to patrol area North of line 240° from Carena Point Capri. Concentrate your patrol 5 miles either side of line 210° from your focal point which is 210°. Imperatore Point 4.  
(Capt. S. 10 0050A/11 to P.228 (R) Capt. S.8 etc.)
- U/B. Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in 37.10 N. 5.42 E. Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface. When first sighted was on course 200° speed 8 knots.  
(A/C using call sign G7GV 0100A/11.)
- Enemy Units. Following read by Alexandria W/T. P.C. and S. of 7 unknown enemy are 38.42 N. 12.40 E. 200° 10.  
(A/C using Call Sign FBVG 0315/11.)  
P.C. and S. of 1 enemy large M/V and 3 small craft are 37.51 N. 13.53 E. 240° 10.  
(Call sign FAPL 0345A/11.)
- AJAX, SCYTHIA, ACUTE. SCYTHIA hove to. Wind force 7. Intend proceeding independently to Aroneu (?Arzeu) with half the escort, S.O. remaining with SCYTHIA is ACUTE.  
(AJAX 0738A/11 to Cdre. Algiers, (R) N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Oran, V.A. Gibraltar.)  
Your 0738/11th. On arrival Aezeu send destroyer back to SCYTHIA.  
(N.C.X.F. 1017A/11 to AJAX (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Cde. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran.)  
TARTAR and CALPE left Arzeu to rejoin SCYTHIA.  
(AJAX 1712/11 to ACUTE, N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C., Oran, Cdre. Algiers.)
- Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 10th Jan. ERICA, TREEN (? TREERN intended) AMBER. Greek Destroyer PINDOS.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 0922/11 to Admty., C. in C.Med.)
- Air R/C. P.R.U. 11th Jan. 0700 Taranto and Messina. Nil report. 10/1007.  
(V.A. Malta 0941/11 to N.C.X.F. etc.)  
P.R.U. 11th Jan. 1130 visuals Messina, 3 cruisers photographs taken. No P.R.U. on Taranto.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1246A/11.)  
Cavoli, aircraft patrol cancelled for nights 11th/12th January. No aircraft available.  
(R.A. Malta 1640A/11 to N.C.X.F.)
- E.T.9. Situation at 2000A/11th.  
(1) E.T.9 BICESTER 4 escorts 037° 03' N. 007° 40' E. through 91.36 99.92 036° 52' N. 003° 05' E. 7 knots.  
(N.C.X.F. 1027A/11 to A.I.G. 411 (R) H.Q.E.762C.)  
E.T.9. Intend sailing (excluding Oran Section) ORKLA, BARON RUTHVEN, TRISTRAM, DALTON (U.S.) TIBA (Dutch) CLAN LAMONT,

/RHODE ISLAND ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- E.T.9  
(contd.)
- RHODE ISLAND (U.S.) ESSO BAYWAY, (U.S. Tanker) HAMPTON LODGE, PACIFIC SHIPPER, JOHN DAVENPORT, (U.S.) CITY OF WORCESTER, HOUSTON CITY, all in ballast and OCEAN GALLANT with 800 tons iron ore, all to Gibraltar for orders.  
(Cdre. Algiers 1124A/11 to V.A. Gibraltar, Admty., Cominch (C & R) (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, N.C.X.F.)
- E.T.9. My 2241/7th. Onward escort from Algiers BICESTER (for 7 days refit at Gibraltar) WEYBURN, CONVULVULUS. SPEEDWELL, ALBACORE.  
(N.C.X.F. 1831A/11 to Cdre. Algiers (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, V.A. Gibraltar, BICESTER, Capt. (S) 8, Admty., Capt. F., Hqs. E.A.C., Connav, S.O. Force H.)
- ALBULA. Swiss ship ALBULA leaves Genoa 13th for Gibraltar.  
(D.E.W.D. 1122A/11 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F.)
- AMARAPOORA. Sailed hospital ship AMARAPOORA routed in accordance with your 1100/10th which was received too late to comply with as regards time. Destination Clyde for orders.  
(Oran 1200A/11 to Admty.)  
W.R. Note. No trace in W.R. of an Admiralty 1100/10 to Oran but N.C.X.F. originated a signal 1100/10 concerning AMARAPOORA.
- Cositrep  
No.652.  
(Air)
5. 10 Jan. American B.24s despatched to bomb Bizerta found objective hidden by cloud and attacked alternative target Tunis and La Goulette. Results unobserved.  
Escorted Spitfires from Malta bombed aerodrome on Lampedusa Island and Gela aerodrome in Sicily also damaged one Me.109.  
(C. in C. M.E. 1200B/11.)
- Ships for  
Turkey.
- Following from Adm. Kelly. Your 1935/7th. (N.T. in W.D.) Have seen General Asim Gunduz and Minister of Communications who after offering of 1 week agreed to your retention of ICA for 1 month. Under these circumstances TUZLA should proceed direct Turkey embarking Boom Gear from Beirut for Alexandretta en route.  
(N.A. Ankara 1224C/11 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)
- P.247.  
P.228.
- Capt. (S) 8 1314/9th para.1. Your onward route through 039° 05' 012° 34' thence course 40° into your patrol area which is the arc 180° to 240° from Carena Point Capri. Focal point 040° 16' 013° 58'. P.228 is operating in area immediately to north of you. S/Ms are not to be attacked unless definitely identified as enemy.  
(Capt. S. 10 1235A/11 to P.247 (R) N.C.X.F.  
Capt. (S) 1, F.O.S. Capt.(S) 8, S/Ms on patrol.)

/POOLE ...



War Diary.

11.1.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

POOLE,  
ROMNEY,  
PANTHER,  
DERWENT,  
ISIS,  
HERO.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 0956/10. POOLE and ROMNEY are to be sailed to Alexandria on arrival of the two "Bathursts".  
2. PANTHER is to be sailed to Port Said as soon as convenient. Intend DERWENT, ISIS and HERO to remain in Aden Area for the present.  
(C. in C. Med. 1509B/11 to Cdre. Aden (R) Cdre. (D) Eastern Fleet, C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A., Admty.)

ABDIEL.

Following message is passed to Admty.  
V.A. Malta 1817/9th. Onward route from position FF through positions 91 and 92.  
2. Fighter protection from one until 0800A/12th then from 2. Codeword "Bosom".  
3. S. of A. 24. E.T.A. Algiers 1600A/12th. (N.C.X.F. 1536A/11 to ABDIEL (R) F.O.I.S., H.Q.E.A.C., N.Os I.C. Bone, Philippeville, Bougie, V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8, Capt.(S) 10, Force H., Cmdre. Algiers.)  
Sailed ABDIEL.  
(V.A. Malta 1702A/11 to Admty. etc.)

UNA,  
P.44.

After dark tonight move to established patrol as follows.  
(1) UNA in the area south of latitude 038° 45' and between longitude 014° 00' and 014° 50'.  
(2) P.44 in the area east of 014° 20' and between latitudes 039° 00' and 040° 10'.  
Enter your area by the south western corner. You may spend up to 48 hours gunning trains.  
(Capt. S.10 1631A/11 to UNA, P.44 (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, Submarines on Patrol.)

Bougie.  
Situation  
report.

(A) Nil.  
(B) CLAN LAMONT Tug EMPIRE GNOME (LCIL)  
(C) ? Tug EMPIRE MINOTAUR, LANARKSHIRE P.M. 16th FORT SENNEVILLE P.M. 18th.  
(D) About 4 enemy aircraft dropped 11 bombs around harbour. Kader quay temporarily wrecked, motor M/S sustained superficial damage and minor casualties.  
(E) and (F) Nil.  
(G) 325  
(H) 3800.  
(I) 1150.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1840A/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.S., Cmdre. Algiers.)

D.12.

Senior Officer Force I's 0949 (N.T. in W.D.) Passed through mist at 1730, thence to rain at 2000, storm, gale at 0345B/12th (sic). Thence blowing sand at 15 knots. If no indication from aircraft during the night intend returning Tobruk to fuel JAVELIN. C. in C. Med. Fleet's 1853/9th refers.  
(Capt. D.12. 1911B/11 to C. in C. Med. Fleet, S.O. Force I. (R) N.L.O. 8th Army.)

/Situation ...



11.1.1943.

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

Situation Western Desert. Air attack 9th Jan. Benghazi, Report no naval damage. One enemy destroyed by No.320. fighters. Westerly gales causing delays cargo discharge. PAKENHAM and JAVELIN hunting U-Boat north west of Benghazi.

(2) Submarines. P.42 reports at 0731/26th Dec. in 40° 41' N. 13° 46' E. probably sank 5,000 ton M/V.

(3) After sunset in 40° 07' N. opened fire on Masonry Railway Bridge, causing structural damage, parted power cables and demolished signal box.

(4) ABDIEL has left Malta for Algiers.

(5) ISIS has rejoined Mediterranean Station and allocated 12th D.F.

(C. in C. Med. 1915B/11 to Admty. etc.)

Movements N.C.X.F's 1855/8th. (Call for daily report of Philippeville. arrivals and departures) Arrived and sailed RHYL, POLRUAN, STORNOWAY, MISOA, TASAJERA, BACHAQUERO. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 2001A/11 to Admty. etc.)

Movements Algiers arrivals L.C.I. 244 and tug EMPIRE GNOME Algiers. from Bougie, WHEATLAND, WILTON escorting one M/V from Bougie. Departures BUDE, SUMMERSIDE escorting two M.Ls to Bone. (Cdre. Algiers 2006A/11 to Admty.)

Vessels It is proposed to embark returning vessels ex C.M.37. C.M.37 to capacity with balance South Africa Division and details all services for U.K. E.T.D. Suez about 4th Feb. Will escort be available? Agreed G.H.Q. Middle East. (P.S.T.O. Middle East 2050/11 to F.O.R.S.C.A. (R) C. in C. E.F., G.H.Q. Middle East etc.)

Malta Air A.I. 583, 11 Jan. Night 10/11th Jan. Report. No enemy air activity locally. Day 11th Jan. 8 Spitfires have been airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta and 2 Spitfire sorties have been made in offensive sweep west of Malta. 39 Spitfire and 4 Beaufighter sorties have been made to give fighter escort to convoy approaching from southeast and 1 Sunderland has flown ahead of convoy on A/S patrol. Visibility was poor. Convoy was first located at 0702 hrs. 105° Malta 100 miles and thereafter continuous fighter escort was provided until dusk. 1 Ju.88 approached to within 5 miles north west of the convoy at 1445 hrs. and was chased by Spitfires until it escaped in thick cloud. No attack has been reported on convoy while under our protection and at dusk convoy had safely reached 20 miles south of Malta.

Night 10/11th Jan. Operations were hampered by bad weather. As Tunis was obscured by 10/10ths cloud 10 Wellingtons bombed Sousse Harbour and installations from 1920 to 2000 hours, scoring hits on Commercial Quay between quay and railway sidings and in southwest corner of harbour, starting 1 fire. (A.H.Q. Malta 2131Z/11.)

/E.A.C. ...



11.1.1943.

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

E.A.C. Report. A.126 11th Jan. Op. Summ. No.61 1800 hours 9 Jan. 43 to 1800 hours 10 Jan.43.  
A. Operations. Night. 9 Wellingtons detailed attack Bizerta Docks found drifting cloud over target. 1 aircraft caught glimpse dockside and bombed with unobserved results.  
Day. No flying due to weather from Souk El Arba. Harbour and base patrols flown from Bone. 1 Hudson sighted fully surfaced U-boat 38.29 N. 6.42 E. 3 250 D/Cs dropped 75 yards ahead of Swirl 23 seconds after submersion. No results seen. (E.A.C. Africa 2210A/11.)

TRIBUNE M/V hit. 6000 Merchant Ship ashore\* Cape Cervo with two torpedo hits. Traffic arriving in this area from westward at 1000 and hugging coast. Only air counter measures encountered. Weather. (TRIBUNE 2231A/11 to Capt. S.8 (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)  
*\* Salvage operations observed (C.C.Med, 1153/25/2/43)*

M/Vs. Sfax. Aircraft returning from patrol report having sighted 7 small merchant ships anchored 3 miles outside Sfax harbour at 1520A today. (Capt. S. 10 2250A/11 to P.51, P.35.)  
Not considered suitable targets, see 0937A/12.

14 M.S. Flot. Your 1705B/11th. Tango. My position 300° from Tin distant 15 miles. Course 310° speed 4 knots. E.T.A. 6 miles north of Drain at 0200. Chop at 0900. Position p.m. 13th. MAPLE returned to 5 miles South of Tin with condenser trouble. Will follow when defect made good. Request fighter protection. (S.O. 14th M/S Flotilla 2325B/11 to N.L.O. Fighter H.Q. Derma (R) S.O. Force I. Spares for C. in C. Med.)



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Movements.

Summary No. 35 Jan. 11th.

1. Ref. item 1 in summary 34, DEVONSHIRE and CARTHAGE left Aden 10th Jan. S. of A.  $11\frac{1}{4}$  knots due Durban 24th Jan.

2. CHITRAL diverted Kilindini due 16th Jan. (C. in C. E.F., 0857Z/11 to E.F., etc.)

HOTSPUR,  
EXPRESS,  
INCONSTANT,  
FORTUNE.Admty. 1650/30/12 and my 1318/31/12 (Hush).  
Following important items will require taking in hand.2. HOTSPUR, four super-heaters require retubing.  
3. EXPRESS, two super-heaters due for retubing June, 1943.

4. INCONSTANT ferrules of main condensers require replacement with cupro nickel.

5. FORTUNE. Probable large repairs to starboard shaft bushes and possible straightening of shaft.

(C. in C. E.F., 0920Z/11 to Admty.)

M.N.B.D.O.

Your 1020Z/19th Dec.\*

As it will not be possible for the whole of (? first) R.M. group of M.N.B.D.O. No.1 to assemble in India before May owing to lack of accommodation, relief of L and M Units does not appear to be an immediate necessity.

(F.L.O. Delhi, 0931Z/11 to F.O. Ceylon, (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med., G.O.C. Colombo.)

\* Re withdrawal of L &amp; M units for Addu Atoll.

Pacific  
Actions,  
lessons.Recent report from G.H.Q. South West Pacific Area of air combats in Solomon Islands and New Guinea suggest enemy suffered with relatively very small Allied loss in aircraft. Is this confirmed and if so to what (? attributed).  
(C. in C. E.F., 1303Z/11 to A.C.N.B., (R) Admty.)  
Reply: A.C.N.B. 0902Z/13.



394

War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

KENORA defects. E.T.A. 1600Z/11th, boiler hours. Port propellor damaged (?plug of) Bangor W/T Charging panel needs repair.  
(KENORA 0100Z/11 to F.O.N.F. (R) D. Halifax.)

CLYDE. U.S. S/M Notice. British S/M CLYDE hove to on N.W. course 43.45 N. 42.40 W. at 2030Z/10th. Modify my 0615/10th.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0308/11 to Admty.)

DALCROSS torpedoed. Barbados W/T intercepted SSSS de DALCROSS 006° 11' N. 052° 23' W. two torpedo attacks port side 1415 G.M.T/11th.  
(Kingston Jamaica 1052R/11 to Admty.)

U.S. Movements. Arrival 10th Jan. U.S.A. Transport ENGLEMAN.  
(B.R.O. Aruba 1109QR/11 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)  
Departure 9th U.S. Army Transport LEISENRING escorted by Y.P.427 Miami 10th.  
(R.O. Nassau 1205/11 to Admty. S.O.(I) Jamaica.)  
Arrival 11th Jan. U.S. Army Transport EL-LIBERTADOR.  
(N.C.S.O. Curacao 1432QR/11 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Kingston (Jamaica))  
Arrival 11th U.S. Sub. Chaser 79th, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, Y.P. 421st, Armed Yacht S.C. 750th.  
(R.O. Barranquilla 1717/11 to D.N.I. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

T.M. convoys. B.R.L.O. Trinidad 1644/28 Dec. and N.C.S.O. Curacao 1515/9 and Navcom Washington 0445/9 are variously addressed, none to all authorities concerned.  
2. Request you will arrange for sailing and route telegrams of these convoys.  
(a) to include Admiralty and V.A. Gibraltar in address.  
(b) to be repeated N.C.X.F. and F.O.C.W. Africa and for an extract to C.S.A. Ponta Delgada when appropriate.  
(D.T.D. 1311A/11 to B.A.D.)

C.J. BARKDULL. Your 1050A/8th, affirmative.  
(Connav 1340/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.B.N.O. West Africa, Casablanca Area.)

S.C.113. Arrived off Oversay 1430Z/31, all ships arrived.  
(D.T.D. 1555Z/11 to Connav, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B. Aircraft sighted S/M 44° 10' N. 060° 45' W. at ?1535Z/11th.  
(C.O.A.C. 1555Z/11, 1936Z/11 to G.B.7 A (R) A.I.G. 302.)

/STALKER ...



# MOST SECRET

394A

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(\*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:  
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E. OUT.

Addressed OPNAV. 1005Z/11th Jan.  
Repeated COMNAVEU. Date. 11.1.42.

TYPE X U.S. Settings.

From Admiralty.

Movements summary at 1800 G.M.T. 11th Jan.

<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Position.</u>	<u>Course.</u>	<u>Speed.</u>
S/M CLYDE	43½°N. 42½°W.	Howe to at 20 30/10.	Blank.
Convoy T.M.F.2) 3 destroyers	15½°N. 66°W.	039 degs.	13
Convoy F.T.T.6) MILFORD AMARANTHUS	10½°N. 47°W.	274 degs.	7½
HYDRANGEA C. DROGOU	14° N. 33°W.	105 degs.	11
4 trawlers.	14° N. 31½°W.	092 degs.	10.
CARNARVON CASTLE.	11° S. 25½°W.	232 degs.	17.

1005Z/11.

for D.O.D. (F).  
164.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.H.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.H.S. (UT)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim.  
D.C.D. (H) (2)  
D.C.D. (F) (2)  
D.T.D. (M)  
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).

MC.



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

STALKER. STALKER expected to be ready to leave San Francisco for Norfolk (Virginia) on Thursday 21st Jan. B.R.L.O. at San Francisco pass to STALKER. (B.A.M.R. 1600Z/11 to Admty.)

HUNTER. HUNTER expects to be ready to sail from Pascagoula on Sunday 17th Jan. proceeding New Orleans and to leave New Orleans for Norfolk Va. Friday 22nd Jan. (B.A.M.R. 1602Z/11 to Admty.)

S/M estimate 11th Jan. U.S. S/M Notice. Cominch 1603/11 to Admty.

Movements. Section N.W. GANANOQUE, RED DEER, departed Louisburg 1900Z/11 and proceeding independently to Halifax, U.S.S. MIGHT, U.S.S BRISK 046° 30' 059° 27' on route Halifax speed 12. (C.O.A.C. 1625Z/11 to Admty.)

ANDES. Request confirmation report that ANDES due Halifax late January to embark Canadian service personnel to capacity and to sail as A.T.35. 2. No information received at N.S.H.Q. Ottawa except unconfirmed offer of ship by B.A.S. Washington to Canadian Army movement control. (N.S.H.Q. 1637Z/11 to D.S.T. (R) B.A.D. etc.) Reply: D.S.T. 2125/12.

COWICHAN, DUNVEGAN, FENNEL. E.T.A. Halifax with 2 merchant ships 0930Z/12th. Require 100 tons fuel 20 tons fresh water. Boiler hours. Request arrangements be made to survey and replace 570 pounds meat. DUNVEGAN requires new ray oil burner for galley stove. Request mail for COWICHAN, FENNEL and DUNVEGAN. (COWICHAN 1700Z/11 to C.O.A.C. (R) Capt. (D) C.T.U. 24.5, C.T.U. 18.7.)

U/Bs. (Corrupt group) report two submarines sighted 047° 40' N. 052° 54' W. 1807Z. (C.O.A.C. 1905Z/11 to G.B.7A, Comtask 24.7 (R) C. in C. W.A. etc.) Improbable - see 2104/12.

/U.G.F.5 ...



am  
395A

# MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1925Z/11 January.

OUT.

To: Britnan, Washington.

DATE. 11.1.45.

CYIPHER.

---

From. Air Ministry.

L.M.A.B.61 11th Jan. 1943, ref. JSM(A) 52.

OZ 113.

U.S. Military Supplies for Turkey.

1. We attach great importance to establishing principle that Turkey is primarily a British military responsibility. This can only be laid down by Combined Chiefs of Staff, as suggested in your paragraph 4.

2. Foreign Office strongly maintain that Turkey is essentially a British political responsibility, because:-

(a) We have Treaty obligations to Turkey.

(b) We have much fuller knowledge of, and closer contact with, Turkey's political economic and military position than the Americans have.

(c) Turkey is definitely in British strategic sphere geographically, and might some day become an active Ally.

3. Therefore, for military and political reasons, we feel it essential that principle of our responsibility for Turkey should be recognised by C.C.S. as proposed in your J.S.M.(A) 51.

4. Reference proposals in J.S.M.(A) 52, para. 1, Foreign Office uneasy lest these would make acceptance of this principle impossible, but from purely L.M.A.B. point of view, and in order to avoid impasse and to ensure that Turks are equipped as expeditiously as possible, we would agree to your accepting the procedure as an interim measure, provided this will not prejudice ultimate decision of C.C.S. on main principle.



5. Before taking any action consult Ambassador who is being instructed separately on political angle.

1925Z/11.

Circulation: by Air Ministry.

Brig. Jacob.  
War Registry Admiralty.  
A.L.H.I. War Office.  
S.4.C.G.  
A.D.Overseas, D.G.S. & P's Dept., Min.  
of Supply.  
Second Sec., Min. of Supply.  
G/C Johnson.  
Min. of Fred.  
Sir Walter Layton.  
Mr. Hasler.  
Mr. Stafford.  
Sir Henry Self.  
Mr. Denis O'Neill, M.V.T.  
Mr. G.L. Clutton.  
Mr. C. Bramwell.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.(2)  
D.F.SL.  
Controller.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
Sec.  
N.A.1st S.L.  
P.A.S.(S)  
A.S.(C)  
D. of P.(2)  
D. of P.(Q)  
D.C.  
Hd. of M.(2)  
I.P.(2)  
V.D.  
Hd. of N.A.S.  
P.A.S.(PR)  
A.S.(C)

Recd. in War Registry  
at 0235/12.



War Diary.

11.1.1943 **396**  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

U.G.F.5.

U.S. Authorities intend to embark the following personnel in one ship sailing in U.G.F.5 so as to arrive Casablanca about 20th Feb, 300 for Dakar, 1066 for Accra, 1375 for Marshall, Liberia.

2. Could British escort be arranged for this ship from Casablanca to ports mentioned? (B.A.D. 1935Z/11 to F.O.C. West Africa (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)

W.L.E.F.

My 1552/15 Oct. (Hush).

Due to corvettes lent to "Torch" and the transfer of Destroyers to W.S.F. the Groups in the W.L.E.F. now consist only of 2 Corvettes and 1 Bangor.

(2) It is desired therefore to transfer some of the Bangors from the Sydney Force to the W.L.E.F.

(3) This will be possible if Admiralty will agree to the 8 R.N. Isle class trawlers remaining in Canada until "Torch" corvettes return. Only 5 of these vessels are at present in service the remaining 3 completing working up this month or early February.

(4) Request your concurrence of para. 3 above.

(N.S.H.Q. 2009Z/11 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

Sub. attack  
& sighting  
summary.

Para. A. DALCROSS torpedoed 06.11 N. 52.23 W. 1415Z/11. Attack 1400Z, 1512Z and 1515Z/10 my 2120/10 change to area 58.11 N. 26.35 W. U.S.S. GOFF attacks sound contact 05.05 N. 51.11 W. 0740Z/11.

Para. C. Aircraft sights sub. 43.08 N. 60.45 W. 1535Z/11 JEREMIAH WADSWORTH, U.146 on conning tower. Shield with crossed sticks. (Cominch 2022/11 to Admty., for O.I.C.)

Shipping  
Casualties.

Connav Serial 11. COAMO overdue New York from Gibraltar since 10th Dec. presumed lost. BRITISH DOMINION also in T.M.1 torpedoed sunk 10th Jan.

NORWALK sunk in collision with NIDAREID 10th Jan. 028° 18' N. 080° 00' W.

NIDAREID requests instructions reached port with damaged bow.

(Connav 2101/11 to Commaveu.)

O.N.156.

Departures H.M.C.S. ARROWHEAD, CHICOUTIMI, DIGBY to escort O.N. 156.

(N.O.I.C. Halifax 2101Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

M/V Call  
Signs.

In view of your 1927/6/1 are merchant ships still required to include their full name coded in the text of signals as required by your 1317/4/12 in addition to using their secret war call signs? (S.B.N.O.W.A. 2213Z/11 to Admty.)

/G.U. ...



War Diary.11.1.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

G.U. Convoys. As vessels in G.U. convoys are destined U.S. Ports and also may be diverted en route request N.S.H.Q. be included in sailing telegrams. (N.S.H.Q. 2247Z/11 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)

Dates, description. J.S.M. 682 11th Jan. 1943. Ref. C.O.S.(W)327 (1840Z/30th October).  
U.S. C.O.S. agree with the proposals in para. 2 (b) of C.O.S.(W)327. but prefer that para. 2 (a) should read - "That the date should be described by spelling out the name of the month either followed by or preceded by the date numeral".  
2. U.S. C.O.S. are issuing instructions on above lines. (J.S.M. Washington 2251Z/11 to W.C.O. London.)

Australia and New Zealand.

U.S. Warship Losses. Washington Jan.11. The Navy Department announced tonight the loss of the aircraft carrier HORNET, the heavy cruiser NORTHAMPTON, two light cruisers, and seven destroyers. The HORNET was the carrier previously unnamed which was sunk in the battle of Santa Cruz Island on October 26. The loss of the other ships, all in the Solomons area, were previously announced, but the vessels were not identified for military reasons. The Navy Department, giving details of the sinkings, stated:-  
U.S.S. HORNET (aircraft carrier) sunk by U.S. ships after being damaged beyond salvage in the battle off the Santz Cruz Island on October 26° U.S.S. JUNEAU and U.S.S. ATLANTA (light cruisers), and U.S.S. CUSHING, PRESTON, BENHAM, WATKINS, MONSSEN, LAFFEY and BARTON (destroyers) sunk by enemy action in the battle of Guadalcanal on November 13/15; U.S.S. NORTHAMPTON (heavy cruiser) sunk by enemy action during an engagement to the north of Guadalcanal on the night of November 30 and December 1. (The Times 12/1/43.)

Movements. Departure Vila 10th January, U.S.S. SABINE for U.S.A. Arrival Auckland 0108Z/11, U.S.S. CYGNUS CAHF.  
(D.N.I. Wellington 0221Z/11 to Admty.)  
Arrival Auckland U.S.S. HUNTER LIGGETT and U.S. Destroyer GANSERV 9945.  
(D.N.I. Wellington 0634Z/11 to Admty.)

? Your 0922Z/9th para. 5 confirmed.  
(A.C.N.B. 0636Z/11 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.  
C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Zanzibar, C. in C. S.A.)  
W.R. Note: Former was Hush.



11.1.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - contd.

Digest No. Small cargo vessel departed Buka passage to N.W.  
354 Jan. 10th. early morning 10th leaving nil shipping there.  
(2) 2 Catalinas, 2 Liberators, 3 Fortresses, 5  
Beauforts attacked enemy convoy retiring from Lae  
towards Rabaul via South Coast New Britain afternoon 9th and  
morning 10th. Hits scored one transport causing fire also  
one possible torpedo hit during night attack. Convoy last  
reported east of Gasmata morning 10th consisting of one light  
cruiser, 4 destroyers and 2 or 3 transports. Fighter inter-  
ception during above attacks resulted 3 enemy fighters de-  
stroyed, one other probable.  
(3) Supply dumps on waterfront at Lae bombed and strafed morning  
10th by 6 B.25s with 9 Lightnings as top cover. 11 Beaufighters  
shot up grounded aircraft Lae aerodrome same morning destroying  
one Fighter certain.  
(4) (?R/C) Lorengau area noon 10th reported only one sailing  
vessel.  
(5) One Gunboat one large and two medium cargo vessels sighted  
vicinity Koepang heading N.W. Jan. 9th.  
(6) Few Japanese encountered Kuouisi River mouth area 9th  
(?covered) bunkers located over whole Sanananda track area where  
Allied pressure continues.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0815Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

RAMSES Your 1751/29th Nov. para. 4. W/T operator  
intelligence. RAMSES who has been in hospital most reticent.  
Claims that vessel normally operated on 500 k/cs  
and the international short wave bands (18 24 and  
36 meters) and that vessel carried merchant code book only and  
not naval codes. Norwegian prisoners believed vessel listened  
to Germany on a special frequency the indication being that one  
routine took place at 1430 local time.  
(A.C.N.B. 0947Z/11 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival 8th Jan. Townsville U.S. fleet oiler  
VICTORIA 10th Sydney (N.S.W.) U.S. transport  
CREMER. Cairns U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT.  
Fremantle U.S. Store ship GOLD STAR. U.S.  
transport BOSPHORUS departed Fall River (?10th)  
for Oro Bay. U.S. transport WEST POINT departed  
Brisbane 10th due Melbourne 12th.  
(A.C.N.B. 1347Z/11 to Admty., Connv.)

VAN HEUTSZ K.P.M. vessel VAN HELITZ (? HEUTSZ) attacked by  
bombed. enemy aircraft ORO (corrupt group ? Oro Bay)  
9th Jan. Numbers 3 and 4 hatches damaged.  
Quartermaster killed, Electrician died from  
wounds, 2 W/T operators wounded.  
(N.B. Melbourne 1506Z/11 to Admty.)



# SECRET

*Auth*

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SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT.

1849A/11th January.

Addressed: A.C.N.B. 301. Date: 11.1.43.  
Repeated: C. in C. Eastern Fleet 670.  
COMSOWESPAC.  
B.A.D. Washington. 412.

NAVAL CYPHER (X)

From: Admiralty.

DEFERRED.

Your 1122/7 October and 1029/23 October. Information in Paras. A. and B. my 1544/17 February is somewhat misleading according to latest known data. Following details are forwarded in amendment

Class of Ship.	Maximum Length	Maximum Beam.	Deep Load Draught.
KING GEORGE V	745'	112' 6"	34'
NELSON	710' 3"	106' 1"	35'
ROYAL SOVEREIGN	625' 10"	101' 6"	35' 6"
QUEEN ELIZABETH	646' 1"	104'	35'
Large Carriers	748' 11"	95' 9"	29'
RENOVII	794' 2"	102' 4"	31' 6"
County Class Cruisers	635' 6"	68' 6"	22' 9"
DIDO's	512'	50' 6"	18' 6"
FIJI's	555' 6"	64'	21' 6"
BIRMINGHAM (SOUTHAMPTON's)	591' 9"	64' 3"	22'
BIDFAST	613' 6"	69'	23'
AURORA'S (ARETHUSA's)	506'	51' 1"	19'
EMERALD's	571' 6"	54' 9"	21' 9"
HAWKINS	605' 2"	65' 1"	22' 6"
D. Class Cruisers	472' 9"	46' 9"	18'
C. Class Cruisers	451' 9"	43' 10"	18'

2. All heavy ships at wharves should be fendered off with catamarans. For bulged ships a fender with portable clump is necessary. Typical drawing Po.M.CD 018355 being forwarded separately.

3. Considered also that catamaran fenders of type as para. (2) will be necessary at the dolphins to prevent overhanging bows of berthed ships from fouling as ships rise and fall with the tide, and to avoid possible damage to hulls and propellers when moving ships to and from alongside.



4. Width of fenders may need modification to meet local conditions, but must be sufficient not only to keep the widest part of the ship clear of the wall etc. but also to prevent ships grounding on accumulation of silt etc. at the base of the wall or dolphins. The widths should be arranged as necessary by the local officers.

5. Suggested that preferable arrangement to proposals in your 1122/7 October would be to site the outer pair of dolphins for battleships about 560' apart (centre to centre) and that for cruisers the distance apart (centre to centre) should be inner pairs 250' and outer pairs 420'.

6. Provision of tugs to supplement local resources is regarded as in first place a U.S. responsibility. Has requirement been put to them?

1840A/11.

for Head of M. Branch. II (244)

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.(2)  
Contr.  
Vice Contr.

4th S.L.  
V.C.H.S.  
A.C.N. (U.T.)  
A.C.H.S.(F) (2)  
A.C.H.S.(A)

Civil Lord.  
N.A. 1st. S.L.  
N.A. to A.C.N.S.(U.T.) (2)  
D. of P.(3)

Ops.(3)  
O.D.(5)  
O.I.C.(2)  
D. of L.D.(3)  
D.H.A.D.

Hydrog.  
D. of N.  
D.T.S.D.(2)  
D.T.D.(4)  
C.C.R.T.  
Staff Charts  
D.57.  
D.N.C.  
D. of S.(3)

M.(8) (M.051703/42)  
Ad. Blake.  
I.P.(3)  
W.D.  
D.A/S.W.  
Dept. Contr.(3)  
D.(4)  
D.N.C.(2)  
G.E. in C.(3)  
S.W.R.

Bath.



War Diary.

11.1.1943.  
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1258A/11, 1313A/11.)



War Diary.

12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Harwich Auxiliary Patrols and A.A. guard were withdrawn at 1702A on account of the weather. Aberdeen which had been opened at 1110 was closed again at 1701.

A/S Trawler KINGSTON JACINTH was sunk this morning, probably by a mine, 4 cables south of E.A.5 Buoy, about 20 miles S.E. of Portsmouth.

North Atlantic.

S.O. Force H in NELSON with RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, ESKIMO, QUALITY, ANTELOPE, BOREAS, BRILLIANT, HAYDON, VELOX, WIVERN, VENOMOUS, BLYSKAWICA sailed from Gibraltar at 2235 today for Mers-el-Kebir. (arrived 13 Jan).

South Atlantic.

Messages from the Admiralty to C. in C. S.A. today and on 15 Jan. (amended by Cominch 2037/14) give instructions for the routing of U.S. managed ships bound for the U.S.A. east coast, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, or South American east coast.

A message from Connav today gives details of routing in force on the east coast of south America.

Comsolant gives details today of patrol and search in the Atlantic Narrows by U.S. ships, to deny the passage of enemy raiders and blockade runners. DESPATCH sailed from Freetown for patrol on 13 Jan.



War Diary.

12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

At 1130A, Admiralty informed F.O.C. West Africa that ILEX and HOLCOMBE, which had been ordered to hunt a U-boat in 01.03 N., 23.57 W., were to return to Freetown forthwith.

U.S. AGWIMONTE reported at 2125 that she was being shelled by an enemy surface raider in 35.42 S., 21.47 E. (about 100 miles S.E. of Cape Agulhas). At 1111C/13 C. in C. S.A. reported that the vessel was friendly.

D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting Convoy T.S.29 reported sighting a submarine at 0900Z today in 4° 33' N., 2° 24' W.

VALIANT (Eastern Fleet, for repairs) arrived at Durban this morning.

The laying of boom defences at Bathurst is to be suspended and the boom vessels so liberated are to be concentrated on maintaining efficient boom defence at Takoradi.

Mediterranean.

NUBIAN and PALADIN sailed from Malta at 1502A today to carry out a sweep between Kuriat and Kerkenah tonight. The destroyers sighted nothing, but aircraft bombed a merchant ship off Ras Kediya at 2120, claiming near misses and a fire. A.S.V. aircraft co-operating with the destroyers failed to locate the ship subsequently.

P.311 lost.

Capt. S.l. reports that S/M P.311 is lost.

10 Spitfire bombers, escorted by 14 Spitfire fighters attacked Sciacca harbour last night, as alternative to Porto Empedocle which was covered by cloud. Numerous hits were made on harbour installations. From 1838 to 1933 twelve Malta Wellingtons, as Tunis was obscured by cloud, bombed Sousse harbour. Another Wellington bombed a large ship stationary inshore south of Sousse, starting a small fire on board. 3 Swordfish from Bone attacked merchant shipping in Bizerta Lake p.m. today and report a probable hit on a 7,000 ton merchant vessel.



War Diary.

12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

C. in C. E.F. today issued revised routing instructions for U.S. ships.

America & West Indies.

C. in C. U.S. Fleet sends today his proposals for the supply of liquid fuels to the U.K. and North Africa. Tanker convoys of approximately 40 ships direct from the Caribbean Sea to the U.K. and return are to be established on a 20 days' cycle with British escort. Tanker convoys of about 6 ships per convoy are to sail on a 24 days' cycle from the Gulf to Casablanca/Gibraltar with alternate British and U.S. escort.

The Admiralty today issued a summary of former messages giving instructions for the routing of U.S. managed and British controlled ships sailing from the Atlantic seaboard for India and the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. Navy Dept. today reports the following U-boat incidents. On Xmas Day U.S.S. GRAYBACK is reported to have destroyed a submarine off Rekata Bay, Solomon Is. On 3 Jan. U.S.S. EARLE shelled and hit a submarine south of the Azores.



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

F.O.C. Rear Admiral R.L. Burnett has this day assumed  
10th Command of tenth cruiser squadron.  
C.S. (C.S.10 1814A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

Assistant Rear Admiral C.S. Daniel has taken over the duties  
Chief of of Assistant Chief of Combined Operations and  
Combined Naval Second-in-Command of the Combined Operations  
Operations. Command.  
(C.C.O. 2359A/12 to Admty.)

Movements.

BERMUDA, My 1617A/11. Ships are returning to Scapa.  
GLASGOW. (C. in C. H.F. 0147A/12, to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Scapa arrivals BERMUDA, GLASGOW.  
(A.C.O.S., 1135/12.)

PIORUN. My P.C.S. at 0200/12th 061° 00', 003° 10' E. 270°,  
16 knots. Can receive H.D. broadcast (?only)  
(PIORUN, 0245/12 to Capt. D.8)

OFFA, R.A.D. H.F. 1555/10. Await further orders at  
MATCHLESS. Seidisfjord.  
(C. in C. H.F. 0758A/12 to OFFA, MATCHLESS.)  
Seidisfjord arrival OFFA, MATCHLESS at 0650/12.  
(A.C.I.C. 1021A/12)

OB DURATE, S.B.N.O. North Russia 1935/11. Onward route  
OBEDIENT. from position M. (A) If proceeding Seidis Fjord.  
S and (?A) Langanæs 10 miles thence by Q.Z.  
messages L.51 and 52 to Seidis Fjord. From  
Seidis Fjord West of North Ronfjord - Iceland  
mine barrier to Scapa. (B) If proceeding to Scapa. Direct  
from position M West of Orkneys to Scapa.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1023A/12 to OB DURATE, OBEDIENT.)

GRAPH. Intend to sail GRAPH escorted by QUALICUM  
1400A/13th for Holy Loch. Route. E.T.A.1200A/15.  
(S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 1123A/12 to A.C.O.S.)

L.C.I.(L) My 1135Z/3rd Jan. Weather Forecast for 24 hrs.  
164. from 1430A/12th Jan.  
(Duty Met. Officer 1215Z/12 to L.C.I.(L) 164.)  
Sighted one transport barge, P.C.S. 48° 48' N. 08°  
38' W. 070°, 8, at 1345.  
(A/C 1407A/12 to 19 Group.)  
P.C.S. of own force 48.35 N. 11.30 W. 2 Tank barges.  
(A/C E.405 Sqdn. 1545/12 to 19 Group.)

/GUNNEL...



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

GUNNEL. (1) Intend sailing GUNNEL escorted by PARRSBORO from Roseneath at 1100A/15th via searched channels and Spithead route to 000° Round Island Scilly Isles 7 miles, E.T.A. 0200/17, speed 11 knots. (2) Thence GUNNEL by route laid down C. in C. W.A. 1456/11th. (Comsubron 50 1215A/12 to A.I.G.220)  
Request you will sail GUNNEL escorted by PARRSBORO at 1100A/15 to 360°. Round Island (?off shore) 7 miles thence through  
B 050° 10' 009° 00' C 050° 10' 015° 01' D 050° 02' 020° 02'  
E 050° 01' 026° 01' diving by day when east of 020° W. 2. Daily S.O.A. 265 miles on surface 150 miles when diving by day.  
(F.O.S. 1224A/12 to Comsubron 50)  
Your 1224/12th. E.T.A. GUNNEL off Round Island 0200A/17th.  
E.T.A. "chop" 1500A/21st.  
(Comsubron 50, 2019A/12 to F.O.S.)

CARLISLE. Scapa departure CARLISLE.  
(A.C.O.S. 1217/12.)

H.43. Sailed my 1225A/11.  
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1334A/12 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

W.A. Situation at 1955A/12. Details.  
Command. (C. in C. W.A. 1358A/12.) See Lion Copy.

S/M At 0800A/13. Details.  
Positions. (F.O.S. 1702A/12, 1906A/12.) See ~~Lion Copy~~ p.404c

INGLEFIELD, Return Scapa.  
ECHO. (R.A.D. H.F. 1752A/12, to INGLEFIELD, ECHO.)  
E.T.A. 0800 tomorrow.  
(INGLEFIELD, 1919A/12 to A.C.O.S.)

TUNA. Your 1002/12. Request you sail TUNA for Holy Loch. TUNA is required for operations leaving Holy Loch 23rd Jan.  
(F.O.S. 1909A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

ANSON, Request you will proceed in ANSON with BERWICK,  
BERWICK, WALPOLE, IROQUOIS, ORKAN to Hvalfjord passing Hoxa  
WALPOLE, Gate at 0800A/13th. (2)Route. Through position  
IROQUOIS, 58° 46' N. 09° 10' W. to Reykjanes passage.  
ORKAN. (C. in C. H.F. 2246A/12 to V.A.2.)

/Operations...



404C

12.1.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Position  
of S/Ms.  
at  
0800/13th  
and  
movements  
for  
following  
24 hours.

- (A) P.49 off Vest Fiord.
- (B) TRIDENT 64° 15' N. 06° 55' E. to patrol vicinity 64° 35' N. 09° 44' E.
- (C) P.224 63° 58' N. 95° 20' E. proceeding through 64° 13' N. 05° 50' E. to patrol vicinity 64° 45' N. 09° 27' E.
- (D) P.312 off Gripholen.
- (E) P.216, P.55 and UREDD off Bredsund.
- (F) H.32 escorted by MALLOW 54° 29' N. 05° 15' W. due Seaward end Q.Z.S.278 1500/15th speed 8½ knots.
- (G) H.43 trials off Great Ormes Head.
- (H) U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao.
- (J) U.S.S HERRING in Zone K.505.
- (K) U.S.S BLACKFISH 44° 34' N. 10° 36' West dived by day through 44°40' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W.
- (L) U.S.S BARB 43° 58' N. 13° 10' W. dived by day through 44° 02' N. 13° 22' W, 49° 10'N. 13° 22'W. BARB and BLACKFISH make good 200 miles in 24 hours. My 1702/12th. Amend para. (M) to read GRAPH arriving Lerwick from N.E. Leaves Lerwick escorted by QUALICUM 1400/13th. E.T.A. Holy Loch 1200/15. Speed 11 knots.  
(F.O.S. 1702A/12, 1906A/12.)



War Diary.

12.1.1945.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.C. My 1815/11. Operation abandoned owing to weather. P.C.S. of Capt. D.8. at 2300, 061° 05' N. 001° 44' E., 280°, 14 knots. TRIDENT and P.224 reduce speed to allow Capt. D.8. to pass ahead. (F.O.S., 0132A/12 to S/MS.)

8th D.F. 2242/11. My P.C. & S. at 0130A, 59° 48' N. 03° 15' W. At 0230A intend to return Scapa. Weather 5372 8548. (BERMUDA 0144A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

Capt. (D) 8 2242/11. Return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 0145A/12 to BERMUDA, GLASGOW.)

Scapa arrivals. FAULKNER, ONSLAUGHT, QUEENBOROUGH. (A.C.O.S. 1743/12.)

Coastal Patrols. No patrols or additional escorts tonight. (C. in C. Nore, 0954A/12.)

Weather permitting M.G.Bs 611 (S.O.), 613 patrol between 50° 30' N. 00° 05' W. and 50° 31' N. 00° 35' E. during dark hours keeping southward of convoy during its passage. Patrol may return to Harbour after convoy has passed Dungeness. Codeword "Advent."

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1130A/12.)

Harwich Auxiliary Patrols and A/A Guard withdrawn owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1702A/12.)

E-Boats on Night 5th/6th. My 1706/6. Available evidence concerning E-Boats on night 5th/6th Jan. has now been examined. As no shore or ship R.D.F. obtained a contact, and as no sighting took place, no definite conclusion can be reached. 2. It can be inferred however from the fragmentary nature of the Y raw material that in general the E-Boats were further from the coast than usual. This, taken in conjunction with Hambleton's Y raw material from 0345 onwards, leads to the inference that E-Boats did not reach any War Channel South of East Dudgeon Buoy. The last sentence of para. 2 and first sentence of para. 3 of my 1706/6 are now considered incorrect. 3. The evidence regarding minelaying is somewhat conflicting. It is thought that if it took place in the War Channel the most likely locality is between East Dudgeon and 59A Buoys. It is equally possible that it took place East of the War Channel, with 61 B and 61 C Buoys as possible localities. (C. in C. Nore, 1924A/12, to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity

A/C for ARGUS. My 1450/10th and ARGUS 1109/11th. Transfers are to be completed by P.M. 16th Jan. (R.A. N.A.S. 1216A/12 to R.N.A.S. Lee-on-Solent).

Operation V.P. Cancel my 1130/10. (A.C.O.S. 1717A/12.)

/Enemy...



War Diary.12.1.1945.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Teignmouth. Air-raid on 10th January 1945 caused following  
Damage to Admty. requisitioned property at  
on 10th . Teignmouth. Details.  
January. (S.C.E. Devonport, 1030/12.)

Enemy Flights. Flights by enemy Meteorological Aircraft between  
11th December and 10th January. (a) Arctic  
Zenit - no details of any activity. (b)  
Trondheim Zenit made 23 flights between 0600 -  
1400 mostly in a North Westerly direction. (c) North Sea  
operated each day between dawn and noon from Zwischenahn over  
usual area. A second flight over Southern North Sea was made on  
3 occasions during the afternoon. (d) Stavanger Zenit was  
active every day on its routine flight between 0700 - 1400.  
(D.D.I.C 1110A/12, to A.I.G.47.)

Mining

KINGSTON Regret KINGSTON JACINTH was sunk this morning.  
JACINTH 4 cables South of E.A.5 Buoy, probably by mine.  
sunk. 10 survivors.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1040A/12 to Admty.)

Operation Ad. 1812/9. S.O. 4th M/S F. in KELLETT is to  
H.S. take ALBURY, SALTASH, and SELKIRK under his  
orders and pass the Gate at 1230/12th and proceed  
Milford Haven. E.T.A. 0800/13.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1107A/12 to M/S 4.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Russian Your ? 1519/11. visual only.  
Air R/C (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1047A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)  
reports.

Enemy Force Enemy force of one battle cruiser, one heavy  
on 11th cruiser, 3 destroyers passed Great Belt northwards  
January. believed early January 11th. Graded A.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 1202/12 to Admty.)

Havre. On 11th January aircraft R/C reported 5.T. class  
torpedo boats at Le Havre.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1911A/12 to Escorts P.W.277,  
W.P.277, W.P.278.)

TIRPITZ. R/C of Lofjord to-day at 1230A shows TIRPITZ still  
present with booms closed and camouflage in place.  
Liner STAVANGERFIORD has gone. No shipping in  
Foettenfiord or Hopleevenfiord.  
(D.D.I.C. 2131A/12 to A.I.G.47, S/Ms.)

/Navigational...



War Diary.12.1.1945.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Aberdeen. Port of Aberdeen now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 110/12.)  
Port of Aberdeen closed owing to weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1701/12.)

Casualties and Defects.

VIVACIOUS. My position 060° 15' N. 000° (Corrupt group) W.  
Steering gear broken and ship stopped due to loss  
of forced lubrication. Require assistance.  
(VIVACIOUS, 0859A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your 0859. My P.C.S. 060° 19' N. 002° 18' W, 200°, 14 knots  
(Capt. D.8, 0927A/12, to VIVACIOUS.)  
INGLEFIELD and ECHO proceed to 060° 15' N. 000° 10' W. to  
assist VIVACIOUS.  
(Capt. D.8, 1107A/12.)  
Your 1011/D. Proceed accordingly by A.M. Q.Z.S.66 to  
assist VIVACIOUS.  
(C. in C.H.F. 1112A/12 to CARLISLE.)  
Send 2 destroyers to stand by VIVACIOUS.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 1120A/12 to Capt. D.8.)  
Your 1014A/12. Am under way making for Lerwick speed about  
3½ knots.  
(VIVACIOUS, 1144A/12 to A.C.O.S.)  
VIVACIOUS has made Lerwick under own steam. Return to  
Scapa.  
(A.C.O.S. 1505A/12 to BUCCANEER.)  
VIVACIOUS arrived Lerwick. (2) Return to harbour.  
(C. in C.H.F., 1515A/12 to CARLISLE)

BURNHAM. Your 2213/11 not approved. You should proceed  
ASSINIBOINE. to Londonderry.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0924Z/12 to BURNHAM.)  
BURNHAM with ASSINIBOINE E.T.A. 1000Z/13.  
ASSINIBOINE request permission to proceed direct Londonderry  
without oiling to facilitate work on leaking oil tank.  
(C.T.U. 24.1.13 1935A/12 to Cdre, Londonderry.)

PRESCOTT, E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0700Z/13. PRESCOTT in company.  
WOODSTOCK. Urgent defects PRESCOTT heavy weather structure  
damage. WOODSTOCK condenser main inlet pipe  
perforated by pitting. Position 53° 48' N.  
12° 13' W.  
(WOODSTOCK, 1200Z/12.)

FOXGLOVE. Your 1640/11. para. 2. Concur. M/S Trawlers  
BREVIK and DROBAK are available to act as close  
escort to tow to D.1 buoy, thence DROBAK to  
Falmouth, BREVIK to continue to off Milford Haven, then into  
Milford Haven.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1327A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

L.15. My 1931/11. Survey of L.15 shows damaged  
propeller blade and rudders necessitating docking.  
L.15 will be docked 15 Jan. and should be ready to  
sail on 20 Jan.  
(A.C.I.C. 1705A/12 to Admty.)



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- C.F.10. My 0328/11, para. (a). Following are details  
Survivors of survivors:  
brought home. 12 ex DAGOMBA, 4 ex CERINTHUS, 16 ex CRITON, 13  
ex MALMANGER, 24 ex DELMSHAVEN, 19 ex SITHONIA,  
32 ex ORONSAY, 1 ex PETERTON, 2 ex DEFOE, 11 ex  
TREVILLY, 2 ex BARON OGILVY, 1 ex OCEAN VINTAGE,  
4 ex ORCADES, 2 ex GAASTEKERK, 1 ex ALCHIBA,  
4 ex EMPIRE CHAUCER, 4 ex CITY OF CAIRO, 1 ex  
EMPIRE RAJA, 29 ex DUNEDIN STAR.  
Superintendent Mercantile Marine should be  
informed.  
(D.S.T. 0201A/12 to D.S.T.O. Greenock.)
- P.S.12. My 1718A/11. P.S. and S.P. 12 postponed 24  
S.P.12. hours.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0758A/12.)
- E.N.84. My 1701/26/December. E.N. 84 postponed.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1009A/12.)
- J.W.52. My 1953/9. BEAGLE and BULLDOG will be sailed  
from Clyde for Seidisfjord a.m. 16th.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1252A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Admiralty 2045A/11/1 and 0050A/12/1. Request personnel  
may report to DUNLUCE CASTLE by p.m. 16th Jan.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 1650A/12 to Admty.)  
Your 2045A/11. Codeword for this move is "Loyalist".  
All movement arrangements will be co-ordinated by D. of Movements,  
Air Ministry.  
(Air Ministry 1852A/12 to Admty.)
- T.A.32. 1. Convoy T.A.32 consisting of SS ANDES will be  
(ANDES) ready to leave Clyde on 14th January for Halifax  
N.S.  
2. She will sail independently and maximum air  
protection both A/A and A/S is to be provided.  
3. Route as follows.  
(D.O.D. H. 1255A/12.)
- P.W.277. Convoy and Escorts to enter Falmouth tonight.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1301A/12 to Escorts, P.W.277.)
- W.P.277. Anticipate W.P.277 will pass Eddystone at 2300.  
2. You are to escort 2 merchant ships from  
Plymouth to join this convoy.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1435A/12 to BLEASDALE.)  
My 1259A/11. Sailing cancelled.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1611A/12.)

/J.W.53 ...



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- J.W.53. Admiralty's 1710A/11. ALYNBANK has not been arcticised. Observing that most severe period of winter is March and that time does not admit of thorough arcticisation of ALYNBANK before 8th February it is proposed to endeavour to advance completion date of H.M.S. ULSTER QUEEN. Latest date given by firm is 15th February but consider that 7th February might be accepted. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1540A/12.)
- A.M. 1710/11. Request that arctic fitting of H.M.S. ALYNBANK with priority for armament and cable gear be put in hand forthwith.
2. Ship will be required for service on 9th February. (D.O.D. H. 1604A/12 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)
- M.K.F.6. Detail one escort for Clyde portion. Loch Ewe and Liverpool ships to proceed independently from North Channel. (C. in C. W.A. 1552A/12 to Escorts, M.K.F.6.)
- Your 1358A/12. Position of M.K.F.6 and escort at 2000Z/12, 051° 52' N. 013° 40' W. course and speed 027°, 12 knots. STRAAT SOENDA dropped out of convoy on 10th. EXIRIA did not sail. ASTURIAS has home draft of 34 Officers and 268 ratings. (ASTURIAS 2000Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
- S.C.115. Your 1616A. ? P.C.S. 057° 11' N. 026° 40' W. 100°, 14 knots. (SUNFLOWER 1600Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
- W.W.BRUCE. Return to Base. W.W. BRUCE reported safe. (C. in C. W.A. 1616A/12 to SUNFLOWER.)
- R.A.52. Your 2045/11. Assuming R.A.52 postponed till 29th January and sailed as proposed for R.A.53 vide para.3 of my 1850/30th December can you accommodate ships and escort of J.W.52 plus ships waiting for R.A. convoy together with escort now in Kola.
2. Could 3 cruisers be berthed as well. (C. in C. H.F. 1626A/12 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- Your 1626/12 para. one. Yes. Para. 2. Yes. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1921A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)
- My 1921/12. Regret information in my 2043/11 not available in (?U.S.S.R.), FORESTER and ICARUS.
- (2) Your 1627/12 para. one. Perhaps you would consider ORIBI, ORWELL, BOADICEA returning now and the (?U.S.S.R.) corvette and 3 trawlers now here returning with R.A.52.
- (3) Your 1629/12 part 2. Difficult to fuel 3 cruisers in time available. For that reason and shortage of oil 2 would be preferable. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2002A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)
- R.A.52. Only 6 ships including no tankers will be ready to sail by 18th. Anticipate 14 ships including 2 tankers will be ready by 25th. Dalgleish agreed. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2045A/11 to Admty.)



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War Diary.

12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Torch Area.

K.M.F.7.

Convoy K.M.F.7 sailed from U.K. 9th Jan. comprising troopships, REINA DEL PACIFICO, BATORY, SOBIESKI, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, OTRANTO, ORBITA, BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE, FRANCONIA, carrying 31052 troops for Oran, Bone, Algiers, Philippeville, Bougie.

2. No.M.T. ships are included.
3. Particulars of vessels with personnel for destinations East of Oran.

(D. of S.T., 2120A/13.)



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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- O.N.S.138. It is ?(group missing) that 6 or possibly  
O.N.S.162. 7 ships will be ready about January 20th.  
Propose to sail them to join O.N.S. ?(138)  
if there is no objection.  
(C.T.G. 24.6 1635Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)  
O.N.S.162. Your 1635/12. No objection.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2155Z/12 to C.T.G. 24.6.)
- P.W.278. Is postponed 24 hours and will sail weather  
permitting 14th January from Portsmouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1701A/12.)
- S.C.115. Rear Portion 8 ships escorted by PINK and  
JONQUIL.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1735A/12 to Escorts S.C.115.)
- Use of "Snowflakes". Your 1625/9/1. Efforts are continuously being  
made to improve "Snowflakes" discipline in  
merchant vessels and matter is stressed at convoy  
conferences. Not possible for S.O. Escorts to  
give order to fire by W/T as W/T watch is not set until attack  
takes place. Order to cease fire is frequently given by W/T  
but is not always effective as merchant vessels are slow in  
manning W/T offices.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1748A/12 to C.T.F. 24.)  
In future firing of "Snowflakes" is to be at discretion  
of S.O. Escorts who is to lay down policy to be adopted each  
night prior to dusk. Order should be passed to Commodore in  
time to permit necessary order to be passed to convoy to  
"Snowflakes" to be loaded or otherwise. I.C.O.Cs have been  
amended accordingly A.C.Is will be amended in due course.  
Shore authorities pass to escort groups on arrival in harbour.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1751A/12.)
- F.S.10. F.S.10 expects to be 3 hours late at 20 C.Buoy.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1812A/12 to BROCKLESBY, WOOLSTON.)
- Oil fuel in North Russia. My 1548/6th. Despite your 1648/6th from M.W.T.  
giving Harriman's view Dalgleish still not  
prepared to release any (?surplus) oil even from  
ships of J.W.51. A. Reason is category of the  
return (?cargo) and time required to load it may  
present ships catching R.A.52. In view of scanty Russian stocks  
in Kola Inlet consider it imperative to discharge as much of this  
oil as possible here. Request immediate decision whether oil  
is to be discharged or returned.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1819A/12 to Admty.)
- K.M.F.7. Sailed from U.K. 9th January. Ships, contents  
and destinations.  
(D.S.T. 2120A/12.)  
See ~~Lien Copy~~ p.409A.



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.Cam Ships  
in K.M.S.  
Convoys.

Your 2346/9.

It is inadvisable to service at Bone under present conditions on aerodromes and owing to difficulties of re-embarkation. Aircraft can be serviced at Maison Blanche and re-embarked at Algiers.

2. If Cam ships are loaded for Bone, re-embarkation at Algiers may result in ships missing returning convoy.
3. Observing adequate shore based fighter protection will shortly be available on the North African coast it is questionable whether Cam ships could carry their specialised ocean escort aircraft and crews east of Algiers.
4. Propose Cam ships should normally be in Gibraltar or Algiers section of convoys.  
(N.C.X.F., 1040A/12 to Admty.)

K.M.S. 8.

Your 1604/9. The arrival of K.M.S.8 two days early will cause serious congestion especially at forward ports. Consider it essential that this convoy arrives on scheduled date.  
(N.C.X.F., 1105A/12 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar.)

G.U.S. 3.

Sailing of G.U.(?S).3 should be delayed until Jan. 18th to permit Oran to have ships for inclusion.

(N.C.X.F., 1120A/12 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R)

F.O.I.C. Oran, Connav, V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.)

Request confirmation ESSO BAYWAY, ESSO CHARLESTON, will be included in G.U.S.3

(D. of S., 1938A/12 to N.C.X.F.)

Confirmed. (N.C.X.F., 0840A/13.)

Aerial  
Minefield  
for Port  
Defence.

Your 2005/11. Proposal under consideration by Air Staff who are concerned about effect on night fighters and time and distance of drift. Request amplification and localities where this form of defence has been found effective in U.K.  
(N.C.X.F., 1655A/12 to Admty.)

K.M.F. 7.

Adjust speed to pass Europa Point position 57 at 2200A/14th thence through 28, 70, 68, 93, 34, 39, 100. S. of A. 13.

(2) Oran section M.T.B.11 and FRANCONIA detach in position 93 with escort provided by Force H.

(3) Destination of all other ships Algiers.

(4) E.T.A. Oran 1600A/16th, E.T.A. Algiers 0700/17th.

(5) Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Sateen".

(6) WESTON pass to Cdre.

(N.C.X.F., 1725A/12 to Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.7, (R) V.A. Gib., S.O. Force H, Capt. S.8, Admty., F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers, A.O.C. Gibraltar, Capt. (F), H.Q.E.A.C., Gen. 12th Air Force.)

/Troop ...



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area - Contd.

Troop Moves, If escort can be provided, shipping is available  
W. Africa. for the following important projected moves.  
(a) BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE and ORBITA now in  
K.M.F.7 after disembarkation of personnel in  
North Africa to proceed empty to Bathurst.  
(b) Leave Bathurst at end of January with 8000 troops for  
Takoradi, thence return to Freetown.  
(c) Leave Freetown with 8000 troops for Lagos.  
2. Request your remarks as to possibility of provision of  
escorts for these moves. Corvette escort can if necessary be  
accepted.  
3. F.O.C.W.Af. pass to D.S.T.O. W.Africa.  
(D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 2355A/12 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.A.)

Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M. 2001A/5th Jan. not to V.A. Gibraltar.  
1. EUGENIE LIVANOS overdue at Bombay since 21st  
December 1942 from Capetown. Appears probable  
that vessel was victim of incident reported in para. 2 of A.M.  
2015A/22nd Dec, not to V.A. Gibraltar. If German Raider  
responsible this is first reliable evidence of German Raider  
activity in Indian Ocean since 20th July 1942.  
2. No other reliable reports of German or Japanese Raiders.  
3. Blockade runners. Allied survivors ex RHAKOTIS report  
following ships on passage from Far East. Ex Norwegian tankers  
HERBORG and MADRONO, one 16 knot German tanker thought possible  
UCKERMARK and one 10 knot M/V also DOGGER BANK ex SPEYBANK and  
possible REGENSBURG. Above report graded B.2  
4. Single line D/F bearing of German surface vessel transmission  
on 8th Jan. and three bearings on 10th Jan. of possible German  
surface vessel transmission all run approx. along line Capetown  
to Tristan da Cunha.  
(D.D.I.C., 1948A/12 to A.I.G.13 etc.)



War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B attacked by MALOUINE. My 2200A/11 (A) Position 038° 26' N., 009° 31' W. time of attack 2200A/11 till 2330A/11.

(B) F.S. LA MALOUINE and MYOSOTIS in company.

(C) 0030A/12 one hour after losing contact proceeding to R/V with Lisbon ships.

(E) W/Report 3928 4267.

(F.S. LA MALOUINE, 0100A/12 to V.A. Gib. (R) Admty. BLACK SWAN) W.D. Note, To R/V Lisbon ships of Convoy M.K.S.5.

Not Met. MYOSOTIS in company, sweeping back towards position D.

(LA MALOUINE, 0150A/12 to V.A. Gib. (R) Admty. BLACKSWAN) Your 0150A/12th. Remain in the vicinity of R/V.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 0610A/12 to F.S. LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, (R) Admty. BLACK SWAN).

Your 0810A/12 (?0610A intended). Not met. My P.C. and S. 302° St. Vincent Cape 20 miles 360° 12 knots. Have detailed MYOSOTIS to sweep back to R/V along coast line. F.S. LA MALOUINE returning direct. Visibility poor.

(F.S. LA MALOUINE, 0930A/12 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty. BLACK SWAN) See also 1721A/12

Movements Arrival H.M. Tug DESTINY, L.C.I. (L) 7. (V.A. Gib., 0602A/12 1828A/12 to Admty, S.B.N.O. W.A.)

LANCASTER E.T.A., K.X.8, 26 ships 3 destroyers, 2 Fleet K.X.8. minesweepers 1700A/12th. LANCASTER requires assistance to make good following defect: main steam pipe from No. (?one) boiler leaks at flange joint. (LANCASTER, 1015A/12 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., R.A.(M) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, Capt. (D) Gibraltar).

P.219 Intend to sail P.219 p.m./13th for U.K.  
2. P.219 passes 43° 01' N., 12° 55' W., at 0600/17 shifting W/T watch at that time. Thence as ordered by F.O.(S).  
3. W/T watch on N.A. station S.1/42 section N.A. Table 2 (1) line five on home station S2/42 table 2(3).  
4. P.219 is painted blue.  
5. F.O.(S) 1149/8 Jan. 1942 (A) one mark 8 stern tube (B) 10 knots. (C) Bow tubes damaged, 100% fuel (D) Two ratings. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1101A/12, to Admty (R) F.O.S., etc).

M.K.S.5 Gibraltar section arrived. (V.A. Gib., 1201A/12 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty etc). M.K.S.5. My 1803/11. SHETLAND, CASTILLIAN, CAITHNESS did not repeat not sail from Lisbon. (V.A. Gib., 1700/12 to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A., Connav, N.C.X.F.)



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414E

12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements  
Summaries.

Situation 2001A/12.

(1) T.E.13, ALBERNI, BADDECK, PORT ARTHUR, CLACTON, BRIXHAM, VILLE DE QUEBEC, TARANA Tug EMINENT 35.46 N. 02.09 W. to R/V with Oran Section in 109 at 0630A/13th through 34 thence (?077°) 7½.

(2) Force H sails Europa Point 1530A/12th through 82 to arrive Mers el Kebir 0930A/13.

(3) DOLFIJN (D.S.) sails Gibraltar 1700/13th course 58° 8 knots.

(4) ABDIEL in approx. 36.55 01.30 (?382°) to Gibraltar 24.

(5) SCYTHIA 3 destroyers CADMUS Tug HENGIST, ACUTE hove to vicinity Cape Tenez at 0800/11th proceeding Gibraltar through 35.40 N. 02.00 W. 180° Alboran 14.35.47 N. 04.36 W. 36.04 05.21 when weather moderates AJAX and one destroyer joining from Arzeu.

(V.A. Gib, 1110A/12, 2046A/12).

Situation 2004A/12.

(1) Portuguese Naval Tanker SAM BRAZ 32.31 23.32 242 11.

(ii) Portuguese destroyer LIMA left Lisbon 11th for Ponta Delgada 18.

(iii) PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, NIMBLE 29.(?41) 22.31 to search vicinity of 28.18 27.20 for damaged tanker 10.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1332A/12).



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

M.K.S.5  
Contd. M.K.S.5 2000A P.C. and S. 036° 09' N., 008° 30' W.  
298° 6. GIRONDE still in company. Weather  
report.  
(BLACK SWAN, 1721A/12 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R)  
C. in C. W.A., Admty. F.S. LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS)

Raiders,  
Intelligence. Reply to Admty 1214/8, with result of interroga-  
tion of survivors from German blockade runner  
RHAKOTIS.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1224A/12 to Admty) See ~~Lion~~ *copy*  
*p. 49A.*

MIERES My 1521/9. Sailing of Spanish MIERES postponed  
until 14th or 15th.  
(D.E.W.D., 1441A/12 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R)  
N.C.X.F.)

Movements,  
K.X.8. Arrived 0930 NEWARK, 1200 FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC,  
1810 LANCASTER, TANATSIDE, LAUDERDALE,  
ILFRACOMBE, CARNATIC, escorting convoy K.X.8.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1827/12 to Admty).

NASTURTIUM  
K.X.8. K.X.8 E.T.A. Point B 2300A/12. ACTIC RANGER  
not in company since 0300A/11.  
(NASTURTIUM, 1835A/12 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R)  
N.C.X.F., R.A. Gibraltar, F.O. in C. W.A.)  
Your 1325A/12th (N.T. in W.D.) received by  
LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, in company. Proceeding as directed  
so as to join K.M.S.5 at daylight. My P.C. and S. 270°  
Cape St. Vincent 6 miles 11½ knots. Weather report.  
(F.S. LA MALOUINE, 1855A/12 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.  
BLACK SWAN).

U.S.  
Movements. Warship U.S.S. AUK PC 480 PC 481 PC 482 from  
Casablanca escort duty K.X. U.S.S. ROWAN from  
Casablanca for Safi.  
(S.N.O.C.A., 1945Z/12 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gib.  
Admty. Cominch).

Force H. Departures 1536. F.O.H. in NELSON, RODNEY,  
FORMIDABLE, ESKIMO, QUALITY, ANTELOPE, BOREAS,  
BRILLIANT, HAYDON, VELOX, WIVERN, VENOMOUS  
O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA for Mers-el-Kebir. QB  
95 and 203, QBA 22, QBB 315.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2235/12 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)

/Bombing...



414A

414B

12.1.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Raider Following graded B Two.  
 Intelligence. (1) RHAKOTIS left Yokohama 27th Sept. and BATAVIA 5th Nov. for Bordeaux.  
 (2) Approx route (A) 28.00 S. 75.00 E.  
 (B) 44.30 S. 30.00 E. (C) 44.00 S. 20.00 W. (D) 06.00 S. 22.00 W.  
 (E) 35.00 N. 43.00 W. (F) 38.30 N. 42.30 W. (G) 43.00 N. 38.00 W.  
 (H) 46.00 N. 21.30 W. thence zigzagged in an Easterly direction for Bay of Biscay.  
 (3) 14 to 16 look-outs always on watch with very high powered glasses described by informants as 75 MM. No further special precautions.  
 (4) Bangkok, Singapore, Balik Papan for Bunkers and Batavia.  
 (5) 4000 tons rubber, zinc, lard, quinine bark, 120 tons tex, cocos oil and pearls value 50,000 yen for Japanese Embassy in Berlin. Total value 6,000,000 marks. Said to be most valuable cargo yet carried in a German ship.  
 (6) HAVELLAND left Yokohama about 16th Aug. 1942, and DRESDEN about 30th Aug. 1942 both for Europe. DOGGERBANK ex British SPEY BANK arrived Yokohama 18th Aug. Still there 27th Sept. 1942 expected to spend Christmas there REGENSBURG left Batavia for Europe was torpedoed but little damaged and beached on Sumatra. Later refloated and returned to Batavia to discharge, thence to Singapore for repairs. RAMSES due to leave Yokohama end of October. TANNENFELS sailed for Europe some time before HAVELLAND. Norwegian tanker MADRONO captured 4th July 1942 between Melbourne and Madagascar, went to Kobe from Yokohama, expected to sail for Europe late October. Norwegian tanker HERBERG due to leave Yokohama early November for Dairen to load for Europe. HERBERG captured 19th June 1942 in approx. position 28° 00' S. 76° 00' E. OKERMARK (?UCKERMARK) seen in Batavia 5th Nov. due to sail for Yokohama to load thence Balik Papan. May be intended for supply ship. Said to be capable of 26 knots. SCHARNHORST believed to be in Kobe sold to Japanese. Some of German crew joined RHAKOTIS. British NANKIN captured by raider in Indian Ocean May. 1942.  
 (7) 18th Nov. raider referred to as No.28 R/Vd. in Indian Ocean. Position unknown. On 27th Dec. in approx. 43° 00' N. 38° 00' W. two U-Boats R/Vd. and a 3rd on 29th Dec. in approx. 46° 00' N. 21° 30' W. Two seen were about 500 tons. One had device resembling back of elephant. Said to have taken station 160 miles ahead 140 miles on either beam.  
 (8) Only British survivor Jack Edmead Steward ex British SS CITY OF CAIRO torpedoed 6th November. About 450 miles from Pernambuco 2030 ships time. No knowledge of disposal of confidential books. Boat containing 3 survivors out of an original 54 picked up by RHAKOTIS 12th December. Edmead too ill to notice much on voyage but was told by Purser RHAKOTIS cargo consisted of rice, tea, rubber, cocos, oil, zinc, quinine bark and tin value 6,000,000 marks. All other information given by Capt. Bearne Gjuroc Master Rolf Christiansen, Chief Officer Johan Roervik. W/T operator all of Norwegian M/V KATTEGAT Erik Roos, Swedish Third Engineer Norwegian SS AUST and Einvold Edwardson Third Engineer Norwegian Tanker MADRONO. Slight corroboration from Arne Fagerlund Sailor, KATTEGAT, Svern Solberg, Frank Erikmen, Henry Svind all sailors Tanker HERBERG.



414A

414B

War Diary.

12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Raider (9) KATTEGAT sunk by raider 28° S. 26th May 1942  
Intelligence. in position 28° 11' S. 11° 30' W. Crew taken  
on board raider. On 21st June Norwegian Tanker

KARL KNUDSEN came alongside and next day DOGGER BANK (ex  
British SPEY BANK) to which prisoners were transferred.  
O.I.C. Comments.

Para.2 This regarded as a very probable route.

Para 6. Informants are probably confusing HAVELLAND with  
KULMERLAND which arrived Bordeaux early in November DRESDEN  
arrived Bordeaux early in November REGENSBURG appears to have  
been the 8,000 ton German ship claimed sunk in the Sunda  
Strait by U.S. Submarine on 12th October. RAMSES was scuttled  
in the Indian Ocean when intercepted on 28th Nov.

TANNENFELS arrived Bordeaux early in November.

UCKERMARK believed to be the Altmark type tanker which left  
Biscay about 15th Sept.

Para.7 Raider. 28 is considered to be Raider "H".

Para.9 Informants may be confusing the tanker KARL KNUDSEN  
with the German tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN.

(V.A. Gibraltar 1224A/12)



War Diary.

12.1.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Bombing  
Restrictions  
and A/S  
Operations.

V.A. Gibraltar's 1504/7th and N.C.X.F.1121/9th. This was an isolated instance where special action was necessary to ensure the submarine was covered by bombing restrictions. At time that DOLFIJN D.S. was expected to enter "Torch" area, H.Q.C.C. had received no instructions from V.A. Gibraltar to institute bombing restrictions for DOLFIJN's passage south of 043°. After consultation with F.O.(S) and pending further instructions H.Q.C.C. therefore imposed bombing restrictions in accordance with F.S.A.6 the instructions now in force on the Home Station. These restrictions though possibly large by "Torch" area standard have been found after long experience to be the minimum acceptable on the Home Station.

2. It is requested that V.A. Gibraltar will in future signal the restrictions he wishes imposed as soon as the route inside his area is known.

(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 2240A/12 to V.A. Gib. N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)

South Atlantic.

U/B

Received aircraft report sighted U-boat at 1231/11th in position 002° 40' N., 026° 47' W. course westerly speed 10 to 12 knots. Reliability unknown.

(F.O.W.A., 0059Z/12 to Admty (R) Cominch, ILEX, U.S. Destroyer RHIND, HOLCOMBE, Comsolant)

T.U.23.1.6  
patrol.

Task Unit No. 23.1.6 comprising U.S. Cruiser SAVANNAH and U.S. Destroyer MOFFETT with Commander Task Group No. 23.1. in U.S. Cruiser SAVANNAH departs for base Fox Jan. 12th prior to 1200 P and conducts ocean patrol to S. (corrupt group). At 0900Z Jan. 15th R/V with Task Unit No. 23.1.7 in 09.00 S., 30.00 W., Combined Units conduct search to deny passage of the enemy raiders and blockade runners at speed less than 15 knots on N.E. and S.E. Courses across a scouting line approx. 045° for distance 400 miles with origin 02.00 S., and 25.00 W. Advance and retire scouting line within Hostile limits 10.00 N., to 15.00 South for search in North vessels observe shifted origin of scouting line to 02.00 N., 26.00 W. Arriving Base Fox Feb. 14th prior to 1200 P. F.O.C.W.Af. pass to CARNARVON CASTLE.

(Comsolant, 0215Z/12 to Task Unit No. 23.1.6 (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (U.S.) Task Group No. 23.1. V.P.S.3., F.O.C.W.Af).



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Your 1101/9. We are very anxious to use EMPRESS OF RUSSIA for P.O.W. in view of the heavy programme and limited number of ships available.

2. Decision whether they can embark is left to you in consultation with the Master in view of the special circumstances of this ship.

3. Request report when vessel arrives whether conditions have been satisfactory on voyage from India.

4. Request also by what route she will return to U.K. observing that she has maintained 14 knots from Bombay to Kilindini.

(D.S.T., 0358/12 to D.S.T.O. Durban, (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown, C. in C. S.A.)

Movements Arrived VALIANT, HOTSPUR, BLACKMOOR, ARCTIC EXPLORER.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0721Z/12 to Admty C. in C. S.A)  
Arrival Boma 11th RHUMBA 12th.  
(B.N.L.O.W.Af. 0805A/12 to F.O.W.A.)  
My 1015/3 and my 0925/10. Departure from Boma 11th LADY ELSA, WELLARD, E.T.A. Walvis Bay, 16th. Keep Q W/T organization.  
(B.N.L.O.W.A., 0815/12 to R.A.W.A.)  
Arrivals Pointe Noire 0700Z/12th HERTFORDSHIRE, ROSEMARY  
(B.N.L.O.W.A., 1815/12 to R.A.W.A.)  
Departure from Pointe Noire 1700Z/12th. HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY via Banana, E.T.A. Walvis Bay, 0800Z/20th. Shift to Q W/T organization 1200Z/14th.  
(B.N.L.O.W.A., 1835/12 to R.A.W.A.)

ILEX, My 1837/10. No air R/C from U.S. Cruiser  
HOLCOMBE, MILWAUKEE.  
U/B (F.O.W.A., 0845Z/12 to HOLCOMBE, ILEX (R) Admty)  
hunt. Your 0933/10 Jan. ILEX and HOLCOMBE are to  
return to Freetown forthwith.  
(D.O.D. (F) Approved V.C.N.S., 1130A/12 to F.O.W.A.  
(R) ILEX).  
My 0933/10. HOLCOMBE and ILEX return to Freetown  
independently at best speed.  
(F.O.W.A., 1151Z/12 to HOLCOMBE (R) ILEX, Cominch, Admty.  
B.A.D., Comsolant).

HYDRANGEA, HYDRANGEA proceed to Bathurst. (2) F.S.  
C. DROGOU. COMMANDANT DROGOU proceed to Freetown.  
(R.A.W.A., 0909Z/12 to HYDRANGEA (R) F.S.  
COMMANDANT DROGOU, N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

Air R/C from Request A.O.C. may be informed that Sunderland  
Port Etienne. air escort will be available from Port Etienne up  
to 28° N., from 14th onwards when required for  
K.X.8.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1001/12 to V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F.,  
S.N.O.C.A., Admty).

/French...



# 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.)

M E S S A G E

IN

1303Z/12th January.

From: F.O.C.W.Af.

Date. 2.2.43.

Time. 1734.

Naval Cypher X by W/T

Addressed: F.O.i/c Gibraltar, 585, N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A.,  
Admiralty.

929. IMPORTANT.

Request A.L.C. may be informed that Sunderland air escort will be available from Port Etienne up to 28 degs. north from 14th onwards when required for K.8.

1303Z/12

HMB

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

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim.  
Ops. (3)  
O.D. (5)  
O.L.C. (3)  
I.P. (3)  
D.S.D. 9 (2)  
D.A/S.W.  
W.D.  
C.C.L.S.  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (M)  
D.T.D. (C)  
Admiral Ramsay (4)



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

French Convoy Escorts. My 1759Z/11th (re escort of Northbound convoys from Dakar). Add BELLWORT. (F.O.W.A., 1016Z/12 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gib. etc).  
My 1759/11 para. 1 B.N.L.O. Dakar now reports northbound convoy will arrive Casablanca 21st and be ready to leave 22nd.  
(F.O.W.A., 1519Z/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Admty. CYCLAMEN, S.N.O. Casablanca, B.N.L.O. Dakar).

QUANZA intercepted. Your 1347/11th (N.T. in W.D.) QUANZA intercepted and brought into Freetown 7th.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1018Z/12 to Comsolantfor, (R) Cominch).

Boom Defences. Laying of Boom Defences at Bathurst is to be suspended boom vessels so liberated to be concentrated on maintaining efficient boom defence at Takoradi.  
(D.B.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (F), 1107A/12 to F.O.W.A.)

T.S.29 U/B. Submarine sighted by D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting convoy T.S.29 in 004° 33' N., 002° 24' W., at 0900Z/12th.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1146Z/12 to Admty).

Port Etienne, Flying Boat Facilities. AX. 37 12th Jan. Your A.534 11 Jan. (1515/11) noted.  
Request confirmation that British aircraft will be available for duty mentioned in my AX.808 9 Jan. (1145/9).  
(Air Min. 1200Z/12 to A.H.Q., W. Africa).  
A.545 12 Jan. Your AX 37 12 Jan. Confirm British aircraft will be available to escort convoy.  
(A.H.Q., W.A., 1715Z/12 to Air Min).

YORKWOOD (torpedoed 8 Jan). My 0200Z/11th. Position YORKWOOD when attacked 004° 09' S., 035° 40' W. Ship struck by 2 torpedoes. Submarine surfaced and steered in Westerly direction on the surface until out of sight.  
Life boat with the 46 survivors reached the coast at Macao.  
No further details received.  
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1415Z/12 to Admty (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, S.O.(I) Freetown).

/QUEEN...



417B

War Diary.

12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Situation  
at 2000/12.

BRIDGEWATER, ARMERIA escorting 007°40' 026°  
01' 095° 10.  
ILEX, HOLCOMBE about 002° 16' 022° 18' to  
Freetown 15.  
Allied Naval Unit in area of Equator to 5 North  
20 W. to 25 W.  
ALCANTARA 002° 14' (7004°) 09' 311° 15.  
COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S. PICT one motor  
launch with T.S. 29 004° 15 ' 003° 52' to 003°  
39' 007° 45' thence to 300° 7½.  
NORTHERN ISLES on passage Takoradi to Lagos.  
SARABANDE, COPINSAY escorting off Lagos to port  
of call.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1249Z/12).



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.QUEEN OF  
BERMUDA.Simonstown departure 0730Z/12th QUEEN OF BERMUDA  
for Suez routed as in my 1221/10 S. of A. 17  
knots.2. Shifting to W/T organization N U at 1900Z/15th  
and V at 0200Z/19th.

3. E.T.A. position H 1400Z/23rd.

4. E.T.A. Suez 1400Z/27th.

5. Requirements on arrival 2000 tons fuel oil 900 tons fresh  
water.(C. in C. S.A., 1415Z/12 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med.,  
F.O.R.S., N.O.I.C. Aden Canal Area. N.L.O. Port Elizabeth,  
N.L.O. East London, N.O.I.C. Durban).F.N.L.O.  
Freetown.Your 1325/4. During visit of Adm. Collinet's  
Chief of Staff to Freetown 11th Jan. he stated  
that Adm. Collinet had nominated Lieut. Halle  
to Adm. Michelier for appointment to Freetown.  
Decision on nomination rests with Adm. Michelier.Understood there are two Officers of this name one active service  
and one reserve. The latter was proposed. He had previously  
been to Freetown and has recently been recalled from reserve.  
French N.L.O. feels he should be easy to work with. Capt.  
Henderson and B.N.L.O. Dakar inform me Halle is definitely  
expecting to come Freetown and although not prepossessing  
seems suitable and keen on the job.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1417Z/12 to Admty).

WOODRUFF  
HAI LEE.Expected time of sailing WOODRUFF and M.L. 302  
and 287 (escorting?) SS HAI LEE 1800/12th Jan.  
routed through (a) 013° 08' N., 017° 32' W.  
(b) 011° 28' N., 017° 32' W. (c) 010° 30' N.  
016° 40' W. E.T.A. Freetown p.m./14th Jan.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1731Z/12 to R.A.W.A., Admty).Return of  
Mediterranean  
Evacuees.Certain evacuees from the Mediterranean,  
particularly the Maltese are becoming increasingly  
unsettled and difficult at not being allowed to  
return to Egypt. Trouble is increased because  
although the newspapers talk of The Gallant  
Maltese Nation the general public treats theirMaltese guests as coloured people and does not allow them to  
enter cinemas, hotels, autobuses used by whites.3. Some of these women have worked themselves into such a  
state of depression and hysteria as to be strongly recommended  
to me on medical grounds for return to Egypt.4. Request information as to return of evacuees especially  
those recommended on medical grounds.(C. in C. S.A., 1811C/12 to C. in C. Med., (R) Cdre. Durban,  
for C.S.F.O.I.E.M., Supt. Simonstown).

/Routeing...



SA.

CONFIDENTIAL. MESSAGE. T.O.D. 1730/ 12th January OUT

Addressed:- Kenya-Uganda Railways and Harbours Date.18.1.43  
(Sir.H.Moore)

Cypher.

From:- S. of S. Colonies.

38179/39/43  
No.3.Secret.

Your telegram No.1.

Lighterage wharf mainland Mombasa. In the light of your telegram, Overseas Port and Transit Committee agreed that there was no case for construction of this wharf.

T.O.D. 1730/12

Received from:- Colonial Office 2153/15

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- D.F.S.L.
- Controller.
- Vice Controller.
- 4th S.L.
- Civil Lord.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(U.T.)
- N.A. to A.C.N.S.(U.T.)
- Ops.(3)
- O.D.(5)
- O.I.C.(3)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.of P(3)
- D.of L.D.(3)
- C.E.in C.
- D.of D.
- M(6)
- D.of S.T.(2)
- D.T.D.(4)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(C)
- W.B.
- I.P.(3)
- Dept.Contr.(3)
- Asst.Contr.
- D.(4)
- C.E.in C.
- S.W.R.

- Colonial Office Circulation:-
- Admiralty (Mil.Branch)- Mr.M.J.Fox
  - " - Capt.G.P.Bowen R.N.
  - War Office - Major D. Haviland
  - Min.of War Transport -Mr.H.A.Secretan.
  - Crown Agents -Mr.R.W.Foxlee.

✓ Circulated with No T.O.O.  
7th Jan.

} Bath by  
} Courier.



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Routeing on E. Coast of S. America. East Coast of South America routeing in force at present:

(1) Between U.S. Atlantic Coast or Caribbean Ports and East Coast South America United Nations vessels with speeds 8 to 14.5 Santos via Bahia Trinidad Convoy.

(2) Between Santos and Ports South thereof and U.S. Atlantic and Gulf Ports U.S. controlled vessels with speeds greater than 14.5 knots (Motor vessels 12.5 knots) shall be routed via Panama and Cape Horn or Magellan Straits unless otherwise ordered in specific cases.

(3) United Nations vessels speeds greater than 14.5 knots (15 knots British) between U.S. Atlantic or Caribbean Ports and East Coast Ports South America North of Santos shall be sailed independent CKR note\* British managed vessels with speeds greater than 15 knots are sailed independently in the Atlantic.

(4) Vessels with speeds less than 8 knots shall be sailed Independently when submarine situation warrants with air coverage when available using in shore route North of Bahia reporting centres pass to routeing officers your area. Action Com. Caribbean Sea. Com Pas. E.A. Fron. Consolant, Alusnob, Recife, Alusna Rio de Janeiro, Alusna, Montevideo, U.S.R.O. Punta Arenas, U.S.R.O. Curacao in F.O./Admiral/IL.\* (Connav, 1822/12 to Admty). \* as received.

U.S. Shipping Routes. Your (?My) 1921/9th Jan. All U.S. managed ships of 8 to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots bound for U.S.A. east coast, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico or South American east coast ports north of and including Santos should be routed to Bahia for B.T. convoy. Exceptions to above are motor vessels of more than 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots which should be routed via Magellan and Panama.

2. Ships to be routed via Magellan and Panama are limited to those of more than 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots but including the motor vessels referred to in para. 1 above and excluding all ships nominated to load bauxite. These latter should be routed to Bahia for convoy.

(D.T.D., 1843A/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

JANUS, Arrival 12th Jan.  
GLENROY. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1947Z/12 to Admty. etc).

P.614 Intend to sail P.614 at 1500/14th Jan. for Takoradi, to pass through position  
(L) 003° 53' N., (011°?) 18' W., at 1200/16th.  
(M) 002° 40' N., (007°?) (46'?) W., at 1400/17th.  
(N) 003° 38' N., 002° 04' W., at 0700/19th. S. of A. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
E.T.A. 1500/19th.  
(2) S.Ps. carried.  
(3) Intend P.614 to (sail?) for Simonstown about 22nd Jan.  
Further orders follow.  
(F.O.W.A., 1949Z/12 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) C. in C. S.A. etc).

/T.M.1...



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

T.M.1. Your 1155A/11. Tug AIMWELL remains at Bathurst  
AIMWELL. at short notice.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1951Z/12 to V.A. Gibraltar (R)  
N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty. S.N.O. Casablanca,  
N.C.X.F.)

Movements, Dept. 11th Jan. Brazilian light cruiser BAHIA  
Pernambuco. for Bahia. Dept. 12th Jan. U.S. cruiser  
SAVANNAH, U.S. Destroyer MOFFETT.  
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1958Z/12 to Admty).

Troop Moves, Admty. 2355A/12. See "Torch" Area.  
W. Africa.

Mediterranean.

M.W.19 Arrived 2320A/11th Convoy M.W.19, EURYALUS,  
JERVIS, KELVIN, QUEEN OLGA, DULVERTON, BELVOIR,  
EXMOOR, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT,  
HURWORTH.  
(V.A. Malta, 0031A/12 to C. in C. Med., (R)  
Admty. etc).

Convoy 19. Merchant ship P.S. DUPONT (?PIERRE S. DUPONT)  
entering harbour grounded firmly near St. Elmo Winch House west  
of baffle. Unloading forward started immediately and hope to  
get off 12th Jan. if weather holds. Fairway is clear but  
baffle must remain open for present.

(V.A. Malta, 0111A/12, to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty).

My 0111/12th. Attempt to tow off unsuccessful but am  
hopeful for landing party 13th when more unloaded. Aground for  
about 25 feet from stem. Bottom does not appear to be holed.  
Last sentence my 0111/12th for boom read baffle.

(V.A. Malta, 2316A/12).

M.W.19. Total unloaded to 1820/12th 2234 tons, fuel 4476  
tons.

(V.A. Malta, 2328A/12 to C. in C. Med).

WELSHMAN Arrival 11th Jan. WELSHMAN (?P) 1122.  
(S.O. Alexandria, 0911/12 to Admty (?V.A.Malta))

/M/Vs...



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.M/Vs off  
Sfax.

My 2250/11th. All are under 500 tons and include at least 4 F-boats. Not considered suitable target.  
(Capt. S.10., 0937A/12 to P.51, P.35).

ALBARO

A. My 1258/7. Report B.4 ALBARO due Istanbul from Constanza Jan. 13th or Jan. 14th.  
B. N.L.O. Black Sea informed.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 0954C/12 to S.O.(I) Med.,  
(R) S.1., S.10, D.N.I.)

P.43

P.43 is returning Malta passing through 039° 00' 008° 00' at 1830A/13th thence outside 100 fathom line to position G and by usual route to arrive searched channel 1300A/16th.  
(Capt. S.10., 1121A/12 to S/Ms on patrol (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8).

Situation  
Report No.  
45.

(1) Bone. Minesweeping of approach channel completed 11th Jan., 10 moored mines were swept.  
(2) Three L.S.T's no (as received ? not or now) returning to Oran having landed second load of tanks at Philippeville.  
(3) WHEATLAND and WILTON on A/S patrol were unsuccessfully attacked by 5 torpedo aircraft p.m. Jan. 10th.  
(4) AJAX and SCYTHIA sailed from Algiers for Gibraltar 10th Jan. Both ships sheltering at Arzeu until weather moderates.  
(5) TRIBUNE reports 6,000 ton merchant ship ashore Cape Eervo with two torpedo hits.  
(6) Force H sails from Gibraltar for Mers-el-Kebir p.m. today Tuesday.  
(N.C.X.F., 1131A/12 to Admty).

Cositrep  
No. 653.  
Air.

5. Night 10/11 Jan. Liberators bombing road junctions Tripoli area started a fire and explosions.  
6. Malta Wellingtons unable to attack Tunis owing to cloud bombed Soussse harbour bombs bursting on quay and railway sidings. One fire started.  
7. Mosquitoes from Malta on intruder patrols over Sfax and Misurata areas attacked M.T. on roads.  
8. 11 Jan. American B.24s despatched to attack shipping in Naples found low cloud over harbour which obscured results of bombing. One fire started in town. Enemy fighters attacked B.24 which shot down one M.E.109. Two B.24s lost.  
(C. in C. ME. 1255B/12).

THUNDERBOLT,  
TROOPER.

Following is a repetition of my 1849B/11th (begins)  
Capt. (S) 10, (R) Capt. (S) 1, V.A. Malta, from C. in C. Med., THUNDERBOLT and TROOPER are to revert to normal forthwith.  
(Ends).  
(C. in C. Med., 1326B/12 to Admty, F.O.S.)

/Force..



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Force K. Two Destroyers of Force K leave Malta at 1500A today 12th to carry out sweep between Kuriat and Kerkenah from about 2300/12th to 0100/13th.  
(V.A. Malta, 1332A/12 to C. in C. Med., etc).  
See 1502/12.
- Air R/C. P.R.U. 12th Jan. visuals only. 1130, Taranto, 1 battleship outer harbour. Inner harbour not covered, 1200, Messina, 3 cruisers.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1340A/12 to C. in C. Med., etc).  
Cavoli-Marittimo patrol cancelled for night 12/13 Jan. owing to weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1825A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O. Force Q, etc)
- NUBIAN, PALADIN. NUBIAN and PALADIN sailed on operation.  
(V.A. Malta, 1502A/12 to Admty. C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)
- BARTOLO Spanish steamer BARTOLO finishing loading 90 (?thousand) cases fruit for Germany, expected sailing 13th direct to Marseilles.  
(Alicante, 1630/12 to Gibraltar, Madrid, Admty) W.R., Note. Passed to C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.(S), C. in C. W.A.,
- M.W. 20 Providing Tripoli (Libya) air fields are in our hands I will accept one troop ship for inclusion in M.W.20 sailing for Malta on 6th Feb. and if necessary a second one about one month later.  
(C. in C. Med., 1634B/12 to P.S.T.O.M.E., (R) Admty. etc).
- M.T. Bs. M.G. Bs Your 1757/8. Request M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs. may be sent as soon as ready. If they require passage I can give them a short period here.  
2. Request spare gear may be sent Bone.  
(N.C.X.F., 1644A/12 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med.etc)
- P.311, loss Consider most likely and probable cause of P.311's loss was detection by shore anti-submarine devices off Maddalena. TAKU, since P.311's loss, was undoubtedly detected by such device when 12 miles off Leros and 7 miles from Levitha Island. These perfectly practical devices must be expected off all enemy main bases.  
(Capt. S.1., 1937B/12 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. (S) Capt. (S) 10, N.C.X.F.) W.D.Note.No previous sig. in W.D.reporting loss of P.311. (see HUSH series 1238/12/1)  
Al504 12th.
- Malta Air Report. C.S.R. 12th Jan. Combined Services report follows in new arrangement suggested by Middle East signal A.673 11th Jan.  
Part 1. Offensive. Night 11/12 Jan. No offensive operations owing to bad weather. Day 12th Jan.



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Malta Air  
Report.  
Contd.

6 Beaufighter and 8 Spitfire sorties have been made in offensive sweeps against Axis transport aircraft and shipping in Lampedusa Kelibia area. 4 Spitfire bombers escorted by 5 Spitfire fighters attacked Lampedusa airfield. 10 Spitfire bombers escorted by 14 Spitfire fighters attacked Sciacca harbour as alternative to Porto Empedocle which was covered by cloud. Numerous hits on harbour installations.

Part 2. Enemy air activity. Night 11/12 Jan. Nil. Day 12th Jan. 1143 hours 4 Spitfires were airborne for raiders which turned back before reaching Malta.

Part 3., R/C.

Part 4.,. Movements.  
(A.H.Q., Malta, 1954/12).

Whalers

Request early reply to my 1834/24th Dec.  
(Whalers etc. to be sailed on completion of trials)  
178 Group is now ready to sail.  
(C. in C. Med., 2009B/12 to Admty).

Movements

Algiers arrivals nil, departures LIGHTNING,  
LOYAL to Bone.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2032A/12 to Admty).

Free French  
Submarines.

Following has been received by F.N.F.L. Syria from F.N.F.L. London. (Begins) Number 6369 SYR 165. I am considering basing in near future S/Ms JUNON, MINERVE, RUBIS and CURIE at Beirut. Please inform me by signal to what extent local resources are able to ensure running repairs and maintenance of these ships. CURIE is U class S/M of British construction. (Ends).  
2. There is no objection to these S/Ms being sent Beirut but to obtain best results from them, they should form part 1st S/M Flotilla and not a separate Flotilla. It is for (?consideration) whether CURIE would not be better with 10th S/M Flotilla. Presume S/Ms would bring necessary spare gear, ammunition and torpedo and if possible maintenance personnel. Kolb-Bernard agrees in principle.  
(C. in C. Med., 2130B/12 to Admty (R) F.O.S. etc).

NEBOJSCA

A.M.1257/27 Dec. Para. 1 and 3. Request you will report if this is being done and when it is expected that NEBOJSCA will sail for Kilindini.  
Para. 2. Request reply.

Para. 4. Greek authorities in London have referred question to Admiral Sakellariou. Has he agreed?  
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 2231A/12 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.S.)



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

B.M. 37. Departures FALMOUTH, MARGUERITE with B.M.37.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 0329Z/12 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N.,  
S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Kilindini.)  
Sailing telegram. (2) 0330Z/12th Jan. (3) Passing Cochin  
2030Z/14th Jan. E.T.A. Cochin portion 0130Z/15th Jan.  
(3) (A) E.T.A. Colombo portion 1100Z/16th Jan.  
(3) (B) E.T.A. Madras 0530Z/19th Jan.  
(4) 9 knots to position (F) thence 10 knots.  
(5) (Route). (6) FALMOUTH to Colombo, MARGUERITE to Madras.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0350Z/12 to Admty.)

RANPURA. Arrival 11th Jan.  
(F.O.E.A., 0521Z/12 to Admty., etc.)

Convoy B.K. 1. B.K.1 arrived 0730Z/12th.  
(N.C.S.O. Karachi, 0812Z/12 to Admty.)  
W.D. Note:- This is a trade convoy. The  
other B.K. convoys were military.

LISMORE. Calcutta 12th Jan. departure LISMORE for Colombo.  
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 0840Z/12 to Admty., etc.)

IPSWICH, CESSNOCK. My 0956/10th Jan. (re shortage of destroyer  
escorts). IPSWICH is being sailed so as to  
arrive Aden 25th Jan. CESSNOCK is being slipped  
and boiler cleaned before departure and will  
arrive about 1st Feb.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1321Z/12 to C. in C. Med.)

CARADOC. Departure 1200/12 CARADOC, E.T.A. Bombay 0200/16th.  
Shifting to Group V W/T organisation at 1100/13th.  
(N.O.I.C. Bahrein, 1343Z/12 to C. in C. E.F.,  
Connav, (R) S.N.O.P.G., etc.)

MAURETANIA. It is understood from para. 3 of D. of S.T.  
0300/9 that MAURETANIA will sail from Australia  
in early February for Bombay.  
2. Subject to there being no increase in enemy activity in the  
Indian Ocean it is not intended to provide her with Ocean escort.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1346Z/12 to Admty.)

Meiri, amendment No. (2). Revised routeing instructions for United States  
ships.  
Section 2 D. (1) Ships of more than 14½ knots  
or more than 12½ knots in case of motor vessels,  
bound from South Africa, Red Sea and east coast of  
South America, south of Santos to U.S.A. east coast are to  
proceed via Cape Horn and Panama unless otherwise ordered in  
specific cases.



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Meiri,  
amendment  
No. (2).  
(Contd.)

(2) Vessels from Indian Ocean designated to lift bauxite are to be routed via Capetown for Atlantic.

(3) Existing instructions as regards British managed ships remain in force for the present. Section 10 B. (1) Ships from Persian Gulf and

India (including Ceylon), bound for U.S.A. are to be routed via the Pacific, those for United States east coast to Panama for onward routing.

(2) Vessels should bunker to full capacity at Colombo and if necessary top up at Fremantle. When vessels are unable to proceed Fremantle to Panama direct and require bunkers in New Zealand they are to call at Wellingtons for oil fuel or Lyttelton for coal.

(3) Ships not requiring to call at Fremantle or New Zealand for bunker are to call at Hobart for onward routing.

(4) Existing instructions as regards British managed ships remain in force for the present.

(C. in C. E.F., 1420Z/12 to E.I. Stn., (R) Admty., etc.)

SEVERN.

F.O.S. 1614/10th Jan.

Approved for SEVERN to proceed via Cape.

2. V.A. Gibraltar passed to N.C.X.F.

(D.O.D.(F), 1453A/12 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.S.,

V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Capt. S.5,

N.C.X.F.)

NIDAROS.

Have you any news of Norwegian NIDAROS sailed Mahe (Seychelles) on 9th Dec. for Providence Island?

(D.T.D., 1726A/12 to C. in C. E.F.)

CAIRNS.

Left.

(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 2100Z/12 to Admty., etc.)



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- P.512. U.S. S/M notice. Modify my 1601/11th. Sailing of British P.512 delayed until further notice. (Cominch 0245/12 to Admty.)
- SNOOK. U.S. S/M notice. U.S.S. SNOOK will operate continuously during daylight and darkness in Portsmouth areas A and B per U.S. C and G S charts 1206 from 1700Z/12th until 1500Z/17th. (Cominch 0250/12 to Admty.)
- Shipping Routes. Your 1435/9. Doubt exists in Navy Dept. as to whether A.M. 1829/29th Dec. para B. is affected by subsequent signals.  
2. It would be of assistance if present routing policy could be promulgated on the lines of your 1829/29th Dec. for both British and U.S. managed shipping. Cominch C and R 1456/8 refers. (B.A.D. 0251A/12 to Admty.) Reply: 1921A/13.
- Movements. 11th Jan. St. Johns, N.F.  
Arrivals: CHELSEA, TRAIL, MELVILLE, MONCKTON ex H.X.222, KENORA ex S.C.116.  
Departures: FAME, BURZA, ACANTHUS, KINGCUP, EGLANTINE, MANSFIELD to S.C.116. VANSITTART, ST. CROIX, CHESTERFIELD, NAPANEE, KENOGAMI, CHILLIWACK, BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC, ROXBOROUGH, GEORGETOWN to H.X. 222. STRATFORD escorting Merchant Ship to Wabana. Q.058, Q.059 to carry out A/S patrol Wabana. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 05051Z/12 to Admty.)
- S/Ms for A/S Training. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1647/27th Dec. and 1642/4th Jan. and B.A.D. Washington's 0025/9th Jan.  
Allocation of P.553 is to stand but P.553 is not to be sailed to Bermuda until a firm date is known for the arrival of the first A/S vessel for working-up.  
2. Proposals in N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1647/27th Dec. should then be implemented as far as possible without interference with working up of vessels referred to in my 1212/18th Dec.  
3. SEAWOLF is allocated temporarily to Halifax for A/S training and it is under consideration to relieve her about the end of April by L.23 on completion of latter's refit in U.S.A.  
4. My 1824/6, SEAWOLF should be sailed to Halifax as soon as convenient. (D.A/S W. Approved by A.C.N.S. (UT) 1120A/12 to N.S.H.Q. etc.)
- U.S. Movements. Departure 12th January U.S.A. Transport ENGLEMAN to sea. (B.R.O. Aruba 1145QR/12 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)  
San Francisco Jan. 9th TORRENS Nor. for Noumea, BOSCHFONTEIN Dut. Bora Bora and Noumea. Jan. 10th MAUL REVERE Auckland.  
All U.S. Army transports. My 1517/6. All ships together with J. FLETCHER, FARRELL arrived San Francisco Jan. 11th. CATHWOOD arrived Port San Luis Jan. 11th. (N.S.H.Q. 2305Z/12 to Admty.)

/Movements. ...



426B.

12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements  
Summary.

At 1800 G.M.T./12.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
S/M CLYDE	43 $\frac{1}{2}$ °N. 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ °W.	Hove to at 2030/10	Blank
Convoy T.M.F.2.) 3 destroyers )	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.	057°	13
Convoy F.T.T.6.) MILFORD 2 Corvettes. }	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.	271°	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
HYDRANGEA C. DROGOU }	13° N. 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ °W.	105°	11
4 Trawlers	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ °W.	091°	8
CARNARVON CASTLE (D.O.D.(F), 1030Z/12.)	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° S. 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.	231°	17



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

## Movements.

Departure MINDRILL 84 for Boston. Arrival VEGREVILLE, THREE RIVERS, GEORGIAN escorting J.H.27. DRUMMONDVILLE, RAYON D'OR, ARRAS from Sydney (C.B) COWICHAN ex O.N.No ?157, GANANOQUE, RED DEER, from Louisburg, WETASKIWIN GRANBY escorting J.H.28.  
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 1301Z/10 (12 intended?) to Admty. etc. Recd 1800/12.)

PORT ARTHUR,  
PHOEBE.

PORT ARTHUR arrived 10th Jan. PHOEBE in G.K. 720 will sail 2200/11 for Brooklyn Navy Yard 15th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1410Z/12 to Admty.)

## U/B.

My 1555Z/11th and 1936Z/11th. U-Boat sighted by aircraft 4 miles away from course 180° submerged before attack could be carried out. Aircraft flying 2000 feet at cloud base. Markers dropped on oil stick, subsequent day and night air search unsuccessful.  
(C.O.A.C. 1430Z/12 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty. etc.)

## SALISBURY.

Will be ready to sail midnight 12th Jan.  
(B.A.R.M. 1516Z/12 to Admty.)

## O.N.S.160.

C.T.U. 24.1.12 in WAVENEY plus LAGAN, ORILLIA, PRIMROSE. POLYANTHUS and MORDEN sailed to meet O.N.S.160. Anticipate SHERWOOD will sail noon Jan. 13th to overtake. None fitted H/F D/F. Latest QJA 176.  
(C.T.G. 24.7 1525Z/12 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav etc.)

S/M  
estimate  
Jan. 12th.  
U.S. S/M  
Notice.

Cominch 1531/12, 1532/12, 1555/12, 1556/12, 1557/12 to Admty.)

<sup>U</sup>COLOMBIA.

E.T.A. 1000Z/13th, BARRIE in company. <sup>U</sup>COLOMBIA urgent defects R.D.F. (?control).  
(COLOMBIA No T.O.O/12 to F.O.N.F. Recd. 1601/12.)

## CERION.

(Tanker Message) Your 1805A/10th (CERION destination Galveston for repairs) CERION has not arrived Bahia.  
(B.R.L.O. Bahia 1715Z/12 to Admty.)

/Convoy Cycles ...



12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Convoy Cycles. Your 2119/9th Jan. (Given M/S Personal distribution - N.T. in W.D.) In view of (A) urgency of implementing new cycle, (B) difficulty anticipated in your paras. 4 and 5 of arriving at agreement on amended schedule, and (C) Our lack of precise knowledge of loading facilities New York, we are now prepared to agree to schedule proposed in your 2237/30th Dec. (N.T. in W.D.)

2. If this proves unsuitable for tanker shuttle we will propose a revised schedule giving due consideration to loading and discharge time required to maintain 50 day turn-round.

3. Further signal will follow from C. in C. W.A. proposing detailed sailing dates and escort arrangements. (D.T.D. 1730A/12 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Navigation. Conhydrolant Number 120. Description of swept channel suggested in Conhydrolant 109 amended as follows. Conhydrolant 92 having been sufficiently promulgated is cancelled. (Hydro. Washington 1750/12 to N.S.H.Q. etc.)

B.Y.M.S. Sail B.Y.M.S. 5, 6, 7, 8 from New York to Norfolk (Virginia) when ready about Jan. 16th. for onward routing to Freetown via Guantanamo, Trinidad, Crownpoint, Recife. Vessels have endurance of about 1700 miles at 9 knots using 30 gallons per hour. Can carry 1200 gallons additional fuel as deck cargo if sailed on favourable weather report. Admiralty pass to F.O.C.W. Africa for information. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1915/12 to C.E.S.F.) Passing action being taken by W.R.

KROM. Turkish SS KROM is to be given safe conduct from Turkey to New Orleans to load wheat for Turkey. Request you will state what route should be followed from position 33° 00' N. 40° 00' W. to New Orleans. (M. Branch 2021Z/12 to Opnav (R) S.B.N.O.W.A.)

U/B. U-Boat sighted 1710Z/12 position 17° 15' N. 65° W. (S.O.I. Jamaica 2103R/12 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

U/B Report 11/1. My 1905/11th (report two submarines sighted) subsequent investigation indicates sighting improbable. (C.O.A.C. 2104Z/12 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connnav etc.)

/R/V for ...



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.R/V for  
Stragglers.

When S.O. Escort reports there are numerous stragglers but fails to request that a R/V be broadcast propose that, irrespective of "Chop", Admiralty in conjunction with C. in C. W.A. broadcasts suitable R/V to stragglers when East of 40° W. and Connav takes necessary action when West of 40° W.  
(D.T.D. 2110Z/12 to Connav (R) B.A.D.)  
Concur. (Connav 1345/13.)

Shipping  
Casualties.

Connav Serial 12. JAMES MCKAY overdue Belfast since 12th Dec. from Habana presumed lost. DALCROSS reported torpedoed 06.11 N. 52.23 W. 1 Jan. OCEAN VAGABOND torpedoed 10 Jan. 57.17 N. 20.11 W.  
(Connav 2125/12 to Comnav.)

T.A.32.  
T.A.33.  
T.A.34.

Your 1637/11. Present position is now as follows:

(a) ANDES as T.A.32 will sail Clyde probably 14/1 for Halifax arriving 20/1. She will sail again as A.T.35 about 27/1 for Clyde.

(b) EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND as T.A.33 will sail Clyde 22/1 for Halifax arriving 28/1. She will sail again as A.T.36 about 4/2 for Clyde.

(c) QUEEN ELIZABETH on arrival back in New York in T.A.34 about 24/1, will be taken in hand for overhaul of probably a month's duration.

2. When ready QUEEN ELIZABETH will most probably resume the transatlantic service. It is quite possible that EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND and ANDES will remain in this service also but this is not yet decided.

(D. of S.T. 2125A/12 to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

Convoy  
Cycles.

After conference and study of proposals made by Prime Minister to the President on subject of supply of liquid fuels to U.K. and North Africa, the following modified proposals are made.

(A) Open North Atlantic trade convoy cycles to 10 days and reduce mid-ocean escort groups to 8. Saint Louis ships so released replace equal number ships on U.K. - Gibraltar convoys. Ships thus replaced form 3 groups for Caribbean Sea - U.K. convoys described below. Time of effecting change in cycle to be agreed upon by Comtask 24 and C. in C. W.A. subject to approval by C. in C. U.S. Fleet and Admty. Redistribution of escorts to be effected by first two named authorities.  
(B) U.S. Coastal Gulf Caribbean Sea and South Atlantic convoy cycles to be opened from 4 to 5 days and 8 to 10 days respectively except that New York - Key West convoy cycles will close from 8 to 5 days. Change to cycles will be arranged by C. in C. U.S. Fleet as required to interlock with change in North Atlantic cycles.

/(C) ...



War Diary.

12.1.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Convoy Cycles. (C) Tanker convoys direct from Caribbean Sea to U.K. to return to be established on 20 days cycle approximately 40 ships per convoy escorted by British ships referred to in para.A above.

Tankers to have declared speed of 10 knots. Time in port 6 days Western end 14 days, Eastern End. Admty. requested to advise approx. date 1st convoy will sail from Caribbean Sea. (D) Tanker convoys direct from Gulf or to Casablanca/Gibraltar and return to be established on approx. 24 days cycles about 6 ships per convoy initial convoy sailing Gulf or Caribbean Sea about Feb. 1st. First two convoys to be escorted by U.S. Atlantic Fleet destroyers, S.S. convoys as agreed upon by Admiralty and C. in C. U.S. Fleet. Normal procedure to be alternate convoys escorted by U.S. and British ships. Tankers to have declared speed of 14.5 knots. Time in port 6 days Eastern end, 10 days Western end. Tankers in these convoys not to enter Mediterranean.

(E) Caribbean Sea - U.K. and Gulf or Caribbean Sea - Casablanca/Gibraltar convoys to be under control of C. in C. Lant West of "Chop" line in manner similar to and for same purposes as North Atlantic trade convoys. For this purpose Cdr. Caribbean Sea Front and Cdr. Gulf Sea Front will be considered task group commanders under C. in C. Lant.

(Para.?) Request concurrence Admty. and N.S.H.Q. Admty. pass to V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., C.I.N.A.F., S.N.O. C.A., F.O.C.W.A. for information. B.A.D. and N.M.C.S. by hand. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2126/12 to Admty. etc.)

Sub.attack & sighting summary.

Para.(a) My 1120/22 sighting 1535Z/11 change 43.08 N. to 44.10 N. Para.(c) Conning tower sighted 17.15 N. 65 W. 1710Z/12. Transit aircraft sights submarine course West 02.40 N. 26.47 W. 1231Z/11. Para.(d) U.S.S. OVERTON attacks sound contact 26.21 N. 74.09 W. 0328Z/12. (Cominch 2133/12\*to Admty.) \* as amended 2104/13.

U.G.S.4.

1. Sailing telegram part 1.
2. 1330Z/13 from point Z seaward and swept channel.
3. Point J 0430Z Jan. 15th. 9 knots, no zigzag.
5. J. 36.20 N. 67.50 W.
- K. 32.30 N. 62.50 W.
- L. 33.35 N. 55.30 W.
- M. 34.15 N. 47.30 W.
- N. 34.20 N. 37.45 W.
- O. 33.50 N. 29.20 W.
- P. 32.50 N. 22.01 W.
- Q. 34.05 N. 14.40 W.
- R. 34.40 N. 09.59 W.
- S. 33.50 N. 08.04 W.
6. Task Force 38 U.S. PLUNKETT, U.S. NIBLACK, U.S. BENSON, U.S. GLEAVES, U.S. MAYO, U.S.S. KENDRICK. (Port Dir., New York 2236Z/12 amended 2056Z/13 to Connav (R) C.T.F. 38 etc.)

/MAURETANIA ...



430A

12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Routeing  
of  
Merchant  
Shipping.

Following summary of former messages not to all addressees is promulgated for information.

1. U.S. managed ships from Atlantic seaboard for India and Persian Gulf will sail via Panama and route South of New Zealand and Australia in both directions.
2. British controlled coal burning ships from Atlantic seaboard for India and Persian Gulf will sail by route as in para. 1 but oil burners and motor ships will normally proceed via Panama and the Horn and in both cases return via South Africa.
3. It is anticipated that all U.S. ships will be oil fired or motor vessels and a number of them will be bunkered to destination.
4. Oil fired ships outward bound should bunker as follows:-
  - (a) Replenish at Panama to capacity (to reach ultimate destination if possible)
  - (b) If bound for West Coast India or Persian Gulf to replenish at Colombo only sufficiently to reach destination.
  - (c) If for East Coast India to replenish to capacity at Colombo.
  - (d) And homeward bound as follows - to capacity in loading area of (b) above
  - (e) to capacity at Colombo if (c) above
  - (f) Those requiring an intermediate bunker call between Colombo and Panama either way should take minimum repeat minimum requirements at Fremantle.
5. Coal burning ships should replenish at Panama to capacity thereafter bunker at Lyttleton or Newcastle or Sydney N.S.W. or Port Kembla but preferably Lyttleton also Colombo if necessary.
6. Cochin will be used as an overflow port for Colombo if required.
7. Please pass to M.W.T.R.s.  
(Admty. 2038Z/12 to Connav, C. in C, E.F., F.O.C.R. I.N., F.O.C. Ceylon, A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., S.N.O.P.G. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington.)



War Diary.12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

MAURETANIA, Following received from C. in C. E.F. (Begins)  
WEST POINT, It is understood from para. 3 of D. of S.T.'s  
MARIPOSA. 0300/9 Jan. that MAURETANIA will sail from  
Australia in early February for Bombay. Subject  
to there being no increase in enemy activity in  
Indian Ocean it is not intended to provide her with ocean escort  
(Ends.) 2. Request confirmation that unless enemy activity  
increases no ocean escort is required for following fast ships  
carrying U.S. personnel which will pass through Indian Ocean.  
(a) MAURETANIA. (b) WEST POINT leaving U.S. early February for  
Middle East. (c) MARIPOSA leaving U.S.A. late March for India.  
(D.O.D.(F) 2359A/12 to Connav (R) C. in C. E.F., B.A.D. A.C.N.B.)  
Para. 2 confirmed.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1800/13.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest No. Three Hudsons attacked waterfront Dobo (Aru Is.)  
355, Jan. afternoon 11th without observing results.  
11th. Ineffective interception by one Floatplane.  
(2) R/C aircraft reported total 62 vessels Rabaul  
area noon 11th including one probable aircraft  
carrier, 37 large and 24 small vessels.  
(3) Single enemy R/C aircraft reported over Merauke morning same  
day.  
(4) One Catalina bombed small enemy warship off Cape Ward night  
10/11 without observing results.  
(5) Our troops maintaining pressure along coastal track from  
Tarakena towards Sanananda. Enemy pockets being cleared area  
south of Cape Killerton.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0819Z/12 to Admty. etc.)

Movements. Arrivals Sydney 10th January U.S. troop transport  
MANLEY. Brisbane 10th January U.S. Destroyer  
PATTERSON. Departures Townsville 11th Jan.  
U.S. destroyer MUGFORD for Port Moresby, Sydney  
11th January U.S. troop transport MANLEY.  
(A.C.N.B. 1136Z/12 go Admty. etc.)



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War Diary.

12.1.1943.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1305A/12, 1343A/12.)

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly  
Summary.

On the 5th in 45° 35' N. 09° 55' W. a Wellington aircraft made daylight attacks on two U-boats. After one attack a large patch of oil was seen. S.O. of convoy T.M.1 reported that he had hopes but no proof of damage to at least 4 U-Boats. Searchlight aircraft from Gibraltar made 4 attacks last week.  
(D.A./S.W. 1557A/12 to Cominch etc.)

U.S.  
Summary.

Your 1059/22 July. Christmas day U.S.S. GRAYBACK reported to have destroyed submarine off Rekata Bay, Solomon Islands. Jan. 3 U.S.S. EARLE, made gun hits on Submarine south of Azores. Jan. 5 U.S.S. EARLE and U.S.S. PARKER engaged two Submarines simultaneously. EARLE used searchlights and obtained mutiple gun and one torpedo hit. EARLE and PARKER contacts all located by Radar. Jan. 5 U.S.N. aircraft exchanged gunfire with submarine Trinidad area. Dropped four depth charges. Submarine lifted from water crash dived. Small oil slick. Jan. 6th aircraft attacked submarines off Fortelaza Brazil. Obtained much miscellaneous wreckage and debris in addition to three large tanks 20 feet long, 8 feet diameter, several mangled bodies, three live survivors, one yellow object larger than a man similar in shape. 34 attacks reported in week ending 2400Z/10. (Admiralty pass to Comnavu for info.)  
(U.S. Navcom 1745/12 to Admty.)



433  
13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C. in C. W.A. sends today details of his intentions for re-arranging "Torch" escorts and instituting tanker and O.S. convoys. The need for the reinstatement of O.S./S.L. convoys has been superimposed on that for the institution of direct tanker convoys from the Dutch West Indies. The Admiralty give today an outline of their intentions for providing ships for escorts. The preliminary moves are to be begun without delay.

Steel sailing barge AILSA was destroyed by a mine at 1100 today in the Thames Estuary.

The Tyne was closed from 2215 today to 1105/14, owing to suspected enemy minelaying.

26 out of 32 aircraft laid their mines successfully last night off Biscay ports.

South Atlantic.

A French northbound convoy D.64, sailed from Dakar for Casablanca this afternoon escorted by F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE, U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN, H.M.S. FANDANGO, BELLWORT, BUTSER and BIRDIP.

Mediterranean.

Convoy M.E.15 (2 empty tankers and 3 merchant ships) sailed from Malta at 1947A today for Port Said escorted by ORION and 9 destroyers. (ORION and 3 destroyers returned to Malta a.m./15)

U/B sunk

The Corvette VILLE DE QUEBEC, S.O. of escort of convoy T.E.13 brought to the surface by depth charges and then rammed and sank a U-boat and picked up one German survivor at 1600A today in 36.37 N., 1.10 E (about 90 miles West of Algiers).



War Diary.

13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

3 Swordfish attacked shipping at Ferryville last night; one aircraft estimates a torpedo hit amidships on a 6,000 to 8,000 ton merchant vessel. U.S. bombers were despatched today to bomb shipping in Sousse harbour, but owing to the weather only 6 reached the objective and results were not seen. Another formation despatched to attack shipping at Tripoli could not locate the target on account of the weather.

3 Naval Albacores and 3 Beauforts laid mines last night between Sfax and Kerkenah Island. Enemy night fighters attempted unsuccessfully to interfere with the operation.

East Indies.

FRESNO CITY reported a periscope in 1.20 S. 74.32 E. at 0500G.

America & West Indies.

The following two ships are overdue and are presumed lost:-  
TJILEBOET in O.N.145. HENRY STANLEY in O.N.149.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa reports that reports continue to reach them of unsuccessful attempts to fuel convoy escorts from special oilers in convoy, due either to the oilers not being supplied with special gear or being uninstructed in its use. This failure is particularly unfortunate in the case of the Western Support Force who are short legged and cannot join a suitable O.N. convoy without refuelling. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa replied on 15 Jan. that owing to the necessity of keeping all tankers working at maximum capacity it is not possible immediately to fit full oiling arrangements to sufficient tankers for all convoys.

/The...



War Diary.

13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies - Contd.

The Baia (Bahia) - Trinidad (B.T.), convoys commenced operating as from today.

Australia & New Zealand.

This forenoon 3 Fortresses, 4 B.25s, 7 Beaufighters escorted by 8 Lightnings attacked Lae Aerodrome, docks, barges and stores. Merauke was again bombed this afternoon, causing slight damage to the jetty.



486

13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

17th Divn. Admiralty's 2147A/22nd October 1942.  
Destroyers. As converted layers are now returning to service after refitting propose to resume operational control of the destroyers of the 17th division as they become available.  
(R.A. (M) 1208/13 to Admty.)

Allocation It has been decided to allocate destroyers at  
of new present under construction as follows:  
destroyers. "S" Class to C. in C. Home Fleet.  
"T" Class to C. in C. Home Fleet temporarily.  
These latter are not arcticised.  
(D.O.D. (H) 1912A/13 to A.S.C.B.S.)

1. The following destroyers have been allocated to the command of F.O.C. West Africa: MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH.
2. MALCOLM, after working up, and WOLVERINE are to escort K.M.F.9 and to proceed as ordered by F.O.C. W.A. on completion of that duty.
3. WITCH is to give leave on arrival in U.K. On completion of leave C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail her as requisite.  
(D.O.D. (H) 1924A/13)

Movements.

V.A.2. C. in C. H.F. 2246/12th. E.T.A. Hvalfjord  
0600A/15th. Request gate 0700A/15th.  
(V.A. 2 0058A/13 to A.C.I.C.)

One Fortress will escort you from 0910A to 1800A 13th call sign F3PG codeword "Dimple". One Fortress will also be searching the vicinity UR58 from 1000A to 1550A/13th. American aircraft may be sighted flying to U.K. in formation or independently. Recognition signals in accordance with S.P. 02442 are held.

(C. in C. W.A. 0237A/13 to V.A.2, ANSON (R) C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C. Admty., A.C.O.S.)

My 2246/12th para.3. Add codeword "Dimple".

(C. in C. H.F. 0249A/13 to WATCHFUL, ANSON, BERWICK, NORFOLK, A.C.O.S., C. in C. W.A., R.A.(D) H.F., A.C.I.C. Admty.)

Cancel my 2246/12th.

(C. in C. H.F. 0750A/13 to R.A.(D) H.F., Admty., C. in C. W.A., NORFOLK, A.C.I.C. V.A.2, ANSON, BERWICK.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Intend sailing NEWFOUNDLAND for Rosyth at 0045 tomorrow Thursday. Carrying out gun trials on passage. E.T.A. May Island 1415A/14th further signal will be made to P.W.S.S. by ship. Mean S. of A. 17 knots. V H/F fitted 13th Fighter group guard. Request fighter protection.

(N.O.I.C. Newcastle on Tyne 0916/13.)

My 0916/13th postponed 24 hours owing to suspected enemy minelaying.

(N.O.I.C. Newcastle 2350/13.)

/ECHO ...



13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.ECHO,  
INGLEFIELD.Arrived Scapa 0902.  
(A.C.O.S. 0937/13.)

TUNA.

F.O.(S)'s 1909A/12th not to C. in C. W.A.  
TUNA is required to leave Devonport for Clyde  
on 19th Jan. request an escort may be detailed  
none is available in 3rd S/M F.  
(S.3 1007A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)Landing  
Craft  
convoy.Proceed as soon as ready through 180° Lizard 3  
towards 180° Bishop 6 to R/V with L.C.I.(L)  
number unknown and escort to Plymouth.  
1 L.C.I.(L) reported 180° Bishop 4 at 1020/13  
course 090° speed not reported probably about  
10 knots. Codeword for S.G.B. "Obstacle 1".  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1119A/13 to S.G.B.9 (R)  
L.C.I.(L) 164, C. in C. Portsmouth, Admty.,  
F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

?

Admiralty pass to all concerned. My P.C. and  
S. 1100Z/13 is 050° 00' 006° 30' 090° 11 knots.  
Aircraft gave bearing Bishops Rock 060° at 0845Z.  
Request position when sighted by aircraft.  
Request permission to anchor at Falmouth Bay  
tonight and surface escorts.  
(Call Sign NDKZ\*1130Z/13 to Admty.)  
\* Call sign undecypherable. Message has been  
passed to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth,  
H.Q.C.C. C. in C. W.A.)OFFA,  
MATCHLESS.My 2144/5th (?5th) OFFA and MATCHLESS are  
remaining at (?Seidisfjord) till further orders.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1320A/13 to OBEDIENT,  
(R) OBDURATE.)Your 1131A/13th. Intend to proceed to Akureyri. E.T.A.  
1100A/14th.(OFFA 1523A/13 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C. (R) ONSLAUGHT,  
Admty., F.O.C. Dest./F.H.F., A.C.O.S.)P.49, P.312,  
P.216, P.55  
UREDD.(1) P.49, P.312, P.216 leave patrol for Lerwick  
forthwith routed as follows.  
(2) P.49 through 065° 30' N. 005° 50' E. thence  
by route Orange.  
(3) P.312 through 063° 20' N. 002° 50' E. thence  
by route Orange.  
(4) P.216 through (A) 063° 00' N. 003° 10' E. (B) 090° Muckle  
Flugga 10 miles.  
(5) Diving by day until 60 miles clear of the Norwegian coast  
thence on the surface at C.Os discretion.  
(Capt. (S) 9 1321A/13 to Subs. operating North of Lat.  
51° N. (R) C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

/My 1702A/12 ...



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13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.P.49, P.312,  
P.216, P.55,  
UREDD.  
(contd.)

My 1702A/12. Amend (A) P.49 leaves patrol off Vestfiord 1600/13 and through 065° 30' N. 005° 50' E.  
 (D) P.312 leaves patrol off Gripholen 1600/13 and through 63° 20' N. 002° 50' E.  
 (E) P.216 leaves patrol off Bredsund 1600/13 and through 63° 01' N. 003° 10' E. P.55 and UREDD patrol off Bredsund.  
 P.49, P.312, P.216 diving by day until 60 miles from Norwegian coast then probably on the surface.  
 (F.O.S. 1559A/13 to Admty.)

GRAPH.

Arrived.  
 (S.O. S/Ms Lerwick 1507A/13.)  
 My 1123/12. Amend time of sailing to 1700A/14th and E.T.A. to 1500A/16.  
 (S.O. S/Ms Lerwick 1825A/13.)

P.219.

V.A. Gibraltar's 1101/12 not to all addressees. Onward route on route Green to R/V with an escort for passage to Holy Loch and Blyth in 180° Bishops Rock 10 miles at 0900/21 as ordered by S. Three.  
 (F.O.S. 1521A/13 to P.219 (R) Admty., V.A. Gib. S.O. S/Ms Gib. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, S.Three, S.Six.)

BARB,  
BLACKFISH.

Situation at 2000.  
 BARB 44.42 N. 13.22 W. northbound speed 200 miles in 24 hours. BLACKFISH 44.40 N. 11.42 W. westbound until 12.25 W. thence northbound speed 200 miles in 24 hours.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1711A/13.)

S/Ms.

Positions at 0800/14 and movements.  
 (F.O.S. 1727A/13, 2136A/13, 0202A/14.)  
 See Lion Copy. *p. 438A*

OBEDIENT,  
OBDURATE.

At your discretion if fuel permits proceed direct Rosyth.  
 (C. in C. H.F. 2343A/13 to OBEDIENT, OBDURATE,  
 (R) C. in C. Rosyth, Admty., R.A.(D) A.C.O.S.,  
 A.C.I.C.)

Operations.

Patrols.

Tonight 13/14 Jan. M.G.Bs 616 (S.O.) 613, M.T.Bs 86, 89, 243 at short notice at Newhaven. UNST and FYLLA patrolling off E.A.5 buoy.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1050A/13.)

/Operation ...



438A

13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

Positions  
of S/Ms.  
at 0800/14  
& Movements  
for follow-  
ing 24 hrs.

- (A) TRIDENT on patrol vicinity 64° 35' N. 09° 44' E  
 (B) P.224 on patrol vicinity 64° 45' N. 09° 24' E.  
 (C) P.49 65° 52' N. 7° 34' E. through 65° 30' N.  
 005° 50' E. and 62° 01' N. 01° 01' E. to Lerwick.  
 (D) P.312 62° 53' N. 2° 08' E. through 62° 01' N.  
 00° 59' E. to Lerwick.  
 (E) P.216 61° 59' N. 1° 15' E. through 090°  
 Muckle Flugga 10 miles for Lerwick. P.49, P.312,  
 P.216 probably proceeding on the surface.  
 (F) UREDD and P.55 off Bredsund. P.55 leaves  
 patrol about 1800/14 for Lerwick.  
 (F.O.S.1457A/14)  
 (G) H.32 escorted by MALLOW off Lundy Island due  
 seaward end Q.Z.S. 278 1500/15 speed 8½ knots.  
 (H) H.43 trials off Great Ormes Head.  
 (J) U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao.  
 (K) U.S.S. HERRING in Zone K.505.  
 (L) U.S.S. BLACKFISH 44° 40' N. 12° 26' W. through  
 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W. 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W.  
 (M) U.S.S. BARB 46° 1' N. 13° 22' W. through 49°  
 10' N. 13° 22' W. 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W. 49° 30' N.  
 9° 00' W.  
 BARB and BLACKFISH diving by day.  
 Owing to bad weather speed of BARB and BLACKFISH  
 reduced to 120 miles in 24 hours.  
 (1727A/13, 0202A/14 from F.O.S.)  
 (N) GRAPH escorted by QUALICUM leaves Lerwick  
 1700A/14. E.T.A. Holy Loch 1500A/16 speed 11 knts.  
 (2136A/13)



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.Operation  
by BARB.

To be decyphered by an officer specially selected by you. This is Hicom. It is of greatest importance that any incident which took place between 26th and 28th December is kept most secret. If any incident did occur it is to be reported verbally only to Comsubron 50 personally. All personnel are to be warned accordingly.  
(F.O.S. 1059A/13 to BARB (R) Comsubron 50.)

P.49,  
P.312,  
P.216.

Recall P.49. P.312 and P.216 to Lerwick forthwith. P.216 will remain Lerwick.  
(F.O.S. 1226A/13 to Admty., C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C., S.O.(S) Lerwick, A.C.O.S.)

British Air Activity.Location of  
German main  
units on 11  
Jan. and 12  
Jan.

I consider the efforts made by 18 Group on 11th and 12th Jan. to locate and attack German main units under extremely difficult flying conditions to have been most gallant and energetic and it is really sad that contact should have been established only to be lost because, so I understand, the Aircraft available to 18 Group cannot reasonably be expected to maintain contact in an area where single engined Enemy Fighters can operate.

(2) The essence of success in this type of operation is for the Sighting Aircraft to be able to maintain contact until it has been possible to Home other reconnaissance Aircraft and finally to Home the Striking Force.

(3) If proper advantage is to be taken of these valuable opportunities it is essential that 18 Group should have the proper type of aircraft with long endurance fitted with S.E. and capable of Homing.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1101A/13 to Admty.)

Bomber  
Command  
report.

Night 12/13 Jan. 32 A/C were airborne and 11 Wellingtons of 1 Group, 2 Lancasters of 5 Group, 6 Wellingtons and 7 Stirlings of 3 Group, laid their mines in the allotted areas.  
(H.Q.B.C. 1630/13.)

Enemy Air Activity.Aircraft in  
Far North.

Enemy R/C aircraft reported in 074° 00' N. 027° 00' E. at 1000A today Wednesday and 5 enemy aircraft took off to seaward at 1100A probably from Banak. Admiralty pass to OBEDIENT, FORESTER, OBDURATE, ICARUS.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1210A/13 to FORESTER, OBEDIENT (R) Admty., ICARUS, OBDURATE.)



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Operation  
Q.U.(ii)

My 1542/29 Dec. 1942. 14th Jan. is to be last night for operation Q.U.(ii). 51st M.L.F. is to be sailed for Yarmouth on 15th Jan. or as soon as practicable after this date and will carry out operation Q.U.(V) or Q.U. QU (VI) from MIDGE during light period. Full load of (A) Mark I - 4 A S Y 33 mines to be embarked before leaving BEEHIVE.  
(C. in C. Nore 1122A/13 to BEEHIVE (R) N.O.I.C. Harwich, N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, MIDGE, Admty.)

AILSA  
sunk.

Steel sailing barge AILSA left entrance to River Crouch early Jan. 13th. bound for London with cargo of sand. Proceeded down Whittaker Channel to position 1/4 of a mile N.E. of Whittaker Beacon where she struck a mine at 1100 and was blown in half depth of water at the time 2 fathoms. Barge running free with no leeboards down. Mine exploded almost amidship. Skipper and mate saved (details).  
(R.N.O. Burnham on Crouch 1510/13.)

Tyne.

Port of Tyne closed owing to suspected enemy minelaying.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 2215/13.)

Enemy Intelligence.1 merchant  
vessel.

COCO 1 Merchant Vessel 8000 tons 47.38 N.  
14.41 W. course 360 speed 10 knots.  
(19 Group M A/C 76 Sqdn. 0053/13.)

Enemy  
Shipping.

Ployed by Portsmouth R.D.F. night of 12/13 Jan. U.31 Z 0645 - 0720 a number of doubtful plots Q Z X 771 between following positions:-  
324° St. Valery En Caux 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ '.  
334° St. Valery En Caux 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ '.  
340° St. Valery En Caux 28'  
U.32 Z 0757 - 0805 doubtful plots off the Somme Estuary.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1457A/13.)

NAVARRA.

Vigo reports ship (name corrupt) sailed for Ferrol 0830/11. O.I.C. Comment - this may be NORD ATLANTIK.  
(D.D.I.C. 1530A/13 to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.(S) H.Q.C.C.)  
W.D. Note. The ship was later identified as Spanish cruiser NAVARRA see 18 Jan.



13.1.1943 **441**  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U/B reports. At 0222A/13th U-Boat reported in 073° 15' N. 016° 30' E.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0740A/13 to OBEDIENT.)  
Inconclusive D/F bearings on 7,825 k/cs at  
1045Z indicate U-boat anywhere within 50 miles of 63° 30' N. 4° 30' E. It is estimated that the U-Boat may be bound for Narvik.  
(D.D.I.C. 1240A/13 to Submarines on Patrol North of 51° N.  
(R) A.C.O.S. F.O.(S), H.Q.C.C.)

Navigational.

Portsmouth inshore route. My 1736A/7th Dec. is cancelled. Inshore route 'A' is now in use.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1912A/13.)

Technical.

V.H.F. R/T Trials. Details of shore to M.L.V. H.F. R/T trials to be carried out between Willington Hill (Near Beachy Head) and M.L.191 on 15th Jan. Fighter protection will be arranged. Codeword "Device".  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1845A/13.)

Casualties and Defects.

MAIDEN CREEK survivors. Following has been read on 8290 k/cs from STAGHOUND 8° arrive 11 hours 13th Jan. 32 survivors. Several need medical assistance.  
(Rosyth 0415Z/13.)

FOXGLOVE. My 1640A/11 movement postponed 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0955A/13.)

ORILLIA (O.N.S.160) ORILLIA reports serious steering gear defect. Only one stud holding main gland in place. Proceeding Londonderry 55.51 10.02 28.75 69.63.  
(C.T.U. 24.1.12 1345Z/13 to C. in C. W.A. Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.T.G. 24.7., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax (R) A.C.I.C.)

AGAMEMNON. My 1144/12th not to PYTCHLEY. Owing to engine room defects sailing of AGAMEMNON is postponed 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Nore 1608A/13 to A.C.O.S.)

GULFDISC. GULFDISC has defective D.G.  
(D.T.D. 1654A/13 to A.C.O.S.)

/BRASIL ...



442

13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

BRASIL  
SVEAJARL  
(sunk on  
9th Jan.)

Your 1302A/11th. It has been suggested by H.M. Minister that release of this information to people of Sweden would be desirable. If you concur correct procedure would be through medium of Reuters in London.  
(N.A. Stockholm 1816/13 to Admty.)

M.V. STRAAT  
SOENDA.

Following received from STRAAT SOENDA (?destination) impossible no charts, 2 lifeboats lost other damage urgently to be repaired proceeding towards Liverpool.  
(Burnham W/T 2212/13.)

Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.115,  
OCEAN  
VAGABOND  
survivors.

Arrived H.M.C.S. EYEBRIGHT.  
(Cdre. Londonderry 0015A/13.)  
Arrived WANDERER.  
(Cdre. Londonderry 0030A/13.)

Position  
reports.

Cancel my 1916A/9.  
(D.T.D. 0034A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

W.S.26.

Intend sailing MALOJA from Barry Roads at 1200/17th E.T.A. Clyde 1200/18th codeword "Protocol" request escort.  
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1245A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)  
N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1245/13 request you will sail SHIKARI to arrive Barry Raods p.m. 16th to carry out duty referred to. SHIKARI to Londonderry on completion.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1738A/13 to Capt. (S) 7.)

M.K.F.6.  
ASTURIAS.

ASTURIAS destination Clyde has home draft of 34 Officers and 268 ratings.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0144A/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Your 2000/12th acknowledged. Your destination is Clyde.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0426A/13 to ASTURIAS.)

O.N.S.J.162.

O.N.S.J. 162 composed of about 6 Merchant ships and escorted by C.T.U. 24.6.4 in DUANE plus U.S. Destroyer SCHENCK will sail for Reykjavik about Jan. 20th.  
(C.T.G. 24.6 0316Z/13 to C.T. 24.)

S.C.115.

1. Report names of ships in company in your section.  
2. Inform commodore and ship named that destination of VINGA is altered to Londonderry.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1011A/13 to TAY, JONQUIL.)

/Your 1011A/13th ..



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.115 (contd.) Your 1011A/13th. Following vessels sailed VAN DER VELDE, for Loch Ewe. BRISTOL CITY, ARMATHIA, ISRAEL PUTNAM, FORT SORR are for Belfast. RANDFONTEIN, KEILHAVEN, EL G., EMPIRE LIGHT, SILVER BIRCH, CITY OF CALCUTTA for Mersey. P.C. and S. at 1000A/13th 058° 43' N. 016° 01' W. 110° 7½. Weather report 4862 6066.  
(TAY 1135A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

10 day cycle for mid-ocean groups. Following are my intentions for implementing 10 day cycle for mid-ocean groups.

(1) (A) Schedule of sailing to be as proposed in B.A.D. Washington 2237 30th Dec. namely O.N, D day, O.N.S: D plus one, H.X. D plus 7, S.C. D plus 2.

(B) Dates of sailing from Liverpool and New York respectively to be as follows:  
O.N. 162 Jan. 22nd.  
O.N.S. 163 Jan. 23rd.  
H.X. 224 Jan. 22nd.  
H.X. 225 Jan. 30th.  
H.X. 226 Feb. 8th.  
S.C. 118 Jan. 24th.

(C) Subsequent sailings at 10 day intervals.  
(D) O.N. convoys to be evenly numbered O.N.S. convoys to be odd numbers.

(2) (A) Escort assignments to be as follows.  
B.1 O.N. 162 S.C. 119 O.N.S. 171.  
C.3 O.N.S. 163 H.X.226.  
B.7 O.N.164 S.C.120 O.N.172.  
C.1 H.X. 222.  
B.6 O.N.S. 165 H.X. 227, O.N.S.173.  
A.3 H.X. 223 O.N. 166 S.C.121 O.N.174  
B.3 S.C.117. O.N.S. 167. H.X. 228, O.N.S. 175.  
B.5 O.N.168, S.C.122, O.N.176.  
C.4 H.X. 224.  
B.2 S.C.118, O.N.S. 169, H.X. 229, O.N.S.177.  
C.2 H.X. 225.  
B.4 O.N.170, S.C.123, O.N.178.

(B) B.4 after escorting O.N.161 to act as supporting group returning to U.K. by Feb. 22nd in readiness for O.N. 170.  
(C) When plan is in full operation O.N. and S.C. convoys will be escorted by A.3, B.5, B.4, B.7, O.N.S. and H.X. convoys by B.3, B.2, B.1, B.6.

(3) C Groups are estimated to arrive U.K. as follows -  
C.1 with H.X. 222 January 22nd C.4 with H.X.224. February 7th  
C.2 with H.X. 225 February 15th C.3 with H.X. 226 February 24th.

(4) Request your concurrence.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1031Z/13 to C.T.F. 24, F.O.N.F.)

?

Your 0922/13th. My 2002/12th first sentence read "My 1921/12th. Regret information in my 2045/11th not available before sailing of FORESTER and ICARUS".  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1130A/13 to C. in C. H.F.)



440

13.1.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

J.W.52,  
OFFA,  
MATCHLESS.

My 0758/12th. Intend you remain in Iceland and join escort of J.W.52 which arrives Seidisfjord p.m. 18th.  
2. You may proceed to Akureyi if desired but should return Seidisfjord by noon 18th and complete with fuel.  
3. Report intentions.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1131A/13 to OFFA, MATCHLESS.)

Torch  
escorts,  
Tanker and  
O.S/S.L.  
convoys.

Following are my intentions for rearranging "Torch" Escorts and instituting Tanker and O.S. Convoys.  
(1) Fast "Torch" Convoys: 44th group escort K.M.F.8. It is understood escort for K.M.F.9 will be provided from other sources. Subsequently K.M.F. convoys to be escorted by 2 C Group alternately.

(2) Slow "Torch" Convoys: (A) Unit S one to escort K.M.S.8. 25th and 27th groups to remain Mediterranean (and sloops now in Med.) to return with M.K.S.7 unit S one then to be reconstituted from a C group and 16th M/S Flotilla.  
(B) Unit S.2 to remain as now and escort K.M.S.9.  
(C) Units of S.3 to be reconstituted from C group and 28th group and escorts of K.M.S.10.  
(3) First Tanker Convoy to Dutch West Indies to leave U.K. not earlier than Feb.10th and subsequently convoys on 20 day cycles. Escort 42nd 44 (?40) groups.  
(4) First O.S. Convoy to sail not earlier than Feb. 14th and subsequent convoys on 20 day cycles. Escort 45 group 43 group ex Medit. and 41 group to be reconstituted ex Medit. and new construction.

(5) Anticipate escort will have following working strength:  
(A) Fast "Torch" Convoy: 2 destroyers, 4 Corvettes.  
(B) Slow "Torch" Convoy: 9 to 11 mixed escort.  
(C) Tanker Convoy: 7 Sloops or River Corvettes.  
(D) O.S. Convoy: 5 Sloops or River Corvettes.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1133A/13 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Belfast, N.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Liverpool, N.O.I.C. Londonderry, Capt. (D) Greenock, Capt (D) Liverpool.)  
Personal from First Sea Lord. Your 1753Z/9. The need

for the reinstatement of O.S/S.L convoys has been superimposed upon that for the institution of direct tanker convoys from the Dutch West Indies.

2. The present intention is to use the 4 "C" Groups for "Torch" escorts, thus releasing long endurance escorts to constitute:-  
(a) 3 groups of 6 ships each for the Dutch West Indies - U.K. tanker convoys on a 20 day cycle.  
(b) 3 groups of 5 ships each for O.S/S.L. convoys on a 20 day cycle.

3. From N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1553Z/10 to Admiralty, repeated Naval Member Canadian Joint Staff, Washington, it may be that these 4 groups will only provide 24 ships, not 34 as originally hoped.

4. This intended scale of escorts for both tanker and O.S/S.L. convoys is inadequate. Some reinforcement for the tanker convoys may be obtained by routing the O.S/S.L convoys close to the African coast and relying upon air cover and local escorts.

5. The matter is still under consideration but it is intended to begin the preliminary moves without further delay.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 1907A/13 to B.A.D. Washington.)

/H.X.221 ...



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- H.X.221. H.X.221. Your 0936/13 not to F.O.I.C. Liverpool. Following ships for Mersey ports should be in company OPALIA, HAAKON, HAVAN, GEFION, GULF GEM. Report any information.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1245A/13 to BITTERSWEET (R) Admty., F.O.I.C. Liverpool, AQUAMARINE.)
- R.A.52. My 2045/11. Anticipate 16 ships ready by 29th and possibly another four or five depending on White Sea ice.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1247A/13 to Admty.)
- J.W.53  
ALYNBANK,  
ULSTER  
QUEEN. Your 1540/12th. One of two vessels referred to is required to be ready and operationally efficient by Feb. 11th. It is not considered that even if ULSTER QUEEN were completed by 7th Feb. she could be operationally efficient by Feb. 11th. It is for consideration however that certain work might be curtailed in order that she might be completed by the end of current month.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1247A/13 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)  
Your 1604A/12th. Arctic fittings of ALYNBANK can be progressed (priority?) being given to items mentioned. This will however affect completion date of new construction ships particularly delivery of BRUISER, BOXER, THRUSTER and firm requests instructions that delay involved is acceptable.  
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1301A/13 to Admty.)
- S.C.114. Average speed 6.76 knots. Arrived off Oversay 1800Z/7. All arrived.  
(D.T.D. 1415A/13 Jan.)
- A.T.33. A.T.33 arrived 1416/13.  
(SS EMPRESS (D.S.T.O. Greenock 1445/13.)  
OF SCOTLAND)
- LLANDAFF. A.M. 1524/10th intend to sail LLANDAFF in STEWARD group from Barry Roads 0115/14th E.T.A. Loch Ewe 1700/16th.  
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1432A/13 to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.)
- W.W. BRUCE. On arrival of W.W. BRUCE request you will investigate.  
(1) Why her signal 1511/10 reporting submarine attacking was not followed by further message reporting escape.  
(2) Why she failed to reply to Admiralty's 2150/10 instructing her to report position and situation forthwith.  
(3) Whether any W/T signals from SUNFLOWER were heard on 11 Jan.  
(4) Why the R/V in position XX arranged in my 1710/12 was not kept.  
(5) Why she required escort to her destination.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1538A/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/If not ...



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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.W. BRUCE  
(contd.)

If not in company with W.W. BRUCE return to base.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1826A/13 to SKATE.)  
Arrived SKATE.  
(Cdre. Londonderry 2333A/13.)

T.A.32.  
ANDES.

Intend sailing ANDES passing Clyde Boom 0200A/15 passing through position (A) at 0830A/15 thence in accordance with A.M. 1255/12th January. Speed to (A) 17 knots thence 19 knots codeword "Sleeve".  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1548A/13 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.  
(R) C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C., A.O.C. 15 Group, C.C.)

R.A.52.

Your 2002/12th not to C. in C. W.A. para.2 approved.

2. Request you will sail ORIBI, ORWELL, BOADICEA for Scapa fuelling at Seidisfjord if necessary.
3. Four corvettes and 4 trawlers now in North Russia are to be included in the escort of R.A.52.
4. Estimate of fuel required for cruisers and escort ex J.W.52 will be signalled.

(C. in C. H.F. 1649A/13 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Your 1819/12. Dalgleish is carrying out instructions of Harriman Mission and their views remain as stated in A.M. 1648/6 Jan. but both Harriman and M.O.W.T. believe in view of sailing of R.A.52 being retarded to 29/1, it may now be possible to find some cargo or ballast to enable some surplus oil to be discharged and are convinced that Dalgleish will do all possible to achieve this. Please pass this signal to Dalgleish.

(D.T.D. 2133A/13 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

H.X.220.

Average speed 6.91 knots, arrived off Oversay 1000Z/9th. Gales and head winds during almost whole of passage. All ships arrived.  
(D.T.D. 1653A/13.)



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

- G.U.S.3. Your 1938/12 (ESSO BAYWAY, ESSO CHARLESTON will be included in G.U.S.3) confirmed.  
(N.C.X.F., 0840A/13 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gib.)
- Smoke Protection for Convoys. T.A.D.O.1 para.14. Experience of our aircraft attacking enemy convoys at night has shown accurate torpedo dropping is impossible if convoy is well hidden by smoke. S.Os of Escorts should arrange that whenever convoy is threatened with torpedo attacks between dusk and dawn at least one escort on either side of convoy makes smoke whilst maintaining herself approximate position on A/S screen. When torpedo attack appears imminent or is taking place S.O of Escort should order all ships to make smoke by all available means. Smoke floats may be dropped during attack to deceive enemy as to length and position convoy. Use of both black and white smoke is desirable. (2) Experience with smoke is to be reported. T.A.D.O. will be amended.  
(N.C.X.F., 1046A/13 to All British Ships and Authorities concerned in Operation "Torch" (excluding ships refitting in U.K.), V.A. Malta, (R) Admty.)
- U.G.S.3. Request information of tanker T.J. BARCOUIL who did not arrive with U.G.S.3.  
(D.C.X.N.F., 1055A/13 to Admty., (R) Connav, V.A. Gibraltar.)
- F.N.L.O. Freetown. Your 1758/11. Security objection to Halle is that after leaving Freetown he became Deuxieme Bureau agent in French West Africa, and was in constant contact with agents working in British and Free French territory (details). Your 1758/11 was the first intimation we had that the French had nominated Halle.  
(Head of M.I., Approved V.C.N.S., 1213A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.C.W.A.)  
My 1417/12 and your 1213/13. I am assured by my F.F.Liaison Officer that the Halle who was in Freetown is a reserve Officer who has since been in Guinea. Bonneau assured me the Halle appointed by Collinet was a reserve Officer who had been in Freetown. There is an active service Halle who F.F.L.O. states is exactly as described in A.M. referred to and has been doing intelligence work in Dakar. B.N.L.O. Dakar report repeated Admiralty, N.C.X.F. if he can confirm.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1919Z/13 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F, B.N.L.O.Dakar.)  
My 1758/11. Adm. Moreau stated in conversation yesterday that he would willingly propose another officer instead of Halle if latter was not acceptable. The urgency from their point of view being to get some-one to Freetown.  
(N.C.X.F., 1637A/13 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.A.)
- Troop Moves, W. Africa. Your 2355/12. Escort can be provided from 43rd Escort Group to 20° N. sailing from Gibraltar any time after arrival there of M.K.F.8 about 20th. F.O.C.W.A. please state convenient sailing date and appoint Momp. S. of A. assumed 12½ knots.  
(N.C.X.F., 1248A/13 to Admty., V.A. Gib., F.O.C. W.A., G.O.C. W. Africa.)

/Landing ...



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area - Contd.

Landing Craft. Your 0103/3, 1249/10 and my 1821/11.  
Situation as far as can be ascertained is as follows. On station 40 L.C.A., 20 L.C.M.(1), 54 L.C.M.(3), 43 L.C.P., 5 L.C.S.(M), 7 L.C.I.(L), 6 L.C.T.

(2) From these figures there are 14 L.C.A., 15 L.C.M.(1), 18 L.C.M.(3), 7 L.C.P. in excess and a deficit of 17 L.C.I.(L) and 18 L.C.T. Intend returning excess craft at first opportunity. Eleven of L.C.M.(1) are being held for DEWDALE but can be sent home in advance of ships if desired.

(3) The above figures leave following landing craft unaccounted for of those which left United Kingdom for "Torch" - 16 L.C.A., 10 L.C.M.(1), 19 L.C.M.(3), 15 L.C.P., 1 L.C.S.(M). Of these it is known that about 10 L.C.A. were lost in ETTRICK and no facts are available concerning what may have been lost in such ships as KARANJA, VICEROY OF INDIA and WARWICK CASTLE. Nor is it known what craft may have reached United Kingdom in returning assault ships but it is presumed these are included in figures given in A.M. 1249/10.

(N.C.X.F., 1641A/13 to Admty.)

Base and C.O. Personnel. Your 1823/5/1 para. 2.  
After allowing for manning 36 L.C.M.(S), 36 L.C.P. and 3 L.C.S. plus 20 per cent spares, there are following C.O. personnel in excess or deficient of the "Torch" total in North Africa. Estimate of further base requirements will be signalled.  
(N.C.X.F., 1725A/13 to D.N.C.X.F., (R) C.C.O., Admty.)

Tugs. My 2300/10.  
2. Coastal Tugs EMPIRE NED and EMPIRE FRED each of 1000 I.H.P. are being commissioned as H.M. Rescue Tugs and sailed for Gibraltar as soon as possible.  
3. In view of urgent requirements in U.K. for Rescue Tugs with long endurance EMINENT and DESTINY should be sailed for U.K. as soon as possible after arrival of EMPIRE NED and EMPIRE FRED.  
4. MASTERFUL may be retained but LARIAT when engine defects completed at Ponta Delgada should be onward routed to Diego Suarez via Gibraltar. H.M.R.T. SAMSONIA will be arriving at Gibraltar about 1st Feb. to tow SS. ARIGUANI to U.K.  
(Capt. i/c Rescue Tugs, 1739A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gib., C. in C. W.A.)

DEWDALE. Your 2227/11.  
Temporary repairs to DEWDALE cannot be expedited to complete before about 21st March. Thereafter ship fit for operating after gantry only with nine L.C.Ms. Permanent repairs in U.K. estimated to take minimum of six weeks. Summary of principal work to be done in U.K. being forwarded by Air Mail. Defective deck machinery pipes and portions of forward gantry will be shipped in advance. Request destination.  
(N.C.X.F., 1831Q/13 to Admty., (R) D.N.C.X.F., Cdre. Algiers.)

/Discipline ...



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War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area - Contd.Discipline  
in M/Vs.

Your 2039A/11. Request information whether there have been many cases of lax discipline in British Merchant Ships in Western Mediterranean as neither Admty. nor M.W.T. are aware of any incidents of importance.  
(D.T.D., Approved by A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 2051A/13 to N.C.X.F.)

North Atlantic.Lisbon  
Trawler  
Construction.

Your 1920/24 Dec.  
We would greatly prefer our own vessels but in order to assist Portuguese to avoid difficulties with Germans we are prepared to negotiate a reasonable exchange.

2. In view of fact that ALBERTOs are understood to be in poor condition and older trawlers are only worth about £10,000 each on average the present proposal is not very attractive. You should therefore endeavour to negotiate exchange against CABO JUBY, MACHADO and ALBERTO II (all subject to new Lloyds survey) plus at least £20,000 cash impressing facts in para. 1.  
(M. Branch, Approved D.F.S.L., 0004A/13 to N.A. Lisbon.)

Movements.

Relieved at 0235A/13th NASTURTIUM, LOCH OSKAIG, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE return Gibraltar 9 knots.  
(NASTURTIUM, 0250A/13 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R)

S.N.O. Casablanca Area.)

E.T.A. with NASTURTIUM in company 0800A/14th. Weather.  
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1600A/13 to V.A. Gib., (R) S.O.T.)

Arrival 1710 ABDIEL from Malta, 1815 ARCTIC RANGER ex K.X.8.  
Departures p.m. NORTHERN FOAM, LORD NUFFIELD escorting SS. PENOLVER, EMPIRE TRENT for Huelva, SS. EMPIRE KESTREL for Seville escorts thence R/V SHETLAND, CAITHNESS, CASTILLIA off Lisbon for escort to Gibraltar.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 2030A/13 to Admty., N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Malta.)

MIERES  
(Swiss)

My 1123/10th. MIERES sailing from Genoa postponed until 14th or 15th Jan.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0939A/13 to S. & A. Area G, etc.)

K.X. 8.

K.X.8 arrived, 26 ships.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1141A/13 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., Connav.)



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wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

T.M.1. T.M.1. E.T.A. 0930A/14th. Escorts have 220 merchant service survivors aboard. GODETIA has 7 cot cases for hospital treatment. HAVELOCK has damaged sides and upper deck plates between 4 and 14 bulkheads. GODETIA has damage to stern and is making water. (QUIBERON, 1340A/13 to V.A. Gib., (R) Admty., S.N.O. Casablanca.)

P.219. My 1101/12th sailed P.219. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1512A/13 to Admty., (R) F.O.(S), N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, Capt. S.3, Capt. S.5, Capt. S.6, Capt. S.8.)

DOLFIJN. My 1214/11th sailed Netherlands S/M DOLFIJN. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1543A/13 to (?Capt. S.8), (R) N.C.X.F., Admty.)

G.U. No.16 repeat Admty. for M.W.T. Mast 3. (Begins). Convoy. CORRALES, TILAPA will proceed next G.U.6 Convoy. EMPIRE KAMEL discharging but requiring 2000 tons ballast which unobtainable in time join convoy. Shall I supply necessary ballast enable her sail for Gibraltar or full cargo phosphates for U.K? Phosphate berths now available here until end January. Phosphates can now be loaded Safi uninterruptedly. (S.B.N.O.C.A., 1655Z/13 to M.W.T.R. Algiers, (R) Admty.)

SPICHERN Spanish Ministry of Marine has refused to allow (German) German tanker SPICHERN to dock at Ferrol as repairs would take 50 days and dock cannot be immobilised for that time. It is unlikely Spanish Government will over-ride decision. No repairs of any kind have been carried out meanwhile unless by ship's own people and in any case nothing has been done outboard. A.2. It is logical to suppose she will have to sail for French Port though this would only be safe in fine weather. We must prepare for her to leave at any time though perhaps she will remain in hope of decision being reversed later on. Please pass to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S. and H.Q.C.C. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) (N.A. Madrid, 1656/13 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

Italian Are there to be any further voyages of Italian Repatriations. Repatriation ships? If so are S.B.N.Os to be retained? (V.A. Gibraltar, 1759A/13 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.) Reply: 1818/14.

/Convoy ...



MOST SECRET

450A  
450B  
450C  
450D

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements  
Summaries.

1. S/M P.219 36.01 06.22 through 36.37 07.26 at 0200A 14th and 36.55 09.11 at 2000A 14th diving by day  $2\frac{1}{2}$  knots surfacing by night 10.
2. T.M.1 HAVELOCK, PENN, PANTHER, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE, GODETIA, QUIBERON 35.01 07.55 through 35.55 05.50 to Gibraltar.
3. M.K.S.5, BLACK SWAN, STORK, FOWEY, AUBRETIA, CARNATION, CAMELLIA, MYOSOTIS, LA MALOUINE, VIOLET, SCOTTISH, CHAMPION, BALSAM, 37.14 11.04  $310^{\circ}$  6.
4. ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER 28.35, 15.04  $043^{\circ}$  pick up cable 2 knots.
5. Paths X.8 (Freetown Section) U.S.S. AUK, 3 P.C. 31.05 10.28 through 29.48 10.28 thence  $236^{\circ}$   $8\frac{1}{2}$
6. LOCH OSKAIG, NASTURTUM, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, 34.40 06.47 to Gibraltar 9.
7. NORTHERN FOAM 3 M/V 36.03 (706) (710) coastwise  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots to Guadalquivir where one M/V parts company. Thence Huelva where escort leaves remaining M/Vs and proceeds to arrive off Tagus at 0600/15. LORD NUFFIELD sailed 1800/13 to overtake.
8. K.M.F.7, WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, GORLESTON, ~~WYLAND~~, WAYLAND, 38.33 16.39 through 36.01 12.59 thence ( $267^{\circ}$ ) 12.
9. K.M.S.7 ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR, SPIREA, WORTHING, PELICAN, SENNEN, AZALEA, GERANIUM, ROTHER, SPEY LYME REGIS, THALASSA, 44.55 17.39  $175^{\circ}$   $7\frac{1}{2}$ .
10. AMARAPOORA 37.03 09.38  $318^{\circ}$  10.
11. WOLVERINE, BADSWORTH, LIMBOURNE leave Casablanca p.m. 13th to arrive Gibraltar 0830A/14.
13. OSPREY P.C.474  $041^{\circ}$  Spatel 8 through 35.51 06.01, 35.45 06.23 and 34.03 07.46 thence Casablanca 15.
14. IMPERIALIST sailing 1400A 14th westbound 9.
15. CARNATIC sailing 1630/14th westbound 12 knots. (V.A. Gibraltar 1302/13, 1330A/13, 1718/13)
1. PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, Tug NIMBLE  $028^{\circ}$  27'  $026^{\circ}$  52' to search vicinity 28.18 27.20 for damaged tankers 10.
2. Portuguese Naval Tanker SAMBRAZE?  $030^{\circ}$  29' ( $028^{\circ}$ ) 01'  $242^{\circ}$  11. Situation 1955A/13 for Area 'Y'. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1332A/13).



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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy  
F.T. 7.

F.T. 7 arrived.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1812A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R)  
Admty., Connav, C.S.F.W.T.F.)  
Convoy F.T.7 arrived escorted by U.S.S. OSPREY,  
P.C.474, French TAP KEUSE, LA SERVANNAISE.  
OSPREY, P.C.474 left for Casablanca 1817.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1915A/13 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.,  
S.N.O.C.A.)

G.U.S.3.

Your 1205A/11. Request you will advise  
destinations of ships named.  
2. It is requested that in future you will  
inform Admty. of destinations of all vessels to  
join G.U. convoys.  
(D.T.D., 1925A/13 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) S.N.O.  
Casablanca Area, N.C.X.F.)



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

HOLCOMBE, ILEX. Your 1351 12th Jan. ILEX proceeding independently. My P.C. and S. 002° 42' N. 021° 40' W. 055° 15 knots. Fuel 36% arrive 1600 14th Jan. (HOLCOMBE, 0002/13 to R.A.W.C.)

U/B Following received from Lands End Radio (begins) Intercept 0007 G.M.T. 500 kcs. DE NAU unread 1946 G.M.T. Submarine sighted 17.15 N. Longitude unread, at 1710 G.C.T. unread 121746 DE NAU. (C, in C. Plymouth, 0109/13 to Admty.)

BURDOCK. Send BURDOCK to proceed at best speed to Bathurst to fuel. (F.O.C.W.A., 0159Z/13 to, PETUNIA (R) WOODRUFF, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty.) Your 0159Z/13th. My E.T.A. Bathurst 1000Z/14th. Weather. (BURDOCK, 1401Z/13 to F.O.C. W.A. N.O.I/c Bathurst.)

D. 64 (1) Convoy (?D) 64 (northbound convoy from Dakar) (French Convoy) consists of 6 ships. Comdre. in CAMPOLLION. K.X.8. (2) Escort F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE, U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN, H.M.S. FANDANGO, BELLWORT, BUTSER, BIRDLIP. (3) Convoy leaves Dakar 1500Z/13th Jan. (4) Route within 10 and 20 miles of coast throughout passage. Estimated S. of A. 8 knots. E.T.A. 020° N. 1200Z/15th Jan. (5) Signal for DUMONT D'URVILLE should be passed through CYCLAMEN. (6) In view of communication and liaison arrangements made at conference, Adm. Collinet most anxious British escort remain with convoy of Casablanca. (7) Intend (A) CORINTHIAN from (corrupt group) S.O. WOODRUFF from Bathurst and BELLWORT and FANDANGO from convoy D.64 to join K.X.8 in 024° 35' N. 016° 00' W. at 1100Z/16th. (B) CYCLAMEN, BUTSER BIRDLIP, to remain with convoy D.64 to Casablanca, reinforced by 4 U.S. escorts ex K.X.8. after relief by CORINTHIAN, WOODRUFF and BELLWORT. (C) One additional corvette from Bathurst to join K.X.8. later. (8) Onward route from K.X.8 from position (F) following. (F.O.C.W.A., 0321/13, to N.C.X.F.(R) Admty. etc.) Your 1622/10 route of convoy K.M.8 from position F 024° 59' N. 015° 50' W. to G. 024° 35' N. 016° 00' W. H. 020° 00' N. 018° 30' W. K. 011° 00' N. 018° 00' W. thence Freetown. (F.O.W.A. 0329Z/13 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) N.C.X.F. Admty. V. A. Gibraltar.) My 0321/13th para. 7 (B) Rendezvous with convoy D.64 will be signalled. (F.O.W.A. 0417Z/13 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.) F.O.W.Af's 0321/13th. Sailed convoy D.64. (B.N.L.O. Dakar, 1505Z/13 to F.O.C. W.A. (R) S.N.O. R.N.C.V.R. F.O.N. At., N.C.X.F., Admty.) LE FANTASQUE S.O. and French Cruiser LE TERRIBLE sailing 1400Z tomorrow 14th to cover convoy D.64. Arriving Port Etienne 15th sailing 16th to arrive latitude Cap. Bojador 17th and Dakar 19th. 2. Request information concerning U-Boat dispositions and shipping movements in area concerned. (B.N.L.O. Dakar, 2215Z/13 to R.A. W.Africa. (R) S.N.O. Casablanca. (?V.A. Gibraltar), N.C.X.F.)

/HYDRANGEA...



War Diary.

13.1.1943.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

**HYDRANGEA.** Your 0145Z/13th (gp. missing). My present best speed owing to defective bearing S (corrupt grp.) (grp. missing) is 12 knots. Time required on arrival - Remainder corrupt. (HYDRANGEA 0335Z/13 to F.O.C. W.A.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

**NORTHERN DUKE.** Simonstown arrival 12. (C. in C. S.A., 0948C/13, to Admty., F.O.C.W.A.)

**Dockings, Diego Suarez.** C. in C. E.F's 0745/10 Jan. (N.T. in W.D.) Docking of TREVORIAN, ARNDALE, and DORYSSA should be proceeded with to be followed by repairs to New Caisson. Delay to BRITISH LOYALTY must be accepted. No further dockings will be allocated to Diego Suarez until New Caisson is effective. Report when this will be and what action is required to remedy the situation revealed in C. in C.E.F's. 0745/10 para. 2. (C. in C. S.A., 1131/13, to N.O.i/c. Diego Suarez. (R) Admty., Com. i/c Durban, C.S. Durban, C. in C. C.E.F.)

**NORWICH CITY, SPHENE.** Simonstown departure 1010/13th. NORWICH CITY, SPHENE for Port Elizabeth E.T.A. 1700 C/15th. (C. in C.S.A., 1202C/13, to Admty. N.L.O. Port Elizabeth. Cmdre. i/c. Durban.)

**GLENROY, JANUS.** (1) Sailed GLENROY and JANUS at 1230Z/13th Jan. for U.K. calling at Bathurst and Ponta Delgada for JANUS to refuel. (2) Route to Bathurst (A) 010° 00' N. 017° 00' W. (B) 013° 08' N. 017° 30' W. thence Bathurst E.T.A. 1015Z 15th Jan. (3) Route Bathurst to Ponta Delgada (C) 016° 00' N. 019° 00' W. (D) 037° 00' N. 026° 00' W. thence to Ponta Delgada, E.T.A. A.M. 22nd Jan. (4) From Ponta Delgada ships proceed to position (E) 050° 00' N. 019° 00' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. W.A. E.T.A. position (E) 0001Z 26th Jan. S. of A. 10 to 10½ knots. (5) Ships shift to North Atlantic W/T organization at 2000Z/17th Jan. and to home station W/T organization, at 0800Z/24th. Jan. (6) (?Port) Engine of GLENROY out of action. Maximum speed 12½ knots. (7) JANUS endurance 180 hours at 13 knots. (F.O.C.W.A. 1231Z/13 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, N.O.I.C. Newcastle, V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A. JANUS, GLENROY). Following is a repetition of my 1353 addressed - N.C.S.O. San Miguel (R) GLENROY N.C.X.F. Admty. V.A. Gibraltar. JANUS, B.N.A. Lisbon. Intend GLENROY and JANUS to call at Ponta Delgada A.M. 22nd for JANUS to refuel. Estimated requirements. Request Portugal authority be notified. (F.O.C.W.A. 1355A13 to GLENROY, etc.)

**MATAROA.** Arrangements have been made to embark German Ps. O.W.MATAROA in accordance with D. of S.T's 2155/6. It is assumed that reference to vessel in Admty.'s 2005/2 Para. 5 cancelled. (C. in C.S.A. 1253C/13 to D.S.T.(R) Admty., D.S.T.O. Durban.)

/MEXICO...



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.MEXICO,  
Escort.

It is now reported MEXICO ready to leave Takoradi 14th Jan. Regret destroyer escort can not be arranged at this short notice until about date given in your 2135/30th.  
(F.O.W.A. 1301Z/13 to B.A.D.(R) N.O.I/C. Takoradi. Admty. N.O.I/C Lagos. Cominch.)

P.614  
Patrol.

A.M. 0932/10 Jan. W/R repetition of 1825/7 re recent patrol of P.614.) There appeared to be an exceptionally good opportunity for a surprise attack on U-Boat by a submarine. Neither surface vessels or aircraft would have had as good a chance of success and I feel that it would have been a pity not to have employed the most suitable weapon solely because the S/M had been allocated for training. P.614 sighted a U-boat while on patrol 0720Z/4th Jan. but it dived before a firing position could be reached. (2) At this particular time owing to heavy escort commitments no A/S exercises could have taken place (3) Apart from the exceptional circumstances at this time an occasional operational cruise is beneficial from the point of view of morale. (4) P.614 has been fully employed on A/S training since her arrival and has proved most valuable.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1433Z/13 to Admty.)

Freetown -  
Trinidad  
Convoys.

A.M. 1656/2nd, not to Comsolantfor, and Comsolantfor's 1141/8th. 8 knots convoy from Freetown to (?Trinidad) takes 15 days. Route via Rocas M.O.M.P takes 17½ and via Bahia (?25)½ days allowing 2 days for bunkers. Can (?this) be accepted? If so I can sail ships for Bahia at irregular intervals commencing with convoy leaving Freetown 23rd Jan. in time to join B.T. (?4) at Bahia. If delay cannot be accepted (corrupt group) until arrangements for M.O.M.P. of Rocas can be implemented propose to run occasional F.T/T.F. convoys. T.F. could be combined with T.M. convoys (?with) split in Cape Verde area. If forces at present employed as escort for T.M. convoys continues to be available combined T.F.T.M. convoys would have then strong escort for Atlantic crossing. (3) Regular F.T./(?T)F cannot be run without increase in my escort force unless arrangement can be made for escort from Trinidad to relieve my escort about 37° W. (4) Propose also to continue independent sailing sailings to Trinidad with part way escort to Westward when practicable.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1434Z/13, to Admty. (R) B.A.D. W.Comsolantfor.)

ILEX.  
DESPATCH.

ILEX, DESPATCH at 0930Z/13th to carry out blockade runner patrol at 20 knots to position 008° N. 028° W. and thence Freetown. (2) DESPATCH keeping W/T watch in accordance with A.F.O. S. Series 1/42 Section A.F. Reports of immediate importance will be broadcast to Comsolant on 4295 kcs.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1557Z/13 to Admty. (R) DESPATCH, Comsolantfor.)

Departure 13th Jan. DESPATCH on patrol.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown., 1943Z/13 to Admty.)

/D.65...



454A  
454B13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Movements  
Summaries.

Tug PRUDENT, Tug BOLD standing by MELISKERK in vicinity 031° 33' S. 029° 40' E A.S. 10 038° 45' S. 025° 45' E to Aden 18½. QUILLIAM, CHESHIRE, ROCKWOOD with W.S. 25 028° 35' S 014° 00' E. to Durban 12½. INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA escorting INTEGRITY towing crane lighter 034° 20' S 023° 30' E to Durban 5. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 037° 50' S 28° 20' E to Suez 17. LADY ELSA, WELLARD 014° 00' S. 011° 30' E to Walvis Bay 10. NORWICH CITY, SPHENE leave Simonstown for Port Elizabeth 13th Jan. (C. in C. S.A. 1045C/13)  
Situation at 2000Z/13th.  
BRIDGEWATER, ARMERIA 007° 18' 022° 03' 095° 10.  
HOLCOMBE 005° 33' (?017°) 33' 055° 15.  
ILEX 008° 00' 014° 02' 055° to Freetown 23.  
DESPATCH 008° 23' 016° 44' 268° 20.  
Allied naval unit in area of Equator to 005° N. 020° to 025° W.  
ALCANTARA 005° 30' 011° 54' 311° 15.  
PICT, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, F.S. with T.P. 29 003° 39' 007° 45' 300° 8.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1555Z/13)



War Diary.

13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

D.65. Sailed convoy D.(?65) for Casablanca consisting of ST. MAXIME and ILE DE BRAHAT escorted by (?ANNAMITE). Speed 5 knots routed to pass 20 miles from Spanish Territory otherwise within 10 miles of coast. (B.N.L.O. Dakar, 1601Z/13 to F.O.W. Africa. F.O. N.A. N.C.X.F. S.N.O. Casablanca. CYCLAMEN.)

Movements, Arrival 12th Brazilian Light Cruiser BAHIA  
Bahia. Departures U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI U.S. Cruiser  
MARBLEHEAD U.S. Destroyers WINSLOW, DAVIS.  
(R.O. Bahia, 1735Z/13 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I)  
Freetown. B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro.)

U.S. A.M. 1843/12. Routing of U.S, Managed Ships.  
Shipping Para. 1. Please confirm that ships bound to South  
Routes. American Ports between Santos and Bahia (both  
inclusive) are to be routed to Bahia for B.T.convoy  
N.C.S.O's have been instructed to route ships  
bound to Ports North of Bahia to Bahia for convoy pending  
clarification.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1744C/13 to Admty.)

BREDON Your 1108Z/13 and your 1735Z/13. E.T.A. Cape  
Verde 0900Z/14. My position 012° 25' N. 017° 25'  
W. Course and Speed 358° 11 knots.  
(BREDON, 1917Z/13, to F.O.C. W.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst Gambia,  
CYCLAMEN.) No trace of formers in W.R.

MALCOLM, The following destroyers have been allocated to  
WOLVERINE, the command of F.O.C. West Africa: MALCOLM,  
WITCH. WOLVERINE, WITCH. 2. MALCOLM, after working up,  
and WOLVERINE are to escort K.M.F. 9 and to  
proceed as ordered by F.O.C. West Africa on  
completion of that duty. 3. WITCH is to give leave on arrival  
in U.K. On completion of leave C. in C. Western Approaches is  
requested to sail her as requisite.  
(D.O.D.(H) 1924A/13 to C. in C. W.A., (R) F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A.  
N.C.X.F., V.A.Gibraltar, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH.)

WOODRUFF, M.L's 287, 302 escorting S.S. HAILEE. 0800Z/14th.  
HAILEE. Weather report.  
(WOODRUFF. 2112Z/13 to F.O.C.W.A.(R) Capt. (D)  
Freetown.)



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- STURGEON. Sailed STURGEON to R/V with Convoy for Oran.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 0123A/13, to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.,  
V.A. Gibraltar, S. 8, S.10, S.O.S/M Gibraltar.)
- Oil Supplies. Following is a repetition of T.O.O. 1233/9/1  
(begins) Admty. 1513/5 not to V.A.M. No trials  
of Haifa gas oil have been carried out in  
submarines on Mediterranean Station. In recent  
commercial cargoes it has been necessary to heat the oil before  
discharge due to water contact and it is not considered that a  
consistent quality can be relied upon. In view of above it  
would be preferred to continue the use of well tried Persian  
Diesel oil in submarines and with the arrival of BRITISH  
SOVEREIGN stocks will be sufficient for requirements in Eastern  
Mediterranean for some months. To comply with Admiralty 1843/2  
a further quantity will be required either (A) about 6,000 tons  
delivered to Port Said during February for onward passage as part  
cargo of furnace oil tankers or (B) about 10,000 tons as soon as  
convenient in an 11½ knot tanker for onward passage. (B) Would  
be preferred, V.A.M. 0310/6 refers, If necessary Haifa Gas oil  
can be loaded at Port Said for return voyage of BRITISH SOVEREIGN  
to satisfy commercial requirements at Suez and this will be  
arranged locally if essential. (Ends.)  
(C. in C. Med. 0150/13 to Admty.)
- GRETE. German controlled GRETE left Valencia for  
Marseilles 2100 12th Jan.  
(S.O.I. Gibraltar, 0515A/13, to S.O.(I) Malta  
S.O.(I) F.)
- P.35. Investigate area between Mahedia and Kadija but  
do not go South of 035° 16' North due to British  
mines.  
(Capt. S.10., 0846A/13, to P.35.)
- PARTHIAN. My 1857/8th PARTHIAN is proceeding on surface from  
033° 19' N. 028° 48' E. at 0645/13th direct to  
end of Beirut searched channel. Estimated S. of  
A. 12½ knots. Request total bombing restrictions may be brought  
into force. E.T.A. Beirut 0930B/14th.  
(Capt. S.1. 0849B/13. to C. in C. Med. R.A. Alexandria, N.O.I.C.  
Cyprus, etc.)  
One friendly M/L arrives Beirut 0700B/ tomorrow 14th direct  
from Port Said.  
(Capt. S.I. 1514B/13 to PARTHIAN. (R) S.N.O. Levant Area.)
- P.217. Arrived.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 0905A/13, to Admty.)
- VILLE DE  
QUEBEC Oran Section 4 ships not met.  
Convoy. (QUEBEC 0947A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) N.O.I.C. Oran.)

/Force...



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Force K. My 1332/12th. Destroyers sighted nothing but  
Sweep. aircraft bombed a Merchant Ship off Ras Kadija at  
2120 claiming near misses and a fire. A.S.V.  
aircraft co-operating with destroyers failed to  
locate subsequently.  
(V.A. Malta, 1017A/13, to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)  
NUBIAN and PALADIN returned from operation.  
(V.A. Malta 1037A/13, to Admty., etc.)

Bi-weekly Jan. 9. A Marauder laid 2 mines in Burj?  
OPSUM No.90 Channel off Khalkis in Greece. A Baltimore  
despatched to attack W/T station near Sphakia in  
Crete returned owing to lack of cloud cover.

Jan 10. 12 B.24s despatched to attack railway quay at Bizerta,  
found harbour completely obscured by cloud and attacked  
alternative objective. Tunis and La Goulette. Damage  
unobserved. 2 enemy aircraft attacked B.24s which damaged both  
One B.24 crashed near Sidi Barani on return journey.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1202Z/13.)

Night 10/11 Jan. 8 B.24s despatched to make afternoon  
attack on shipping in Naples Harbour found low cloud over  
objective which obscured results of bombing. 1 fire seen to  
break out in town.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1222(13))

12 Jan. Baltimore despatched to attack W/T Station near  
Sphakia abandoned operation owing to lack of Cloud cover and  
bombed A.A. gun position on Gavdos Island. Results unobserved.  
2 Marauders armed with torpedoes made offensive reconnaissances  
for shipping (Enemy) in Aegean Sea. 1 Marauder attacked small  
vessel about 400 tons a few miles North of Syros Island. No hit.  
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1254Z/13.)

P.54. Leave patrol after dark Jan 14th and return all  
despatch passing North of Stromboli through  
position 10 miles North of Ustica at 1200A/15th  
thence course 264° and after crossing longitude 008° as ordered  
by Capt. (S) 8.  
(Capt. S.10. 1350A/13, to, P.54, (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 8, Capt.  
(S) 1, S/Ms on Patrol.)

Air P.R.U. (corrupt) visuals only. 1010, Taranto,  
R/C one battleship Inner Harbour, Outer Harbour  
partially obscured. One large ship probably  
Battleship still present. Messina totally  
obscured.

(V.A. Malta, 1405A/13, to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Cavoli-Marittimo patrol cancelled for night of 13th/14th  
January. No aircraft available.

(V.A. Malta 1430A/13 to N.C.X.F.)

P.R.U. 13th Jan. 1435, Taranto, visuals. One Battleship  
in inner harbour and one in outer harbour. Photographs taken.  
1515, Messina, visuals only, 3 cruisers.  
(V.A. Malta, 1654A/13 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

/PIERRE S. DUPONT...



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

PIERRE My 2316/12th. (Merchant Ship P.S. DUPONT grounded)  
S. DUPONT. Refloated.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1452A/13, to C. in C. Med.)

M.N.B.D.O.1. Following is a repetition of my 2006/12 (begins.)  
Your 1020/19/12 (received corrupt). Regret  
boats and personnel cannot be spared from Middle  
East. (Ends.)  
(C. in C. Med. 1501B/13, to F.O. Ceylon (R) Admty. etc.)

DERNA. Extract from Telegram: T.W.M. 129 X.F.A. 464 Q.  
Barcelona 131600. Italian Ship DERNA.  
(M.W.T., No. T.O.O./13.)

U/B Have rammed and sunk sub. Approx. position  
Sunk. 036° 37' N. 001° 10' E. at 1600A/13th. Think I  
can proceed at convoy speed. 1 survivor picked  
up from sub., German.  
(S.O. Escorts of Convoy, T.E. No.13. 1618A/13, to N.C.X.F.) W.A.  
Note. Sunk by VILLE DE QUEBEC, Corvette, see N.C.X.F. 1100/14.

QUEEN OF C. in C. E.F.'s. not to all, (no time given) request  
BERMUDA. confirmation that in event of QUEEN OF BERMUDA  
being used to embark balance of Australians she is  
fitted as for troops and will be in all respects  
ready to embark on arrival Suez.  
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1655B/13, to C. in C. S.A.(R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

MERANO. My 1245/9th. Report B.4 MERANO still at Trieste  
awaiting cargo: so far loaded only 1,000 tons  
approx.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1720C/13, to S.O.(I) Med. (R)  
S.1, Beirut, S.10, Malta, D.N.I.)

Enemy My 1047C/11. (N.T. in W.D.) Report B.3. Vessel  
M/V. left Salonica Jan. 7th for Piraeus.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1735C/13, to S.O.I. Med. (R)  
S.1., S.10, D.N.I.)

Jibuti French National Committee have stated to Foreign  
Agreement. Office that Gen. Legentilhomme and Gen. Platt  
drafted together in Jibuti the text of a proposed  
agreement covering military and air requirements.  
Please state facts and if any such document telegraph full text  
most immediate.  
(W.O. 1800A/13, to G.O.C. in C.E.A.)

Movements Algiers arrivals BICESTER, AVONVALE, ZETLAND from  
Algiers. E.T.9 SHIANT and French LA SETOISE with French  
Convoy. 2 G. LAFOREY, LOOKOUT from Bone.

/Departures...



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements  
Algiers.  
Contd. Departures BICESTER, ALBACORE, SPEEDWELL, to join  
E.T.9 F.P.V.2013 to Eastward.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1844A/13 to Admty.)

M.E.15. Sailed convoy M.E.15, ORION, PALADIN, NUBIAN,  
DULVERTON, HURSLEY, HURWORTH, BEAUFORT, EXMOOR,  
BELVOIR, ALDENHAM.  
(V.A. Malta, 1947A/13, to Admty. etc.)

Movements,  
Oran. Arrivals at Mers el Kebir Jan. 13th NELSON, RODNEY  
FORMIDABLE, ESKIMO, ANTELOPE, VELOX, BOREAS,  
BRILLIANT, WIVERN, VENOMOUS, HAYDON, QUALITY, AJAX,  
PANTHER, CALPE, TARTAR (corrupt group) CADMUS,  
ACUTE, PUCKERIDGE, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1957A/13 to Admty., N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)

Malta  
Air  
Report. AI.519 13th Jan. Night 12/13th Jan. 3 Albacores  
and 3 Beauforts laid mines between Sfax and  
Kerkennah Island. Enemy night Fighters attempted  
unsuccessfully to interfere with operation and all  
our aircraft returned safely. As Tunis was  
obscured by cloud 12 Wellingtons attacked Sousse Harbour from  
1838 to 1933, scoring a direct hit on Phosphate Quay and starting  
fires and explosions on North Quay at S.W. Corner of Harbour and  
N.W. of Town. 1 Wellington which could not locate target owing  
to cloud attacked at 2023 hours a large stationary M/V off  
Ras. Kaboudia dropping 8 x 500 lb and 2 x 250 lb bombs starting  
small fire on vessel. Day 13th Jan. bad weather curtailed  
offensive operations. 5 Beaufighter sorties were made in  
offensive sweeps against Axis transport Aircraft and shipping  
Kerkennah Sousse area. 2 Beaufighters sighted one M/V 1500 tons  
10° Kerkennah 25 miles and attacked with cannon and machine gun  
fire scoring numerous hits.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2027Z/13.)



War Diary.

13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Ceylon,  
supplies.

Pacific route to India etc. Following from C. in C. Ceylon (begins). In view difficulties food supply to Ceylon essential ships before leaving Australia provision requirements for round voyage. Only bare minimum essential can be supplied ex Ceylon (Ends).  
(D.T.D., 0035A/13 to Connav A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., (R) B.A.D., etc).

Movements.

Arrival 0427Z/13th January ASTER escorting Hired Transport (?KAROA).  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0428Z/13 to Admty).  
Colombo arrivals 13th January 0940 HOXA, 0940Z BARMILL 1130Z MARYBOROUGH. Departures nil.  
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1256Z/13 to Admty etc).

U/B

Following has been read: From FRESNO CITY.  
13 Jan. 0500 G.M.T. sighted periscope in position 01.20 S., 74.32 E.  
(Colombo, W/T, 0500/13).

ILE DE  
FRANCE.

F.O.R.S.C.A.1253/11th Jan. not to D.S.T. Intend sailing ILE DE FRANCE 20 Jan.  
(P.S.T.O. India, 0809Z/13 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., P.S.T.O. Middle East, D.S.T., N.O.I.C. Suez).

Convoy  
Escorts.

Intentions for escort. GERALDTON and PUNJAB, P.B. 22, HIRAVATI, P.A.20, sailing 0230Z/17th Jan. Ocean route Number 2 BOMBAY P.B. 23 POOLE P.A. 21, sail 0430Z/23rd Jan. Ocean route number 3. (S.N.O.P.G., 0843Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz, (R) C. in C. E.F. etc).

FIDELITY  
sunk 28  
December  
with ON.S.  
154 (in  
A.W.I. Stn.  
*December W.D*)

My 2013/6. Only known survivors are:-  
Lt. J.H. O'Neil, R.N. Sub. Lt. M.J. Pollard,  
R.N.V.R., and 6 ratings.  
(D.O.D. (F), 1944A/13 to C. in C. E.F.)



13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Ceylon  
Movement  
Summary  
No. 33  
of  
Jan. 19th.

Ref. Summary No. 32 (1) JUMNA arrived Colombo 7th Jan. (5) HOXA and BARMILL arrived Colombo 13th Jan. Summary No. 33 (1) FALMOUTH and MARGUERITE escorting B.M. 37 left Bombay 12th Jan., Jan. due Colombo 16th. MARGUERITE escorts Madras portion to destination, due 19th Jan. (2) TULIP E.T.L. Colombo 16th escorting TAIPING to Addu. (3) ORTMLEJ\* left Bandar Abbas 11th Jan. escorting P.A. 19 to Aden, due 18th Jan. (4) JUMNA leaves Colombo 14th Jan. escorting C. 38 to vicinity of Madras, thence due Trincomalee 19th Jan. (5) SONAVATI escorting B.K. 1 left Bombay 10th Jan., arrived Karachi 12th Jan., thence returns Bombay. (6) LISMORE left Calcutta 12th Jan. escorting WARITA to Colombo, due 18th Jan. (7) BATHURST with P.B. 20 arrived Bombay 10th Jan. (8) MADRAS and WILLEM VAN DER Zaan left Banda Abbas 11th Jan. escorting P.B. 21 due Bombay 17th Jan. (9) GAWLER leaves Colombo 14th January escorting M.B. 24, due Bombay 19th January. (10) MARYBOROUGH escorting WINGSANG arrived Colombo 13th Jan. (11) BOMBAY leave Bombay 13th Jan. escorting B.P. 65½. (12) RAJPUTANA left Colombo 9th Jan. escorting J.C. 6 to Calcutta (13) BALTA leaves Ceylon 13 due Addu Atoll 17th. (From F.O. Ceylon, 1100Z/13, 1008Z/14.)\* As received.



War Diary.

13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

P.512 U.S. S/M Notice 13 Jan. British S/M 512 painted dark grey with 512 white in block on C/T departs Halifax 1200Z/13th for Philadelphia on surface via 39.15 N., 69.42 W. escorted by THUNDER, speed 9 knots.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0350/13 to all commands etc)  
Departure P.512, THUNDER for Philadelphia.  
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 2101Z/13 to Admty etc).

U.S. Movements Departure 13th Jan. U.S. Army Transport EL LIBERTADOR Trinidad 15th Jan.  
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 0946QR/13 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica).  
Departure 13th U.S. Coast Guard CYPRESS TOWN carrying out survey work en route date of arrival uncertain.  
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 1040/13 to Admty. etc).  
12th January arrival and departure U.S.S. CHATEAU THIERY from Newfoundland to New York.  
(N.O.I.C. Halifax N.S., 1344Z/13 to Admty etc).

U.S.N. Dispositions. This is Cominch's 1551/12th Jan. addressed to Admiralty (Comnaveu pass) for action:  
Serial 56. My 1726/05, change.  
Atlantic: At Norfolk - NEW YORK, ALABAMA, SANTA FEE; In Boston MASSACHUSETTS. At New York - PHILADELPHIA. At Philadelphia DENVER. At Recife SANTEE, SAVANNAH. At Habia MARBLEHEAD, CINCINNATI. At Sea TUSCALOOSA RANGER. On patrol MEMPHIS.  
Pacific. In Townsville Area PHOENIX. At Sea COPAHEE, CONCORD. Delete HORNET, NORTHAMPTON, JUNEAU, ATLANTA.  
(Comnaveu, 1016/13, to Admty).

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T./13 Jan.		
	Ship	Position	Course Speed
	S/M CLYDE	49° N., 53½° W.	273° 12
	Convoy	20½° N., 58° W.	071° 13
	T.M.F. 2, 3 } destroyers)		
	Convoy	10½° N. 53½° W.	271° 7½
	F.T.T. 6, } MILFORD, 2 } Corvettes.		
	CARNARVON } CASTLE.		

(D.O.D. (F) 1025Z/13 to Opnav (R) Comnaveu).

Convoy Cycles. Following are my intentions for implementing 10 day cycle for mid-ocean groups (i) (a) Schedule of sailing to be as proposed in B.A.D. Washington. 2237/30 Dec. namely O.N. D day. O.N.S. D plus one. H.X. D plus 7. S.C. D plus 2.



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Convoy Cycles. Contd. (b) Dates of sailing from Liverpool and New York respectively to be as follows: O.N.S. 162 Jan. 22nd. O.N.S. 163 Jan. 23rd. H.X. 224. Jan. 22nd H.X. 225 Jan. 30th. H.X. 226 Feb. 8th. S.C. 118 Jan. 24th.  
(c) Subsequent sailings at 10 days intervals.  
(d) O.N. Convoys to be evenly numbered O.N.S. convoys to be odd numbers.  
(C. in C. W.A., 10312/13 to C.T.F. 24., F.O.N.F., (R) Admty. etc).

T.R.1. U/B U.K. bearings on 9,967 k/cs at 0929Z of probable sighting report suggest convoy T.R.1 is concerned, but pending further bearings position is uncertain (D.D.I.C., 1104A/13 to Cominch, (R) V.A. Gib. F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A.)  
My 1104A further bearings confirm convoy T.R.1. was reported at 0929Z.  
(D.D.I.C., 1159A/13 to Cominch etc).

M.Ls. Arrival M.L. 485, 470, 484, 487 comprising first half 30th M.L. Flotilla.  
(B.S.N.O. Trinidad, 1203Q/13 1632Q/13 to S.B.N.O. W.Atlantic (R) Admty. etc).

Troop Convoy Escorts. Ten troopships with a speed of not less than 16 knots and of a total capacity of about 31,000 which were nominated for K.M.F. Convoys are not now required.  
2. In order to augment "Bolero" these ships could be made available in New York for an A.T. convoy about 15th to 20th Feb. five proceeding independently from Gibraltar or in G.U.F. convoy.  
3. No escorts for the return passage are available from British sources. A.T. escorts in the past have been a U.S. responsibility and you are requested to ascertain whether they can provide an adequate escort to enable this suggestion to be adopted.  
(D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 1206A/13 to B.A.D.)

SEAWOLF A.M. 1120/12, intend to sail SEAWOLF to B.Y.M.S. Halifax a.m. 15th Jan. with surface escort B.Y.M.S. 15 and B.Y.M.S. 16, details route later.  
(F.O.N.F., 1245Z/13 to N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.C. (S), Admty).

ST. LAURENT My 1731/5 and your 1700/12. Request confirmation 2nd Feb. is earliest possible completion date ST. LAURENT. This means missing next westbound assignment with O.N. 165. If 2nd Feb. cannot be improved, intend to sail ST. LAURENT to join O.N. 165 at sea.  
(F.O.N.F., 1329Z/13 to C.O.A.C. (R) Admty etc).

Your 1329/13. Present indication ST. LAURENT cannot be ready before 2nd Feb. although every effort will be made to better this rate.  
(C.O.A.C., 2030Z/13 to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. etc).

/R/V...



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13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.R/V for  
Stragglers.Your 2110Z/12, concur.  
(Connav, 1345/13 to Admty).

Movements

Commander Mid-ocean Escort Task force in BURNHAM, plus ASSINIBOINE, EYEBRIGHT, BITTERSWEET, LA MALBAIE arrived from H.X.221. COLUMBINE and BUTTERCUP standing on to U.K.  
(C.T.G.24.7., 1348Z/13 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav etc).

Convoy  
Cycles.

Comeastseafron inform Port Director New York refer Cominch 12/2126. Propose following ocean convoy schedule for ten day cycle. Sail H.N.D. day. O.N.S. D plus 1. S.C. D plus 2, and H.X. on D plus 7 days. Based on present voyages of O.N.S. 23 days, O.N.19, S.C.20, H.X.16, days. C.T.F. 24 states 7 days absolutely necessary in port western terminal. Proposed schedule allows approximately 7½ days in port for ocean escorts at both terminals providing escorts are exchanged near 47° W. It is extremely desirable to evenly distribute the convoy load for New York Harbour since 14 scheduled trade convoys arrive or depart during a ten day period. A five-day sailing interval between S.C. and H.X. convoys is most suitable for this purpose as coastal convoys should feed into New York at 5 day intervals. (Cominch C. & R., 1438/13 to Admty. etc).

ORFOR  
(torpedoed  
14 Dec).

My 1423/27th Dec. and 1424/29. St. Lucia reports arrival lifeboat with 21 further survivors ORFOR including 2 raft loads picked up. They report:- A. Three rafts launched. B. Ship not seen to sink. C. Master still on board when they left.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1511R/13 to Admty, N.S.H.Q.)

S/M Estimate  
13 Jan.  
U.S. S/M  
Notice.

(Cominch, 1540/13, 1541/13, 1620/13, 1621/13, 1622/13, 2045/13).

O.N.S.160

SHERWOOD sailed 1700A. Will join O.N.S.160 by dusk 14th.  
(C.T. 24.7., 1641Z/13 to C. in C. Mid Ocean Escort, T.U.24.1.12, WAVENEY (R) SHERWOOD, C. in C. W.A.)

Movements

New York arrived 7th Jan. L.S.T. 401, 403 from Norfolk departed 12th Jan. WITCH part escort S.C.117.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1720Z/13 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Oil Ships  
for Abadan.

My 2215/29th Sept. SS. CAPE CHARLES left New York 11th Jan. similar route. This ship contains cargo specially vital to project. (B.A.D., 1731Z/13 to Admty).

H.X. 223

Sailing telegram.  
(Port Director, New York, 1748Z/13 to Admty).

MAURETANIA,  
WEST POINT,  
MARIPOSA.

Para. 2. Your 2359A/12th., confirmed. B.A.D. Washington informed.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1800/13 to Admty).

SEAWOLF,  
B.Y.M.S.15  
B.Y.M.S.16.

1. Intend to sail SEAWOLF surfaced escorted by B.Y.M.S.15 and 16 at 1130Z/15 routed through X. 46.38 N., 52.54 W. Y. 45.30 N., 57.30 W. Z. 44.45 N., 61.45 W. to Halifax N.S. E.T.A. Halifax 1730Z/17. Speed 10 knots.  
2. Request total bombing restrictions 20 miles ahead 40 miles astern and 15 miles each side of track.  
3. S/M is painted grey and has N.47 painted on C/T C.O.A.C. pass P/L version to A.O.C.E.A.C.  
(F.O.N.F., 1835Z/13 to Admty F.O.S. etc).

Fuelling  
at Sea.

Reports of proceedings reaching N.S.H.Q. continue to report unsuccessful attempts to fuel from special oilers in convoy due either to the oilers not being supplied with suitable gear or being uninstructed in its use. This failure is particularly unfortunate in the case of the Western Support Force who are short legged and cannot join a suitable O.N. convoy without re-fuelling.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1847Z/13 to Admty (R) F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C)

S.C. 116

Due to sub concentration in I.C.O.M.P. area have you any recommendation for diverting S.C.116 to the Eastward below latitude 50° N? Three ships for Iceland.  
(Cominch C. and R., 1920/13 to Admty).

Routeing  
Policy.

Your 0251/12th January A.M.1829/29 December has been amended to conform with Connav's 1456/8 Jan. 2. A revised and comprehensive routeing policy on lines of A.M.1829/29 December will be promulgated very shortly.  
(D.T.D., 1921A/13 to B.A.D.)

SALISBURY.

My 1516/12th SALISBURY delayed by minor defects and will be ready to sail a.m./15th Jan. providing trial satisfactory.  
(B.A.M.R., 1936Z/13 to Admty)  
When ready sail SALISBURY Charleston to Halifax. Advise time of departure, route, S. of A.  
(Cominch 2140/13 to Cmdt. 6th U.S. Naval Dist. Charleston, (R) C.E.S.F., Cinclant, C.T.24 etc). /Landing...



War Diary.13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies - Contd.

Landing Craft. My 1955/1st. Landing craft convoy will not sail before Jan. 20th. B.A.D. informed. Admiralty\* pass to C. in C. Allied Forces (corrupt group). Cdt. 5th U.S. Naval District Hampton Roads pass to Port Director Norfolk (Virginia) and Comamphorlant. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2039/13 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) C.E.S.F. etc). \*Passing action being taken by W.R.,

NIPIGON defects. E.T.A. 0330Z/14th. Boiler hours. Steam pipe in switching system broken, requires welding. No.2 boiler room fan requires bracing. (NIPIGON, 2105Z/13 to C.O.A.C.(R) Capt. (D) Halifax).

Sub. attack and sighting summary Para. B. Surface craft attack sub. 01.38 S., 38.52 W., 0438Z/13. TEESBANK two torpedo hits. one miss. Para. C. B.18 Radar Contact 05.15 N. 51.45 W., 1312Z/13. (Cominch, 2114/13 to Admty for O.I.C.)

G.U. Convoys. Request N.S.H.Q., be included in addressees of G.U. sailing telegrams. Both parts. (N.S.H.Q., 2137Z/13 to EO.C.N.A., (R) Admty).

EMPIRE WAGTAIL. EMPIRE WAGTAIL O.N.S. 154 has not arrived Halifax. (N.S.H.Q., 2203Z/13 to Admty. Cominch C. and R).

U.G.F.4 My 1735/28th cancel sailing ESSO HARTFORD. C.E.S.F. pass to Port Director New York. Admty. pass to N.C.X.F. C. in C. African Force B.A.D. Washington, informed. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2221/13 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) Admty. etc).

U.G.S.4 Sailing telegram U.G.S.4 part 2. Paras. 10, 11, 12. (U.S. Port Director at New York, 2230Z/13 to Connav).

MAURETANIA 13th 21, MAURETANIA, British, Pearl Harbour 18th, speed 21, B, 271° 64 miles from T.11. C, 039° 116 miles from X 14. D. 118° 212 miles from X 5. E, 280° 116 miles from N.19 tables 21 and 22 one ship 1002 C S P 1321 D (?H) H Conhydropac 47 B.A.M.S. held. (R.O. San Francisco, 2338Z/13 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C. and R) Admty. (R) C. in C. P.F. (U.S.) Cdr. Hawaiian Sea Frontier).



War Diary.

13.1.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest  
No. 356,  
Jan. 12th.

Enemy Patrol activity vicinity Madang.  
2. Barge activity reported Lae Salamaua 11th Jan.  
3. Japanese Camps and Stores on Islands at Mouth Mambare strafed by 3 Beaufighters morning 12th.  
4. Enemy occupying Thgu Anelyard Beach, Head Kumusi River Mouth.  
5. Some advances made Sanananda Track 12th Jan. aided by Tanks but Pillboxes causing some difficulty. Bridgehead established West of Tarakena here, operations progressing satisfactorily.  
6. 9 Enemy Medium Bombers dropped 14 bombs Merauke afternoon 12th. Slight damage to Dutch Barrhis only.  
7. 4 Beaufighters strafed grounded Aircraft buildings Huts Motor Transport Fulloro Aerodrome (North East Timor) a.m./12th Jan. destroying one Fighter.  
8. Four probable Flying Boats encountered by Catalina before dawn 12th Jan. 50 miles East of Buna. One Liberator bombed Madang and Finschafen scoring ?hits on huts and buildings, while four Bostons bombed and strafed Cape Killerton area destroying several huts.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0835Z/13 to Admty. etc).

Lessons from Pacific Actions. Your 1303/11th. Confirmed that considerable success has been achieved against Japanese aircraft recently with small allied losses (?chiefly) due to following in order stated:  
(1) Superior numbers of fighters:  
(2) Outstanding success of P.38 "(?Lightnings)" Japanese use "Zeros" and "Nakajimachas" fighters which latter inferior.  
(3) Good organisation of set-up at Port Moresby.  
(4) Deterioration of Japanese flying personnel.  
2. In regard to actual numbers claimed as shot down it is remarked that American air crews interrogation system is at present undeveloped and it is of a much lower standard than that employed by R.A.A.F. Some inaccuracy is therefore liable to occur in reports by American Units.  
(A.C.N.B., 0902Z/13 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty).

Movements Arrival Melbourne 12th Jan. U.S. Dest. RALPH TALBOT, U.S. Dest. BAGLEY, U.S. Troop transport MALEY, U.S. Dest. HOVEY.  
(A.C.N.B., 0947Z/13 to Admty. etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1412A/13, 1450A/13).



14.1.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

The Admiralty today issued fresh instructions for dealing with French merchant ships and warships.

Home Commands.

Attack on  
Convoy  
J.W.51B.

GRAPH reports that at 0106/1 in 70.51 N. 21.56 E. she sighted a cruiser about 7½ miles to the westward, steaming at high speed. The cruiser entered Soroy Sund. At 0440 she attacked two destroyers, probably with no success, when apparently stopped. (At 0743/1 an incomplete signal reporting a cruiser was received from GRAPH).

At 1140A SHERWOOD reported a suspected torpedo fired at her in 56.35 N. 12.18 W. No contact was obtained.

The ports of Dundee, Montrose and Arbroath which were closed on 11th Jan. were reopened this morning, and Peterhead this afternoon.

North Atlantic.

Convoy  
T.M.1.

CLIONA and VANJA, the only survivors of the 9 tankers which constituted Convoy T.M.1, arrived at Gibraltar this afternoon escorted by HAVELOCK, QUIBERON, PATHFINDER, PENN, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE and GODETIA. The total number of attacks made on the convoy is reported to be 6 night and 2 day. HAVELOCK claims that the counter measures of the escort probably sank 2 U-Boats, severely damaged one and probably damaged two.

Mediterranean.

Italian S/M  
NARVALO  
sunk.

Early this afternoon a Beaufort carrying out A/S patrol ahead of Convoy M.E.15 in 136° Malta 137 miles sighted a submarine approaching the convoy

/from ...



War Diary.

14.1.1943.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Italian S/M  
NARVALO  
sunk.  
(Contd.)

from 6 miles ahead and dropped 4 - 250 lb. depth charges which blew the submarine's bows out of the water and forced it to remain stopped, severely damaged, on the surface. The U-Boat showed the white flag and at the same time opened fire on the aircraft, who returned the fire and then returned to the convoy and guided 3 destroyers to the U-Boat which PAKENHAM and HURSLEY sank without suffering any damage or casualties in 34.8 N. 16.4 E. The U-Boat was Italian NARVALO, transport, on passage Tripoli to Taranto with 11 or 12 Allied Officer prisoners on board: 6 or 7 of the latter were saved and a number of Italian prisoners were picked up.

16 B.17s escorted by 16 P.38s of the 12th U.S. Air Force bombed Sousse today in good weather: several vessels are believed to have been damaged. 26 B.17s escorted by 17 P.38s bombed Sfax; most of the bombs fell on the north-east jetty. 16 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli from 1750 to 1900, but no naval targets are reported to have been hit.

From 1905 to 1930 3 Albacores and 3 Beauforts laid mines in the Kerkenah area.

Fighter bombers attacked Bone a.m. today and dropped bombs on the harbour, but damage is not known.

The Russians report that a German 250 ton S/M and a 20 ton S/M under the German flag were at Bourgas on 2nd Jan.

East Indies.

SS. ILE DE FRANCE arrived at Bombay this morning with troops.



War Diary.

14.1.1943.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

The Navy Dept. are planning to turn over two auxiliary aircraft carriers to Comtask 24 for operations in the north Atlantic, particularly with convoys when passing through areas not covered by shore based aircraft. It is assumed that ATTACKER and two other British A.C.Vs now in the U.K. will be required for the new tanker convoys.

S.C.116.

Convoy S.C.116 appears likely to be threatened with heavy U-Boat attack, and at the suggestion of C. in C. W.A. C.T.G.24.6 sailed DUANE and U.S. destroyer SCHENCK to reinforce the escort. C.T.G. 24.6 was also asked to detach one escort of T.U. 24.6.3 from O.N.S.J.160 to join S.C.116.



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

BESSIE II. (Auxiliary Ketch) Arrangements for release to owners. (D. of S.T. 0010A/14).

P.511 In view of decision in Admiralty 1120/12th that SEAWOLF shall remain temporarily at Halifax for A/S training propose P.511 now refitting at Sheerness shall be allocated Plymouth. The re-arrangement will reduce number of S/Ms available for A/S training in Clyde area my 1426/31st Dec. (F.O.S., 1106A/14 to Admty).

CYGNET, Cancel my 1641/21st Nov. 1942. These vessels  
WOODPECKER. will not now be allocated to Arctic Convoy.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1110A/14).

Treatment of French merchant ships and warships. Cancel C.B.03091/42, para. 4 only of C.A.F.O. 1156/42 and all other special instructions for treatment of French Merchant ships and warships which are now to be dealt with as follows:-

A. Surface ships.

1. Atlantic. North of the equator they are to be treated as friendly unless -
  - (a) they commit hostile acts.
  - (b) they are encountered in the Bay of Biscay area north of 42° 15' N., and east of 14° W., when they are to be treated as under enemy control.
  - (c) they answer the description of a vessel notified as a possible blockade runner from the Far East.
2. Mediterranean. (a) In sink-at-sight areas they are to be dealt with in accordance with standing instructions for the area. (b) In the free areas in the western basin they are to be treated in accordance with the orders of N.C.X.F.
3. Other Areas. If not sailing under the control of H.M.G. the U.S.G., the Free French or of the French Authorities in North or West Africa, they are to be regarded as suspicious and Merchant ships are if possible to be sent into the nearest Allied port under armed guard or escort.

B. Submarines, are to be treated in accordance with para. 2. of C.A.F.O. 1156/42.  
(Admty. 1510B/14 A mge.Home and Abroad).

P.214,  
P.238,  
P.31,  
P.34.

1. The present policy of sending all new-constructed submarines to Mediterranean cannot continue without reducing number of British-manned operational submarines in home waters below minimum required to maintain manning and training requirements. Intend therefore to retain P.214 and P.238 on home station.
2. Intend P.31 and P.34 to rejoin Mediterranean flotillas on completion of post refit working up patrol about early March and late April respectively.  
(F.O.S., 1854A/14 to Admty).



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

OFFA Sailed OFFA's 1523/13 at 2340/13.  
(A.C.I.C., 0111A/14).  
Arrived my 0111/14th.  
(A.C.I.C., 1622A/14).

P.216 E.T.A.2300A/14. Request light.  
(P.216, 0145A/14 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).  
My 0145A/14th. 3 hours late.  
(P.216, 2210A/14).

S/MS Positions and Movements. F.O.(S) 0202A/14,  
1457A/14, (amendments to 1727A/13 q.v.)  
N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1606A/14, F.O.S. 1714A/14.  
See Lion Copy.

OBEDIENT, Your 2343A/13th and FORESTER 1900A/10th not to  
OBDURATE. all addressees. OBDURATE parted company in  
position M for Seidisfjord at 0330/14th.  
OBEDIENT proceed Scapa with urgent hospital case.  
My position 0400A/14th 68.34, 06.02 W., S. of A.  
18 knots 2362 9833.  
(OBEDIENT, 0349A/14 to C. in C. H.F., (R)  
R.A.D. H.F., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.I.C.)  
Cancel my 2343/13th. Both ships proceed to Scapa.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1825A/14 to OBDURATE, OBEDIENT, (R)  
A.C.O.S., R.A.D., C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.I.C.)  
Following has been received from OBDURATE begins A.C.I.C.  
C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S. R.A.(D) H.F., R.N.O. Seidisfjord,  
OBEDIENT, from OBDURATE.  
Owing to low visibility and damage sounding gear consider unwise  
to attempt Seidisfjord. Am proceeding East of Faeroes to  
Scapa.  
Estimated P.C. and S. 066° 36' N., 013° 10' W., 130° 14 knots.  
Weather report 3855 9127 T.O.O.1401A/14th. Ends.  
(A.C.I.C., 1835A/14 to BISPHAM, A.C.O.S. F.O.(D) H.F., R.N.O.  
Seidisfjord (Iceland), OBEDIENT).

H.32 My 1743A/8. Intend sailing KINGSTON ANDALUSITE  
to R/V MALLOW at 1500/15th and take over escort  
H.32 to Portsmouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0937A/14 to MALLOW).  
My 1007/14th and 0937/14th. Route for H.32 from seaward  
end of Q.Z.S. 278 is by Q.Z.S. 390. 391, 386, 284 codeword  
WHEEL. MALLOW pass my 0937/14th to H.32.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1137A/14 to KINGSTON ANDALUSITE,  
MALLOW, pass to H.32, (R) N.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C.  
Portsmouth, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, Capt. (S) 5, Sub. Flot).

Escort of WELLS who is my only available destroyer will not  
AGAMEMNON, be now ready for service until about Wednesday  
PORT QUEBEC. 20th. Request you will provide destroyer screen  
for (A) AGAMEMNON's onward passage to Port Z A  
as well as her working up practices and (B)  
PORT QUEBEC's passage to Scapa from Tyne on  
Tuesday 19th and subsequently for her practice until WELLS is  
available. (R.A.(M) 1052/14 to F.O.C.,DF. H.F.)

/FORESTER...



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

FORESTER, Kola Inlet arrival at 1030A/14th C. in C. H.F.'s  
ICARUS. 1045/8th.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1055A/14.)

METEOR. Intend sailing METEOR for Scapa p.m./15 to  
comply with R.A.(D) H.F. 1545A/13th.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1254A/14.)

Situation. At 1959A/14.  
(? C. in C. W.A. 1355A/14.) See Lion Copy.

P.55. P.55 is to be recalled to Lerwick forthwith.  
She is thence to proceed to Holy Loch.  
(F.O.S., 1454A/14 to Capt. (S) 9.)  
(1) Leave patrol for Lerwick forthwith through position (A) 063°  
00' N. 003° 10' E. (B) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles.  
(2) Proceed diving by day until 60 miles clear Norwegian coast  
thence on surface at C.O.'s discretion.  
(Capt. S.9, 1601A/14 to P.55, (R) C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

BOADICEA, My 1649/13th not to all addressees. Unless it is  
ORIBI, necessary for BOADICEA to call at Scapa to land  
ORWELL. passengers detach her to Clyde after fuelling  
at Seidisfjord (Iceland).  
(C. in C. H.F., 1504/14 to ORIBI.)

ORIBI, ORWELL and BOADICEA sailed Kola Inlet for Seidisfjord  
1915A/14 routed as follows, through position M X to J 71.55 N.  
37.12 E. K 73.30 N. 32.10 E. L 73.30 N. 10.55 E. M 68.40 N.  
06.03 W. thence as ordered by C. in C. H.F. E.T.A. Seidisfjord  
1200A/17. Speed 25 knots to position L then 20 knots.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2020A/14 to A.C.I.C. (R) Admty.,  
C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A., S.O. Destroyers)  
Your 1830/14. Route to be followed through position 438  
X to J 71.55 N. 37.12 E. K 73.30 N. 32.10 E. L 73.30 N. 10.55  
E. M 68.40 N. 06.03 W., thence as ordered by C. in C. H.F.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 2025C/14 to BOADICEA, (R) ORIBI.)

WALPOLE. Request you will sail WALPOLE a.m./15th for  
Hvalfjord with mail and passengers.  
(2) Report number of (a) Officers, (b) Ratings  
which can be embarked.  
(3) WALPOLE finally to return Scapa bringing mail and passengers  
as required by A.C.I.C.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1506A/14 to R.A.(D) H.F.)  
Sailing orders.  
(R.A.D.H.F., 2125A/14.)

Situation Situation 2000/14.  
Reports. OBEDIENT 63.43 N. 04.36 W. to Scapa.  
QUALICUM, GRAPH 59.44 N. 01.35 W. North of  
Orkneys to Minches.



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

Situation LOTUS vicinity Dunnet Head to Minches.  
 Reports. P.216 due Lerwick from northward.  
 (Contd.) P.312 approaching Shetlands from northward.  
 KINGSTON AGATE 60.55 N. 04.58 W. to Kirkwall.  
 DULCIBELLE, 1 merchant ship 34 buoy to Lerwick.  
 2 merchant ships and SWITHA leaving Kirkwall 0100 to Lerwick.  
 (A.C.O.S., 1551A/14.)  
 MELBREAK's convoy 250 HARTLAND 8 bound Portsmouth 7 knots,  
 BLEASDALE's convoy 120 St. Albans 5 bound Bristol Channel ports  
 6 knots.  
 MALLOW, H.32 235 HARTLAND 14 bound Eddystone 8½ knots, 1  
 lighter 300 Bull Pt. 13 bound Hayle 4 knots.  
 Positions 1959.  
 ALERT, ST. KILDA anchored in approx. 51.40 N. 10.25 W.  
 BARB 46.45 N. 14.23 W. northbound speed 120 miles in 24 hours.  
 BLACKFISH 47.20 N. 12.26 W. northbound speed 120 miles in 24  
 hours.  
 Coastal craft exercising between Portland Bill and St. Albans  
 from 1730 to 1900.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1609A/14.)

Positions (A) P.224 and TRIDENT off Fro Havet.  
 of S/M at (B) UREDD off Bredsund.  
 0800A/15 (C) P.49 63° 42' N. 03° 18' E. probably on  
 and move- surface speed 8 knots through 62° 00' N. 00° 58'  
 ments for E. for Lerwick.  
 following (D) P.312 and P.216 approaching Lerwick from  
 24 hours. North-eastward.  
 (E) GRAPH escorted by QUALICUM vicinity Cape  
 Wrath for Holy Loch E.T.A. 1500/16th.  
 (F) U.S.S. GUNNEL escorted by PARRSBORO leaves Holy Loch 1100/15  
 E.T.A. 360° round Island Scillies 0200/17th.  
 (G) H.43 trials off Great Ormes Head.  
 (H) H.32 escorted by MALLOW vicinity 200° Lizard Head 6 miles  
 to R/V seaward end Q.Z.S.278 with ELLESMERE for onward escort  
 to Portsmouth by Convoy Route.  
 (J) U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao.  
 (K) U.S.S. HERRING in zone K.505.  
 (L) U.S.S. BARB 49° 50' N. 12° 34' W. dived by day through  
 49° 50' N. 09° 01' W. thence to R/V in 360° round Island Scillies  
 (M) U.S.S. BLACKFISH 48° 20' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day through  
 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 09° 02' W. thence to R/V  
 as in para. (L).  
 Positions of U.S.S. BARB and U.S.S. BLACKFISH are very approx.  
 (N) P.56 escorted by M.L.548 leaves Tyne 1330/15th for Blyth.  
 (P) P.55 62° 32' N. ~~02° 12' E.~~ 02° 12' E. probably on surface  
 speed 8 knots for Lerwick.  
 (F.O.S., 1714A/14, 1227A/15, 1252A/15.)

/GRAPH ...



War Diary.

14.1.1943.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

GRAPH My 1123/12 as amended by my 1825/13 sailed.  
(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, 1712A/14).

P.312 E.T.A.0530. Request Muckle Flugga W/T Beacon  
at 2200 and 2420.  
(P.312, 1728A/14 to S.O. S/Ms Lerwick).

S.51, Your 1630/13th part 2. A. from Z through position  
L.15. A. 71. 26 36.04 E. B. 70.00 36.04 C. 69.19  
35° 10' E.  
Part 2 (B). Destroyer (?KUAIBISHEV) and  
weather permitting 2 Hunter craft will meet  
submarine at position C. Part 2 (C) has been arranged.  
2. Route between Z and A passes through extreme north of area  
2 A and as (?Russians) unwilling to alter F.O.S. is requested  
to inform British submarines accordingly.  
3. Russians request following be given to Capt. Freedman  
begins: Para. 6 (?g) of your orders. During passage of S.51  
and L.15 Soviet submarine from Polyarno will operate to  
southward of 71.30 N., ends.  
4. As submarine route crosses routes of both J.W.52 and R.A.52  
request L.15 be sailed on January 25th. Russians concur.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2135A/14 and 0827A/17 to Admty).

Operations.

Attack by GRAPH reports as follows  
GRAPH. (1) 0106/1 position 070° 51' 021° 56' sighted  
a cruiser about 7½ miles to westward steaming  
high speed. Cruiser entered Soroy Sund.  
(2) GRAPH steamed 5 miles to westward to approx.  
track of cruiser and at 0423 sighted 2 destroyers 275° 4 miles  
course 175° 8 minutes later 2 destroyers were sighted on  
northerly course erratically zigzagging. At 0440 these  
destroyers were attacked probably with no success when apparently  
stopped.  
(3) Bad weather was experienced on both passages and GRAPH  
sustained numerous defects.  
(4) Admiralty is requested to pass paras. 1 and 2 to S.B.N.O.  
North Russia.  
(F.O.S., 1121A/14 to Admty. C. in C. H.F., S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Portsmouth Striking force, M.G.B. 616 (S.O.) 611, M.T.B. 243,  
Command. 86, 89 at Newhaven at short notice if weather  
suitable.  
2. UNST and FILLA stand by at St. Helens.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1415A/14).



War Diary14.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Operation Carry out operation VP VP B.  
 V.P. (i) Patrol B. (ii) 631 S.O. 626, 627 625.  
 (iii) 0900A/15th or first suitable day thereafter.  
 (iv) 5 (v) protection sufficient (vi) Yes.  
 (vii) 0900A 75 miles from point of exit.  
 VP - L. (i) patrol L. (ii) 618 S.O. 619 (iii) 0900A/15  
 or first suitable day thereafter. (iv) Four. (v) Protection  
 sufficient. (vi) yes. (vii) 0900A 75 miles from point of exit.  
 Departure signal will be made.  
 (A.C.O.S., 1009A/14 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick (R) C. in C. H.F.,  
 C. in C. Rosyth, A.O.C. 18 Group, Admiralty, C.C.O., F.O.S.,  
 Sumburgh, Wick).

Mining.

Dover area Clearance of Q.Z.X. 866 on 13 Jan. when about  
 to sweep final lap in K between Q.Z.X. 866 and 867  
 two lines of Z Type mines were located running in  
 direction 235° from 360° V Buoy about 6 cables.  
 Did no sweeping but sank 5 Z type 1 Y Star, 1 British MK XVII  
 and 1 unknown, all drifting. As clearance of these mines would  
 take Sweepers only one mile nearer enemy coast than did clearance  
 of Q.Z.X. 866 consider increased freedom of manoeuvre for small  
 craft would amply repay small added risk to sweepers. C. in C.  
 Portsmouth should lose only one or perhaps two sweeping days in  
 consequence of clearing these mines which are presumably those  
 for which Q.Z.X. 867 was declared. Consider Q.Z.X. 866 and  
 French mines MI6 in Q.Z.X. 96 cleared. My last report 1659/7  
 Jan. My 1314/25 Dec. \*refers.  
 (M.S.9, 1010A/14 to V.A. Dover (R) Admty).  
 \*Proposals for sweeping in vicinity of Q.Z.X. 866.  
 M.S.9 1010/14 (not to C. in C Portsmouth). Request  
 cancellation of Q.Z.X. 96 and 866. Intend to retain the 9th  
 M.S.F. now at Dover reinforced by BRIDPORT in order to clear  
 mines located close north westward of Sandettie Bank.  
 (V.A. Dover, 1101A/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Portsmouth,  
 M.S.9).

Tyne My 2215/13 Port of Tyne now opened.  
 (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1105/14).

Q.Z.X. 834. Intend to proceed 1300/15 to continue clearance  
 Q.Z.X. 834 returning Dartmouth on completion.  
 (ELGIN, 1320A/14 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Moseskar German U-boats and Armed Trawlers have been  
 sighted outside Swedish waters off Moseskar  
 yesterday Jan. 13th. Gothenburg has been  
 informed. A two.  
 (N.A. Sotckholm, 1749/14).



14.1.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.

SHERWOOD attacked. Suspected torpedo fired at me in  $056^{\circ} 35' N.$ ,  $012^{\circ} 18' W.$  Hydrophone effected but no contact. Am carrying (?out) Observant. (SHERWOOD, 1140A/14 to Admty. C. in C. W.A., Mid. Ocean Escort Task Units 24.1.12, O.N.161).  
My 1140/14th. No contact but dropped 2 depth charges. O.N.161 passing clear area. Am proceeding. Add O.N.161 to address my 1140/14th weather report. 53808773. (SHERWOOD, 1323A/14 to Admty. C. in C. W.A., Mid Ocean Escort Task Units 24.1.12, O.N.161).  
My 1235Z\*carry on hunting at your discretion before joining me. My P.C. and S.  $056^{\circ} 52' 012^{\circ} 01' 299^{\circ} 6$  knots. (WAVENEY 1304Z/14 to SHERWOOD)\* N.T. in W.R. Your bearing at 1400 was  $123^{\circ}$ . (WAVENEY, 1510Z/14 to SHERWOOD).

U/B sighted. Am over enemy submarine in  $46.20 N.$ ,  $16.19 W.$ , which was on surface course  $336^{\circ}$  speed 6 knots. (A/C 435 Sqn. L 2340/14 to 19 Gp. H.Q.)

Navigational.

Dundee My 1210/11. Ports of Dundee, Montrose and  
Montrose Arbroath open.  
Arbroath. (N.O.I.C. Dundee, 0937/14).

Peterhead Port of Peterhead now open.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1305A/14).

Casualties & Defects.

SS. Am standing by SS. WYETOWN in distress in posi-  
WYETOWN tion  $330^{\circ} 3A$  Buoy 1 mile. After hold and  
(F.S.10). engine room filling with water pump and engine  
unable to cope, request rescue tug.  
(WIDGEON, 0803A/14 to C. in C. Nore).  
SS. WYETOWN foundered in  $330^{\circ} A$  buoy 1 mile.  
(WIDGEON, 0837A/14).  
SS. WYETOWN. sank at 0837/14 in  $052^{\circ} 13' 12'' N.$ ,  $001^{\circ} 55' 48'' E.$   
Sprang leak aft, pumps unable to control, flooded after hold and engine room. Master decided to abandon ship, complete ships company of fourteen picked up by WIDGEON, no casualties. Wreck marked by Dan buoy and balloon. All C.Bs. locked up in Master's cabin. No possibility of compromise. No wireless books carried.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2144A/14).

/SS...



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.SS. MAIDEN  
CREEK.

Your 1156A/11.\* Master of SS. MAIDEN CREEK confirms that S O S made on 31 Dec. 1942 was cancelled. Full report of circumstances will be rendered on arrival of SS. STAGHOUND at Avonmouth.

(F.O.I.C. N.I., 1049/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

\* Re B.A.D's 2001/10 concerning SS. STAGHOUND carrying 31 survivors of MAIDEN CREEK which sent S O S and cancelled same. Doubt exists as to whether cancellation is genuine. etc. W.D. Note. Connav 2135/4 stated SS. MAIDEN CREEK reported foundering 31st Dec. survivors picked up 3 Jan. in 39.36 N., 71.0 W.

PRINCESS  
JOSEPHINE  
CHARLOTTE.

Speed is reduced to 15 knots through defective Turbo Feed Pump. Intend to retain her at Portland until arrival of PRINCE LEOPOLD after which she can be made available for repairs at Portsmouth probably about 20th Jan. (S.N.O. Force J., 1145A/14).

FOXGLOVE

My 0955A/13. Movement postponed further 24 hours intend to sail with P.W.279. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1155/14).

SS. LLANDAFF

A.M.1524/10th and my 1432/13th. LLANDAFF returned after collision requires hull repairs. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1440A/14).

CARLISLE

My 1129/11th. Owing to repairs necessitated by weather damage CARLISLE will be delayed approx. one week. Further signals will be made. (C. in C. H.F., 1915A/14 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. N.O.I.C. Greenock).

SS. SAKKO

U.S.S.R. merchant vessel SAKKO loaded and bound for Leith has broken propellor and cannot make further passage without towage. Vessel is too large to dock here and attempt to fit new propellor here is not recommended. Propose to sail her as soon as convenient in tow of rescue tug DEXTEROUS. With SAKKO assisting with engines speed of tow should be  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to 7 knots. One trawler escort will be provided. As DEXTEROUS is due for relief in Iceland suggest exchange of tugs be made concurrently. (A.C.I.C., 2108A/14 to Admty).

Shipping & Convoys.

10 day cycle for mid ocean groups. Your 1031/13. concur. (F.O.N.F., 0009/Z/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Convoys...



War Diary.14. 1. 1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.Convoys  
W.S. 26 and  
K.M.F. 8.

Convoy W.S. 26 will leave U.K. on 22nd Jan. in company with Convoy K.M.F. 8 parting company as directed to proceed to Freetown and South Africa.

2. Composition of convoy as follows

(a) From Clyde SS. RUYS, ANTENOR, STRATHEDEN, CALIFORNIA, ARUNDEL CASTLE, EMPRESS OF CANADA, ORDUNA, REMBRANDT.  
(b) From Liverpool, SS. HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, MOOLTAN, SIBAJAK, DEMPO, VOLENDAM, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND.

(c) From Avonmouth SS. MALOJA,

3. In order to vacate berths for loading of ships of K.M.F. 8 Liverpool section is to be sailed to Clyde when embarkation is completed. (a) HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN and MOOLTAN will be ready to sail on 17 Jan. (b) Remainder on 19 Jan.

4. MALOJA will be ready to leave Avonmouth on 17 Jan. and is to be sailed to Clyde as requisite.

5. Ocean escort CANTON and CILICIA.

6. A/S escort, QUADRANT, ADRIAS and MIAOULES and SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA from Clyde and RELENTLESS from Liverpool.

7. WAYLAND escorted by RACEHORSE, REDOUBT and QUICKMATCH will join convoy from Gibraltar A.M. 1535/13, not to all addressees refers.

8. All ships have a speed of 15 knots, except WAYLAND 13½ knots, VOLENDAM 14 knots ORDUNA and ANTENOR 14½ knots.

9. Admiralty will promulgate route.

10. Destroyer escorts are to be detached as necessary to fuel at Casablanca.

11. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange escort for ships to Clyde in accordance with paras. 4 and 5 and to arrange sailing of all ships to R/V with convoy K.M.F. 8.

12. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to sail MALOJA as requisite.

13. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail Liverpool ships as requisite.

14. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange convoy conference and to sail convoy as requisite.

15. Fighter protection code word "Teapot."

16. See amendment.

17. C.O. of escort is to inform S.N.O.C.A. in advance when destroyers will arrive for fuelling.

(D.O.D. (H), 0040A/14).

Convoy K.M.F. 8 will leave U.K. in company with W.S. 26 on 22nd January. W.S. 26 will part company as directed.

2. Ships will sail from the following ports for destination stated. (a) From Clyde. Destination Algiers SS. DURBAN CASTLE. Oran SS. STRATHNAVER, TAWALI. Bone SS. CIRCASSIA, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, Gibraltar H.M.S. ARGUS.

(b) From Liverpool. Destination Algiers SS. DUCHESS OF YORK, SAMARIA. Bone SS. EMPIRE PRIDE.

2. Speed of slowest ship 14 knots.

3. Escort will be provided by EGRET, BANFF, FISHGUARD, CLARE and TEST.

4. S.O. of escort is S.O. of 44th E.G. in EGRET.

5. Admiralty will promulgate route.

6. C. in C. W.A., is requested to detail escorts and arrange for sailing of both portions of convoy to R/V off Oversay with W.S. 26.

7. Fighter Protection codeword "Apricot".

(D.O.D. (H) 0100A/14).



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

Convoys A.M.0040/14. Cancel para. 16. N.C.X.F. is  
W.S.26 and requested to make necessary arrangements with  
K.M.F.8 S.N.O.C.A. for fuelling destroyers at  
Contd. Casablanca and to arrange air escort as practicable  
V.A. Gibraltar is requested to sail WAYLAND and  
destroyers in para. 7 as requisite.  
(D.O.D. (F), 1159A/14).

A.M.0040A/14. Convoy W.S.26. Paras. 2 (b) and 3 (b).  
Add SS. DOMINION MONARCH.  
(D.O.D. (H) 1450A/14).

A.M.0100/14. Convoy K.M.F.8. Para. 2 (a). From Clyde  
for Gibraltar add SS. LETITIA.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1505A/14).

W.S.26. Request you will sail SKATE to R/V with Liverpool  
portion at Bar L.V. a.m./19th as ordered by F.O.I.C. Liverpool  
and escort them to Clyde SKATE to Londonderry on completion.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1722A/14 to Cdre. Londonderry).

A.M.0040/14. W.S.26. Para. 2 (a) from Clyde for Indian  
destination add SS. CHEYBASSA.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1850A/14).

D.S.36 Convoy D.S.36 comprising LEINSTER will sail  
(LEINSTER). Clyde 19 Jan.  
2. Vessel will embark to full capacity at the  
Tail of the Bank on 18 Jan. and 19 Jan.  
(D.S.T., 0509A/14).

P.S. 14, P.S. 14 and S.P. 14 cancelled.  
S.P.14. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0830A/14).

J.W.52, My 0200/10th. Amend as follows.  
R.A.52. Para. 2. After BULLDOG add O.R.P. PIORUN.  
(2) Para. 3. Cancel 1st 2 sentences and  
substitute. Convoy R.A.52 about 16 ships speed 7  
knots sailing from Kola Inlet 2 days after  
arrival of J.W.52. Estimated sailing date R.A.52 29th Jan.  
(3) Para. 4. Amend first sentence to read escort. ONSLAUGHT  
(S.O.) and destroyer escort J.W.52 also FORESTER, HARRIER, ICARUS  
HONEYSUCKLE, OXLIP, RHODODENDRON, LADY MADELEINE, NORTHERN WAVE,  
NORTHERN GEM, VIZALMA, HYDERABAD.  
(4) Para. 5 cancel and substitute.  
S.O. Force R. C.S.1 in KENT with BERMUDA, GLASGOW leave Scapa  
18th January for Seidisfjord to fuel and proceed to cover J.W.52  
from longitude 10 E. finally proceeding to Kola Inlet.  
Subsequently this force will sail to cover R.A.52 from longitude  
30 E., to 10 E., then proceed Seidisfjord to fuel then Scapa.  
(5) Para. 6 cancelled.  
(6) Para. 9 for 18th Jan. read 22nd Jan.  
(C. in C. H.F., 0916A/14 to Admty. R.A.(D) H.F., C.S.1. C. in C.  
W.A., A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.S., N.O.I.C.  
Aultbea, C.S.10, N.C.S.O. Aultbea, H.Q.C.C., HARRIER, H.Q.F.C.,  
ORIBI, V.A.2, ONSLAUGHT, N.C.S.O. Murmansk).

Estimated requirements of fuel for escorts of convoy J.W.52.  
KENT 900, BERMUDA 900, GLASGOW 750 destroyers. 2 O class 350  
each 4 M. class 400 each 2 B class 300 each. Total 5450 tons.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1014A/14 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.52, My 1247/13 to Admiralty. Three Russians may also  
R.A.52. seek inclusion if of sufficient speed. Will  
this possible total of 24 ships be acceptable.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1015A/14 to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 0200/10th and 0916/14th. Request S/M cover  
from 22nd Jan. to 26th Jan. for J.W.52 and from 30th Jan. to  
3rd Feb. for R.A.52.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1526A/14 to F.O.S.)  
A.X.232/14th Jan. your 2045A/11 and 1940A/13. Change of  
plan has made it impossible to take advantage of passage in  
escorts. Personnel will be flown to Kola Inlet later in the  
month.  
(Air. Min., 1710A/14 to Admty).  
Your 1014/14th this will be provided.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2120A/14 to C. in C. H.F.)

S.C.116 Your 0316/13 and my 1031/13th.  
DUANE, In view of O.N.S.162 probably becoming a fast  
SCHENCK. convoy request you will consider sailing DUANE and  
U.S. destroyer SCHENCK as soon as possible to  
reinforce escort of S.C.116 which appears likely  
to be threatened with heavy attack. Request also  
that one escort of Task Unit 24.6.3 be detached forthwith from  
O.N.S. J. 160 to join S.C.116.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0933Z/14 to C.T.G.24.6. (R) Admty. Cominch,  
C.T.G.24.7).

F.N.17, Additional escort with F.N.17 CAMPBELL,  
F.S.11. CATTISTOCK. Patrols and additional escort for  
F.S. 11 not required.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1010A/14).

S.C.115 A.C.I. Art. No. 415 S.C.115.  
(A) B portion SNOWFLAKE, U Portion ALISMA.  
(B) 1000A/15th (C) 0100A/15th and 1600A/15th  
weather report 6972 7474.  
(C.T.U., 24.1.5., 1015A/14).  
S.C.115 (1st portion). Detach CITY OF CALCUTTA and  
SILVER BEECH forthwith to proceed independently.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1154A/14 to TAY).  
My 1015A/14 E.T.A. position A 4 hours early.  
(C.T.U. 24.1.5., 2015A/14 to C. in C. W.A., Admty. (R)  
F.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Aultbea,  
F.O.I.C. Belfast, Cdre. Londonderry, N.O.I.C. Stornoway,  
N.C.S.O. Aultbea, Comtask. Group 24.7. Capt. (D) Liverpool,  
Capt. (D) Greenock).

Escort of Intend sailing DORNOCH and WEDGEPORT from Lough  
10 ships to Foyle at 1900A/15 speed 10 knots arriving Barry  
Clyde. Roads 0900A/17. Constant watch on port wave.  
Help messages 385 k/cs F.O.I.C. N.I., is  
requested to arrange fighter protection. C. in C.  
W.A. 1747A/13 refers.  
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1058A/14 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

/SS...



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.SS. TJALDUR,  
KRANJI.Intend to sail at 1400/15 SS. TJALDUR, KRANJI (Troops) with escort speed 10 knots for Aberdeen. E.T.A. 1200/16th (route). Request fighter protection.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1125/14 to A.C.O.S.)M.K.F.6  
ASTURIAS.M.K.F.6. Clyde portion arrived with ASTURIAS codeword Manicure.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1234A/14).  
List of Ships. (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1431/14).Convoy  
J.W.51 B.  
BRAMBLE.Your 0005/9th. Regret no.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1500A/14 to C. in C. H.F.)J.W.53.  
ALYNBANK,  
ULSTER QUEEN.Your 1247A/13 and my 1301A/13. Very little could be done towards arcticisation of ALYNBANK in time available. It is proposed that ULSTER QUEEN should carry out this duty. Although all items of arcticisation of ULSTER QUEEN will not be permanently completed, temporary arrangements can be made for her to be ready to sail p.m./3rd February for working-up practices in Clyde Area.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 1523A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)O.N.S.160,  
O.N.16.Estimate you may meet DESEADO eastbound independent during hours of darkness tonight Thursday.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1745A/14 to Escorts).  
Sailed ORILLA 2045A/14th to overtake O.N.S.160. Will join approx. p.m./17th.  
(C.T.G.24.7., 2110Z/14 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F.24 Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C. C.T.G.24.7 (corrupt group) Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.12).O.N.,  
O.N.S.convoys.Pass to F.O.I.Cs., N.O.I.Cs. and N.C.S.Os. O.N.162 (fast) will sail from Liverpool 22nd Jan. and O.N.S.163 (slow) on the 23rd Jan. and thereafter O.N. and O.N.S. convoys every ten days respectively.  
(D.T.D., 1859A/14).E.N.86  
87.Pass to N.C.S.Os. My 1859A/14. Propose E.N.86 sails at 0645/17 as a slow to connect with U.R.59 and E.N. 87 sail at 1245/20 as a medium to connect with O.N.162 and O.N.S.163. Further changes in E.N. convoys will be proposed later.  
(D.T.D. 2053A/14 to C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Nore).



14.1.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area.

K.M.S.8. Your 1204/4. In accordance with later signal  
K.M.S.9. received from A.F.H.Q. only 8 M.T. ships are  
being loaded for Bone in each Convoy commencing  
with K.M.S.9.  
2. Convoy interval between K.M.S. 8 and K.M.S.9 and subsequently  
will be 16 days instead of 14. Admiralty message 1604/9 to  
N.C.X.F. refers.  
3. One Collier carrying about 3,500 tons coal, 500 tons coke,  
and 2,000 tons pitch, is being included in K.M.S.9 and similar  
arrangements will be made for future convoys.  
(D.S.T. 0242A/14 to S.T.O. Bone (R) P.S.T.O.X.F.)

M/V My 2039/11th\* para.3 before "Merchant Navy"  
Discipline. in each case insert "British".  
2. Add to para.3 "Officers and men of U.S.  
merchant ships do possess extra territorial  
right and are normally tried before military  
tribunal".  
(N.C.X.F. 1419A/14 to S.N.O. Casablanca Area,  
Cmdre. Algiers etc.)  
(\* Re discipline should be preserved in the  
British and U.S. Merchant Navies in the  
Western Med. area. N.T. in W.D.)

Ref. N.C.X.F.'s 2039/11th Jan. para.4, copies handed to  
Masters should contain paras. 1 to 3 only and should contain  
no reference to the address or time of origin of the signal.  
(N.I.D.10 for D.N.I. 1242A/14 to S.N.O. Casablanca,  
Cmdre. Algiers etc.)

F.N.L.O. F.O.C. West Africa's 1919/13. If the Lieut.  
Dakar. Halle nominated by the French is not the  
regular Navy officer whose activities are  
described in para.1 of my 1213/13, we have  
no objection to his appointment and he can  
be accepted forthwith.  
(Head of M. (1) Approved V.C.N.S. 1900A/14  
to N.C.X.F.)

North Atlantic.

K.M. Your 0956/11, not to V.A. Gibraltar. Escorts  
Escorts. of K.M.F. convoys will not normally in future  
load passengers mail or stores for Gibraltar.  
Request if practicable you will advise Admiralty  
destinations of K.M.S.8 escorts consisting of LONDONDERRY,  
BIDEFORD, LULWORTH, HASTINGS, LANDGUARD and R.C.N. Corvettes.  
(D.O.D. (H) 0020A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

/CARNATIC ...



14.1.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- CARNATIC. My 1648A/13 and 0830A/14 (N.T. in W.R.) CARNATIC delayed by defects. Intend to sail 1630/15th. (V.A. Gib., 1004A/14 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A., CARNATIC.)
- T.M. 1. Arrival QUIBERON, PATHFINDER, PENN, HAVELOCK, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE, GODETIA, with Convoy T.M.1. (F.O.C.N.A., 1032A/14 to Admty., N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.C.W.A., S.B.N.O. Trinidad, B.A.D.)  
T.M.1, CLIONA and VANJA arrived.  
(V.A. Gib., 1409A/14 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.)  
Situation 1959A/14th. (i) PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, Tug NIMBLE searching vicinity 28.18, 27.20.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1429A/14 to N.A.S.)  
Your 1218/13 to V.A. Gibraltar only.  
T.M.1 convoy was initially in five columns. Screen in N.E. 4 and D.E. 4 A.C.Is. Evasive alterations of course of 30° were made by convoy after dark.  
(2) Weather was calm and exceptionally clear.  
(3) Escort on port quarter R.D.F. out of action throughout. Escort on starboard bow R.D.F. 50% efficient. Asdic conditions very good all sets working.  
(4) Most night attacks apparently developed from ahead between the bow escorts but attempts were made at synchronisation from other direction, on no occasion were U-Boats detected by R.D.F. sightings or Asdics prior to delivery of attacks. Majority were then sighted in light of burning tankers amongst or on outskirts of convoy (maximum number seen at one time was four) when approached by escorts they dived at about 1000 yards range and were frequently undetected by Asdics. None seen to retire on surface at high speed. Two definitely seen to dive under burning tankers.  
(5) "Raspberries" were commenced but usually abandoned as U-Boats were sighted and seen to dive. "Snowflakes" not used by convoy. Operation "Murder" was justified as in one case U-Boat was seen and attacked.  
(6) Two unsuccessful daylight attacks were made from undetermined positions.  
(7) HAVELOCK only ship fitted with H/F D/F. Sweeps were carried out as result of some bearings obtained. No M/F D/F bearings obtained but U-Boats were seen ahead of convoy near horizon (? using V/S).  
(8) Total number of attacks made on convoy six night, two day. Result of counter measures as claimed by HAVELOCK two probably sunk, one severely damaged, two probably damaged.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1922A/14 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)
- ALBULA. My 1122/11. Sailing of Swiss ALBULA postponed until about 17th January.  
(D.E.W.D., 1100A/14 to V.A. Gib.)
- G.U.S.3. Request Gibraltar and Oran sections R/V 33° 58' N. 07° 57' E. at 1400Z/18 with Casablanca section G.U.S.3.  
(S.N.O.C.A., 1107/14 to N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C., V.A. Gibraltar, Admty., (R) Cominch, Cinclant.)

/U.G.S.3 ...



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

U.G.S.3. Your 1055A/13. C.T.F.33 states convoy U.G.S.3  
ELMA. anchored off Buoy Z NYD 12th Dec. vessel believed  
to be ELMA No.84 was present at sometime between  
1500/12th December and 0800/13 Dec. vessel No. 84  
straggled. Port Director my 2056/14 listed. Barkdull in PLY 3  
ELMA as vessel No. 84.  
(S.N.O.C.A., 1225A/14 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cominch, Admty.)

LORD Your 1022A/14th. At 1300A/14th my P.C. and S.  
NUFFIELD. 036° 52' N. 007° 26' W. 273°, 8.5 knots.  
(LORD NUFFIELD, 1305A/14 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Situation Area 'X' 2002A/14th.  
Reports. 1. P.219, 036° 55' 009° 11' 335°, diving by day  
2½ surfaced by night 10.  
2. M.K.S.5 BLACK SWAN, 2 sloops, 8 corvettes,  
1 trawler (E) 038° 57', 013° 37' through 039° 58', 015° 10'  
thence 003°, 6.  
3. ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER 028° 53', 014° 46' 042°, 1.  
4. IMPERIALIST 035° 40', 006° 15' 230°, 9.  
5. K.X.8 (Freetown section) U.S. Ship AUK, P.C. 028° 35', 012°  
32' through 027° 56', 013° 42' thence 213°, 8½.  
6. LORD NUFFIELD 071° 15', 009° 06' to R/V 3 merchant ships off  
Tagus 0600/15th and escort coastwise to Gibraltar 7½.  
NORTHERN FOAM 036° 56', 008° 26' to overtake 6 knots.  
7. K.M.F.1 WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, GORLESTON,  
WEAR, WEYLAND 036° 01' 011° 50' through 036° 01' 009° 58' thence  
through Straits home.  
VANOC sailed 1800/14th westbound to R/V K.M.F.7 daylight 15th.  
WESTON then parts company proceeds Gibraltar 14 knots.  
8. H.M. Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA 040° 04', 013° 01' through  
040° 13' 013° 13' thence 000°, 10.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1400A/14.)  
Situation report area 'Z'.  
(i) (See 5 in preceding signal).  
(ii) Portuguese naval tanker SAM BRAZ 28.24, 32.28, 242°, 11.  
(iii) D.64, DUMONT D'URVILLE, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, H.M.S. FANDANGO.  
S.O of Escort BELLWORT, BUTSER, BIRDLIP 17.51, 16.20 northbound  
coastwise 8.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1452A/14.)

Cable Intend to sail MIRROR escorted by KINGSTON  
Repairs. CHRYSOLITE at 1000A/15 to effect repairs to  
Fayal - San Miguel cable in position 37.41 N.  
25.46 W.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1536A/14 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Italian Your 1759/13. Efforts are being made to arrange  
Repatriations. Third Flight and Italians are being asked to  
confirm it will take place. Indications so far  
as favourable. S.B.N.Os are therefore to be  
retained pending further instructions.  
(M. Branch, 1818A/14 to V.A. Gibraltar.)

/SCOTTISH ...



War Diary.

14.1.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

SCOTTISH,  
BLACK SWAN.

Your 1053/14th. Vessel not met. Rejoining you by stragglers route 10 knots. My position 37.35 N. 11.20 W., 40. Weather.  
(SCOTTISH, 1820Z/14 to BLACK SWAN, FAULKNER, V.A. Gibraltar.)

ABDIEL,  
mines.

Your 1958/4. The 450 American Mark VI mines as supplied for ABDIEL are fitted with 53 fathoms of mooring rope and 20 feet antennae.  
(2) They are therefore not suitable against surface vessels in depths greater than about 58 fathoms.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1846Z/14 to N.C.X.F., (R) S.N.O.C.A., Admty.)

Movements,  
Casablanca.

Warships. U.S.S. MAYRANT arrived Casablanca from Safi, U.S.S. OSPREY and P.C.474 arrived Casablanca from Gibraltar.  
(S.N.O.C.A., 1914Z/14 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty., Cominch.)



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

BURDOCK,  
K.X.8. BURDOCK's 1401/13th.  
(1) After fuelling BURDOCK is to be sailed to  
join escort of convoy K.X.8.  
(2) Convoy K.X.8 routed from position (G) 024°  
35' N. 016° 00' W. to (H) 020° 00' N. 018° 30' W. E.T.A.  
position (G) 1100 16th Jan. Estimated S. of A. 8½ knots.  
(3) Convoy consists of 10 ships for Freetown. CORINTHIAN  
S.O. of escort.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 0010Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) Admty.  
BURDOCK, CORINTHIAN, BELLWORT.)  
Your 0010Z/14 BURDOCK sailed 1300Z/14 estimated S. of A.  
13½ knots. Expected to R/V with convoy K.X.8 before dark 16th.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1657/14 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) CORINTHIAN,  
BELLWORT, Admty.)

JANUS  
GLENROY. Departure 13th Jan. JANUS, GLENROY. Admiralty  
Message Q.Z.H. 71 L 52 S 392 X 907 Y 371.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 0017Z/14 to Admty etc.)

EMPIRE  
WOODLARK. Owners have represented that EMPIRE WOODLARK  
should return to U.K. to carry out thorough  
overhaul and to exchange crew.  
2. Request report.  
(D. of S.T. 0501A/14 to D.S.T.O. Durban (R)  
P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

HIGHLAND  
PRINCESS. Should be bunkered to capacity and not as given  
in my 0312/23/12 para. 3.  
(D. of S.T. 0512A/14 to C. in C. S.A.)

PRUDENT,  
wreck of  
MELISKERK. Your 2211/13th (N.T. in W.R.) Strong S.S.W. wind,  
heavy swell. Forced to stand off from wreck  
since midnight. Weather moderating slowly.  
(PRUDENT 0600C/14 to N.O.I.C. Durban.)

EXPRESS Simonstown departure 0815C/14th EXPRESS to join  
escort of W.S. 25 to Durban.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1000C/14 to Admty., Cdre. i/c Durban,  
QUILLIAM.)

Situation  
Reports. PRUDENT tug BOLD standing by MELISKERK in vicinity  
031° 33' S 029° 40' E. A.S.10 037° 42' S. 034° 45'  
E. to Aden 18.  
CHESHIRE, EXPRESS, ROCKWOOD with W.S.25 033° 20' S  
016° 20' E. to Durban 12½. QUILLIAM about 033° 25' S. 017° 10' E  
to Simonstown E.T.A. 0430Z/15th. INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA escorting  
INTEGRITY tow crane lighter off Cape Recife to Durban 5.  
LADY ELSA, WELLARD 018° S. 011° 20' E. to Walvis Bay 10.  
NORWICH CITY, SPHENE 034° 20' S 025° E. to Port Elizabeth E.T.A.  
1400Z/15th. MEAD leave (?Port Elizabeth) 14th Jan. for Durban.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1048C/14.)



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - contd.

- U.G.F.5            A.M.1535A/13 not to all addressees and B.A.D. 1935Z/11.  
1. Propose MALCOLM and WOLVERINE escort ship ex U.G.F. 5 if dates are not materially altered. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1245Z/14 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gib, B.A.D.)
- Troop Moves, Admty. 2355A/12 and N.C.X.F.1248/13.  
West Africa. 1. CYCLAMEN arrives Casablanca about 21st Jan. N.C.X.F. is requested to sail her as one of escort.  
2. Intend BRIDGEWATER or CORINTHIAN and 1 Corvette to relieve escort of 43rd Group. M.O.M.P. in 20° N. 28° W. at 0800Z/28 Jan.  
3. Onward escort from Bathurst will be arranged. (F.O.C.W.A.1249Z/14 to Admty., N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, G.O.C. W.Af.)
- ALCANTARA        Arrival 14th Jan.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 1431Z/14 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)  
ALCANTARA has severely damaged her stoddart and pitt aircraft crane preventing her from using her aircraft. (2) It is intended to use ALCANTARA for Ocean Escort of A.F.D.24 from Trinidad. Propose therefore that she proceeds for repairs to Bermuda, New Orleans or other suitable Port sailing thence to overtake dock at Trinidad.  
(3) Lower portion of Jib requires reconstruction with renewal of main upper and lower members.  
(4) If approved request drawings of crane may be sent to New Orleans by Air Mail.  
(F.O.C.W.A.1855Z/14 to Admty., (R) B.A.D. Washington, ALCANTARA, S.B.N.O. W. At.) Amended 1925Z/14.
- D.64.            My 0321Z/13 para 7 B. Estimated position of convoy D.64 at 0800Z/17 is 024° 52' N 015° 06' W. Approach course 044° speed 8 knots.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1527Z/14 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) B.N.L.O. Dakar, CYCLAMEN, Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, CORINTHIAN.)
- ILEX            Arrival 14th Jan.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 1447Z/14 to Admty. etc.)

/PETUNIA ...



14.1.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

## PETUNIA.

My P.C. and S. at 0930 G.M.T. was 14.42 N.  
17.42 W. 172° 10.5. Weather report.  
(? PETUNIA 1611Z/14 to F.O.C.W.A.)

## MATADIAN.

MATADIAN, Palm, oil tanker, now ready to sail  
for U.K. speed 10 knots. Has only two feet  
freeboard. Master does not consider North  
Atlantic passage via Hampton Roads safe at this  
time of year. Propose to sail her for U.K.  
independently. No escort available.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1709Z/14 to Admty.)

Working up  
Facilities.

Report facilities for working up one A.A.  
cruiser in A.A. firings, stating whether targets  
are fitted for R.D.F. response.  
(D.G.D. 1845A/14 to F.O.I.C. Freetown (R)  
C. in C. S.A.)

## Movements.

Departure 14th Jan. M.Ls 290, 281 escorting  
"Ponce".  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1929Z/14 to Admty. (R) B.N.L.O.  
Dakar.)

Departure 14th Jan. U.S. Destroyer EBERLE, U.S. Destroyer  
LIVERMORE, U.S. Aircraft Carrier SANTEE.

(R.O. Recife 1931Z/14.)

Departure 14th Jan. P.614, Q.L.A.145, Q.G.A.120.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 2233Z/14 to Admty. etc.)

LE FANTASQUE  
LE TERRIBLE.

My 2215/13. Sailed LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE.  
1359Z/14.  
(B.N.L.O ? Dakar 1934Z/14 to F.O.W.A., S.N.O.  
Casablanca, V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F.)

## O.19.

1. Intend sailing Netherlands Submarine O.19  
at 1800Z/16 for U.K.

2. Submarine passes position (following  
positions North and West.)

A. 009° 00' N. 017° 02' W. at (?19)00Z/17.

B. 10° 00' N. 17° 46' W. at 0240Z/18.

C. 14° 59' N. 19° 23' W. at 1340Z/19.

D. 29° 59' N. 20° 01' W. at 1800Z/23.

E. 42° 11' N. (?14°) (?48') at 0800Z/27.

F. 49° 59' N. 08° 01' at 1800Z/30.

3. S. of A. on the surface 9 knots S. of A. submerged 3 knots.  
Submarine dives by day after passing position E.

4. Submarine (?shifting) to N.A. W/T organization at 2000Z/20  
and to Home Station W/T organization at (?20)00Z/27. S.P.  
02358 and S.P. 02319 series.

5. Request route from position F may be signalled and that  
bombing restrictions be imposed.

(F.O.W. Af. 2013Z/14 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar,  
C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia, F.O.(S), O.19,  
A.O.C.W.A.)



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14.1.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

BRIDGEWATER. My P.C. and S. at 2100Z 007° 19' N. 021° 01' W. 096° 10.5 with DAVID STONE and BENJAMIN SMITH in company. Your 1255Z to ARMERIA no other orders than to proceed to Marshall. My maximum speed owing to faults Brickwork 11.25. E.T.A. Marshall 1000Z/17th. ARMERIA detached 1930Z/14th. Weather report.  
(BRIDGEWATER 2110Z/14 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Capt. D. Freetown.)

Mediterranean.

S.T. organisation at Jibuti. Your 1026/8. You must be guided by F.O.C.R.S.F. as regards policy of setting up S.T. organisation at Jibuti. No objection from D. of S.T. provided staff is available in M.E.  
(M.W.T. 0006A/14 to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

PARTHIAN. Proceeding on one engine, E.T.A. 1300.  
(PARTHIAN 0346B/14 to Capt. (S) 1 (R) C. in C. Med. No.201 N.C.Group.)

A.K.6. 10 and 12. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  SALWEEN Kilindini, 14 ARAWA Kilindini Durban.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 0433Z/14.)

Black Sea. (1) Naval. Russians report that a German 250 ton submarine and a 20-ton submarine under German flag were at Bourgas January 2nd. Increased movement of enemy shipping in Kerch Straits reported.  
(2) Russian batteries successfully shelled enemy batteries ammunition dumps etc. in Novorossisk area Dec. 30th, Dec. 31st and Jan. 1st. Considerable number of troops and equipment arriving Sukhum daily by rail.  
(L.O. Black Sea, T.O.R. 0719/14th to Admty. etc.)

TAURUS. Departure 13th Jan.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria 0911B/14 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

MARIPOSA. Middle East's move 1/96302 Jan. 13th, para.3. Propose embarking in MARIPOSA ex Suez about 4th Feb. for U.S.A. 29 A.F.S., 500 German prisoners of war and British escort and details as available. Ex Massawa 500 U.S. Civilians.  
(ii) Request concurrence.

/(iii) ...



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.MARIPOSA  
(contd.)

(iii) F.O.R.S.C.A. requested concur call at Massawa and arrange escort if considered necessary.  
 (iv) Agreed G.H.Q. Middle East. Massawa pass to Mov. Massawa.  
 (P.S.T.O. M.E. 0933/14 to Admty. for D. of S.T.  
 (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. E.F., G.H.Q. M.E. etc.)

Movements.

My 1957A/13th add arrivals at Mers El Kebir  
 WISHART, ASHANTI, WITHERINGTON, BARBOURNE.  
 (F.O.I.C. Oran 0939A/14.)

Air R/C.

P.R.U. 14th Jan. 0745, Taranto, visuals 1 battleship inner 1 outer harbour. Photographs taken. 0830, Messina, visuals only 3 (?cruisers\*)  
 (N.O.I.C. Malta 0955A/14 to C. in C. Med. etc.)  
 P.R.U. 14th Jan. 1230, Messina, visual 3 cruisers. Photographs taken. Taranto was not covered.  
 (V.A. Malta 1340A/14 to C. in C. Med. etc.)  
 P.R.U. 14th Jan. 1555, Messina, Visuals 3 cruiser photographs taken. Taranto was not covered.  
 (V.A. Malta 1655A/14th to C. in C. Med. etc.)  
 \* Repetition of \* requested.

Situation  
Report No.46.

(1) 813 Squadron. 3 Swordfish from Bone attacked merchant shipping in Lake of Bizerta on p.m. 12th Jan. in bad weather. One probable hit is claimed on a 7000 ton merchant ship. Flare aircraft bombed Ferryville.  
 (2) Bone. Minesweeping continues. 17 mines swept between 8th Jan. and 12th Jan. of which 5 were cut, remainder detonated. All German type R. Six F.W.190 bombed Tabarka p.m. 11th Jan., no damage.  
 (3) VILLE DE QUEBEC escorting T.E.13 rammed and claims sank German U-boat in 36.37 N. 01.10 E. at 1600/13th Jan. (One survivor recovered.)  
 (N.C.X.F. 1100A/14 to Admty.)

TURBULENT.

Arrived.  
 (V.A. Malta 1110A/14 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

12th A.F.  
daily  
report.

Between Tunisia and Sicily, 6 B.25s on counter Shipping Mission. Already damaged freighter probably destroyed. All other Missions cancelled due weather.  
 (12th Air Force 1151Z/14 to U.S.F.O.R.)

Cositrep  
No.655.

3. Air. Night 12/13 Jan. Beauforts and Naval Albacores from Malta laid mines off Sfax. Malta Wellingtons unable to bomb Tunis owing to cloud attacked Sousse Harbour starting fires and explosions on Quay. Another Wellington bombed a large ship stationary inshore South of Sousse starting a small fire on board.



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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Cositrep  
No.655  
(contd.)

4. 13 Jan. Bad weather seriously hampered operations. American B.20 (or 24)s were despatched to bomb shipping in Sousse harbour. Owing to weather only six reached objective and bombed with unobserved results. Another formation despatched to attack shipping at Tripoli could not locate target owing to weather. Malta Beaufighters attacked a fifteen hundred ton merchant vessel off Kerkenah Islands with cannon fire scoring many hits.  
(C. in C. M.E. 1212B/14.)

P.54.

Capt. (S) 10th S.F.'s 1315/13th. Pass 038° 28' N. 008° 01' E. at 1200/17th 038° 07' N. 005° 10' E. at 1900/18th, thence on surface at your discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 037° 01' N. 003° 14' E. at 0820 19th.  
(Capt. S.8 1230A/14 to P.54 (R) Subs. on Patrol, Cmdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10 S.F., N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S., (S.O. Qabes.) (sic).)

U/B  
sunk.

Following has been received from Aircraft. Am over enemy submarine in 34.8 N. 16.34 E. (Alexandria W/T 1326A/14.)  
Following has been received from Aircraft. I can direct you over S/M being 112° distant 4 miles.  
(Alexandria W/T 1358/14.)

Enemy S/M has been severely damaged by air attack and surface attack.

(A/C C/S GMRQ 1425/14 to Air H.Q. Malta.)  
see A.H.Q. Malta 2033/14.

BARTOLO  
(Spanish)

My 1630/12th (Spanish steamer BARTOLO loading fruit for Germany) B left harbour 1600 today stated via (Baltic?)  
(Alicante 1630/14 to D.N.I.)

S/Ms.

Sailed P.45, RORQUAL, TIGRIS.  
(V.A. Malta 1636A/14 to Admty., C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, (R) N.C.X.F.)

S/Ms leave Malta searched channel at 1500A/14th as follows.

- (1) RORQUAL by route in my 1145/5th to position K thence through J to carry out special operations in the Sicilian Channel.
- (2) P.45 through 036° 03' 014° 00' thence direct to his patrol area west of line 340° for Kerkenah No.4 Buoy and north of latitude 035° 50'.
- (3) TIGRIS through 035° 20' 014° 14' thence course 50° to patrol north of latitude 038° including Adriatic.  
(Capt. S.10 1744A/14 to S/Ms on Patrol (R) C. in C. Med.  
Capt. (S) 1, N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8.)

/Aerial ...



14.1.1943  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Aerial barrage at Algiers. Your 1655A/12. Time of drift controlled by self destruction device which is adjustable to one, two, three or four hours. Distance dependent upon wind speed at flying height of balloons which can be adjusted at the time of release to any height between 6000 and 30,000 feet. Balloons can be used concurrently with A/A gun defence. Night fighters could not however operate down wind from releasing point except at heights considerably in excess of that to which balloons are set. Apparatus is fired by aircraft striking wire and causing bomb to become detached from balloon and drawn against aircraft by drogue parachute at opposite extremity of wire. Balloons are released over frontage desired at the rate of 10 per hour from each release hut. Proposal would be to send ten huts as a trial unit. Success of apparatus would be largely dependent upon adequate warning of enemy approach and knowledge of operating heights. This form of defence has not been adequately tested in U.K. owing to availability of sufficient night fighters. If night fighter protection is considered inadequate for protection of more easterly North African ports it is felt that this form of balloon defence would help.

(D.B.D. approved by A.C.N.S.(F) 1653A/14 to N.C.X.F.)  
Reply: N.C.X.F. 1549A/18.

U/B. Hostile submarine reported 10 miles east of Jijelli at 1630/14th.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1705A/14 to Escorts of convoy T.E. No.13 (R) S. and A. Area G.)

P.35. From 1200A/15th keep South of Lat. 035° 50' P.45 will be operating North of this Lat.  
(Capt. S. 10 1726A/14 to P.35 (R) P.45.)

UNA, P.44. Leave patrol p.m. Jan. 15th and return Malta.  
(1) UNA through 180° Ustica 10 miles thence direct to G and by usual route to arrive Malta 1300/18th.  
(2) P.44 through 360° Ustica 10 miles thence direct to G and by usual route to arrive Malta 1300A/19th. Speed to be adjusted to pass G, UNA at 2000/16th and P.44 24 hours later. RORQUAL may be encountered during your passage from H J K.  
(Capt. S.10 1755/14, 2310A/14 to UNA, P.44 (R) C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F., Capt. S.8, Subs. on Patrol, PALLAS.)

M.K.S.6. M.K.S.6. N.O.I.C. Bone is requested to sail convoy M.K.S.6 at 1800A/18th routed through 96, 18, 36, 99, 85, 036° 57' N. 003° 07' E. 89, 44, 109, 68, 70, 22, 78, 37, letters A to Q omitting (I) while stragglers as convoy route. S. of A. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
(2) Ocean route  
(P) 36.31 10.01. (Q) 39.59 15.10. (R) 49.20 14.35.  
(S) 55.00 09.59. (T) 55.25 08.30 all north and west.  
For stragglers - letters U to Y with instructions to keep 30 miles to port.



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.M.K.S.6.  
(contd.)

- (3) Escort  
 (A) Bone to Algiers BADDECK, ALBERNI, POZARICA, WILTON, WHEATLAND, PORT ARTHUR.  
 (B) Algiers to Gibraltar PORT ARTHUR, BADDECK, ALBERNI, BUDE, FELIXSTOWE, LUNENBURG, SUMMERSIDE.  
 (C) Ocean escort PELICAN, LYME REGIS, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR, WORTHING, AZALEA, GERANIUM, SPIREA, SENNEN, ROTHER, SPEY.  
 (4) Section joins with local escort as follows. All times Zone A.  
 (A) Philippeville in position 36 at 0700/19th.  
 (B) Bougie in position 99 at 1700/19th.  
 (C) Algiers at 36.57 N. 03.07 E. at 0930/20th.  
 (D) Oran in position 109 at 1600/21st.  
 (E) Gibraltar in position 35.56 N. 05.45 W. at 0700/23rd or as ordered by V.A. Gibraltar.

(5) Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Riband".

(6) First two letters of W/T call sign T Y (7) AGM AZ Oran CON 329.

(N.C.X.F. 1818A/14 to F.O.I.C. and N.O.I.C. French N. Africa, H.Q. Eastern Air Command, Commanding General 12th U.S. Air Force, V.A. Gibraltar, Admty., A.H.Q. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A.)

Situation (a) and (b) Nil (c) LANARKSHIRE p.m. 15th  
 Report. POLO p.m. 16th FORT SENNEVILLE p.m. 18th  
 Bougie. (d) 1 enemy aircraft shot down by Beaufighter 1815/13th off Bougie (e) and (f) Nil (g) 275 (h) 3800 (i) 1150.  
 (N.O.I.C. Bougie 1827A/14 to N.C.X.F.)

E.A.C. Op. Summ. No.64 1800 hours 12 Jan to 1800  
 Report. hours 13 Jan. A. Operations. Night. 3  
 Swordfish detailed to attack shipping Ferryville, one A/C carrying flares and 2 250 lb. bombs dropped bombs on square building in town. 1 A/C dropped torpedo and estimates hit amidships M/V 6/8000 tons. Explosion seen by all 3 A/C. Third A/C attacked smaller M/V, no results observed. 1 Hudson escorting convoy, Hanke Rathnure at 1604 saw corvette ram U-boat after U-boat had been surfaced by Corvette's depth charges.  
 12th U.S. Air Force. 6 B.25s escorted by 8 P.38s detailed to attack shipping between Tunis Sicily. 6 500 lb. bombs dropped on partially sunken A/V. Vessel believed destroyed.  
 (E.A.C. Africa 1950A/14.)

Movements. Algiers arrivals VILLE DE QUEBEC, CLACTON, BRIXHAM, BARANA, tug EMINENT with T.E.13.  
 Departures POZARICA, WHEATLAND, WILTON, M.M.S.118 BARFLAKE, Tug JAUNTY eastwards with T.E.13.  
 SHIANT, French escorts LA SETOISE, SERGENT GOUARNE with 4 French M/Vs to Oran.  
 (Cdre. Algiers 2008A/14.)

/Malta ...



14.1.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Malta A.I. 525 14th Jan. Part 1. Offensive.  
 Air Report. Night 13th 14th Jan. Bad weather curtailed offensive operations.  
 Day 14th Jan. Five Spitfire Bombers escorted by five Fighter Spitfires attacked Lampedusa airfield at 0905 hours dropping ten 250 lb. bombs and scoring hits among dispersed aircraft. Another five Spitfire Bombers and five Spitfire Fighters made afternoon attack on Lampedusa. Ten 250 lb. bombs were dropped scoring hits on N.W. corner of Airfield. One Baltimore on R/C in Kelibia Tripoli area sighted one schooner 210° Kuriat 3 miles and attacked with machine gun fire scoring numerous hits. Three Beauforts made A/S patrols ahead of our south eastbound Convoy. One Beaufort sighting submarine 1230 hours 136° Malta 137 miles approaching Convoy from 6 miles ahead dropped four 250 lb. depth charges which blew submarine bows out of water and forced it to settle stationary on surface. Beaufort then made six machine gun attacks on submarine scoring numerous hits on C/T. Submarine was left being attacked by Naval Units attracted to scene of action by Beaufort's signals.  
 Part 2. Enemy Air Activity Night 13th/14th Jan. Nil.  
 Day 14th Jan. Today a total of 12 Beaufighter Sorties has been flown to protect friendly convoy departing southeastwards. At 0935 hours 3 Beaufighters encountered 4 4-engined enemy aircraft in position 160° Malta 100 miles course 220° and attacked, damaging 1 of them without loss to themselves. No enemy air attacks on the convoy have been reported while it was under our protection. Several enemy aircraft which approached Malta on a high Fighter R/C at 1010 hours were intercepted North of Island by 8 Spitfires and turned back. (A.H.Q. Malta 2033/14.)

## DERNA.

Departures 1700/14th SEBASTIAN Marseilles oranges and fruit pulp. 1900 Italian DERNA Genoa onions. Castellon arrival 12th French LEZARDRIEUX in ballast to load oranges for Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 2200/14.)



495

14.1.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

ASTER,  
VESCA  
KAROA. Departure 0150Z/14 ASTER escorting hired transport VESCA KAROA. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0159Z/14.)

NIDAROS. Your 1726/12. NIDAROS. No further information. (C. in C. E.F., 0731Z/14 to Admty.)

Movements Summary No. 36. (1) HAWKINS left Kilindini 13th Jan. due Diego Suarez 15th Jan. thence R/V with convoy C.M.37B on 16th Jan. to relieve FROBISHER and escort convoy to Bombay. FROBISHER to Kilindini. (2) BIRMINGHAM left Kilindini 13th Jan. due Diego Suarez 15th Jan. thence R/V with convoy M.C.3 on 17th Jan. to relieve DEVONSHIRE and escort convoy to Durban. On relief DEVONSHIRE to Kilindini. (3) CERES left Kilindini 13th Jan. due Durban 18th Jan. (4) CARADOC left Bahrein 12th Jan. due Bombay 16th Jan. (5) CAIRNS left Seychelles 12th Jan. due Kilindini 16th Jan. (6) Message No. 179 Y of 7th Jan. is cancelled. (C. in C. E.F., 0754Z/14.)

ILE DE FRANCE. ILE DE FRANCE arrived. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0942Z/14.)

Vessels ex C.M.37. Your 2050/11 escort will be available. G.H.Q. M.E. pass to P.S.T.O.E. (C. in C. E.F., 0946Z/14 to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

B.M. 37. Convoy B.M.37 Cochin portion arrived. (N.C.S.O. Cochin, 1000Z/14.)

U.S. Forces. A.M. 1109/7. Following changes in disposition of U.S. forces in Pacific:  
PHOENIX - Townsville Area.  
COPAHEE, CONCORD - At sea.  
(D.O.D.(F), 1043A/14.)

TAKAIWA. Departure TAKAIWA 14th Jan. to join convoy C.M.37B. (N.O.I.C. Tamatave, 1531Z/14.)

M.M.S.s. out of action over 5 months. C. in C. E.F. 1452Z/4th Jan. HATOUSE, TEAL, SUNBRUST GARTER. (F.O. East Africa and Zanzibar, 1639C/14.)

/Sinkings ...



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.Sinkings  
of U/Bs.

Reference number 239 Intel\* from S. of S. for  
For. Aff. to Ambasr., Cairo.  
Of 18 ships sunk off Durban and Lourenco Marques  
between 1st Nov. and 7th Dec. 1942 all were lost  
south of 024° S. and therefore not in Mozambique

Channel.

2. There is no reliable evidence that I am aware of to support the (? theory) that sinkings were due to information derived from enemy agents in Portuguese East Africa. More probably submarine commanders were operating in an obviously focal area e.g. the approaches to Lourenco Marques.
  3. No watertight bulkhead ships proper were sunk. Only ships chartered by D. of S.T. were NOVA SCOTIA carrying Italian prisoners of war and LLANDAFF CASTLE and MENDOZA who were carrying ordinary passengers, freight and service personnel below limit of unescorted ships.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1843Z/14 to Admty.)
- \* Not circulated by F.O. to Government Depts.

CORNCRAKE.

C. in C. E.F.'s 1202/9 not to all addressees.  
CORNCRAKE (ex MACKEREL) leaves U.K. 21st Jan.  
in K.M.S.8. She should arrive Kilindini early  
March.

2. V.A. Gibraltar is requested to sail CORNCRAKE coastwise to Freetown as convenient for onward routing to the Cape.  
(D.O.D.(F), 2009A/14 to C. in C. E.F., V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af,  
(R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.E.A.)

Shuttle  
service.

Reference A.M. 2155A/3rd Dec. para. 2 consider time  
has now arrived to terminate shuttle service.  
Date suggested for discontinuance is 15th Feb.  
2. Paras. 3 - 5 of A.M.1531A/6th Nov. to F.O.C.

- R.I.N. should be considered cancelled but first two Maritime drafts of 100 each have been sent.
- 3, 4, 5. Disposal of shuttle service personnel &c.
6. Further signal will be made to D.E.M.S. Staff Officers regarding the future supply of personnel which will include a good proportion of G.Ls for manning D.E.M.S. ships and for reliefs on Indian Station.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 2045A/14 to C. in C. E.F.)



War Diary.14.1.1945.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.10 Day  
cycle for  
mid ocean  
groups.

F.O.N.F. 0009Z/14 see Home Commands (Shipping.)

Crews  
for  
landing  
craft.

Your 1709/8. Officer complement for L.S.T. 38 to 55 incl. leave U.K. Mid. Jan. 2. Approx 800 ratings for L.S.T's leave by same passage, further details will be signalled. 3. Your para. 2 is under consideration meanwhile Red Ensign crews have been suspended until further information is available.  
(Admty., 0021A/14 to B.A.D.)

S/M.  
notices  
and  
Estimates.

(Cominch, 0432/14, 0433/14, 1450/14, 1451/14, 1523/14, 1524/14, 1525/14, 2225/14)

EL  
LIBERTADOR.

My 0927QR/13th. my 0946/13th. U.S. Army Transport EL LIBERTADOR put back from G.A.T.36 with engine defects.  
(S.O.(I) Curacao, 0925QR/14.)

Landing  
craft  
convoys  
Task  
Force  
32.

This is re-encipherment of C. in C. Lant's 0535/14. Admiralty please pass to N.C.X.F. and C.T.G. 26.7 (1) other interested (authorities?) informed. begins. Task force 32 (E) Captain Wilson hereby constituted as follows. Norfolk section MORENO about 12 British L.C.I's later commanded by Commander Rainier R.N. New York section, Captain Burgess Watson R.N. COLE, BERNADOS, DALLAS about 8

British L.S.Ts. These 3 Destroyers will be directed by Comdesron 31 to report to him upon completion availability at New York expected to be midnight 19th Jan. Both sections proceed independently to Bermuda. \* (3) Combine and proceed to Gibraltar. Safe loading of British craft is a British responsibility. All eastward routeings as prescribed by Cominch C. and R. operational control shifts from me to Admiralty at 40.00 West and then to Cincaf at 10.00 W. Upon arrival Gibraltar C.T.F. 32 report to me date ready to return when further orders will be given for return passage and for escort if any vessels ready. On returning follow Admiralty routeing. I will direct JEFFERS and MURPHY to report to you for escort of Norfolk Section as far as Bermuda only. Further orders these two destroyers will be given by me on arrival. Comse(?) for issue Captain Wilson orders to perform necessary travel air included in United States in connection this task. \* When ready about 20th January.  
(Cominch, 1141/14.)

/Division...



War Diary.14.1.1943  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

Diversions Orders. Commodore and ships for action. All southbound ships move position H.10° of longitude to the westward. FRAMLINGTON COURT, ARCHANGELOS and EMPIRE PENNANT move positions J and L 10° of Longitude to the westward and proceed through amended H.J. and L omitting K. thence as close inshore as safe navigation permits FRAMLINGTON COURT to destination, ARCHANGELOS and EMPIRE PENNANT to a point off Recife thence to M. COULGORM move position K.2° of latitude northwards and 6° of longitude eastwards, and position Z 9° of latitude southwards and proceed through amended H. to J. thence through amended K and Z to Freetown. BENREOCH, EMPIRE LIVINGSTONE, EMPIRE WHALE and BARON GRAHAM move position J.5° of longitude westwards, and proceed through amended H. and J. to K. OCEAN HUNTER, ALLERTON, BENVANNOCK, ALGENIB and FORT PELLY move position J.5° of longitude westwards and proceed through amended H and J to K thence to KK thence OCEAN HUNTER, ALLERTON and ALGENIB to V, BENVANNOCK and FORT PELLY to S amended by moving latitude 7° to the northward. Remain in convoy until further orders.  
(D.T.D.1150Z/14 to B.A.M.S., F.B.D.3.)

Routeing. Your 1456/8th Jan. not to C. in C. S.A. is it your wish that ships from South Africa or further east bound for South American East coast ports south of Bahia should be routed direct or to Bahia for south bound convoy.  
(D.O.D. 1210A/14 to Connav.)  
Your 1210A/14. Desire vessels destined ports east coast South America south of Bahia be routed direct from South Africa.  
(Cominch C. and R. 2057/14. to Admty.)

SEAWOLF. B.A.M.R. Washington 2104/7 B.Y.M.S. 16, B.Y.M.S.15 sail 1150Z/15 escorting H.M. Submarine SEAWOLF to Halifax Approaches thence Boston. Request C.O.A.C. supply onward route from Halifax to Boston.  
(F.O.N.F. 1240Z/14.)

S.C.117. S.C.117. C. Mid Ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.18 in SWALE plus ROSELYS, GARLAND, ORCHIS, NARCISSUS, LOBELIA, and ACONITE designated Ocean Escort for Convoy S.C.117. GARLAND fitted with H/F D/F.  
(Comtask 24, 1515Z/14.)

Task Force 38. C. in C. Lant's 1659/15 informs as follows: For Commander Clark in my 252030, substitute Commander Menocal. Commands both escort and convoy in accordance with LANTFLT 9A para. 15B. Also applicable is Secnav letter S.C.P. 17-1 of

July 18, 1942  
(Connaveu, 141012, to Admty.)252030 sent to you as our 260826, re establishment of task force 38 etc.

/DUANE...



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

DUANE, BABBITT. DUANE sailed at 1215Z/14 with U.S. Dest BABBITT in company to reinforce escort of S.C.116. Neither hold effective editions S.P.02459.\* Expected to join about 0800Z/16.  
(C.T.G.24. 6 1430Z/14 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24, Admty. C. in C. W, A etc.) \* Western Approaches Code Out.

Attacks on Convoy H.X.217. Ref. your 1705/14 Dec. 1942. 1. This story released to press in London without previously informing Opnav has again brought pressure on Navy Department to make Public all data on A/S warfare. (2) Opnav points out that U.S. Pby. piloted by Lieut. Lowell L. Davis took part in attack and this does not seem in accordance with para. 4 of your 1408/1. Further the release without previous information to U.S. does not appear to conform to the spirit of Para 5. of 1408/1. (3) Request reply so that explanation can be given.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 1543Z/14 to Admty.) Reply 0030/20.

G.Z.19. HYDROGRAPHER. Convoy G.Z.19 arrived less U.S. ship HYDROGRAPHER straggler.  
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 1545R/14.)

Dispositions. C. O.A.C. Halifax, 1610Z/14. See Lion Copy.

BRITISH TENACITY. Tanker Message. Your 1935/13 para 2. BRITISH TENACITY is motor vessel and critical speed too high for Tag., 36 slow.  
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1617Q/14, to Admty.)

O.N. Convoys reports. In future departure reports for O.N. ('S) J convoys will be made according to the following form.  
(A) Date and time of departure. (B) Speed.  
(C) Convoy Cdre. (D) List of ships with nationalities. (E) Latest S.Ps held by Merchant Ships.  
(F) Destinations of (?convoy) escort and latest S.Ps. (H) Estimates I.C.O. M.P. position and date. Connav pass to U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Cdre. 1st U.S. Naval Dist. Boston. Cdnt. 3rd U.S. Naval Dist. New York Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier. Cdr. Service instructions for the entry of H.M. Ships in your area 294.  
(C.T.G.24.6, 1618Z/14.)

A.T. Convoy escort. Your 1206/13th para. 3. U.S. Navy present view is that adequate escort can only be provided for A.T. convoy by dropping one U.G.F. convoy. (2) Question as to whether this is desirable is being discussed between War Dept. and Navy Dept.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 1651Z/14, to Admty.)

U.G.S.4. U.G.S.4 amend my 2025/4 to read first Chop 0900Z/23rd 2nd Chop 1700/1 Feb. escort Commander has.\*  
(Connav 1709/14 to Admty.)\*As received.

/S.S. EMPIRE...



War Diary.

14.1.1945.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.G.S.4 Contd. S.S. EMPIRE RIDLEY, PENNANT, number 64 returned New York from U.G.S.4. (P.D. New York, 1812Z/14.)

Convoy Cycles. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2126/12th N.S.H.Q. Ottawa concur in C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2126/12th provided (A) 4 Canadian groups are returned to the mid-Ocean Escort Force not later than (?May) (B) there is a withdrawal of forces from W.T.E.F. or W.S.F. (2) C.N.S. Canada 1638/7th refers. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1710Z/14.)

U/B Reports. U-Boats by D/F at 1632Z 14th in vicinity of 048° 30' N. 42° W. within 100 miles 12 260 kcs. Enigma U-Boats may be reporting you. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1737Z/14 to Ships escorting S.C.116. C.O.A.C. Halifax. F.O.N.F. (R) S.O.(I) Wellington. S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic. U.S. Chief of Naval Operations.) D/F bearings on 12260 Kcs at 1634Z indicate U-boat in your general vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 2115A/14, to Escorts of S.C.116, (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, A.C.I.C., C.T.G.24.7., C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.)

Convoy Cycles. C. in C.W.A. 1051/13 Cominch (C. and R.) 1438/13 in analysing proposals. I have used following standards and assumptions. Length of voyage Liverpool - New York, O.N. 19, O.N.S.23, H.X.16, S.C.20. Mid-ocean escorts sail following number of days after convoy. O.N. and O.N.S.1., H.X.5, S.C.6. Escorts spend following number of days at sea from base to base. O.N.12, O.N.S.15, H.X.11, S.C.14. One half of escort groups accompany H.X. and O.N.S., the other with S.C. and O.N. Location Westomp approx as at present for reasons set forth my 1733/7 Nov. Convoy sailing schedule O.N.D.day, O.N.S.D. Plus One, S.C.D. plus two, H.X.D. plus 7. On above basis my calculations show escorts theoretically spend 9 days at Eastern end 5 days Western 26 at sea for a complete cycle of 40 days. In view of discrepancies between these figures and the 7.5 days at each end given by Cominch in his 1438/13 and desirability mutual understanding, request what figures were used for following. (A) Time of sailing of escort after convoy sailed. (B) Time at sea from base to base for escort. (C) Location or other definition Westomp. (Paren\*) Attention invited fact that varying courses in vicinity Cape Race from almost North to East and their reciprocals render longitude alone impractical as definition Westomp. Distance from St. Johns must necessarily be controlling factor regarding time of junction of relieving escort. Method of performing transition to new system and assignment of groups to convoys as given in C. in C. W.A. 1051/13 considered excellent solution. Recommend placing ineffect. Further recommend definite decision on convoy sailing schedule be deferred pending receipt of information requested above and my opportunity to comment. (C.T.F. 24, 1927/14.) \* End of Paren omitted by originator.

/U.G.F.4...



War Diary.14.1.1945.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- U.G.F.4. Correct my 2026/4 and Port Director New York's 2158/13 longitude position (J) to read 007° 59'. (Connav, 1935/14 to C.T.F.34.)
- H.X.222. H.X. 222 refuelling impracticable. Task Unit 24.12.2 detached in 056° N. 042° W. proceeding St. John's 9.5 knots. Weather report 3453 5846. (ROXBOROUGH, 2000Z/14 to Comtask 24.7 A.C.I.C. C.T.G. 24.6 (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A. Connav, Comtask 24, F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q. Talk Unit 24.1.11, C.O.A.C. Georgetown.)
- Landing Craft. Your 2221/4. D. of S.T. has signalled in his Mast 19977 to Sparks his remarks on passage and loading of L.S.T.2. 301 and Admty. concurs. 2. However, with regard to carriage of L.C.T. as deck cargo it is desired to point out that L.S.T. are designed to carry L.C.T. for passage. Provided the Navy Dept. still consider it is safe, it is requested that at least one should be carried in order to obtain experience in the event of having to transport them to other parts of the world from here. 3. My 1935/7 para. 1 L.S.T.2. should be sailed in S.C. convoys. (D.O.D.(H), 2007A/14 to B.A.D.)
- Tug. Admty.'s 1325/6. Request I may be informed (A) which tug has been selected. (B) Her E.T.A. at New Orleans. (C) Her range. (D) Type of fuel. (B.A.D., 2045Z/14 to F.O.N.F.)
- A.F.D. XXIV. Request your signal your views concerning route for A.F.D. XXXIV. (B.A.D. 2055Z/14 to F.O.C.W.Af.)
- S.S. DALCROSS. Connav Serial 13 and 14. DALCROSS Serial 12 arrived Kircaldy 12th Jan. Original report of torpedoing should read 11th Jan. now believed reported in error. (Connav, 2105/14).
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. B. DALCROSS three torpedo misses. Sighting 0438Z/13 my 132114 changed to 39-52 W. 0657Z/13. Action to Admty. for O.I.C. from Cominch. Para. C. Fisherman sights sub area 04 S. 35 - 30 W. 0200Z/13. (Cominch, 2122/14.)
- H.X.223 H.X.223. consisting of 51 ships. 4 ships BISCAYA, EMPIRE REYNOLDS, BOOKERT, WASHINGTON and MORGENEN. did not join. Weather report 7481 2033. (W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8, 2145Z/14.)

/Auxiliary...



War Diary.

14.1.1945.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Auxiliary  
A/C  
Carriers.

Navy Dept. are planning turning over 2 auxiliary aircraft carriers to Comtask 24 for operations in N. Atlantic particularly with convoys when they are passing through areas not covered by shore based aircraft. (2) It is assumed ATTACKER and 2 other British A.C.Vs now in U.K. will be required for the new tanker convoys. Is this correct and can you forecast how the other 2 A.C.Vs now in U.K. and these shortly sailing from U.S. to U.K. will be employed and when. (3) Request report as to experience of BATTLER in H.X. 220 particularly how much the operation of aircraft was restricted by weather. (B.A.D., 2203Z/14 to Admty.)

Movements.

Bermuda arrivals U.S.S.C.678 and submarine R.5  
departures U.S.S. HAMILTON escorting ATASCOSA and  
MERAK.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 2219Q/14.)



War Diary.14.1.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.HILDA  
KNUDSEN.Your 1304A/13th HILDA KNUDSEN cargo (Tanker message) can be accepted.  
(A.C.N.B., 0429Z/14 to Admty.)Italians  
for exchange.

Following number of (a) sick and wounded and (b) protected Italian personnel are required to be moved to Middle East for exchange.

Category	Australia	India	South Africa	East Africa
Sick and wounded	89	409	292	397
Protected	500	356	-	100

2. A.C.N.B. and P.S.T.Os India and Capetown, and D.S.T.O. Kilindini are requested to make necessary arrangements for personnel from their respective ports and report what is proposed.

3. It is suggested that the personnel from Australia should be embarked in AQUITANIA for South Africa whence they could be on-carried unless an earlier or direct opportunity is available.

4. Agreed.  
(M.W.T., 0510A/14.)

Digest  
Serial  
No. 357.

Recco Kavieng morning 13th Jan.-7 vessels including 2 possible heavy cruisers 3 small warships and 2 cargo vessels.

(3) Single enemy destroyer sighted 1422Z/12 7° 15' S. 149° 20' E. course 270°.

(4) During forenoon 13th 3 Fortresses, 4 B.25s, 7 Beaufighters escorted by 8 Lightnings bombed and strafed Lae Aerodrome, docks, barges, stores scoring hits on buildings and jetty starting fires. No interception continued activity large barges between Lae and Salamaua.

(7) Merauke again bombed by 9 M/B afternoon 13th causing slight damage to jetty. Recco float-plane over area prior to raid.

(8) Indications enemy shipping using Queen Carola Harbour. Barge activity between there and Sohana Island (Buka Passage). Merchant vessel arriving Buka Passage 9th reported landed troops east coast Buka my serial No.353 refers.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0837Z/14.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1344A/14, 1405A/14.)



War Diary.

15.1.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Owing to shortage of man power A.M.Cs are to be paid off in order to commission the new escort carriers. The older, unmodernised carriers will be paid off now (RANCHI and WORCESTERSHIRE from E.I. Station and CHESHIRE and ALCANTARA from S.A. Station). Any resulting delay to troop and other convoys, on account of lack of escorts, must be accepted.

Home Commands.

Wick Harbour was reopened this morning.

It is reported that Norwegian SS. INGERFEM, a straggler from O.N.156 was torpedoed on 30th December in approx. 59° N. 21° W.

SARPEDON whilst minesweeping in company with PLAYMATES and WILLING BOYS in 150° Dungeness 2 miles was unsuccessfully machine-gunned and bombed by 3 F.W.190. One of the enemy is believed to have been hit by SARPEDON.

It is reported (B.3.) that HIPPER was damaged in the recent attack on Convoy J.W.51B: a boiler room was flooded and her speed reduced.

The Cabinet have approved the night bombing of Biscay U-Boat bases on the highest priority, and 123 aircraft of Bomber Command left to attack Lorient last night, 99 of which attacked in brilliant moonlight and good visibility. It is hoped that heavy scale night attacks now starting, coupled with day attacks by large forces of U.S. heavy bombers and Biscay mining operations will seriously hamper U-Boat operations.

Six Bostons, with fighter escort, attacked the whale-oil vessel SOLGLIMT in dry dock at Cherbourg at 1150 today; the ship was not hit but numerous bursts were seen on the neighbouring quays and jetties.

ADVENTURE reported Operation A.S.1 completed at 2245A.

38 out of 46 aircraft laid 101 mines successfully last night in Biscay ports.

/DRAGON ...



War Diary.

15.1.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

DRAGON (Eastern Fleet) commissioned at Liverpool today as a unit of the Polish Navy.

Foreign Stations.

With the B.T. (Bahia - Trinidad) convoys operating as from 13th January the Admiralty today issued details of the general policy of routeing from the Middle East, Indian Ocean and South Africa to the U.S. Atlantic seaboard, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea ports.

10th February and 8th March may be assumed as the sailing dates of the resumed O.S. and S.L. convoys respectively. (But see 20th January.)

North Atlantic.

The Germans claim to have sunk M.V. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE in approx. 23° N. 28° W., probable date 9th January. It was later reported by V.A. Gibraltar (18th January) that SS. SOLENT and WILBERFORCE were torpedoed and sunk at 1857/9 in 29.20 N. 26.53 W. Spanish MONTE ARNABAL picked up all passengers and crew except 3.

Mediterranean.

ORION, NUBIAN, JAVELIN and PAKENHAM returned to Malta at 0935 from escorting convoy M.E.15.

NUBIAN and KELVIN sailed from Malta this evening for a sweep off Kerkenah.

/Need ...



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. - Contd.Need for  
Albacores.

N.C.X.F. reports that opportunities of aircraft torpedo attack on enemy shipping between Sicily and Tunisia are still being missed because the Swordfish at Bone have such limited range that they can only reach targets in the immediate approaches to Bizerta. "Surely", he says, "at this critical moment it should be possible to find one Albacore Squadron for this vital service". On 18th January the Chiefs of Staff gave orders for 12 Albacores (826 Squadron) to be moved to Bone. ILLUSTRIOUS is to disembark 12 Albacores at Gibraltar; these will be regarded as reserves behind the Fleet Carriers in the Western Mediterranean and 826 Squadron.

Hudson Y/500 attacked and probably destroyed a U-Boat today in 37.36 N. 1.58 W.

S/ Last night Albacores and Beauforts laid mines off Kerkenah Islands. 12 Wellingtons bombed Bizerta docks in excellent weather; it is reported that most of the bombs fell in the dock area. U.S. B.24s despatched today to attack shipping in Tripoli secured hits on a wrecked merchant vessel followed by explosion and fire; damage by bombs appears to have been caused to other vessels, and also on shore, and aircraft attacking Castel Benito Aerodrome tonight saw a ship on fire in the harbour.

Western  
Desert.

An advance by the 8th Army began at 0715 this morning.

Enemy torpedo bombers attacked Benghazi p.m., without causing any naval damage.

Eastern  
Mediterranean.

At Benghazi, bad weather is still hampering the discharge of cargo, and further disintegration is occurring of the inner wharf and breakwater.

Cased petrol carriers ANNITSA (Greek) and HARBOE JENSEN (Norwegian) were torpedoed and sunk by U-Boats at 1235 today in approx. 33° 2' N. 21° 58' E. (off the coast of Cyrenaica). Both ships were fully loaded, the former was carrying 4,400 tons of petrol. (p. 533)

SS. QUEEN MARY arrived at Aden this morning and sailed this evening for Suez.



War Diary.

15.1.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

U.S. aircraft attacked a convoy of 2 or 3 ships with naval escort 250 miles S.S.E. of Rangoon. A 7000 ton M/V was disabled, with the crew abandoning her. A 5000 ton M/V continued under way after near misses. Barges and a tug were attacked and damaged in the Bhamo area.

America and West Indies.

ROXBOROUGH's bridge carried away last night in bad weather, about 300 miles south of Cape Farewell. Her Commanding Officer was killed, one rating was lost overboard, and her 1st Lieut. died of injuries today. At 1159Z GEORGETOWN, who is in company, reported that temporary repairs were being effected. The fuel situation is becoming acute and a tug with an escort was sent from St. Johns, to which, however, ROXBOROUGH returned under her own steam.

SS. SEMINOLE made a submarine distress report at 2203 and reported gunfire in 39.55 N. 70.3 W.

A Fortress aircraft straddled a fully surfaced U-Boat today in 57.40 N. 27.10 W., with 4 Torpex depth charges. The U-Boat remained on the surface for 3 or 4 minutes, then slid backwards at a steep angle.

Australia and New Zealand.

It is stated (D.O.R. No.1245) that on 5th January ACHILLES was hit by a bomb from a Japanese dive bomber and "B" turret was put out of action, whilst the ship was returning from the bombardment of Munda (New Georgia, Solomon Is.) with an American Task Force. (T.F.67)



War Diary.15.1.1945.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

VESPER. Your 1243/24th December and 1734/4th Jan. It has been decided that VESPER is to be converted to two boiler ship in accordance with C.A.F.O. 2471/41, and, on completion, allocated to W.A. Command. (D.O.D. H. 1037A/15 to C. in C. Nore.)

17th Division Destroyers. Your 1208/13. Concur. Reference A.M.1108/17/12 para. 6 request you will indicate names of Destroyers it is proposed to release, observing that:- (a) LANCASTER and NEWARK are expected to be available by about end of January. (b) One Destroyer of 17th Division will be required for escort duty for about three weeks from 10th February, but this can be one of the two to be released if more convenient to you. (D.D.O.D.M. 1526A/15 to R.A.M.)

Movements.

P.216. Arrival P. No. 216. (S.O. S/M. Lerwick 0149/15.)

P.312. P. 312 arrived. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0808/15.)  
P.49. Intend to sail P.312, P.49, and P.55 escorted by CUTTY SARK 1800A/16 for Holy Loch. Route. (S.O. S/M, Lerwick 1501A/15 and 0853A/16.)  
P.55.

ORIBI. S.B.N.O. B. Russia, 2020/14. Route from  
ORWELL. Seidisfjord West of Iceland - North of Ronamin.  
BOADICEA. Barrier to Scapa. (2) My 1504/14 refers. (C. in C. H.F. 0939A/15 to ORIBI, (R) ORWELL, BOADICEA.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. My 2350/13. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0940/15 to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
Rosyth arrived NEWFOUNDLAND. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1620A/15.)

H.32. Plot indicates W.P. 279 in 265° Lands End 6 miles at 0900 speed 7 knots, and MALLOW escorting H.32 eastbound in 190° Lands End 5 miles at 0900, speed 7 knots. (2) ELLESMERE is to be detached from W.P. 279 at 1100 to R/V with and relieve MALLOW as escort for H.32 to Portsmouth by convoy route. (C.in C. Plymouth, 0944A/15 to MALLOW.)  
Estimate H.32 escorted by ELLESMERE bound Needles will pass Portland early a.m. 16th H.32 should keep ahead W.P.279 to avoid being overtaken and Westbound ships including convoy should be warned of movements of H.32. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1213A/15 to ELLESMERE, H.32 etc.)

/Estimate...



War Diary.15.1.1945.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

H.32. Estimate you will pass ELLESMERE escorting H.32  
Contd. in 255°. Portland Bill 14 miles at 0015.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2255A/15 to Escorts P.W. 279.)

WALPOLE. My 2125A/14. Sailed. E.T.A. 0100A/17.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 1052A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

BARB,  
BLACKFISH. (1) BARB and BLACKFISH R/V with escort in  
position to 000°. Round Island cycle 7 miles at  
1600A/16th, proceed on surface at C.O.'s  
discretion when West of 009° W. (2) S/ms are to  
report after dark tonight if unable make R/V within one hour of  
this time.  
(F.O.S. 1151A/15 to S/M's.)  
BARB and BLACKFISH arriving 000°. Round Island 7 miles at  
1600A/16th. Proceed as necessary to meet them.  
(Capt S.3. 1425A/15 to MALLOW.)  
Estimated P.C.S. 2000A/15th, 049° 47' N. 012° 00' W. 086°  
15 knots.  
(BARB, 2033A/15, to F.O.S.)

TORBAY TORBAY and P.339 are to be sailed for Gibraltar  
P.339. on 19th January.  
(F.O.S. 1159A/15 to Capt. S.3.)

GUNNEL. Sailed GUNNEL escorted by PARRSBORO.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1208A/15.)  
GUNNEL escorted by PARRSBORO South-bound in Irish  
Sea to-night.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1743A/15 to DAFFODIL, etc.)

VIRGINIA. When ready for sea. VIRGINIA should be sailed to  
Londonderry for further short work-up prior to  
sailing to Gibraltar for onward routeing to  
Kilindini. It is proposed to use her for special escort duty and  
after work-up she should be sailed to arrive Milford Haven about  
1st February.  
(D.O.D. H. 1216A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

OBEDIENT. Scapa arrival OBEDIENT.  
(A.C.O.S. 1230A/15.)

P.56. My 1034/14. Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1331/15.)

W.A. Situation at 2004A/15. Details.  
Command. (C. in C. W.A. 1358A/15, 1758A/15.)  
See Lion Copy.

/S/M...



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

S/M At 0800A/16. Details.  
Positions. (F.O.S. 1642A/15, 0827A/16, 1232A/16)

PENELOPE. H.F. 2354/9. After embarkation of personnel and stores on 17th January request you sail PENELOPE for Gibraltar routed through position K.55° N. 13° W.L. 51° N. 16° W.M.40° N. 17° W. N. 36° N. 11° W. 2. Thence to Gibraltar as ordered by V.A. Gibraltar. (D.O.D.H. 1710A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Your 1704/15. Route for PENELOPE. (B) 270° Oversay 6 miles (C) 055° 30' N. 010° 01' (D) 049° 40' N. 015° 35' W. (E) 043° 01' N. 016° 01' W. and thence as routed by V.A. Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A. 1921A/15 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operations.

Unknown Request you will sail a destroyer to act in  
operation. accordance with my 0010/15 para. 7. (2) Approx E.T.A. R/V 1000A/16th. (A.C.O.S. 0018/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation M.T.B.s 631 (S.O.), 619, 625 and 626 sailed 0930/  
V.P. 15th for Patrol L. My 1009A/14 Operation V.P. Patrol B cancelled. (A.C.O.S. 1002/15 to Adnty.)

Coastal Intend M.L. 247 and R.M.L. 497 to Patrol tonight  
Patrols. on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 020° 05' W. 2. Leave Portland at 1700 via Q.Z.S.382 to patrol line, adjusting position so as to cover passage of P.W. and W.P. convoys. Leave patrol-line at dawn and return to base. 3. Object anti E-boat patrol. Code word "Artful."

(F.O.I.C. Portland 1130A/15.)  
M.G.B. 616 (S.O.) and 611 are to patrol weather permitting during dark hours tonight between 50° 31' N. 0° 35' E. and 50° 30' N. and 0° 05' W. keeping southward of convoy during its passage. Codeword "Jovial 2." KINGSTON TOPAZ and ASIE are to patrol southward of E.A.5 buoy. M.L.247 and R.M.L. 497 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 05' W. and 1° 30' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1322A/15.)

Two M.G.Bs. patrolling 14 miles south of Beachy Head. Two trawlers patrolling south of E.A.5 buoy. Two M.Ls. patrolling 15 miles south of Anvil Point. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1533A/15.)

Forthcoming Following is forecast of submarine movements and  
S/M is to be acted on. (A) TUNA, P.225, DZIK,  
Patrols. P.23, SOKUL leave Lerwick 25th for patrol returning about 8th February. (B) GRAPH, P.223, P.315, P.31, P.229 leave Lerwick about 11th February for patrol returning about 3rd March. (C) UREDD to arrive Lerwick.

/19th...



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Forthcoming  
S/M Patrols.  
(Contd.)

19th January and will be required for special operations leaving Lerwick about 30th January. (F.O.S., 1311A/15.)

Allied Air Activity.

Operation  
V.P. 2.

Both N.P.Vs returned. My 1312A/8th operation V.P.2. Patrols successfully completed. (A.C.O.S., 1001/15 to Admty.)

Bomber  
Command  
operations.

On night 14th/15th, 123 A/C left to attack Lorient and 41 A/C laid mines. (H.Q.B.C., 1630A/15.)

Air Search.

16 Group are carrying out a search of enemy coastal routes and may be using illuminated flares. Ref. my 1322/15th January. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1637A/15.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Raid over  
East Coast.

Between 2000 and 2125 today about 10 aircraft crossed the coast between the Wash and Humberston and penetrated up to 30 miles inland. Incendiaries were dropped on G.R. one site and at Boston and some H.E. on Lincoln. No naval damage. Mine-laying not suspected. Night fighters shot down one certain at Colby Grange and one possible into sea off Humberston. (F.O. Humber, 2329/15.)

Kola Inlet.

Types of enemy A/C used against ships. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1003A/15.)  
See Shipping.

Mining.

Thames  
Estuary.

Custom R.O. Maldon report cylinder object 12 feet long with parachute at one end in position 300 yards north by east from Ridge Buoy Whitaker Channel and on sand at low water. Request mine recovery party may be sent. (C. in C. Nore, 1250A/15 to Admty.)

Sweep of  
Q.Z.X.834.

No sweeping done today Friday. Intend proceeding at 0900 tomorrow to continue clearance of Q.Z.X. 834. Returning to Dartmouth. (ELGIN, 1641A/15 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

H.S. 1.

Operation H.S.1 completed. (ADVENTURE, 2245A/15 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)



15.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Five Torpedo Boats. My 1551/12. These 5 torpedo boats are now reported some at Cherbourg and some at Le Havre. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1449A/15.)

HIPPER. It is reported HIPPER was damaged in recent action near Bear Island. A boiler room was flooded and her speed reduced. Grade B.3. (D.D.I.C., 1736A/15.)

SPICHERN, MAX ALBRECHT. (1) Air R/C shows SPICHERN at Brest and that MAX ALBRECHT is not at Ferrol. (2) HERRING patrol vicinity 10 miles North of Cape Ortegal. (F.O.S., 2254A/15 to S/Ms.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Am over enemy submarine in 58.3 N. 18.7 W. Periscope only sighted. (A/C KM3C, 1055/15.)  
U-Boat bound S.W. estimated probably within 120 miles of 58° 01', 17° 02'. (D.D.I.C., 1123A/15 to Escorts O.N.161, O.N.160.)  
Have lost touch with enemy submarine. Continuing sweep 1249. (A/C 412 Sqdn., Duty 'C', 1316/15 to 15 Group.)

U-Boat attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 57° 40' N. 27° 10' W. (A/C 412 Sqdn., Duty 'G', 1337A/15 to 15 Group.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 412 Sqdn., Duty 'G', 1400/15 to 15 Group.)

Navigational.

Wick. Wick Harbour opened. (R.N.O. Wick, 0829A/15.)

Technical.

Oiling at sea. Following from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. Begins. "Reports of proceeding reaching N.S.H.Q. continue to report unsuccessful attempts to fuel from special oilers in convoy due either to the oilers not being supplied with suitable gear or being uninstructed in its use. This failure is particularly unfortunate in the case of the Western Support Force who are short-legged and cannot join a suitable O.N. convoy without refuelling". Ends. (D.T.D., 1217A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- M.L.232. My 0951/14. M.L.232 proceeding Campbeltown with engine defect. E.T.A. 1650/15.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 0820A/15.)
- M.L.560. Arrived M.L.560 with engine defects.  
(N.O.I.C. Larne, 1035A/15 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)
- ELLEN LARSEN. Intercept 1420 G.M.T. de ELLEN LARSEN.  
"Water in engine, send Salvage Steamer".  
(Port Patrick Radio, 1520/15 to Admty.)  
Following from Stonehaven Radio begins:-  
Intercept 1438 G.M.T. from ELLEN LARSEN. "Tug PERNAU and PIRITA leave immediately to render assistance". 1538 B.S.T.  
Ends.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1559/15 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- SAUNTER. Water Boat SAUNTER grounded during heavy gale night of 28th December, causing leaks in all cargo tanks, after cofferdam and fore peak.  
Temporary repairs have been effected but request vessel be docked forthwith. Vessel is most urgently required for service.  
(N.S.O. Lyness, 1624/15 to D.S.T.)
- ITCHEN. Hedgehog firing trial of ITCHEN unsatisfactory due to excessive vibration of mounting and deck.  
Request whether ships should sail p.m. 18th from Greenock to Tobermory for working up period as at present arranged, observing working up will be incomplete with H H out of action.  
(Capt. D. Greenock, 1724A/15 to Admty.)
- FOXGLOVE. My 1640A/11. FOXGLOVE towed by tug EMPIRE LARCH sailed Needles 1700/15.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1740A/15.)
- WOODPECKER. Intend to sail WOODPECKER to arrive Londonderry at 0900/17. Power operation of port twin Oerlikon requires immediate attention.  
(WESTERN ISLES, 1820/15.)
- METEOR. My 1534A/15. METEOR delayed by defects in No.2 boiler. E.T.A. 1400A/16.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2023A/15 to R.A.D.)  
Ship has returned to Greenock with defects.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2258A/15 to R.A.D.)

/Dinghy ...



War Diary.

15.1.1943.

Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

Dinghy. Rescue M.L.522 and 497 sailing from Portland 2130/15th to 1830 Portland Bill 20 m. to search for Dinghy.

Rescue M.L. have been ordered to remain in search position until you are clear of their return route.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2125A/15 to Escorts W.P.279.)

Shipping and Convoys.

T.A. 32 Sailed ANDES in accordance with Admiralty  
(ANDES) 1255/12. Estimated speed advance from position  
(A) 19 knots. E.T.A. Halifax 2330Z/20th.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0406A/15 to Admty.)  
My 1548/13. Sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0408A/15.)

W.S. 26. My 1245/13. MALOJA speed 15 knots will be  
(MALOJA). escorted by SHIKARI.  
K.M.F. 8. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1001A/15 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Combined convoy. Route.  
(D.O.D.H., 1904A/15.)  
See Lion Copy.

K.M.S. 8. Will leave U.K. 21st January. Ships, destinations  
and Escorts.  
(D.O.D.H., 1022A/15.)  
~~See Lion Copy.~~

J.W. 52, S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1305/30th Dec.  
R.A. 52. Request ships coming to Kola Inlet may be warned.  
1. Types of enemy aircraft attacking ships with  
bombs in Kola Inlet are Ju.87, Ju.88 and Me.109.  
(corrupt group).

2. Types of fighters used by Russians are Hurricane, Aircobra,  
Yak, Tomahawks and Mustang possibility of Russian P.E.2 and  
Hampden bombers from Vaenga aerodrome often fly low over ships  
in vicinity of Vaenga Bay.

3. 2 Russian Military Spotters will be placed on board each  
ship as soon as possible after arrival to assist in detail  
identification.

4. Admiralty pass to A.C.I.C. and N.O.I.C. Loch Ewe.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1003A/15 to Admty.)  
C. in C. H.F. 1526/14.

As only 3 S/Ms will be available for period 22nd January to  
26th January intend to occupy Russian zones 2 A and 2 West of  
024° W. It is suggested Soviet authorities seal approach to  
occupied zone 2 East of 024° W. during this period only.

(2) Anticipate 4 or 5 S/Ms will be available to cover between  
30th January and 3rd February.

(F.O.S., 1149A/15 to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

ONSLAUGHT with LEDBURY, EASTON proceed to pass Switha  
1000A tomorrow to Loch Ewe.



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

J.W. 52, (2) Act in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 0200/10.  
 R.A. 52. R/V by 0916/14.  
 (Contd.) (3) EASTON is to remain under order of BLANKNEY until relieved by MIDDLETON, when EASTON is to return to Scapa.

(R.A.D.H.F., 1313A/15.)

Your 1015/14. In the interest of clearing Kola Inlet this can be accepted provided these ships are capable of maintaining station in convoy at 8 knots in average weather.

(C. in C. H.F., 1403A/15 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

PIORUN with MUSKETEER, METEOR proceed passing (? swiftly) 2200A/16th to Seidisfjord routed through position (a) 062° 20' N. 005° 26' W. (b) 066° 07' N. 012° 10' W. thence via Q.Z. Message L.51 and 52.

2, On arrival complete with fuel and act under orders ONSLAUGHT in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 0200/10 amended by 0916/14.

(R.A.D.H.F., 1509A/15.)

Sailed METEOR for Scapa in accordance with my 1254A/14.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1534A/15 to R.A.D.)

(1) TRIDENT and P.224 are to leave present patrol positions so as to arrive in position 071° 10', 023° 45' and (070°?) 50', 021° 56' respectively at 0800A/22.

(2) P.314 is to leave Lerwick so as to arrive in 070° 52', 021° 15' at 0800A/22.

(F.O.S., 1546A/15 to Capt. S.9.)

J.W.52 speed of advance 7½ knots. (A) 1545/17th.

(B) DAN-Y-BRYN, EMPIRE BAFFIN, EMPIRE TRISTRAM, EMPIRE SNOW, EMPIRE PORTIA, OCEAN FAITH, TEMPLE ARCH, EMPIRE CLARION, ATLANTIC, Royal Fleet Auxiliary OLIGARCH, U.S. Ships DELSUD, NICHOLAS GILMAN, CORNELIUS BARNETT, ISRAEL PUTNAM, GULFWING, EL ORIENTE. (C) Escort in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 0200/10.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1550A/15 to A.I.G.222.)

J.W. 52 sailing Loch Ewe January 17th expected to consist of 14 dry cargo ships and 2 black oil tankers composition as follows:-

A. 9 dry cargo ships loaded in U.K., all anticipated arrival draft 24 feet or under - EMPIRE CLARION, EMPIRE BAFFIN, EMPIRE SNOW, EMPIRE TRISTRAM, EMPIRE PORTIA, DAN-Y-BRYN, TEMPLE ARCH, OCEAN FAITH, ATLANTIC.

B. Five dry cargo ships loaded in U.S.A. - DELSUD draft 23'-9". EL ORIENTE draft 24'. NICHOLAS GILMAN draft 26'-3". CORNELIUS BARNETT draft 25'-8". ISRAEL PUTNAM draft to follow.

C. Black oil tankers - GULFWING loaded in U.K. 13,251 tons of Admiralty fuel. OLIGARCH loaded in Iceland about 9,000 tons Admiralty fuel.

2. All masters have been instructed to arrive on even keel.

(D.T.D., 1955A/15 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Sailed BEAGLE and BULLDOG to comply with C. in C. H.F.'s 0200A/10.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2216A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

My 1534A/15 and my 2023A/15. Ship has returned to Greenock with defects.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2258A/15 to R.A.D.)

/Convoy ...



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15.1.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Convoy K.M.S.8 consisting of ships for destinations shown will leave U.K. on 21st January.

(a) From Clyde:

For Gibraltar - H.M.S. BARFOIL, SS. YEARBY, SS. SKELDERGATE, SS. OCEAN ANGEL, SS. LUBLIN.

For Lisbon - SS. VOLTURNO, SS. BARON FORBES.

For Oran - U.S. MATTHEW P. DEADY, SS. TROUBADOUR, U.S. WINSTON SALEM, SS. EMPIRE PRINCE, U.S. NATHANIEL GREEN, SS. FERNCLIFF, U.S. PANAMA CITY, SS. EASTERN CITY, SS. OCEAN VALENTINE, SS. OCEAN WAYFARER, SS. OCEAN PILGRIM, SS. DAHDNIAN, SS. EMPIRE SHEARWATER.

For Algiers - SS. ANTONIA, SS. EMPIRE HUNTER, U.S. JAMES MONROE, SS. CITY OF VENICE, U.S. SAHALE, SS. CITY OF NORWICH, SS. DERWENTHALL, SS. FORT BOURBON, SS. EMPIRE CAMERON, SS. EMPIRE FLAMINGO, SS. OCEAN ATHLETE, SS. RAJPUT, SS. FORT MCLEOD, SS. FORT BABINE, SS. BELGIAN SEAMAN, SS. EMPIRE BUCKLER, U.S. REVERDY JOHNSON, SS. EMPIRE NEWTON, U.S. THOMAS STONE.

For Bougie - SS. KONG SVERRE, SS. ORIENT CITY, SS. EMPIRE WYCLIF.

For Philippeville - SS. THISTLEDALE, SS. OCEAN FAME, SS. CARLTON.

For Bone - SS. EMPIRE WEBSTER, U.S. THOMAS PINCKNEY, SS. COOMBE HILL, SS. OCEAN MERCHANT, SS. INDIAN PRINCE, SS. BENLEDI, SS. FORT CHILCOTIN, SS. EMPIRE BANNER, U.S. ANDREW HAMILTON, SS. ASHANTIAN, U.S. SCHDHARIE, SS. EMPIRE FOAM.

(b) From Liverpool:

For Gibraltar - SS. MERCHANT PRINCE, SS. EMPIRE HAVEN.

2. MERCHANT PRINCE, EMPIRE HAVEN and SKELDERGATE carry aircraft in addition to coal.

3. EMPIRE FOAM will operate as a C.A.M. ship. Instructions are requested whether (a) Aircraft are to fly off to Gibraltar.

(b) Ship is to proceed to Gibraltar to land air personnel.

(c) Proceed to Algiers en route to Bone.

N.C.X.F's 1040/2 to Admiralty only refers. Ship must return to port where aircraft is serviced on homeward voyage.

4. All ships have a speed of 9 knots except SKELDERGATE and YEARBY  $8\frac{1}{2}$  knots.

5. Escort will be provided by H.M.S. LANDGUARD, BIDEFORD, LULWORTH, HASTINGS, CORNCRACK and R.C.N. LOUISBERG, PRESCOTT, WOODSTOCK, CAMROSE, CALGARY, KITCHENER, REGINA, ALGOMA, MOOSEJAW.

6. C.O. of escort is S.O. of 40th Group in LANDGUARD.

7. Convoy conference will be held at Greenock on 20th January.

8. Admiralty will promulgate route.

9. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail ships referred to in para. 1(b) to R/V with convoy at Oversay.

10. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange conference and to sail ships as requisite.

11. C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail escorts and arrange sailing of ships as requisite.

12. Fighter protection codeword "Conifer".

(For D.O.D.(H), 1022A/15.)

M.K.S. 5.  
STORK.

On reaching position Q 049° 20' N. 014° 25' W. STORK is to be detached to Falmouth for refitting. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to issue onward route from position Q.

(C. in C. W.A., 1216A/15 to BLACK SWAN.)

/TJALDUR ...



15.1.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

TJALDUR, My 1125/14. "Deputy" sailed.  
KLANJI. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1410A/15 to A.C.O.S.)

North Atlantic Convoy Routes. A.M. 1331/24th November and 2024/24th November. All shipping concerned should be routed on Great Circle from Fastnet to position (A) 38° 10' N. 46° 40' W. thence (B) 38° 10' N. 66° 35' W. 2. Such ships bound Halifax leave above route in longitude of Halifax and thence direct.  
3. Those bound Sydney, C.B. and St. Lawrence ports leave route in 59° W.  
4. Those bound St. Johns N.F. leave route in 52° W. (D.T.D., 1552A/15.)

Convoy C. in C. W.A., 1651A/15.  
D.W. 1. See America and West Indies.

K.M.S., K.M.F. and K.X. Convoys. Ships with destinations beyond Gibraltar in Western Mediterranean are to be provided with approach Routes to U.K. for homeward voyage. 2. Routes are to be contained in a sealed envelope which is not to be opened until information is required.  
3. Masters should retain envelopes inquiring of N.C.S.O. at North African port whether any amendment has been received to any route since date of sailing from U.K. (D.T.D., 1713A/15.)

K.M.S. 8. A.M.1022/15. Convoy K.M.S.8 R/V at 0900Z/22 in position "R" 270° Oversay 6 miles thence through position - S 55.39 N. 13.00 W. T 52° N. 18° W. U 48° N. 18° W. V 39° N. 17° W. W 26° N. 12° W. X 36° N. 10° W. thence as ordered by N.C.X.F.  
2. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered A to G with instructions that if straggling ships are to keep 30 miles to starboard of route given.  
3. S.O.A. estimated 7½ knots to be adjusted to pass X at 2000Z/31. (D.O.D.H., 1902A/15.)

T.A. 34. 1. Convoy T.A.43 consisting of SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH will be ready to leave Clyde p.m. 18th Jan. for New York.  
2. She will sail independently and maximum air protection both A/A and A/S is to be provided.  
3. Route as follows. From position "A" 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0900Z/19 through - B 55.10 N. 14.20 W. C 48.35 N. 18.50 W. D 47.05 N. 30.45 W. E 43.55 N. 45.40 W. F 42.30 N. 57.15 W. G 41.00 N. 65.10 W. thence to New York.  
4. Fighter protection codeword "Subsoil". (D.O.D.H., 1903A/15.)

/Convoy ...



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

Convoy A.M. 0040/14 and 0100/14.  
 W.S.26 & 1. Combined convoy will R/V in position 'A' 270°  
 K.M.F.8. Oversay 6 miles at 0900Z/23, thence through  
 position B 55.22 N. 12.28 W. C 50.01 N. 17.00 W.  
 D 45.05 N. 17.20 W. E 39.02 N. 17.15 W. F 36.00  
 N. 12.59 W. G 36.01 N. 09.58 W.

2. K.M.F.8 will then proceed as ordered by N.C.X.F.  
 3. S. of A. estimated at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots should be adjusted to pass  
 through position G at 0600Z/29.  
 4. W.S.26 is to part company at position G and proceed through  
 H 33.59 N. 09.02 W. J 33.03 N. 10.57 W. K 28.00 N. 13.30 W.  
 L. 24.35 N. 16.00 W. M 21.01 N. 17.59 W. N 11.00 N. 18.02 W.  
 thence to Freetown.  
 5. Stragglers route as convoy route lettered OO to AA with  
 instructions that where safe navigation permits ships straggling  
 are to keep 30 miles to starboard of route given.  
 6. Sailing authorities are requested to pass routes to escorts  
 not included in the above address.  
 (D.O.D.(H), 1904A/15.)

K.M.S.10. Names of M/Vs to sail.  
 (D.S.T., 2044A/15, 2047A/15, 2048A/15, 2049A/15,  
 2051A/15, 2052A/15, 2053A/15, 2054A/15.)

J.W. 53, Cancel A.M. 1604/12.  
 ALYNBANK, Your 1523/14. Approved.  
 ULSTER QUEEN. (D.O.D.H., 2125A/15 to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

H.X. 222, RANGITATA destination Avonmouth carries about  
 RANGITATA. 1100 service and Merchant Navy passengers.  
 Request appropriate escort may be provided from  
 Belfast onwards.  
 2. 50 U.S. Navy Officers and men on board are for  
 disembarkation Belfast Lough.  
 (D.T.D., 2131A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S.160, Will attempt to join you on course 119° at  
 O.N.S.J.160. 1600Z/16th in 059° 06' N. 020° (?23') W. If  
 unable to join will reverse course for joining  
 next day 17th at your proposed I.C.O.M.P.  
 (C.T.U. 24.6.3, 2150Z/15 to C.T.U. 24.1.12.)



15.1.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

- G.U.S.3. G.U.S.3. Request you will sail to Oran section of G.U.S.3 at (?13)00A/16 escorted by ROCHESTER, LEITH, ERNE, SCARBOROUGH. Route through 93, 29, 8, 37, 035° 49' N. 006° 22' W. to R/V with G.U.S.3 in 033° 48' N. 007° 57' W. at 1500A/18. S. of A. 9 knots.
2. Escorts are to return to Gibraltar after R/V.
  3. Gibraltar section to join with local escort as ordered by V.A. Gibraltar.
  4. Fighter protection priority 3 codeword (? "Trafford").  
(N.C.X.F., 0959A/15 to F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, A.O.C. Gibraltar, C.G.12 Flotilla, F.Capt., F. Com. Algiers, V.A. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H, Capt. S.8, Admty.)
- G.U.S.3. F.O.I.C. Oran 1050/15. Request you delay sailing of convoy G.U.S.3 by 48 hours. Med. section will R/V in 033° 48', 007° 57' W. at 1500A/20.  
(N.C.X.F., 1623A/15 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, Capt. (F), Cdre. Algiers, A.O.C. Gibraltar, C.G.12th A.F., Connav, Cominch, Cinclant, V.A. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H, Capt. S.8, Admty.)  
Cancel my 1555/15.  
(Connav, 1849/15 to Cdr. North-west Africa S.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.)

- ABDIEL mines. Your 1846/14 and S.N.O.C.A's 324/14. Request immediately information whether (A) It is possible to fit complete new mooring ropes using British mine mooring wire. (B) 200 fathoms could be fitted. (C) Stocks of British mine mooring wire are available.  
(N.C.X.F., 1231A/15 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) S.N.O.C.A., Admty.)

- K.M.S. 7. K.M.S.7 passing Europa Point at 0200A/19 detaching Gibraltar section. Route through 57, 66, 46, 93, 109, 17, 39, 100. S. of A. 8 knots.
2. Detach Oran section in 109 at 0700A/20 E.T.A. Algiers 0800A/21.
  3. Med. escort VANOC, VERITY, HUSSAR, CONVULVULUS, SAMPHIRE, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, ROTHESAY, FLEETWOOD. V.A. Gibraltar is requested to arrange exchange of escort.
  4. RHYL and STORNOWAY to join escort at position 109.
  5. Instructions for ships proceeding East of Algiers will be signalled later.
  6. Fighter protection priority 2 codeword "Untrue".  
(N.C.X.F., 1508A/15 to PELICAN, (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.7, V.A. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H, Admty., Capt. S.8, S.O. Subs in company, H.Q.E.A.C., Cdre. Algiers, A.O.C. Gib., N.O.I.C. Bone, C.G.12, N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, A.F., Connav.)

/K.M.F. ...



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area - Contd.

K.M.F. & S. Sloops and Cutters Gibraltar. R.C.N. corvettes  
Escorts. Algiers.  
(N.C.X.F., 1624A/15 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gibraltar)  
W.R. Note: This message refers to A.M. 0020/14  
re escort of K.M.F. convoys not loading passengers, mail or  
stores for Gibraltar and requesting destination of escort of  
K.M.S.8. N.C.X.F.'s 1537/18 refers.

CARLISLE, Your 1858/8 to Admty. only and A.M. 1728/31  
equipping para. 4.  
of "Hunts". On arrival early February CARLISLE may be  
retained in the Western Med. for the time being.  
2. The following ships in your command are  
equipped for blind fire: LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, CALPE and should  
be of value if stationed so as to keep outer arcs clear of  
other ship echoes.  
3. Opportunity will be taken to equip any others of your "Hunts"  
under repair in U.K. and to exchange your "Hunts" with those at  
Home which can be equipped as gear becomes available.  
4. "Hunts" allocated for the Eastern Med. will also be so fitted  
as far as possible.  
(D.O.D.(F), 1940A/15 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A.  
Gibraltar.)

MARIGOLD. My 2247/9/12. Not intended to hold Board of  
Enquiry into the loss of MARIGOLD on 9th Dec.  
All survivors have returned to U.K.  
(N.C.X.F., 2050A/15.)



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CARNATIC Intend to sail CARNATIC at 1630A/14 for Freetown (route). S. of A. 12 knots. F.O.C.W.A. is requested to signal onward route from position (E)  
(V.A. Gibraltar 1648A/13 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A.)  
My 1648A/13. Add new positions (F) 25° 01' N., 16° 30' W. (G) 20° 01' N., 18° 28' W.  
Para. two amend to read onward route from position (G) will be signalled by F.O.C.W.A.,  
(V.A. Gibraltar 0830/14 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A., CARNATIC).  
Your 2050/14 (Sent by W.R. calling for 1648/13).  
Regret my 1648/13 was not passed to Admty. It is being passed now by L/T.  
(V.A. Gib. 0727A/15).  
My 1004/14. Ship further delayed.  
(V.A. Gib., 1950A/15 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A.)

U/B Outward bound U-boat estimated in your immediate vicinity today.  
(D.D.I.C., 0932A/15 to Escorts of K.M.S.7., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.)

FULGOR. For D.N.I.(?). My 2000/29th Dec. Minister of Marine has seen M.F.A. and undertaken to take whatever measure latter considers necessary to make it impossible for FULGOR to supply acetylene either directly or indirectly. His suggestions were either sealing of all fuelling points or removal of ships to dockyard berth. We shall try for latter.  
Minister repeated his conviction no submarine could have been alongside FULGOR for last 2 years. There was then one occasion. Ship carried main oil fuel 900 tons of which Spanish navy had brought on various occasions and some diesel oil but amount latter was exactly the same as 2 years ago. There were no torpedoes on board. Italian instructions were undoubtedly genuine but out of date and indicated possibility that had not been realised.  
Be this as it may the disposal of vessel now rests with M.F.A. Ministry of Marine said H.M. Ambassador could quote him as anxious to immobilise her in order to stop complaints. Please inform Foreign Office. Ends.  
(N.A. Madrid, 1101/15 to Admty).

M.K.S.5 X. M.K.S.5 X. Request you will sail convoy M.K.S.5 X at 1700A/17 escorted by LANCASTER, TANATSIDE, NEWARK, LAUDERDALE, ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH, FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC, routed as in Admiralty's 1249/8 Dec.  
2. Outcon tables 330.  
(N.C.X.F., 1118A/15 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty).



15.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

T.M.I. search Extensive search of area between 028° W., and 030°  
for W. revealed following: One broken Carley Raft.  
casualties. 027° 40' N., 029° 52' W., Large area of oil  
patches 027° 51' 029° 00'. Very thick oil 028°  
07' 028° 58' and 027° 52' 028° 39', were passed  
through at night. Very little wreckage but  
this could have been missed during the night.

Consider Tankers would have been contacted either by R.D.F. or  
visual in swept area if still afloat.

Continuing search toward position of MINISTER WEDEL propose  
remaining until prudent, if necessary wreckage cleared away.  
My position 1130Z 028° 22' 028° 04' weather report 9180 2731.

(PENTSTEMON, 1130Z/15 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) S.N.O.  
Casablanca).

Your 2355/9\*HAVELOCK reports,

(A) Connav's 1405/3 received 1453Z/3 Connav's 1337/4 received  
0251Z/5.

(B) All received and decyphered except for Connav's 060120,  
and 060515 not received Admty. 0709/9 was received as 0700/9 and  
later referred to as 0709/9 by Admty.

(C) All reports were guarding Washington F.U. 1200Z/4.

(D) 1200Z/4 Connav's diversion was obeyed at 2145Z/4 i.e. one  
hour after dark until 1008Z/4 when it was decided that it was  
essential to alter course to the northward in order to get calm  
water in which to refuel the escorts Admiralty were informed of  
this decision at 1528Z/5.

(V.A. Gibraltar 1240A/15 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F.,  
S.B.N.O.W.A., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., Ottawa).

\*Re signals containing diversions and warnings of U-boats.

Requesting T.O.R. of certain Connav signals by HAVELOCK, whether  
other signals giving U-boat warnings were received and decyphered  
and W/T guard maintained.

Search to P.L.E. and subsequently return direct to Gibraltar  
with SAMPHIRE and NIMBLE in company.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2302A/15 to PENTSTEMON).

G.U.S.3	G.U.S.3	Your 1625/14.	
	Speed	Name of Ship	Pendant Nos.
	11	EMPIRE AIRMAN	101
	11½	ESSO BAYWAY	102
	12	ESSO CHARLESTON	103
	10	ANNA KNUDSEN	111
	11	PRESITANT DE VOGUE	112
	11	ATHOS	113
	9½	CHILBAR	114
	8	LORRAIN	121
	11	WILLIAM JOHNSON	122

All ships except WILLIAM JOHNSON are Tankers.

All destinations New York

(V.A. Gib., 1143A/15 to F.O.I.C. Oran (R) S.N.O.  
Casablanca, N.C.X.F., Admty. Connav).

German Tanker Begins damage German tanker left Ferrol unrepaired  
1700/10 writing.

(Corunna, 1345/15 to B.N.A. Madrid).



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

LADY DENISON My 1531/13 not to Admiralty. Sailed Tug  
PENDER IMPERIALIST as additional escort to LADY  
escort. DENISON PENDER.  
(F.O.C. Gib., 1515A/15 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R)  
Admty. N.C.X.F., ST. NECTAN).

Situation Situation 1959A/15.  
reports. (1) M.K.S. 5 BLACK SWAN 2 Sloops 8 Corvettes 040°  
45' 015° 06' 003° 6.  
(2) P.219 039° 08' 010° 30' 335° diving by day  
2½ knots surfacing by night 10.  
(3) ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER 029° 10' 014° 28' 042° 1  
knot picking up cable.  
(4) IMPERIALIST 033° 22' 009° 34' through 032° 01' 011° 30'  
thence (?223°) 9.  
(5) LORD NUFFIELD, NORTHERN FOAM 3 Merchant ships off St.  
Vincent coastwise to Cape St. Mary's thence direct Gibraltar 7½.  
(6) K.M.S.7 one sloop 5 corvettes 4 M/S one A.B.V. 038° 47'  
016° 38' 127° 7½.  
(8) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE MIRROR 035° 43' 007° 06' through 035° 30'  
010° 01' thence 279° 9.  
(9) K.M.F.7 WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, GORLESTONE  
WEYLAND ? to pass Europa 2200A/15th Eastbound 13 knots.  
(10) SCOTTISH approx. 39.40, 15.38 northbound 10 knots to join  
M.K.S. 5 daylight 16th.  
(11) Portuguese Destroyer LIMA sails Lisbon to Ponta Delgada  
2355A/15th 18 knots.  
(V.A. Gibraltar 1330A/15, 2204A/15, 2122A/15 to A.I.G.63).  
Situation 2000A/15th.  
1. Tug NIMBLE escorted by PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE searching the  
vicinity 028° 18' 027° 20'.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1332A/15).  
TCAO 11 Gibraltar 16th Jan.  
(A) K.M.S.7 H.M.S. LEVERET 1 C dawn till dusk.  
NORTHERN FOAM, WINNIPEG 1 H followed by 1 W from dawn till dusk.  
(B) Between 036° N., 035° N., to 019° W. 4 H 0830 - 1430.  
(C) Between 038° N., 036° N., to 011° W., 1Y 0730 - 1630.  
Between 036° N., 037° N., to 011° W., 2H 0730 - 1900.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1910A/15).

ST. GOTTHARD ST. GOTTHARD sailed 1445/15 for Genoa by approved  
(Swiss). route speed 8 knots. Usual speed 8 knots.  
Usual markings on side, gross tonnage 5461. Not  
to be interfered with this voyage.  
(2) N.O.I.C. Malta, pass to A.O. Commanding Malta  
and N.C.X.F. to E.A.C.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1601A/15 to S. and A. in  
Area G., N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (S) 10th S/M  
F. (R) Admty).

/Routeing...



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Routeing,  
information  
for Connav.

Your 1747/12. Confirmed so far as interstation Vescas are concerned. Isolated instances of failure may from time to time occur due vagaries of Spanish telegraph and cable systems and as result of non report from Port of departure. These must be accepted.

(2) Excluding Eire ships which are not concerned very few neutral ships sailing from Ports this intelligence area on trans-Atlantic voyages are routed. Those that are routed sail mostly from Lisbon. Formerly N.C.S.O. Lisbon as originator of route signal has passed same to all the requisite authorities thus saving additional signalling. Such procedure was indicated in your 1555/3 August and former instructions.

(3) In view your para. 3. now intend to instruct Lisbon confine his addressees to Admiralty and S.O.(I) Gib. Authorities will then be informed by me. Same will apply in the case of N.C.S.Os. at Ponta Delgada and Funchal. Request you approve.

(4) Understand Connav may receive all sailing information from Lisbon direct from their own sources there, in which case they could be deleted from my addressees in such signals. Request confirmation of this.

(5) Your 2303/19 December repeated Gib. is not clear. Does Connav require movements of neutral vessels between ports within this intelligence area or is this passed from Admiralty. To pass such information from here would necessitate extra staff and entail large volume of signalling.

(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1603A/15 to Admty).

VEGA  
(Swedish).

Swedish VEGA Swedish 94 gross tonnage usual marking on side speed  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots sailed 1715 15th for Marseilles by approved route. Not to be interfered with this voyage.

2. N.C.X.F. pass to E.A.C. and N.O.I.C. Malta to A.O.C. Malta.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1804A/15 to S. and A. in Area G., N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (S) 10th S.F. (R) Admty).

DELHI

DELHI completes 16th. Speed limited to 16 knots and rudder to  $20^\circ$ .

2. Should ship be sailed (A) Independently (B) in next M.K.F. convoy.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1809A/15 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty).

M.K.S.5

Escorts of convoy M.K.S.5 P.C. and S.  $041^\circ 37'$  N.,  $015^\circ 13'$  W.,  $003^\circ 8'$  weather report 3562 1244.

(2) GIRONDE and BLAIRESK 20 miles astern speed 6 knots approx. escorted by VIOLET until relieved

by SCOTTISH, who was sent back to find MIRIAM.

(3) Your 1216/15 intend detaching CAMELLIA with STORK whose temporary repairs will not stand up to head sea.

(BLACK SWAN, 2002A/15 to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, SCOTTISH).

/Movements...



15.1.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements Arrivals. 0900 NASTURTIUM, LOCH OSKAIG, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE ex K.X.8. 0946 BADSWORTH, LIMBORNE, WOLVERINE, from Casablanca.  
Departures. 1731 PENN, PATHFINDER for Algiers. 1810 VANOC to R/V K.M.F.7, 1910 QUIBERON for Mers-el-Kebir.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2118/15).  
Arrival 1720 WESTON 2230 WAYLAND, VANOC ex K.M.F.7 sailed 2000 WESTON to rejoin convoy.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2245/15).

Tug for T.M.1. Your 1951/12th tug no longer required at short notice.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2304A/15 to R.A.W.Af.)

SANDWICH My 1707A/15 (N.T. in W.R.) Amend para. 9 to read SANDWICH sailed Gibraltar 0001/16 through 37,8, 29 (corrupt group) to arrive Oran daylight 16th.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2341A/15 to A.I.G.410).

Fitting of Mooring ropes. Following is repetition of my 1908A/15 begins - Addressed N.C.X.F. (R) S.N.O.C.A., Admty. 792 from V.A. Gibraltar. Your 1231/15.  
(A) Yes if one inch wire was available. It is pointed out however that this operation is usually carried out by experience personnel in a mining deopt with machinery. No facilities exist at Gibraltar.  
(B) Yes (C) Not at Gibraltar. Ends.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2357/15 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.N.O.C.A. Admiralty).



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dakar Conference. OZ 143 15th January, 1943. Following from Chiefs of Staff. In view of F.O.C.W.Af's 0041Z/9, we are satisfied that the details on the Naval side can now be left for settlement by discussion with Glassford and Collinet, provided they are kept within the principles of A.M. 2318/7. 2. As regards control of air operations exactly the same principles must apply as in the case of Naval operations. We have no objection to French exercising nominal operational command of British Air Force detachments operating from bases in French West Africa. But we see no object in setting up additional combined area H.Q. to be shared by French and British at Dakar, or in using French Commander as a Post Office between combined area H.Q. Freetown and flying boat detachment at Port Etienne. But orders to the latter from A.O.C. West Africa should be repeated to French Commander. Collinet may be told he can exercise operational command for local purposes which means very little but may make him happy. It must, however, be clear that this is in no way to prejudice operations for protection of Allied convoys. 3. As regards air equipment we agree it is important to make at least some token offer of suitable aircraft at once. Air Ministry have signalled A.O.C. with definite proposals. 4. Ref. para. 6 of O.Z. 86 (A.M. 2318/7) assume N.C.X.F. and A.O.C. Gibraltar are arranging for collaboration of U.S. amphibians through combined area H.Q. (Air Min. 0020Z/15, F.O.C. W.A., A.O.C. W.Af., (R) N.C.X.F., A.O.C. Gibraltar, J.S.M. Washington.)

DESPATCH. My present P.C. and S. 008° 03' N. 026° 33' W. 240° 20 knots. E.T.A. Freetown 1830Z/16. (DESPATCH, 0300Z/15 to F.O.C. W.Af., (R) Admty.)

ARMERIA. My P.C. and S. at 0400Z/15 007° 38' N. 019° 39' W. 082° 13 knots. E.T.A. Freetown 0830Z/16. (ARMERIA, 0401Z/15 to N.O.I.C., W.Af. (R) Capt. (D) Freetown.)

MEXICO. U.S. Army Authorities consider early arrival of MEXICO at destination most urgent and request she may sail independently. We have promised Washington to provide escort, which cannot leave Takoradi before p.m. 18th. Consider risk of her sailing as far as Dakar unescorted can be accepted if Washington concurs. (F.O.C.W.Af., 0925Z/15 th Admty. (R) B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Takoradi. N.C.X.F.)

B.A.D. 1421Z/15 and my 1301Z/14. (1) Intend the following programme for MEXICO, Takoradi sailing 16th. Freetown arriving 19th sailing 20th, Dakar arriving 22nd sailing 27th. Casablanca arriving 31st. (2) Intend HOLCOMBE and ILEX to escort MEXICO from Dakar to Casablanca after escorting ILLUSTRIOUS to Freetown from southward arriving Freetown 25th. (F.O.C.W.Af., 2223Z/15 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. B.N.L.O. Dakar, N.O.I.C. Takoradi N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar.)

/Your...



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.MEXICO  
Contd.

Your 0925/15 and B.A.D. 1421/15. Unescorted sailing as far as Dakar can be accepted. (D.O.D.F. 1909A/15 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.G.X.F.)

Routeing.

With Baia (Bahia) - Trinidad (BT) Convoys operating as from 13th following is general policy of routeing from Middle East, Indian Ocean and South Africa to U.S. Atlantic Seaboard, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean ports. (1) To Baia for convoy:- (a) U.S. managed ships of 8 to 14.5 knots from Red Sea and East and South Africa, but see 2(a) below. (b) British managed ships of 8 to 11.9 knots except as in 2(b) below (c) All ships allocated to load bauxite in Guiana - Trinidad area. (2) By Magellan - Panama route:- (a) U.S. managed motor ships of above 12.5 knots and all other U.S. managed ships of over 14.5 knots. (b) British managed ships of 10 to 14.9 knots which are suitable as regards power and bunkers etc. as detailed in A.M. 2330/1st September, 1942, not to all addressees, but excluding those in para. 1(c) above. (3) By Atlantic route direct to Chesapeake omitting Trinidad:- British managed ships of 12 knots and above which are unsuitable for Magellan route. These ships may bunker if necessary at Freetown for coal or oil or at St. Thomas, V.I. for coal. (4) By Transpacific - Panama route:- U.S. managed ships from Persian Gulf and India except those for the Guiana - Trinidad bauxite trade. A.M. 1829A/29th Dec. 2125A/31st Dec. 1921A/9 and 1843A/12 none to all addressees are cancelled. (D.T.D., 0952A/15 to C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C.E.F. F.O.C. W.Af., Connav, F.O.C., R.I.N., F.O. Red Sea and Canal Area 998, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, B.A.D., S.B.N.O., W.A., S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)

Cancel A.M. 1945/11. (2) Ships routed as in para. 3 of A.M. 0952/15 and Northbound fast independents are to keep east of 20° W. till north of 10° N. Thence ships routed as in para. 3 of A.M. 0952/15 are to keep north of 10° N. till west of 40° W. (3) Ships sailed independently to Trinidad are to keep as close inshore as safe navigation permits between Cape S. Roque and 42° West. (4) All above instructions should be regarded as temporary and subject to modifications and it is not intended to amend M.A.R.I. Diverting Authorities are authorised to divert individual ships concerned to meet any change in U-boat disposition.

(D.T.D., 1143A/15 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. W.Af., (R) Connav.)

Situation  
Reports.

Situation at 1959/15. COMMANDANT DROGOU F.S.08.05  
16.17 to Freetown 13. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE  
D'ORVES F.S. H.M.S. PICT with T.S.29 about 06.35  
12.50 to 07.38 14.30 thence to Freetown 7.

BRIDGEWATER escorting about 06.52 17.18 095.5° DESPATCH 08.18  
20.52 to Freetown 20. HOLCOMBE escorting 06.48 12.29 (?120°  
12½. (?ORFSAY) with French convoy off Liberia coast to South  
East. ST. WISTAN off Marshall.M.L. 305.251 off Freetown to  
Marshall. (?H.M.S./M.P.) 614.05 (?25) 13 (?00 140° 8½. (?2 Naval  
units on patrol in Ascension St. Paul's Rocks area.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 0959Z/15.).

/A.S.10...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Situation A.S. 10 034° 15' S. 042° 45' E. to Aden 18½,  
Reports. Tug PRUDENT, tug BOLD standing by MELISKERK in  
Contd. vicinity of 031° 33' S. 029° 40' E. QUILLIAM,  
CHESHIRE, EXPRESS with W.S.25 034° 50' S. 021° 00'  
E. to Durban 12. INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA, escorting  
INTEGRITY towing crane lighter off East London to Durban (?).  
LADY ELSA, WELLARD, 021° 30' S. 013° East to Walvis Bay 10.  
MAGNOLIA leaving Capetown p.m./15 for Durban.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1114C/15.)

Situation at 2000Z/15th F.S. DUMONT, DURVILLE, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN  
BIRDLIP. BUTSER with French D.64 south of Cape Blanco proceed  
north coastal 7. F.S. Minesweeper ANNAMITE with French D.65 off  
Senegal coast to north 5. French Light Cruiser LE FANTASQUE  
French Light Cruiser LE TERRIBLE off Port Etienne. CORIOLANUS,  
JANUS, off Bathurst to 16.00 10.00 thence 344.10. PETUNIA,  
DRANGEY escorting 09 (?44) 15.51 to Freetown 10(?) 4. U.S.  
escort vessels escorting convoy K.X.8 about 26.07 15.00 to  
24.59 15.50 to 24.35 16.00 thence 207, 8.5. CORINTHIAN,  
BURDOCK, FANDANGO, BELLWORT, BREDON off Cape Blanco to R/V.  
K.X.8 M.L.278 M.L.1072 about 09.10 15.00 to Freetown 8. DUNKERY  
3 trawlers 13.16 17.57 to Bathurst 8. M.Ls 290, 281 escorting  
to about 09.30 17.20 352 9. 0.19 leaving Freetown 1800Z/16  
routed to 09.00 17.02.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1359Z/15.)

VALIANT. C. in C. E.F., 1324/31st Dec. am complying.  
(C.S. Durban, 1052C/15 to Admty.)

Freetown - Your 1434/13 delay involved in sailing ships to  
Trinidad Bahia cannot be accepted. 2. No further T.M.  
Convoys. Convoys will be run at speed suitable for your  
shipping. 3. Concur your proposals to run  
occasional F.T/T.F. convoys and as in your para.4.  
4. It is hoped to recommence O.S/S.L. convoys on 20 day cycle  
with first O.S. not earlier than 14th Feb.  
(D.T.D. 1113A/15 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) B.A.D.)

Dispositions. C. in C. S.A. 1114C/15 see lion copy.

F.F. For reasons of health and morale it is intended to  
Corvettes, exchange one of the F.F. Corvettes from West  
exchange of Africa with one of those stationed at the Cape,  
Station. for a period of 3 months. C. in C. S.A. concurs.  
Requested that I may be informed if this  
arrangement is in accordance with the wishes of  
F.F. Authorities in London. The ship to be sent would be  
D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1127Z/15 to Admty. (R) D.F.E.F. C. in C. S.A.)

U.S. Shipping Your 1744/13. U.S. managed ships of eight to  
routes. 14.5 knots bound for Bahia and South American  
ports to northward thereof should be routed to  
Bahia for convoy A.M. 0953/15 refers.



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U.S. Shipping routes. 2. U.S. managed ships bound to South American ports south of Bahia should be routed to destination. 3. A.M. 1845/12 para.1. cancel words "Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico or South American east coast ports north of and including Santos" and substitute words "Caribbean or Gulf of Mexico." (D.T.D. 1142A/15 to C. in C. S.A.)

GERUSALEMME (Italian.) Understand GERUSALEMME is sailing shortly from Lourenco Marques for Lisbon with Portuguese crew. Request confirmation that U.C. Government is behind this arrangement. Union Authorities are making enquiries and it may be necessary to give an answer of some kind. Understand ship plans to dry-dock at Durban en route. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1205C/15 to D.N.I. Admty.)

MAGNOLIA. Capetown Departure 1619/15th MAGNOLIA for Durban S. of A. 8 knots E.T.A. 2000/18th. (C. in C. S.A. 1319Z/15.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. Arrived. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1556Z/15.)

D.64 (French Convoy), K.X.8. My 0321Z/15. Para 7. (A) Escorts joining K.X.8 on 16th are CORINTHIAN, BURDOCK, FANDANGO, BELLWORT, BREDON. (C) HYDRANGEA will join from Bathurst on 17th. R/V will be signalled to CORINTHIAN. (F.O.W.Af. 1627Z/15 to CORINTHIAN (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, Admty. S.N.O. Casablanca.)

QUILLIAM Arrived Simonstown and sailed 1300C/15th to rejoin W.S.25. (C. in C. S.A. 1630Z/15.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. After fuelling you are to proceed to Port Stanley at economical speed passing through the following positions. A. 42° S. 46° W. B. 51° S. 55° W. thence to destination. 2. Further instructions will follow. (D.O.D.(F), 1701A/15 to CARNARVON CASTLE (R) N.A. Rio, C. in C.S.A. Cominch, Comsolant, B.A.D.)

TURCOMAN. Departure 1745Z/15th. E.T.A. Porto Rico 1000Z/17. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 18032Z/15 to Admty. F.O. W.Af. R.N.O. Lagos.)

/MATADIAN...



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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

MATADIAN. Your 1709/14 MATADIAN should be sailed to Gibraltar advantage being taken of any opportunity of escort but otherwise independently.  
2. Information is requested as to whether escorts referred to in N.C.X.F. 1248/13 and F.O.C.W.A. 1249/14 could be utilized.  
3. Route should be close inshore. 4. Vessel should be included in first suitable homeward convoy from Gibraltar.  
(D.T.D. 1823A/15 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)

O.S/S.L. For the purpose of adjusting shipping movements convoys. 14th Feb. and 12th March may be assumed as the sailing dates for O.S.43 and S.L.126 respectively.  
2. Thereafter the convoys will be on a 20-day cycle and limited to 40 ships maximum. 3. Suggested that C. in C. S.A. and B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro should apply to F.O.C.W.Af. for accommodation in S.L.126 before sailing ships from their area to Trinidad or U.S.A., F.O.C.W.Af. accepting or rejecting according to the places available.  
4. F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to arrange if possible for a certain number of ships to be escorted to Gibraltar for inclusion in a returning Gibraltar U.K. Convoy in order to limit to the minimum the number of ships from West and South Africa being routed to the U.K. via U.S.A. 5. Estimated that ultimately these S.L. convoys should be able to handle all U.K. traffic without any undue shutting out of ships but if this proves to be incorrect M. of W.T. will be requested to suggest priority as between loading areas or speeds. 6. Request your remarks.  
(D.T.D., 1824A/15 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af., V.A. Gibraltar, B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro, (R) Cominch.) As amended 1505A/16.

ALCANTARA. Your 1855/14 and A.M. 1725/15. In view of the return of ALCANTARA to M.O.W.T. in the near future inability to use aircraft can be accepted and no repairs need be undertaken. 2. Aircraft and aircraft stores are to be landed at Freetown and personnel returned to U.K.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1945A/15 to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) C. in C.S.A., B.A.D.W., F.O.i/c. Greenock, S.B.N.O. W.A., ALCANTARA.)

U.G.F.5 Your 1245/14. MALCOLM and WOLVERINE Concur.  
(D.O.D. (F), 2205A/15, to F.O.C. W.A., (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar, B.A.D.)



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

DERNA. Italian DERNA left Valencia 1900/14th January for Genoa.  
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 0725A/15 to S.O.(I) Malta, S.O.(I) X.F.)

SS QUEEN MARY. Arrived 0700Z/15th.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 0910Z/15.)  
Departure 1913Z/15 QUEEN MARY, knots 26 Suez 0800Z/18.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 1915Z/15.)

Part Escort of M.E.15. Arrived ORION, NUBIAN, JAVELIN, PAKENHAM.  
(V.A. Malta 0935A/15.)

ALBARO. My 0954C/12. ALBARO not yet arrived, imminently expected. N.L.O. Black Sea informed.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1021C/15 to S.O.I. Mediterranean, S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

Additional troop transport. My 1935/5/1. / In view of extension of operations in Tripolitania necessitating movement of reinforcements by sea and increase of personnel at present requiring shipping in Eastern Medit. area it is urgently requested that an additional troop transport of similar capacity and speed to one already asked for may be allocated to arrive E. Med. earliest possible. Agreed G.H.Q.M.E. Forces. / Mge. received direct (P.S.T.O. M.E. 1031/15 to Admty.) by D. of S.T. C. in C. Med's 1634/12 Jan. Request troop transport capable 14 knots may be allocated to arrive Suez not later than 1st Feb. for operational requirements Eastern Medit.  
2. My 1935/5/1. This is part of requirements.  
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 1033/15 to Admty.)

Sweep off Kerkenah. Two destroyers of Force 'K' leaving Malta at about 1700A today Friday passing through approx. 034° 45' N. 012° 01' E. at 2330A/15th and 033° 50' N. 012° 35' E. at 0300A/16th thence returning to Malta direct.  
(V.A. Malta 1046A/15 to C. in C. Mediterranean 10, 247 Wing, 201 Group H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. (R) N.C. E.F. Admty.)  
NUBIAN and KELVIN sailed on operation.  
(V.A. Malta 1630A/15.)

U/B attacked. Asdic contact attacked in 033° 43' N. 023° 00' E. Negative result. F.S. COMMANDANTE DOMINE continued hunt for one hour.  
(LA MOQUEUSE 1058B/15.)

E.T.9. Oran Section E.T.9 sailed 1200A/15.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran 1252A/15.)

/Vessel for ...



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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Vessel for tank transport. My 1159/25th Dec. and my 1121/9th Jan. Military requirements for the transport of Grant and Sherman tanks to Benghazi at the rate of 60 per month and other A.F.V. at the rate of 80 per month for Jan. Feb. March necessitates the allocation of an additional vessel with 50 ton derrick.

2. Only vessels available are American ALEXANDRA GRAHAMBELL JOSIAL PARKE. WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT. There are no vessels or other alternatives.

3. Request early nomination.  
(P.S.T.O. M.E. 1337B/15 to D. of S.T.)  
Reply: Washington 1739/19.

Attack on Sousse and Sfax. 12th Air Force Operations 14th Jan. Docks and shipping at Sousse attacked by 16 B.17 dropping 36 tons of H.E. with good results from 23,000 ft. Fires started on quay and several vessels believed damaged. Slight heavy fairly accurate flak. All planes returned safely. 26 B.17s attacked Sfax docks. 63 tons of H.E. dropped from 20,000 feet weather calm. Most bombs on N.E. jetty with bursts concentrated in warehouses and fuel storage depots. Fairly accurate flak, moderate in intensity. Fighters attacked by several E/A. One E/A destroyed. One P.38 lost, one missing.  
(12th A.F. Algiers 1352/15.)

SS LANARKSHIRE. Tact. Intend to sail at 0800A/16th by standard route SS LANARKSHIRE 16½ knots masthead 116 D/F R/T no light depth charges (? sweep) nets, no cargo ballast. Escorted by HACKNEY escorts S. of A. 14 knots E.T.A. Algiers 1600/16th codeword "Segunto". Request fighter protection. Final destination New York. Ship requires 100 tons furnace oil at Gibraltar. BUDE pass to S.O. of escort.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1541A/15.)

Opsum 65. Covering period 1800/13 to 1800/14. Night 14th/15th 12 Wellingtons bombed Bizerta docks, weather over target excellent. 3 by 4000 lb. 6 by 1000 lb. 22 by 500 lb. 22 by 250 lb. 1 by 500 lb. 12 S.B.X. and 540 4 lb. incendiaries dropped. Crews report majority bombs fell in dock area. Fires along dock side visible. Defence much less than usual, weather deteriorated during return. F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 16 B.17s escorted 16 P.38s dropped 12 1000 lb. 120 500 lb. bombs Sousse. Weather good, fires started north and east quays and in town north of target. 26 B.17s escorted by 17 P.38s dropped 253 500 lb. bombs Sfax, weather good, most bombs fell on north east jetty, fires started. 2 or 3 Me.109s attacked fighters, 1 Me.109 and 1 P.38 destroyed.  
(E.A.C. Africa 1655A/15.)

S/M decoy ship. Sailing vessel with markings (?M) 1 264 having 3 jibs and 2 mainsails is a submarine decoy ship operating in Aegean.  
(Capt. (S) 1 1705B/15 to PAPANICOLIS (R) C. in C. Med.)

/Albacore ...



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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Albacore Squadron needed. Opportunities of aircraft torpedo attack on enemy shipping between Sicily and Tunisia are still being missed because Swordfish at Bone have such limited range that they can only reach targets in the immediate approaches to Bizerta.

2. One squadron of Albacores with long range tanks would enable us to get at this shipping as far as Marittimo thereby covering the entire approach route.

3. Supply difficulties stated in Admty. 1341/28 Nov. are fully appreciated but surely at this critical moment it should be possible to find one Albacore Squadron for this vital service. (N.C.X.F. 1724A/15 to Admty.)

HURWORTH, BELVOIR. (3 corrupt groups) "Help" (missing group) 42B. Position course and speed of HURWORTH, BELVOIR 033° 02' N. 021° 13' E. 090° 24 knots, reducing to 18 knots at 1800B. (HURWORTH 1730B/15 to S.O. Force I.)

Fleet minesweepers. Your 1232A/11th and my 2259/22nd Sept. 1942 ↗ not to N.C.X.F. 2 additional Fleet Minesweepers were asked for and are still urgently needed. Request that RYE and HYTHE be retained after arrival of HUSSAR and SPEEDWELL. (V.A. Malta 1825A/15 to Admty.)  
 ↗ N.T. in W.D.  
 ↗ Hush most secret.

Situation Western Desert. Benghazi. Bad weather still hampering cargo discharge. Further disintegration is occurring of inner wharf and Q.W. Breakwater.

2. Cased petrol carrier ANNITSA (Greek) and HARBOE JENSEN (Norwegian), torpedoed and sunk by U-Boat at 1235/15 in approx. 33.02 N. 21.58 E. SOUTHERN ISLES reports picking up 39 survivors. Both ships fully loaded, former was carrying 4400 tons of petrol.

3. Beaufort aircraft on A/S patrol ahead of convoy M.E.15. (2 empty tankers and 3 Merchant vessels on passage Malta to Port Said) sighted enemy submarine at 1426 in 34.08 N. 16.34 E. closing M.E.15 from 6 miles ahead. When sighted submarine conning tower was awash. 4 Depth charges caused U-Boat to surface. White flag was shown and at same time fire was opened on aircraft. Aircraft returned fire driving some of crew into water, and scoring numerous hits.

4. Aircraft then returned to convoy and guided three destroyers on to U-Boat. Hunts opened fire, several hits observed by aircraft. At 1532 relief anti-submarine aircraft saw U-Boat sinking and one of the Hunts picking up about forty survivors.\*

6. All the above based on Pilot's report and A.H.Q. Malta's 2033/14 January to Air Ministry. (C. in C. Med. 1829B/15.)

\* U/B was Italian, see Sit. Rep. 323, 2111B/17, and V.A. Malta 2306A/17.

NARVALD

/U/B sunk ...



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by VILLE  
DE QUEBEC.VILLE DE QUEBEC made most satisfactory U-Boat kill on 12th. This success was due to good training and handling. Superficial damage to ship only. Please accept my congratulations on this example of the excellent work being performed there by the R.C.N. Corvettes.  
(N.C.X.F. 1838A/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

KROM.

My 1912/13 not to B.N.A. Ankara. Departure of KROM postponed. Further signal will be made.  
(C. in C. Med. 1842B/15 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. Capt. (S) 1st Sub. F. Capt.(S) 10th Sub.F. N.O.I.C. Malta (?484) N.Cdr. X.F., S.O.(I) Alexandria (?292) 201 N. Co-op Group, C.F.E. S.N.O. Inshore Squad, Eastern Med. 247 Wing R.A.F. Station Shallufa 242 Wing 205 Group, 235 Wing, 259 Wing, S.N.O.L.A. N.O.I.C. Alexandria, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar 891, B.N.A. Ankara.)P.247  
P.228.If nothing has been sighted by 0300, P.247 return to your patrol area, P.228 you have freedom of action in your area.  
(Capt. (S) 10 1916A/15 to P.247, P.228.)Malta  
C.S.R.C.S.R. 15th Jan. Part 1 offensive night 14/15 January. 16 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli from 1750 to 1900 hours dropping 105 500 lb. and 13 250 lb. bombs and 1,030 4 lb. incendiaries starting fires in native quarter and scoring hits on railway and on military stores. From 1905 to 1930 1 Wellington dropped 8 500 lb. bombs at Sousse scoring hits near wailway station and sidings, 3 Albacores and 3 Beauforts laid mines in the Kerkenah area; an enemy night fighter was seen but none of our aircraft was intercepted. 3 torpedo carrying Wellingtons went to search for and attack enemy shipping in the Sousse Paotel area Cap Bon Marittimo area made no sightings.  
Part 2. Enemy air activity. Nil.  
(A.H.Q. Malta 1931Z/15.)

Movements.

Arrivals POZARICA, WHEATLAND, WILTON, BADDOCK, ALBERNI, BARFLAKE, PORT ARTHUR.  
(N.O.I.C. Bone 1953A/15.)

Arrivals Mers el Kebir QUIBERON, STURGEON, arrivals Oran RHYL, POLRUAN, STORNOWAY, MISVA, TASAJERA, BACHAQUERO, departure Oran FOULA.

(F.O.I.C. Oran 1958A/15.)

UNA,  
P.54.Own A.S.V. A/C carrying out a sweep to the North East of you tonight. Flares will be dropped every 15 minutes to illuminate any targets discovered. Torpedo bombers may be attacking also.  
(Capt. (S) 10 1959A/15 to UNA, P.54.)

/Malta ...



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Malta,  
Stock  
position.

My 1800/11/12.

Following is estimated stock position after completion of unloading of convoy M.W.18.

- (a) Flour end July.
  - (b) Benzine, early June, allowing for further increase in consumption.
  - (c) Kerosene, early June, allowing for small addition to civilian ration during winter.
  - (d) Coal, mid May.
  - (e) Foodstuffs other than flour, late May or later except milk (mid April) and cheese (late Mar. (?))
  - (f) Fodder, early July.
2. Stocks of fuel on 8th Jan. were:-
- (a) Furnace fuel Admiralty Grade 13440 Commercial Grade 4280.
  - (b) Diesel Admiralty G-Z3 2300. Commercial Grade 4700.
  - (c) Aviation spirit approximately 7300 tons.
- No estimate can be given of period stocks will last as this depends on scale of operations by R.N. and R.A.F.  
(Governor, Malta 2000Z/15.)

Sweep in  
Gulf of  
Gabes.

2 destroyers of Force K leave Malta at 1130A tomorrow Saturday to pass through position  
AA 033° 52' N. 012° 38' E. at 1815A/16th thence  
BB 033° 30' N. 011° 20' E. at 2100 thence  
coastal sweep to 012° 30' E. thence return direct to Malta.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 2004A/15 to C. in C. Med. 247 Wing, 201 Group H.Q. R.A.F.M.E. (R) N.C.X.F. Admty.)

P.43.

2 Fleet Destroyers leave harbour 1130A/16th southwestbound. Proceed up harbour unescorted on the surface.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 2315A/15 to P.43.)

HURDLE + P.C. & S. 033° 14' 022° 00' 270° 17 knots intend to alter to 245° at 0100B/16th proceeding longitude 020° 30' E. then return Ras Aamer by dawn 16th.

(HURWORTH 2315B/15 to S.O. Force I (R) 247 Wing.)  
+ As received.



War Diary.

15.1.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- SONAVATI. Arrival.  
(S.O.I. Bombay 0324Z/15 to Admty. etc.)
- ERINPURA. Sailed 15th from Basra for Karachi joining  
P.B. 22 17th off Quoin Is.  
(? C. in C. Ceylon 0558Z/15.)
- B.M.37. Cancel my 1000Z/14th. Convoy B.M? 37 Cochin  
portion arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Cochin 0816Z/15.)
- Salvage Service. Ref. D. of S.T. 1207/6th (re tugs and salvage  
steamer of Persian Gulf and area.) Government  
sanction is now being sought to establish a  
salvage service in India on following lines -  
Tugs ZERANG and CHINTHE to be fitted as salvage vessels and  
based on West and East Coast at Bombay and Vizagapatam res-  
pectively, while suitable tugs at (corrupt group) ports will  
be earmarked and fitted as reserve vessels capable of rendering  
first aid to stranded or damaged vessels in their own area until  
arrival of salvage vessel. Organization will be under the  
direction of D.G. of S.R. Bombay from whom any details required  
may be obtained.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 1009Z/15 to P.S.T.O. India (R) F.O. Ceylon, D.G.  
of S.R. Bombay.)
- B.P.65½. Karachi portion sailed 1015Z/15th to R/V 0250Z/13th  
from N.C.S.O. Bombay refers. BELRAY knots 9,  
GLENPARK 9½, IKAUNA 11.  
(N.C.S.O. Karachi 1020Z/15.)  
ITRIA sailed 1115Z/15th to R/V 024° 22' 064° (? 20') 02(?30)  
Z 16th knots.  
(N.C.S.O. Karachi 1122Z/15.)
- CEDARDALE. Admty. 2253/7th Jan. Modification for oiling  
at sea of CEDARDALE will be undertaken.  
(D.G. of S.R. Bombay 1042/15 to C. in C. E.F.  
(R) Admty., S.N.S.O. Durban, N.S.O. Bombay.)
- India air report. (E) U.S.A.A.F. offensive R/C 13 Man 4 P.40s  
attacked barges, tugs, warehouse Bmamo.  
(F) Enemy effort. Single R/C Calcutta  
20/25,000 feet 15 January.  
(A.H.Q. India 1121Z/15.)
- Japanese U/Bs. One very doubtful sighting reported in 020°  
21' N. 068° 55' E. on 13/1. One by D/F in  
North (? Andamans) area 10/1.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1136Z/15 to S. & A. E.I. Station,  
(R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.  
F.L.O. Delhi, Cdre. i/c Aden, Air H.Q., E.Africa,  
246 Wing.)



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.GAWLER,  
suspicious  
ship.Check.  
(HAWLER 1225Z/15 to C. in C. E.F.) (requesting  
corroboration of suspected merchant ship.)BIRMINGHAM,  
HAWKINS.Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 1236Z/15.)

HAWKINS.

C. in C. E.F.'s 1821Z/12th.\* Sailed HAWKINS.  
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 1529Z/15.)  
\* N.T. in W.R.

SALVIKING.

Salvage vessel SALVIKING, allocated to Eastern  
Fleet, will be ready to leave U.K. about 6th Feb.  
2. She will be sailed via the Cape.  
3. Request final destination may be signalled.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1530A/16 to C. in C. E.F.)  
Reply: 0845/18.A.M.Cs to be  
paid off.The acute shortage of manpower makes it necessary  
to pay off A.M.Cs in order to commission the new  
escort carriers. It is intended to pay off the  
older unmodernised A.M.Cs now but to review the  
situation from time to time before paying off the remainder.  
2. C. in C. E.F. is requested to sail RANCHI to reach U.K. by  
middle of Feb. and report how soon WORCESTERSHIRE can be sailed.  
3. C. in C. S.A. is requested to sail CHESHIRE for U.K. on  
completion of the passage of the floating dock from Montevideo  
to Port Elizabeth about mid March, and ALCANTARA as soon as  
ASTURIAS rejoins the station in early March.  
4. It is appreciated that the withdrawal of A.M.Cs will increase  
the problem of escorting troop and other convoys. Where these  
cannot be allowed to proceed unescorted the resulting delay must  
be accepted.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1725A/15 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.)Repatriations. Efforts are being made to arrange Third Flight  
and Italians are being asked to confirm it will  
take place. You will be kept informed.  
(W.O. 1845A/15 to C. in C. Mideast for Political)



15.1.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

DUANE, SCHENCK, BABBITT. C.T.U. 24.6.4 in DUANE plus U.S. Des. SCHENCK and BABBITT designated separate Task Unit. Delete BABBITT from my 0200/5th not to all addressees. SCHENCK sailed at 0025Z/15th to join escort (corrupt group)/116 at about 0800Z/17th and does not hold effective edition S.P. 02459. /  
(C.T.G. 24.6 0130Z/15 to C.T.U. 24.1.4, C.T.F.24, (R) DUANE, BABBITT, U.S. Des. SCHENCK, Connav. Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.T.G. 24.7.) / ? S.C.  
/ Western Approaches Code OUT

S/M notices & estimates. Radio Washington 0217/15, C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1516/15, 1518/15, 1519/15, 1608/15, 1612/15.

U/B report. Intercept 0135 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. de N A U (San Juan Puerto Rico Radio) H R R D O W A S H I N 15 0025 G.M.T. Submarine contact Lat. 21.17 N. Long. 74.24 W. at 1700Z/14. 150025. Not rebroadcast should this be done. Reply No. (N. Foreland Radio 0235/15.)

TENACITY. Your 2045/14. /  
(1) (a) TENACITY. (b) 27 Jan. (c) 5760 miles.  
(d) Admiralty fuel oil.  
(2) TENACITY requires 5 day docking for minor repairs before intended service. No presume this can be done New Orleans unless you otherwise direct, not possible here.  
(3) Regret delay but A.M. 1323/6 was not addressed or repeated to F.O.N.F.  
(F.O.N.F. 0242Z/15 to B.A.D.) / re sailing TENACITY to New Orleans.

HYDROGRAPHER. My 1545/14th. HYDROGRAPHER now arrived. (B.R.L.O. Cristobal 0950R/15.)

SEAWOLF. H.M. Submarine SEAWOLF sailed 1100/15 in accordance with my 1835/13. C.O.A.C. pass P/L version to A.O.C. E.A.C. (F.O.N.F. 1146Z/15.)

ROXBOROUGH. H.M.S. ROXBOROUGH's (bridge ?) carried away in bad weather during the night. C.O. killed and one rating lost overboard. Effecting temporary repairs steering 040° 5 knots estimated position 54.50 42.52. In view of fuel situation becoming acute request escort and tug be despatched forthwith. Further signal being made. Weather report 44779265.  
(GEORGETOWN 1159Z/15 to C.T.F.24, (R) Connav. Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G. 24.7.)

/STIFFORD ...



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

ROXBOROUGH (contd.) STIFFORD and FRISKY proceeding forthwith to your assistance. Ordered to steer towards 052° 54' N. 045° 32' W.  
(Cdre. C. Newfoundland Force 1640Z/15 to GEORGETOWN, ROXBOROUGH, (R) C.T.24, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. W.A., C.T.G. 24.7.)

My 1159Z/15th P.C. and S. at 1800Z 55.02 42.33 (X) 225° 6 knots. 1st Lieut of ROXBOROUGH since died. Hopes to maintain this course but weather deteriorating. Anticipate having to leave tomorrow on account of fuel. Has relief (?escort) been despatched? ROXBOROUGH has only sparking W/T. Weather report.

(GEORGETOWN 1915Z/15 to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.T.G. 24.7.)

TENACITY, My 0242/15 not to N.S.H.Q. For TENACITY read FRISKY. Cancel para.2 ref. docking. FRISKY sails St. Johns in J H 29 today 15th, Jan. for Halifax. C.O.A.C. requested to route FRISKY onwards to New Orleans.

(F.O.N.F. 1331Z/15 to B.A.D. C.O.A.C.)

Cancel my 1331/15 and 0242/15, it has been necessary to despatch FRISKY to assist ROXBOROUGH in distress TENACITY being unfit until repaired. Intend to sail FRISKY as soon as possible to New Orleans after present assignment probably in five or six days time.

(F.O.N.F. 1831Z/15 to B.A.D.)

U.G.F.4. U.G.F.4 my 2026/4th amend to read first "Chop" 040° W. 0800Z/20th 2nd "Chop" 010° W. 2100Z/25th. Escort has (mge. ends).  
(Connav 1415/15.)

MEXICO. Your 0925/15th. U.S. Authorities here recognise urgency of ship being ready to leave Casablanca for U.S. in G U F 4 on 1st February and concur in her sailing independently as far as Dakar if necessary to accomplish this.  
(B.A.D. 1421Z/15 to F.O.W. Af.)

Lake Tanker Your 1821/9th Curacao Oil Company have not convoy. yet received confirmation of this movement from London.  
(B.S.N.O. Curacao 1520QR/15 to Admty.)

Dispositions. C.O.A.C. 1545Z/15, 1926Z/15.  
See Lion Copy.

/Signal ...



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Signal lessons of "Torch". OZ 149 15th Jan. Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S. (W) 440. Many signal communication lessons are believed to have been learned from North African operations covering planning, training, loading signal equipment, coding, ciphering, correct use of priority, drafting of messages, organisation of H.Q. Signal Offices, etc.

2. Request you ask Combined C.O.S. to call for a Combined report from the Commanding General dealing with the communication lessons learned by all five Services during North African operations.

3. Directors of Signals are at present preparing joint report on communication lessons learned by all British Services concerned.  
(Air Ministry 1545Z/15 to J.S.M. Washington.)

Situation reports. Section east. O.N.159 T.U. 24.18.9 44.37 50.40 194° 6 alter to 264° in 43.50 50.57 mid-ocean escort task units 24.1.16 due Argentina p.m. 15th.

O.N.158 mid ocean escort task units 24.1.14 50.39 49.51 230° 5 alter to 188° in 49.47 N. J.H.29 KENTVILLE, GODERICH, STRATFORD 47.15 52.35 193° 7.

H.M. S/M surfaced escorted by B.Y.M.S.15 and B.Y.M.S.16 46.28 53.36 251° routed through 45.30 N. 57.30 W. 44.45 N. 61.45 W. speed of advance 10 knots.

Task Unit 24.12 report when LINCOLN vicinity 48.30 52.00 W. to join O.N. 158.  
(C.O.A.C. 1545Z/15.)

Section South west O.N.156 Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.1 039° 50' 066° 58' 270°. 7.5 S.C.117 Western Local escort T.U. 24.18.6 041° 03' 065° 35' 042°. 7.5 H.F.29 GANANOQUE NIPIGON RAYON D'OR 044° 00' 063° 51' 223° 7.5 altering to 270° in 042° 48' N. and to 318° in 066° 30' W. S/M P.512 surface escorted by THUNDER 041° 14' 067° 30' 223° 9 alter to 263° in 039° 15' N. U.S.S. NATCHEZ departs Sambro L.V. 1900Z/14th coastwise to Boston speed 10. NORANDA escorting BURGEO departed Louisburg 1000Z/15th on route Port Cluse Basques MOSDALE (Nor.) departed Halifax 2300Z/14th course 090° 13.5 altering to (? 058°) in 062° 00' W.

(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1610Z/14.)

My 1545/15th add FRISKY escorted by STRATFORD departs St. Johns N.F. 1746Z/15th to assist ROXBURGH in vicinity of 054° 55' 042° 52'. Delete STRATFORD from J.H.29. Add NAPANEE with one M.V. departs St. Johns 1930Z/15th to overtake J.H. 29 thence return St. Johns. Add U.S.S. MOJAVE MOHAWK escorting SAPELO 046° 44' 054° 22' 118° 9 knots alter to 087° in 053° 32' W. to 059° in 053° 06' W. and 018° in 052° 47' W. thence St. Johns.

(C.O.A.C. 1926Z/15.)



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.American and West Indies - contd.

G.U.S.3. G.U.S.3 Admiralty requests Gibraltar and Oran sections R/V lat. 33.58 longitude 07.57 time 1400Z/18th Jan. with Casablanca Section. (Connav 1555/15 to Comnorth West, Africa Sea Frontier, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.)

U/B Report. U-Boat report 1237Z/15. C Sight.  
(g) 080° 9 knots.  
(h) 57° 41' N. 27° 10' W.  
(a) BRITISH PLAZ from U.K. this is N.O.B. Iceland 151346 passed to you for information. (Cominch 1609/15, 1610/15 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival Vieuxfort 15th U.S.A. Transport (?) STATE OF VIRGINIA and U.S. SS C.522. (B.R.O. St. Lucia 1621Q/15.)

*Dated 16th Jan?*  
D.W.1 Convoy. My 1133/13th.. With regard D.W.1 - U.K. tanker convoy, unless it is possible to provide repair facilities for escort vessel at Aruba or Curacao the nearest port where such essential maintenance can be undertaken appears to be Trinidad. If Trinidad is to be used for this purpose it is essential that 2 short leg destroyers should be available in the Caribbean area to relieve escort vessels requiring repair. Vessels with defects could then proceed direct to Trinidad on relief and sail to join outward convoy direct from Trinidad. It is not acceptable for vessels requiring repairs to have to sail from Aruba to Trinidad during the short lay over time at Western terminal. (C. in C. W.A. 1651A/15 to Admty.)

U.G.S.5. U.G.F.5. Convoys are scheduled to sail from New York as follows. U.G.S.5 on Feb. 7th. U.G.F.5 on Feb. 8th. B.A.D. Washington has by hand. Admty. pass to C. in C. Allied Forces. (passing action being taken by W.R.) (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1759/15.)

/Ships ...



542

15.1.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Ships for  
and from  
Iceland (C)      Assuming convoy sailing dates on new Atlantic  
convoy cycle agreed propose ships for Iceland (C)  
should sail in S.C.118 on 24th Jan. and those  
from Iceland (C) join O.N.S.165 which sails  
2nd February.  
(D.T.D. 1950A/15 to Connav.)

Oiling              Your 1847/13.      Owing to necessity of keeping all  
at sea.              tankers working at maximum capacity it is not  
possible immediately to fit full oiling arrange-  
ments including structural modification to  
sufficient tankers for all convoys.      24 hours instruction is  
if possible given before joining convoy, but this has to be  
waived if it entails missing a convoy which could otherwise  
have been caught.  
2. Improvised gear has therefore been supplied to some tankers,  
every effort being made to give masters suitable instructions.  
3. It is considered that these facts coupled with winter  
conditions and natural inexperience of crews of tankers and  
escorts are cause of many complaints.  
4. Request you will transmit particulars of occasions which  
should be investigated.  
(A.C.N.S. (U.T) 2001A/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Convoy              Your 1927/14.  
arrangements.      1. Replying par. 3  
                            (A) O.N. and O.N.S. escorts sail same day as  
                            convoy.      H.X.6 and S.C.7 days after convoys sail.  
(B) Escort time from Base to Base O.N.13, O.N.S.15 H.X. 10, S.C.  
12 days.  
(C) Location of Westomp for H.X. S.C. about 47.30 N. 49 W.  
O.N. O.N.S. about 45.30 N. 49 W.  
2. Escort time in port was based on Liverpool as Eastern repair  
port.      One day allowed between Oversay and Liverpool.      One day  
between Westomp and St. Johns.  
3. If experience proves insufficient time for escort at western  
terminal the westbound convoys might be sailed a day earlier or  
Womp moved eastward.  
(Opnav 2016/15 to C.T.F.24.)

Connav              DALCROSS 3 torpedo misses.      INGERFEM straggler  
Serial 15.              O.N.156 torpedoed 30th Dec. approx. 59 N. 21 W.  
                            WILLIAM WILBERFORCE claimed sunk by Germans  
                            approximately 23 N. 28 W. probable date 9th Jan.  
                            OCEAN VAGABOND serial 12 presumed sunk.  
                            (Connav 2049/15.)

STALKER.              When ready about Jan. 21st. Cdre. Western Sea  
                            Frontier sail STALKER to Balboa independently.  
                            Advise time of departure route S. of A.      Action  
addressees furnish protection as practicable.      Cdre. Panama Sea  
Frontier route onward to Norfolk in trade convoy or independently  
if satisfactory to other Sea Frontier Commanders concerned.  
Com. 5 pass to B.N.L.O. Norfolk.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2115/15.)

/SS SEMINOLE ...



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.SS SEMINOLE,  
SSSS report.Following received from. WNCK SSSS 39.55 N.  
70.03 W. Gunfire ends.  
(Valentia Radio 2203/15.)Sub.attack  
& sighting  
summary.B. BARON DECHMONT 3 torpedo hits. ALASKAN  
Swastika white background on Conning Tower.  
Action to Admiralty for O.I.C. From Cominch.  
C. Scapa Flow U.45 type. TUSCAN STAR "U.2  
period 2 UR". RIPLEY, BOARS HEAD and VIKING  
ship after side Conning Tower. British plane  
sights sub. 57.41 N. 27.10 W. 1237Z/15 course  
80 speed 9.  
(Cominch 2216/15.)Shipping  
Routes.Your 2038/12. Are British Oil burning ships  
and motor vessels from Pacific Seaboard to be  
routed to India via Cape Horn or Trans-Pacific.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2216Z/15 to Admty.)

Transport.

Army transport POELAU LAUT (Dt.) arrived San  
Francisco January 13th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2234Z/15 to Admty.)Landing  
Craft  
convoy.A.M. 1935/7 not to S.B.N.O.W.A. if size of  
special convoy is limited request priority may  
be given to the 13 L.S.T. 2 as L.C.I.(L) can  
proceed unescorted.  
2. L.C.I.(L) up to eight in number should be  
prepared, if ordered, to break off in vicinity of Azores and  
proceed to Plymouth.  
3. The second batch of L.C.I.(L) which have just arrived in  
U.K. experienced some very heavy weather with winds of Force 10  
towards the end of the voyage. They proved to be excellent  
sea boats and sustained no damage. Similar route is recommended  
for next batch.  
(D.O.D..(H) 2246A/15 to B.A.D.)

A.C.Vs.

A.M. 2224/6 and my 0019/9. Completion dates for  
the five 1943 A.C.Vs remain as given in new  
Construction Programme of 1st Dec.  
2. Completion dates of 1943 Kaiser A.C.Vs are as follows -  
(all 1943) AMEER 12th May. ATHELING 5th June, BEGUM 26th June,  
EMPEROR 26th July, EMPRESS 11th Aug, KEDIVE 24th Aug, NABOB 17th  
Sept, PREMIER 17th Oct, SHAH 20th Oct, QUEEN 5th Nov., RAJAH 21st  
Nov. RANEE 11th Dec., RULER 27th Dec., THANE 31st Dec.  
3. It is estimated that the above ships will be in fitting out  
yard for at least one month before being ready to sail from there.  
(B.A.D. 2235Z/15 to Admty.)

SALISBURY.

Charleston sailed 2000A/14, for Halifax.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2301Z/15 to Admty.)



War Diary.15.1.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

S.C.116. Will transmit Homing signal on 4400 k/cs tomorrow 16th at 0900 and 1100Z weather report.  
(C.T.U. 24.6.4 2320Z/15 to C.T.U. 24.1.4  
(R) U.S. Dest. BABBITT.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals Port Moresby 14th January U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD, U.S. Patrol Gunboat TULSA for Milne Bay, Port Phillip Bay 14th January (? U.S. Dr. RALPH TALBOT or U.S. Dr. MACDONOUGH) for Brisbane Port Moresby 14th January, U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD for Cairns.  
(A.C.N.B. 0424Z/15.)

Digest My 0740Z/15 part one.  
Serial No.358. 2. Four B.25s with 8 Lightnings as top cover attacked stores supplied on Beach Lae morning 14/1 starting large fuel fires. Same time 6 Bostons conducted offensive sweep along coast southeast of Lae. 20 to 30 aircraft seen vicinity Lae most of which unserviceable. Submerged submarine fired torpedoes at our patrol craft before dawn 13/1 offshore Cape Ward hunt without success. Another possible submarine Mambare Bay early morning 14th.  
6. Two vessels 5/6,000 tons Koepong 14/1.  
8. Liberator reported 10,000 ton merchant vessel at Kendari Thursday forenoon also medium tanker off Boetoeng Island (S.E. Celebes) and 1 destroyer in 7° 30' S. 127° 50' E. course 220° 12 to 15 seaplanes seen Tiworo Strait and several seaplanes at Bau Bau (S.W. end Boetoeng Island). 2 fighters attempted interception of which one damaged.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0740Z/15.)

ATHELDUKE,  
TAMWORTH.

ATHELDUKE en route to Abadan. Instructed by W/T to proceed to Freemantle from position N passing through A 034° 35' S. 114° 20' E. B 032° 05' 114° 30' E.T.A. Friday 22nd Jan. Fuel required. Sail TAMWORTH for Diego Garcia in company with ATHELDUKE issuing necessary routing instructions.  
(A.C.N.B. 0757Z/15 to Cdre. W. Austr.)

/SS TRYON



War Diary.

15.1.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - contd.

SS TRYON. Melbourne 13th Jan. U.S. Transport TRYON EFATE (sic) 2100Z/18, knots 18.  
Section 2.  
(J) 038° 25' S. 150° 00' E.  
(H) 036° 25' S. 153° 33' E.  
(G) 025° 00' S. 159° 53' E.  
(F) 017° 50' S. 162° 27' E.  
Escorted by U.S. Destroyer RALPH TALBOT to the vicinity longitude 159° 00' E.  
(A.C.N.B. 0831Z/15.)

Movements. Arrivals 14th Jan. Fall River U.S. Transport BOSPHORUS. 15th Townsville U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ. Hospital ship WANGANELLA departed Brisbane 14th due Port Moresby 18th. Dutch Naval Stores ship SOEDOE departed Thursday Island 14th due Cairns 17th. U.S. transport TASMAN departed Port Alma 15th due Townsville 17th. U.S. Transport BONTEKOE arrived Port Alma 14th and departs 15th due Townsville 17th.  
(A.C.N.B. 1151Z/15.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1346A/15, 1347A/15.)

Special  
Submarine  
Estimate.

This in Cominch 151450.  
(Comnaveu 152105)