

War Diary.

16.1.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

The speed of slow merchant ships in the Atlantic is a very important factor in losses from U-boat packs, whereas in other theatres the difference between 8 and 10 knots is not critical. Examination of British shipping is being made, with a view to the possibility of increasing the speed of S.C. convoys, and the Admiralty are asking the U.S. to allocate their new ships to north Atlantic runs, the slow ships of the United Nations being used elsewhere.

Home Commands.

130 out of 147 aircraft despatched including 92 heavies, bombed Lorient last night, very fierce fires were caused, including a large one, believed to be an oil fire, in the dock area.

A searchlight Wellington today in 46.16 N., 2.27 W. attacked an Italian type U-boat with 4 depth charges and estimated one hit. Oil patch resulted, and 10 minutes later the periscope and conning tower resurfaced.

The 9th M.S.F. destroyed 41 mines in the Dover area today and sighted more apparently moored mines to the N.W. of their first lap.

"Torch" Area.

Arrangements have been started for re-arming French local convoy escorts actively employed between Casablanca and Tunis, and 2 Oerlikons each have been issued to the French ships CHASSEUR III, ENGAGEANTE and *GOELAND. It is intended to make minor issues of depth charges, smoke floats and ammunition to the French as the occasion arises.

* ? GROENLAND - A.P.V.

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16.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

CORINTHIAN attacked a S/M contact at 1430Z today in 23° 34' N., 16° 34' W.

Mediterranean.

The three LITTORIO battleships, which had not been located since leaving Naples on 6 Dec. 1942 were seen by air R/C at Spezia today.

Destroyer
Sweeps.

About 0330 today in approx. 34.20 N., 12.20 E. NUBIAN and KELVIN, carrying out a sweep off Kerkenah sank a merchant ship and damaged an escort vessel.

PAKENHAM and JAVELIN sailed from Malta this morning to carry out a sweep in the Gulf of Gabes tonight. At 2359A they sank the water and stores carrier TANARA in 33.44 N., 11.30 E., westbound, taking 28 Italian prisoners. A Wellington directed the destroyers to the target and dropped flares for the attack.

Air
Operations.

12 Wellingtons bombed Bizerta docks last night with "very satisfactory" results.
Four Beauforts laid mines last night at the entrance to La Goulette harbour.
8 American B.26 aircraft attacked Tripoli Harbour.
1 M/V was hit and left smoking.

Four enemy aircraft were destroyed in a raid on Tobruk p.m.

In an enemy raid on Maison Blanche aerodrome and vicinity last night, in which certain damage and casualties were caused, 1 Ju.88 was destroyed by naval gunfire. There was a minor raid on Bone at 1630 today.

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SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

As a measure to arrest the decline of U.K. oil stocks direct tanker convoys are to be instituted at an early date every 20 days between the U.K. and Curacao. These convoys will be escorted throughout their length by properly constituted escort groups each consisting of approx. 4 sloops and 4 "River" class corvettes. It is also hoped to include an escort aircraft carrier with each convoy. Facilities will be arranged for servicing the escorts. (See 20th Jan.) (p. 737)

~~Australia and New Zealand.~~

SS. KEGUMS, Latvian, from Rio de Janeiro to Trinidad, reported she was drifting with cylinders damaged at 2326Q in 02.20 N. 48.03 W. and asked for a salvage vessel..

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

PENELOPE. PENELOPE has completed normal Scapa working up but A/A practices have been severely limited by adverse weather conditions.
2. I consider it most necessary she should have more A/A practice after arrival Gibraltar and before being exposed to chance of heavy scale air attack.
(C. in C. H.F. 1103A/16 to N.C.X.F.)

17th Division. Your 1526/15th. Request decision reducing 17th Division to 5 destroyers may be reconsidered. This would allow 4 destroyers to screen the squadron and one under refit but no portion in case of any other defects. Experience has shown that this number is not acceptable as it inevitably entails frequent borrowing as a matter of course and henceforth considerable inconvenience to other authorities. To have any chance of avoiding this it will be necessary to retain 6 destroyers and even then borrowing may well be necessary on occasions.
(R.A.M. 1120/16 to Admty.)

ALYNBANK. In view of A.M. 2125A/15. Instructions are requested whether ALYNBANK will be taken in hand for annual refit and if so at what port. Suggest consideration may be given to proposals for her future employment as forwarded to Admiralty in your W.A. 123/3683 M of 13th January 1943.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 1123A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

P.49. P.49 arrived.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 0856A/16.)

P.55. Arrival P.55.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 0935A/16.)

H.32. Your 1047A/11. Arrived with ELLESMERE.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0944A/16 to Capt. S.3.)

PENELOPE. Cancel my 1921/15th. Route for PENELOPE as in Admiralty's 1710/15.
(C. in C. W.A. 1017A/16 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Scapa departure PENELOPE. E.T.A. boom 0900/17.
(A.C.O.S. 1101/16 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

P.312. My 1501/15. Amend time of sailing to read
P.49. 1300A/16 and E.T.A. to read 1300A/18.
P.55. (S.O. S/M Lerwick 1133A/16.)
Sailed my 1501/15 as amended by my 1133/16.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 1306A/16 to A.C.O.S.)

/AGAMEMNON ...

War Diary.16.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

- AGAMEMNON. Sheerness departure at 1108 AGAMEMNON escorted by H.M.S. PYTCHLEY. Speed 13 knots. E.T.A. Scapa 0900/18th.
(C. in C. Nore 1144A/16.)
- W.A. Command. Situation at 1956A/16. Details.
(C. in C. W.A. 1357A/16.)
See Lion Copy.
- GRAPH. Clyde arrival GRAPH escorted by QUALICUM.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1254A/16.)
- P.339, TORBAY, P.312, P.219. Intend to sail 339, TORBAY 312 escorted by CUTTY SARK from Clyde at 0030A/19 by standard route to 000° Round Island 7 miles, E.T.A. 1630/20, speed 11 knots.
2. Thence 339 and TORBAY to westward. 312 and CUTTY SARK by Standard route to Plymouth, E.T.A. 0100/21, speed 11 knots.
3. Thence CUTTY SARK to 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. E.T.A. 0800/21.
4. Thence CUTTY SARK escorting 219 to Clyde, E.T.A. 0500/23, speed 10 knots.
(Capt. S.3 1409A/16.)
- S/M Positions. At 0800A/17. Details.
(F.O.S. 1654A/16, 1754A/16, 2157A/16.)
See Lion Copy.
- Position of S/Ms at 0800A/17 and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) P.224 and TRIDENT off Fro Havet.
(B) UREDD off Bredsund.
(C) P.49, P.55 and P.312 escorted by CUTTY SARK vicinity 58° 24' N. 05° 42' W. proceeding to Holy Loch. Expected time of arrival 1300/18.
(D) BARB and BLACKFISH escorted by MALLOW 53° 01' N. 05° 20' W. speed 14 knots for Clyde.
(E) GUNNEL 50° 09' N. 07° 55' W. dived by day through 50° 10' N. 09° 01' W. and 50° 10' N. 15° 02' W.
(F) P.219 43° 20' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 55' W.
(G) SHAD off Bilbao.
(H) HERRING in Zone K 505.
(F.O.(S) 1654A/16.)
- H.43. Arrived H.43 escorted by LORD MIDDLETON.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1725A/16.)
- S.51. My 1654/16. Add new para. J. S.51 escorted by THIRLMERE vicinity 65° 50' N. 24° 30' W. by usual route North of Iceland, due 66° 50' N. 15° 01' W. at 1200/18.
(F.O.S. 1754A/16 to Admty.)

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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

NAMSOS. My 1224/5th. After carrying out temporary repairs NAMSOS arrived Reykjavik at 1755/16. (A.C.I.C. 1830A/16.)

CARLISLE. Proceed passing Hoxa boom 0900A/17 to Plymouth to arrive 1000A/19. Route via Minches, Irish Sea and Q.Z.L.15. (C. in C. H.F. 2249A/16 to CARLISLE.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. Patrols tonight. 3 EGLINGTON, 4 MACKAY, 5 MEYNELL, 6 MENDIP, 7 KITTIWAKE. (C. in C. Nore 0952A/16.) M.G.B. 616 (S.O) and 611 are to patrol during dark hours tonight between 50° 31' N. 00° 35' E. and 50° 30' N. 00° 05' W. keeping south of convoy during its passage. Patrol may return to Newhaven after convoy has passed Dungeness. Codeword "Advent". KINGSTON TOPAZ and ASIE standing by at St. Helens. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1216A/16.)

Unknown operation. Met M.T.B. in 059° 31' N. 001° 41' E. at 0830. She reported operation unsuccessful and is returning to Lerwick at 25 knots. Am returning to Scapa. E.T.A. 1600. Acknowledge. (MIDDLETON 1001A/16 to A.C.O.S.)

HERRING Patrol. HERRING returns to close patrol off Ferrol. Information in para.(1) of my 2254 re MAX ALBRECHT was incorrect. She is at Ferrol. (F.O.S. 1431A/16 to S/Ms)

UREDD patrol off Bredsund. Leave patrol 2000A/17th passing through 062° 00' N. 011° 00' E. thence Lerwick direct. (Capt. S.9 1727A/16 to UREDD.)

Forthcoming S/M Patrols. My 1311/15 para (a) Delete TUNA, whose completion of fitting R.D.F. has been delayed. (F.O.S. 2203A/16.)

Allied Air Activity.

Damage at Lorient on night 14/15. Damage assessment at 1150/15. Lorient photos cover dock area and small part of Keroman U/B pens. Details. (R.A.F. Medmenham 0445A/16.)

/Cherbourg ...

War Diary.16.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.Cherbourg,
SOLGLIMT,
and Lorient
bombed.

On day 15th January 6 A/C attacked the whale oil vessel SOLGLIMT in No.5 dry dock at Cherbourg with fighter escort and support. Bombs were not observed to hit the vessel, but numerous bursts were seen on the neighbourhood quays and jetties.

On night 15th/16th 129 A/C bombed Lorient.
(H.Q.B.C. 1630A/16.)Enemy Air Activity.SARPEDON
attacked on
15th Jan.At 1105/15th SARPEDON while minesweeping in company with PLAYMATES and WILLING BOYS in 150° Dungeness 2 miles was attacked with machine guns and bombs by 3 F.W.190. Vessels sustained neither damage nor casualties. One aircraft was seen to be emitting smoke and is believed to have been hit by gunfire from SARPEDON.
(V.A. Dover 0944A/16 to Admty.)Humber area
attacked.Ref. M/LD 01814/41 of 8th November 1941.
A. About 10 hostile A/C approached the Humber Area, commencing 1955, one H.E. dropped S.W. of Grimsby. Because of bright moonlight, one Q.L. light only was in operation through the raid.
B. Yes.
C. The operation of Q.L. at GR.I apparently drew between 30 and 40 incendiary bombs which fell on the foreshore.
(F.O. Humber 1249/16 to Admty.)Mining.Operation
H.S.Operation completed. Search of Q.Z.L negative. Skim of H.S.one. One moored mine on surface detonated in sweep. 2 mines fouled Dan buoy mooring one of which detonated and other remoored itself below (?40) feet.
(M/F.4 1822A/16 to C. in C. Plymouth.)Thames
Estuary.Your 1250/15. Object reported is a Dan buoy with flag attached.
(R.N.O. Burnham on Crouch 1830/16 to C. in C. Nore.)Enemy Intelligence.CABO RAZO
(Spanish)P.C.S. of one (enemy?) M/V CABO RAZO 43° 40' N.
08° 10' W. 240° 8 knots.
(A/C 22 Sqdn. Duty T. 1330/16 to 19 Group.)

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War Diary.16.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - contd.

MONTE ABRIL P.C.S. of one (enemy?) M.V. MONTE ABRIL
(Spanish) 43° 47' N. 07° 35' W. 235° 10 knots.
(A/C 22 Sqdn. Duty T. 1345/16 to 19 Group.)

MAX Is at Ferrol.
ALBRECHT. See Operations.

E-Boats. Suspected E-boat activity.
(Harwich W/T 2246/16 to Yarmouth W/T.)
Suspected E-boat activity T and N.
(Nore W/T 2258A/16 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

Destroyer. P.C.S. of one Destroyer (?latitude) 12° 15' E.
160°, 25 knots.
(A/C AQZC 2309A/16.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats Am over enemy submarine in 46° 16' N. 02° 27' W.
reported. (A/C UGVN 0206/16 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 59° 59' N. 24° 15' W.
(A/C 269 Sqdn. Duty R. 1428/16.)
(Cominch 1512/16 to B.A.M.S. Area 1A.)

Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface and is still on surface.

(A/C 269 Sqdn. Duty R. 1433A/16 to Artunshofdi.)

* Two aircraft reports of U/Bs within 20 miles of 59° 50' N. 24° 15' W. suggest probability that concentration of U/Bs estimated within 250 miles of 55° 28' N. 30° 01' W. is further to northeast and may extend to 60° 30' N. 23° 59' W.* My 1408/16 (D.D.I.C. 1545A/16 to A.I.G. 331, Cominch.)

Submarine reported by ship in H.X.223 may have sighted fog buoy.

(NANAIMO 2214Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

Inconclusive D/F bearings at 2057Z/16 indicate U-boat in your vicinity which may have reported you.

(D.D.I.C. 2245A/16 to Escorts M.K.S.5.)

U-Boats Am over enemy S/M in 59° 40' N. 24° 22' W.
attacked. (A/C 269 Sqdn. Duty F. 1358/16 to 15 Group.)
(Cominch 1427/16 to Admty.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 269 Sqdn. Duty R 1400A/16.)

U-boat sighted by F.269 in 59° 40' N. 24° 22' W. course 275°, 10 knots 1358 attacked. U-boat sighted by R/269 in 59° 59' N. 24° 15' W, course and speed unknown, 1428A.

(R.A.F. Iceland 1445A/16 to H.Q.C.C., 15 Group.)

War Diary.16.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.

Oiling at sea. Admiralty 1217A/15. All possible steps are being taken in my command to expedite efficient oiling at sea. Instructions have been passed to all escorts and every endeavour is being made to instruct and exercise Oilers before leaving with convoys. Request issue of amended C.B. 4080 be hastened. It is understood that S.N.S.O. Clyde has applied to D. of Stores for an assistant for Capt. Rogers, R.F.A. in order the latter may be free to give his undivided attention to this problem in Clyde area. I strongly concur this proposal and consider the appointment of such an assistant essential. (C. in C. W.A. 1446A/16 to Admty.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Preliminary full power ahead and astern steering and manoeuvring trials satisfactorily carried out. (NEWFOUNDLAND 1818A/16 to A.S.C.B.S.)

Casualties and Defects.

LORD COCHRANE. LORD COCHRANE arrived with boiler trouble. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1028/16.)

CARLISLE. My 1913/14. Further investigation of defects in CARLISLE, together with difficulty of accommodating dockyard workmen on board, indicates that ship must proceed to refitting yard. Propose ship be taken in hand at Devonport. Intend sailing ship to arrive Devonport 19th January. (C. in C. H.F. 1406A/16 to Admty.)

LORRAINE. Arrived LORRAINE for refit. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1452A/16.)

SAKKO. Your 2108A/14. Approved. (Capt. Rescue Tugs 1517A/16 to A.C.I.C.)

R.M.L.560. Your 0920A/16. R.M.L.560 arrived Douglas with engine trouble. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 1600A/16 to N.O.I.C. Larne.)

ESCAPADE. My 1840/14. ESCAPADE delayed for repairs to main steam pipe joints. (Capt. D. Greenock 1802A/16.)

BALLOT. Captain of BALLOT reports vessel grounded in fog when proceeding in convoy at about 6 knots when tide was low on January 2nd. When he left vessel on 13th all holds and engine room were tidal except number 5. There was no heat or light

/in ...

16.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

BALLOT (contd.) vessel. She is sheltered from South winds being within 100 yards of shore. It is not possible to land on this shore however, (2) Russians have been trying to salvage cargo but with very little success. At the most optimistic estimate it will take them 50 days work to get enough cargo out to refloat vessel. As soon as wind changes to North vessel will break up. (3) I consider vessel a total loss and intend repatriating crew soonest possible. Have you any objections. (Dalgleish, Murmansk 1854A/16 to Admty.)

Sinking of BRASIL and SVEAJARL on 9th January. Your 1816/13. Release through Reuters in London would carry little or no weight and, if anything is done here, it would be better to issue official Admiralty communique. We do not think, however, that attitude of Swedish or Axis Press and broadcasts makes Admiralty communique necessary and do not propose to issue one. We have no objection, however, to your giving out that "you are authorised to state officially that no British mines had been laid in or near the scene of the sinkings and that no British Submarine was operating there at the time". (A.C.N.S. H. 2030A/16 to N.A. Stockholm.)

LONGBIRD (British, 636 tons) sunk. LONGBIRD from F.S.14 sunk after collision with BELTOY in approx. 2 miles north of 20 R buoy. Balloon marks spot. All crew on board VERDUN. BELTOY proceeding apparently undamaged. (VERDUN 2147A/16 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Shipping and Convoys.

TJALDUR. Your 1125/14. Arrived.
KRANJI. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 0933/16 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

J.W.52. Your 1149/15. Concur.
R.A.52. (C. in C. H.F. 1000A/16 to F.O.S.)
Scapa departure 1027 KENT.
(A.C.O.S. 1216A/16 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

My 1509/15. Delete METEOR.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1326A/16 to PIORUN, etc.)

J.W.52. For consideration regarding (?some) ships discharging White Sea ports.

1. For. (A) (corrupt group) Russian insistence that discharge and clearance of cargoes from Molotovsk much quicker than Murmansk.
- (B) Heavy draft ships discharge direct alongside Molotovsk but at Murmansk must first be lightened at anchorage.
- (C) (corrupt) cross bombing at Molotovsk.

3. Against. (A) Ice may separate ships or damage those which got out.
(B) Extra sea passage and good bombing target while in White Sea Ice.

/4. Comment.

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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

J.W.52. 4. Comment.
 R.A.52. (A) Claim of quicker discharge at Molotovsk correct
 (contd.) but Russians interested in cargoes only not
 empty ships. Prime mover Papanin pesters me
 unceasingly booming Molotovsk, but understand
 his promises last year failed us.
 (B) Murmansk bombing has been sporadic lately with minor
 damage to ships and docks but may increase in good weather.
 (C) White Sea ice danger to (?port) (?facilities). Ryotzu
 (?forecast) largely (?influenced) (?by) conditions near
 (?port) and by optimistic Russians (?but) principal danger is
 in Gorlo (?Channel) where ice packs flooding due to wind.
 At present two Tankers with petrol going in with small ice-
 breakers have required assistance of large ice-breakers.
 Weather hitherto unusually mild but cold may set in at any time.
 (D) (?Tankers) for White (?Sea) return (?cargoes) will I
 presume be (corrupt group) on by Dalgleish.
 5. I strongly urge no more ships go White Sea this winter.
 Admiralty pass to C. in C. Home Fleet and M.W.T.
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1601A/16 to Admty.)
 Scapa arrival. MIDDLETON.
 (A.C.O.S. 1640/16.)
 Arrived C.S.1 in KENT.
 (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1733A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)
 S.O. Destroyers 1545A/13. Sailed BLANKNEY for Loch Ewe.
 E.T.A. 1200A/17.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2014A/16.)
 Sailed PIORUN, MUSKETEER for Seidisfjord.
 (R.A.D. H.F. 2221A/16 to A.C.I.C.)

O.N.S.160. 4 hours early at Mersey.
 O.N.S.J. 160. (C.T.U. 24.1.12 1000Z/16 to C.T.U. 24.6.3.)
 ORILLIA. After effecting I.C.O.M.P. remain with O.N.S.
 160 until further orders.
 (C. in C. W.A. 1005Z/16 to C.T.U. 24.6.3.)
 Suggest you change course to our bearing.
 (C.T.U. 24.6.3 1142Z/16 to C.T.U. 24.1.12.)
 Your bearing at 1200Z was 313°.
 (C.T.U. 24.1.12 1202Z/16 to C.T.U. 24.6.3.)
 Cancel my distress signal. Ship hit by sea causing small
 fire and slight damage.
 (ORILLIA 1855Z/16.)
 Are you all right?
 (C.T.U. 24.1.12 1900Z/16 to ORILLIA.)
 My speed now about 6 knots.
 (C.T.U. 24.1.12 1920Z/16 to C.T.U. 24.6.3.)
 My P.C.S. at 2000Z/16, 059° 37' N. 020° 08' W., 313°, 8.
 Request (corrupt group) home me on 2410 k/cs commencing 1000Z/17th.
 Weather 4360 7766.
 (ORILLIA 2009Z/16 to C.T.U. 24.1.12.)
 At 1730Z/16 position 058° 54' N. 020° 42' W. Upon failure
 to join changed course to 327° true, speed 7. Will home on
 4440 k/cs (?each) 4 hours beginning 0400Z tomorrow. Advise
 estimated 0900Z position.
 (C.T.U. 24.6.3 2030Z/16 to C. in C. W.A. C.T.U. 24.1.12.)
 Your 1900Z/16. Yes, quite all right.
 (ORILLIA 2352Z/16 to C.T.U. 24.1.12.)

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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- K.M.S.8. Noon R/V 22nd January 55° 40' N. 07° 21' W.
Noon R/V 23rd January 55° 39' N. 12° 40' W.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock 1129A/16 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)
Admiralty 1022/15th. Escort (A) from Clyde LANDGUARD
(S.O) CORNCRAKE British ship to join from Londonderry at
Oversay rendezvousing with BIDEFORD, LONDONDERRY, LULWORTH,
HASTINGS, LOUISBURG, PRESCOTT, WOODSTOCK, CAMROSE, CALGARY,
KITCHENER, REGINA, ALGOMA, MOOSEJAW.
2. LANDGUARD to arrive Clyde in time for conference on
January 20th.
(C. in C. W.A. 1214A/16.)
- M.K.S.5. C. in C. W.A. 1216/15.
STORK. Onward route from position (q) 049° 20' N.
014° 25' W. through 049° 40' N. 013° 02' to
180° and 10, then 180° thence for 3, and by
Q.Z.S. 347 to Falmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1147A/16 to STORK, BLACK SWAN.)
- E.N. Your 1718/15. Concur.
Convoys. (C. in C. Rosyth 1211A/16 to Admty.)
- D.W.1. C. in C. W.A. 1217A/16 to Admty.
See A. & W.I.
- IRISH ASH. Request you arrange for following to be
broadcast in Plain Language to IRISH ASH.
"Your route is amended as follows. Proceed
from present position by Great Circle to position
38° 10' N. 46° 40' W. thence to 38° 10' N.
66° 35' W. thence to destination."
2. A.M. 1552/15th January to U.K.S.A. Dublin
regarding routes for Neutral shipping refers.
(D.T.D. 1221A/16 to N.A. Dublin.)
- Ten-day cycle for
Mid-Ocean Groups. Your 1031/13. Concur.
(C.T.F. 24 1431/16 to C. in C. W.A.)
Concur your 1950A/15 provided new Cycle agreed
upon.
(Cominch C. and R. 1520/16 to Admty.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch"Area.

K.M.S. 7.

Following are details of K.M.S. 7.
(D. of S.T. 0008A/16 to P.S.T.O.X.F.)BERGENSFJORD,
LEOPOLDVILLE,
ORBITA.Reference N.C.X.F's 1248/13 and F.O.C. W.Af.
1249/14 neither to all addressees. BERGENSFJORD,
LEOPOLDVILLE and ORBITA ex K.M.F. 7. should be
despatched as convenient to Bathurst to embark to
capacity with West African troops for movement toTakoradi. 2. From Takoradi vessels will return to Freetown
to embark again to capacity with W. African troops for Lagos.
Subsequent disposal of these ships will be notified in due course.3. As it essential that these vessels should be available as
soon as possible for other service only essential accompanied
equipment should be taken in the troopships.4. P.S.T.O. X.F. should concert with D.S.T.O. West Africa as
to (a) food etc. needed for the troops (b) arrival draught to
which ships should be limited (c) date of arrival of ships at
Bathurst. 5. Agreed.(D. of S.T. 0016A/16 to P.S.T.O.X.F. D.S.T.O. W.Af. (R) F.O.C.
W. Af. N.C.X.F. S.T.O. Bathurst S.T.O. Takoradi, V.A. Gib.
G.O.C. in C. W.Af.)

M.K.F. 7.

M.K.F. 7. Request you will sail convoy M.K.F. 7
at 1800A/19 escorted by WESTERN, WELLINGTON,
FOLKESTONE GORLESTONE, TOTLAND WEAR.(2) Route through position 100 39 44 84, position 86 46 78 37
lettered A to J omitting I (?stragglers) as convoy.(3) Ocean route 36° 21' N. 10° (? 01') W. 37° 39' N. 13° 29' W.
40° 01' N. 16° 16' W. 49° 18' N. 15° 32' W. 55° 01' N. 10° 45' W.
55° 25' N. 08° 30' W. lettered K. to P. Stragglers lettered Q. to
V. with instructions to keep 30 miles to port. S. of A. 13 knots.(4) (? Oran) section joining in position 109 at 0930A/20 with
local escort.(5) Convoy is adjusting speed of advance to pass through (?posn)
37 at 0700A/21, when Gib. sections join and detach with local
escort.

(6) First 2 letters of convoy W/T call signs V.Q.

(7) Fighter protection priority 2 until passing Oran codeword
"Harper".

(8) Outcon 421.

(N.C.X.F. 1717A/16 to Com. Algiers, (R) V.A. Gib., N.O.I.C.
Oran, F.O. I.S., Capt. F., Capt. (S) 8, H.Q.E.A.C. Command, Gen.
12th. A.F. S.O. Force "H", Admty. C. in C. W. A. , H.Q.C.C. A.O.C.
Gibraltar.)PENN,
PATHFINDER,
PANTHER.Request you will sail PENN, PATHFINDER, PANTHER as
convenient to arrive Freetown 25th. Jan. My
1146/15 to S.O. Force 'H' only refer.
(N.C.X.F. 1723A/16 to S.O. force 'H' (R) V.A.
Gib. F.O.C.W.Af. , Admty., F.O.I.C. Oran, S.N.O.
Casablanca.)

/Escort...

War Diary.16.1.1943
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area Contd.

Escort Intend following movements of escorts.
Movements. (A) VENOMOUS, WIVERN to reinforce T.M.F. 2 at P.L.E to fuel at Casablanca on southbound passage.
(B) BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE, WIMBORNE to relieve ROCHESTER, SANDWICH, LEITH, SCARBOROUGH with G (?U) (?S) 3 on (?passing) Gibraltar.
(C) Destroyers in (B) to remain Casablanca to provide escort for BULOLO as ordered by S.N.O. Casablanca.
(D) ERNE, ENCHANTRESS to fuel at Casablanca thence to meet T.M.F. 2 as ordered by V.A. Gib. to escort ESSO GETTYSBURG to (? Ponta Delgada). On completion of unloading these to escort ESSO GETTYSBURG to join G.U.F. 4 returning Gib. on completion.
(E) Three of sloops in (B) to escort BERGENSFIORD, LEOPOLDVILLE, ORBITA to reach 020° N. 028° W. at 0800Z/28 and return to Gibraltar as ordered by V.A. Gib. CYCLAMEN to join from Casablanca for passage to Bathurst.
(F) PENN, PANTHER, PATHFINDER as in my 1723A/16.
(N.C.X.F. 1752A/16 to V.A. Gib., F.O.W.Af., S.N.O. Casablanca area (R) Admty., S.O. Force 'H'.)

Rearming In accordance with policy of Allied C. in C. stated
French in N.A.F. 78 dated 2nd. to C.O.S. arrangements have
local been started for re-arming French Local convoy
convoy escorts actively employed between Casablanca and
escorts. Tunisia.
2. Two Oerlikons each have been issued to French ships CHASSEUR THREE, ENGAGEANTE and GOELAND.
3. Request total of 50 additional oerlikon equipments complete may be dispatched 30 to Algiers and 20 to Gib. to provide pool for pool armament of remaining 12 French local convoy escorts of trawler class now operating between Casablanca and Algiers. (II) D.E.M.S. armament of French coasters up to 33 in number which it is intended to employ on Allied service to release British coasters Allied C. in C's N.A.F. 104 dated 14th Jan. to Chiefs of Staff refers.
4. Intended to make minor issues of depth charges, smoke floats and ammunition to the French as the occasion arises pending settlement of major rearmament questions which are being dealt with through Admiral Glassford's mission to combined Chiefs of Staff.
(N.C.X.F. 1910/16 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib.)
Reply: Admty. 1640/20.

ABDIEL Your 1231/15 and V.A. Gibraltar's 1846/14 and 2357/
mines. 15. 2. Unless U.S. technical officers can guarantee within acceptable limits the correct functioning of the U.S. Mark VI mine with 200 fathoms of mooring wire it is considered that it would be inadvisable to lay them so fitted without previous functioning trials.
(D.D.O.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1920A/16 to N.C.X.F.)

/K.M.S...

War Diary.

16.1.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area Contd.

K.M.S. 7 (O) K.M.S. 7 (O) Request you will sail following ships to join convoy K.M.S. 7 (O) for Oran UTAHAN, LWOW, BLENHEIM. For Algiers FORT CONFIDENCE, CLAN MCBEAN, ST. ESSYLT, ATERSUM, EMPIRE DRIVER, BEIRA, SOUTH GATE, SALT WICK. For Bougie NORTON. For Bone WELSH TRADER. Hold LOCHEE for further orders.
(N.C.X.F. 2247A/16 to V.A. Gib. (R) Cdre. Algiers, Connav, Admty., N.Os I/C Bougie, Bone, F.Os. I/C Oran, Beira, (Corrupt addressee) Escorts of convoy K.M.S.7.)

K.M.S.7. K.M.S.7. Destination of following ships is Gib. to await orders MAHSUD, HARDINGHAM, OCEAN VIRTUE, OCEAN VISTA, EMPIRE RUSKIN, JUNE CREST, OCEAN LIBERTY, HARPALYCUS, ARTEMUS, WARD, EMPIRE DAY, TERRANOVO, CARTER, OCEAN VOLGA. VANOC pass to Cdre. and ships concerned.
(N.C.X.F. 2250A/16 to VANOC Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.7. (R) V.A. Gib., Admty., Cdre. Algiers., F.O.I.C. Oran N.O.I.C. Bone Connav.)

War Diary.16.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

T.M. 1. My 1130Z/15, search between meridian 28 and 27
Search for reveals area of about 300 (as received) square
casualties. miles of oil with centre about 13 miles (corrupt
group) from position of sinking of ALBERT L.
ELLSWORTH. One unrecognizable body found but
no wreckage. Further search? considered fruit-
less and prohibited by fuel limit. Proceeding to Gibraltar at
economic speed. My position, course and speed $028^{\circ} 11' N. 027^{\circ}$
 $15' W. 068^{\circ}, 9\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Weather report 9180 2341.
(PENTSTEMON, 0001Z/16 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) S.N.O.
Casablanca.)
My 0001Z/16. My P.C. and S. 1600Z/16 $029^{\circ} 11' N. 024^{\circ} 27'$
 $W. 067^{\circ}, 12.$ E.T.A. Gibraltar 1300A/20.
(PENTSTEMON, 1646Z/16 to V.A. Gibraltar.)

BARON Your 1533A/15 para. 3.
KINNAIRD. BARON KINNAIRD expected to finish 18th. Request
instructions. Weather report.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1030A/16 to V.A. Gib.)

Situation Area 'X' at 2002A/16th.
Reports. K.M.S.7, PELICAN, 1 Sloop, 5 corvettes, 4 mine-
sweepers 36.59, (?29).39 through 36.01, 12.01
thence $90. 7\frac{1}{2}$.
2. P.219, 41.23, 11.54 to 43.01, 12.55 to 0600/17th thence 000° .
Dive by day $2\frac{1}{2}$ surface by night 10.
3. ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER 29.19, 14.43 picking up cable
 $046^{\circ}, 1.$
4. IMPERIALIST 30.59, 12.46 to join ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON
PENDER 9.
5. LORD NUFFIELD, NORTHERN FOAM, 3 merchant ships off Tarifa to
Gibraltar $7\frac{1}{2}$.
6. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR 35.42, 11.37, 279, 9.
6. M.K.S.5X, ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH, FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC sail
1700A/17th through 36.30, 10.01, 7 knots.
8. PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE tug NIMBLE (E) 29.16, 24.01, 68, $9\frac{1}{2}$.
9. (? H.M.S. ABDIEL) 38.12, 16.45 to Ponta Delgada 18.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1130/16.)
My 1130A/16th add new para. 10. CARNATIC sailed 2000/16th
through $035^{\circ} 51', 006^{\circ} 01'$ and $035^{\circ} 45', (006^{\circ}?) 23'$ and $033^{\circ} 35'$
 $009^{\circ} 10'$ thence $208^{\circ}, 12.$
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2102A/16.)
Situation 2008/16th.
NIMBLE in company SAMPHIRE, PENTSTEMON (E) $029^{\circ} 16', 024^{\circ} 01',$
 $068^{\circ}, 9\frac{1}{2}$.
(2) Corrupt group $038^{\circ} 12', 016^{\circ} 45'$ to Ponta Delgada, 18.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1230A/16.)
Situation 2006A/16.
K.X.8 (Freetown section) French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, H.M.S.
CORINTHIAN, WOODRUFF, FANDANGO, BELLWORT, 23.08, 16.48 through
20.01, 18.30 thence 177, $(?8)\frac{1}{2}$.
2. D.64, U.S.S. AUK, 3 P.C., CYCLAMEN, BUTSER, BIRDLIP 23.22,
16.32 northbound coastwise $7\frac{1}{2}$.

War Diary.16.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Situation
Reports.
(Contd.)

3. LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE, sail from Port Etienne 16th to arrive latitude Cap Bojador 17th thence southbound to arrive Dakar 19th.
4. D.65, ANNAMITE, 20.33, 17.09 northbound coast(?wise), 5.
5. T.M.F.2, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH, 22.02, 41.06, 89, 13.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1430A/16.)

DELHI,
M.K.F.7.

Your 1809/15. DELHI should be sailed in M.K.F.7.
(N.C.X.F., 1132A/16 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

ST. NECTAN.

V.A. Gibraltar 1135/16 to N.A. Madrid.
See 1113/18, 2230/18.

U.G.S.3.

My 1225/14 was addressed N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., Cominch from S.N.O. Casablanca Area.
(S.N.O. Casablanca Area, 1200Z/16 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., Cominch.)

Movements.

Following is repetition of my 2015/15. (Begins).
Departures 0920 ROCHESTER, LEITH ERNE, SCARBOROUGH for Oran Q.B.95 and 203, Q.B.A.24. 1022 KINGSTON CHRYSLITE, MIRROR. 1745 LOCH OSKAIG to escort SS. BARON KINNAIRD from Melilla to Gibraltar. (Ends).
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1419A/16 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)
Departures 0015 SANDWICH for Oran Q.B.A.24, Q.K.A.83.
1245 LAMERTON for Algiers.
Arrivals 1200 BICESTER, CONVULVULUS, SPEEDWELL, H.M.C.S. WEYBURN with Convoy E.T.9.
1903 LORD NUFFIELD, NORTHERN FOAM with SS. CASTILLIAN, SHETLAND, CAITHNESS from Lisbon.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2000A/16 to Admty., N.C.X.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

G.U.S.3,
LORRAINE.

Your 1143/15. LORRAINE is too slow for inclusion in G.U.S.3. She is to be sailed for U.K. EXIRIA is also to be sailed for U.K.
(N.C.X.F., 1501A/16 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, S.N.O. Casablanca Area, Admty., Connav.)

Ponta
Delgada.

My 1540/12 (Gale damage to oil pipe line) oil fuel facilities all ships now normal, all pipes replaced.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1525/?16 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I)., N.A. Lisbon.)

/Corunna ...

War Diary.16.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Corunna, My 1656/13 (re repairs to German tanker SPICHERN)
and Corunna's 1345/15.
contact with R.O. Corunna's contact with Ferrol appears to
Ferrol. have broken down. Formerly it was good and quick.
I am sending A.N.A. to investigate means of
improving system and will also start special
service for that area in preparation for future cases.
Even when focusing set is at Corunna links with neighbouring
ports are vital.
S.I.S. representative informs me he regards watching of enemy
vessels as not his business, but only mine.
(Madrid, 1616/16 to Admty.)

U/B sighted Plane sighted periscope 1630A/16 34° 21' N. 06°
by A/C. 54' W. course 040 sea calm weather, watched for
30 seconds but disappeared before attack could
be made. Contact evaluated probable.
Planes will cover area all night.
(S.N.O. Casablanca Area, 1945Z/16 to V.A. Gib.,
Admty., (R) C.T.F.33, C.T.U. 26.7.1.)

E.T. 9. E.T.9 arrived less ORKLA and BARON RUTHVEN.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2029A/16 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cdre.
Algiers, Admty., N.O.I.C. Oran, Connav.)
ORKLA arrived.
(V.A. Gib., 1813A/17.)

CARNATIC, My 1950/15. This further delay due to collective
crew insubordination on part of 16 upper deck hostili-
trouble. ties only Indian ratings subsequently settled
through intervention of an Officer in RENOWN who
spoke Urdu.

(2) Cause of trouble stated to be a promise alleged to have been
given by a former First Lieutenant that each native rating would
be given a white blanket in addition to normal allowance of 4
brown blankets with which they had been issued. Alleged promise
not substantiated by any of the permanent ratings of R.I.N.
constituting remainder of ships company.

(3) In view of primitive intelligence of ratings concerned and
willingness of Captain who has had considerable experience of
Indian personnel to proceed I have authorised his doing so with
instructions to deal summarily with offenders.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 2112A/16 to Admty.)

My 1950/15. H.M.I.S. CARNATIC sailed 2023/16 Q.K.3,
Q.K.A.83, Q.L.A.145.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 2153A/16 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty.,
N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A.)

War Diary.16.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Embarkation of German Ps.O.W. Your 1253/13 not understood. Intend that MATAROA should proceed as in para. 9 of A.M. 1751/24/12/42 i.e. from South Africa to New York to load for U.K. P.O.W. are for New York en route to Canada.
(D. of S.T., 0007A/16 to C. in C. S.A., (R) D.S.T.O. Durban.)

ATHENE. Sailed ATHENE routed through A 36° 01' S. 49° 30' E. B 38° 30' S. 61° 01' E. C 39° 30' S. 69° 59' E. D 39° 30' S. 85° 01' E. E 38° 01' S. 95° 01' E. thence to Fremantle.
2. S. of A. 15 knots E.T.A. 0300Z/28.
3. Shifts to Group NU 1430Z/19.
4. Request A.C.N.B. instructions when to shift to Australian W/T organisation.
(Com. i/c Durban, 0411Z/16 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B., N.O.I.C. Fremantle.)

PETUNIA. My estimated time of arrival 1300Z/16th Jan. W/Report.
(PETUNIA, 0801Z/16 to F.O.W.Af., (R) Capt. (D).)

Simonstown refitting facilities. Simonstown has no refits between DAUNTLESS completing 25th Jan. and NORMAN and BLACKMOOR commencing 3rd March. In order to make full use of specialised resources and personnel at this yard request a cruiser refit or equivalent in other kinds of warships may be allocated.
(2) The only ships of E.F. available for short docking and short refit respectively are Dutch Ship COLUMBIA and CHALLENGER which are insufficient for filling the gap.
(C. in C. S.A., 1059C/16 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med.)

ALCANTARA. My 1855Z/14 para. 4 correct to read. New Orleans or port selected by air mail.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1123Z/16 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., ALCANTARA, S.B.N.O.W.At.)

HYDRANGEA, K.X. 8. Estimated time sailing HYDRANGEA 1800Z/16 to R/V with convoy (?K).X.8 in 018° 36' N. 018° 30' W. at 0900Z/18. HYDRANGEA reports (corrupt group) ahead lighter (corrupt group) (corrupt group) and white metal (corrupt group).
Maximum speed about (corrupt group) (? 10) knots temporary repairs have been effected.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1140Z/16 to CORINTHIAN, (R) F.O.C.W.Af., Capt. (D) Freetown.)

/Weekly ...

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War Diary.16.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Weekly State. Weekly state of South Atlantic Station 16th Jan.
(C. in C. S.A., 1152C/16.)

O. 21. Admty. pass to B.D.Z.
D.S. O.21 has left for East London.
(S.S.O. Simonstown, 1201C/16 to Admty.)
Simonstown departure 1200C/16 S/M O.21 escorted by (?ROCKROSE) for East London. S. of A. 12½ knots, E.T.A. 1000 Feb. 18th.
(C. in C. S.A., 1228C/16 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., Colombia, N.O.I.C. East London, N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, N.O.I.C. Durban, Capt. (S) 4, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

Dispositions. Tug PUDENT T standing by MELISKERK in vicinity of 031° 33' S. 029° 40' E.
QUILLIAM, CHESHIRE, EXPRESS with T.S.25 (?034°) 07' S. 026° 16' E. to Durban 12 knots.
HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY 013° 10' S. 011° 40' E. to Walvis Bay 10 knots.
MAGNOLIA 034° 25' S. 022° 10' E. to Durban 8 knots.
ROCKROSE, O.21 034° 55' S. 020° 45' E. to East London, 12½.
COMADA to leave Port Elizabeth daylight 16th for East London.
SONDRA escorting GOLD RANGER 028° 00' S. 033° 40' E. to Durban 8.
NEPAL, NORMAN 026° 30' S. 035° 00' E. to Durban 15.
(C. in C. S.A., 1202C/16.)

Situation at 2001Z/16.

D.S/M O.(?19) 08.30, 13.36 to 09.00, 17.02 thence 325, 9.
GLENROY, JANUS off Dakar to Bathurst 5.
DUNKERY, DUNCTION about 11.30 17.30 to Freetown 8.
M.L.290, M.L.281 escorting 12.50, 17.30 to Dakar 9.
F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE, CYCLAMEN, BIRDLIP, BUT(?S)ER, 4 U.S. Escort Vessels with convoy D.64 about 23.37, 16.24 044°, 7.5.
CORINTHIAN, (?BURDOCK), FANDANGO, BREDON, BELLWORT with K.X.8 about 23.25, 16.38, 207, 8.5.
F.S. ANNAMITE with convoy D.65 off Cape Blanco to North coastal 5.
F.S. LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE off Port Etienne to North.
(R.A.W.Af., 1551Z/16.)
Situation at 1959Z/16.

D.S. O.19 off (? Freetown) to 09.00, 17.02, (?9).
BRIDGEWATER 06.30, 13.(?07) to Marshall thence Freetown 10.
ST. WISTAN, 2 M.Ls off Marshall.
HOLCOMBE escorting 04.20, 08.28 to 04.01, (?07).56 thence 086°, 12.5.
ORFSA(?Y) with French convoy off Cape Palmas to East 7.
H.M. Sub. P.614 03.30, 10.12 to 02.40, 07.46 at 1400Z/17th thence 081°, 8.5.
TURCOMAN on passage Takoradi to Lagos.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1717Z/16.)

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. D. of S.T. 0358/12 in view of latest submarine disposition intend to route EMPRESS OF RUSSIA to Capetown for bunkering and thence via Cape Horn to U.S.A. for convoy.

(2) Her speed is only 12½ knots and this is considered insufficient for safety on the direct Atlantic route to U.S.A.
(C. in C. S.A., 1205C/16 to Admty., (R) D. of S.T., Cdre. i/c Durban, D.S.T.O. Durban, N.C.S.O. Durban, N.C.S.O. Capetown.)

/HYDRANGEA ...

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War Diary.16.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

HYDRANGEA. Your N.R.29/957 following is repetition of message 1701/15 (received undecypherable). (Begins). "F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. from N.O.I.C. Bathurst arrival 1400/15 Jan. HYDRANGEA". (Ends). (F.O.C.W.Af., 1215Z/16 to Admty.)

AIMWELL (1) Sail AIMWELL forthwith to take over towing to tow of GLENROY from JANUS in 015° 17' N. 018° 23' W. GLENROY damaged. at 0751Z/16. Course 128°, 5 knots.

(2) Provide M.L. escort and maximum air cover.

(3) AIMWELL to tow GLENROY towards Bathurst.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 1325Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R)

B.N.L.O. Dakar, V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., Admty., JANUS, GLENROY.)

My 1325Z/16. Report extent of repairs required.

(R.A.W.Af., 1343Z/16 to GLENROY, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C.

Bathurst, B.N.L.O. Dakar, JANUS.)

My 1325Z/16 and my 1343Z/16. Can repair be undertaken

at Dakar.

(R.A.W.Af., 1345Z/16 to B.N.L.O. Dakar, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, JANUS, GLENROY.)

Estimated time sailing AIMWELL and Motor Launches 289, 1077, 1044, 1600Z/16th. Request GLENROY report present draft.

(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1515Z/16 to R.A.W.Af., (R) B.N.L.O.

Dakar, V.A. Gibraltar, GLENROY, Admty.)

My 1345/16. ?GLENROY reports dismantled damaged cylinder and is proceeding Bathurst on remaining five. Further signal will be made if repair facilities at Dakar are required. E.T.A. Bathurst a.m. 17th.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 1921Z/16 to B.N.L.O. Dakar, (R) GLENROY, Admty., JANUS, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

Your 1345/16th. From Admiral Collinet. Probably. Send

GLENROY (? here). T.O.O. 1946/16th.

(B.N.L.O. Dakar, 2001Z/16 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty., JANUS, GLENROY.)

U/B Am attacking confirmed submarine contact in 023° attacked by 34' N. 016° 34' W. CORINTHIAN. (CORINTHIAN, 1430Z/16 to F.O.W.Af.)

CORINTHIAN reports attacking confirmed submarine contact in 023° 34' N. 016° 34' W. at 1430Z/16.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 1511Z/16 to BELLWORT, BURDOCK, FANDANGO, BREDON, CYCLAMEN, U.S.S. AUK, (R) Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., CORINTHIAN, B.N.L.O. Durban, S.N.O. Casablanca, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

My 1430Z attacked with 7 patterns. Still in contact.

(CORINTHIAN, 1605Z/16 to F.O.I.C. W.Af.)

Still holding contact. One pattern remaining. Target

shows no appreciable movement. Am remaining in vicinity.

(CORINTHIAN, 1725Z/16 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

My 1511Z/16. CORINTHIAN still holding contact at 1725Z/16.

No appreciable movement.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 1834Z/16 to CYCLAMEN, BURDOCK, FANDANGO, BREDON, U.S. M/S. AUK, (R) Admty., S.N.O. Casablanca, CORINTHIAN, V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., B.N.L.O. Dakar, BELLWORT.)

/((? Have) ...

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War Diary.16.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

U/B
attacked by
CORINTHIAN.
(Contd.)

(? Have) relieved U.S. escort K.X.8. BELLWORT taken over contact rejoining after dark if no result.
FANDANGO in company. Position 023° 30' N. 016° 37' W. course 236° altering to 202° at 0101 speed 8 knots.
(CORINTHIAN, 2001Z/16 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

NORTHERN ISLES.

Departure 16th Jan. NORTHERN ISLES E.T.A. Walvis Bay 0800Z/27.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1527Z/16 to Admty., (R) R.A.W.Af. C. in C. S.A.)

Standard reference positions.
(Atlantic).

For consideration that Connav be asked to extend use of these positions to all ships sailing from (R) from U.S. Zone. Length of route signals would be considerably shortened.
(C. in C. S.A., 1800C/16 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Troop transport, W. African Bdes.

Further to Admty. 2355A/12 (not to Middle East) regarding moves to concentrate West African Bdes. as proposed by G.O.C. in C.

1. Moves agreed.
2. Three personnel ships total approx. capacity 8000 are due arrive Bathurst last week January.
3. Movement dates and times will be notified by F.O.C.W.Af. and D.S.T.O. West Africa.
4. These ships may be available to lift 8000 personnel of Belgian Bde. to Middle East. Our 94566 (M.O.5) of 16th January refers.
(W.O., 1900A/16 to G.O.C. in C. W.Af., (R) C. in C. M.E.)

Movements.

Arrival 16th U.S. Destroyer JOUETT, U.S. Corvette TENACITY, U.S. Sub. Chasers P.C.495, 575 and 610.
Departure 16th Brazilian Minelayers CABEDELLO and CARAVELAS.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1901Z/16 to Admty., (R) B.R.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, S.O.(I) Freetown.)
Departure 16th O.19 Q.Z.H.97, L.52, S.394, X.909, Y.371, Q.K.A. 84.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 2039Z/16 to Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., F.O.(S).)
Arrival 16th PETUNIA, DRANGEY.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 2041Z/16 to Admty., V.A. Gibraltar.)
Arrival 16th ARMERIA.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 2359Z/16 to Admty., Comsolant, S.B.N.O. W.At., S.O.(I) Kingston, N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

EGERO
(Tanker)

My 1917/10th Dec. EGERO cargo 11,776 tons Admty. furnace oil, due Cape about 25th (Tanker message) is available for replenishment Pointe Noire and Lagos balance Freetown. Request prompt report whether this is convenient.
(D. of S., 1945A/16 to F.O.C.W.Af.)
Reply: F.O.C.W.A., 1004Z/18.

/T.S.29 ...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

T.S. 29. Arrival 16th COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, PICT with T.S. 29. (F.O.C.W.Af., 2037Z/16 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

A.F.D.24 for Freetown. Your 2055Z/14. Propose A.F.D.24 proceed from New Orleans to Freetown via either (A) St. Juan. (B) St. Thomas. (C) Kingston Jamaica and Trinidad. 2. Selection of West Indian Port is dependent on U-Boat situation at the time and also facilities available for any repairs or adjustments to dock which may be necessary before Ocean Passage. Little information concerning the latter is available here and it is requested Port may be selected by you. Endurance of trawlers estimated at 15 days must also be taken into consideration. 3. ALCANTARA and probably one additional Corvette will join MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, NESTOR and MORRIS DANCE at West Indian Port, ALCANTARA to provide Ocean cover and fuel MILFORD and Corvettes on passage. 4. Ocean route dependent on U-Boat dispositions but suggest it should run to about 18° N. 40° W. thence Freetown to avoid bad weather area. 5. Request NESTOR and MORRIS DANCE be coaled with selected coal to ensure maximum endurance. They should be attached at limit of prudent endurance to coal at St.Vincent C.V.I. Relief trawlers will be sent from Freetown. 6. Request A/S escorts be boiler cleaned as late as possible before sailing. 7. Trinidad pass to MILFORD. (F.O.C.W.Af., 2047Z/16 to B.A.D., (R) Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., MILFORD, ALCANTARA.) See also 1635Z/18.

Combined H.Q. needed at Dakar. Your 0240/15 (repetition of Air Min.'s 0020/15). I concur in views expressed in W.A's A.560 of 15th Feb. (? Jan. intended) to A.C.A.S.(P) Air Ministry. At present the French in Dakar have no reasonable operational organisation and no proper means of keeping one. In fact only chart available to operations room at time of B.N.L.O's arrival was of approaches to Dakar. Some operational set-up is necessary to permit Adm. Collinet to co-operate at all and to ensure proper co-ordination and communications between us. It seems desirable that this should take form of a combined H.Qs which can be and will probably have to be on a very small scale. I do not think there is any likelihood of Adm. Collinet wishing to take any action which would prejudice operations for protection of Allied convoys but without some much more efficient organisation in Dakar he might well do so inadvertently. (F.O.C.W.A., 2129Z/16 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., etc.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Following received from A/C using call sign KT.1. P.C. and S. of one M/V 3 unknown, 180° 34.10 N., 12° E.
(Alexandria, 0100/16, to Admty.)
Please transmit following at the next routine time using broadcast method M.S. Addressed (?K)M.T.I. from A/c C/S A.Q.Q.C: My 0100. One enemy M/V and one enemy destroyer bearing 270° distant 4 miles Approx. course 010° speed 10 knots. My position (34.20 N. 12.20 E.)
(Alexandria, 0125/16 to Admty.) Passing action being taken by Whitehall W/T.)
Following has been read: To A.H.Q. Malta from A/C C/S A.Q.Q.C:- Position of 2 unknown enemy vessels 39.30 N. 13.18 E. on course 210° speed 6 knots.
(Alexandria, 0215/16 to Admty.)

NEBOJSCA, PARTHIAN, MATROZOS. Your 1257/22/12 para. 1. (S/M no longer required to supply petrol to Malta. ? 1257/27 intended.) Sailing date of NEBOJSCA is dependent on trials after extensive refit but should be before end of January. I may however propose PARTHIAN to go instead, as a probable requirement for one of these two in future is to supply petrol for M.T.Bs. in Aegean. 2. Para. (2) yes. 3. Para. (3) PARTHIAN has arrived Beirut, deck further defect. Report will follow after full examination. 4. Para. (4) It has always been intention for MATROZOZ to be used for A/S training first and for operations later if found sufficiently serviceable. This has agreement of Greek C. in C. Admty. pass to F.O.(S)
(C. in C. Med. 0142B/16, to Admty. (R) F.O.S. etc.)

NUBIAN, KELVIN operation. My 1046/15th. (Sailing of two destroyers of Force K.) At about 0330 this morning in approx. 034° 20' N. 012° 20' E. NUBIAN and KELVIN sank a merchant ship reported as 4500 tons and damaged an escort vessel.
(V.A. Malta, 0655A/16 to C. in C. Med.(R) Admty. N.C.X.F.)
Your 0655/16th Jan. Italian communique serial 1 dated 16th Jan. Were damage or casualties sustained by NUBIAN or KELVIN?
2 Request you will include this information in first reports whenever practicable.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 2110A/16 to V.A. Malta.) Reply: No. (V.A.M., 0953A/17.)
NUBIAN and KELVIN returned from Operation.
(V.A.Malta, 1107A/16.)

Movements. Arrival M.T.B. 65.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 0801B/16 to Admty.)
Arrivals 15th Jan. G.S. SAKTOURIS. G.S. IERAX.
Departure 15th Jan. ERICA, PROTEA.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0910B/16 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)
16th Jan., departure M.Ls. 350 and 358.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 1035B/16 to Admty.)

P.54 If nothing has been sighted by 1200A today 16th,
UNA. 1. P.54 proceed direct to 038° 28' 008° 01' thence
/as...

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Mediterranean.

P.54 as ordered by Capt. (S) 8. 2. UNA proceeds by
Contd. usual route to arrive Malta searched channel at
1100A 19th.- Passage through Q.B.B.255 should be
made at least two hours ahead of P.44.

(Capt. S.10. 0836A/16, 1352A/16, to P.54, UNA, (R) C. in C. Med.
N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8. Subs on Patrol.)

If nothing has been sighted (1) UNA by 0100A/17th (2) P.54
by 0400A/17th, proceed according to my 0836/16th.

(Capt. S.10 2355A/16 to UNA, P.54 (R) C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.
Capt. (S) 1. Capt. (S) 8, S/Ms on patrol.)

M.K.S.6. Intend sailing (excluding Gibraltar section) 35
ships (list). 2. All ballast. 3. HAMPTON LODGE
Oran for Beui Saf. BALTONIA Gibraltar for loading.

Others Belfast for orders.

(Cdre. Algiers, 1121A/16 to Admty. Connv. N.C.X.F.

V.A. Gibraltar.)

Bi-Weekly A.685. 13th Jan. 12 B. 24s left to attack shipping
Opsum 91. in Sousse Harbour. Owing to bad weather and low
cloud Sousse area only 6 aircraft found harbour.

Results of bombing obscured by cloud. Some bombs
also dropped on main road south of Sousse. 8.B.24s despatched
to bomb shipping in Tripoli Harbour were unable to locate
objective owing to bad weather and returned after 2 hour search.

Night 13/14 Jan. About 3 enemy aircraft bombed Benghazi area.

No damage reported. 2 Beaufighters up but no interceptions.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1121Z/16.)

Part 4 my A.685. 15th Jan. 20 B.24s despatched to attack
shipping Tripoli. One large merchant vessel in harbour
straddled. 2 direct hits claimed on wrecked merchant vessel
followed by explosion and fire. Another stationery merchant
vessel out side harbour straddled. Ship seen smoking when
aircraft left. Some bombs among other shipping in harbour.
Fires started on shore.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1151Z/16.)

PAKENHAM
JAVELIN.

PAKENHAM, and JAVELIN sailed on operation.
(V.A. Malta, 1141A/16 to Admty. C. in C. Med.
N.C.X.F.)

P.42.

(?P) 42 leaving Malta 1300A/16th routed through
(1) 036° 05' 014° 00'. (2) 036° 05' 012° 30' thence
west of Takion to patrol area Gulf of Gabes west
of longitude 011° 30'.

(Capt. S.10., 1215A/16, to C. in C. Med.)

P.247.

From dusk to-night you have freedom of action off
Naples.

(Capt. S.10., 1228A/16 to P.247 (R) P.228.)

/P.228...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- P.228 There are indications you have been sighted by A/C. Leave your survey forthwith and proceed to East coast Sardinia to intercept Coastal Traffic between Cape Comind and Cagliari. Proceed as necessary to pass through 038° 30' 007° 59' at 2000A/20th thence all despatch as ordered by Capt. (S) 8.
(Capt. S.10. 1251A/16 to P.228 (R) C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F. S/M on Patrol, Capt. (S) 1. Capt. (S) 8.)
- M.K.S.6. List etc.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1245A/16 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc.)
- M.W.19. Total unloaded to 1800/15th 13,316 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 1255A/16.)
- Cositrep
No. 657, Second and last part. (N.I. of Part 1.)
Albacores and Beauforts laid mines off Kerkenah Islands. 4. 15 Jan. American B.24s despatched to attack shipping in Tripoli scored hits on wrecked merchant vessel followed by explosion and fire. One large merchant vessel in harbour and stationary merchant vessel outside harbour straddled by bombs. Smoke seen rising from latter. Some bombs burst among other shipping in harbour. Fires started on shore. B.24s shot down one M.E. 109 probably destroyed another damaged two more.
(C. in C. M.E. 1255B/16.)
- K.M.S.6. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Intend to sail following ships in K.M.S.6. FORT BATTLE RIVER, WILLIAM WIRT, 2nd ship has sustained bomb damage and should be at rear of column.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1344A/16 to N.C.X.F., Cmdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, V.A. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Bone, Bougie.)
- Tugs. With the loss of ST. ISSEY and the extension of of the supply lines together with the salvage requirements of operational ports the tug situation in the Eastern Mediterranean has become critical. Would it be possible for you to get a tug from either India or South Africa to enable DONAU to sail for Red Sea and thus free a fleet tug for Malta where one is urgently required.
(C. in C. Med., 1410/16 to C. in C. E.F.(R) V.A.M., Admty., F.O.R.S.C.A.)
- RORQUAL. You may have been sighted by aircraft this morning.
(Capt. (S) 10, 1457A/16 to RORQUAL.)
- Enemy
Units. R/C AC Report at 1015A/16th 1 medium size Merchant Ship and 2 small Merchant Ships 40 miles due West Tripoli westbound 8 to 10 knots.
(Capt. S.10. 1502A/16 to P,51.)

/Malta...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Malta
Dockyard.

Report on re-development after destruction in Spring of 1942. The report concludes:- "In my opinion the reconstruction achieved is remarkable in the circumstances".
(V.A. Malta, 1515/16 to Admt.)

(?) TAKU.

(? TAKU) leaves Beirut searched channel 1715B tomorrow Sunday routed through (A) $032^{\circ} 52'$, $030^{\circ} 36'$ at 17(?00)B/18th.
(?B) $034^{\circ} 27'$, $018^{\circ} 59'$ at 2330B/21st. (thence?) Malta as ordered by you. (? She) will be run on the surface during daylight on 18th and 19th Jan. Estimated daily advance when run on the surface during daylight 252 miles and when diving by day 125 miles.
(Capt. S.1, 1546B/16 to Capt. S.10, (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

Axis
Shipping.

Arrival 15th Italian MAURO CROCE Barcelona to load rosin for Genoa.
Castellon departure 14th French LEZARDRIEUX, ODDA.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 1600/16 to Admt.)

G.U.S. 3.

Tact. Intend sailing G.U.S. 3 at 1300B/18 as follows. (List, 13 ships, etc.)
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1601A/16 to N.C.X.F.)

P.43, P.42.

Arrived P.43. Sailed P.42.
(V.A. Malta, 1610A/16.)

HURWORTH
target.

Target stationary producing large quantity heavy oil not Diesel. Exact position 000° Derna Light 6.5 miles. Proceeding from this position course 285° , speed 12 knots.
(HURWORTH, 1630B/16 to S.O. Force I.)

Weather conditions unsuitable for A/S operating on entire course intend altering course to eastward at 2130B in approx. $033^{\circ} 04'$ $021^{\circ} 43'$ and proceed Tobruk to refuel. E.T.A. Boom 0800B/17th.
(HURWORTH, 1930B/16 to S.O. Force I, (R) Tobruk C.C.O.)

P.54, UNA.

Establish diving patrol 11 miles N.W. of Marittimo Light by 0100A/17th. UNA is well clear to East of you.
(Capt. S.10, 1721A/16 to P.54, (R) UNA.)

Air R/C.

P.R.U. Jan. 16th 1600, Messina, Visuals only, 3 cruisers.
(V.A. Malta, 1733A/16 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

/Supplies

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Supplies for My 0816/3rd para. 2 and 2130/5th. Military
Benghazi requirements Tripoli (Libya) remain unchanged
and Tripoli. and supplies to Benghazi must be maintained, thence
critical period while Tripoli supplies are being
established. To meet this requirement it will
be necessary to allocate additional vessels for
third convoy to Tripoli sailing about 10th Feb. These vessels
will require fitting for carriage of petrol in cases drums and
welded containers. Only suitable vessels available in this
area are BENRINNES and CITY OF GUILDFORD which propose allocating
for this commitment. Agreed Murrant G.H.Q. M.E.
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 1801/16 to Admty. for D.S.T.)

Movements. 16th Jan. Port Said arrivals ERICA, PROTEA,
AETOS, GLOXINIA, KLO. Departures ERICA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1802B/16 to Admty., etc.)
Arrivals 16th Jan. M.L.350, 358.
(N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1843B/16 to Admty., etc.)
Arrived ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR. Sailed M.T.Bs 311, 315,
316.
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 2115A/16 to Admty., etc.)
Arrived H.M.S. BOSTON, SOUTHERN ISLES, WOLBOROUGH,
BOKSBURG, SKUDD IV.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2136B/16 to Admty.)

Transport Following for C. in C. from Chiefs of Staff.
aircraft for C.O.S. (M.E.) 348. 0900/12.
Mediterranean 1. We fully appreciate the desirability of the
operations. operations you envisage, and all possible steps
have been and are being taken to obtain from
Americans maximum number of transport aircraft
for British allocation for all theatres. In
spite of most urgent representation our allotment for 1943
which is quite inadequate for our requirements may be reduced in
favour of other Governments.
2. Strategy for 1943 including operations in the Mediterranean
area now under consideration by Combined Chiefs of Staff. If
they decide that the Spring operations you have in mind are to be
undertaken and parachutists are essential for them we would
approach the Combined Chiefs of Staff and ask for loan of U.S.
Transport Group for the specific operations. We think such a
request might have a reasonable chance of success and that
aircraft might arrive in time for your bleeding operation. There
is no prospect at present of obtaining a revision of the
allocation of aircraft or the loan of transport units for your
immediate purpose.
(Air Min. 2035Z/16 to Mideast).

Malta Air MS. 6621. AI 548 16 Jan. C.S.R. Malta.
Report. Part 1 Offensive night 15/16 Jan.
13 Wellingtons attacked Benito area Tripoli between
1954 and 2001 starting 1 large and 3 small fires
and scoring hits on and across the main road.

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Malta Air
Report.
Contd.

A ship was seen on fire in the harbour. Heavy flak was encountered from 25 to 30 guns. At 2005 1 Wellington which owing to cloud could not locate primary target attacked medium sized vessel 3 miles North of Tripoli scoring near misses with 8 500 lb. bombs. 4 Beauforts laid mines at entrance to La Goulette harbour. 2 special Albacores 3 torpedo carrying Albacores and 3 bomb carrying Albacores sent to locate and attack enemy shipping in the Sousse-Keliba Cape Bon areas made no sightings. 1 Mosquito made intruder patrol in the Pantelleria Cape Bon Area to provide diversion for the Albacore strike. 2 special Wellingtons and 4 torpedo carrying Wellingtons sent to search for and attack enemy southbound shipping north of Sicily sighted at 0043 1 medium M/V in position 006° Ustica 48 miles course 210° but target was lost in low cloud and bad visibility.
(A.H.Q., Malta, 2040/16).

Enemy M/V

Following has been read from aircraft using call sign FBML.
P.C. and S. of 1 medium Merchant vessel 36.51 N. 10.21 E. stationary.
(Alexandria W/T, 2100A/16).

E.A.C.
Report.

A.214 Jan. 16th. Op. Sum. 66, 1800 hours Jan. 14th to 1800 hours Jan. 15th.
Day 15th. At 1440/15 3 Me. 109s approached Bone from the East but turned away before contact could be made. 0600/15 10 E/A flew over Bone harbour but dropped no bombs, raid was too early for day fighter action. 2 Walrus and 2 Swordfish carried out Algiers Bay patrol dawn to dusk. 2 Hudsons on convoy escort found ships in Algiers harbour so flew A/S sweep. 8 further Hudsons on A/S sweeps from 0740 to 1925 sighted nothing.
12th U.S. Air Force 3 anti shipping sweeps carried out by B.26 and B.25s escorted by P.38s. 1 Schooner destroyed near Hammamet. 6 Ju.52s 2 Fg. 190s and a Me. 323 destroyed by escort 95 miles N.E. of Bizerta.
(E.A.C. Africa, 2120A/16).

K.M.S.7

Destinations.
(N.C.X.F. 2252A/16 to VANOC etc).

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- MAURETANIA. Your 1141/12. As stated in para.3 of my 0300/9 MAURETANIA will be used for on carriage from Durban to Middle East of personnel disembarked ex W.S.26.
2. Future service of MAURETANIA on return to Durban has not yet been definitely decided but she will probably be used on South Africa/Middle East ferry service.
(D.S.T. 0226A/16 to P.S.T.O. India.)
- BIRMINGHAM. C. in C. E.F. 1820Z/12th January (N.T. in W.R.) and 0720Z/15th. Sailed BIRMINGHAM?
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0336Z/16 to C. in C. E.F.)
- CARADOC. Arrival.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0503Z/16 to Admty. etc.)
- Oilers. Your 1415/6th and your 1246/15th. OSTHAV will be empty and ready to leave here 25th Jan.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0713Z/16 to C. in C. E.F.)
Your 1226/15th (N.T. in W.R.) Request you will sail OLWEN when ready, Tanker message to Seychelles.
(C. in C. E.F. 0841Z/16 to C. in C. S.A.)
- PATHFINDER. Arrival survey vessel PATHFINDER.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0936Z/16 to Admty. etc.)
- IRRIWADDY. Departure for Calcutta.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 1145Z/16 to Admty. etc.)
- Movements Colombo. Colombo arrivals 16th Jan. 0430Z ASTER, 1100Z FALMOUTH, departure 0930Z TULIP.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 1240Z/16 to Admty.)
- RECORDER. Cable ship RECORDER sailed 1300Z/16th to repair cable in position C, 020° 35' 18" S, 056° 08' 42" E.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 1305Z/16 to C. in C. E.F.)
- Movements E.A. 16th Jan. arrivals CHITRAL, CAIRNS, departures RANPURA, IPSWICH.
(F.O.E.A. 1501Z/16 to Admty.)
- Troop Transport. Reference P.S.T.O. Middle East's 1031/15. Request you will nominate further ship. My 0504/14 refers regarding first ship.
(D.S.T. 2358A/16 to P.S.T.O. India.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Movements St. Johns N.F. Jan. 15th. Arrivals Q 058, Q.059 ex Wabana. B.Y.M.S.3, B.Y.M.S.30 ex St. Pierre NAPANEE ex H.X.222. Departures H.M. S/M SEAWOLF B.Y.M.S.15, B.Y.M.S.16, to Halifax. KENTVILLE GODERICH to J.H.29. STRATFORD H.M.R.T. FRISKY to assist ROXBOROUGH* LINCOLN to O.N.158, NAPANEE escorting one M/V to overtake J.H.29.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 0254Z/16 to Admty) *Weather damage. Coast Guard Cutters MOJAVE MOZAWK proceeding escorting U.S.S. SAPELO? will arrive St. John's 1100Z/16th.C.C.N.F. pass to C.O.A.C. and C.T.24.
(C.T.U.24.8.2., 0315Z/16 to C.C.N.F.)
Arrivals Jan. 15th. MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, YESTOR. Escorting F.T.T.6.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 0922Q/16 to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty. B.A.D., N.G.B. Trinidad F.O.C.W.Af).

T.M.F.2 Movements summary at 1800 G.M.T. 16th Jan. Convoy T.M.F.2, 3 destroyers 22 N., 41 W., 089° 13.
(D.O.D. (F), 1020Z/16 to Opnav (R) Comnav).

O.N.S.163 C.T.U.24.1.13 in Burnham (H/F D/F) plus ASSINI-BOINE, JED, BITTERSWEET, EYEBRIGHT, LA MALBAIE designated ocean escort for O.N.S.163.
(C.T.G.24.7., 1030Z/16 to A.I.G.185, plus Admty).

ALASKAN Trinidad reports arrival Cayenne 5th Jan. Master and 8 survivors U.S. ALASKAN torpedoed sunk 0450Z/28th Nov. 002° 38' S., 028° 58' W. Full report given U.S. Consul, Cayenne.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1134R/16 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

BOTHNIA, ORANGELEAF collision. Following from Master R.F.A. ORANGELEAF (Begins) Ref. R.F.A. regulations 124 para. 2 SS. BOTHNIA. Cunard Line Liverpool. Collided with ORANGELEAF's port bow in F.T.T.6 convoy at 2325/4th. Jan. 1943. No damage to ORANGELEAF but BOTHNIA sustained slight damage to starboard side superstructure amidships and reported leak starboard side. BOTHNIA crossing from port to starboard and considered at fault by non compliance of article 19 rule of road. Surveys arranged here and full written report follows. (Ends).
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1147Z/16 to Admty).
Your 1920/15 not to B.A.D. (Tanker Message) R.F.A. ORANGELEAF arrived, loading United British.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1614Q/16 to Admty).

C.S. FLIGHT British Schooner C.S. FLIGHT attacked and sunk off Curacao 11th Jan. Curacao and Barbados informed. further details awaited.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1152R/16 to Admty. N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. Trinidad).

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

- U.S. Movements Arrival 15th U.S. Destroyer GOFF U.S. Corvette SURPRISE U.S. P.C. 609 and 577. (R.O. Para., 1158/16 to Admty).
Arrival 16th January U.S. Warship Y.P.63. (Harbour Master, Barbados, 1616/16 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica).
Army transport FREDERICK C. JOHNSON (U.S.) arrived Balboa Jan. 13th. (N.S.H.Q., 1731Z/16 to Admty). *(American BROAD ARROW interest)*
- T.B.l. sinkings. Trinidad reports following ships ex T.B.l. torpedoed sunk 9th Jan. British EMPIRE ARROW in 007° 23' N., 055° (248') W., MINOTAUR COLLINGSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM CITY in 007° 12' N., 055° 43' W., KING JAMES position unknown. Details awaited. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1159R/16 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. etc).
- Trinidad facilities. My 1651/15th. No information of repair and stores facilities at Trinidad is available in this command. Should it be decided therefore to use Trinidad as repair base for escort vessels employed on Dutch West Indies - U.K. convoy it is considered essential that a suitable Engineer Officer and necessary staff should be sent there in advance. Information is also requested as to store facilities at Trinidad or whether it is the intention to carry necessary stores in outward bound oiler convoys. The estimate number of ships to be employed on this run is 24 escort vessels and three auxiliary aircraft carriers. (C. in C. W.A., 1217A/16 to Admty).
- R.5 Bermuda departure U.S. Submarine R.5 2200/15 Jan. E.T.A. Guantanamo 19 Jan. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1219Q/16 to Admty).
- THREE RIVERS, SEAWOLF. Estimate you will pass 10 miles N., of SEAWOLF at 1900Z/16th in 45.18 58.38 course 257° speed 10 knots. (C.O.A.C., 1219Z/16 to THREE RIVERS (R) SEAWOLF, F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24., N.S.H.Q., N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B.)
- S/M Estimates. Special S/M estimate. U.S. S/M notices. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1348/16, 1502/16, 1503/16, 1527/16, 1528/16, 1529/16.)
- FRISKY, ROXBOROUGH (distress). Your 1831/15 (despatch of FRISKY to assistance ROXBOROUGH in distress) Conference can probably be delayed until 30th Jan. to include FRISKY if necessary. If is important, however, that FRISKY should be ready to sail from New Orleans with A.F.D. XXIV on 1st Feb. since delay to

/escorts...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

FRISKY escorts cannot be accepted.
 ROXBOROUGH (2) Request confirmation that FRISKY will not
 (distress). require docking at New Orleans, on receipt of
 Contd. which arrangements now made for docking TENACITY
 will be cancelled.
 (B.A.D., 1451Z/16 to F.O.N.F.)
 Following for C.C.R.T. FRISKY sailed 1554/15 to
 assist ROXBOROUGH in 54.50 N., 42.52 W.
 (F.O.N.F., 1943Z/16 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U/B S/M sighted 0415Z/15 in 07.15 N., 56.40 W.
 (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1453R/16 to Admty. N.I.D.18 A.D)

U.S. Troop Your 1658/9th. U.S. Army have now altered
 Movements. programme given in my 1535/5th. Sailing dates
 from Los Angeles now as follows: MORMACDOVE 21st
 Jan. FAIR ISLE 19th Jan, HARRISON G. OTIS between
 18th and 24th Jan. ZANE GREY between 24th and 30
 Jan.

2. WILLIAM L. MARCY and JEREMIAH S. BLACK cancelled.
 3. Another ship not yet designated will sail early February.
 4. MORTICELLO leaves Los Angeles 19th Jan.
 (B.A.D., 1455Z/16 to C. in C. E.F., (R) N.B. Melbourne, F.O.
 Ceylon, F.L.O. Delhi, Admty. N.B. Wellington).

Floating Intend to sail MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, YES-
 Dock Escort. TOR, at 1600Z/17 January to Orleans in
 accordance with B.A.D's 2009Z/3 not to S.O.(I)
 Jamaica, routed by N.O.B. Trinidad through
 positions (N) 11° 58' N., 62° 50' W.
 (O) 14° 10' N., 70° 46' W. (P) 16° 25' N., 78° 51' W.
 (Q) 19° 15' N., 82° 37' W. (R) 23° 4' N., 86° 50' W.,
 (S) 28° 40' N., 89° 20' W. thence New Orleans. E.T.A. 1200Z/25
 Jan. S. of A. 11 knots.
 (2) Communications.
 (3) Ships in para. 1 returned to British control by N.O.B.
 Trinidad 16th Jan. Cominch, Comcarib informed.
 (4) MORRIS DANCE not yet capable of convoy speed and is being
 temporarily retained. Ship is operating under N.O.B. Trinidad's
 orders.
 (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1522Q/16 to B.A.D. Washington, S.B.N.O.
 W.At. (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Jamaica, F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.B., Trinidad)

Suspicious Passed from Pacific to Atlantic unidentified
 M/V. merchant vessel 0100/16.
 (Aluslo Chile via P.D. New York, 1530/16 to
 Fairmiss).

Motor Weather permitting, when ready for sea about Dec.
 Minesweepers. 19 you will depart New York for Miami via
 Delaware Bay, Chesapeake and Delaware Canal to
 Norfolk where Com. 5 will route you via Inland
 waterways to Charleston, South Carolina. En route

/report...

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America & West Indies.

Motor report to S.O.P. Cape May, Com. 5 and 6 for fuel,
Minesweepers. provisions and onward routeing. Upon arrival
Contd. Miami report to Comgulfseafron for onward
routeing to Freetown via Jamaica and Pernambuco.
For communications guard 2716 k/cs. By hand to
M.M.S.107, S.O.P.

(C.E.S.F., 1619/16 to M.M.S.s 107, 102, 103, 105, 106. (R)
Cominch, Coms. 3,4,5,6, S.O.P. Cape May, Comgulfseafron,
Comcaribseafron, F.O.C.W.A.F., Admty. S.F.N.O.W.A., N.S.H.Q.,
S.O.(I) Kingston, Cinclant, Comsolant).

U-boat 1. Cabinet now approved night bombing of Biscay
campaign. U-boat bases on highest priority. First
attack night 14/15th on Lorient by 120 aircraft.
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.

2. Speed of slow merchant ships in Atlantic is very important
factor in losses from U-boat packs, whereas in other theatres
difference between 8 and 10 knots is not critical. Examination
of British shipping being made with a view to possibility of
increasing speed of S.C. convoys, but prospect would be
brightened if new American ships were allocated to North
Atlantic runs and slow ships of Allied Nations were used
elsewhere.

(D.A/S.W. Approved A.C.N.S.(UT) and V.C.N.S., 1640A/16 to B.A.D)

STRATFORD, GEORGETOWN's 1330/16th (N.T. in W.D.) Return
FRISKY. to St. John's N.F. in company at best speed.
(F.O.N.F., 1654Z/16 to STRATFORD, FRISKY,
(R) C.O.A.C., GEORGETOWN, C. in C. W.A., C. in C.
U.S. Fleet, Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.T.G.24.7).

REGENT If satisfactory REGENT will sail on completion
diving trials 21st Jan. B.A.D. is requested to
ascertain whether route given in Connav 1526/26
Nov. still applies.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 1709/16 to Admty. F.O.C.N.A.,
N.S.H.Q., F.O.S. REGENT, B.A.D. (R) Com I/C
Bermuda, U.S. N.O.B. Bermuda)
Reply. B.A.D., 1511/17).

IROQUOIS Personal for 1st S.L.
destroyers. My 1512/9 Dec. para. 3. Some indication of the
reply which may be expected re destroyers would
be greatly appreciated.
(2) It is intended that IROQUOIS should make a
short visit to Halifax and St. Johns N.F. immediately on
completion of working up in U.K. Request date on which this
ship will be ready to leave U.K. for this purpose may be signalled

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.IROQUOIS,
destroyers.
Contd.

(3) If one or more R.N. destroyers will be available shortly for transfer to the R.C.N. IROQUOIS will be returned to the U.K. If, however, no R.N. destroyers are available IROQUOIS must be based in Canada and will be employed on ocean escort duty.
(C.N.S., 1741Z/16 to Admty).

O.N.159

For Commodore O.N.159. At nightfall 18th Jan. detach following (4?) ships via given tanker (can be convoy) positions to Guantanamo for inclusion in convoy to Curacao. STANDELLA R.J. SUCKIUM, R.L.STRIDA, R.N. SAN VUL FRANCO R.P. at same time POLARSOL via RR and DILOMA via R.T. to Houston. U.S.R.O. Houston as in another system.
(Connav, 1815/16 to C.T.U. No. 24.18.9 Admty. C.O.A.C., Com. E.S.F., Com. G.S.F., N.S.H.Q., Con. C.S.F., U.S.R.O. Houston, Texas, N.O.B. Port Stanley.)

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. B. British plane sights sub. 59.40 N. 24.22 W. 1325Z/16 course 275 speed 10. British plane sights sub. on surface 59.59 N., 24.15 W. 1328Z/16 course 275 speed 9.
Para. C ZAANDAM my 262201 November also black stripe on conning tower. TNEVALGAP (as received) 609 on conning tower. ALCOA, PATHFINDER, H or N 47 on bow.
Para. D. SS. SEMINARE reports gunfire 39.55 N., 70.03 W. 2203Z/15. P.C. 493 sub. contact 19.51 N., 74.44 W., 0445Z/16. P.C.556 attacks sound contact 27.45 N., 73.42 W., 0025Z/16. (Cominch, 1935/16 to Admty for O.I.C.)

EMINENT

Your 1842/13, not to Admiralty.
As far as is known final allocation of EMINENT is America and West Indies as in Salor 4091.
(2) A.M. 1417/13 Sept. stated that this vessel was required in U.K. before final allocation.
(B.A.D., 1945Z/16 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty).

U.K -
Curacao
Tanker
Convoys.

As a measure to arrest the decline of U.K. oil stocks, it has been agreed with U.S. Authorities to institute at an early date direct tanker convoys every 20 days between the United Kingdom and Curacao.
2. These convoys would be escorted throughout by properly constituted Escort Groups each consisting of approx. 4 sloops and 4 River class Corvettes, which have the necessary endurance. It is also hoped to include an Escort aircraft Carrier with each convoy. Arrangements for this carrier's aircraft will be the subject of a later signal.

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.U.K. -
Curacao
Tanker
Convoys.
Contd.

3. Stocks of depth charges, starshell and other special ammunition are already on the station at Guantanamo, Trinidad and elsewhere and will be augmented as necessary in the first outward convoy from U.K. The transfer of these stocks to Curacao will, however, be necessary, as well as the provision of other facilities for the proper servicing of the Escort Groups during their

layover at Curacao.

4. Experience has shown the necessity for facilities for the maintenance of R.D.F. and Asdic equipment and for minor emergency repairs to hull and machinery. Asdic and R.D.F. spares would be sent in the first Escort Group to arrive. A small stock of repair materials to meet urgent casual requirements will also be provided.

5. It would not seem necessary to establish a separate base accountant organisation to meet this contingency and it should be possible to run a subsidiary store organisation under the B.A.O. at Trinidad by the early appointment of a Paym. Lieut. Cdr. to Curacao.

6. You are requested to forward by signal as soon as possible information as to the facilities which now exist at Curacao for the servicing of Escorts, including the supply of fresh provisions, and your proposals for their necessary augmentation. The latter should include any additions to the Base Staff considered essential. It may be assumed that a qualified A/S and R.D.F. officer would be carried in each Escort Group.

7. B.A.D. is requested to inform Navy Department of above proposals and enquiries and developments resulting from them in accordance with principles of C.C.O.S. directive on naval bases promulgated with C.A.F.O. 1204/42.

(Hd. of M. Approved 4th S.L., 1954A/16 to S.B.N.O.W.A., (R) B.A.D., etc).

THREE RIVERS. 2000/16th position 38 miles 086° from position (O) EMPIRE BACCALIEU not met.
(THREE RIVERS, 2010Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Sydney (C.B.)
(R) C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q.)

Mining
Detection.

Your 2105Z/8. Trials have **been** carried out with this system for Controlled Mining detection. Preliminary trials showed no real advantage over existing method and also considerable additional complexity of circuits is required to cover the

same front.

Consequently Development of U.E.P. system as a detector is not now proceeding but investigation in hand for use as a method of firing depth charges.

(D.A/S.W., 2021A/16 to N.S.H.Q.)

Landing
Craft
Convoys,
T.F.32

If practicable landing craft your 0535/14th (Circulated under T.O.O. 1141/14, refers to composition of Task force 32 (E)) should arrive Bermuda by 1000Q on date you designated in order to berth ships by dark accordance with request of S.B.N.O.W.At. Authority granted detach L.C.I.(L)

/without...

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Landing Craft Convoys, T.F.32. Contd. without escort at any time during passage Bermuda to Gibraltar if required by weather or station keeping qualities in order to provide maximum protection for L.S.Ts. Admty. pass to N.C.X.F. and V.A. Gibraltar for information*. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2033/16 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (U.S.) (R) Admty. B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.A., N.O.B. Bermuda, V.A. Gibraltar, C.T.F.No. 32 N.C.X.F.) *Passing action being taken by War Registry.

Shipping Casualties. Connav Serial 16. C.J. BARKDULL overdue Gibraltar since 30th Dec. Straggled U.G.S.3. OROPOS overdue Halifax since 28th Dec. (?word omitted - straggled?) O.N. 152. EMPIRE WAGTAIL Serial 30 reported torpedoed sunk 30th Dec. 43.17 N., 27.22 W. PRESIDENT FRANQUI and NORSEKING Serial 30 reported sunk. JAMES HAWSON and EUTHALIA not reported arriving with O.N.S.154. Comeast advise any information of these ships. 1 survivor FERNWOOD landed U.K. by STAGHOUND. No further information. (Connav, 2052/16 to Comnav).

SEAWOLF S/M situation part 3 modifying my 1527/16. British S/M SEAWOLF escorted (?on) course 256 reaches 45.08 N., 59.32 W. E.T.A. 0300/17th. Alters thence 45.08 N., 60.58 W., thence 44.30 N. 62.40 W., thence Halifax, speed 10. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2209/16 to Admty). B.Y.M.S.15 and 16 are to escort SEAWOLF into harbour. Weather permitting intend to sail B.Y.M.S.15 and 16 to Boston 18th Jan. (C.O.A.C., 2332Z/16 to SEAWOLF (R) B.Y.M.S. 15 B.Y.M.S.16 N.O.I.C. Halifax).

Suspicious Object. S/Ms reported by a ship in H.X.223 suspicious object sighted (corrupt group) am investigating. (? 2214Z/16 to C.O.A.C.)

KEGUMS distress. Following from SS. KEGUMS:- 119 138 miles (?from) (?position) C high pressure cylinder exposed, drifting, trying to (?get) ship to go with two pounder (?cylinder), very little hope, send salvage vessel. (Washington, 2252/16 to Cominch, Admty. Port of Spain). Following from N.O.B. Trinidad (begins). Alusnob Belem (R) N.O.B. Rio, Cominch, C and R. Latvian steamer KEGUMS reports broken down and drifting 02° 20' N., 48° 3' W., request salvage vessel. Deliver to appropriate authorities. (ends). (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 2326Q/16 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty etc).

S Report Following has been read and passed for information. From H A 4 H E.* (Begins) SSS port, beam ends, bearing 174 1/2 from Camperdown. No position given, signals very loud. Camperdown controlling O.I.C. (Halifax W/T, No T.O.O./16 to C. in C. W.A. Admty etc). *(Signification not known).

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Of 7 Fortresses detailed to attack shipping
No. 359 Rabaul Harbour dawn 15th Dec. (?Jan intended)
15th Jan. two reached objective dropping 16 500 pound
bombs with unobserved results. One other
bombed small vessel north of East Cape (New
Ireland) and fourth dropped 8 bombs Gasmata
runway. Remaining three returned owing to weather. Many ships
reported Rabaul Harbour.
(2) One Liberator bombed Finschaffan Aerodrome afternoon 14th
and another, morning 15th. Same aircraft bombed Madang runway
later intercepted 100 miles east of Lae by 6 Zeros of which
two destroyed one damaged. Zero pilots reported inexperienced.
(3) Three days' raid from 11th to 14th by our Patrols
(Group missing) MUBO successfully completed. Enemy headquarters
W/T and Stores and other huts destroyed and heavy casualties
inflicted while our casualties insignificant.
(4) Successful progress Sanananda track where enemy picket
cleared 14th January.
(5) Two Beaufighters strafed Mambare Delta morning 15th.
(6) Raid number 97 Port Moresby midnight 14th by one medium
bomber. No damage or casualties. 98th raid shortly before
midnight 15th by one Aircraft probably same type with same
results.
(7) Photos Koepang Aerodrome 14th January show one serviceable
and 8 probably damaged medium bombers, three possibly light
bombers, 9 fighters. R/C same date reported one Destroyer North
of Moa Island (East of Timor).
(8) One Destroyer, two Transports sighted off N.E. Coast
Ceram afternoon 15th, course 90°.
(9) Photographs Kendari 14th show 27 serviceable and 11
unserviceable fighters, 17 medium bombers.
(10) Six B.25s bombed supply dumps Lae morning 15th, results
unobserved.
(11) Hudson bombed Matkus Island off Saumlaki morning 15th,
evading interception by one light bomber.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0700Z/16 to Admty etc).

Merchant ship Request confirmation that your 1748A/11th.
position applies in the Pacific in view of your 2020Z/28th
reports. August.
(A.C.N.B., 1036Z/16 to Admty (R) Connav).

U.S. Movements U.S. Store ship GOLD STAR departed Fremantle 15th
Jan. due Melbourne 23rd.
U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ departed Townsville
15th due Brisbane 19th.
(A.C.N.B., 1037Z/16 to Admty, Connav).

Arrivals 14th Jan. Newcastle DELORAINÉ, 15th Jan. Thursday
Island CASTLEMAINE, Townsville U.S. destroyer HELM. Departures
15th Jan. Thursday Island KALGOURLIE for Darwin. Milne Bay
PIRIE for Port Moresby. Newcastle DELORAINÉ on escort duty.
Darwin WILCANNIA for Thursday Island. Melbourne U.S. BAGLEY
escorting U.S. Transport WEST POINT for Auckland.
(N.B. Melbourne, 1141Z/16 to Admty. etc).

Melbourne 15th Jan. U.S. transport WEST POINT 24 Auckland
0600Z 19th January knots 20.7 (Route.) Escorted by U.S. Des.
BAGLEY.

(A.C.N.B., 1201Z/16 to Admty Connav).

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.KANIMBLA,
ASSOCIATED.

Your 1711A/15th (being verified, corrected to 1719/15 by 1153/19). Following is a repetition of N.O.I.C. Fremantle's 0343Z/12th addressed (?F.O.) Ceylon C. in C. E.F., KANIMBLA (Begins).

KANIMBLA departed Albany 0230Z/10th escorting tanker ASSOCIATED through position (RS) 035° (?33') S., 113° 03' E. T. 028° 29' 104° 11' U. 022° 26' 097° 33'.

V. 015° 56' 091° 57' to W 007° 16' S., 084° 57' E. Speed A 11.5 B, 13, E.T.A. W. 2000Z/18th.

(?2) From W ASSOCIATED proceeds unescorted to Colombo route as in S.O.(I) Wellington's 1120M/30th Dec. not to all addressees (? KANIMBLA) return Fremantle E.T.A. 0300Z/25th.

(3) (Corrupt group) (?to) communicate with N U at 1600Z/14th reverting to (?E) at 1200Z/23rd (ends).

(A.C.N.B., 1510Z/16 to Admty).

HOBART

A.M.1834/30th Dec. and B.A.D. 2121/9.

As no relief is available for HOBART request your intentions for her modernisation.

2. It is considered preferable for HOBART to come to U.K. to modernise if that is practicable. (D.O.D. (F) 1826A/16 to A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C., 1408A/16, 1415A/16).

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| HOME COMMANDS (Classification by subjects) | - Policy - Defence of United Kingdom - Movements - Operations - Allied Air Activity - Enemy Air Activity - Mining - Enemy Intelligence - U-Boats - Navigational - Technical - Casualties and Defects - Shipping and Convoys |
| FOREIGN STATIONS (Classification by stations) | - North Atlantic - South Atlantic - 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.17.1.1943.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

A B.2 report dated yesterday states that TIRPITZ in Lo Fiord is the only large Enemy Ship in the Trondheim area.

UREDD reports having attacked the southbound German S/M Depot Ship SAAR off Aalesund at 1356 today and estimates that she probably scored one hit.

Convoy
J.W.52.

Convoy J.W.52 sailed from Loch Ewe at 1738 today for North Russia. It consisted of 12 dry cargo ships and 2 black oil Tankers escorted by BLANKNEY, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON, BRITOMART, Corvettes LOTUS and STARWORT, and A/S Trawlers ST. ELSTAN and NORTHERN PRIDE. Fleet destroyers will relieve the Hunts about 1700A/20 in 66.48 N. 10.11 W. Force R and V.A.2 in ANSON with SHEFFIELD and destroyers will cover the convoy. Submarines will be on patrol off the exits from Altenfiord. The arrangements are detailed in C. in C. H.F. 0200A/10, 0916A/14 and 1126A/18.

The Panamanian Tanker VESTFOLD, 14,547 tons, was torpedoed in Convoy H.X.222 at 1444Z today in 61° 25' N. 26° 12' W. and broke in half and 19 of her crew are reported missing. The U-boat was counter attacked but without known result.

The Belgian SS OSTENDE, 4438 tons, is reported to have struck a mine off Iona at 0051 today. She was beached in Loch Na Lathaich, but became a total loss. H.M.D. LYDIA LONG, which was alongside OSTENDE after she was beached was damaged. The Fleet Sweepers QUALICUM and SHIPPIGAN from Londonderry and 4 Oropesa Trawlers from Ardrossan are sailing tomorrow morning to search the area. Later, as the result of the above circumstances and of explosions on the morning of 21st Jan, N.O.I.C. Oban reported that sabotage should be suspected, but on 22 Jan. 3 mines were cut in the area.

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT."Torch" area.

N.C.X.F. considers that the proposal to substitute French for British personnel in the Administration and defence of ports in North Africa raises difficult questions of policy and training which require careful investigation. He points out that owing to the low standard of French work and to short hours we are unlikely to be able to make any effective transference to them at least until major operations in Tunisia are completed.

North Atlantic.

AJAX arrived at Gibraltar this afternoon for repairs.

Mediterranean.

General Eisenhower sends today his recommendations for the re-armament of the French fleet. The most essential items from our point of view are (a) To get convoy escort ships properly equipped with close range A.A. and asdic as soon as possible.

(b) To make an immediate start on moving some of the larger units to U.S.A. for Navy Yard overhaul. This will have considerable effect on French - Allies relations.

(c) Give active employment to the Units which cannot immediately be taken in hand.

SS POLO, loaded with cased petrol was blown up at No.7 berth in Bougie harbour at 1817 from a cause at present unknown, and became a total loss. Ships in port had to be moved to the outer harbour.

L.S.T.(1) TASAJERA was torpedoed by aircraft at dusk today, 75 miles east of Algiers, but returned to Algiers under her own power. She carried 191 U.S. troops, 30 tanks and 10 other vehicles. Casualties and damage were very small.

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - contd.

P.51 at 1006 today torpedoed and sank a northbound merchant ship escorted by a destroyer in 33.55 N. 11.2 E. (off Djerba.)

At 1727 today P.44 obtained one hit on a 7000 ton merchant ship in 38.4 N. 11.49 E. (15 miles N.W. of Marittimo, and was kept down for 36 hours in consequence.

TURBULENT reports having sunk at 1754 on 29th December in 39.17 N. 9.41 E. a northbound laden 4,5000 ton M/V escorted by an OSTIA class minelayer.

Air
Operations.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft is suspected in the Bone area last night. SS RECORDER, British, was slightly damaged by a bomb at Bone this afternoon. A quay was also damaged.

Six Ju.88s attacked Tobruk last night but no damage was caused. Three or four of the enemy were destroyed.

Wellingtons bombed Tripoli and Beauforts laid mines at the entrance to La Goulette harbour last night. Bizerta was also attacked and many fires were caused. Ten Wellingtons attacked Tripoli from 1800 to 1900 today, but no naval damage is reported. A Hudson on A/S sweep last night attacked a fully surfaced U-boat (no position given) with bombs and cannon fire. The U-boat returned the fire without damaging the aircraft, before submerging. No result other than an oil streak 8 miles long was seen. At 1915 Beauforts made a torpedo attack on a convoy of 3 merchant ships escorted by 3 destroyers in 227° Marittimo 26 miles, but results were not seen. Wellingtons attacked with torpedoes a large merchant ship in 340° Cape Bon 20 miles, and on a 6000 ton merchantman in 50° Ustica 50 miles, but no results were seen in either case.

War Diary.

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Eleven Fortresses bombed shipping in Rabaul Harbour at midnight 16/17 January and hit with 1000 lb. bombs two medium merchantmen and possibly another three, from which explosions were seen. About 60 unclassified ships were seen in Blanche Bay, New Britain, and a concentration of small craft in Simpsons Harbour, New Britain.

SS KAHINGO was sunk by U-boat off Sydney, N.S.W. at 1430Z today.

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.BRUISER,
THRUSTER,
BOXER.

Admiralty has placed BRUISER, THRUSTER, and BOXER under Chief of Combined Operations command and C.C.O. directs me to take these vessels under my administration. Request you will keep me informed accordingly regarding commissioning dates.
(S.O. Assault Ships 1244A/17 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).

ST. ALBANS

Shortage of torpedo target-vessels is holding up advanced torpedo training of Coastal Command Squadrons Nos. 254 and 547.

The completion of this training will take about one month and is of great importance.

2. Request you will detail ST. ALBANS to act as target-vessel in the Moray Firth during the training of these Squadrons.

3. The first squadron will be ready to start training from Tain on 22nd January.

(D.O.D. H., 1503A/17 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Movements.

M/S F 4.

Arrived Minesweeping Flotilla 4.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 0355A/17).
On completion of coaling KELLETT, ALBURY, SALTASH, and SELKIRK are to proceed to Plymouth, (C. in C. Plymouth, 1913A/17 to M/S F. 4).

GUNNEL

My 1644A/12, amended by my 1206A/15. Cancel my 1206A/15.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0734A/17).

CARLISLE

Scapa departure CARLISLE.
(A.C.O.S., 0903A/17 to C. in C. Plymouth).

PENELOPE

Clyde arrival PENELOPE.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0908A/17).
Intend sailing PENELOPE passing Clyde boom 1630A/17 January routed in accordance with A.M.

1710A/15. Codeword "Keeper". S.O.A. 17½ knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0900A/22.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1228A/17).

My 1228A/17. Sailed.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1804A/17).

SHEFFIELD

Your 1153A/16. Intend to sail SHEFFIELD at 1500A/17 to Scapa. E.T.A. 1300A/18.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1004A/17).

Sailed SHEFFIELD four hours late.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1904A/17).

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

- S.51 Russian S/M S.51 is due in 66.50 N., 15.01 W., at 1200A/18 escorted by THIRLMERE. Thence unescorted on course 065° speed 9 knots. (C. in C. H.F., 1147A/17 to MUSKETEER, PIORUN). Estimate at 2201 tonight THIRLMERE escorting S.51 066° 37' N., 021° 08' W., to East. (Iceland, 1348A/17 to A.I.G.54).
- TUNA F.O.(S) 2306/16. Cancel my 1002/12. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1308A/17 to Admty).
- AGAMEMNON E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 0830/18. (AGAMEMNON, 1309A/17 to A.C.O.S. C. in C. H.F.) My 1132/14 para. 4. (1) PYTCHLEY is to continue as escort to Scapa and await further orders. (C. in C. Nore, 1458A/17 to AGAMEMNON, PYTCHLEY).
- ORIBI,
ORWELL,
BOADICEA. Your 2020/14. Arrived at 1145/17. (A.C.I.C., 1340A/17 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
- W.A.Command Situation at 2003A/17. Details. (C. in C. W.A., 1359A/17, 1728A/17, 1745A/17). See Lion Copy.
- S/M Positions. At 0800A/18. Details. (F.O.S., 1722A/17, 2158A/17). See Lion Copy.
- ORIBI,
ORWELL,
BOADICEA. Intend to proceed at 2300A today in company with BOADICEA and ORWELL. BOADICEA will be detached at Butt of Lewis. E.T.A. ORIBI and ORWELL at Scapa Flow 0800A/19. BOADICEA E.T.A. Greenock, 1600A/19th. (ORIBI, 1501A/17 to A.C.I.C.)
- Positions of S/Ms at 0800A 18th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) P.224 and TRIDENT off Fro Havet. (B) UREDD 62° 08' N., 01° 56' E., probably on surface speed 8 knots for Lerwick. (C) P.312 P.49 and P.55 escorted by CUTTY SARK vicinity Mull of Kintyre, expected time of arrival Clyde 1300/18th. (D) P.339, TORBAY and P.312 escorted by CUTTY SARK leave Clyde at 0030/19th speed 11 knots expected time of arrival 000° Round Island 7 miles 1630/20th. (E) U.S.S. GUNNEL 50° 10' N., 11° 52' W., dived by day through 50° 10' N., 15° 01' W., and 50° 02' N., 20° 03' W. (F) P.219 45° 50' N., 12° 54' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N., 12° 54' W. (G) SHAD off Bilbao. (H) U.S.S. HERRING in zone K.505. (J) Russian S/M S.51 escorted by THIRLMERE from Westward due to pass through position 66° 50' N. 15° 01' W. at 1200/18th thence through 68° 30' N. 05° 02' W. at 1615/19th. (F.O.S., 1722A/17).

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. Patrol not required tonight.
(C. in C. Nore, 0948A/17).
1. Weather permitting intend M.L. 303 (S.O) and R.M.L. 523 to patrol tonight on Lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W., and 02° 05' W. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1037A/17).
1. Striking force M.G.Bs. 611 and 613, M.T.Bs. 243, 86, 89 at Newhaven at short notice if weather is suitable.
2. UST, LORD WAKEFIELD, and CHASSEUR 11 stand by at St. Helens.
3. FYLLA stand by at Yarmouth Roads.
4. M.L. 303 and R.M.L. 523 patrol 50° 20' N., if weather is suitable.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1327A/17).
My 1037A/17 cancelled on account of weather. Craft will remain at short notice in harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1705A/17).

Unknown Operation. My 1002/15th. M.T.Bs. 619, and 625 returned to Lerwick 1535/17. Nothing to report. 631 and 626 still on patrol.
(A.C.O.S., 1558/17 to Admty).

Norway Coastal S/M Patrol. P.314. F.O.(S) 1546/15. Request you sail P.314 at 1400A/18 through position (A) 062° 00', 000° 38' W., by route "Pink" to (B) 070° 52' 014° 10' E. thence patrol in position to (C) 070° 52', 021° 15' E.
2. Submarine to proceed on surface at C.O's discretion until within 60 miles Norwegian coast thence diving by day.
(Capt. S.9., 1653A/17 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

Operation "Gearbox" CHULMLEIGH survivors. My 1220/4. Your 1510/8. Begins:-
1. The 9 survivors are recovering successfully.
2. The coastline and Huts between Cape Linne and Cape Martin and the huts between Advent Bay and Branganza have been searched. No trace of survivors found.
("Gearbox", 1835Z/16 to Admty).

SAAR attacked by UREDD. At 1356 in 062° 14', 005° 16' attacked German Sub-depot ship SAAR, course 300° speed 16 knots. Probably one hit. Enemy southbound. My position 2100/17, 062° 30' 004° 23'.
(UREDD, 2100A/17 to F.O.S.)

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

M.A.D. Your 1135/17. M.A.D. Trials are complete.
Trials. Request you will sail H.43 for Rothesay as soon
H.43. as practicable after 19th January. It would be
appreciated if F.O.I.C. Liverpool could provide
escort.
(F.O.S., 1402A/17 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead).

Depth charge VISCOUNT will be ready to sail for depth charge
Trials. trials 0830/20.
VISCOUNT. (Capt. D. Liverpool, 2211A/17 to F.O.I.C.
Liverpool).

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber area. About 20 unidentified aircraft were plotted
approaching the Coast between 1940 and 2030 today,
the majority of these plots crossed the coast but
a small number faded before reaching the coast.
It is considered that all these tracks were probably friendly
aircraft but it is possible that a small number not exceeding
five may have been hostile intruders. Minelaying is not
suspected.
(F.O. Humber, 2245A/17).

Mining.

OSTENDE Intercept 0051 G.M.T. from OSTENDE. S O S lat.
(Belgian, 56.13 long 7 W. Try to reach Scarnish. Hatch 1
4438 tons) full of water.
mined. (North Foreland, 0151/17).
Am proceeding to assist OSTENDE. My P.C.S. 056°
11', 006° 30 320° 18.
(WOODPECKER, 0300A/17 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
Proceed to assist OSTENDE in distress in 056° 13', 007°
00' at 0035A/17, making for Scarnish. 2 Tugs being sent from
Oban.
(C. in C. W.A., 0306A/17 to WOODPECKER).
Sailed Tugs EMPIRE CUPID and EMPIRE ARIEL to assist
OSTENDE.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 0325A/17).
Following received from OSTENDE. Making more water, am
proceeding Loch Schridain. Help urgently required. Hit mine.
(Port Patrick and Burnham Radios, Recd. 0425/17)
Following received from OSTENDE. To save ship will strand
her at Loch Na Lathaich Send reply if this area is safe.
(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O. Recd. 0535/17).
OSTENDE reports 0634 intending to beach herself at Loch
Na Lathaich, Ross of Mull.
(C. in C. W.A., 0712A/17 to WOODPECKER).
Sailed Tug EMPIRE CUPID to Loch Na Lathaich via Sound of
Mull to stand by OSTENDE.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 0910A/17).

/Proceed...

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.OSTENDE
(Belgian
4438 tons)
mined.
Contd.

Proceed all despatch to assist OSTENDE, 4438 tons reported in danger of foundering. Ship is proceeding approximately 090° and Master intends to beach her at Loch Na Lathaich 056° 20' N., 006° 16' W. WOODPECKER, BRAMHAM are proceeding to assist.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 0914A/17 to BUSTLER).

OSTENDE safely beached Loch Na Lathaich. Have anchored and put party on board her to render assistance.

(WOODPECKER, 1001A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 0306/17th. Ship has beached herself at Loch Na Lathaich. Close her and if assistance not required proceed to Londonderry.

(C. in C. W.A., 1008A/17 to WOODPECKER).

Sailed BUSTLER in accordance with my 0914A/17.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1010A/17).

My 1001A/17. Master considers he was mined or torpedoed in approx. 266° 9½ miles from Skerryvore Light. One Bulkhead numbers 1 and 2 Hold has burst. Fore Peak Numbers one and 2 holds flooded up to water level. Bow is fast in 4 fathoms water stern in 6. Am sending my diver down to endeavour to ascertain underwater damage but consider little without salvage tugs and equipment can be done.

(WOODPECKER 1227A/17 to Admty).

On arrival of BUSTLER at about 1800A/17 proceed to Londonderry if no longer required.

(C. in C. W.A., 1437A/17 to WOODPECKER).

N.O.I.C. Campbeltown's 0914A/17. Ship is now beached in Loch Na Lathaich. Salvage Officer expects to arrive there p.m. today. Stand by to assist as ordered by Salvage Officer. When no longer required return to Campbeltown.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1445A/17 to BUSTLER).

No damage apparently to ship's side. Tug EMPIRE CUPID in attendance. Ship is only aground beneath numbers 1 and 2 holds. Have instructed her to lay out anchors and cables to prevent her sliding off into deeper water in the event of a gale. Intend to sail so as to arrive Moville 0830, 18th.

(WOODPECKER, 1625A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Reference OSTENDE (a) was centre of damage on or below water line, (b) was flash evident. (c) was water thrown up (d) was blast felt.

(D.M.S., 1627A/17 to WOODPECKER).

Your 1627A/17. (A) Damage below waterline, considered under bottom (B) no flash observed. (C) Yes Master reports high wave by bow (D) Blast felt but ship lifted twice slightly.

(WOODPECKER, 1845A/17 to Admty).

Your 1445A/17 acknowledged. No standing by.

(BUSTLER, 2115A/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Sweep off
Iona.

WOODPECKER's 1227/17. Request you carry out exploratory sweep for moored mines in vicinity of position referred to as soon as practicable. Fleet sweepers QUALICUM and SHIPPIGAN are available at Londonderry and should be called on to assist if required.

(C. in C. W.A., 1611A/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

/Request...

17.1.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining

Sweep off Iona. Contd. Request you will comply with C. in C. W.A's 1611A/17 and report your intentions to me. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1825A/17 to Capt. M/S Clyde). Your 1825A/17. Cdr. M/S will sail with four Cropesa trawlers from Ardrossan tomorrow but cannot reach position before daylight 19th.

Submit that Commodore Londonderry may be asked to sail vessels mentioned in C. in C. W.A's 1611A/17 to arrive at position as early as possible tomorrow and commence searching. Ships should anchor at night and R/V with Cdr. M/S on his arrival. (Capt. M/S Clyde, 2050/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Request you sail QUALICUM and SHIPPIGAN to comply with Capt. M/S Clydes 2050A/17. Position referred to is approx. 266° 9 - 1/2 miles from Skerryvore Light. C. in C. W.A's 1611A/17 refers. WOODPECKERS 1227A/17 and C. in C. W.A's 1552A/17 have been passed to you for information. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2154A/17 to Cdre. Londonderry).

Your 2050/17. Intend to sail SHIPPIGAN and QUALICUM at daylight 18th. E.T.A. at position 1400A/18. Have you any instructions as to depth and direction of sweep. (Cdre. Londonderry, 2217A/17 to Capt. M/S Clyde).

Dover Area. My 1010/14. Saturday 16th. Swept 3 laps. Swept 35 mines of which 31 detonated in sweeps after having towed considerable distances. Mine destruction force claims to have sunk and exploded a total of 28 which gives a grand total for day of 41. More apparently moored mines were sighted to N.W. of first lap. These must be considered to have dragged and probably account for difference between grand total for day and total swept. A few mines were seen to remain S.E. of third lap. Only one ship finished this lap due to foul sweeps. Consider flotilla must have been observed from French Coast when fourth lap was being started. Intend sweeping one 5 ship lap in G to S.E. of last lap and one lap in K to N.W. of first lap, thereby completing proposals in my 1314A/25 and 1010/14 Jan. (M/S 9, 1144A/17 to V.A. Dover).

Off Start Point. At approx. 1400 today DORINDA sunk a German mine, believed type U, in 50° 16' 12" N., 3° 31' W. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1824/17).

Enemy Intelligence.

Swedish Coast Patrols. My 1749/14. There have been no reports of sighted German warships off Swedish Coast since January 13th until noon January 16th. Graded A.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 1335/17 to Admty). Comment: Despite this report it is considered that the Germans are still maintaining patrols off the Coast.

TIRPITZ B.2. report dated 16th January states TIRPITZ in Lo Fiord is only large ship in Trondheim area. (D.D.I.C., 1549A/17).

/Unknown...

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

Unknown
Craft. Sound of unidentified motor engines heard at 1915,
200° Stokes Point 8 miles.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1925A/17 to Escorts P.W. Convoy)
One type unknown, position 37° 40' N., 12° 5' E.
(A/C 79 Duty P. 2245A/17 to 15 Group).

U-boats.

U-boats
reported. My 2245/16. Cross-bearings place U-boat anywhere
within 100 miles of 42° 00' N., 21° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 0228A/17 to Escorts M.K.S.5).
Am over enemy S/M in 45° 32' N., 03° 1' W.
(A/C 440 Sqdn. 0451/18 to 19 Group).

U-boats
attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 61° 22' N., 25° 22' W.
(A/C R8QC 1450A/17 to Artunshofdi W/T).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges (?No)
attack.
(A/C of 84 Sqdn. 1525/17 to 15 Group).

H.X. 222 See Shipping.

Technical.

Use of W.S.
Sets. There is evidence of a growing and dangerous
tendency in the Fleet to use W.S. R.D.F. sets
(Type 273) for gun control purposes to the
exclusion of tactical warning.
2. Experience learnt from tactical exercises,
the North Russian convoy and Solomon Island battles shows that
so long as R.D.F. range exceeds visibility it is vital to
reserve the tactical R.D.F. set for building up and maintaining
the tactical plotting.
3. Except in maximum daylight visibility it is essential
that the W.S. sets be used solely as tactical sets.
(C. in C. H.F., 1117A/17 to H.F. 16 Z).

Casualties & Defects.

Longbird
sunk on
16th January. Longbird 636 tons bound for Hull from Methil in
F.S.4 sunk at approx. 2100/16 in collision with
SS. BELTOY in F.N.18 bound Methil. Position
of wreck 055° 06' 24" N., 001° 12' 48" W.
No casualties. BELTOY proceeded.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0941/17 to Admty).

FLESWICK Harwich. Departure tug KENIA to assist SS.
FLESWICK broken down.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1003A/17).
Arrival KENIA with FLESWICK in tow.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1122A/17).

War Diary.

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.- Contd.

CARYANDA N.A.B. CARYANDA in Tenby Roads broke adrift 0600/17 and is now high and dry. Attempt to tow off will be made at high water 1640/17. CARYANDA does not appear seriously damaged. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1105A/17). My 1105A/17. Refloated. Now in Tenby Harbour for examination. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1629A/17).

L.C.A.12 A.M.1556A/16 November. Arrived 16th January MARY KINGSLEY with L.C.A.12 badly damaged. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1613A/16 to Admty).

Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.52 Your 0933/16. Depart Akureyri at 2259/16 OFFA (corrupt group). (A.C.I.C., 0021A/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

Your 1107/15. Request you arrive Scapa 1200/18 so as to see me before KING GEORGE V sails at 1500/18.

2. W.P.3 serial 6 KING GEORGE V in approx.000° HH 10 miles, course Southerly, at 1930A, N E X with Force R, GLASGOW being detached by KING GEORGE V about 1815 in vicinity of JJ after A L T.

3. BERMUDA is to practice area from 1400. (C. in C. H.F., 1127A/17 to C.S.1). My 0021/17. Arrived Seidisfjord at 1140/17 (OFFA). (A.C.I.C., 1248A/17). Sailed ONSLAUGHT in accordance with your 0200/10.

E.T.A. Seidisfjord 1400/18. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1333A/17 to C. in C. H.F.) Your 2216/15. Arrived (BEAGLE and BULLDOG). (A.C.I.C., 1721A/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

J.W.52 sailed in accordance with my 1550A/15 less ISRAEL PUTNAM and ATLANTIC, speed of advance 8½ knots, escorted by BLANKNEY, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON, BRITOMART, LOTUS, STARWORT, ST. ELSTAN, NORTHERN PRIDE.

Commodore in EMPIRE CLARION, Vice-Commodore Master Steamship DAN-Y-BRYN, Rear-Commodore Master EMPIRE BAFFIN. Medium frequency guard EMPIRE SNOW, 500 - 365 k/cs EMPIRE BAFFIN, 375 - 300 k/cs R.F.A. OLIGARCH, and OCEAN FAITH 442 k/cs. EMPIRE PORTIA standing by.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1738A/17 to A.I.G.222).

O.N.S.160 Will send S O S signal at 1000Z.
O.N.S. J 160, (Escorts 24.6.3, 0940Z/17 to Escorts 24.1.12.)
ORILLIA. My 0203. Position at 0915Z, 060° 48', 021° 53'. Please home yourself on 4400 k/cs every 2 hours commencing 1130Z.

(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1000Z/17 to C.T.U. 24.6.3).
What is your P.C.S. Our actual position 1100Z, 061° 14' N. 024° 11' W., course 231° speed (?).

(C.T.U., 24.6.3., 1125/17 to C.T.U.24.1.12).
Your 2009/16. Nothing heard yet. My P.C.S. 1200Z, 061° 01', 022° 18', 264° 6½ knots.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1205Z/17 to ORILLIA).

/Your...

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

O.N.S.160, Your 1205/17. My P.C.S. 1330Z, 060° 02', 021°
O.N.S. J. 160, 09' 300° 11 knots, making for position (D)
ORILLIA. Will try again to contact you for homing on 2410
Contd. k/cs per second.
(ORILLIA, 1503Z/17 to C.T.U., 24.1.12).

T.A.34 T.A.34. Intend sailing passing Clyde Boom 0400Z
(QUEEN /19 to pass through position (a) at 0900Z/19.
ELIZABETH). Thence in accordance with A.M.1903A/15.
Anticipated S.O.A. from (a) 26 knots. "Chop"
2300Z/20th. E.T.A. New York 0900Z/24. Codeword
"Subsoil".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0946A/17 to A.I.G.307).

M.K.S.5 Your 2000Z/15 para. 2. and my 2051Z/16 re fuel
remaining. Request approval either (A) to retain
VIOLET or for (B) SCOTTISH to rejoin you.
(SCOTTISH 0959Z/17 to BLACK SWAN).
Your 0959/17. Retain VIOLET for present. Report fuel
remaining on reaching position Q.
(2) M.K.S.5., 40 ships, P.C.S. 046° 04' N., 015° 05' W., 003°
7½.
(BLACK SWAN, 1203A/17 to SCOTTISH).

W.S.26 and My 1904/15. Amend time at position A to read
K.M.F.8. 1200Z/23.
(D.O.D. H., 1116A/17).
W.S.26. Intend to sail SKATE escorting VOLENDAM
DOMINION MONARCH, SIBAJAK, HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN,
MOOLTAN, DEMPO, and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND 1130A/19th for Clyde
in accordance with Admiralty 0040/14 and C. in C. W.A. 1722/14.
E.T.A. 0730A/20. p. 478
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1236A/17).

Fish carriers Fish carriers bound for Iceland which break off
from E.N. convoys are to proceed in future on
convoys. the following fixed route.

| Route | Reference positions |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 60° N., 10° W. | 59° N., 12° W. |
| 62° N., 15° W. | 61° N., 17° W. |
| 63° N., 20° W. | |

Letters for positions are to be varied. Application should no
longer be made to Admiralty for routes but the usual sailing
signal is to be made. To avoid compromise this route will be
changed periodically by Admiralty.
(D.T.D., 1125A/17 to N.C.S.O. Methil).

/North...

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

North Russia Convoys. Discharge arrangements. Papanyan informed me this morning that Faymonville were not agreed at (?interview) Mikoyan that 5 American vessels now here should proceed Molotovsk to discharge.

(2) I presumed Faymonville referred to proposal to send 5 ships ex J.W.52 to Molotovsk.
(3) This proposal is obviously bound up with prospect of ice-conditions in White Sea.

(4) I have taken up the attitude that no further ships either here now or ex J.W.52 will proceed to White Sea to discharge (?except) 4 dry-cargo ships ex J.W.51 A and 2 tankers now there have cleared White Sea. As all ships now here should leave before this happens there is no question of them being moved.

(5) At present understand (?Americans) consider it inadvisable to discuss details in Moscow where local conditions and port conditions are unknown. This is all the more important when no American representative is at Murmansk and Russians question my authority to deal with American ships if I do not agree with American Moscow representative's views.

(6) Discharging and loading Molotovsk has slowed down considerably. No dry-cargo ship has yet sailed (?from) White Sea. Tankers were held up by ice in Gorlo but understand from Russians they have (?now) arrived Molotovsk. (Dalgleish, Murmansk 1404A/17 to Admty).

Though (corrupt group) 52 is due to sail today have not received names of ships expected to sail or a single detail of cargo except of those that missed last convoy.

2. With prevailing atmospheric conditions will be surprised if all details arrive in time.

3. To enable me to decide which ships should discharge White Sea if it is still open please let me have immediately the following details (A) Names of ships. (B) Expected draft on arrival. (C) Quantity of surplus bunkers if any. (D) Total cargo. (E) Number of Bombers. (F) Quantity and stowage of T.N.T or explosives not repeat not ammunition.

(G) Number of heavy lifts beyond ships gear capacity.

(H) Names and description of passengers.

4. Can the general position of signalling to Murmansk be improved please.

(Dalgleish, Murmansk, 1547A/17 to Admty).

Fuelling at Sea. Desire you will direct Senior Armed Guard Officer to comply with Master's requirements as to assistance in handling gear during fuelling at sea whenever American tankers specially fitted for fuelling escorts at sea enter your areas.

Rendering of such assistance is an operational obligation and such operations are deemed Military in character. The Senior Armed Guard Officer must judge each such situation on its merits as it is not intended that defence of ship shall be jeopardized thereby. If danger of enemy attack was imminent it is to be presumed escort Commander would not ordinarily fuel at sea. Aluslo Clyde is requested bring this directive promptly to attention her Senior Armed Guard Officer as this question arose in case of tanker A.C. BEDFORD. Entire subject has been referred to Cominch for basic action. (Comnaveu, 1431/17 to Aluslo Clyde, etc).

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

H.X.222. SS. VESTFOLD torpedoed in 061° 25' N., 026°
VESTFOLD 12' W., at 1444Z/17. ST. CROIX and CHESTERFIELD
torpedoed. (hunting?)
(VANSITTART, 1545Z/17).
My 1545Z/17 A.C.I.39 para. 5 (A) 1444Z/17. In
position 061° 25' N., 026° 12' W. (B) One
submerged (C) Not known (D) SS. VESTBOLD 19 of Crew missing (E)
None (F). ST. CROIX, CHESTERFIELD, SHEDIAC (G) U-boat was
counter-attacked without positive results (H) 6481, 8113.
(VANSITTART, 1745Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.115 Your 1538A/13. Following replies to questions
W.W. BRUCE. therein were given by master of W.W. BRUCE.
1. Because being close to 18° W. and waters in-
fested with submarines it was not considered
safe to again break wireless silence reporting
escape.
2. Received signal from Rugby W/T stating "LIVERPOOL will
attempt to contact W.W. BRUCE on 500 k/cs" W/T watch set on 599
k/cs but nothing heard.
3. No.
4. Both R/V positions given in 1710/12 were kept but nothing was
sighted.
5. Master was not in possession of Clyde approach sheet and
was not familiar with the coast. Visibility was very poor.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1650/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

D.S.36 Route: (H) 270° Oversay 6 miles. (J) 68.45 N.
11.21 W. (K) 62.40 N., 22.30 W., thence Reykjavik.
(C. in C. W.A., 1730A/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

J.W.51 B. A study of the reports now received on the recent
ACHATES, action in The Barents Sea makes it clear that the
BRAMBLE ACHATES played a most valiant part and that the
smoke screen she made to cover the convoy and
which she continued to make almost up to the time
of sinking in spite of having received heavy
damage contributed greatly to the safety of the convoy until
our reinforcements arrived.

We in the Home Fleet deeply regret the loss of a fine ship and
so many gallant officers and men.

(C. in C. H.F., 1834A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Reports now received make it clear that the BRAMBLE
endeavoured most courageously to do what she could to protect
the convoy and went down fighting. I deeply regret the loss
of such fine officers and men who have throughout their
commission performed such strenuous and dangerous service.

(C. in C. H.F., 1837A/17 to H.F.)

War Diary17.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

Port Defence Personnel. Your 0104/8. The proposal to substitute French for British personnel in administration and defence of ports in North Africa raises difficult questions of policy and training which require careful investigation. 2. Owing to low standard of French work and to short hours they tend to work we are unlikely to be able to make any effective transference to them at least until major operations in Tunisia are completed. 3. Capt. McCrum lately Maintenance Captain on my staff is returning to U.K. by air and can report in detail. (N.C.X.F. 0059A/17 to Admty.)

Allied Meeting. It has been proposed that meeting should be held at Casablanca or other suitable spot to be attended by Adm. Glassfurd, F.O.C.W. Af., Collinet, Michelier V.A. Gib., N.C.X.F. or their representatives. It appears to me now however that such good progress has been made that the need for such a full scale meeting no longer arises. You may however feel that some meeting to co-ordinate matters on coast of West and N.W. Africa is desirable in which case request you will take matter in hand with Adm. Glassfurd. I would not propose to send a representative but please ask V.A. Gib. to do so should you consider it necessary. B.N.L.O. Dakar pass to Adm. Glassfurd. (N.C.X.F. 0901A/17 to F.O.W.A.F. (R) B.N.L.O. Dakar etc.) Reply: 1137Z/18.

BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE, ORBITA. D. of S.T. 0016/16 is being passed to S.T.O. Gib. BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE and ORBITA are proceeding to Gib. for onward routing. E.T.A. Gib. 20th. Jan. Ref. para. 4, request you address signals to S.T.O. Gib. repeat P.S.T.O.X.F. (P.S.T.O.X.F. 1130A/17 to D.S.T.O. W.Af. (R) S.T.O. Gib. D. of S.T., Comm. Algiers)

Rearmament of French Fleet. From Eisenhower to Combined Chiefs of Staff, British Chiefs of Staff. (R) A.N.F.A. Casablanca. 1. I recommend the following action and priorities for rearmament of the French Fleet after consultation with Admirals Cunningham and Glassfurd, and subsequent inspection of French naval ships at Casablanca by Glassfurd. 2. The most essential items for our view point are :- (A) To get convoy escort ships properly equipped with close range A.A. and Asdic as soon as possible. (B) To make an immediate start on moving some of the larger units to U.S.A. for navy yard overhaul. This will have a considerable effect on French-Allies relations and assist co-operation generally. (C) Give active employment to the units which cannot be immediately taken in hand.

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS"Torch" Area Contd.Rearmament
of French
Fleet.

Priority 1-A. Fit modern Asdic and A.A. in 7 ocean convoy escorts COMMANDANT BORY, LA GRACIEUSE, LA BOUDEUSE, LA GRANIER, ANNAMITE, GAZELLE, and COMMANDANT DELAGE. Recommend this be done in Dakar with equipment and technical assistance from

U.S.A. or U.K. Ships to be fully employed while waiting fitting. In addition the DUMONT DURVILLE and LA GRANDIERE would make good fast escorts and DUMONT DURVILLE should be sent to U.S.A. for inspection and determination of practicability of re-engine work as previously recommended. All these ships are capable of crossing the Atlantic if necessary.

Priority 1-B. Provide 21 sets Asdic to be installed at Dakar or Casablanca in trawlers and inshore patrol vessels not capable of crossing the Atlantic. Most of these ships can reach U.K. if necessary. British have commenced supplying Oerlikons to some of these ships in the Mediterranean area.

4. Second priority. Dispatch RICHELIEU. Destroyers FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE and Cruiser (to be designated later) with additional Allied escort to U.S.A. for overhaul as soon as possible. Remainder of Cruisers to be employed immediately on anti-raider work until U.S.A. yards can take them. All these ships want considerable stripping rearming and rewiring before they can go to an active theatre. The present close in anti-aircraft batteries to be removed at Dakar before proceeding to U.S.A. and to be reinstalled in trawlers and escorts.

5. Third priority: Submarines 14 available. Almost all will require extensive overhaul to fit for service in active theatre, including such items as relining torpedo tubes to take U.S.A. torpedoes, new batteries, soundproofing and Asdic. Propose ARCHIMEDE and AMAZONE to be sent immediately to U.S.A. for overhaul, others to follow. Employment of remainder meanwhile on training and such Atlantic patrols as F.O.C.W.A.F. may propose. If French wish, Adm. Cunningham is prepared to employ a proportion from Algiers.

6. Fourth priority: Destroyers TEMPETE, SIMOUN, ALCYON and LE MALLIN are damaged and require varying amounts of damage repairs at Casablanca, most serious of which will require about 2 months to complete. If Asdic can be furnished immediately for SIMOUN and TEMPETE, recommend it be installed locally while other repairs are in progress. ALCYON has sound gear. If sound gear can not be furnished immediately for TEMPETE and SIMOUN then these ships plus ALCYON should overhaul in U.S.A. following completion of ships in above Second Priority. As ships do not have cruising radius to reach West Indies should be accompanied by 1 of Dakar's Cruisers to fuel at sea. LE MALIN has no sound gear and requires extensive machinery repairs incident to action, damage and also alterations as previously recommended for FANTASQUE. She should proceed to U.S.A. for overhaul as soon as temporary repairs are completed. All these ships will also require additional A.A.

7. These are various vessels such as A.M. Cruiser QUERCY, S/M Depot ship, JULES VERNE and A/S Vessel ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ which can usefully be employed in their present condition with alterations to armament which can be done on the spot as proposed by Admiral Glassford.

War Diary.

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area Contd.

Rearmament
of French
Fleet.

8. Battleship JEAN BART is severely damaged, has only 1 main battery turret and no secondary battery turrets. Half of main power plant is completed. Remainder of power plant is installed but not hooked up. No fire control is installed.

In view need for main battery guns of JEAN BART in RICHELIEU, extensive damage repairs work required, and unfinished work remaining to complete, recommendation decision as to final disposition JEAN BART be deferred until completion of damage repairs now in progress by French and final determination of total damage repairs required. French estimate final inspection can be made in approximately 2 months and that ship will be ready to operate at sea at speed of 12 knots in approx. 4 months. Work has been started to remove main battery guns for shipment to U.S.A.

9. It is essential that supplies already requested for rehabilitation of French naval bases at Dakar, Oran, Algiers and Casablanca be furnished as soon as practicable as they are essential to operations of above ships that are to be fitted out at these bases.

10. The above has been discussed with and is concurred by Admiral Fennard, head of French Naval Mission to U.S.A., all authority necessary to act on questions of alterations to French ships and scheduling movements thereof.

11. While the above are recommendations with a view of getting French ships into action as soon as possible it is appreciated that the requirements must be considered in relation to the employment of shipyards for U.S.A. and British construction and repair priority ~~for~~ which is a matter for U.S.A. and British authorities to decide.

(Algiers 1416Z/17.)

Shuttle
Service,
D.E.M.S.
ratings.

Your 1605/18 Dec. Proposal in para. 2 not considered practicable on account of frequent last minute alterations.
2. Thirty ratings have recently sailed for Algiers for D.E.M.S. Shuttle Service. Details of this organisation were fully explained to Accountant Officer appointed to D.E.M.S. Algiers who sailed in same convoy.
(D.T.D.1512A/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cdre. Algiers etc)

Situation
Report
No.471.

Bone 3 M.T.B.s operated night of 16th/17th but had no luck. In air attack p.m. 13th Jan. one F.W. 190 brought down. Fighter bombers attacked A.M. 14th Jan, some bombs dropped on harbour, damage reported in these attacks.

2. Phillippeville. Three L.S.T.s due to-morrow Monday with 3rd load of tanks from Oran.
3. Algiers N.C.X.F. arrived Casablanca by air 1500 today Sunday.
- 4 L.S.I. will ferry troops ex K.M.F.7 to Bone sailing early tomorrow Monday.

War Diary

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area - Contd.

Situation
Report
No.471.

4. Oran No.1 Dock raised and structural repairs in hand ?docking installation being repaired and temporary arrangements being made for working dock by compressed air. SCYTHIA now at Oran for repairs and docking in No.1 Dock.

5. AJAX due Gibraltar p.m. today Sunday.

6. Casablanca salvage operations progressing. M/V ANPIETRO moved from harbour and beached as scrap. French have refloated JEAN BART and ALBATROSS, intended to move former to Jetty Delure.

(N.C.X.F.1620A/17 to Admty.)

Norwegian
Seamen
for
Dakar.

My 0016/16. There are in Casablanca 100 Norwegian seamen who are urgently required at Dakar to man six Norwegian ships now ready to be taken over there.

2. Can you arrange for these personnel to be embarked in BERGENSFIORD for passage to West

Africa? D.S.T.O. West Africa would arrange movement to Dakar.

3. If men cannot be embarked ships in Dakar will be held up awaiting crews which is most undesirable.

4. F.O.C.W.A. is requested to advise Allen of M.W.T. at Dakar of arrangements proposed.

(D.S.T. 2022A/17 to P.S.T.O.X.F.)

War Diary.

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MAURO CROCE Arrived Valencia 15th Jan. to load rosin for
(Italian) Genoa.
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 0058A/17 to S.O.(I) Malta,
S.O.(I) X.F.)

PATHFINDER, PATHFINDER taking PENN, PANTHER under his
PENN, orders and on completion of A/S exercises
PANTHER. tomorrow 18th January sail for Gibraltar;
through position 82 and 28 to arrive daylight
19th. Before proceeding report E.T.A. to
V.A. Gibraltar.
(2) After fuelling at Gibraltar, V.A. Gibraltar
is requested to sail these destroyers to arrive Freetown 25th Jan.
(3) PATHFINDER acknowledge.
(S.O. Force H. 0954A/17 to PATHFINDER, V.A. Gibraltar, (R)
F.O.I.C. Oran, PENN, PANTHER, Capt (D) 6., N.C.X.F.)
S.O. Force "H" 0945A/17th E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800A/19th Jan.
PENN, PATHFINDER in company.
(PATHFINDER 1507A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

O.19. F.O.I.C. W. Africa 2013/14th. After passing
position E proceed new position O, 043° 01' N.
013° 50' W. thence as ordered by F.O.S.
Estimated time pass. 2200A/27th. Bombing restrictions
arranged on N.A. Station 10 miles each side your route from 34
miles abroad (?ahead) to 35 miles astern of your estimated
position. Report if unable to keep within bombing restrictions.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1112A/17 to O.19 (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

Situation Area X. Situation 2002A/17th.
reports. ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER, IMPERIALIST (E)
29.12 14.48 picking up cable 048° one knot.
(2) K.M.S.7 (A) PELICAN one sloop five corvettes,
four minesweepers 36.01 10.20 through 36.01 10.01 to pass Europa
Point 0200/19th.
(3) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR 036° 17' 016° 08' 279° 9.
(4) PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, tug NIMBLE 031° 15' 018° 48' 067° 12.
(5) M.K.S.5 (X) HAVELOCK, LAUDERDALE, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE,
GODETIA, ILFRACOMBE, FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC 041° Spartel 7 to
36 30.10 01.8.
(6) D.64 U.S.S. AUK, 3 P.Cs, CYCLAMEN, BIRDLIP, BUTSER 25.52
14.51 northbound Coastwise 7½.
(7) CARNATIC 33.01 09.32 through 30.01 11.27 thence 217° 12.
(8) LOCH OSKAIG one merchant ship sailed 1800/17th coastwise
to Cape Trafalgar direct to St. Vincent thence coastwise to
Tagus 9 knots.
(9) DELHI, LANCASTER, TANATSIDE, NEWARK, one merchant ship
sailed p.m. 18th westbound 14½ knots.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1134A/17.)

Situation for Area X. My 1134A/17th. Add new para.(10)
VENOMOUS, WIVERN sail from Gibraltar. 0600A/18th through 035°
51' 006° 01' to 035° 45' 006° 23' to 034° 02' 007° 49' to
arrive Casablanca 1800A/18th.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1620A/17.)
Situation report for Area Y at 1959A/17. KINGSTON
CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR 036° 17' 016° 08' 279° 9.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1246A/17.)

/Area Z ...

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War Diary.

17.1.1943.

Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Situation Area Z. - Situation 2001A/17th. D.64 U.S.S. AUK
 reports 3 P.Cs H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, BUTSER, BIRDLIP 25.52
 (contd.) 14.51 Northbound Coastwise 7½. (as amended 1436A/
 17).
 (2) French Light Cruiser LE FANTASQUE, French
 Light Cruiser LE TERRIBLE vicinity of Cape Bojador during 17th
 thence southbound to arrive Dakar 19th.
 (3) D.65 ANNAMITE 22.59 16.59 northbound coastwise 5.
 (4) Departure M.F.2 RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT 022° 08'
 035° 32' 089° 13.
 (5) K.X.8 (Freetown Section) CORINTHIAN (H.M.S ASHANTI?) H.M.S.
 WOODRUFF, H.M.S. FANDANGO, BELLWORT 20.56 18.04 through 20.01
 18.30 thence 177° 8.
 (V.A. Gibraltar 1319A/17.)

BRAMHAM. Request you will sail BRAMHAM with M.K.S.6 to
 U.K. for permanent repairs. Request Admiralty
 will signal final destination.
 (N.C.X.F. 1221A/17 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty.,
 C. in C. W.A., Capt. (D))

M.K.S.F.X. In view of C. in C. W.A. 1746/16 intend to sail
 HAVELOCK, GODETIA, SAXIFRAGE and PIMPERNEL as
 additional escort to M.K.S. 5 X.
 (2) Intend to sail DELHI and EXIVIS escorted
 by LANCASTER, TANATSIDE, NEWARK p.m. 18th, S. of A. 14½ knots.
 (3) Cancel my 1145/16, not to all addressees (N.T. in W.D.)
 (4) LAUDERDALE will remain with M.K.S.5 X.
 (V.A. Gibraltar 1239A/17 to N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A. (R)
 Admty.)
 Sailing telegram.
 (V.A. Gibraltar 2026/17.) See Lion Copy.
 Your 1239/17. Concur.
 (N.C.X.F. 1556A/17 to V.A. Gib.)

Light. Following is translation of message intercepted
 at 1310/16th Jan. (begins) Ahercados Island
 light now shows a white flash of 5 seconds every
 10 seconds lat. 38° 48' N. long. 01° 24' E.
 (ends)
 (S.O.I. Gib. 1248A/17 to Admty. S.O.I. X.F.)

Explosion in My 1758/4. Majority contents of hold consisting
 SS RAVENS- of 3750 cases bitter oranges now cleared.
 POINT, 4/1. 2. Search has so far failed to reveal any
 particle of sabotage instrument.
 3. Indications suggest explosion occurred six
 feet from ship's side, six feet from bottom of hold, and 16 feet
 aft of engine room bulkhead. Cases were stowed flat close
 together with no room for anything between.
 (F.O.C. Gibraltar 1556A/17 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

/L.C.M. ...

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

- L.C.M. Request you will return L.C.M. Mark 1 121 to U.K. at next opportunity reporting action taken to Admiralty repeated to me.
(N.C.X.F. 1600A/17 to V.A. Gib. (R) Admty., D.N.C.X.F. C.C.O.)
- VENOMOUS, WIVERN, T.M.F.2. N.C.X.F. 1752/16th para. A. not to escorts T.M.F.2. Intend to sail VENOMOUS, WIVERN at 0600/18th routed through
A 35.51 06.01.
B 35.45 06.23.
C 34.02 07.49 E.T.A. 1800/18th.
2. Request you will fuel and sail, S. of A. $13\frac{1}{2}$ knots, so as to R/V T.M.F.2 in position (E) 24.34 N. 16.12 W. at 1200/21st. (V.A. Gibraltar 1704A/17 to S.N.O. (R) Escort T.M.F.2. Admty., N.C.X.F.)
- T.M.F.2. U/B. At 1552 (corrupt group?) on 7640 k/cs German U-Boat made probable sighting report bearing approx, 251° from Gibraltar.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1710A/17 to Escorts T.M.F.2. PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE (R) Admty.)
- M.K.S.5. Sailed HAVELOCK, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE, GODETIA, ILFRACOMBE, FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC with M.K.S.5.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1805A/17 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C. W.A.)
Cruising order, etc.
(2027A/17.)
- M.K.S.5 (X) Sail 1730A/17. Details of escort, route, ships.
(V.A. Gibraltar 2026/17, 2027A/17.)
- E.T.9. My 2029/16. ORKLA arrived.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1813A/17 to N.C.X.F.)
- DELHI, EXIRIA. Intend to sail DELHI, EXIRIA, escorted by LANCASTER, NEWARK, TANATSIDE at 1900/18 routed through
(P) 35.50 06.19
(Q) 36.32 09.13
(F) 43.20 15.30 S. of A. $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
2. Admiralty is requested to signal destination and C. in C. W.A. onward route.
3. Escorts have requested to be routed South of Ireland owing to low endurance.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1825A/17 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

W.S.26.

A.M. 0040/14th Jan. Further intentions.
A. WAYLAND, QUICKMATCH, QUADRANT, RELENTLESS,
RACEHORSE and REDOUBT continue with convoy to
the Cape.

B. ADRIAS and MIAOULES escort W.S.26 to prudent limit of
endurance and return to Freetown. F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to
sail them at the next convenient opportunity for Gibraltar where
they will come under the orders of N.C.X.F. who is requested to
pass them through to Eastern Med. as convenient. Opportunity
at Freetown should be taken for H.A. Practices.

C. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA proceeds to Indian Ocean calling at Duala,
Libreville and Pointe Noire. F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to
arrange accordingly. She should be employed as escort en route
provided she is not unduly delayed.

(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. 1933A/17 to N.C.X.F. F.O.C.W.A.(R)
V.A. Gib. etc.)

Movements.

Arrivals 0840 LOCH OSKAIG, 1600 ALBACORE ex
E.T.9, 1630 AJAX, BOREAS, VENOMOUS, WIVERN, VELOX,
ACUTE, CADMUS, Tug HENGIST from Oran.

Departures 1730 LOCH OSKAIG escorting SS SPERO
to Lisbon thence R/V SS KINGSLAND and escort to
Gibraltar.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar 2045A/17 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

South Atlantic.

PHOEBE.

Your 1147/23/11. Arrangements are being made
for ship to transport turret direct to New York.
Further signal will be made when arrangements
are completed.

(Hd. of Gunnery Br. 0130A/17 to F.O.C.W.A. (R)
PHOEBE.)

AUK,
Convoy
D.64.

This is 162223. Arrived R/V time arranged.
Proceeded 97 miles south with K.X.8 when relieved
by CORINTHIAN and informed D.64 165/165 miles
south of R/V at 1100A/16th. Proceed thirty
miles further on purported track D.64 without
meeting convoy. Now searching north. Unable
reach D.64 on 2410 k/cs. Request position D.64.
Frequency. Radio called position 0200A+17
(0000A+17) (as received) lat. 2302 long. 1643
course 022° speed 10. Pass to Gibraltar
and Freetown (Ends.)

(U.S.S. AUK 0155Z/17 to Comseafon W.T.F.)

/ATHENE ...

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

ATHENE. My 0411/16. ATHENE returned to Durban with defects.
(Com. i/c Durban 0503Z/17 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., N.O.I.C. Fremantle)

Movements. Arrived NEPAL, NORMAN.
(Com. i/c Durban 0842Z/17 to Admty. etc.)
Arrival 17th Jan. TURCOMAN.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 0907Z/17 to Admty.)
E.T.A. 1330Z/18th. ST. WISTAN reports that BRITISH COAST expects to complete p.m. 21st Jan.
(BRIDGEWATER 1604Z/17 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Capt. (D) Freetown.)
Arrival 17th Jan. DESPATCH.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 2031/17 to Admty.)

NORTHERN ISLE. Your 1531Z/16th (N.T. in W.R.) Report route, S. of A. time of shifting to area Q W/T organization, E.T.A. Walvis Bay, and requirements on arrival.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0901Z/17 to R.N.O. Lagos (R) N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay, C. in C. S.A. Admty., B.N.L.O. West Africa, NORTHERN ISLE.)

Communications My 1231/11th para. (1), H, not to S.N.O. in West Africa. Casablanca. Request you confirm allocation of 3 letter reference positions as follows. Jubu (Cape) 028° N. J.B.Y. Cape Chir 030° 28' N. G.I.R. Cape Contin 032° 33' N., C.I.N. Phare El Hauk, Casablanca, 033° 35' N. E.L.K.
2. These were issued to French by B.N.L.O. Dakar.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0936Z/17 to N.C.X.F.)

Situation Reports. Situation at 2001Z/17th. BRIDGEWATER about 06.40 12.04 to Freetown 11.

ST. WISTAN 2 M.Ls off Marshall. HOLCOMBE escorting 04.20 03.59 086° 12½.

ORAASY with French convoy off Cape Palmas to eastward. P.614 02.49 06.54 081° 8½.

NORTHERN ISLE off Lagos to Walvis Bay 8.

SARABANDE, COPINSAY escorting off Bonny to Westward.
(R.A.W. Af. 0955Z/17.)

Situation at 2000Z/17th. French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, BIRDLIP, BUTSER (? 4) U.S. escort vessels with convoy D.64 off Saldanha Bay BOJADOR to North by coastal route 7½. French Sloop Minesweeper ARMAMITE off River Ospitro with convoy D.65 to North by Coastal route 5. CORINTHIAN, BURDOCK, FANDANGO, BELLWORT, BREDON with convoy K.X.8 20.35 18.15 to 20.00 18.30 thence 177° 8½. HYDRANGEA off Cape Verde to join K.X.8 at 0900Z/18th. Netherlands Sub.0.19 09.07 17.04 to 10.00 17.46 thence 343° 9. DUNKERY, DUNCTON about 09.30 15.30 to Freetown 8. JANUS, GLENROY probably off Cape Verde to North West 9½.
(R.A.W. Af. 1027Z/17.)

/Tugs ...

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Situation Reports (contd.) Tugs PRUDENT, BOLD FRONTIER standing by MELISKERK in vicinity of 031° 033° South 029° 40' E. QUILLIAM, H.M.S. CHESHIRE, H.M.S. EXPRESS with W.S.25 031° 45' S. 030° E. to Durban HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY 017° S. 011° E. to Walvis Bay 10, MAGNOLIA off Cape Recife to Durban 8, ROCKROSE, H.M.N.S. 0.21 034° 16' S. 026° 15' E. to East London 12¹/₂.
(C. in C. S.A. 1145C/17.)
Add to my 1145/17th MEAD 033° 50' S. 027° 00' E. to East London 6 knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 1759C/17.)

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE (sunk 9/1) British ship WILLIAM WILBERFORCE lost on Jan. 9th at 1857 hours in 029° 20' N. 026° 53' W. Torpedoed twice. Master states all C.Bs satisfactorily disposed of. All passengers all crew except 3 were saved being picked up by Spanish vessel MONTE ARNABAL on Jan. 14th which arrived here Jan. 17th.
(Consul (Tenerife) 1015/17 to Admty.)

SOLFONN. Norwegian tanker SOLFONN grounded 13th Jan. near Bird Island, Algoa Bay. Vessel subsequently refloated and arrived Port Elizabeth 16th Jan. under her own power.
(C. in C. S.A. 1046C/17 to Admty.)

Transport of Personnel and P.O.Ws. D. of S.T. 0422/6th and 0356/12th. Owing to large number of priority personnel waiting passage to U.K. of whom big proportion are R.A.F. air crews, Naval and Merchant Navy personnel urgently required, it has become necessary to reverse the plans and to embark prisoners of war after other passengers have been accommodated. Probable estimate of prisoners of war to be embarked under these conditions will be 4000.
2. Full consideration has been given to conflicting claims of various services in arriving at this decision.
(C. in C. S.A. 1052C/17 to Admty., R.A.W.Af., C. in C. E.F., S.S.T.O. Durban, D. of S.T., P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

Convoy D.64. Armed trawler ASPIRANT BRUN left Casablanca 16th joining D.64 off Cap Bojador 19th. Armed trawler VICTORIA on coastal fishing patrol between St. Louis and Port Etienne, arriving Dakar 24th. Both ships fitted anti-sub.
T.O.O. 1128Z.
(B.N.L.O. Dakar 1130Z/17 to F.O. West Africa
(R) S.N.O. Casablanca. WOODRUFF, CYCLAMEN, CORINTHIAN, BELLWORT.)

War Diary.

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

ALCOA,
PIONEER.

A.M. 2005/16th, ALCOA, PIONEER. A.M. 0952/5th not received. Ship has been re-routed via Punta Arenas in accordance with A.M. 1843/12th para.(2). Master declares speed is 15 knots (N.C.S.O. Capetown 0946/15th refers) This speed was confirmed in Durban's 1233/12th, and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2048/11th Sept. 1942. (2) Request (?latest report). (C. in C. S.A. 1241C/17 to Admty. (R) Connav.) W.R. Note.- A.M. 2005/16 was correctly coded. Action taken by War Reg. to inform C. in C. S.A. of W/T details of 0952/15.

ALCANTARA.

A.M. 1945A/15/1. It is estimated that repairs to crane could be effected in a week provided adequate facilities and material are available.
2. In view of the importance of aircraft being available while ALCANTARA is escorting A.F.D. 24 it is suggested that decision not to repair crane may be reconsidered.
3. As crane is not available it will not be possible to load second Seafox before leaving Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1414Z/17 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., S.B.N.O. W.At. ALCANTARA.)
Reply: Admty. 1605A/18.

GLENROY,
JANUS.

My 1353/13th and my 1355/13th. Amend time of arrival to p.m. 23rd Jan.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1505Z/17 to N.C.S.O. San Miguel (Ponta Delgada) (R) Admty., GLENROY, N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar, JANUS, B.N.A. Lisbon.)
Arrival 1020Z/17th, departure 1240Z/17th GLENROY and JANUS.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1830/17 to F.O.C.W. Africa (R) Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping
Diversion.

My 1415/16 first para.* It is recommended that as a temporary measure all shipping proceeding by Western stream now at sea and east of 05° E. should be diverted to keep south of 27° S. until west of 05° W.
2. Ships in eastern stream to be diverted to keep East of a line between 05° S. 07° W. and 30° S. 11° E.
3. Ships to be routed (A) Eastern stream as in para.2 above. (B) Western stream south of a line between 35° S. 10° E. and 30° S. 05° W.
(D.T.D. 1537A/17 to C. in C. S.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A. Connav.)
* U/B estimates at 1200Z/16. One southbound probably within 120 miles of each of following four positions: 07° 30' S. 15° 01' W. 07° 02' S. 03° 29' W. 03° 05' S. 17° 04' W. and 03° 06' S. 19° 07' W. Probably only one still in Rocas area.

/MATADIAN ...

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

MATADIAN. Your 1823/15. Intend to sail MATADIAN with corvette escort to R/V with escorts of 43rd escort group in position 20° N. 28° W. at 0800Z/28 for onward escort to Gibraltar subject to concurrence of N.C.X.F. In view of escort available propose to include two additional ships of suitable speed for U.K. (F.O.C.W.A. 1645Z/17 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar.)

ATHELVICTOR, Your 1146/11th (re ATHELVICTOR detained at Lagos delay. in connection with enquiries into cause of 5th Dec. explosion) In view of chance of prevarication in preliminary police enquiry, presence of 3 officers and 2 apprentices essential in court for cross examination before (?assessor) to ascertain truth. Need for expeditious handling of enquiry stressed by Governor of Nigeria, R.N.O. and M. of W.T.R. Ship's witnesses evidence taken first. (R.A.W.A. 1647Z/17.)

CARNARVON Proceed in accordance with A.M. 1701/15th Jan. CASTLE. without fuelling. (D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1810A/17 to CARNARVON CASTLE (R) N.A. Rio.)

U.S. Vice- M.L. No.289 will arrive St. Vincent with Vice- Consul designate of U.S.A. on a date to be St. Vincent. communicated by F.O.C.W.Af. 2. It is requested that F.O.C.W.Af. will keep N.A. Lisbon informed in addition to Admiralty of any arrangements he may make for visits of H.M. Ships to Portuguese territory. This will ensure that Portuguese Authorities get the information without further signals from Admiralty. (D.O.D. (F) 2247A/17 to N.A. Lisbon (R) F.O.C.W.A., N.C.S.O. St. Vincent for British Consul.)

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War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Destroyers. Following has been read. P.C. and S. 3 destroyers 38.17 N. 12.42 E. 180° 15 knots. (A/C Call Sign AQZC via Alexandria W/T 0032Z/17.) Enemy has altered course approx. to 230°. (A/C call sign AQZC via Alexandria W/T 0104Z/17.)

Movements Benghazi. Sailed WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY, BURRA, GENERAL BIRDWOOD, MAPLE. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi 0413B/17 to Admty.)

M.K.F.7. My 1717/16th. All times to be advanced 24 hours. Convoy to sail Algiers 1800A/18. (N.C.X.F. 0853A/17 to Cdre. Algiers.) M.K.F.7. Destination of BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE and ORBKUA is Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F. 1100A/17 to Cdre. Algiers.)

P.54. Cancel my 1616/16th Jan. (2) Proceed to pass 038° 28' N. 008° 01' E. at 2100/18th, 038° 28' N. 003° 01' E. at 2100/20th, thence proceed on surface at discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 59' N. 003° 01' E. at 0801A/21st. (Capt. S.8 0912A/17 to P.54 (R) Subs. on Patrol, N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S., S.O.Q. Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers.)

Movements Alexandria. Arrivals 16th Jan. CUMBRAE M.L.348, Departures 16th CROOME, WELSHMAN, ANTWERP, Greek Destroyer IERAX, Greek Ships SAKTOURIS, PINDOS. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 0912B/17 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

PAKENHAM, JAVELIN. PAKENHAM and JAVELIN returned from operations. (V.A. Malta 0930A/17 to Admty., C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.)

Destroyer Sweep. 2 Destroyers of Force K leaving Malta at 1500A today 17th to carry out sweep between Kuriat and Kerkenah from about 2300/17th to 0100/18th. (N.O.I.C. Malta 0942A/17 to C. in C. Med., 201 Group, Hdqrs. R.A.F. M.E. 247 Wing (R) N.C.X.F. Admty.)
Cancel my 0942A/17th.
(V.A. Malta 1147A/17.)

Tripoli Convoy. My 2021/7th Jan. FORT TADOUSSAC, OCEAN VOYAGER, DANIEL H. LOUNSDALE have been allocated 2nd Tripoli convoy to commence loading Jan. 23rd after fitting for carrying petrol in cases, drums, and welded containers. CITY OF FLORENCE will be allocated same service on completion of discharge. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 1013/17 to Admty. for D. of S.T.)

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- P.35. Arrived.
(V.A. Malta 1100A/17 to Admty. etc.)
- PAPANICOLIS. Leave patrol as necessary to pass through
(A) 035° 16' 026° 37' at 2230B/19th.
(B) 034° 14' 027° 08' at 0600B/20th.
(C) 031° 49' 032° 36' thence direct arrive Port
Said searched channel 0600B Jan. 23rd. Your
S. of A. is estimated at 110 miles per 24 hours
submerged by day.
(Capt. S.1 1109B/17 to G.S. PAPANICOLIS (R)
Commodore (D) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10, TAKU,
C.C.F. (East) Capt. (S) CORINTHIA.)
- K.M.F.7 Algiers Section arrived plus GULF PORT, nine
ships.
(Cdre. Algiers 1150A/17 to Admty. Connnav,
N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar.)
- Enemy
Units. Following has been received. P.C. and S. 3
Transport Barges, 2 small merchant vessels
33.10 N. 11.53 E. course 290° speed 8 knots.
(Alexandria 1156A/17.)
- P.51. From dusk tonight keep east of longitude 011°
P.42. 30' P.42 operates to west of this longitude.
(Capt. S.10 1159A/17 to P.51 (R) P.42.)
- EMPIRE
FOAM. Admty. 1040/15th (? para.) 3. EMPIRE FOAM
should fly off aircraft off Algiers to Maison
Blanche for servicing. Aircraft will be re-
embarked at Algiers.
(N.C.X.F. 1205A/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.
LANDGUARD, V.A. Gib.)
- M.K.S.6. My 1121/16. M.K.S.6, add DELILIAN, SALACIA.
M.K.S.7. Delete EMPIRE CONFIDENCE returning with IRENEE
DUPONT in M.K.F.7.
(Cdre. Algiers 1226A/17 to Admty. Connnav,
N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)
- ALBARO. My 1021C/15. Tanker not yet arrived. Report
B.3 delay due to bad weather. North East
blizzard, visibility poor.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1243C/17 to S.O.I. Mediterranean,
S.O.N.E., S.10, D.N.I.)
- TANARA
sunk. My 2004/15th. PAKENHAM and JAVELIN sank water
and stores carrier TANARA at 2359A/16th in
33° 44' N. 11° 30' E, westbound. 28 Italian
prisoners. A few rounds were probably fired
by enemy. No damage or casualties in own ships.
(V.A. Malta 1301A/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.
N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

SILHOUETTE,
SNOWDRIFT.

Your 1145B/31/12. Assuming that your intention is for SILHOUETTE and SNOWDRIFT to join Group 168, your proposals are approved.
2. Presume you will arrange for the transport of crews direct with Authorities concerned and report arrangements made.
(Head of M.II approved 2nd S.L. 1303A/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. etc.)

Air
Bi-Weekly
Opsum.

A.650 17 Jan. Bi-weekly Opsums now being despatched in daily parts to relieve signals congestion. Herewith Bi-weekly Opsum No.92, Part 1. Night 15/16 Jan. B.24s despatched to make dusk attack on ships in Tripoli Harbour. 3 returned early owing to technical troubles. Remainder bombed objective but no hits claimed. Some bombs fell in town south of Karamanli Mole. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1303Z/17.)

TRIBUNE
intelligence.

TRIBUNE reported beach lights probably R.D.F. controlled observed off French Riviera Coast when TRIBUNE was 15 miles to seaward.
(? Algiers W/T 1332A/17 to P.212.)

THUNDERBOLT.

Sailed.
(V.A. Malta 1525/17 to Admty. etc.)

P.54.
P.228.

P.54 keep east of 010° E. and P.228 North of 039° N. until 0800 tomorrow Monday. Further orders following for P.54.
(Capt. S.8 1544A/17 to P.54, P.228 (R) S.O.I.S. Capt. (S) 10.)

My 1544. Pass 038° 28' 008° 01' E. at 0500/19th 038° 28' N. 004° 21' E. at 2000/20th thence proceed on surface at discretion to R/V with escort Algiers in 036° 59' N. 003° 01' E. at 0801/21st.

(Capt. S.8 1616A/17 to P.54 (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S. S/Ms on patrol, Capt.(S) 10, S.O. Force Q, Cdre. Algiers.)

K.M.S.7.

Tact. Can accommodate 3 M.T. Store Ships, 1 M.T. Coal or 1 Collier, 4 Coasters or cased patrol ship and 1 R.N. Collier of 15 feet maximum draft in K.M.S.7. If return convoy can be arranged 22nd can increase to 5 M.T. Store Ships.
(S.T.O. Bone 1630A/17 to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O.X.F)

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- E.A.C. Report. Opsum 67, 1800 hrs. 15 Jan - 1800 hrs. 16 Jan. A. Operations night 15th/16th. 12 Wellingtons attacked Bizerta Docks experiencing excellent weather over target. Results appear very satisfactory and a number of fires reported along the dock area. 10 aircraft returned safely, 2 crashed on way back but crews baled out and landed safely. At 1950/15 Maison Blanche attacked by 10 enemy aircraft which dropped approx. 21 H.E. bombs and a number of incendiaries on aerodrome and in vicinity. 4 airmen were killed some 3 miles from aerodrome. 1 Hurricane and 1 Spitfire destroyed and 2 Hurricanes severely damaged on the ground. 1 JU.88 destroyed by A/A and 1 by naval gunfire. Day 16th. One Hudson sighted fully surfaced U-boat which crash dived. Depth charges dropped but no results seen. Another Hudson sighted a U-boat surfacing, depth charges dropped 15 seconds after U-boat dived 90 yards ahead of swirl. Air bubbles and small pieces of debris seen.
- F. 12th U.S. Air force. 8 B.26s attacked Tripoli Harbour. 1 M/V hit and left smoking, fire started in Harbour area. Heavy accurate Flak encountered. 1 Me.109 which attacked formation was destroyed. 2 B.26s landed at Malta, the remaining 6 returned to base. 12 B.24s also attacked Tripoli harbour in another attack, results appeared satisfactory and fires seen in target area, formation attacked by 4 Me.109s, 1 probably destroyed and 2 damaged.
(E.A.C. Africa 1730/17.)
- Movements, Port Said. 17th Port Said arrival Greek Destroyer IERAX SAKTOURIS. Departure PROTEA, ATIO KLO Greek Destroyer AETOS, Greek Destroyer IERAX, GLOXINIA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 1746/17th to Admty. etc.)
- RECORDER. RECORDER, British, 5982 tons, was hit by a bomb at Bone p.m. 17th. Damage is not expected to delay her sailing but repairs will be necessary on arrival in U.K.
(D.O.R. 1248) (No signal in W.D.)
- Bougie bombed. Situation (2).
(D) About 10 bombs dropped early morning, damage negligible.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1750A/17 to N.C.X.F.)
- EXCISO blown up. EXCISO blown up and heavily on fire No.7 berth at 1817. Cause unknown. BUDE, SUMMERSIDE proceeded Philippeville 1830A/17th. Ship was loaded with cased petroleum. Moving ships in port to outer harbour. Request air cover.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1832A/17 to N.C.X.F.)
- P.228. Keep north of latitude 039° 20' tonight. 2 Fleet destroyers are carrying out a sweep between Bone and Cape Carbonara.
(Capt. S. 10 1837A/17 to P.228 (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. S.8.)

/Enemy ...

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Enemy Units. Following has been read by Malta W/T. Position of 6 or more unknown type enemy vessels 37.42 N. 11.38 E. Course and speed unknown. (A/C C/S ASP Duty O 1920A/17.)

Following has been read by Alexandria W/T. P.C. and S. of 4 destroyers and three unknowns 37.42 N. 11.38 E. 260° 8 knots. (A/C C/S ASP duty O/2 2005A/17.)

P.C. and S. of 4 destroyers, 1 merchant vessel and two unknowns 37.38 N. 11.15 E. 260° 8 knots. (A/C C/S ASP Duty O 2140A/17 to Med. Local C/S K.T.1.)

P.C. and S. of one destroyer 38.10 N. 12.17 E. 160° 25 knots. (A/C C/S ASP duty N/1 2145A/17 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Position of one unknown 37.40 N. 12.05 E. (A/C C/S ASP Duty J. 2245A/17 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

W.R. Note. Received via Malta W/T.

P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers 37.55 N. 11.30 E. 060° 20 knots. (A/C C/S ASP duty O. 2300A/17 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

W.R. Note. Received via Malta W/T.

TRIBUNE. Algiers arrivals TRIBUNE from patrol. (Cdre. Algiers 2007A/17 to Admty.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrivals WESTON WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, GORLESTONE, WEAR with K.M.F.7. LAMERTON from Gibraltar. Salvage vessel KING SALVOR and M.L.280 from Oran. Departures. BUDE, SUMMERSIDE, escorting one M/V to Bougie, trawler TARANA to Gibraltar. (Cdre. Algiers 2011A/17 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

Movements, Bone. Arrivals M.T.B. 311, 315, 316. Departures M.T.B. 307, 311, 316. LIGHTNING, LOYAL. (N.O.I.C. Bone 2015A/17 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Tobruk. Arrived and sailed ANTWERP, CROOME, BELVOIR, HURWORTH, PINDOS. Sailed SOUTHERN ISLE, WOLBOROUGH, T.L.C. 100 and 111. (Tobruk C.C.O. 2031B/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Situation Report No.323. Western Desert. 8th Army Advance began 0715 15th Jan. Enemy torpedo bombers attacked Benghazi p.m. 15th Jan. no Naval damage. 4 enemy aircraft destroyed in raid on Tobruk p.m. 16th Jan.

(2) Malta. NUBIAN and KELVIN sank 4,000 ton M/V 60 miles east of Kerkenah 0430 16th Jan. 25 survivors picked up, some left in water. Ship had 100 or more passengers, mostly Italian Merchant Service. Destroyer escort also damaged. (V.A.M's 1655A 16th Jan. refers).

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Situation Report No.323 (contd.)
- (3) PAKENHAM and JAVELIN sank Italian Water and Store carrier at 0100 17th Jan. off Ras Turgeuness, latter picked up 28 survivors. (V.A.M's 1454 17th Jan. refers).
- (4) My 1829 15th Jan. paragraphs 2-5. U-Boat was Italian. (Remainder deleted by 1332B/18, q.v)
- (5) Two M/Vs of M.E.15 have arrived Alexandria, 1 M/V and 2 tankers due Port Said 18th Jan. (V.A.M's 1947 13th Jan. refers).
- (6) Submarines. TURBULENT 1754 29th Dec. in 39° 17' N. 9° 41' E. sank northbound laden 4,500 ton M.V. escorted by Ostia class minelayer.
- (7) At 0920 11th Jan. in vicinity of Cape Bonifati scored hit by gunfire on 2,500 ton laden M.V. southbound just missed by torpedoes. This caused 4 men to abandon ship. M.V. driven ashore by further gunfire and finally torpedoed amidships in 39° 31' N. 15° 54' E. which caused ship to break in half.
- (8) At 1912/11th Jan. scored 8 hits on southbound goods train stopped near Paola. One coach still on fire 45 minutes later. Shore batteries retaliated with machine gunfire. (C. in C. Med. 2111B/17, 1022B/9 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 557 17 Jan. Night 16/17 Jan. 9 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli from 1753 to 1842 hours scoring hits near the power station and the railway station and depot and in town. Several small fires started in town and 1 near power station. 6 Beauforts laid mines in entrance to La Goulette harbour. One ? torpedo carrying Albacore sent to attack shipping in the Cape Carthage area sighted and attacked at 0153 hours 1 M/V 3/4000 tons stationary in position 170° Cape Carthage 1½ miles but no results were observed. 1 Mosquito made intruder patrol in Pantellaria, Sicily area to provide diversion for the Albacore strike. 1 Beaufighter and 1 Mosquito made intruder patrols over Western Sicilian Aerodromes.

Day 17th Jan. A total of 8 Beaufighter Sorties and 16 Spitfire Sorties have been flown on offensive sweeps between Malta and the Tunisian Coast and over S.E. Sicily. At 0958 hours 4 Beaufighters found 3 schooners in position 180° Cape Mahedia 8 miles course North and attacked with cannon and machine guns scoring strikes on all vessels and seriously damaging 2 of them. 2 Beaufighters were lost during days operations but the crew of both were rescued by Sunderland and R.A.F. Launch. 4 bomb carrying Spitfires escorted by 8 fighter Spitfires attacked Lampedusa aerodrome at 1405 hrs. 8 Spitfires have been airborne as escort to Sunderland carrying out successful air sea rescue off Tunisian Coast.

Part 2. Enemy air activity. Night 16/17 Jan. 0415 to 0555 hours, 2 Beaufighters were airborne for 3 raiders which approached Malta at great height but returned without dropping any bombs. Day 17th Jan. 1120 hours 4 Spitfires were airborne for raiders which turned back before reaching Malta. (A.H.Q. Malta 23022/17.)

/NARVALO ...

War Diary.

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

NARVALO
sunk by
PAKENHAM,
HURSLEY
(14/1.)

My 1834/14th (to C. in C. Med. Fleet only)
and your 1829/15th. PAKENHAM first to open
fire and she and HURSLEY scored 6 to 12 hits
which together with original depth charge from
aircraft sank U.Boat. Boat was Italian transport
NARVALO on passage Tripoli to Taranto with 12
allied officer prisoners on board. Following
officers rescued by PAKENHAM, 4 Americans, 1
South African and 1 English. Details reported
by Army and R.A.F. Authorities. Also 12
Italian ratings. No damage or casualties to
PAKENHAM. Written report follows.
(V.A. Malta 2306A/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

War Diary.17.1.1945.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Landing Admty. 1501/13th. (C. in C. Med's 1501/13 intended)
 Craft, Request consideration be given to loan by
 M.N.B.D.O. N.A.C.O.I. of at least 25 trained personnel to
 man landing craft at Addu Atoll, remainder of
 party to be made up of general service personnel
 provided from station resources. Total number required are
 approx. 4 officers and 150 men to man 10 L.C.M. and 8 L.C.A.
 Your 0921/11th. Despite delay consider boat's company if they
 are concentrated with remainder of M.N.B.D.O. should be withdrawn
 Addu in early March to allow passage Bombay and short period of
 rest in Ceylon in route.
 (F.O. Ceylon, 0341Z/17, to F.L.O. Delhi (R) Admty. etc.)

Movements. Arrival 0359Z/17th Jan. BALTA.
 (N.O. i/c Addu Atoll, 0403Z/17 to Admty.)
 JUMNA arrived off the port.
 (N.O. i/c Madras, 0413Z/17 to Admty. etc.)
 Colombo portion B.M. 37 arrived.
 (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 0440/17, to Admty.)
 ROSALIND arrived.
 (N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0502Z/17 to Admty. etc.)
 Convoy P.B.21 Bombay portion arrived.
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0818Z/17 to Admty. etc.)
 Departure JUMNA escorting GAMARIA.
 (N.O.I.C. Madras, 0941Z/17, to Admty etc.)

Enemy Convoy of 2 ships with naval escort attacked by
 M/Vs (?U.S.) aircraft 15th 250 miles S.S.E. of Rangoon.
 attacked. 7000 ton M/V disabled and with crew abandoning ship
 5000 ton M/V near misses continued under way.
 (F.L.O. Delhi, 0500Z/17, to C. in C.E.F.)

Dispositions. Eastern Fleet weekly disposition signal No.19.
 (A) No change. (B) Carrier ILLUSTRIOUS at sea.
 (C) DEVONSHIRE at Kilindini. (D) BIRMINGHAM,
 HAWKINS escorting convoys off east coast Africa. CERES at
 Durban. GAMBIA and FROBISHER at Kilindini. CARADOC at Bombay.
 Others no change. (E) Available units exercising off Kilindini
 during forthcoming week.
 (C. in C.E.F., 0550Z/17, to C. in C.S.A., Admty., etc.)

GREEN Tanker message. (1) Admty. have approved R.F.A.
 RANGER. Spirit Carrier GREEN RANGER (?being) converted to
 carry fuel oil. (2) Necessary pipes and valves
 are available on board but it is probable that
 pipes need resetting. Separator requires reconnecting.
 (3) Work cannot be done at Kilindini. GREEN RANGER also requires
 docking and short refit. (4) Propose sailing GREEN RANGER with
 full cargo of aviation spirit to Bombay. Please confirm that
 she can be accepted and work carried out.
 (C. in C.E.F., 0902Z/17, to D.G.S.R. Bombay, (R) Com. R.I.N.,
 F.O.1/c East Africa, Admty.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

17.1.1945.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Movements.

Arrivals 0445Z MADRAS and D.S. WILLEM VAN DE ZAAAN
with P.B.21. Departure 1051Z H.M.S. WORCESTERSHIRE
speed of advance $12\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 1055Z/17 to Admt. etc.)

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

Your 0810Z/17th (N.T. in W.R.) acknowledged.
E.T.A. Aden 1200Z/Jan 24th.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA, 1822Z/17, to C. in C. E.F. (R)
N.O.I.C. Aden. F.O.C. Red Sea Force.)

War Diary.17.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Shipping Routes. Your 0952/15 (re routing of from Middle East to U.S. Atlantic Seaboard.) para. 4 - Trans-Pacific. Was it your intention to omit reference to British managed coal fired ships? (B.A.D. 0015Z/17 to Admty.)
Your 0015/17, yes. My 2038/12 para. 2 last seven words refer. (D.T.D., 1934A/17 to B.A.D.)

Movements. Jan. 16th St. Johns N.F. Arrivals MOJAVE, MOHAWK, ex Argentia. Departures TRAIL, MONCTON, U.S. SAPELO to O.N.158. (N.O.i/c St. Johns N.F., 0214Z/17 to Admty.)

T.U.24.1.17. My 1550Z/16th add Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.17. sailed Argentia 1930Z/16 for St. John's, N.F. via direct route arriving daylight 17th. (C.O.A.C., 0216Z/17 to Admty.)

NORANDA.. E.T.A. 1230Z/17th. Port engine out of order. Require tug for berthing. In company SUDEROY V. boiler hours 372. (NORANDA, 0300Z/17, to C.O.A.C. (R) Capt. (D) Halifax.)

MARLIN. U.S. S/M notice Jan. 17th. Amend my 1502/16th. U.S. S/M MARLIN ahead of schedule making 13 knots arrives New London 0401Z/17th. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0335/17 to Admty.)

CLYDE. U.S. S/M notice 17th Jan. My 1502/16th. CLYDE behind schedule. P.C. and S. 2214Z/16th 038° 46' N. 068° 50' W. 263° 7.5. E.T.A. 038° 19' N. 074° 25' W. 0750Z/18th. (Cominch, 0520/17 to Admty.)
My 0520/17th. Correct E.T.A. 38.19 N. 74.25 W. 1250Z/18th. (Cominch, 1135/17.)

Floating Dock Escorts. Sailed MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, YESTOR in accordance with my 1522/16. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1202Q/17 to B.A.D. S.B.N.O.W.A.)

PHOEBE. New York arrived p.m. 15th Jan. (N.S.H.Q., 1207Z/17 to Admty.)

O.N.S. 158. Pass to Cmmdre. Disperse ships for South Atlantic tonight reporting position time and names of ships detached. Report late X (? later) name of southbound straggler. (Connav, 1258/17 to C.T.U. 24.1.14. (R) Comsouth, Atlantic, C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

17.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

Movements. 16th Jan. departures NIAGARA, TIMMINS, BUCTOUCHE, MINAS, MEDICINE HAT escorting H.H.X.223. HEPATICA, NEW WESTMINSTER, GRANDMERE to escort O.N.159.
17th Jan. arrivals BRANTFORD, DUNDAS, TRURO ex S.C. 117.
(N.O.i/c Halifax, 1301Z/17 to Admty. etc.)
Departures 1300/17. Tug CONFIDENT, Brit., and S.S. DON, Nor., escorted by CORSAIR direct to Barbado. E.T.A. 1130/18.
Knots 8.5.
(R.O. Port of Spain, 1328/17, to Admty.)

Special S/M estimate. 11 still estimated patrolling 30 to 37 North, 30 to 33 West with 6 (?others) including refuelling submarine estimated 29 to 34 North 26 to 29 West. One bound south west vicinity 35.45 North 24.30 West by D/F 1210/17th. One southbound 18 North 25 West. One Italian homeward bound 09 North 21 West. One homeward bound 40 North 21 West. Three estimated Gibraltar to Cape St. Vincent.
(Cominch, 1410/17 to C.T.F. 22. C.T.F. 34 C.T.F. 38 (R) Admty. Cinclant.)

BRANDON, COLLINGWOOD, AMHERST, SHERBROOKE. COLLINGWOOD, AMHERST, SHERBROOKE in company, E.T.A. 1830Z/17th. Boiler hours and defects. Position 046° 41' North, 052° 32' West. Weather report. BRANDON, 1500Z/17 to F.O.N.F., C.T.F., 24 (R) Connav etc.)

REGENT. Your 1709/16. Cominch confirms original route. (B.A.D., 1511Z/17 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

U/Bs. Submarine sighted 61.22 North, 25.22 West at 1356 G.C.T./17. Submarine sighted 60.06 North 26.16 West at 1320 G.C.T./17.
(U.S. Navcom, Cominch, 1531/17 to Admty.)

Shipping Routes. O.I.C. Serial 201. As a temporary measure it is recommended that ships referred to in M.A.R.I. Sect. IV para. 8A, sub para. 2(f) and sub para 3(h) should be diverted so as to be south 27° South when East of 05° West.
(D.T.D., 1540A/17 to Connav. (R) C. in C. S.A. etc.)

S/M estimate Jan.17th. U.S. S/M notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1541/17, 1542/17, 1610/17, 1611/17, 1612/17, 1922/17.)

U.S. Movements. Bermuda departures 16th Jan. U.S.S. ALCOMA, Y.M.S.76 Y.M.S. 60.
(S.B.N.O. W.A. 1619Q/17 to Admty.)

/O.N.S.156...

War Diary.

17.1.1945.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- O.N.S.156. Following Ships ex O.N.S. 156 arrived New York 17th Jan.(list)(16 ships.)
(B.R.L.O. New York, 1647Z/17 to Admty.)
- L.S.(D) Your 1915/29th Oct. (1915/15th Oct. intended - given Hush distribution.) We are now informed Navy Department have advance priorities of all L.S.D-(landing ship(dock)) - now building to the same as for escort vessels and are considering a further programme of these ships. They apparently do not conflict with escorts. (2) It appears though that Naval Shipbuilding Programme here is slipping back and in this connection see J.S.M. 685. (3) It is therefore unlikely that L.S.D. dates will in practice be advanced and the best we can do is to press for assignment to ourselves of some of the earlier completions and to hope that pressure on a planning level will produce a combined L.S.D. Force for such operations as may be contemplated.
(B.A.D. 1649Z/17 to Admty.)
- ANDES. Your 1255/12. Request details and destinations of personnel in ANDES be signalled immediately.
Further request that in future this information be signalled at time of sailing.
(N.S.H.Q., 1658Z/17 to Admty., (R) D. of S.T. C.O.A.C., B.A.D.)
Convoy T.A.32, comprising ANDES, sailed from U.K. on 15/1 for Halifax. 2. For details of personnel on board see War Office signal 94641 of 16/1 to N.D.H.Q. Ottawa and Milstaff Washington.
(D.S.T., 2021A/17, to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.O.A.C., B.A.D.)
- Curacao. Reply to Admty. 2107/16 para. 6. re existing
Convoys. facilities. Stores etc.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1704 Q.R../17 to S.B.N.O.W.A.
(R) Admty. etc.)W.R. Note:- The Admiralty telegram 2107/6 referred to is a recyphered version of Admty. 1954/16 (U.K. and Curacao tanker convoys.)
- O.N.S. 160. SAN FRANCISCO has straggled. Cmdre. requests following rendezvous for 1300Z/18th Jan. be broadcast. 060° 58' 029° 15'.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12., 1800Z/17 to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)
- T.M.1. Navy Department are anxious to know if attacks on T.M.1 disclosed new tactics or weapons used by U-Boats or whether their success could be entirely to weight of numbers.
(B.A.D., 1851Z/17 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty.)
- H.X.222 This is N.O.B. Iceland 1712Z/17. H.X.222 attacked during daylight. Ship torpedoed in 61° 36 North 26 - 19 West at 1500Z/17.
(Cominch, 1902Z/17 to Admty. (R) C.T.F.24.)
B.T. Urgent, group 15,SM attacking 61.36 N. 26.19 W. at 1500
G.C.T.17. 171900, Navcom.
(Cominch, 1915/17 to Admty.)

/R.N.A.S...

War Diary.17.1.1945.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- R.N.A.S. Dartmouth. Request reply to my 1734/3rd Dec. 1942 future of R.N. Air Station, Dartmouth. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1914Q/17 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)
- Periscope. Merchant ship reports sighting periscope 43.37 N. 59.09 W., searched one hour unsuccessful. (KENORA, 1930Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Halifax N.S. (R) (D) Halifax.) (C.O.A.C. 2052Z/17 to G.B.7A.)
- O.N. Sailing Dates. Your 1438/13 and C. in C. W.A.'s 1031/13, sailing dates of O.N. Convoys have been adjusted as follows:- O.N. 162 (Fast) 22nd Jan. O.N.S. 163 (slow) 23rd Jan. and thence every 10 days. (D.T.D., 2004Z/17 to Connav (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C. etc.)
- KENORA. W.O.N. 159. Have been unable to sight KENORA with W.O.N. 159. Have ordered her to intercept convoy at 1500Z/18 in position (?225°) 122 miles from U. Request further instructions be forwarded to KENORA. LAFAYETTE straggling proceeding Halifax for repairs. Have rejoined Halifax Section. (C.T.U. 24.18.9., 2100Z/17 to C.O.A.C. (R) KENORA., C.E.S.F., C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. Connav. Capt. (D) Halifax, West Local Esc. T.U. 24.18.4.)
- VIRGINIAN. U.S. Army Transport VIRGINIAN sailed San Francisco 15 Jan. for Auckland. (N.S.H.Q., 2114Z/17 to Admty.)
- O.N.158. This is Connav's B.A.M.S. 2 A 2220/17th. transmitted to all stragglers O.N. 158 "rendezvous 1500 Z/18th. at 234° 217 miles from C.C." (Connav, 2229/17 to N.S.H.Q., Admty., C.T.24, C. in C.W.A., C.O.A.C., C.O.N.F. (R) C. Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.3, C. Mid-Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.14.)
- U/B At 1915Z U/Boat transmitted probable sighting report on Series 7 from your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 2245A/17 to Escorts H.X.222., O.N.160. O.N.161, C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C. etc.)
- STALKER. On sailing from San Francisco keep W/T watch in accordance with A.M. 1930 21st Nov. (751 A) as amended by A.M. 1651 13th Dec. (889 A). (2) Report by signal before sailing anticipated time of entering South East Pacific area and shift W/T watch from Honolulu to Balboa FOX at that time. (3) On sailing from Beira keep W/T watch in accordance with A.F.O."S" one/42. (B.A.D. 2319Z/17 to STALKER, (R) N.S.H.Q., Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty.)

War Diary.17.1.1943
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

MONOWAI. Arrival Norfolk Island 2045Z/16. MONOWAI.
Departure Norfolk Island 0035Z/17 E.T.A. Auckland
1800/18 Jan.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0245Z/17 to Admty. (R) Comsopac.)

U.S. Arrival Wellington 2052Z/16 U.S.S. LIBRA.
Movements. Departure Auckland 0010Z/17 U.S.S. GANSEVOORT
escorting U.S.S. HUNTER LIGGETT to Noumea, direct
route, E.T.A. 2100Z, SANAD 62.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0324Z/17, to Admty.)
Arrival 16th Jan. Brisbane U.S. transport SWARTENHONDT.
Townsville U.S. transport TASBUNK, BONTEKOE. Port Moresby U.S.
transport BOTH. 17th Cairns Dutch Naval Store Ship SOEDOE.
(A.C.N.B., 1011Z/17, to Admty., Connav.)

Digest 14 fighter aircraft passed Buka to North Moynag
No. 360 16th. Increasing air activity this area
Jan.16th. including single planes to and from South. Large
destroyer arrived Buka passage during night 15/16
Jan. Cargo being ferried N.E. Coast Bougainville.
(2) Liberator unsuccessfully bombed one heavy cruiser morning
16/1 5° 55' S. 152° 50' E. on course 270°. Interception by
four Zeros, one shot down. (3) Liberator bombed Runway Cape
Gloucester afternoon 15th. Later saw medium M/V off Gasmata.
Striking force 3 Liberators unable to locate ship bombed runway
which was again bombed next morning by one Liberator. (4) R/C.
Liberator bombed possible bridge construction over Gogol River
at Madang and Runway Wewak morning 15th. (5) Finschhafen
Township bombed by Liberator afternoon 16th. (6) 7 B 25s 6
Beaufighters bombed and strafed supply dumps Lae Waterfront
morning 16th, causing large fire and explosion. Same afternoon
Liberator bombed aerodrome. (7) Our troops consolidating Mubo
Area. (8) 3 Bostons bombed and strafed Kurenada Village at
Mouth Kumusi River noon 16/1. (9) Enemy resistance astride
Motor Road Sanananda North of Road block effectively smashed by
artillery and heavy mortar fire morning 16th. Enemy pocket at
track junction surrounded 16/1 and outer perimeter pierced.
Heavy machine gun fire retarding progress from Tarakena to
Giruwa. (10) 3 Bostons strafed Sanananda track morning 16th.
11. 3 Merchant vessels (1, 10,000 tons, 2 2 to 3,000 tons)
Ambon Bay morning 16th. 2 Zeros intercepted Liberator which
possibly shot down one.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 0831Z/17, to Admty., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 1301A/17, 1322A/17)

War Diary.

18.1.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoys
J.W.52.
R.A.52.

S.O. Force R, F.O.C. 1st C.S. in KENT sailed from Scapa at 1830A today with GLASGOW and BERMUDA, to cover J.W.52 and subsequently, after oiling at Kola Inlet, R.A.52.

Movements of the S/MS which will be on patrol off N.W. Norway during the passage of the convoy commenced today, viz. P.314, P.224 and TRIDENT, who will patrol in north Norwegian waters east of 20° E.

Air
operations.

The Air Ministry have under review a proposal that navigation lights should be burned by aircraft at all heights within 50 miles of their bases.

Six Hudsons this evening attacked a convoy of 15 merchant vessels and 2 escort vessels 20 miles N. of the Texel. Three aircraft obtained direct hits on 3 vessels of 1500, 2000 and 2500 tons respectively, and another aircraft saw a near miss astern of a 3000/5000 ton ship.

A Hudson attacked a U-Boat on the surface in 60.5 N. 21.45 W. at 1140Z today.

There was some enemy activity in the Thames Estuary last night, between 2030/17 and 2145/17 and between 0500/18 and 0530/18. There is no evidence that minelaying occurred, but minelaying is suspected in the Orfordness area.

Some naval damage but no naval casualties were caused ashore at Folkestone by air attack on Dover and Folkestone between 1930 and 2030 today.

South Atlantic.

Escorted
group
sailings
to be
arranged.

Now that the 18 A/S trawlers lent to the U.S.A. have been returned and sent to Capetown the Admiralty wish C. In C. S.A. to arrange escorted group sailings (A) Between Capetown and Durban (B) Westbound from Capetown and eastbound from Durban. These should be in operation by the end of January. The Admiralty realise that escorts are weak, but provision of air cover should make up for this.

/C. in C...

War Diary.18.1.1943.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.Escorted
group
sailings
to be
arranged.
Contd.

C. in C. S.A. replied (19 Jan) that the A/S trawlers are arriving in need of boiler cleaning and urgent repairs. He intends to recommence group sailing from Capetown with C.A. convoys southbound east of Agulhas and C.N. convoys north and westbound, 2 sailings weekly in each direction: coastal traffic eastbound will be sailed with C.A. convoys and dispersed as necessary under air cover. On 23 Jan. C. in C. S.A. further reported that of the 18 trawlers which had reached the station only 5 will be operative until the end of January; he does not anticipate that group sailings will be started between Capetown and Durban before the end of February. This is the first intimation received by the Admiralty of the very high degree of unserviceability amongst the trawlers, and T.L. are very disturbed and on 25 Jan. they called for a report.

C. in C. S.A. replied (27 Jan) that the high degree of unserviceability of the trawlers appear to be due to prolonged steaming. Twice weekly escorted convoys north and south from Capetown and east from Durban have already commenced, as have group sailings between Agulhas and Durban and between Durban and Lourenco Marques. Both these latter are unescorted except for the air and fully escorted sailings will probably not be possible for 3 or 4 weeks. He still considers the chief problem is lack of surface escorts for faster ships.

Mediterranean.Destroyer
sweeps.

PAKENHAM, NUBIAN and Greek destroyer QUEEN OLGA sailed from Malta at 1505A today for a sweep, during which they sank the Italian naval trawler or corvette STROMBOLI north of Lampion and rescued 10 survivors. The ship was carrying petrol for Lampedusa. There were no damage or casualties to our forces.

LIGHTNING and LOYAL carried out a sweep to the southward of Sardinia last night, in the course of which they sank an unescorted merchant ship of about 3,000 tons in 38.40 N., 9.33 E. (about 30 miles S.E. of Cagliari, Sardinia) at 0040 today. The ship's cargo exploded. No other ships were met.

M.T.Bs. carried out a patrol off Ras-al-Koran (Bone area) last night.

/At...

War Diary.

18.1.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

At 1110 today P.51 sank a northbound 2,000 ton merchant ship in 32.58 N., 12.10 E. (about 60 miles West of Tripoli).

Three Beauforts laid mines at the entrance to Sousse harbour last night. The power station at Porto Empedocle was attacked at 1544 by 8 Spitfire bombers escorted by 24 fighter Spitfires. Today, U.S. B.24s bombed ships in Tripoli Harbour; no hits are claimed, but fires were started in the town.

SS. QUEEN MARY arrived at Suez this morning with troops for the Middle East.

America & West Indies.

U.S. east coast coastal convoy sailing dates have been changed and co-ordinated with trans-Atlantic convoys. Key West - Pilottown convoys will be eliminated after P.K. 135 and K.P.437.

Australia & New Zealand.

Three Fortresses bombed shipping in Rabaul harbour before dawn today but searchlights prevented observation of results. R/C during the forenoon showed one cruiser, 6 other warships 25 medium to large merchantmen, plus 13 vessels under 1,000 tons. A Liberator this morning sank a loaded 8,000 ton cargo vessel escorted by a small destroyer heading for Rabaul

U.S. tanker MOBILUBE which left Sydney today for San Pedro, Cal. is reported to have been torpedoed at 1105Z today in 33.56 S., 152° 9' E. but was towed back to Sydney.

War Diary.18.1.1945.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Oil at
Seidisfiord.

Your 2052/15. Replenishment of Seidisfjord from U.K. undesirable and contrary to the agreement that U.S. are responsible for maintaining all oil stocks in Iceland. SCOTTISH AMERICAN should be retained for the present.
(D. of Stores, 1652A/18 to A.C.I.C.)

Mining of
BRASIL and
SVEAJARL
on 9th.

Your 2050A/16. (See Casualties.) Press Attache will publish this in our own weekly journal which has very large circulation among the Swedish.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1717/18, to Admty.)

Movements.BLACKFISH,
BARB.

Clyde arrival, BLACKFISH, BARB escorted by MALLOW.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0148A/18.)

BOADICEA,
ORIBI,
ORWELL.

Departure Seidis Fjord at 2300/17. ORIBI, ORWELL, and BOADICEA.
(N.O.I.C. Reykjavik, 0520A/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

P.339,
TORBAY.

P.339 and TORBAY leave Scilly Is. at 1630A/20 dived by day as follows. (a) P.339 route blue to pass 045° N. $015^{\circ} 50'$ at 0400A/25 making 145 miles per day. (b) TORBAY route brown to pass 045° N. $015^{\circ} 22'$ at 0230/25 making 140 miles per day.
(Capt. S.J. 0925A/18 to V.A. Gibraltar.)

DELHI,
EXIRIA.

V.A. Gibraltar, 1825/17. Onward route for DELHI and EXIRIA from (Q) $045^{\circ} 20'$ N. $015^{\circ} 30'$ W. to (T) $050^{\circ} 35'$ $015^{\circ} 30'$ (U) 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles, thence via Q.Z.L.18. DELHI and EXIRIA to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 0958A/18 to DELHI, LANCASTER.)
V.A. Gibraltar 1835/17. DELHI should be routed to Clyde.
2. After disembarkation of mails and personnel request she should be sailed for Tyne to be taken in hand by Palmers of Hebburn.
(D.O.D.H., 2110A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

H.45.

F.O.S. 1402A/17. LORD MIDDLETON is to escort H.45 to Rothesay.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1012A/18 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead)

GUNNEL.

GUNNEL estimated to be in $050^{\circ} 12'$ N. $012^{\circ} 28'$ W. at 2000A/18 proceeding diving by day through $050^{\circ} 10'$ N. $015^{\circ} 01'$ W. GUNNEL has been ordered not to cross longitude 015° W. until 2359/18.
(C. in C.W.A., 1104A/18 to Escorts M.K.S.5, STORK, SCOTTISH.)

/NAVARRA...

War Diary.18.1.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

NAVARRA. A.M. 1530A/13.* (See Enemy Intelligence.) This ship is now known to have been Spanish cruiser NAVARRA.
(D.D.I.C., 1119A/18 to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S.)
* Reporting ship believed to be NORD ATLANTIK sailed for Ferrol from Vigo.

North Atlantic dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic. Area Iceland (C) CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK, 8 destroyers. Area Scapa: KING GEORGE V, ANSON, HOWE, MALAYA, BERWICK, BERMUDA, GLASGOW, JAMAICA, SHEFFIELD, KENYA, 3 destroyers. Area Clyde: KENT.
Operational Area: NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FURIOUS, FORMIDABLE AURORA, DELHI, SIRIUS, 8 destroyers. Passage to Gib: PENELOPE. (D.O.D.H. 1219Z/18 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

WALPOLE. Proceed passing Hvalfjord Boom at 2359 today routed through Reykjanes passage thence direct Scapa.
(A.C.I.C., 1247A/18 to WALPOLE.)

S. 51. 1. Position C. 69° 13' N. 36° 10' E. is cancelled.
2. New position C. is 69° 19' N. 35° 10' E.
(D.O.D.H. 1342A/18 to S.51)

W.A. Command. Situation at 2000A/18. Details. C. in C. W.A., 1358A/18. See Lion Copy.

S. 51. Estimated position at 2205 tonight. S.51, 067° 10' N. 013° 15' W. to N.E.
(A.C.I.C., 1530A/18 to Ships.)

S/M Positions. At 0800A/19. Details. (F.O.S. 1731A/18, 0811A/19, 0844A/19, 1504A/19.) See Lion Copy.

Position of S/Ms at 0800A/19 and movements for the following 24 hours. (a) P.224 and TRIDENT off Fro Havet. (b) P.314 63° 02' N. 00° 34' E. probably on the surface through 69° 00' N. 08° 52' E. and 70° 52' N. 14° 10' E. speed 10 knots. (c) P.312, TORBAY and P.339 escorted by CUTTY SARK 54° 24' N. 05° 12' W. due 000° Round Island Scilly Isles at 1630 20th. (d) U.S.S. GUNNEL 50° 08' N. 12° 25' W. dived by day through 50° 02' N. 20° 02' W. (e) P.219 48° 20' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W. 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 30' N. 09° 01' W. (f) U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao. (g) U.S.S. HERRING in zone K.505. (h) Russian submarine S.51 68° N. 08° W. speed 9 knots through 68° 30' N. 05° 01' W. and 70° 05' N. 05° 02' E. (j) H.43 trials of Great Ormes Head. (F.O.S. 1731A/18.)

/UREDD...

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Movements. - Contd.

UREDD. E.T.A. Lerwick 0930A/19.
(UREDD, 1810A/18 to A.C.O.C.)

STORK,
CAMELLIA. P.C.S. at 1958A/18, 049° 37' N. 011° 18' W., 090°,
11½ knots. If present conditions continue, intend
to detach CAMELLIA tomorrow off Lands End to
proceed to Liverpool via A.M. Q.Z.S. 315
(STORK, 2029A/18 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. On completion of patrol four tonight proceed to
anchor in Great Yarmouth Road carrying out patrol
as ordered tomorrow Tuesday. If patrols are not
required proceed as requisite to arrive Harwich
before dark 19th.

(C. in C. Nore, 1554A/18 to WINDSOR.)
1. Intend M.G.Bs 55 (S.O.) and 54 to patrol tonight on Lat. 50°
20' N. between 01° 50' W. and 02° 30' W. 2. Leave Portland I.P.P.
via Q.Z.S. 382 to patrol line. Leave patrol line at dawn and
return to base. 3. Object. Anti-E Boat Patrol. Code word
"Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1655A/18.)

Exercises.

Contact Exercise. If no E-Boat activity develops M.G.Bs at number
2 Buoy and Z.20 will commence contact exercise
vicinity of Z.17 at 0600/19.
(C. in C. Nore 2237A/18.)

Allied Air Activity.

Murmansk Balloon Barrage. Russian barrage balloons are being brought into
town. Low clouds at present so none flown.
Hydrogen supply situation not yet ascertained.
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 0814A/18 to Admty.)

A/C Navigation Lights. 1. The Air Ministry have under review a proposal
that navigation lights should be burned by aircraft
at all heights within 50 miles of their bases.
Such a practice would result in navigation lights
being burned over certain sea areas through which
convoys are likely to pass. 2. The proposal is regarded as
being open to considerable objection for many reasons and, inter
alia, the probability that skippers of merchant vessels would be
likely to assume to be hostile any aircraft not bearing
navigation lights in all coastal waters. Furthermore, it is
thought that the enemy would not be slow to take advantage of the
scheme which would improve his chances of attacking our convoys
under the protection of navigation lights. 3. Your confirmation
of our views or comments on this matter are requested.
(Air Ministry No. T.O.O./18. Recd. 2125/18.)

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Monday.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity.

Thames Estuary. During the night 17th/18 there was some enemy activity in the Thames Estuary between 2030 and 2145 and between 0500 and 0530. Planes were engaged by KNOCK JOHN FORT and by several ships in vicinity of Inner Barrow. Planes engaged were outward bound flying at heights between 1000 and 3000 feet. There is no evidence that minelaying occurred.
(S.O. T.L.D.F., 1710/18 to C. in C. Nore.)

Mining.

Sweep off Iona. Your 2217A/17. Sweeping should be in direction of Tidal Stream at sixty feet.
(Capt. M/S. Clyde, 0053/18 to Cdre. Londonderry.)
C. in C. W.A. 1611A/17. Intend sailing
SIR LANCELOT, GUNNER, HATANO, and THOMAS ALTOFT 1830/18 to R/V SHIPPIGAN and QUALICUM at daylight.
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 1623/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Nore Command. Weekly report of mines rendered safe in Nore command week ended 16th January. Five German Z type mines. One British Magnetic M.K.I. The German mines were laid at least five months ago.
(R.M.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 0945/18.)

Orfordness Area. In view of suspected minelaying Orfordness Area all southbound traffic on inshore route has been temporarily stopped and vessels anchored Yarmouth and Lowestoft Roads.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1114A/18.)

Operation Q.U.5. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.U.(5) tonight. Alternative operation Q.U. (6). Supporting forces (1) one unit M.G.B. 12th Flotilla to remain in company until completion of operation, subsequently to be available for anti-E Boat operations.
(2) One Unit M.T.Bs MANTIS. Patrol starting 53° 20' N. 4° 40' E. towards 53° 40' N. 5° 00' E. This patrol may be amended as the result of R/C.
(C. in Nore, 1204A/18 to MANTIS, MIDGE.)

Bristol Channel. Mine detonated in 51° 14' 50" N. 3° 11' 30" W. at 1157/17.
(Cdr. M/S Swansea, 1834A/18 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Vessel. One small merchant vessel in 58° 02' N. 07° 34' E. course 000° speed 10 knots.
(A/C 18 Group 1202/18.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. D/F Bearing at 2251Z/17 indicate U-Boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 0048A/18 to SCOTTISH, VIOLET.)
Following received from Iceland. Am maintaining touch with contact reported long as possible. Beaufort 9 E.T.A. 0600.
(A/C 79 Duty P. 0510/18 to 15 Group.)

O.N.S.160. (C.T.U.24.1.12, 1130Z/18 to Admty.) See Shipping.

U-Boat attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 60.05 N. 21.45 W.
(A/C D.5 Q.Y. 1340/18.)
Submarine attacked 6005 N. 2145 W. at 1140 G.C.T/18
(Cominch 1842/18 to Admty.)
This is N.O.B. Iceland 131636 to Cominch passed you for information. Attacked submarine at 1140Z/18 (C) sight (F) (?surface) (C) 090° 5 knots. (?H) 60.05 N. 21.45 W. (A) BRITISH HUDSON from Reykjavik.
(N.S.S. Washington, 1846/18 to Admty. C.T.F.24.)

Navigational

Liverpool. Reference "Fleet notice" to Mariners 2240A/42 and my 1630/8/2/41 speed restriction of 9 knots when East of 4° West within Liverpool sub command is cancelled. Request promulgation.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1643A/18 and 0940A/19 to Admty.)

Workington. Port of Workington open for ships up to 14 feet draft. Port closed at night. Pilotage compulsory for all vessels.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1711A/18 to Admty.)

Technical.

Oiling at Sea. Cannaveu's 1431/17 is passed for information with particular reference to para. 4 of my 0009/18.
(C. in C. W.A. 1515A/18 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

IRISH ASP. IRISH ASP. Lat. 50.28 N. 20.00 W. Engine trouble necessitates making nearest Port Limerick without delay. Master IRISH ASP.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1235/18 to Admty.)
A.M. 1221/16. Request you arrange for exactly similar instructions to be broadcast to S.S. IRISH FIR.
(D.T.D. 2331A/18 to N.A. Dublin.)

/OBEDIENT...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- OBEDIENT. Divers report tip of one blade of starboard propellor broken off nine inches from end. Intend to carry out vibration trials on passage to Scapa tomorrow.
(OBEDIENT, 1530A/18 to R.A.D.)
- MANSFIELD. P.C.S. 059° 34' N. 035° 23', 054° 10. After condenser defective (showering?) boiler denseness 5 tenths. Proceeding Hvalfiord to effect repair. Forward oil tank also leaking badly.
(MANSFIELD, 1544Z/18 to F.O.N.F.)
- VARDEFJELL. 1512 tons of fuel oil discharged from VARDEFJELL to BLACK RANGER. About 1100 tons remain. Vessel is now being trimmed and will be ready for towing to repair port on 21st Jan. Request that tugs may be arranged earliest possible date. Draught will not exceed 25 feet. There are no lifesaving appliances whatsoever on board. Suggest that vessel be towed as hulk.
(C.S.V.O. Lyness, 1555/18 to S.V.D.Admt.)
- JAN MAYEN. JAN MAYEN hard ashore in Skerryfjord in bad position. Crew safe.
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 1831A/18 to Admt.)
- CARYANDA. Your 1629A/17. Skipper has sailing orders.
(D.S.V.P. 2313A/18 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- K.M.S.8. K.M.S.8 sailed as in my 1151/15 less EMPIRE SHEARWATER plus YEARBY from Swansea, escorted by DORNOCH, WEDGEPORT. Codeword "Limelight."
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0001A/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- A.M.1022/15. Para. 1(a). For Algiers add S.S.OPALIA.
(D.O.D.H. 1912A/18.)
- J.W.52. Sailed KENT.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0417A/18.)
- J.W. 52 and R.A. 52. Battle Fleet cover.
- OBEDIENT, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, ECHO to arrive Seidisfjord p.m. 22nd January and complete with fuel. (2) V.A.2. in ANSON with SHEFFIELD, FAULKNOR, INGLEFIELD, ECLIPSE, MONTROSE is requested to sail from Scapa to R/V with destroyers in para. one in 66.12 N. 11.50 W. at 1300/23rd. On relief FAULKNOR, ECLIPSE return to Scapa and INGLEFIELD, MONTROSE proceed to Akureyri. (3) Battle Fleet is to proceed to reach cover position in approx 72.40 N. 12 E. when J.W. 52 crossing longitude 024° East and providing cover until convoy crosses 032° East, detaching ECHO at P.L.E. to Seidisfjord and return to Scapa. Battle Fleet return to Akureyri and detach QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER to Scapa on arrival. (4) ORIBI and ORWELL are to sail to arrive Akureyri by 29th January. (5) Battle Fleet screen by ORIBI, OBEDIENT, ORWELL, INGLEFIELD is to sail to reach covering position when R.A. 52 crosses longitude 032° E., finally returning to Scapa fuelling at Seidisfjord if necessary. (6) Covering Force plan is

/designed...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

J.W. 52 Contd. designed to provide optimum surface cover for the daylight period whilst convoys are between 022° East and 032° E. N.R.C.I. 31 for 012° East read 015° East.

(C. in C. H.F., 1126A/18 to V.A.2., C.S.1., R.A.D.)

My 1107A/15. (1) Intend proceeding with Force R. to Seidisfjord leaving exercise area west of Orkneys about 2000 today and passing east of Faeroes. (2) E.T.A.7 Seidisfjord noon 20th. (3) Intend leaving Seidisfjord a.m. 21st, then complying with C. in C. H.F. 0916A/14 para.

(S.O. Force "R", 1341A/18)

P.314 left Lerwick 1401A/18 unescorted and on the surface at C.O. discretion till within 60 miles Norwegian coast then diving by day. Routed through position (a) 062° 00' N. 000° 38' W., thence by route Pink to position (b) 070° 52' N. 014° 10' E., then direct to patrol in the vicinity (c) 070° 52' N. 021° 15' E. adjusting speed so as to pass through position (b) at 1900A/21st.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1405A/18 to S/Ms.)

J.W. 52 consisting of 14 ships sailed from Loch Ewe 17th January as follows:- GULFWING (T), DELSUD, NICHOLAS GILMAN, CORNELIUS HARNETT, EL ORIENTE, EMPIRE CLARION, DAN-Y-BRYN, EMPIRE BAFFIN, EMPIRE SNOW, EMPIRE PORTIA, EMPIRE TRISTRAM, OCEAN FAITH, TEMPLE ARCH, OLIGARCH (T). E.T.A. 27/1.

(D.T.D., 1653A/18 to Cominch.)

P.224 and TRIDENT leave present patrol position at 1900A/19 and 2200A/19 respectively and proceed as follows (1) P.224 through (A) 067° 10' 008° 15' thence by route Orange to (B) 070° 50', 016° 30', thence patrol in the vicinity. (C) 070° 50', 021° 56'. (2) TRIDENT through (D) 066° 40', 006° 30', thence by route Black to (E) 071° 10', 016° 10', thence patrol in the vicinity. (F) 071° 10', 023° 45'. (3) Proceed diving by day when within 60 miles Norwegian coast. Speed to be adjusted to pass through position (B) and (E) respectively at 1900A/21st.

(Capt. S.9. 1725A/18 to S/Ms.)

Scapa Departure F.O.C. 1st C.S. in KENT with GLASGOW, BERMUDA in company.

(A.C.O.S. 1830A/18 to A.C.I.C.)

D.S.36. Intend to sail LEINSTER passing Clyde boom 2330A/19 to R/V with SARDONYX and SCIMITAR in position (H) at 0900A/20, thence in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 1730A/17. Codeword "Product". (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 0954A/18.)

M.K.S.5. On reaching 051° 18' N. detach ships for Bristol Channel, Mersey, and Barrow to proceed southabout Ireland routed through 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles, thence via Q.Z. L.18. (2) BLACK SWAN is to detail 4 escorts including FOWEY for this section of convoy. (3) FOWEY is to continue with Bristol Channel ships from vicinity of the Smalls to Barry Roads, thence Milford Haven on completion.

(C. in C. W.A. 0956A/18 to Escorts M.K.S.5.)

M.K.S.5 2000A. P.C.S. 050° 15' N. 013° 49' W. 025° 8½ (2) 26 southabout ships, Cdre. in LAGOSIAN, (?escort) FOWEY (S.O.) CAMPION, MYOSOTIS, CARNATION. (3) 16 northabout ships, Cdre. in SEAPOOL.

(BLACK SWAN 1515A/18 to A.I.G. 185 and 248.)

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

O.N.S.160 Your 2245A/17. O.N.S.160 heard in sighting report
H.X.223. at 1651Z/17 bearing very roughly south, and
another at 1742Z bearing 222°, both over 50 miles
distant. My positions at above times were
respectively 060° 59' 024° 17' and 060° 59' 024° 31'.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12., 1130Z/18 to Admty.)

Recommend that INGHAM continue as an additional escort for
O.N.S.160 until closest to H.X.223 and then join escort of that
Convoy breaking off as directed with S.S. SABINE SUN and
S.S. ATLANTIC SUN for Iceland, INGHAM does not have route and
diversions of H.X.223. Endurance of LEARY will require
returning to Port earlier.

(C.T.G.24.6, 1520Z/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 1520/18. Concur. Request you will issue necessary
instructions.

(C. in C. W.A. 2133/18 to C.T.G.24.6.)

Discharge Concur North Russia's Telegram No.1601A/16, para.5.
of North Although this winter milder than last cold
Russian weather now setting in. Consider risk of ships
Convoys. being immobilized for winter in White Sea area is
greater than risks due to slow discharge Murmansk
(see my 1053 Jan. 17th.) (2) Admty. pass this

and my 1053/17th to C. in C. H.F.

(Ad. Miles, 1141C/18 to Admty.)

My 1404/17. On Moscow's instructions local authorities are
stopping visiting vessels berthing. One berth in harbour now
vacant. All 5 should berth within 5 days. Please take
necessary action.

(Dalgleish, Murmansk, 1316A/18 to Admty.)

S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1601A/16 para. 4 D. Russians seem
to be making a great effort to get the necessary return cargoes to
Murmansk. Timber is coming in freely and there is said to be
plenty of apatite in waggons near by. Ships are being loaded
with apatite from waggons and the dump is not being used. No
signs of more valuable cargo for U.S. (2) I suggest our policy
should be as in my 1404A/17th.

(Dalgleish, Murmansk, 1854A/18 to Admty.)

W.S.26. Clyde arrival MALOJA.
MALOJA. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1418A/18 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff.)
Request you will inform ADRIAS and MIAOULES of
the substance of para. B. of A.M. 1933/17 which is
being passed to you.

(D.O.D.F., 2222A/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

S.C.116. Request that U.S.S. POLARIS be detached as soon
POLARIS, as possible from S.C.116 and with one escort
CASTALIA. designated by C.T.U. 24.6.4 proceed to Reykjavik
at best speed.

(C.T.U.24.6, 1642Z/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Your...

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HOME COMMANDS.

S.C.116
POLARIS,
CASTALIA.

Your 0837/18. Destination CASTALIA confirmed.
(C. in C. W.A., 1909Z/18 to Escorts S.C.116.)

FORT
GIBRALTAR.

When this ship next sails in convoy she should be placed in a port column, as N.D. can be rigged on port side of ship only.
(D.T.D., 1650A/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

T.A.33.

Convoy T.A.33 consisting of S.S. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND will be ready to leave Clyde for Halifax N.S. on 22nd January. 2. She will sail independently and maximum air protection both A/A and A/S is to be provided. 3. Route as follows. 5. Ship is to be warned that O.N.162 will R/V 6 miles off Oversay at 0800Z/23 and to keep a special look out for shipping in the North Channel.
(D.O.D.H. 1721A/18.)

Ships
with
H/F
transmitters.

A.M. 1748/11. These instructions do not at present apply to ships in the Pacific Ocean.
(D.T.D., 2335A/18).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

"Torch" Area.

K.M.F. Escorts. My 1624/15. (re escorts of K.M.F. convoys not loading passengers mail or stores for Gibraltar and requesting destinations of escorts of K.M.S.8). Reference to A.M. 0020/14. (N.C.X.F., 1537A/18 to Admty).

U.S. Payment of French Navy. Reply to N.C.X.F. 2034/11. (Hd. of M. 2340A/18 to N.C.X.F. (R) B.A.D., F.O.C.W.A.)

North Atlantic.

ST. NECTAN Your 1135/16. Permission granted for trawler to bunker and (?naval) authorities advised. Please pass to consul. (N.A. Madrid, 1113/18 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty)

Your 1848/18. (Originated by W.R.) Following is a repetition of my 1135/16 addressed N.A. Madrid (R) British Consul Las Palmas (begins) ST. NECTAN arrives Las Palmas noon Tuesday 19th Jan. to make good defects. Request permission be asked for her to be supplied with bunker coal. T.O.O., 1135/16 (ends) (V.A. Gibraltar, 2230A/18 to Admty).

Situation reports. Situation 1959A/18th. D.65 ANNAMITE, 22° 55' 16" 35' (amended 0050A/19) Northbound coastwise 5. (amended again to 24.35 15.30 (1102A/19)).

2. T.M.F.2, RACEHORSE, 2 destroyers, 022° 10' 029° 58' 089° 13.

3. H.M.I.S. CARNATIC 028° 55' 012° 23' through 027° 01' 014° 01' thence to 228° 12.

4. French Light Cruiser LE FANTASQUE, French Light Cruiser LE TERRIBLE left vicinity of latitude Cape Bojador 17th southbound to arrive Dakar 19th. (V.A. Gibraltar 1140A/18)

Situation 2001A/18th. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR 036° 50' 020° 35' 279° 9. (F.O.C.N.A., 1243A/18).

My 1250A/18th para. 5. Amend route to read through 036° 46' 009° 12' thence approx. 306° to overtake M.K.S.5 X before dark 20th. (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2358A/18).

/Situation...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Situation 2003A/18th. K.M.S.7, PELICAN,
Reports. 1 Sloop, 5 Corvettes, 4 Minesweepers, 1 Armed
Contd. Boarding Vessel, 035° 56' 006° 18' pass (?Europa
Point) 0200A/19th.
2. PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, Tug NIMBLE, 033° 05'
013° 37' 067° 12.
3. IMPERIALIST, ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER, 029° 26' 014°
27' 048° 1 knot. ST. NECTAN parts company about 2000/18th for
repairs at Las Palmas.
4. M.K.S.5 (X), HAVELOCK, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE, GODETIA,
ILFRACOMBE, FORT YORK, TADOUSAC, 036° 27' 009° 41' through 036°
30' 010° 01' thence 311° 8.
5. LAUDERDALE sails from Gibraltar 1930A/18th through position
036° 30' 010° 01' thence 311° 13½ to overtake M.K.S.5 (X).
6. D.64 U.S.S. AUK 3 P.C., CYCLAMEN, BUTSER, BIRDLIP, 028°
09' 012° 45' Northbound coastwise 7½.
7. CARNATIC 028° 55' 012° 23' through 027° 01' 014° 01' thence
228° 12.
8. LOCH OSKAIG, 1 Merchant Vessel, 037° 33' 008° 53' coastwise
to Tagus 9. M.V. to Lisbon. LOCH OSKAIG then patrol off Tagus.
9. DELHI, LANCASTER, TERSIDE, ARK, 1 Merchant Ship, sail from
Gibraltar 1900/18th through 036° 32' 009° 13' thence 324° 14½.
10. G.U.S.3 (?ROCHESTER) LEITH, ERNE, SANDWICH, SCARBOROUGH,
ENCHANTRESS, passes Europa Point Westbound at approx. 1600A/19th
through 35.49 06.22 thence 215 9.
11. VENOMOUS, WIVERN sails from Casablanca approx. 0700A/19th
South Westbound 13½ knots to R/V T.M.F.2.
12. Swedish Relief ships AKKA and YARROWONGA (?35).51 06.40
through 36.01, 10.01 thence 270 12.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1250A/18).

LORRAINE Your 1500/16 (?1501/16 intended, LORRAINE too
G.U.S.3. slow for inclusion G.U.S.3 and to be sailed U.K.)
As on completion of repairs LORRAINE can
maintain 10 knots intend sailing her in G.U.S.3.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1200/18 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty etc)

SENNEN, P.C. and S. at 1300/A 035° 50' N., 007° 42' W.,
EMPIRE RUSKIN 088° 9½.
(explosion). EMPIRE RUSKIN in company has had steampipe burst.
Ten dead, seven badly scalded including two
soldiers. All stretcher cases.
Request transport and hospital accommodation on
arrival. EMPIRE RUSKIN is steered by hand. E.T.A. Europa
Point 0100/19th Jan. Weather.
(SENNEN, 1326Z/18 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Capt. (D) Gibraltar,
PELICAN).

C.J. BARKDULL Where is C.J. BARKDULL ex U.G.S.3?
(D.T.D., 1408A/18 to V.A. Gibraltar) Reply:
1000A/19.

18.1.1943.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

K.M.S. 7 Gibraltar ships sailed in accordance with your 2247/16th plus VANJA (T) and CAUDEBEC for Oran, FINTRA, CLIONA (T) SANAMADO (T). French ships CHATEAU LATOUR, DUGUAY TROUIN, Salvage Tug SALVENTURE and ORKLA for Algiers. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1815A/18 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc).

DELHI, My 1825/17th. Ship sailed. Q.Z.H. 108 less
EXIRIA. 965 45 63 69 L 52 S 394 X 911 Y 371.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1900A/18 to Admty etc).

WILLIAM N.A. Madrid, 1931/18, V.A. Gib. 2300/18.
WILBERFORCE. See South Atlantic.

M.K.S. 5 Sailed LAUDERDALE at 1940 to overtake and act additional escort to M.K.S.5. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1946A/18 to Admty. S.O.(C) Med. C. in C. W.A., N.C.X.F. Escorts of convoy M.K.S. 5, 2nd Minelaying Squadron).

Movements Departures. 1508 HAARLEM to R/V SS. BARON KINNAIRD from Melilla and escort to Gibraltar. 1845 VANOC, VERITY, BOREAS, FLEETWOOD, VETCH, CONVULVULUS, WEYBOURN, HUSSAR, ROTHESAY with Gibraltar Section K.M.S.7 BOREAS local ? only. (V.A. Gibraltar, 2020/18 to Admty N.C.X.F. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

South Atlantic.

GLENROY, My 1231/13th. GLENROY escorted by JANUS
JANUS. left Bathurst p.m./17th Jan. Proceeding on 5 cylinders of starboard engine. Maximum speed 11 knots.
2. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada p.m./23rd.
3. E.T.A. position E 2200/27th.
4. Ships shift to North Atlantic W/T organization at 2000/19th and to home station W/T organization B.N. at 0800/26th Jan. (F.O.C.W.A., 0031/18 to Admty).

W.S. 25 Arrived QUILLIAM, CHESHIRE, EMPRESS (?EXPRESS intended) escorting W.S.25. (Com. i/c Durban, 0241Z/18 to C. in C. S.A., Admty. C. in C. E.F.)

/Movements...

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South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements CAP PADARAN arrived 1600/17th with SARABANDE and COPINSAY.
(Port Harcourt, 0707Z/18 to Admty).
Arrival 0723Z/18th Netherlands S/M O.21.
(N.O.I.C. East London, 0733Z/18 to Admty etc).
Arrived CERES.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1001Z/18 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., F.O.I.C. E.A., and Zanzibar).
My 0810Z/16th tug INTEGRITY crane lighter INDIAN STAR. VIVIANA returned to East London tow re-broken.
(N.O.I.C. East London, 1116Z/18 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., Cdre. i/c Durban (R) N.L.O. Port Elizabeth).
Departure 18th U.S. Dest. GOFF.
(R.O. Para. 1653/18 to Admty (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro).
Arrival 18th HOLCOMBE, ORFSAY. Departure BALUCHISTAN
Walvis Bay 25th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1910Z/18 to Admty. R.A.W.A.F. R.N.O. Lagos).
1800Z/18th. (A) BALUCHISTAN through (B) Equator 001° 10' E. (C) 013° 00' S., 008° 30' E. S. of A. 12 knots E.T.A. Walvis Bay 1200Z/25th. Wireless routine changed from (P) to (Q) at 0800Z/22nd. Requires Walvis Bay 120 tons fuel oil.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1912Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay, R.A.W.A., C. in C. S.A.(R) Admty).
U.S. Destroyer KEARNEY arrived and left same day 17th Jan.
Arrival 17th U.S. Sloop HUMBOLDT.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1944Z/18 to Admty. (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, S.O.(I) Freetown).

INTEGRITY, crane lighter. Departure 0616Z/18th Tug INTEGRITY towing crane lighter escorted by INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA to Durban S. of A. 5 knots. E.T.A. p.m./20th. Escort shifted W/T organization to area J at 0600Z/19th.
(N.O.I.C. East London, 0710Z/18 to Admty etc).

Suspicious Ship. B.17. Bomber reported unidentified ship in 000° 55' N., 018° 05' W., at 0938Z/17th steering 360° 15 (?knots). No further details. If this is a blockade runner it seems the likely course will be more to Westward.
(F.O.W.A., 0917Z/18 to Comsolant, (R) Admty, V.A. Gibraltar).
My 0917Z/18th is cancelled and was not passed to Comsolantfor. Position was corrected to 000° 55' N., 028° 05' W.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1032Z/18 to Admty. V.A. Gibraltar).

EGERO Your 1945Z/16 confirmed convenient, distribution will be given later.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1004Z/18 to Admty).

MEAD Sailed 1055Z/18th MEAD to Durban S. of A. 6½ knots E.T.A. 0300Z/20th. Wireless watch single operator periods 500 k/cs and B.A.M.S.
(?East London, 1101Z/18 to Admty. etc).

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South Atlantic. - Contd.

Situation reports. Situation at 2000Z/18th. CORINTHIAN, BURDOCK, FANDANGO, HYDRANGEA, BELLWORT, BREDON with K.X.8 017° 15' 018° 20' 170° 8½.
French LE TERRIBLE, LE FANTASQUE (?off) Cape Blanco to Dakar.
GLENROY, JANUS 017° 54' 019° 36' 343 9½.
D.S.O.19 012° 25' 018° 35' to 014° 59' 019° 23' thence 357 9.
PICT 2 M.L. escorting 008° 35' 013° 38' 303° 8.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1141Z/18).
Situation at 1958Z/18. ST. WISTAN 2 motor launches off Marshall, P.614 003° 22' 003° 36' to 003° 38' 002° 04' at 0700/19th thence Takoradi 8½.
SARABANDE COPINSAY escorting probably off Bonny River to Takoradi 8½.
NORTHERN ISLES 001° 00' 006° 53' E. to 000° 38' 007° 15' E. thence 170° 7½.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1327Z/18).

Allied Meeting. Your 0901/17th. Expect to visit Dakar with A.O.C. West Africa about 22nd Jan. and will reply further after my discussion with Glassfurd and Collinet. My present impression is that such a meeting will not be necessary.
(F.O.W.A., 1137Z/18 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gib. B.N.L.O. Dakar for Glassfurd).

A.O.C. and I go to Dakar 22nd. All my information indicates satisfactory co-operation within spirit of Glassfurd's agreement and wishes of Chiefs of Staffs can be achieved by personal contact provided I can have discretion to go ahead. It is essential Collinet be given information he needs (my 1319/6 refers) and important that French should have access to operational messages as B.N.L.O. cannot be always present in operations room. I feel sure Collinet accepts position and does not want to interfere with general direction of operations or control of convoy movement but am anxious to let him play his part as far as possible as much better co-operation will result. Can I have discretion to arrange these matters with Glassfurd and Collinet and my further guidance from you? There is no doubt Collinet expects to get matter cleared up during my visit.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1441Z/18 to Admt. V.C.N.S. (Personal))

My 1919/11. Admiral Collinet has requested me to visit Dakar and expect to do so on Friday 22nd January. Length of stay depending on progress of discussions. Very much hope with Glassfurd's assistance to be able to clear up any remaining difficulties and reach really satisfactory personal working understanding within the spirit of Chiefs of Staff's views. Admiralty message 0240/15 refers. Any guidance from Admiralty on points raised in my 1319/6 and in my 1739/14 Jan. which could be received before this visit would be invaluable.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1545Z/18 to Admt. (R) N.C.X.F.)

CARNARVON CASTLE E.T.A. Port Stanley 1200Z/24th Jan.
(CARNARVON CASTLE, 1200Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands (Port Stanley) (R) Admt. C. in C. S.A., Comsolant).
CARNARVON CASTLE sailed,
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1430Z/18 to Admt. (R) F.O.C.W.Af).

/A/S...

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A/S Trawlers Walvis Bay arrival 18th LADY ELSA. WELLARD.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1301Z/18 to C. in C.
S.A., Admty. B.N.L.O. W. Af).

NIEUW Sailing telegram, Suez 0500Z/30th Jan.
AMSTERDAM. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1355Z/18 to Admty etc).

Escorted
Group
Sailings.

The recent reinforcements of A/S trawlers in South Africa should enable you to arrange escorted group sailings (A) between Capetown and Durban and (B) Westbound from Capetown and Eastbound from Durban.

These should be in operation by the end of January

It is realised escorts are weak but provision of air cover should make up for this.

2. It is recommended that the time of day when groups referred to in para. 1 (B) above should be dispersed should be dusk and dispersal point arranged so that the area in which the dispersed ships will be at the following daylight will be within air range. A surface A/S vessel should if possible be in this area. Dispersal routes should be arranged so that ships are well spread by daylight.

3. It is suggested that fixed lines of approach on the lines of M.A.R.I. Sect. IV para. 6 or Sect. II para. 14 should be adopted for inward shipping, the same approach line to be used by outward shipping in order to economise in air and surface escorts.

4. It is considered that shipping between Capetown and Durban and shipping routed northwards from Capetown as in your 1312/11 Oct. and subsequent signals should keep as close inshore as navigation permits in order to facilitate air cover and handicap U/Bs. It is therefore considered that route R.6 should be discontinued. Request you will report on what steps are practicable in the way of D/F stations and other navigational aids to make inshore navigation safer.

5. It is considered important that any information as to routeing gained by U-boats during their last operations in your area should be rendered useless for those operating in the future.

6. Ships sailing independently of speeds from 7 knots upwards should zig-zag when within 400 miles of the coast except in heavy weather or low visibility.

(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (UT) 1406A/18 to C. in C. S.A., (R) F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. E.F.) Reply: 1305C/19, 1758/19.

Convoys
D.64,
D.65.

French A/C report D.64 position 215° Cap Bojador 51 at 1600/17th with American destroyer in company. D.65 13 Cap Blanc 120 at 1800/17th. T.O.O. 1506Z/18th.
(B.N.L.O. Dakar, 1500Z/18 to R.A.W.A.F. (R) N.C.X.F. Admty. CYCLAMEN, BELLWORT, S.N.O. Casablanca, V.A. Gibraltar, CORINTHIAN).

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South Atlantic. - Contd.

- ALCANTARA Your 1414/17. Undue delay is feared even if ALCANTARA could be taken in hand in U.S.A. immediately.
2. In view of present escort difficulties this is unacceptable and decision in A.M.1945/15 Jan. must be adhered to.
3. The ship is required as anti-raider escort. Aircraft, though desirable, is not essential.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F), 1605A/18 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) S.B.N.O., W.At., ALCANTARA, B.A.D.)
- A.F.D. 24 Your 2047/16 (A.F.D. 24 proceeding from New Orleans) Sentence reads " route via Rocas MGPP take 17½ and via Bahia 25½ days" (F.O.C.W.A., 1635Z/18 to B.A.D.)
- MERCATOR, RUMBA. Intend sailing MERCATOR and RUMBA from (?Boma) 1700/19th passing equator 8° E. E.T.A. Lagos a.m./24th.
(MERCATOR, 1701Z/18 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) R.N.O. Lagos, B.N.L.O.W.A.)
- WILLIAM WILBERFORCE (sunk 9 Jan). My 1606/16th to Las Palmas (N.T. in W.D. but see 1015/17). 61 survivors now in Tenerife ex SS. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE torpedoed and sunk January 9th 1857 hours 019° 30' N., 026° 53' W.
(N.A. Madrid, 1931/18 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gib). Following is a repetition of B.C. Tenerife's 1015/18 addressed V.A. Gib. (begins) addressed F.O.C.N.A. from Tenerife. British ship WILLIAM WILBERFORCE lost on Jan. 9th at 1857 hours in 29° 20' N. 26° 53' W. 4 torpedoed twice. Masters state all C.Bs. were satisfactorily disposed of. All passengers all crew except three were saved being picked up by Spanish Vessel MONTE ARNABAL on Jan. 14th which arrive here Jan. 17th (entire) (V.A.Gib. 2300A/18 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.W.A., N.C.X.F.)
- Routeing of shipping to U.S.A. My 2330/1st Sept. 1942, Section A, cancel words "and River Plate ports". My 1828/18 refers.
(D.T.D. 2024A/18 to C. in C. S.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A. Connav, B.A.D.)
- Routeing of Bahia Trinidad convoys. A.M.0952/15th Jan. para. 1 (A) and Mast 7015 to Campbell Capetown para. 3. Request you will arrange for the 3 ships per week selected by M.O.W.T.R. to be routed direct to Pernambuco.
(D.T.D. 2025A/18 to C. in C. S.A. (R)Connav etc).

/FANDANGO...

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South Atlantic. - Contd.

FANDANGO

Cancel previous arrangement for M.L.289 to visit St. Vincent (C.V.) Intend FANDANGO to arrive St. Vincent with British Vice Consul designate and Diplomatic mail p.m./24th Jan. Trawler will not require coal. Request Portuguese authorities be notified. (This (version?) repeat to B.N.A. Lisbon). (Sierra Leone, 21132/18 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, Admty).

WELSHMAN

Departure a.m. and arrival p.m.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus, 2145/18 to Admty etc)
W.D. Note - "Torch" movements from and to Beirut.

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Enemy Units. Following has been read by Alex. W/T P.C. and S. of 4 destroyers, 2 merchant vessels 37.28 N. 10.30 E. 180° 10 knots.
(A/C C/S A.S.P. Duty O 0005A/18 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of 4 destroyers and 2 merchant vessels 37.35 N. 10.10 E. 225° 10 knots.
(A/C call sign A.S.P. Duty O. 0135A/18 to A.H.Q. Malta.)
W.R. Note Received from Malta W/T.

P.C. and S. of 4 unknown ships 39.20 N. 14.00 E. 210° 8 knots.
(A/C call sign A.S.P. duty N. 0100A/18 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
One enemy destroyer and one schooner in 33.23 N. 11.23 E. course 120° speed 5 knots.
(A/C using Call Sign FFDJ 1123/18.)
Following read one enemy destroyer in 33.05 N. 12.11 E. course 180°.
(A/C using call sign FFDJ 1135/18.)

M.W.19. Total unloaded to 1800/17th, 21188 tons.
(V.A. Malta 0056A/18 to C. in C. Med.)

P.54. You were probably sighted by enemy at 2325A yesterday.
(Capt. S.8 0420A/18 to P.54.)

P.A.19. Convoy P.A.19 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 0752Z/18 to Admty.)

POLO destroyed. SS POLO total loss through fire. Cause unknown. C.Bs are completely destroyed.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 0830A/8 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

QUEEN MARY. Arrived 0535/18/1 G.M.T.
(N.C.S.O. Suez 0850B/18 to Admty.)

Force K. sweep. 3 destroyers of Force K. leaving Malta at 1500A today 18th to carry out sweep between Kuriat and Kerkenah from about 2300/18th to 0100/19th.
(V.A. Malta 0902A/18 to C. in C. Med. 201 Group, 247 Wing, H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)
PAKENHAM, NUBIAN and G.S. QUEEN OLGA sailed on operation.
(V.A. Malta 1505A/18 to Admty. etc.)

Troop Transport. D.S.T's 2358/16/1 my 1033/15/1 (requesting troop transport capable of 14 knots be allocated to arrive Suez not later than 1st Feb.) Request name ship allocated and E.T.A. Suez. Request every effort may be made for ship to arrive Suez by 1st Feb.
(P.S.T.O. M.E. 0902B/18 to P.S.T.O. East Indies, (R) Admty., for D.S.T.)

/Movements ...

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Movements Alexandria. Arrival 17th Jan. ERICA, PALADIN, HURSLEY, EXMOOR, KAI, BRIGAND French sloops F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, D'IBERVILLE, departures 17th Jan. DELPHINIUM, HYACINTH, PRIMULA, CUMBRAE, GAMTOOS. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 0916/18 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Movements Beirut. 17th Jan. arrival SP(?ET)SAE, WELSHMAN departure SPETSAE (?WELSHMAN), TAKU. (S.O.(I) Beirut 0930/18 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Spezia R/C, LITTORIOS. Air R/C on 16th shows 3 LITTORIO Battleships, one 8-inch cruiser and 4 destroyers at Spezia. One REGOLO Cruiser at Leghorn. 2 8-inch Cruisers at Maddalena. (Capt. S.8 0954A/18 to S.8.) ? *st 5/4 Jst.*

M.K.S.6. My 1818/14th. Convoy is to anchor Algiers on arrival and sail at 1300A/20th. Oran Section (?join) at 1930A/21st, Gibraltar Section 1030A/23rd. (N.C.X.F. 1041A/18 to N.O.I.C.(as received) (R) Cdre. Algiers etc.)

Bi-weekly Opsum No.92 Part 2. 17th Jan. B.24s bombed shipping in Tripoli Harbour. No hits scored on shipping but bombs burst on Spanish Mole and South of Harbour where considerable quantity of smoke resulted. Large fires started at Governors Palace. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1123Z/18.)

Wellington Aircraft. H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East T.Q.109, 1124/17th to M.A.P. London, not to Admiralty. Consider it most important to fit F Directors in Wellington Squadron. Request you will spare as many as possible for this purpose. (C. in C. Med. 1130B/18, 2059B/18 to Admty. (R) H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

P.228. Pass 038° 30' N. 007° 59' E. at 2000/20th 038° 30' N. 004° 39' E. at 2100/21st, thence on surface at your discretion, R/V escort for Algiers in 037° 01' N. 003° 07' E. at 0800/22nd. (Capt. S.8 1234A/18 to P.228 (R) N.C.X.F. Cdre. Algiers, S.O.I.S. Capt.(S) 10, 8th S/M F.)

HURWORTH, BELVOIR. My 0530/18th not to all addressees. If no contact obtained before 1500/18th intend proceeding with BELVOIR in accordance with C. in C. 1145/17th. E.T.A. Alexandria (4 corrupt groups) Jan. (HURWORTH ? 1300B/18 to S.O. Force I. (R) C. in C. Med. R.A. Alexandria. R.A.(D) Med. N.L.O. 247 Wing, BELVOIR.)

/G.U.S.3 ...

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G.U.S.3. G.U.S.3 sailed as in my 1601A/16 less DANIEL HUGER JOHN G. WHITTIER and SAMUEL CHASE which Army has not completed unloading.
(F.O.I.C. Oran 1301A/18 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.N.O.C.A. V.A. Gibraltar, Admty., N.S.H.Q. Connnav.)

Supplies for Malta. Following for Cs in C. from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. (M.E.) 349. Your CC/172 cipher 3 January (0900/3/1.)

1. Consider that Malta should be stocked by early March to level that will ensure safe maintenance up to mid-October. This will cover any delay in subsequent maintenance convoys through increased enemy effort during longer daylight hours in Eastern Mediterranean.
2. Hence most desirable that sufficient convoys should be run during February and early March to meet requirement. On our reckoning this will necessitate three convoys, including one now arranged by you for early February.
3. Assume you will now load economically and to capacity accepting risk of loss of whole of any one consignment of bulky commodities such as wheat, coal, cement, etc. and that you are arranging with Malta that stocks in each convoy lead to balanced reserves in the island.
4. Consider use of white oil tanker and consequent drastic reduction or even elimination of packed petrol would make substantial contribution towards early build up of stocks of all commodities.
5. Finally draw attention to urgent necessity shipping by early February minimum total 2000 tons seed potatoes. This inclusive of tonnages already despatched.
6. Before issuing definite orders on this question we must be in a position to balance requirements of Malta on one hand, and interference with operations of 8th Army on other.
7. Forward details of effect on 8th Army operations of proposals in first and second paragraphs.
(Air Min. 1314Z/18 to Cs. in C. M.E. (R) Govr. Malta.)

TEVIOT BANK. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa 1315Z/18 to Admty.)

Cositrep No.659. 17th Jan. American B.24s bombed Tripoli Harbour scoring hits on Spanish Mole and starting fires in town. Malta Spitfires bombed aerodrome on Lampedusa Island, scoring hits on buildings. Beaufighters attacked three schooners off Tunisian Coast, seriously damaging two with cannon fire.
(C. in C. M.E. 1330B/18.)

Situation Report No.324. My 2111/17 delete last sentence of para.4 (deleted in W.D.) Survivors from Italian submarine NARVALO bound Taranto from Tripoli (L) as follows.
(1) Italian 3 officers and 29 ratings includes C.O. and First Lieut.
(2) British Army, 1 officer.
(3) South African Army, 1 officer.
(4) U.S. Army Air Force, 5 officers.

/Para.(2) ...

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Mediterranean.

Situation Para.(2). Missing passengers include 1
Report British Officer (Eighth Army) 3 U.S. Army Air
No.324 Force Officers and 3 Italian Army Officers.
(contd.) Para. (3) Initial attack on U-boat by aircraft
put batteries out of action and she was unable
to dive PAKENHAM and HURSLEY engaged scoring
many hits. U-boat ?remained stationary and made no fight.
U-boat surrendered and shortly afterwards sank. No
casualties to own forces (Admiralty see also V.A.(M)'s 2306A/17
Jan. not to all addressees.
Para. (4) V.A.(M) pass to D.12.
(C. in C. Med. 1332B/18 to Admt. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)
For position see 2027B/20.

DOLFIJN. You will be ordered to leave patrol p.m.
21st for Algiers.
(Capt. S.8 1340A/18 to DOLFIJN (R) N.C.X.F.
V.A. Gibraltar.)

E.A.C. A/232 18 Jan. Op. Summ. No.68. 1800 hours 16th
Report. Jan. 43 to 1800 hrs. 17th Jan.
A. Operations. Night 16/17th. 15 Beaufighter
sorties. Several aircraft suspected minelaying
Bone Area detected but no contact made. 16 Wellingtons attacked
Bizerta. Weather fine with excellent visibility, bright
moonlight and no cloud below 8000 feet.
B. Aircraft bombed target. Numerous fires started and when last
aircraft left target 3 large and several small fires still raging.
All our aircraft returned safely. Algiers Bay patrolled by
2 Walrus and 2 Swordfish from dawn until dusk. 2 530 or 500?
Squadron and 1 608 Squadron Hudson, and one Swordfish on A/S
escort to convoys, and one Swordfish on U-boat hunt. Five
500 Squadron and four 608 Squadron Hudsons on A/S sweeps. One
500 Squadron Hudson sighted fully surfaced U-boat at 1914.
Hudson attacked dropping 3 x 250-lb. D.C. from 500 feet over-
shooting 50 yards. U-boat remained on surface and manned guns,
firing cannon as aircraft made run-up. Aircraft returned fire
scoring hits on conning tower. Aircraft made further attack
dropping one 250-lb. G.P. bomb from 1600 feet. Bomb fell 20 to
30 feet from U-boat's starboard bow. No return fire experienced.
Aircraft again attacked with turret and belly guns scoring hits
on conning tower. Return fire experienced, no hits on aircraft.
U-boat submerged, no further contact made. Aircraft remained
in vicinity 3½ hours. Oil streak 8 miles long observed.
Day 17th. Bone Harbour and Base patrols carried out from dawn
until dusk. 6 F.W.190s approached from East. 2 bombs dropped,
no damage observed. Enemy aircraft not seen by patrolling
fighters and no combat took place. At 1630 hours 4 F.W.190s
dropped 4 bombs in Harbour without causing damage. Enemy
aircraft chased but contact not made. At 1620 on the 16th
January 12 F.W.190s flew over Bone Harbour. 2 shot down by
A.A. no bombs dropped.
(E.A.C. Africa 1400A/18, 1440A/18, 1515A/18, 1540A/18.)

Black Sea. (1) Naval. Nothing to report.
(2) Land. (a) Russians commenced attacking on
Novorossisk and Maikop fronts on Jan. 14th

/but ...

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(contd.)

but are meeting with strong enemy opposition. Enemy has fallen back slightly in Northern Sector Maikop area. Am informed Russians anticipate to commence advancing in two or three days' time. (b) Enemy forces have been withdrawn from Kluhor Sancharo Caltshki passes.

(3) Air Attacks. Tihoretsk junction again bombed. Continuous air attacks have been made on enemy troops supply columns etc.

(4) Ice. Port of Odessa is frozen. There is thin layer over Kerch Straits. Sea of Arzov frozen over up to 11 miles from shore.

(5) Kerch. Enemy erecting and strengthening shore defences. (L.O. Black Sea 1417C/18 to Admty. etc.)

Enemy
Units.

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of one small M/V 34.34 N. 10.56 E. course 202° speed 12 knots.

(A/C using call sign 6 T.R.P. 1435/18.)

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of one enemy destroyer and one small M/V 33.8 N. 11.50 E.

(Aircraft using call sign B.T.R.P. 1503A/18.)

Situation
Report
No.48.

(1) LIGHTNING and LOYAL carried out sweep to southward of Sardinia night 17/18. 1 unescorted merchant ship approx. 3000 tons was sunk in position 38.40 N. 09.33 E. at 0040/18. Her cargo exploded. No other ships met.

(2) Bone. ? 3 M.T.B. patrolled off Rass Al Koran night 17th/18th. About 5 fighter bombers raided Harbour at 1630/16 damage to one quay only. Similar raid at 1345/17, SS RECORDER hit and damaged above water line. Delay in sailing not expected but repairs in U.K. necessary. Quay damaged.

(3) Bougie. Cased petrol Carrier POLO blew up at 1817/17 and heavily on fire. Cause unknown.

(4) TASAJERA torpedoed amidships starboard side by aircraft at dusk 17th Jan. 75 miles East of Algiers. Ship returned to Algiers under own power. Of 191 American Troops on board 1 killed, 3 injured. Ship carried 30 tanks and 10 other vehicles 2 tanks are damaged.

(5) Oran. 1 dock expected to be in use within next fortnight. (N.C.X.F. 1530A/18 to Admty.)

Balloon
Barrage,
Algiers.

Your 1653/14. After consultation with Allied Military and Air Staff it has been decided that these cannot be operated satisfactorily in this theatre and are therefore not required. (N.C.X.F. 1549A/18 to Admty.)

Albacores,
dispositions.

Following from Chiefs of Staff, C.O.S.(M.E) 350. 1. In order to provide Naval T.B.R. aircraft at Bone with sufficient range to strike against shipping on the whole route between Marittimo and

Tunisia it is requested that the following redistribution of Albacore Squadrons may take place as soon as practicable.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Albacores,
dispositions.
(contd.)

2. The half of 826 Squadron now in Cyrenaica is to move to Malta, with a strength of 6 aircraft. The whole of 826 Squadron strength 12 aircraft then to move to Bone.

3. 12 Albacores without crews will be disembarked at Gibraltar and are to be regarded as reserves behind the Fleet carriers in the Western Mediterranean and 826 Squadron.

(Air Min. 1615Z/18 to Cs. in C. Middle East, N.C.X.F.)

A/S training. S.D. Instructor was not intended for maintenance duties but for instruction of S.D. ratings during sea practices and harbour training periods.

Without minimum instructional staff at Algiers full benefit will not be derived by small craft from sea training practices with submarines which are being carried out in accordance with your 1713/3.

(N.C.X.F. 1625A/18 to Admty. (R) Comm. Algiers, Capt. F.)

MONTCALM,
RICHELIEU.

U.S. 64. No.6120 18th Jan. To U.S.F.O.R. for British Chiefs of Staff. To A.G.W.A.R for Combined Chiefs of Staff. To A.N.F.A. Casablanca. To Admiral Glassford, Dakar from Freedom Algiers, signed Eisenhower. Ref. NA.F.

105 (1416/17) Paragraph 4.

1. Proposal of Admiral Michelier is that Cruiser MONTCALM accompany RICHELIEU and 2 Contre Torpilleurs.

2. Under command of Contre Admiral Longaud Squadron will be ready to sail any time after 25th Jan.

(Algiers 1634/18 to Etousa (Action))

Mills Loops, Your 1828/9th. Mills loop equipment has already left Mers-el-Kebir for installation at Bone in accordance with my 2131/7th.

(2) In view of your 1828/9th para.1 intend equipment due for shipment in February should be tried at Mers-el-Kebir where defence of entrance is now being arranged with 4 H.D.As and one type 135 on Gate vessel.

(3) Impression that Mills loops were ineffective in depth over 10 fathoms was based on A.M. 1617/26th, A.M. 1816/27th Dec. and advice of Brigham.

(N.C.X.F. 1638A/18 to Admty.)

G.U.S.3

G.U.S.3 sailed as in my 1601/16 less DANIEL HUGER JOHN G. WHITTIER and SAMUEL CHASE, ELIZABETH BAKKE, for onward routing to Halifax. (F.O.I.C. Oran 1645A/18 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.N.O.C.A. V.A. Gib. Admty., N.S.H.Q. Connnav.)

Movements,
Port Said.

18th Jan. Port Said. Arrivals DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, ALDENHAM, DELPHINIUM, CUMBRAE. Departures DELPHINIUM, CUMBRAE.

(N.O.I.C. Port Said 1703B/18 to Admty. etc.)

/Enemy ...

652

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Enemy
Units.

Following has been read P.C. and S. of one
destroyer, 2 small ships 32.53 N. 13.10 E. 060°
Nil.
(Call sign (BTRK) via Alexandria W/T 1715A/18.)

M.K.S.6.

Cdre. Algiers 1121/16 not to all addressees,
sailing destinations.
(D.T.D. 1744A/18 to Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran.)

Shipping
Requirements.

To U.S.F.O.R pass to W.S.A. Harriman from
Slater signed C. in C.
Two cargo vessels required by Army to move
urgently needed gasoline, landing mats, pipe
line equipment and ammunition from Casablanca to Philippeville.
No coasters or French Coastwise ships now available. Recommend
one cargo ship now at Casablanca and one from next U.G.S.
convoy be employed for this purpose. This is same problem
referred to by P.S.T.O. to D.S.T. Jan. 12.
Advise soonest reference cable ZOELLA LYKES and IRENE DUPONT
both ships ordered to U.S.A. leaving soon. On next convoy
would appreciate your sending duplicating machines as none here.
(Algiers 1751Z/18 to Etousa, action.)

M.K.F.7.

Sailing telegram.
(2) 1800/18th.
(3) to (6) (8) and (15) as in N.C.X.F's 1717/16th.
(Cdre. Algiers 1809A/18 to Admty. etc.)
List and destinations.
(1814A/18 to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Bone.

Arrivals LIGHTNING, LOYAL, M.T.B. 311, 316,
QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN,
ROYAL ULSTERMAN, AVON VALE, LAMERTON, ZETLAND,
EDAY, KARRERA. Departures WHEATLAND, WILTON,
POZARICA, BADDECK, PORT ARTHUR. ALBERNI,
Motor Minesweeper 80, Tug ST. DAY, French Naval
Trawler PETIT PIERRE.
(N.O.I.C. Bone 1920A/18 to Admty. etc.)

Malta Air
Report.

A.I. 579. Night 17/18th Jan.
10 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli 1800 to 1900 hrs.
Hits were scored on Railway Sheds and explosions
and large fires visible 50 miles caused among

Military Stores. Many fires were started in Target Area and 1
large fire was seen near power house. 6 Mosquitoes made
intruder patrols over Sicilian Aerodromes and in Pantellaria,
Sfax Gabes areas. 1 Beaufort attacked 1915 hrs. 1 of 3 M/Vs
5,000 tons escorted by 3 D/Rs 227° Marittimo 26 miles course
220° 8 knots. 1 torpedo was dropped from 80 feet range about
500 yards but Beaufort then took evasive action and results were
not observed. 5 torpedo carrying Wellingtons made shipping
search Marittimo Palermo area. 1 Wellington sighted and
attacked 2306 hrs. 1 large M/V escorted by several D/Rs 340°
Cape Bon, 20 miles, course 220° 10 knots. 1 torpedo was
dropped from 100 feet range 700 yards but results were not

/observed ...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Malta Air
Report
(contd.)

observed owing to position of smoke ? Another Wellington attacked 0010 hours 1 M/V 7000 tons escorted by 3 D/Rs 030° Ustica 50 miles course 010° 9 knots. 1 torpedo was dropped from 80 feet range 1200 yards but owing to smoke screen from M/V no results could be observed. Other Wellingtons made no sightings.

1 Special Albacore and 3 Strike Albacores F.A.A with torpedoes made shipping search in Marittimo area but sighted nothing. 3 Beauforts laid mines at entrance to Sousse Harbour.

Day 18th. 6 Beaufighter Sorties have been flown in offensive sweeps against enemy aircraft and shipping between Pantellaria Lampedusa and Tunisian coast. 8 Spitfire bombers escorted by 24 fighter Spitfires attacked the Porto Empedocle power station at 1544 hrs. dropping 16 250 lb. bombs scoring 2 probable hits on power station and other hits on neighbouring buildings and on road and railway. Escort attacked small vessel entering Porto Empedocle and saw many strikes followed by flying debris on deck.

Pt.2. Enemy Air Activity. Night 17th/18th Jan. Nil. Day 18th Jan. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.

(A.H.Q. Malta 1930/18, 1951/18, 2015/18, 2025/18.)

EMPIRE FOAM. Following received from N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. W.A. LANDGUARD and V.A. Gibraltar (begins) "A.M. 1040/15 para.3. EMPIRE FOAM should fly off aircraft off Algiers to Maison Blanche for servicing. Aircraft will be re-embarked at Algiers". (ends) Request you will issue the necessary instructions. (D.O.D.(H) 1931A/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.C.S.O. Clyde (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy
Units.

P.C. and S. of 2 Merchant vessels, 3 destroyers and 1 M.T.B. 37.45 N. 11.05 E. 180° 12 knots. (A/C C/S GKA/B 2000A/18 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Movements,
Philippeville.

N.C.X.F.'s 1844A/8th (N.T. in W.D.) Arrival BUDE, SUMMERSIDE, BRILLIANT, ANTELOPE, BACHAQUERO, MISOA. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 2001A/18 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar.)

Coastal
Force Bases.

N.C.X.F.'s 1524A/1 and 1241A/7, C. in C. Med's 1930B/8 and V.A. Gibraltar's 1212A/14 (not all to all addressees). Concur in re-appointment of officers to Coastal Force Bases.

2. A Commander retired with experience will be appointed as soon as possible to Algiers in command of Main Repair Base and sent out by quickest route.

3. Lieut. Cdr. Outhwaite, R.N.V.R. is being appointed vice Thornton at Gibraltar and sent out by quickest route.

4. N.C.X.F.'s 1241A/7 para.3 vacancy at Bone appears to have been filled by Lieut. Cdr. R.A. Allen, R.N.V.R. vide C. in C. Med's 1930B/8 para.3.

5. N.C.X.F.'s 1241A/7 para.2 approved date to be reported. (N.A. 2nd S.L. (Q.A.M.343) 2004A/18 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

/Service ...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Service
Personnel
in M/Vs.

Lack of shipping facilities is resulting in considerable congestion of Ratings awaiting passage to U.K. to man new construction.

2. To mitigate wastage of Man Power which this represents suggest that maximum number of Naval personnel allowed to be embarked in unescorted Merchant Ships be increased temporarily from 250 to 500. Request approval.
(C. in C. Med. 2016B/18 to Admty.)

TASAJERA
(at Algiers)

Underwater damage by Aerial Torpedo starboard side between two and three tanks. Compartments flooded (list). Little damage to garage dock or mechanised cargo. Intend to sail for Oran after discharge of cargo. Permanent repairs in No.2 dock after OUSEL and before PORCUPINE. Docking Algiers impracticable.
(N.C.X.F. 2024A/18 to Admty. Comm. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran.)

Movements,
Algiers.

Algiers arrivals POLRUAN, TASAJERA, M.T.B.78 from Oran, L.C.T.152 from eastward. Departures QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, AVON VALE, LAMERTON, ZETLAND to Bone, WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, GORLESTON TOTLAND, WEAR with M.K.F.(?7)
(Cdre. Algiers 2029A/18 to Admty. etc.)

Movements
Tobruk.

Arrivals BURRA, WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY? GENERAL BIRDWOOD, MAPLE. Departures M.L.354, KINGSTON CRYSTAL.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 2103B/18 to Admty.)

Enemy
Units.

Position of 1 merchant vessel and 1 destroyer
37.10 N. 00.57 W. course 30° speed 10 knots.
(A/C C/S (FBVM) 2125Z/18 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of 2 enemy merchant vessels, 3 destroyers and one M.T.B. 37.50 N. 11.50 E. 070° 15 knots.
(A/C C/S GKA/B 2135A/18 to A.H.Q. Malta.)
(A.H.Q. Malta 2235A/18 to A/C C/S GKA/J)

2 Merchant Vessels, 2 destroyers in 37.59 N. 11.35 E. course 060° speed 15 knots.
(A/C C/S GKA/B 2300A/18 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

M.W.19.

Total discharged to 1800/18th, 23,102 tons leaving 1,088 to come. Further signals will not be made.
(V.A. Malta 2300A/18, 1041A/19 to C. in C. Med.)

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B.P. 66 Departures BENGAL and SONAVATI with B.P.66.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 0240Z/18 to Admty. etc.)
Sailing telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0250Z/18, 0252Z/18)

Convoy Escorts. Intentions for Escort. BOMBAY P.B.23, POOLE P.A. 21, sail 0430Z/23rd, ocean route No.3.
BENGAL P.B.24, SONAVATI P.A.22, sail 0700Z/28th Jan. ocean route No.1.
(S.N.O.P.G., 0743Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz (R) C. in C. E.F.)
Cancelled by 0609Z/19 q.v.

SALVIKING Your 1530 15th Jan. para 3 (re destination salvage vessel SALVIKING). Colombo.
(C. in C. E.F. 0845Z/18 to Admty.)

Ceylon torpedo shops. It has become clear that torpedo workshops and facilities will be required on both sides of Ceylon in order that runner torpedo attacks may be carried out in both Monsoons.
2. Propose that Katukurunda should be provided with these facilities before Gan and that stores and equipment be diverted accordingly.
(F.O. Ceylon 1151Z/18 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)

Movements Arrival 17th Jan. GAMBIA 18th Jan. FROBISHER, DEVONSHIRE.
(N.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar 1221Z/18 to Admiralty.)
Departure 18th Jan. BRITTANY.
(F.O.E.A. & Z. 1222/18 to Admty.)

Dutch tug THAMES. My 1431Z/18th Jan. (N.T. in W.D.) E.T.A. Capetown 27th Jan.
(F.O.E.A. 1432Z/18 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)

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- J.H.29 NORTHTON and ship in ballast missing since night of 16th and 17th. Your Louisburg ship joined up 2200Z/17th.
(KENTVILLE, 0405Z/18 to C.O.A.C.)
- S/M estimate (Cominch, 0405/18, 1407/18, 1540/18, 1541/18, 1547/18, 1548/18, 1549/18, 1915/18).
Jan. 18th
U.S. S/M
Notice.
- Movements St. Johns N.F. Jan. 17th, Arrivals DAUPHIN SWALE GARLAND, LOBELIA, ORCHIS, NARCISSUS, Ex Argentia CHURCHILL, RESTIGOUCHE, BRANDON, AMHERST, COLLINGWOOD, SHERBROOKE, LINCOLN, ex O.N.158.
GEORGETOWN, ROXBOROUGH ex H.X.222. STRATFORD H.M.R.T. FRISKY recalled ex assisting ROXBOROUGH. NAPANEE ex J.H.29. Departures LEAMINGTON, MELVILLE to O.N. 158.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 0416Z/18 to Admty).
- S.C.116 P.C. and S. at 1000Z/18th 59.08 N., 36.02 W.
(S) 032° 6.
TAXIARCHIS and GULLPOOL missing since 15th. Task Unit 24.6.4 in company. Cdre. requests confirmation CASTALIA's destination is Loch Ewe. MANSFIELD proceeding to Iceland with defects. Weather.
(C. Mid Ocean T.U. 24.1.4., 0837Z/18 to A.I.G. 303).
- U.S. Arrival 17th U.S.A. Army Transport LEISENRING escorted by Y.A.G.20. Also U.S.A. Tanker Y.O.142. (R.N.O. Nassau, 1030/18 to Admty S.O.(I) Jamaica).
Movements. Kingston arrival U.S.A.T. STATE OF MARYLAND arrival and departure U.S.S. P.C.1119. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1038/18 to Admty. etc).
Departure 1100/18 U.S.S. ANTAEUS escorted by U.S.S. LEA repeated LEA. Route to Guantanamo E.T.A.1100/21. Knots 15.
(R.O. Port of Spain, 1437/18 to Admty).
- O.N.S.158 Your 2245/17 and C.T.U. 24.18.3 2106Z/17, concur FORT PELLY remaining in convoy. Would prefer her to proceed to New York unless you desire her to be detached for Halifax.
(D.T.D., 1102Z/18 to Connav).
- Movements. Arrival 17th Jan. SEAWOLF, B.Y.M.S. 15 B.Y.M.S. 16 from St. Johns N.F. SALISBURY from Charleston S.C. NANAIMO, QUESNEL, COBALT ex H.X.223 18th Jan. COLUMBIA, BARRIE, SASKATOON ex O.N.159.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1301Z/18 to Admty etc).

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America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.G.F.4 U.G.F.4 NK from point (e) (?adapt) route for new (a) 040° 30' 031° 10' (b) 040° 30' 023° 15' thence (h) omitting (f) and (g) cancel stragglers route positions (n) (o) substitute (r) 040° 10' 031° 40' (s) 039° 55' 022° 15'.
(Connav, 1326/18 to C.T.F.24 (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty. N.S.H.Q., N.C.X.F., V.A.Gib. S.N.O. Casablanca).

FRISKY, ROXBOROUGH. Following for C.C.R.T. FRISKY returned St. Johns 1932Z/17 ex search for ROXBOROUGH. ROXBOROUGH returned St. Johns under own steam.
(F.O.N.F., 1443Z/18 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.)
My 1331/15. FRISKY sailed St. Johns 1321/18 for Halifax and New Orleans U.S.A.
(F.O.N.F., 2100Z/18 to B.A.D., C.O.A.C.)

Convoy dates. Sailing convoys on following dates H.X.224 Jan. 22nd. H.X.225 Jan. 30th. H.X.226 Feb. 8th. S.C.118 Jan. 24th. thence every 10 days. O.N. Fast 162 will be sailing on Jan.22nd O.N.S. 163 Jan. 23rd and every 10 days thereafter.
(Connav, 1447/18 to C.E.S.F., (R) Admty. etc).

U.G.S.4. U.G.S.4 estimated P.C. and S. H.M. Hospital ship ATLANTIS 2000Z/19 033° 55' 054° 39' 115° 14.5
(Connav, 1459/18 to C.T.F. 38 (R) U.S. N.O. Bermuda, Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

ROODE ZEE. (1) Leave Bermuda at 2000Z/18th Jan. proceed to Trinidad passing following position issued by U.S.N.O. Base between parallels (C) 026° 25' N., 062° 30' W. (D) 014° 50' N., 056° 05' W. thence to Boca de Navios. S. of A. 12 knots.
(2) Reference position (M) 011° 00' N., 054° 50' W.
(N) 007° 00' N., 056° 05' W. (O) Sombrero passage.
(3) N.O.I.C. Trinidad is requested to obtain onward route to Montevideo from U.S. N.O.B. 309 at Trinidad and sail ROODE ZEE when ready.
(4) Communications.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1559Z/18 to ROODE ZEE (R) B.A.D. Admty. etc).

Coastal Convoy Dates. Coastal convoy sailing dates have been changed as given below and co-ordinated with trans-Atlantic convoys. All convoys 8 knots.
1. N.K. 520 Jan. 30. K.H. 400 Feb. 6, H.K. 138 Jan. 26. K.N. 219 Jan. 30 thence every 5 days.
2. N.G.340 Jan. 28, G.A.T. 42 Feb. 4, T.A.G.38 Jan. 24. G.N. Special with no T.A.G. connection Jan. 24. G.N.38 Jan. 29th. thence every 5 days.

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Coastal Convoy Dates. Contd. 3. K.G. 622 Jan. 30, G.K. 723 Feb. 2 thence every ten days. Key West - Pilottown convoys eliminated after P.K.135 and K.P.437.

4. G.Z. 20 Jan. 23. G.Z. 21 Feb. 5. Z.G. 20 Jan. 24, Z.G. 21 Feb. 3.

5. T.B. 3 Jan. 23, B.T. 2 Jan. 26. thence every ten days. (U.S. Navcom 1611/18 to Admty).

U.S. construction programme. B.A.D.'s 0011/8 para. 11. Please forward particulars of shortages as soon as possible to enable investigation to be made. (Controller, 1630A/18 to B.A.D.)

WITCH In view of (?lack of) (corrupt group) until return of eastbound convoy request you sail H.M.S. WITCH when ready to overtake S.C.117 directing her to remain to (?take over) L.E. thence proceed U.K. refers. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0312/31. (C.T. 24., 1631Z/18 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.E.S.F. C., Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.14, WITCH Cominch).

Trinidad coal facilities. F.T.T. 6., arrived Trinidad with no previous information as regards Merchant ships composing convoy. Request in future these may be signalled All ships were coal burners. Coal situation and facilities here are inadequate to deal with excessive and unexpected coal bunkering. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1701Q/18 to F.O.C.W.A., Admty) Reply: N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1928Z/19.

Sailing of 12 British L.C. Is. Sail L.C. Is. to Bermuda when read. New York Section via. (C) 36.26 68.50. (D) 32.33 64.34. Norfolk (Virginia) Section through (E) 34.50 69.23 (F) 32.33 64.34. Onward route to Gibraltar via (G) 31.30 59.20. (H) 30.20 53.40. (J) 28.45 47.48. (K) 27.01 42.05 (L) 27.01 33.20. (M) 27.01 25.03 (N) 31.10 21.10. (O) 34.30 17.40. (P) 35.30 10.55. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (U.S.) 140535 refers. (Connav, 1717/18 to C.E.S.F. Com 5. (R) U.S. Port Director New York, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) C.T.F. 32. N.S.H.Q., Admty. N.C.X.F., C.T.G. 26.7., N.O.B. Bermuda, V.A. Gibraltar).

Revised Destinations information. It is requested that Masters of ships joining S.C. or H.X. convoys off Halifax who have been given revised destinations from those supplied to New York should be instructed to inform the Commodore who may not be aware of the alterations. Ships have recently arrived at the wrong ports owing to non receipt by the Commodore of revised destinations given at Halifax after receipt of our reply to Advance Sailing Telegram. B.R.L.O. New York has been asked to inform Cdre. of the necessity for a check. (D.T.D. 1815A/18 to C.O.A.C.) Reply: C.O.A.C., 1838/19.

/Diversion...

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America & West Indies. - Contd.

Diversions Reports. V.A. Gibraltar's 1240/15 para. D. (replies to B.A.D's 2355/9). Navy Dept. (?request) that in future they may be kept fully informed of such information as was passed to Admiralty in HAVELOCK's 1528/5 (P.C. and S. of HAVELOCK) in order to prevent misconceptions as to whether a diversion passed by them near the "Chop" has actually been received or not. (B.A.D., 1851Z/18 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O., W.A.T.)

H.X.222 U/B D/F bearings on 3920 k/cs at 1808Z indicate U-boat may be in your vicinity and have reported you. (D.D.I.C., 2005A/18 to Escorts H.X.222).

Progress of Repairs. Ref. N.S.H.Q's 1340/17 October 1941. (Repairs to Canadian and British warships)

| A | B | C | D |
|-----------|---------|--------------------|--------------|
| SALSIBURY | Halifax | Jan. 18 | Undetermined |
| NANAIMO | Halifax | Jan.18 to Jan. 23. | - |
| QUESNEL | Halifax | Jan. 18 to 23rd. | - |
| NOOTKA | Halifax | Jan. 17 to 23rd. | - |
| COBALT | Halifax | Jan. 18 to 23rd. | - |

My 2030/14 defects WESTMOUNT completed. Completion date ST. CLAIR undetermined my 1800/13. Defects DRUMMONDVILLE completed. My 1700/12. Defects MUSGRAVE completed. My 1400/10 defects MILLTOWN completed. My 1645/9 completion date PICTOU extended to January 21. My 1530/16 defects. NIAGARA completed. My 2030/11 defects. PROVIDER completed. (C.O.A.C., 2100Z/18 to N.S.H.Q.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. (A) VESTFOLD torpedoed presumed sunk 61.25 N 26.12 W. 1444Z/17. BRITISH HUDSON attacks sub. on surface 60.05 N. 21.45 W. 1140Z/18. Course 90 speed 5. VANSITTART attacks sub.61.25 N. 26.12 W. 1444Z/17. Para.(C.) Merchant ship sights periscope 43.37 N. 59.09 W. 1800Z/17. Para. (D). S.C.663 attacksound contact 28.45 N. 88.39 W. 1620Z/7. (Cominch, C. and R. 2110/18 to Admty).

/Shipping...

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Shipping
Casualties.

Connav Serial 17 and 18. Correct position NORWALK collision Serial 11, 23.18 N., 80.00 W. JAMES HAWSON and EUTHALIA now accounted for, both safe. LIBERTY U.S. Schooner aground lost 11th Jan. North Caicos Is. Bahamas. (Connav, 2120/18 to Comnaveu).

CLYDE

U.S. S/M notice. British submarine CLYDE painted dark blue anchored in position 164° Cape May 15 miles. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2242/18 to All commands concerned with S/M reports Eastseafron).

U/B

Shore watcher sighted submarine in position 046° 50' N. 050° 30' W. at 2050Z/18th steering west. (C.O.A.C., 2313Z/18 to G.B.7A (R) C.T.F.24 etc).

War Diary.18.1.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Wellington ATREUS E.T.A. Great Barrier Island 0600Z/20.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0708Z/18 to Admty.)

Arrivals 17th. Jan. U.S. RALPH TALBOT (corrupt group) Townsville
U.S. SELFRIDGE. Departure 17th. Jan. Port Moresby U.S. RINGGOLD
for Port Alma. Brisbane Melbourne U.S. MANLEY for Noumea, U.S.
HOVEY for escort thence Sydney N.S.W.
(N.B. Melbourne, 0859Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

Melbourne 17th. Jan. U.S. Transports PRESIDENT JACKSON, PRESIDENT
ADAMS, PRESIDENT HAYES, 23 Noumea 1900Z/22nd Jan. knots 13.5.
Section 2. (a) 039° 08' S. 147° 48' E. (b) 038° 26' S. 150° 21' E.
(c) 030° 07' S. 159° 51' E. Escorted by U.S. Transport MANLEY
to destination and U.S. Destroyer HOVEY to vicinity 160° E.
(A.C.N.B. 1502Z/18 to Admty. Connav.)

Arrivals 16th. Jan. Portland Roads R.A.A.F. store ship
WANAKA 17th. Cairns U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER.
Brisbane U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ. Dutch Naval Store Ship SOEDOE
departed Cairns 17th. due Brisbane 23rd. U.S. Transport BOSPHOR-
US departed Port Moresby 17th. due Cairns 19th. U.S. transports
BONTEKOE TASMAN departed Townsville 17th. due Port Moresby 20th.
(A.C.N.B. 1504Z/18 to Admty. Connav.)

Digest No. 361
17th. Jan. Large Destroyer departed Buka Passage towards Kesse
dusk 16th. 2. One destroyer, one merchant
vessel 8,000 tons 2° 10' S. , 147° 50' E. morning
17th. Jan., course indefinite. Unsuccessfully
bombed by R/C Liberator.

3. Eleven Fortresses bombed shipping Rabaul Harbour midnight
16/17 Jan. scoring hits with thousand pounders on two medium
Merchantmen and possibly another three from which explosions seen.
Some bombs dropped vicinity (? Malaguna) and Cunakanau strips,
also in Area believed new runway Vunapope. Approx. 60 unclass-
ified ships seen Blanche Bay and concentration small craft North
East End Simpsons Harbour.

4. Six bombs from Liberator morning 17th. dropped across Gasmata
Runway which appeared in poor condition without repairs to bomb
craters. 5. R/C 16th. Jan. reported Cape Gloucester Runway
serviceable and widened. Bombed afternoon 17th. by Liberator
which had earlier scored direct hit on warehouse Madang and
bombed wharf Area Finschafenh. Madang hinterland closed by
enemy patrols operating 35 miles inland.

7. Barge traffic continued Lae 15th. Jan. Six B.25's bombed
stores on waterfront morning 17th. and same afternoon Liberator
bombed Malahang Drome.

8. Opposition overcome Cape Killerton Area evening 17th. when
our forward elements were within thousand yards of Coast on
Sanananda motor road.

9. Three Bostons strafed Mambare Delta morning 17th Jan.

10. Twenty-four Type One medium bombers escorted by 20 to 25 Zeros
bombed an aerodrome at Milne Bay noon 17th. effecting some
damage to Airplanes and motor vehicles. Some dispersed fuel
dumps destroyed. Four Cobras airborne but interception
unsuccessful. 11. Two medium Merchant Vessels Macassar
morning 17th. One transport plane on drome which has concrete runway
4,000 feet long.

12. Photos Ambon 16th. Jan. show six medium bombers two fighters
on Aerodrome where runway in good condition.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand Contd.

Digest
No. 361
17th. Jan.

13. Babo Aerodrome probably serviceable and extended. 14. Probable 9,000 ton whale factory ship photographed Manokwari 15th. Jan. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 1051Z/18th. to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1350A/18 1357A/18)

Submarines Attacked.

U.S.
Report.

Your 1059B/22 July. 36 attacks reported in week ending 2400Z/17. None promising. Admiralty pass to Comnavu.
(Cominch 2214/18 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

In the early hours of this morning M.T.Bs operating between Scheveningen and the Hook of Holland sighted and engaged an enemy force consisting of two 600 ton Trawlers and a small merchant vessel. M.T.B.224 torpedoed the latter, which blew up, and M.T.B.70 secured one torpedo hit on one of the trawlers. Whilst disengaging, our M.T.Bs came under fire from another enemy force, and also from the coastal batteries, but no damage was caused and there was only one slight casualty. Another force of M.T.Bs sailed from Lowestoft at 1553/18 to intercept a convoy of 15 ships with 2 M/S as escort, which had been reported off Ymuiden two hours earlier. Aircraft attacked the convoy at 1917 in 53.15 N. 4.37 E. and hit 3 ships, but the M.T.Bs did not find the enemy. At 0450 today, however, in 53.41 N. 5.8 E. the M.T.Bs sighted and attacked 4 small vessels, but did not see the result. The M.T.Bs suffered no damage or casualties.

SS QUEEN ELIZABETH left the Clyde for New York this morning, with personnel for U.S.A.

29 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night in the Frisian Is. - Elbe area.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft in the early hours of this morning is suspected in the swept channel near East Dudgeon Buoy, Humber; several magnetic mines were destroyed on 20 January.

Lowestoft port was closed from 1314A to 1504A on account of fog.

Mediterranean.

KELVIN and JAVELIN sailed from Malta at 1400 today to carry out a sweep tonight along the coast west of Tripoli, in the course of which they sank two schooners, 4 small naval auxiliaries, one M.L., one small merchant ship, and 3 unidentified small steamships. Our ships sustained no damage or casualties.

/Air ...

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War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - contd.

Air R/C today showed that no active shipping remains in Tripoli harbour and that the entrance is partly blocked by sunken vessels. The oil storage tanks are apparently on fire.

It is intended that the Naval Walrus Squadron established temporarily at Algiers during the assault stage of Operation "Torch" shall cease about 1 February.

S/M
Operations.

Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS reports having captured the 220 ton caique SAINT STEPHANO about 30 miles south-west of Melos. *at 1000/17. Sunk Alexandria with (Migs crew)*
P.35 at 2103/9 in 35.58 N. 11.20 E. sank a 2000 ton northbound merchant ship after a 5 hour chase. At 1802/11 she gunned and drove ashore and set on fire two caiques in 36.24 N. 10.33 E.

P.42 at 1749A secured one hit on and it is believed sank a northbound 5000 ton transport in 33.45 N. 11.12 E.

At 1415 today P.228 attacked a 2000 ton laden merchant vessel escorted by an A/S schooner and an armed trawler in 39.41 N. 9.43 E. (off the east coast of Sardinia). The merchant ship was sunk by torpedo and the schooner by gunfire, and the trawler was beached in a sinking condition.

Italian
S/M
TRITONE
sunk.

Canadian Corvette PORT ARTHUR, escorting Convoy M.K.S.6 sank the Italian S/M TRITONE off Bougie at 1425A today and took the C.O., 3 officers and 22 ratings prisoners.

Air
Operations.

Wellingtons and Beauforts from Malta were sent last night to attack shipping in the Bizerta - Marittimo area. An escorted merchantman of about 4000 tons was probably hit at 2324/18 in 22° Marittimo 5 miles, and at 0125/19 one of 2 large merchantmen (about 9,000 tons) was sunk in 270° Marittimo 30 miles. A third ship, of about 4000 tons, was seen proceeding at reduced speed after attack. Six Wellingtons despatched last night to mine and bomb Khalkis harbour, Greece, were unable to reach the objective; one Wellington bombed Lavrion harbour. Eighteen Wellingtons from Blida made a successful attack on Bizerta and the docks at Ferryville last night.

/At ...

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - contd.Air
Operations
(contd.)

At about 2200 today Albacores from Malta sank 2 merchant ships reported as 2000 and 5 - 6000 tons respectively, and damaged a destroyer off Ras Turgoeness (33.49 N. 11.3 E), Gulf of Gabes.

U.S. B.24s bombed shipping in Tripoli and Sousse harbour today. Results at Tripoli were not seen, but at Sousse hits are reported on a small merchant vessel and many hits on the docks and quays.

LAMERTON shot down an S.79 torpedo aircraft p.m. today when off Bougie westbound, and took the crew of 5 prisoners.

*Tripoli,
widge S/M
attack.*

A chariot (widge S/M) attack on Tripoli, coinciding with the advance of the Eighth Army, was made early today (page 692A)

East Indies.

SS STEEL TRADER reported and engaged a submarine off Cape Guardafui at 1107 today.

War Diary.

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Canadian Destroyers for H.F. IROQUOIS.

Your 1512/9th Dec. and your 1741Z/16th Jan.

2. We will be very glad to have your 4 Canadian-manned Tribals in the Home Fleet. They will be a most welcome reinforcement and I am sure they will get a good chance of shewing their mettle.

3. IROQUOIS is expected to finish working up about 30th January. She will then be sailed to St. Johns as additional escort to the first convenient convoy.

4. I much regret the delay in sending your proposals as regards the other destroyers, but I hope to send you a telegram in the next few days.
(1st S.L., 0014A/19 to C.N.S. Ottawa.)

Treatment of French Warships and M/Vs.

Repeats Admty. 1510B/14 "A" Message.
(Air Ministry, 1720Z/18 to Air Commands.)

Oil Stocks in Iceland.

Your 1632/18. The agreement with Opanav is laid down in A.M. 2041/14th August. By this agreement Admiralty were to leave 4 tankers for storage and readjustment of attendance. At present only 3 (? British) tankers are stationed in Iceland and the withdrawal of SCOTTISH AMERICAN would have reduced this number to 2. It was because this agreement is not being adhered to and because C. in C. H.F.'s requirements at Akureyri could not have been complied with if SCOTTISH AMERICAN had been withdrawn, that I suggested the Seidisfjord tanker should be replenished from U.K.
(A.C.I.C., 1508A/19 to Admty.)

Movements.

P.339, TORBAY, P.312.

Sailed P.339, TORBAY, and P.312 escorted by CUTTY SARK in accordance with S.3's 1409A/16. Codeword "Princess".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0044A/19.)
Proceed to Rothesay. P.312 report whether defect is within capacity of ship's staff to repair.
(Capt. S.3, 0314A/19 to P.312, P.339, TORBAY, CUTTY SARK.)
My 1409/16 is delayed.
(Capt. S.3, 0438A/19 to F.O.S.)
My 0044A/19. Codeword "Princess" is returning to Harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0734A/19 to F.O.S.)
My 1409A/16. Amend as follows:

1. For 0030A/19, 1630/20 and 11 knots read 2030A/19, 1630/21 and 10 knots.
2. For 0100/21 and 11 knots read 0200/22 and 10 knots.
(Capt. S.3, 1201A/19 to TORBAY, P.339, P.312.)

/Cancel ...

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19.1.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

P.339, TORBAY, P.312. (Contd.)

Cancel my 2234A/17 and my 0734A/19 and substitute.

A. 3 S/Ms and A/S Yacht.
B. 2030A/19 to 0600A/24 or arrival.
C. IV.
D. (1) Leaves Clyde Boom 2030A/19 by standard route to VW 33.55, E.T.A. 1630A/21, S.O.A. 10 knots.
(2) From VW 33.55 2 S/Ms proceed independently one S/M and one A/S Yacht by standard route to Plymouth, E.T.A. 0200A/22, S.O.A. 10 knots.
(3) From Plymouth A/S Yacht proceeds to Falmouth, E.T.A. 0500A/22.
(4) From Falmouth one S/M and A/S Yacht proceed to Clyde by reverse route, E.T.A. 0600A/24. S.O.A. 10 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1628A/19 to H.Q.F.C., etc.)
Sailed TORBAY, P.339, P.312, CUTTY SARK in accordance with Capt. S.3's 1201A/19.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2118A/19.)

P.219. P.219 is expected to arrive 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0900A/21. Request local escort may meet and escort her to Falmouth to await onward escort, probably CUTTY SARK.
(Capt. S.3, 0949A/19 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
Your 0949/19. FIR detailed as escort.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1709A/19 to Capt. S.3.)

UREDD. UREDD arrived.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1011A/19.)

W.A. Command. Situation at 1958A/19. Details.
(C. in C. W.A., 1355A/19, 1744A/19.)
See Lion Copy.)

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

(A) Russian S/M S.51 69° 32' N. 01° 11' E. probably on surface through 70° 05' N. 05° 01' E. and 71° 35' N. 15° 02' E. speed 9 knots.
(B) P.224, 66° 30' N. 08° 25' E. probably on surface through 67° 10' N. 08° 15' E., 69° 00' N. 11° 01' E. and 70° 50' N. 16° 30' E. at 1900/21st speed 9 knots.
(C) TRIDENT 65° 58' N. 07° 32' E. probably on surface through 66° 40' N. 06° 30' E., 69° 01' N. 09° 56' E. and 71° 10' N. 16° 10' E. at 1900/21st.
(D) P.314, 66° 34' N. 05° 10' E. probably on surface through 69° 02' N. 08° 52' E. and 70° 52' N. 14° 10' E. at 1900/21st.
(E) H.43 escorted by LORD MIDDLETON vicinity Arran for Rothesay.
(F) P.312, TORBAY and P.339 escorted by CUTTY SARK 53° 55' N. 05° 12' W. due 000° Round Island Scillies at 1630/21st speed 10 knots.
(G) P.556 escorted by UNST leaves Yarmouth Roads 0800/20th to carry out deep dive in 128° Portland Bill 5 miles leaving vicinity of this position at 1330/20th and returning to Yarmouth Roads.

/(H) ...

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Positions of S/MS at 0800A/20th and movements for following 24 hours.

(H) P.219, 49° 30' N. 10° 32' W. dived by day through 49° 31' N. 09° 02' W. to R/V with escort in 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0800/21st.

(J) U.S.S. GUNNEL 50° 01' N. 19° 20' W. dived by day to westward until crossing 20° W. thence probably on surface through 50° N. 26° W. for U.S.A.

(K) JUNON and SOKOL escorted by M.L.454 exercise in Tay Sanctuary North of 56° 24' from 1100/20th to 1600/20th.

(L) U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao.

(M) U.S.S. HERRING in zone K.505.
(F.O.S., 1724A/19.)

EMPIRE NED, EMPIRE FRED, SAMSONIA, MORAY. A.M. 1507/18/12/42.

1. EMPIRE NED and EMPIRE FRED have been commissioned as H.M. Rescue Tugs for service at Gibraltar.

2. Rescue Tug SAMSONIA is being sailed to Milford Haven. She is required to proceed to Gibraltar to return with ARIGUANI in tow.

3. Request you will sail above-mentioned tugs and water-boat MORAY in company to Gibraltar as soon as convenient.

4. Admiralty will promulgate route.

5. Cancel para. 5 of above signal. Arrangements are to be made for SAMSONIA to tow MORAY as necessary.

6. Sailing should take place when weather considered propitious but it is considered that above mentioned vessels are capable of ocean passage in normal conditions at this time of year.
(D.O.D.H., 1950A/19 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

P. 15, P.216. (1) My 1311/15, para. A. Add D.S. O.15.
(2) A.C.O.S. is requested to sail O.15 to Lerwick as soon as convenient after 20th Jan. to rest.
(3) S.O.(S) Lerwick is to sail P.216 for Scapa as soon as possible on or after 22nd Jan.
(F.O.S., 2154A/19 to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrol. (1) M.G.Bs 616 (S.O.), 611 and M.T.Bs 89, 86 at Newhaven at short notice if weather is suitable. M.G.Bs 616 and 611 at 0001/20 and patrol between 50° 31' N. 00° 35' E. and 50° 30' N. 00° 05' W. keeping south of Convoy. Codeword "Advent".

(2) KINGSTON TOPAZ (S.O.) and ASIE patrol south of E.A5 Buoy.

(3) M.L.123 (S.O.) and R.M.L.522 patrolling on 50° 20' N. between 1° 30' W. and 2° 05' W. Codeword "Device".
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1205A/19, 1449A/19.)

/Operation ...

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War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation Carry out V.P.2. V.P.2 - B. (i) Patrol B.
V.P. (ii) Gulborg. (iii) 1600A/19th. (iv) 6.
(A.C.O.S., 1205A/19 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)
Carry out operation V.P. V.P - R.

(1) Patrol R leaving between K and U.
(2) 618 S.O., 623.
(3) 0900A/20th or first suitable day thereafter.
(4) 6.
(5) Protection sufficient.
(6) No.
(7) 0800A. 60 miles from point of exit.
(A.C.O.S., 2015/19 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick, Sumburgh, Wick.)
My 1205. Sailed 1645/19th.
(A.C.O.S., 2017A/19 to Admty.)
M.T.Bs 626, 631 on patrol. M.T.Bs 618, 623, 625, 627
fit for service. M.T.Bs 619, 620 unfit for service for 24
hours. M.Ls 473, 465 fit for service.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 2030A/19 to Admty.)

Enemy Following is preliminary report of C/F activity
Convoy night 18th/19th January.
attacked. (1) M.T.Bs 224, 241, 32, 70, and 69 were ordered
1 Enemy M/V to operate between Scheveningen and the Hook of
sunk by Holland. At 0047 in 52° 03' N. 04° 05' E., two
M.T.B.224. large trawlers of 600 tons were sighted steering
1 Enemy S.W. at slow speed. M.T.Bs 224, 241, and 32
Trawler worked round to landward side while M.T.Bs 70
damaged by and 69 shadowed and gained bearing, during which
M.T.B. 70. a small merchant vessel of about the same size
was sighted astern of the trawlers. At 0125
M.T.B.224 torpedoed the small merchant vessel
which blew up with a brilliant red flash. M.T.B
70 and 69's first attack on the trawlers was unsuccessful, but
they returned to the attack after disengaging under fire and
carried out a second unobserved attack from 400 yards, M.T.B.70
scoring a torpedo hit on one trawler. Whilst disengaging from
remaining trawler, two more auxiliaries and one unidentified
ship were sighted steering S.W. These ships opened fire with
starshell and 4" without effect. M.T.B.224 did not make contact
with this second group. Shore batteries were also in action
during this time. At 0329 in 52° 05' N. 03° 22' E., 3 E/R boats
were sighted steering E. Pillar buoy marked "K" was sighted in
52° 03'30" N. 03° 08'30" E. showing light flashing every 6
seconds.

Casualty C.O. M.T.B.70 slightly wounded. Damage nil.

(2) Operation Q.U.(5) carried out successfully.

(C. in C. Nore, 1834A/19 to Admty.)

Addition, see 1244A/20, p. 707.

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.A/C
Navigation
Lights.

Fully endorse your views in para. 2 of your C.S.16308/F.O.6. It is considered such a practice would be likely to result in an increase of unfortunate incidents owing to merchant ships opening fire on friendly aircraft.
(D.T.D., 1307A/19 to Air Ministry.)

Murmansk
Balloon
Barrage.

Your 1731C/30th Dec. and 0814/18th Jan. Please confirm that Russian balloons fulfil the defence requirement for docks. If not, to what extent is additional balloon barrage necessary?
(V.C.N.S., 2148A/19 to N.O.I.C. Murmansk.)

Enemy Air Activity.Dover and
Folkestone
bombed on
18th Jan.

During attack by about fifteen enemy aircraft on Dover and Folkestone areas between 1930 and 2030 yesterday considerable damage was caused to R.N.Os Office, Naval quarters and civilian property at Folkestone. Two H.E. bombs and some incendiaries fell in Dover Harbour and others in the town caused damage to civilian property but no damage to Naval property. No naval casualties at either Dover or Folkestone.
(V.A. Dover, 1001A/19 and 1632A/20 to Admty.)

M.K.S.5.

It is probable that you have been reported by enemy R/C aircraft.
(C. in C. W.A., 1732A/19 to BLACK SWAN, FOWEY.)

Mining.Sweep off
Iona.

Trawler not yet sighted. Am proceeding to 248° Skerryvore 12.5 miles to continue search if weather permits.
(SHIPPIGAN, 1030A/19 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Consider weather unfit for sweeping. Propose to return Merville.
(SHIPPIGAN, 1232A/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Beachy Head.

X type mine sunk in position Beachy Head 100°, 6.1 miles.
(M.M.S.64, 1105/19.)

Humber
Area.

Minelaying by E-Boats is suspected in swept channel vicinity of East Dudgeon buoy. At about 0100/19 Humber trawlers at East Dudgeon and 57.E. buoys reported sound of engines but enemy was not sighted when starshell were fired. There was no

/other ...

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War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Humber
Area.
(Contd.)

other indication of presence of E-Boats. Shortly before 0200 however trawlers reported heavy underwater explosions S. and E. of East Dudgeon buoy. At 0345 CAMPBELL with F.N.21 reported mine exploded 166° East Dudgeon Buoy 2½ miles and at 0820 Humber trawler reported similar spontaneous explosion 090° 57.E buoy 5 cables. (C. in C. Nore, 1832A/19 to Admty.)

Operation
Q.U. 5.

Carried out successfully.
(C. in C. Nore, 1834A/19.)
See Operations.

Bristol
Channel.

At 1147A/17 one mine exploded by Sweepers in 51° 14'53" N. 3° 11'36" W. Details.
(Cdr. M/S Swansea, 1930A/19.)

U-Boats.U-Boats
reported.

It is estimated that southbound U-Boat may be near you today.
(D.D.I.C., 1157A/19 to TRIDENT, P.224.)

Navigational.

Lowestoft.

Lowestoft port closed owing to fog.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1314A/19.)
Port now open.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1504A/19.)

Harwich.

Port now open.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1455A/19.)

Casualties and Defects.BIDEFORD,
CALGARY.

C. in C. W.A. 1214A/16. BIDEFORD cannot sail owing to defects. CALGARY is refitting.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1149A/19.)

CHESTERFIELD,
(H.X. 222).

While carrying out depth charge attack CHESTERFIELD sustained following damage. Details. Short docking will be required to effect repairs.
(VANSITTART, 1230Z/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

OSTENDE.

Your 1359A/19. BUSTLER will complete operation 0900A/20. EMPIRE CUPID will be required to complete laying out mooring tomorrow.
(BUSTLER, 1545A/19 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/GARTH ...

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War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

GARTH. My I.F.F. is out of action. E.T.A. Sheerness 1010/20th.
(GARTH, 1611A/19.)

Landing
Craft at
Liverpool. Your 1454/13/1. All L.C.A.(S), L.C.Ms, L.C.P.(L)s
L.C.P.(R)s at present in hand are expected to
complete by date 15th Feb. 1943. Also L.C.Vs
due but not yet arrived have been placed in
advance and subject to defects not being greater
than anticipated will be completed by 15th Feb.
1943.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1814/19.)

T.J.C. &
Lighter. Aircraft reports sighting one T.J.C. at 1700/18
in 62° 02' N. 26° 03' W. Also Grey Lighter 60
feet long at 1453/18 in 60° 50' N. 25° 56' W.
No signs of life in both cases.
(A.C.I.C., 2352A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

M.K.S. 5. Your 1515/18th. Destinations as follows.
This gives 11 northabout ships. The remainder,
with exception of MOANDA for Barrow and ships for
Bristol Channel ports as in my 0956/18th, are for Mersey ports.
This gives 29 southabout ships.
(C. in C. W.A., 0213A/19 to BLACK SWAN.)
(1) Your 1223A/17th. Total fuel stocks remaining in tons
7 days.
(2) My P.C.S. 49° 54' N. 14° 10' W., 025°, 7 knots.
(3) My D.G. out of action.
(SCOTTISH, 0927A/19 to BLACK SWAN.)
(1) BLACK SWAN 0615/19. BLACK SWAN retains ships in
company. Correct destinations are CITY OF PERTH, FRANCIS PARKMAN
and TOPDALS FIORD to Mersey, MOANDA to Barrow-in-Furness.
(2) M.K.S.5 (South) destination of EXCHESTER Clyde. She is to
be detached to proceed independently from off Skerries.
(C. in C. W.A., 1715A/19 to BLACK SWAN, FOWEY.)
On reaching position S and subject to further instructions
from C. in C. W.A. VIOLET is to be detached to proceed
Liverpool.
(BLACK SWAN, 2232A/19 to SCOTTISH.)

T.A. 34. T.A.34 sailed. Codeword "Subsoil". Amend E.T.A.
(QUEEN to read 1600Z/24.
ELIZABETH) (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0446/19 to A.I.G.307.)
T.A.34 sailed at 0456/19.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0459/19.)

/J.W.52 ...

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- J.W. 52. Sail at 1730 tomorrow and proceed by searched channels to Scapa, adjusting speed to arrive at 0800/21.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1041A/19 to FAULKNOR.)
My 1126/18th. Whilst battle fleet is at Akureyri request two A/S trawlers may be available for local patrol if they can be spared from other duties.
(C. in C. H.F., 1107A/19 to A.C.I.C.)
Based on aircraft reports up to 1445A/19 estimate J.W.52 will pass through position 'C' at 1700A/20.
(C. in C. H.F., 2328A/19 to ONSLAUGHT.)
- K.M.S. 8. Intend sailing AYRSHIRE escorting EMPIRE NEWTON, INDIAN PRINCE, MERCHANT PRINCE, and EMPIRE HAVEN 1130Z/21st for R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles with Clyde portion in accordance with A.M. 1022/15th and 1902/15th. E.T.A. at R/V 0900Z/22. S.O.A. 9 knots. AYRSHIRE to Liverpool on completion.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1102A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)
- F.S. 15. Request you instruct sweepers in vicinity 3A WALLONIA. buoy to investigate R.D.F. contact reported 1 mile North of 3A at 1150. Track previously moved North and is now stationary. SS. WALLONIA missing from F.S.15 may be vessel in question.
(C. in C. Nore, 1235A/19 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)
- S.C. 115. My 1538/13. In view of the unsatisfactory nature W.W. BRUCE. of reply received in N.C.S.O. Clyde's 1650/17 request this matter may be taken up with Comnav. 2. Para. 4 of N.C.S.O. Clyde's 1650/17. W.W. BRUCE's 1055/13th to Admty. reveals that she did not keep the R/V given in Admty.'s 1710/12th.
3. W.W. BRUCE's failure to report her escape or reply to Admty.'s 2150/10th necessitated a diversion of ships and aircraft to search for this ship or her crew which reduced the protection afforded to a convoy and caused a considerable amount of wasted effort.
(C. in C. W.A., 1315A/19 to Admty.)
- W.P. 281. Operation "Valuable". CLEVELAND, GOATHLAND, and SLAZAK will be sailed to Portsmouth as additional escort to convoy W.P.281 today.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1319A/19.)
- H.X. 222. Your 1115A/19. No ships capable of arriving 004° W. by 0800A/21.
Convoy's position at 1400A, 059° 37' N. 016° 45' W., speed of convoy 6 knots.
Have 14 ships capable of 12 knots in good weather, probably 9 knots in present weather. Intend detaching these at 1800A/19 consisting 7 Mersey, 5 Belfast, 2 Clyde with ST. CROIX, CHESTERFIELD and SHEDIAC as escort, E.T.A. 007° W. 1100A/21st.
This may be amended by ST.,CROIX.
(VANSITTART, 1447Z/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- W.S. 26. My 1442/19. Ships delayed by fog. Intend sailing SKATE escorting VOLENDAM, DOMINION MONARCH, SIBAJAK, HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, MOOLTAN, DEMPO, and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND 1130A/20 for Clyde in accordance with A.M. 0040/14 and C. in C. W.A. 1722/14. E.T.A. 0730A/21. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1452A/19.)
- TJALDUR. Intend sailing at 1630/21 TJALDUR kite balloon for Lerwick with troops escorted by DULCIBELLE. Route. S.O.A. 10 knots. E.T.A. Lerwick 1430/22. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1535/19 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- R.A. 52,
ON SLOW S.B.N.O. North Russia 09(737)/18. ON SLOW is to sail with R.A.52 and is to be stationed inside the A/S screen as required by ONSLAUGHT.
(2) After crossing longitude 05° E. ON SLOW is to be detached at the discretion of ONSLAUGHT to proceed independently to Scapa at best speed, fuelling Seidisfjord if necessary. (C. in C. H.F., 1621A/19 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- O.N.S.J.163. C.T.U. 24.6.5 in DUANE plus SCHENCK and LEARY designated for O.N.S.J.163 now expected to include 11 ships departing Reykjavik about Jan. 25th. (C.T.G. 24.6, 1628Z/19 to C.T.F. 24.)
- O.N.162. Request information when BRITISH ARDOUR and MOSLI may be expected to arrive Merville for conference with escorts of O.N.162. It is desired to carry out practice oiling at sea before sailing. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1809A/19 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)
- EXIRIA. My 0958A/18. Amended destination EXIRIA to Liverpool. (C. in C. W.A., 2248A/19 to DELHI, LANCASTER.)
- D.S. 36. D.S.36 sailed. E.T.A. Reykjavik 0900A/22. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2338A/19.)

War Diary.

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area.

Composite
K.M.F. 10
K.M.F.11
Convoy.

1. Essential in order economise escorts to complete K.M.F. build-up convoys and revert maintenance basis earliest possible. Propose therefore despatch personnel scheduled K.M.F.11 comprising balance of build-up First Army Order of Battle to sail with K.M.F. 10.
2. Implications as follows: (a) Vehicles and equipment other than that carried in personnel ships must go in K.M.S*11 arriving approx. twenty days after personnel.
(b) Usual conducting personnel will accompany vehicles in M.T. ships but as vehicles will load after personnel convoy sails drivers must either:- (i) accompany main bodies same time as K.M.F. 10 implying delivery arrangements vehicles to ports undertaken War Office; or (ii) remain to deliver vehicles to port, in which case drivers will not reach you until first maintenance convoy two weeks after vehicles. First alternative appears preferable: confirm.
3. Enlarged composite K.M.F. 10 and 11 convoy estimated approx. 35,000 personnel. Thereafter K.M.F. convoys cease and maintenance planned to be monthly breaking off from W.S. convoys to Indian Ocean destinations. First maintenance convoy with W.S.28 sailing about 20th. March one month after K.M.F.10/11. Thereafter probably monthly.
4. Appreciate amalgamation K.M.F. 10 and 11 may involve some difficulty for you owing arrival certain unit personnel ahead of vehicles. Must however emphasise provision escorts for fortnightly K.M.F. convoys presenting greatest difficulties. Confirm your agreement course proposed most immediate together with priority list K.M.11 personnel and vehicles and decision regarding drivers para.2 (b) above K.M.S. convoys will not change over to maintenance basis until after K.M.S. 12.
5. Pass to N.C.X.F. Agreed with Admty. and M.W.T.
(War Office 1100A/19. to A.F.H.Q.)

DANIEL HUGER, JOHN WHITTIER and SAMUEL CHASE, W.S.A. vessels, did not complete discharge at Oran in time to make G.U.S. 3 convoy to U.S. To avoid long awaiting next G.U.S. convoy it might be advisable send them to U.K. for joining U.S. convoy from there.

2. Second possibility you forward 3 other ships now in U.K. in convoy to U.S. and use above named ships in next K.M.S. convoy to "Torch".

3. An immediate reply is necessary as 3 vessels at Oran must be cleared immediately for either Gib. to await next G.U.S. convoy or as suggested for U.K.
(Algiers 1712Z/19 to Etousa)

/K.M.F...

War Diary.

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area Contd.

K.M.F.
Programme.

The following is proposed programme for K.M.F. convoys. (A) K.M.F. 9, 3 ships capacity about 10,000 to leave U.K. on 7th. Feb.

(B) K.M.F. 10 about 12 ships, capacity about 35,000 to leave U.K. with W.S. 27 on 23rd Feb. (C) Two ships, capacity about 5000, to leave U.K. with W.S. 28 on about 20th. March.

2. Request confirmation that these proposals are acceptable. 3. War Office have signalled similarly to Freedom, Algiers.

(D.O.D. (H) 1954A/19 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gib. C. in C. W.A. F.O.C. W.A.)

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. My 1948A/12.

1. No further reports of German or Japanese raiders.
 2. Norwegians ex RHAKOTIS report as follows. Ship left Batavia 5th Nov. with cargo value about 500,000 pounds proceeding through approx:-
 - (A) 28° S. 75° E.
 - (B) 45° S. 30° E.
 - (C) 44° S. 20° W.
 - (D) 06° S. 22° W.
 - (E) 37° N. 43° W.
 - (F) 43° N. 38° W.
 - (G) 46° N. 22° W. Thence zigzagged in an easterly direction for Biscay.
- RHAKOTIS met Raider 'H' on 18th Nov. U-Boats joined as escort from position (F). UCKERMARK seen in Batavia 5th Nov. due to sail for Yokohama to load thence Balikpapan. REGENSBURG left Batavia for Europe was torpedoed but little damaged and beached on Sumatra, later refloated and cargo discharged at Batavia thence Singapore for repairs. Above graded B.1. Reported route considered very probable.
3. Damaged tanker SPICHERN from Ferrol seen at Brest by P.R.U. on 15th Jan.
(D.D.I.C. 1826A/19 to A.I.G. 13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

- G.U.S.3. S.N.O. Casablanca's 1520/18th to N.C.X.F. only. R/V for Mediterranean section is 033° 58' N. 007° 57' W. at 1500A/20th. (N.C.X.F. 0931A/19 to V.A. Gibraltar, Escorts of G.U.S.3 (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty.etc.)
- ERNE, SCARBOROUGH sail to rejoin G.U.S.3. Ships part company as necessary R/V convoy. T.M.F.2 028° 43' N. 012° 51' W. at 0900 as ordered, thence escort tanker ESSO GETTYSBURG to Ponta Delgada, thence Gibraltar.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1830A/19 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. ships escorting convoy T.M.F.2, S.N.O. Casablanca, R.A.W.A.)
- Intend sail G.U.S.3 as follows. From Casablanca commencing daylight 20, LANUARE, WILDWOOD, PETER MINUIT, LENA LUCKENBACH, MATTAPONI, HEGIRA, BENJAMIN, BOURNE, ALCOA, VOYAGER, MICHIGAN, WEST HADAKET, ALLANDALE, PAUL HAMILTON. OLIHANA ALGME, WEST NILUS, ANTHONY WAYNE, RAPIDAN, AMERICAN ROBIN, ELORN, CORRALES, TILAPA, Mindiv 50 composed of KEOKUK WEEHAWKEN SALEMN (as received) Escort Force C.T.F.33, to rendezvous from Safi THOMAS S. LEE, COLUMBIAN, to rendezvous 1400Z/20 at 33.58 N. 07.57 W. Mediterranean Section consisting of CHILBAR, LORRAINE, ANNA KNUDSEN, PRESIDENT DE VOGUE, ATHOS, WILLIAM JOHNSON, EMPIRE AIRMAN, ESSO BAYWAY, ESSO CHARLESTON, BENJAMIN HARRISON, RHODE ISLAND, BRET HARTE, JOHN JAY, GEORGE REEMS, PARDO, ELIZABETH BAKKE, JOHN CAST, CALHOUN, BENNINGTON, OLIVER HAZARD PERRY. Escorts guard convoy frequency 2410 k/cs Gib. and Washington F as previously directed 2333 k/cs within 100 miles Casablanca.
(S.N.O.C.A. 2252/19 to N.C.X.F. Admty. Cominch, Cinclant.)

/C.J. BARKDULL ...

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

C.J.
BARKDULL. Your 1408A/18. S.N.O.C.A. reported BARKDULL straggler. U.G.S.3. N.C.X.F. 1055/13. (V.A. Gib. 1000A/19 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. S.N.O. Casablanca.)

K.M.S.7. Sailing in K.M.S.7 1800/18th. For Algiers, FORT CONFIDENCE, ORKLA, ITTERSUM, FINTRA, CLIONA, CLAN MACBEAN, ST. ESSYLT, EMPIRE (DRIVER), SOUTHGATE, SALTWICK, SAN AMADO. For Oran, UTAHAN, LWOW, BLENHEIM, VANJA. For Bougie, NORTON. For Bone, WELSH TRADER. Loaded Gibraltar (details). (S.T.O. i/c Gibraltar 1010A/19 to P.S.T.O.X.F. (R) D.S.T. etc.) K.M.S.7 Gibraltar section arrived (13 ships). (V.A. Gibraltar 1245A/19 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.) K.M.S.7 arrivals p.m. 18th ARDROSSAN, 19th DUNBAR, WORTHIN, PELICAN, SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN, GERANIUM, AZALEA, SPIREA, LYME REGIS, B.D.V. BARWIND, A.B.V. THALASSA. (V.A. Gibraltar 1815A/19 to Admty., C. in C. Western Approaches. N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Situation
Reports. Situation report Area X at 2002A/19.
(1) DELHI, LANCASTER, TANATSIDE, NEWARK one merchant ship 38.44 11.09 through 43.20 15.30 thence northward 14½.
(2) LOCH OSKAIG patrolling off Tagus to R/V one merchant ship at 2300A/19th off Tagus and escorting coastwise to Cape. St. Mary thence direct Gibraltar 9.
(3) D.64 U.S. ship AUK, 3 P.Cs, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, BUTSER, BIRDLIP 29.50 10.11 northbound coastwise 7½.
(4) PENELOPE 45.42 16.32 through 40.01 17.01 thence 130° 17½.
(5) PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIR Tug NIMBLE 34.57 08.14 to Gib.12.
(6) IMPERIALIST, LADY D PENDER 29.42 14.06 048° 1 knot.
(7) M.K.S.5 (X) HAVELOCK, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE, GODETIA, ILFRACOMBE (Corrupt Group) (Y) TADOUSSAC 38.25 12.48 through 39.58 15.10 thence 003° 8.
(8) LAUDERDALE approx. 38.05 11.20 to join M.K.S.5 (X) In daylight 20th 13½.
(9) WIVERN, VENOMOUS 32.08 10.18 to R/V T.M.F.2 in 24.34 16.12 at 1200A/21st.
(10) Swedish Relief ships AKKA, YARRAWONGA 36.01 12.40 270 12.
(11) G.U.S.3 Casablanca Section sailing a.m. 20th through 33.58 07.57 at 1500A 20th thence 239 9.
(12) G.U.S.3 (O) WOLVERINE, ENCHANTRESS, ERNE, BADSWORTH, LIMBOURNE passing Europa Point 1600A 19th routed through 35.49 06.22 to R/V Casablanca section in position 33.58 07.57 at 1500A (?20th) After R/V BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE, LIMBOURNE to Casablanca, ENCHANTRESS and ERNE to southward.
(13) M.K.F.7 WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, GORLESTON, TOTLAND, WEAR passing Europa Point approximately 0700A/20th through 36.21 09.59 thence 295 13.
(14) D.65 ANNAMITE 26.19 14.28 northbound coastwise 5.
(15) PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER off Spartel Cape through 035° 42' 006° 22' and 032° 08' 010° 17' thence 216° 16.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1110A/19, 1216A/19.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Situation Area Z at 1958A/19. T.M.F.2,
 Reports. RACEHORSE, 2 destroyers, 022° 12' 024° 25'
 (contd.) 089° 13.
 2. D.65, ANNAMITE, 026° 19' 014° 28' Northbound
 coastwise 5.
 3. H.M.I.S. CARNATIC 025° 26' 016° 02' through 025° 01' 016°
 30' thence 200° 12.
 4. GLENROY, JANUS 021° 09' 020° 39' 344° 11.
 (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1312A/19.)

P.339, My 0925A/18 Jan. Add 24 hours to all times.
 TORBAY. (S.3, 1114A/19 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty.,
 N.C.X.F., F.O.(S), C. in C. Plymouth,
 F.O.I.C. Falmouth, S.O. S/Ms Gibraltar, S.8,
 P.339, TORBAY)

ESSO Admty. 1750/15th (Sailing and routeing instruc-
 GETTYSBURG. tions ESSO GETTYSBURG) Request you will
 arrange.
 (N.C.X.F. 1136A/19 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) N.C.S.O.
 Ponta Delgada, Admty.)

Attack on The attack by Hudson Y/500 on 15th November
 Italian U/B 1942, in 37° 36' N. 01° 58' W. probably
 15/11. destroyed a U-boat. Please give our con-
 gratulations to those concerned.
 (D.A/S.W.*1201A/19 to Air Mins.) * Approved V.C.N.S.

A/S Air Your 0240/15*. Para.4 not to S.N.O.C.A. Allied
 Operations. C. in C's directions on the co-ordination by
 A.O.C. Gibraltar of A/S air operations in the
 Western Approaches to Gibraltar and Casablanca
 are given in Part 2, Para. 3, dated 15th October.
 (2) The arrangements are in fact working satisfactorily vide
 my 1829/28 Nov. and V.A. Gibraltar 1054/2 Jan.
 (N.C.X.F. 1201A/19 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, A.O.C.
 Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A.)
 * 0240/15 was T.O.O. given by War Registry to Air Ministry
 signal T.O.O. 0020/15 when passed to N.C.X.F. and F.O.C.W.A.F.
 (N.T. in W.D.)

Cable MIRROR escorted by KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE 037° 27'
 Repairs. 025° 01' to repair cable in position 037° 41'
 026° ? 46' 9. Situation at 2006A/19th.
 (V.A. Gib. 1231A/19 to Area Y.)

M/Vs for The following six merchant ships are required to
 New York. be sailed when ready to New York. AJAX,
 GLOUCESTER, CLAN LAMONT, CITY OF EDINBURGH,
 CITY OF PRETORIA and TILAPA. 2. Requested that
 these ships may be sailed in G.U.F.4 if possible, otherwise (a)
 those ships which declare 15 knots or over to be sailed in two
 or three escorted groups at intervals of not less than 24 hours
 dispersing after dark in about 12°. West and proceeding thence
 independently to destination; (b) those of under 15 knots to
 be sailed to U.K. and M.K. convoy for onward convoy to North
 America.
 (D.T.D. 1302A/19 to V.A. Gib. (R) N.C.X.F. S.N.O.C.A.)/G.U.S.3...

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

- G.U.S.3,
escorts,
fuel. My 1032/19 not to Admiralty. LIMBOURNE,
WOLVERINE, BADSWORTH, VANOC and ST. NECTAN have
reported great difficulty and slowness of
obtaining fuel at Casablanca.
2. LIMBOURNE, WOLVERINE were completed with
50% Diesel Oil.
3. In view of para. (1) BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE were sailed early
to relieve ERNE, ENCHANTRESS so that latter could be fuelled at
Gibraltar and rejoin convoy as it passed Europa.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1330A/19 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)
- WILLIAM
WILBERFORCE. Tenerife's 1015/18th (1015/17th intended, re
WILLIAM WILBERFORCE lost 9th Jan.) which refers
to British Ship WILLIAM WILBERFORCE is being
passed to you for information.
(V.A..Gibraltar 1506A/19 to N.A. Madrid.)
- M.K.F.7. Intend to sail to join in 035° 59' N. 005° 21' W.
at 0700A/20, ORMONDE (carries approx. 800
passengers) VILLE D'ORAN (carries 200 passengers)
ORMONDE holds one ship pad 431; both ships hold
S.P. 02272 (21) and (22).
(V.A. Gibraltar 1630A/19 to Ships escorting
convoy M.K.F.7 (R) Admty. Cdre. Algiers, N.C.X.F.
C. in C. W.A. Connv.)
- PRESIDENT
DE VOGUE. Tanker PRESIDENT DE VOGUE has cracked tail
shaft and is unfit to proceed to U.S.A.
Temporary repairs being effected to enable vessel
to reach U.K. when docking and fitting of spare
tail shaft carrier essential. Estimated date
for completion of temporary repairs 5th Feb.
(C.S. Gibraltar 1717A/19 to Admty. (R)
N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)
- PENTSTEMON. Amend E.T.A. Europa Point 0830A/20th. My
P.C. and S. 1800A/19th 034° 58' N. 008° 40' W.
068° 12. Special uncoded. Weather Report.
(PENTSTEMON 1723A/19 to V.A. Gibraltar, Capt.(D).)
- Salvage
Tug. Following for D.N.I. My 1052/5th. Portuguese
Ministry of Marine have definitely refused to
allow Bensaude to purchase tug. Reference sheet
giving details follows.
(N.A. Lisbon 1814/19 to Admty.)
- PENN,
PATHFINDER,
PANTHER. Sailing PENN, PATHFINDER, PANTHER to Freetown.
Q.L.A.148.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1821A/19 to Admty., F.O.C.W.A.
N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) S.O. Force H.)

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

- EXIRIA. V.A. Gibraltar's 1825A/17. Request amended destination EXIRIA to Liverpool be passed to Escort and ship named.
(D.T.D. 1837A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)
- PENELOPE. Cancel my 1142/16th (N.T. in W.R.) On arrival sail PENELOPE for Mers-El-Kebir. S.O. Force H. is requested to arrange intensive programme of H.A. practices for PENELOPE covering a period of 5 or 6 days.
(N.C.X.F. 1849/19 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) S.O. Force H, PENELOPE, Capt. (S) 8, Cdre. Algiers.)
- T.M.F.2. Warships VENOMOUS and WIVERN departed to join T.M.F.2.
(Gibraltar 1924/19 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)
- Movements. Arrivals. 0850. PENN, PANTHER, PATHFINDER from Oran. 1220 ENCHANTRESS, ERNE. 1530 SCARBOROUGH. 1745 ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH. All ex G.U.S.3 (O) Departures 0630 BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE to R/V G.U.S.3 (O) 1515 LIMBOURNE with Gibraltar section G.U.S.3 to join main convoy. Q.K.3, Q.K.A.84.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1950A/19 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)
- Rescue Tugs. Your 1720/6. EMPIRE NED and EMPIRE FRED are now being commissioned in United Kingdom as H.M. Rescue Tugs and sailed for Gibraltar as soon as possible.
(D.S.T. 2102A/19 to P.S.T.O. X.F.)

War Diary.

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Free
French
Corvettes.

Your 1127/15. Free French authorities have no objection to Free French Corvettes being detached temporarily to the Cape area, though they desire that the period should be for less than three months, and that corvettes should not be based away from Freetown.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 0009A/19 to F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. S.A., D.F.E.F.)

Dakar
Meeting.

Opanav 0041/19. See America and West Indies.

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM,
BIRMINGHAM.

My 1401/18th not to BIRMINGHAM (N.T. in W.D.) NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Amend route to read T 029° S. 043° E. U 027° S. 049° E. remainder of positions unchanged. Amend speed to read (A) 19½. (B) 21½. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0738Z/19 to Admty., C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F., S.O.(I) Colombo, N.O.I.C. Aden, N.O.I.C. Suez, F.O.R.S., BIRMINGHAM.)
My 1401/18 (circulated under N.C.S.O. Durban's 1355/18.) NIEUW AMSTERDAM late four hours. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1407Z/19 to Admty., etc.)

Situation
2000Z/19th.

BURDOCK, CORINTHIAN, HYDRANGEA, BELLWORT, BREDON with convoy K.X.8 12.25, 18.04 to 11.00 18.00 thence 140, 9.

FANDANGO 13.00 17.52 to Bathurst 8½.

Netherlands S/M 0.19, 15.58 19.28, 358, 9.

GLENROY, JANUS 21.56, 20.52, 343, 10½.

PICT, 2 M.I.s. escorting 10.23, 16.23 to 11.00 17.19 thence to 344, 8.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 0901Z/19.)

BALUCHISTAN.

N.O.I.C. Takoradi's 1912Z/18th. As it is presumed no oil fuel available at Walvis Bay, intend diverting BALUCHISTAN to Pointe Noire from position B.

(F.O.C.W.A., 0905Z/19 to C. in C. S.A., (R) N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Admty.)

(1) From Position (B) Equator 001° 10' E., BALUCHISTAN to proceed to Pointe Noire to refuel. E.T.A. a.m. 22nd Jan.

(2) On completion B.N.L.O. W.Af. is to sail BALUCHISTAN for Simonstown.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1913Z/19 to BALUCHISTAN, B.N.L.O. W.Af., (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty.)

CROCUS,
RHESUS.

Departure from Pointe Noire 2100Z/18th CROCUS. Expect to arrive Boma p.m. to escort SS. RHESUS to Takoradi.

(B.N.L.O.W.Af., 0915/19 to F.O.C.W.Af., (?S.B.N.O. W.At.), (R) Admty., etc.)

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

MARQUESA. Ref. your 1710A/14th Dec. 1942 to B.N.A. Buenos Aires (re boarding MARQUESA for mails). MARQUESA overdue.
(B.R.L.O. Buenos Aires, 1030/19 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrived FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE. T.O.O. 1128Z/19.
(B.N.L.O. Dakar, 1130Z/19 to F.O.C.W.A.)
Arrival 18th Jan. BRIDGEWATER.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1337Z/19 to S.B.N.O.W.Af., S.B.N.O. Casablanca, etc.)
Departure 19th U.S. P.C.609 and 577.
(R.O. Para, 1443/19 to Admty.)
Arrival 1615Z/19th Jan. S/M P.614.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1710Z/19 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty.)
Arrival 19th January U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE departure
18th U.S. Sloop HUMBOLDT.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1955Z/19 to Admty.)

ILEX, Request you will inform me probable date of
HOLCOMBE, arrival of ILEX and HOLCOMBE. QUIBERON and
QUIBERON, QUALITY will be sailed as soon as relieved
QUALITY. direct to (? Freetown) unless convenient south-
bound escort commitment arises about that date.
(N.C.X.F., 1144A/19 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

GLENROY, Ref. A.M. 1351A/18th. I have not diverted
JANUS. GLENROY and JANUS on account of low endurance
of JANUS.
2. JANUS should have sufficient endurance to
reach Gibraltar or alternatively Casablanca from present
position but could probably not reach U.K. from Gibraltar by
(? February) without refuelling on passage.
3. (? Request) Admty. will order any diversion considered
necessary.
4. My 1231Z/13th and my 0031Z/18th refer.
(R.A.W.A., 1211Z/19 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gib., N.C.X.F., JANUS,
GLENROY, C. in C. W.A.)
F.O.C.W.Af.'s 1211/19th.
Alter course forthwith to pass through new position (X) 030° 00'
N. 021° 00' W. thence to position (D) in F.O.C.W.Af.'s 1231/13th.
(D.O.D.(F), 2328A/19 to JANUS, GLENROY, (R) F.O.C.W.Af., V.A.
Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.)

K.X. 8. From position (K) 011° 00' N. 018° 00' W. proceed
to (L) 005° 00' N. 015° 00' W. Dispersal
instructions follow.
Pass to Cdre. and escorts in company.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1301Z/19 to CORINTHIAN, (R) C. in C.
S.A., Admty.)

/Escorted ...

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Escorted Ref. A.M. 1406/18th Jan.
Group A/S trawlers are arriving wanting boiler cleaning
Sailings. and urgent repairs. Latter are being undertaken
at each of Union (? ports).

(2) It is intended to recommence group sailing
from Capetown with C.A. convoys southbound east of Agulhas and
A.N. convoys north and westbound. 2 sailings weekly in each
direction. Coastal traffic eastbound will be sailed with
C.A. convoys and dispersed as necessary under air cover.

(3) Your para. 3 is covered by existing (? safeguards).

(4) Your para. 4. Certain lights and D/F beacons are in
operation and matter is continually under review.

(C. in C. S.A., 1305C/19 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af.,
C. in C. E.F.)

Your 1406/18. There will be no A/S vessels in this
command capable of giving escort to ships over 12 knots until
arrival of two destroyers from Eastern Fleet (vide A.M. 1858/17*).
2. If submarine threat to South African waters draws nearer
propose that of four destroyers ordered to escort VALIANT and
transports ORION and BRITANNIC to U.K., two should return
temporarily to Cape after convoy has been escorted through known
local submarine area. Probable date of sailing from Capetown
is Jan. 30th.

(C. in C. S.A., 1758/19 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af., C. in
C.E.F.)

* Hush, Most Secret, distribution.

CAP PADARAN, Departure CAP PADARAN with SARABANDE and COPINSAY
SARABANDE, E.T.A. Bonny Fairway Buoy 1500Z/20th, E.T.A.
COPINSAY. Takoradi 0600Z/23rd.
(R.O. Port Harcourt, 1335Z/19 to Admty., (R)
S.O.I. Freetown, N.C.S.O. Lagos, N.C.S.O.
Takoradi.)

O. 21. Your 1336C/12th para. (4) (N.T. in W.R.) Time
of departure p.m. 24th, further signal will be
made.
(D.S. O.21, 1516Z/19 to C. in C. S.A., C.O.I.S.
E.F., etc.)

Brazilian Departure 18th Brazilian Light Cruiser BAHIA and
Movements. Brazilian Minelayer CAMAQUAM to escort northbound
convoy. Brazilian Minelayers CARAVELLAS and
CABADELLO arrived and left same day to escort
same convoy.
(R.O. Bahia, 1630Z/19 to Admty.)

French L.O. Your 0920/17. Have informed Adm. Moreau that
Freetown. Capitaine de Corvette Halle, Reserve Officer, will
be acceptable to you as L.O. Freetown. He is
passing this to Adm. Collinet through Adm. Michelier.
(N.C.X.F., 1641A/19 to F.O.W.Af., (R) Admty.,
S.N.O. Casablanca, B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

/Trinidad ...

War Diary.

19.1.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Trinidad,
shipping
information.

Your 1701Q/18th Jan. to F.O.C. West Africa (F.T.T. 6 arrived Trinidad with no previous information as regards Merchant ships composing convoy). Information passed to S.O.(I) Kingston in my 1947Z/31st Dec. My 1251Z/3rd Dec. and S.O.(I) Kingston's 1137R/29th Dec. not to all addresses, refer.

(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1928Z/19 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad, (R) Admty., F.T.C.W.A., S.O.(I) Kingston.)

MATADIAN
etc.

My 1645Z/17 last para. Propose to include MACGREGOR LAIRD (10½ knots) KANA (9 knots) with MATADIAN (10 knots). Request early reply if this is acceptable.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1931Z/19 as amended 1033Z/20 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

Your 1645/17. Concur.

(N.C.X.F., 2201A/29 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., V.A. Gibraltar.)

S.T. 53.

(1) Sailed F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, COMMANDANT DROGOU, DUNCTON, M.L.261 and 278 escorting convoy S.T.53 consisting of 5 ships

at 1530Z/19th.

(2) Convoy proceeding by "Brown" route. Estimated S. of A. 9 knots. E.T.A. Takoradi will be signalled to N.O.I.C. Takoradi through aircraft.

(F.O.C.W.A., 2011Z/19 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty., etc.)

O.S. & S.L.
Convoys.

A.M. 1824A/15th Jan. para. 1 to 4, concurs. Proposal for running regular convoy between Freetown and Gibraltar will be included in further signals.

(F.O.C.W.A., 2057/19 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, V.A. Gibraltar, B.N.C. Rio de Janiero.)

Zigzagging.

Ships of speed from 7 knots upwards are to zigzag when within 400 miles of the coast of South Africa except in heavy weather or low visibility.

(C. in C. S.A., 2354C/19 to N.C.S.Os. Capetown, Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London, Walvis Bay, (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one Merchant Vessel and one Destroyer 37.28 N., 12.10 E. 015° 8 knots at 2359A.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 0023A/19 to A/C call signs, GKA/A, GKA/Q, GKA/J).

2 merchant vessels 3 destroyers in 38.05 N., 12.03 E. on course 060° speed 15 knots.
(A/C C/S GKAB/5 0145A/19 to A.H.Q. Malta).
Following read by Alex. W/T. P.C. and S. of 3 small merchant vessels 36.27 N., 10.53 E. 180° 5 knots.
(A/C C/S BTR Duty A/1 0910A/19 to Air H.Q. Malta).
Following has been read. Addressed K.T.L. P.C. and S. of 2 E-boats 35.30 N., 11.08 E. 180° 5.
(A/C B.T.R.A. 0930A/19).
Following has been read by Alex. W/T. P.C. and S. of 10 E.Bs. 34.50 N., 11.02 E. 200° 5 knots.
(A/C B/S BTR duty A/3 0945A/19 to A.H.Q. Malta).
Following read by Alexandria. P.C. and S. of one medium sized M/V and 3 E.Bs. 33.25 N., 11.18 E. 340° 5 knots.
(A/C call sign BTR Duty A/4 1040A/19 to A.H.Q. Malta).
Following read by Alexandria. P.C. and S. of one Medium sized M/V 3 small M/Vs and 12 E.Bs 33.07 N., 11.52 E. 300° 7 kts.
(A/C call sign BTR duty A/5 1050A/19 to A.H.Q. Malta).
Following read by Malta. P.C. and S. of 1 small M/V 32.57 N., 12.10 E. 090° 5 knots.
(A/C call sign BTR Duty A, 1100A/19 to A.H.Q. Malta).

ILLUSTRIOUS Your 1724/15 and Message 1615Z/18 from Chiefs of aircraft. Staff.
2. ILLUSTRIOUS is to disembark the 12 Albacores referred to in para. 3 of message from Chiefs of Staff.
3. In view of heavy demands on Swordfish aircraft that will arise in the near future for convoy protection in the Atlantic it may be necessary to withdraw 813 Squadron from North Africa at short notice.
(V.C.N.S. 0135A/19 to N.C.X.F.)

WELSHMAN 18th Jan. arrival and departure WELSHMAN, G.B. SPETSAI.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 0835B/19 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med).

Force K. PAKENHAM, NUBIAN and QUEEN OLGA returned from operations.
(V.A. Malta, 0924/19 to Admty etc).
2 destroyers of Force K leave Malta at 1400A today 19th to carry out sweep along Tripolitanian Coast from 011° 45' E., at about 2200A/19th to 012° 30' E., at about 0030A/20 (VA. Malta, 0937A/19 to C. in C. Med., 201 Group, H.Q., R.A.F. M.E., 247 Wing. (R) N.C.X.F., Admty).
KELVIN and JAVELIN sailed on operation.
(V.A. Malta, 1400/19).

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War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- 8th S.F. At 0800A/20th Capt. (S) 8 will assume operational control North of line Cape Bon to Marsala.
(Capt. S.8., 0940A/19 to 8th (S) F. (R) Capt. (S) 10).
- Infantile paralysis at Malta. Four. Outbreak Infantile Paralysis has caused closing of all places entertainment etc. Civilian almost all children stabilising about 380 cases. 49 Service cases including 26 Army not yet established nor localised.
(Governor Malta, 0940Z/19).
- M.K.S.6 My 1245/16, not to V.A. Gibraltar. Add French ships MARIE LOUISE LE BORGNE, JOSEPHINE LE BORGNE, GALLIUM, DUNKERQUE, CAPITAINE ARMANDE, also French escort ESSELM, LA SETOISE, and SERGENT GOUARNE, all for Gibraltar.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 0950A/19 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc).
- P.45, P.46. From dusk 20th keep south of latitude $035^{\circ} 48'$ P.46 will be operating north of this latitude.
(Capt. S.10., 1059A/19 to P.45 (R) S/Ms on patrol C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).
P.46 leaves Malta search channel 1500A/19th routed through.
1. $036^{\circ} 00' 014^{\circ} 00'$. 2. $036^{\circ} 06' 012^{\circ} 10'$. thence to patrol westward of line 340° from Kerkenah number 4 buoy and north of latitude $035^{\circ} 48'$.
(Capt. S.10., 1123A/19 to Submarines on Patrol (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).
Sailed P.46.
(V.A. Malta, 1614A/19).
- THUNDERBOLT Your 0433/19 (N.T. in W.D.) acknowledged. Well done. Return by reverse of your outward route R/V sweepers at end of searched channel at 0830A/20th. Destroyer in my 1055/19 arrives about 0900A and UNA from North West about 1100A.
(Capt. S.10., 1106A/19 to THUNDERBOLT (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1, Subs on Patrol).
- P.51 Leave patrol as necessary to pass through
1. $033^{\circ} 26' 012^{\circ} 38'$ at 2006A/19th.
2. $033^{\circ} 54' 014^{\circ} 14'$ thence to R/V with sweeper at end of searched channel at 0830A/21st.
(Capt. S.10., 1112A/19 to P.51 (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1., S/Ms on Patrol).
- M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs. 61, 77 and 82 arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1143B/19 to Admty).

/Bi...

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Bi-weekly Opsum No. 92 (Part 3). 18th Jan. 7 B.24s bombed ships in Tripoli Harbour. No hits claimed, some fires started in (Town?) near harbour. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1143Z/19).
- M.T.Bs. Sailed M.T.Bs. 260, 264, 267, 313. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1207A/19 to Admty. C. in C. Med).
- Force K sweep STROMBOLI sunk. My 0902/18th. PAKENHAM NUBIAN and QUEEN OLGA sunk Italian naval trawler or corvette STROMBOLI north of Lampion. 10 survivors rescued. Ship carried petrol for Lampedusa. (2) No damage or casualties in own ships. (V.A. Malta, 1214A/19 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty (?N.C.X.F.))
- Movements Oran. Arrivals nil. Departures RHODE ISLAND, JOHN JAY, JOGI CHARLIE, CALHOUN, BRET HARTE, GEORGE WEEMS, BENNINGTON, O.H. PERRY PARDO, ELIZABETH BAKKE, FRANCONIA, REINA DEL PACIFICO, IRENE DUPONT. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1350A/19 to Fairmiss (R) N.C.X.F. Connav).
- Balloons AX 592. 19 Jan. Following received from 295 Wing. (Begins) "Navigational warning balloons flying 2000 feet from Teswang North and Kanifang 19th Jan. to 28th Jan. inclusive 0900 to 1230 daily". Request all concerned be warned. Request C.A.I. pass to B.O.A.C.
(Air Ministry, 1354Z/19 to E.A.C. Algiers, H.Q. Coastal Command, H.Q. 44 Group, 24 Sqdn. R.A.D. Hendon, H.Q., E.T.O.U.S.A. Comnav, Widewing, U.S. VIII Air Service Command and Admty. C.A.I. and O.S. Nav. (N.Z.Z.)).
- M.K.F.7 M.K.F.7 sailed. FRANCONIA and REINA DEL PACIFICO for U.K. IRENE DUPONT for Gibraltar. Outcon 421 issued. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1355A/19 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. V.A. Gibraltar).
- Enemy Units. Following read by Alex. W/T. One small merchant ship (under 2,000 tons) 35.23 N., 11.18 E. One torpedo boat one schooner. Course 320° 8 kts. (A/C C/S BTA D/1 1540A/19 to Air H.Q., Malta).
P.C. and S. of 2 small M/Vs 34.52 N., 10.55 E., 030° 5 knots.
(A/C C/S BTA Duty D/2 1600/19 to A.H.Q. Malta).
One small merchant ship (under 2,000 tons) 34.15 N., 10.50 E. FQFU 1550 Course 320° speed 5 knots.
(A/C C/S BTR D/3 1605A/19 to Air H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S. of 2 transport barges one small craft 33.43 N. 11.03 E., 360° 5 knots.
(A/C C/S BTA duty D/4 1621A/19 to A.H.Q. Malta).

/Three...

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Three transport barges. One small vessel
Contd. (Under 2,000 tons) 33.35 N., 11.10 E., course
150° Speed 5 knots.
(A/C C/S BTA Duty D, 1623A/19 to A.H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S. of one M/V 2 destroyers and 3
schooners, 33.34 N., 11.20 E., 335° 8 knots.
(A/C C/S BTA Duty D 1627A/19 to A.H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S. of 6 transport barges 33.23 N., 11.24 E. 310°
5 knots.
(A/C C/S BTA on duty D. 1630A/19 to A.H.Q. Malta).
One schooner. 33.13 N., 11.50 E. course 290° speed 4 knots.
(A/C C/S BTA on Duty D. 1638A/19 to Air H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S. of 3 small Merchant vessels one Schooner and
one unknown 32.55 N., 12.55 E., 270° 6 knots.
(A/C C/S BTA 1715A/19 to A.H.Q. Malta).

P.211 P.211 leaves 036° 58' N., 003° 15' E., at 1900A/20
routed through 038° 17' N., 005° 01' E., at
0600A/21st 038° 25' N., 012° 24' E., at 2100/23
thence 040° to patrol off Naples.
(Capt. S.8., 1632A/19 to 8th S.F. (R) N.C.X.F.,
F.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers).

GURNA A. Your 0936/8th and my 1109/13th. I have an
urgent operational requirement for GURNA for
about three weeks.
B. Can you possibly spare her?
C. If so, F.O.R.S.C.A. is requested to sail her to Haifa with
all despatch.
(C. in C. Med., 1701B/19 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.R.S.C.A.,
Com. R.I.N., Admty. Com. Aden, N.O.I.C. Massawa). Reply: Yes.
(0527Z/20).

Walrus It is intended that Naval Walrus Squadron
Sqdn. established temporarily at Algiers during
Algiers. assault stage shall cease about 1st Feb.
(2) Admty. have approved following arrangements.
(i) Two Walrus aircraft with crews and
maintenance personnel and spares to re-embark
in RENOWN. (ii) Three Walrus aircraft with remaining spares
to be handed over to A.A.F. Eastern Air Command at Algiers.
(iii) F.A.A. personnel of aircraft handed over to return to U.K.
(iv) Eastern Air Command to demand further spares as required
from N.S.O. Gibraltar.
(3) H.Q.E.A.C. requested to confirm date of taking over.
(N.C.X.F., 1716A/19 to Comm. Algiers. H.Q.E.A.C., F.O. H.,
V.A., Gibraltar, RENOWN (R) Admty).

/E.A.C...

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

E.A.C. Opsum No. 69. 1800 hrs. 17 Jan. 43 to 1800 hrs.
 Report. 18 Jan. 43.
 18th. 1 Hudson on U-boat search sighted in
 37.50 N., 5.58 E., U-boat on surface attacked it
 and 250 lb. GP dropped just ahead of U-boat but
 without visible result. Another Hudson sighted in ITBJ 5308
 (indecypherable) U-boat surfacing, released one 250 lb. GP
 bomb at 1400ft. which exploded 100 to 150 yards ahead of U-boat
 which commenced to dive, Hudson then attacked with three 250
 D.Cs one exploding 45 yards ahead of swirl. Aircraft remained
 in vicinity 1½ hours but nothing further seen.
 F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 5 B.26s escorted by 16 P.38s attacked
 shipping off the Gulf of Hammamet. Trawler attacked. A burst
 30 to 50 feet from vessel but she continued on her course.
 (E.A.C., N. Africa, 1725A/19).

WELSHMAN, (A) My 1935/13th not to Admty. and V.A. Malta
 GURNA. 1146/16th not to Admiralty and WELSHMAN. In
 view of fact that Malta can only prepare 50 mines
 by 6th Feb. I have asked C. in C. E.F. for loan
 of GURNA for 3 weeks to transport mines from

Haifa to Alexandria.

(B) If he concurs, proposed programme for WELSHMAN
 (1) leave Alexandria a.m./26th arrive Malta a.m./28th.
 (2) carry out first laying 30/31st.
 (3) leave Malta p.m./31st arrive Alexandria p.m./2nd.
 (4) leave Alexandria p.m./4th arrive Malta p.m./6th.
 (5) carry out 2nd laying 7/8th, spare days 8/9th, 9/10th.
 (C. in C. Med., 1731B/19 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. V.A. Malta,
 WELSHMAN).

P.212 Leave (?patrol) so as to pass X 042° 17' N.,
 006° 52' E., at 0200/21st and Context 040° 01'
 N., 008° 01' E. at 0200/22nd, thence in accordance
 with my 1804 which follows in one time pad S.P.

02341.

2. Acknowledge my 1804 on passing position "Witness".
 3. Bombing restrictions arranged E. of 007° 30' E., as
 necessary.
 (S.8., 1742A/19 to P.212 (R) N.C.X.F.)

CAIRO CITY. My 0850/5th Jan. (re repairs to CAIRO CITY)
 Request CAIRO CITY on completion of repairs
 may be held Suez to embark Free French personnel
 for Madagascar and sailed to take advantage of
 escort arranged ex Aden for returning vessels C.M.37. S.S.T.O.
 Suez to arrange embarkation accordingly. Agreed G.H.Q. M.E.
 (P.S.T.O.M.E., 1806B/19 to F.O.C.R.S. (R) D.S.T. etc).

/Algiers...

War Diary.

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Algiers
Movements.

Algiers arrivals FELUCCA, SEAWOLF from Gibraltar
H.D.M.Ls. 1138, 1114, 1222, 1211, 1233, 1240 from
Oran. Departures C.S.12 in AURORA, LOOKOUT to
Bone. *GOELAND and CHASSEUR 3 with French convoy
to Bougie.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1807A/19 to Admty).
*? GROENLAND - A.P.V.

Dockyard
Stores.
Malta.

In view of probable early restoration of docking
facilities at Malta, important that despite
present difficulties, situation should be relieved
and that sufficient stores and materials should
be made available to enable Yard to carry out
refits and repairs to H.M. ships up to maximum
capacity of facilities available. Information requested
whether lists could be prepared of requirements on this basis
including particulars of structural materials called for in
A.M.1439/2 (not to Alexandria) and if so, when they could be
sent to Admiralty with copies to Alexandria. Allowances should
be made where possible for serviceable naval stores at present
inaccessible but now in course of recovery, vide Malta message
1201/1 (not to Alexandria). On receipt of lists Alexandria
should arrange supply from Middle East stocks where possible
and communicate to Admiralty at earliest possible moment by
air mail or by signal for important stores, details of items
not available.
(Director of Stores, 1818A/19 to A.S. Malta, (R) C.S. Alexandria)

Convoy
K.M.S.7.

TARTAR and CALPE are to leave patrol to escort
Oran section leave harbour at 0530A/20th to
join convoy in position 109 at 0700A.
2. They are to continue with convoy to position
36 (?North) 00° (?31) W., when CALPE is to
escort H. BURNEY and DELNORTE to Arzeu and TARTAR escort
ST. OLAF and BLENHEIM to Mostaghanem. Destroyers (?are)
subsequently to return to Mers-el-Kebir.
3. QUALITY and HAYDON are to leave harbour as ordered by
QUALITY to escort Oran section 9 ships for Oran and 2 for
Mers-el-Kebir from position 109 at 0700A to harbour entrance.
Subsequently QUALITY is to take over patrol and HAYDON proceed
for anti-submarine exercise.
4. TARTAR, CALPE, QUALITY and HAYDON acknowledge.
(S.O. Force H., 1826A/19, 2019A/19 to TARTAR, CALPE, QUALITY,
HAYDON, (R) F.O. Oran, Capt. (D) 6, VANOC, QUIBERON).

Malta Intelli-
gence Summary
2000Z/18 -
2000A/19.

3. Strikes. Night 18/19 Jan. 2324 hours one
torpedo Wellington attacked one of 2 medium M/Vs
with D/R escort 022° Marittimo 5 miles scoring
one probably hit. 0125 hours 1 torpedo
Wellington sank 1 of 2 large M/Vs 270° Marittimo
30 miles.
(Govr. Malta, 1914Z/19).

/Situation...

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean, - Contd.

Situation Western Desert. Misurata occupied 18th Jan.
Report No. 8th Army now in a line Khoms to Tarhuna, 50
325. miles S.E. of Tripoli (Libya).
(2) Photo R/C shows one M/V and one small M/V
sunk in south side of Tripoli Libya Harbour
entrance. Spanish Mole breached at corner.
Oil tanks on fire S.E. of Harbour. Many fires
on Spanish (?Mole).
(3) Malta. PAKENHAM, QUEEN OLGA and NUBIAN made sweep between
Kuriat and Kerkenah night of 18/19 Jan. One naval trawler sunk.
NUBIAN picked up ten survivors. (Amplified by 2050/20, q.v.)
(4) Submarines. PAPANICOLIS reports having captured 220 ton ⁷³⁰
caique SAINT STEPHANO about 30 miles S.W. of Melos.
(5) P.35 at 2103/9th Jan. in 35° 58' N., 11° 20' E., sank
2000 ton northbound M/V after a five hour chase.
(6) At 1737/10th Jan. engaged 1,000 ton northbound tanker
escorted by tug and armed schooner previously missed with
torpedo. She scored one or two hits with 12 pdr. convoy then
turned into Monastir.
(7) At 1802/11th Jan. in 36°24' N., 10° 33' E. gunned two
caiques. Both driven ashore, set on fire and beached.
(8) WELSHMAN carrying out troop movement between Beirut and
Famagusta.
(C. in C. Med., 1925B/19 2056B/20 to Admty).

Malta Air A.I.598 19th Jan. C.S.R. Malta.
Report. Part 1, offensive. 18/19 Jan. 1 special and
3 torpedo carrying Wellingtons were sent to attack
enemy shipping in Bizerta Marittimo area. 1
Wellington sighted 2234 hours 270° Marittimo 20
miles 2 M/Vs 5/6000 tons 3 D/Rs and 1 small escort vessel
course 070° speed slow. Wellington aimed 2 torpedoes at 1 M/V
with unobserved results. Another Wellington sighted 2324 hours
022° Marittimo 5 miles 2 M/Vs 3/5000 tons 1 D/R course 065°
speed 15 knots. Wellington aimed 2 torpedoes at 1 M/V and a
red glow and flash were seen at 0125 hours. Another Wellington
aimed 1 torpedo at 1 of 2 M/Vs 8/10000 tons escorted by 3
D/Rs 270° Marittimo 30 miles course, 025° 8 knots. A flash and
explosion were seen and M/V was left sinking. 1 Beaufort sighted
(?1805 or 1845) hrs. 250° Marittimo 60 miles 1 M/V 3/4000 tons 1
M/V 4000 tons 1 D/R 2 F-boats course 060° speed 8 knots.
(A.H.Q., Malta, 1940Z/19, 1130Z/21).

Oran Arrivals Nil. Departures PANTHER, QUIBERON,
Movements. QUALITY.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1959A/19 to Admty. N.C.X.F., V.A.
Gib).

Movements N.C.X.F.'s 1844A/8th (N.T. in W.R.) Departure
Philippeville. BRILLIANT, ANTELOPE, BUDE, SUMMERSIDE, MISOA,
BACHAQUERO.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 2001A/19 to Admty.
(R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar).

/Movements...

692A

Operation "Welcome".

Extract from War Diary of C. in C., Levant, January, 1943.

T.S.D. 4677/43.

January 18, 1943.

Operation Welcome. HMS THUNDERBOLT arrived off Tripoli (L), passage from Malta being without incident. At 2030 the executive signal to carry out the operation was made by Captain (S), Tenth Submarine Flotilla. At 2308 in position 315 degrees Tripoli Light 8 miles THUNDERBOLT launched her chariots. During these operations an E-boat was sighted a mile away but fortunately for THUNDERBOLT she was keeping a poor lookout. THUNDERBOLT was pre-arranged to be placed, since the containers were open, and chariot personnel were on deck being dressed. By remaining stern on to the E-boat she was undetected; having evaded the E-boat, THUNDERBOLT launched her chariots and withdrew to Malta.

2. Arrangements were made for Fleet Air Arm Albacores to drop flares and Red Vexy's lights to assist THUNDERBOLT on her run in and the chariots entering Tripoli (L) harbour. These were most effective. Diversionary bombing was also carried out.

January 19, 1943.

One chariot, soon after launching, developed defects and landed at about 0330 just west of Tripoli. The chariot was destroyed and the crew made their way inland through the outskirts of Tripoli. They were subsequently captured and taken for parachutists, but escaped again before the Eighth Army entered Tripoli (L). The other chariot entered harbour. After the occupation of Tripoli (L), an inspection of the wrecked GUILIO showed three possible limpet holes on her starboard side; this was the chariot's secondary target. His primary target was the SAN GIOVANNI BATTISTA, which was by then already in place as a blockship. Through an error, a final signal by Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, altering the priority of targets was never received by THUNDERBOLT. As a consequence a potential blockship was not attacked. There is no evidence to show what occurred to his main charge. The crew of the chariot, one officer and one rating, are missing.

January 20, 1943.

H.M.S. THUNDERBOLT arrived at Malta. The following signal was made by Commander-in-Chief to Captain (S), Tenth Submarine Flotilla:- "On her return to harbour please convey to THUNDERBOLT my high appreciation of her very hazardous undertakings. If the second part of the operation has succeeded the effect on the future operations of our armies in Africa will be immense".

January 23, 1943.

Advanced elements of the Eighth Army entered Tripoli at 0500.

Chariots XII and XIII lost in this attack. (P. Dwyer's Statement of Losses, HM-80, page 25)

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Movements
Tobruk.

Arrival ANTWERP, CROOME, PINDOS from Benghazi.
Sailed ZINGARELLA, BOKSBURG, SKUDD 4, HEKTOR 7,
WHITEHAVEN, BOSTON, CROMARTY, BURRA for Benghazi.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2103B/19 to Admty. (R)
C. in C. Med).

Movements,
Famagusta.

Arrived and left 19th Jan. Greek destroyer
AETOS. Departure a.m. and arrival p.m. WELSHMAN.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus, 2120B/19 to Admty.
etc).

P.44

Expect me usual R/V 1300/20.
At 1727/17 in position 038° 04' 011° 49' one
hit on 7000 ton merchant ship, kept down 36
hours in consequence.
4 torpedoes remain.
(P.44 2146A/19 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) S/M on Patrol)

MAURO
CROCE.

Departure 18th Italian MAURO CROCE 2100 Genoa.
(Valencia, ?/19 Recd. 1530/20 to Admty).

Enemy Units.

Following read: P.C. and S. of one destroyer,
one M/V are 33.52 N., 11.05 E., 340° 8 knots.
(A/C using call sign FCVU Nr. 1 via Alexandria W/T
2300A/19).

Movements
Port Said.

19th Port Said arrival M.L.359 APHIS, PANTHER,
departure APHIS, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, ALDENHAM,
KANARIS.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 2315B/19 to Admty etc).

War Diary.

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements. Arrival 0312Z 19th Jan. TULIP escorting TAIPING.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0329Z/19 to Admty.)

M.B. 24. Convoy M.B. 24 arrived less ELISHA WALKER delayed
with engine defect.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0556Z/19 to Admty. etc.).
Arrival GAWLER with M.B. 24.
(S.O. (I) Bombay, 1109Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy Escorts. Cancel my 0743/18th. Intentions for escort
BOMBAY and BENGAL P.B. 23, POOLE P.A. 21 sailing
0430Z/24th. Ocean Route number 3.
BATHURST and ORISSA P.B. 24 SONAVATI P.A. 22
sailing 0700Z/29th. Ocean Route Number 1.
(S.N.O.P.G. 0609Z/19 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz (R)
C. in C. E.F. etc.)

STEEL TRADER "S" Report. Following has been read from STEEL TRADER SSSS
True Bearing 53 distance 12 R 5 Guardafui.
(Colombo W/T No T.O.O. Recd. 1107/19.)

Movements. (2 corrupt groups) TEVIOT BANK, ADRIA to Bombay.
BRITTANY, WORESTERSHIRE, GAMBIA, D.S. 021,
DEVONSHIRE to Colombo.
(C. in C. E.F. 1144Z/19 to Admty.)

SECRET

694A

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 ~~NOTE~~)
MESSAGE

1422Z/19th January

Date 19.1.43.

Addressed A.H.Q. India,
Repeated 222 Group
Cypher

From Air Ministry Whitehall.

Use of China Bay andsonal by FAA

AX.580 19 Jan.

Your A.733 dated 4th January.

At present we can see no reason for handing China Bay over to the Fleet Air Arm. China Bay is a long established R.A.F. Station in the Indian Ocean Area. Further the responsibility for air defence is vested in C. in C. India and on the face of it he should therefore be afforded priority in all questions of air facilities. Disembarked Fleet Air Arm Squadrons are invariably resting, re-equipping or preparing for renewed operations in their proper role and tend therefore to be of little operational value in support of the static air defences. We adhere to the above as a matter of principle and support the view set out in paragraph 5 of your signal. If however present local conditions appear to justify a temporary departure from this principle, you should refer matter back to us for further guidance.

1422Z/19

Received from Air Ministry 1925/5 March

Air Ministry Circulation:-

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| D.O.N.C. | | |
| D/Plans. | | |

NOTE:- Air H.Q. India's 1030/4 ^(March) refers.
Copy of this signal was requested from Air Ministry.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
5th S.L.
D.C.N.A.E.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
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M. (10)
Admiral Blake (4)
D.A./S.W.
I.P.(3)
W.D.

Recd in W.D. 6/3/43.

War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Dakar, Meeting. (Admty. pass to British Chiefs of Staff, London) This is Glassford's 181523, action Opnav, Pass to C.C.S. and British Chiefs of Staff London and Cominch. Information has been received from Adm. Cunningham that the need for proposed meeting at Casablanca between F.O.C.W.A. Collinet, Michelier, N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, and myself no longer appears necessary by reason of good progress made so far. It has been suggested by N.C.X.F. that F.O.C.W.A. may wish some meeting to co-ordinate conversations on coast of west and north Africa. I have informed Pegram of my readiness attend such meeting. Pegram and Cole Hamilton both due Dakar this week for conference Collinet and myself.
(Opnav 0041/19 to Admty.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. Jan. 18th, arrivals THREE RIVERS, GEORGIAN ERA, H.J.28. Departures CALDWELL towed by FOUNDATION FRANKLIN to Boston, WASAGA escorting CALDWELL and tug CHELSEA to Halifax. H.M.R.T. FRISKY to New Orleans, U.S. MOJAVE MOHAWK, to S.G. 18.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 0235Z/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C. C.T.F.24, Britman Washington.)

ANDES, T.A.32. Your 1658/17. My 2021/17 refers. Details of personnel are not communicated to avoid duplication of War Office signals.
(D.S.T. 0329A/19 to N.S.H.Q.)

CLYDE. My 1742Z/18th. Request permission to pass boom defence at 0740 if weather is clear.
(CLYDE 0701Z/19 to Cominch, Connav, C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

This is Naval Base Cape May, New Jersey, 1310/19th also to Cominch, C'dant. 4th U.S. Naval District and C.E.S.F. (?B.A.D) Washington's 1019/19th and CLYDE's 0701Z/19th. Permission to pass Boom Defence granted.

(Cominch 1415A/19 to CLYDE.)

Philadelphia arrived Jan. 19th CLYDE.

(?N.S.H.Q. 2053Z/19 to Admty.)

INGERTRE (Norwegian) Aground 8 miles East of Bahia Tobejube 8 fathoms need assistance 0850 G.M.T.
(Washington No T.O.O/19 Recd. 0950/19.)
Sailed H.M.R.T. BUSY escorted by M.L.484 to assistance of SS INGERTRE aground in 9° 18' N. 60° 40' W.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1632Q/19 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Kingston.)

Following has been received from INGERTRE. Assistance no longer required vessel proceeding.

(Washington 2200 G.M.T/19 to Admty.)

War Diary.

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - contd.

U.G.F.4. Your 181326. Recommend from point E to new X 40.20 N. 38.30 W. then to A. Reasons as given in O.I.C. Serial 205 to Cominch for F.353. (D.O.D. (H) 1002Z/19 to Connav.)

U.S. Departures 18th U.S. Army Transport LEISENRING escorted by Y A G 20 and U.S. Tanker T.O 142 Miami 19th. (R.N.O. Nassau 1009/19 to Admty. S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
Movements. Departure VIEUXFORT 1600Q/18th, U.S. A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA TOWN 1000Q/19th. U.S. Ship S.C.522. (B.R.O. Saint Lucia 1031Q/19 to Admty.) U.S. Cutter MARION arrived. (R.N.O. Grenada 1035/19 to Admty. etc.)

Move ments 1800 G.M.T. 19th January.
Summary. Ship Position Course Speed
CARNARVON CASTLE 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° S. 44° W. 187° 13
T.A.32 40 $\frac{5}{8}$ ° N. 42° W. 270° 19
(D.O.D.(F) 1020Z/19 to Opnav (R) Commaveu.)

Position My 1748/11th, is it Connav's wish that these
Reports. position reports should be confined to the Atlantic and Indian Oceans?
(D.T.D. 1120A/19 to B.A.D.)
Reply: Yes until further notice.
(B.A.D. 2121Z/20.)

TAIGETE, In view possible congestion in Curacao due to
ARCOLA. arrival of large convoys, propose shift Italian tankers TAIGETE and ARCOLA to sheltered anchorage off Aruba. Can any information be given yet regarding length of stay in this area before loading.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao 1145QR/19 to Admty.)
Reply: 1420A/21.

NORSOL, Request NORSOL bound from Trinidad for Takoradi
T.B.3. be sailed in T.B.3 and be detached to destination at a suitable point on convoy route when situation permits. Tanker message.
(2) F.O.C. West Africa is requested to arrange for ship to be met by A/S escort if possible.
(D.T.D. 1236A/19 to Connav.)

Ocean R. Under New Ocean Escort Scheme Layover Western
Escort Terminus will probably average five days only.
Scheme. This adds weight to para. (C) of my 1927/21. With Westomp in vicinity of 48° W. Argentia means a day or more additional unproductive steaming with consequent waste of fuel and further reduction of inadequate layover period.
(F.O.N.F. 1319Z/19 to N.S.H.Q.)
W.R. Note: This message is passed to Admty. for information and any action considered necessary (see N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2345/19 now circulating)
/F.O.N.F.'s ...

War Diary.

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- Ocean Escort Scheme (contd.) F.O.N.F.'s 1927Z/21 Dec. and 1319Z/19 are passed to you for information and any action you consider desirable. (N.S.H.Q. 2345Z/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. F.O.N.F.)
- Trinidad, bunkers. N.O.B. Trinidad reports that 12 ships Ex F.T.T.6 were coal burners. At present coal stocks are just sufficient to bunker T.A.G.38 and replenishment is not expected until arrival G.A.T.38. This will result in delaying several coal burners which would otherwise sail in T.B.3, T.A.G.39 and T.A.G.40 besides causing serious delay to Bauxite Shuttle. Ships ex F.T.T.6 will be sent to Jamaica, St. Thomas, St. Lucia and Georgetown as practicable. (2) Suggest that your 1737/9 para.2 should be applicable to West African Traffic and further that an item for days bunkered be included in F.T.T. sailing telegrams. (B.A.D. 1339Z/19 to Admty.) Reply: D.T.D. 1936A/21.
- U/B. U-boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important ship. 0026Z/19th 45 40 k/cs, Alpha. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1340/19 to C.T. 34 (R) Cinclant, Admty.) C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 1340/19 to Comtask 34. Request bearings, preamble and text of German transmission be signalled, as transmission not intercepted in U.K. (D.D.I.C. 1920Z/19 to Opnav for 20G.) Further to information of my 1340/19th indicates U-boat not in your vicinity. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2102/19 to C.T.F. 34 (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) Admty.)
- M.M.S. My 0102/18th (re Kingston arrival Motor Minesweepers) M.M.S. undergoing minor repairs estimated at 6 days. (Capt. i/c Jamaica 1423R/19 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc.)
- BABBITT, POLARIS. Departed from S.C.116 with U.S.S. POLARIS in company at 1315Z position 061° 05' N. 034° 31' W. speed along prescribed track 10 knots. Weather report. (U.S. Destroyer BABBITT 1450Z/19 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, C.T.G.24.6.)
- ORILLIA, O.N.S.160. Your 1000/19th, not met, my P.C. and S. 059° 32' N. 035° 15' W. 225° 10 knots. My (?H/F) transmitter unable transmit below 7810 k/cs as explained in my 1912Z/18th. Request homing on another frequency. 5½ days fuel remaining at 12 knots. Unless contact made within next 24 hours and fuelling arranged must proceed independently. (ORILLIA 1530Z/19 to C.T.U. 24.1.12 (R) C. in C. W.A.)

/Your 1530/19 ...

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War Diary.19.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.ORILLIA,
O.N.S.160
(contd.)

Your 1530/19th. My observed P.C. and S. 1900Z/19 was 059° 17' 036° 05' 197° 7 knots. Regret your 1902/18 not decyphered in error. Report immediately to me only H/F on which you can transmit and home yourself on that frequency every hour commencing 1200Z/20th. Keeping lookout for stragglers SAN FRANCISCO and GLAISDALE. Weather.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12 2235Z/19 to ORILLIA (R) A.I.G. 301, A.C.I.C.)

S/M estimate,
19 January.
U.S. S/M
Notice.Cominch 1552/19, 1553/19, 1615/19, 1616/19,
1617/19, 1726/19.Payment of
French Navy.

J.S.M. Washington 1631Z/19 (J.S.M.690) to War Cabinet, quoting telegram 6134, 1714/18 from Eisenhower. See Lion Copy, Torch Area.

ANDES,
destinations
of personnel.

My 1658/17 and 1449/18. Your 2240/14 and 0346/15 received at 0925/19 and 2240/18 respectively.
Two D. of S.T. 0329/19 not understood as it has always been practice of Admty. to communicate details and destinations of Navy and Merchant Navy Personnel to C.O.A.C. and N.S.H.Q. War Office Signals do not give destinations which are always required well in advance of arrival so that necessary arrangements with railway companies may be completed.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1657Z/19 to Admty. (R) D. of S.T., B.A.D. C.O.A.C.)

Vessel for
Tank
Transport.

Trans.53 Reference P.S.T.O. Egypt Etrans 2, T.O.O. 1357/15.
1. W.S.A. have authorised Robinson nominate one vessel as requested.
2. Etrans 1 has not been received here.
3. Assuming that you prefer remain sole channel communication between us and Egypt when time permits we have not repeated this cable to Egypt.
(B.M.S.M. Washington 1739Z/19 to M.W.T. London.)

Revised
destinations,
information.

Your 1815/18 (re misrouteing of ships owing to non receipt of sailing telegram) Sailing telegram part 2 of Halifax Section is sent to escort of main convoy for information of Commodore. Relieving escort and ships from Halifax also in possession of necessary information.
(C.O.A.C. 1838Z/19 to Admty.)

/Shipping ...

War Diary.

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Shipping Casualties. Connav Serial 19. MOBILUBE torpedoed 033° 56' S. 152° 09' E. January 18th proceeding Sydney (N.S.W) KALINGO torpedoed sunk 034° 07' S. 153° 15' E. January 17th. LIPSCOMB LYKES aground Durand Reef south east Loyalty Island. Salvage under way. (Connav 1946/19 to Commaveu.)

M.P.R.I. M.P.R.I. Amendment 6. All independently sailed Merchant Ships from overseas bound for U.S. West Coast Ports, fitted with H/F transmission shall report, when approx. 24 hours steaming time from destination, their E.T.A. off entrance. Only time of arrival and not port of destination is to be transmitted. Messages shall be in P.L. and addressed to Commander Western Sea Frontier. Ships shall use their wartime call signs. The dispatch shall be transmitted to Station K.F.S. on either the 8, 12 or 16 megacycle Marine Bands. Reporting centres pass to routing officers your area. (Cominch C. & R. 2015/9 to U.S.R.Os etc.)

Canadian Troopships Dry. Defence Council of Canada has approved recommendation of Quartermaster General that, effective immediately, all troopships operating on Canadian Government account will be dry. This applies to troopships sailing from Canadian Ports allocated to carry Canadian personnel and in which Canadian conducting staff is in charge. B.A.D. pass to N.M.C.S. (N.S.H.Q. 2015Z/19 to Admty. (R) D. of S.T.etc.)

Sub.attack & sighting summary. Para. C. Army Transport Plane sights sub. 06.16 N. 52.10 W. 0928Z/19. Shore watchers sight sub. course West 46.50 N. 55.30 W. 2050Z/18. (Cominch 2053/19 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Movements. Departure PROVIDER with H O.N.(?158) for New York, BARRIE, COBALT, KENORA, DRUMMONDVILLE escorting H O.N.158. Arrival KENORA ex O.N.159. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 2101Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

A.T.35. A.T.35, ANDES, Army intend to embark 26th completing p.m. of same day. (N.S.H.Q. 2116Z/19 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C., B.A.D., Cominch.)

Movements. 18th Jan. Departure B.Y.M.S.15, B.Y.M.(?S) 16 for Boston. Arrival KENTVILLE, SUNDE(?W) (?escort to) J.H.29. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 2301Z/19 to N.S.H.Q. Cominch etc.)

War Diary.

19.1.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Auckland U.S.S. WEST POINT.
 (D.N.I. Wellington 0445Z/19 to Admty (R) A.C.N.B.)
 Departure Noumea 1900Z/18 U.S.S. BALCH, escorting
 MORMACPORT to Suva, Y, 23° 45' S. 167° 35' E., Z, 22° 00' 177° 30'
 S. of A. 16 knots. E.T.A. 0500Z/21.
 (D.N.I. Wellington, 0450Z/19 to Admty.)
 Auckland departure MONOWAI. E.T.A. Espirite Santo 2000Z/23.
 (D.N.I. Wellington, 0622Z/19 to Admty.)
 U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ departed Brisbane 18th. due Newcastle
 20th. U.S. transport BANTAM departed Brisbane 18th. due
 Townsville 22nd.
 (A.C.N.B. 1632Z/19 to Admty., Connav.)
 Arrivals Brisbane 18th. Jan. U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY.
 Departures Townsville 16th. Jan. U.S. Destroyer HELM for Barrier
 Reef.
 (A.C.N.B. 1633Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Digest Large destroyer and medium cargo vessel arrived
 No. 362 Buka Passage morning 18th. Jan. Cargo unloaded
 Jan. 18th. into Schooners throughout day.
 2. One destroyer one medium cargo vessel 4° 45 S.
 153° E. course 90° at 2326Z/17th.
 3. Three Fortresses bombed shipping Rabaul Harbour before dawn
 18th. Jan. but searchlight prevented observation of results.
 R/C mid morning reported one cruiser, six warships, 25 medium, 2
 large merchantmen plus 13 vessels under 1,000 tons. Also one
 cargo vessel escorted by destroyer off Cape Gazelle headed Rabaul.
 4. R/C Liberator bombed Madang Runway morning 18th. saw nothing
 at Finschhafen or Saidor Boudat. Noon scored two hits and sank
 loaded 8,000 ton cargo vessel escorted by small destroyer in
 position 3° 10 S. 149° 20 E. headed Rabaul. This convoy prob-
 ably same as in digest Serial No. 361 para 2. 5.
 Another Liberator bombed Finschhafen waterfront same morning.
 6. Catalina bombed Gasmata Aerodrome early A.M. 18th. Jan.
 7. 7.B. 25's 11 Beaufighters bombed and strafed fuel and supply
 dumps late forenoon 18th causing fires.
 8. Renewed clash Mubo area 17th caused withdrawal our patrols.
 4 Bostons bombed enemy defence positions morning 18th.
 9. Our troops took Sanananda village afternoon 18th. and forward
 units occupied Giruwa. 4 enemy pockets remain 2 on coast 2 on
 motor road.
 10. U.S. tanker MOBILUBE departed Sydney 18th. torpedoed 60 miles
 out near midnight but now being towed to port. Survivors seen
 from another vessel not yet identified sunk earlier same day by
 submarine action.
 11. Possible submarine contact east of Osprey Reef afternoon
 18th. Jan.
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0820Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

19.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1347A/19 1352A/19).

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly
Summary.

My 1059/22 July/42. On Jan. 13th. R.C.N. Corvette VILLE DE QUEBEC west of Algiers rammed and sank a German U-Boat. One survivor.

2. On 14th. a Beaufort aircraft S.E. of Malta attacked with 4 depth charges a surfaced U-Boat which was closing M.E. 15 from 6 miles ahead. U-Boat showed the white flag and opened fire. Aircraft returned fire driving some of the crew into the water. Aircraft guided to U-Boat 3 destroyers who sank the U-Boat by gunfire. U-Boat was Italian NARVALO on passage to Taranto with 12 Allied Officer prisoners on board.

3. On 15th. a Fortress aircraft straddled a fully surfaced U-Boat in 57° 40' N. 27° 10' W. with 4 Torpex depth charges. The U-Boat remained on the surface for 3 or 4 minutes and then slid backwards at a steep angle.

4. On 16th. a Searchlight Wellington aircraft in 46° 16' N. 02° 27' W. attacked an Italian type U-Boat with 4 depth charges and estimated one hit. Two large oil patches joined 3 minutes later by a smaller patch. 10 minutes later periscope and conning tower resurfaced.

(D.A./S.W. 1256A/19 to Cominch B.A.D. etc.)

War Diary.

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

O.S. Convoys Resumed sailings of O.S. convoys are to commence on 14 Feb. with O.S.43 (see 15 Jan). Thereafter the convoys will run on a 20 day cycle. It is desired to limit these convoys for the time being to 40 ships.

H.X., S.C. Convoys. The North Atlantic cycle is being opened to 10 days.

U.C/C.U. Convoys. The tanker convoys between U.K. and Curacao (U.C/C.U.) are to commence with U.C.1. on 13 Feb. The convoys are to be run on a 20 day cycle and it is intended to build them up to 40 tankers per convoy. An escort carrier is to sail with each convoy.

Home Commands.

Convoy J.W. 52 ONSLAUGHT, OFFA, MATCHLESS, BEAGLE, BULLDOG, MUSKETEER and PIORUN sailed from Seidisfiord at 0655 to join the escort of convoy J.W.52. (See 17 Jan).

Operation "Valuable". A heavily armed merchant ship is expected to pass Dover Straits westward in the near future probably strongly escorted. Destroyers from Portsmouth are to be on patrol nightly and a force of M.G.Bs. and M.T.Bs. will be at immediate notice at Newhaven during dark hours.

Raid by Norwegian M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs. 631 and 626 returned to Lerwick this morning from a raid on the Norwegian coast during which the Wireless Station and Watch post at Tungodden Stensund at the entrance to Sogne Fiord were shelled and it is believed the former was wrecked. The M.T.Bs. had no casualties or damage.

ADVENTURE sailed from Milford Haven today for Gibraltar.

Enemy aircraft attacked London in daylight today. Naval damage and casualties (at Greenwich and Deptford) were very slight.

M/S Trawler CYPRESS struck a floating mine off Shoreham this evening and was beached east of the harbour.

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet is placing at the disposal of C. in C. South Atlantic ten flying boats and six flying boat amphibians. It is anticipated that six Sunderlands will be available from the Mediterranean which will be retained in the Kilindi-Diego Suarez area for the protection of shipping in the Mozambique Channel.

Mediterranean.

At 0800A today Captain (S) 8 assumed operational control north of the line Cape Bon to Marsala.

JERVIS and NUBIAN sailed from Malta at 1300A today to carry out a sweep tonight off Turgoeuness

Three M.T.Bs. patrolled off Ras al Korad (Bone area) last night.

U-boat
sunk at
Tripoli.

* C. (112) 2438/21.
R. & Co. (112) 2001 B/1/2
Sms date 2330/19.

† SANTORRE
SANTAROSA

Four M.T.Bs. from Malta last night carried out an attack on the moles at Tripoli (L) to interfere with demolitions and blockings.

Three M.T.Bs. at 2330/20 sighted a submarine in tow of three tugs north of Tripoli: the M.T.Bs. engaged and M.T.B. 260 (Lieut. H.E. Sadds R.A.N.V.R.) sank the submarine.† The tugs, which abandoned the U-boat, were engaged and repeatedly hit, one of them being set on fire and apparently beached.

Air R/C of Tripoli today showed a 2000/3000 ton merchant ship being handled by small craft prior to being sunk across the entrance, and the jetty, north of the Spanish Quay appears to have been blown up.

SS. WALT WHITMAN (light) in Convoy M.K.S.6 was torpedoed aft at 0640A today by aircraft off Algiers, but arrived at Algiers under her own power.

Belgian SS. JEAN JADOT in convoy K.M.S.7 was torpedoed and sunk by a U-boat at 1700 today: VERITY rescued 250 survivors.

P.247 at 0300 today sank a schooner employed in reporting aircraft in 40.14 N., 14.10 E.

/Allied...

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Allied Air
operations.

Wellingtons torpedoed and probably sank a small merchant ship off Djerba in the early hours of this morning.

U.S. 12th Air Force report a hit with a 500 lb. bomb on a tanker 25 miles N.E. of Bizerta at 1340 today. B.24's made two attacks on shipping in Tripoli harbour today and report hits on a wreck alongside Spanish Mole and probable hit on another vessel: fires were started on the Spanish Mole. A Marauder torpedoed and sank a 1500 ton merchant vessel in the Aegean Sea.

At 2352 Beauforts attacked a tanker and a merchant ship escorted apparently by 7 destroyers in 330° Cape Bon 38 miles and torpedoed the tanker in the stern but could not see the result of the attack on the merchantman.

Three Beauforts laid mines last night at the entrance to La Goulette.

At 1850 today Hudson attacked a fully surfaced U-boat in 36° 28' N., 0° 40' W., but it was too dark to see the result.

America & West Indies.

The U.S. tanker BRILLIANT which was torpedoed on 19 Nov. 1942 broke in half this evening whilst in tow of FRISKY from St. Johns N.F. to Sydney C.B. and sank on 25 Jan. CHELSEA lost touch in 46° 24' N., 58.29 W., at 2100Z and proceeded to St. Johns, short of water and badly iced up. On 1230Z/21 she reported that FRISKY was ice-bound and unnavigable and had to run before the sea: her main wireless apparatus was iced up.

ORILLIA, one of the escorts of O.N.S.160, reports that she passed the sinking wreck of an oil tanker in 61° 00' N., 26° 15' W., at 0630Z/18.

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

P. 219 Pass Gate at 1800/20th and proceed to R/V with P. No. 219 bound from 180 Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0900/21 and escort her to Falmouth to await onward escort.

(2) Report when met or at 1100/21 if not met.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1145A/20 to FIR).
FIR will meet you in 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0900/21 and escort to Falmouth.
(Capt. S.3., 1501A/20 to P.219).
My 1709/19. Sailed FIR.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1757A/20 to Admty).

ADVENTURE

Sailed ADVENTURE.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1535A/20).

Positions of S/MS at 0800 /21st and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) Russian submarine S.51 70° 58' N., 10° 23' E., probably on surface through 71° 35' N., 15° 02' E. thence to Eastward. Speed 9 knots.

(B) P.224 70° 08' N., 14° 26' E. to patrol in vicinity of 70° 50' N., 16° 30' E.

(C) TRIDENT 69° 38' N., 11° 50' E. to patrol in vicinity of 71° 10' N., 16° 10' E.

(D) P.314 70° 08' N., 12° 03' E. to patrol in vicinity of 70° 52' N., 14° 10' E.

(E) P.312 TORBAY and P.339 escorted by CUTTY SARK 50° 32' N., 05° 02' W. due 000° Round Island Scillies at 1630/21st thence P.312 escorted by CUTTY SARK by standard route to Plymouth E.T.A. 0200/22. P.339 through 50° 10' N., 09° 01' W., to Westward. TORBAY through 49° 50' N., 09° 01' W. to westward.

(F) P.219 to R/V with FIR 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0900/21 thence escorted by FIR to Falmouth.

(G) U.S.S. GUNNEL 50° 01' N., 23° 52' W. thence probably on surface through 50° N., 26° W., for U.S.A.

(H) U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao.

(K) U.S.S. HERRING in Zone K.505.
(F.O.S., 1721A/20).

NEWFOUNDLAND

Full-power trial satisfactory. Ship accepted subject to minor defects being made good by contractors.
(NEWFOUNDLAND, 1801A/20 to A.S., C.B.S.)

EMPIRE ROACH,
EMPIRE TITAN,
EMPIRE CHUB,
CROCODILE,
ALLIGATOR.

My 1950/19 para. 7. Final destinations of small craft mentioned are EMPIRE ROACH - Freetown. EMPIRE TITAN - Takoradi, EMPIRE CHUB - Suez.

2. When ready at Milford Haven and weather favourable F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail them for Gibraltar in company unescorted.

3. CROCODILE and ALLIGATOR are allocated to Kilindini but will not be ready to sail with the

above.

4. All vessels have a speed of 8 knots.

5. EMPIRE ROACH and EMPIRE CHUB are fitted with W/T.,
(A.C.N.S. H., 1826A/20).

War Diary.

20.1.1943.

Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
Patrols.Patrol tonight. 3. CAMPBELL. 4. FERNIE,
5. MACKAY, 6. EGLINTON, 7. KITTIWAKE.
(C. in C. Nore, 0956A/20).Operation
"Valuable".

- (1) Operation "Valuable".
(2) Information. A heavily-armed merchant-ship is expected to pass Dover Straits Westward in the near future. She will probably be strongly escorted.
- (3) Object destruction of Merchant ship.
(4) Preliminary disposition of Force A consisting of destroyers as detailed is to leave Portsmouth each night for patrol in the vicinity 050° 28' N., 000° 15' E. Unless otherwise ordered Force A is to sail so as to pass E.A.5 buoy outward at 1800 and inward at 0830.
(5) Beachy Head light will be shown for 5 minutes after each exact hour at which time a landfall can be made to check position
(6) Force B at Newhaven consisting of M.G.B. and M.T.B. as detailed is to be at immediate notice there each night during hours of dark as striking-force.
(7) Execution. C. in C. Portsmouth will pass enemy information as received to N.O.I.C. Newhaven and Force A, and will order forces to attack. Q.Z.X.771 is to be crossed by passage 2 as given in Portsmouth memorandum 0221/94 of 23rd November 1942. Force B when ordered is to follow Force A across Q.Z.X. 771 but is not to overtake it and is to attack after destroyers. S.O. Force A is to give necessary directions when he has sighted enemy.
(8) An Air R/C will be flown between Le Havre and Somme.
(9) Fighter protection codewords Force A "Artful". Force B "Pugdog".
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1000A/20 to GLEVELAND, GOATHLAND, BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE, SLAZAK, etc).
(1) My 1000/20 para. four. Force A consisting of GLEVELAND, BLEASDALE, GOATHLAND, and SLAZAK is to be sailed 1600/20th.
(2) 9th M/S Flotilla passing E.A.5 buoy 1700/20th to sweep passage through Q.Z.X.771 returning to harbour on completion.
(3) C.E.148 pass E.A.5 buoy 1800/20 and C.3 buoy 2035/20.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1550A/20 to Capt. D.1.)
My 1550/20 and 1000/20. Request South Carolina Grade A from 1700 today till 0400 tomorrow.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1556A/20 to Admty).
My 1556A/20. Though not absolutely essential it is very desirable for accuracy of sweeping operations.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1645/20 to Admty).
Your 1451. Graded A will be in operation from 1700/20 till 0400/21.
(Portsmouth, 1712A/20 to M/S F.9).
My 1000/20 para. 6. Following are details, M.G.Bs. 611, 613, and M.T.Bs. 243, 86, 89.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1755A/20, to N.O.I.C. Newhaven).

/Operation...

War Diary.

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation
V.P.
Tungodden
attacked.

M.T.B. 631 and 626 returned Lerwick 0845/20.
My 1002/15 and 1558/17.
(ii) W/T and Watchpost at Tungodden Stensund
061° 01' N., 004° 47' E., attacked with gunfire.
Estimated that station wrecked and several enemy
Casualties. No damage or casualties to M.T.Bs.
(A.C.O.S., 1006/20 to Admty).
My 2015/19. Sailed 1100/20.
(A.C.O.S., 1258/20 to Admty).

Enemy
Convoy
attacked
on night
18/19.

Add to my 1834/19.
(3) Information was received at 1515/18 from 12
Group A/C that a convoy of 15 ships with 2 M/S
escort was 2 miles N.W. of Ymuiden at 1310/18.
M.T.Bs. 238, 88, and 93 were sailed from
Lowestoft at 1553/18 to intercept. Co-ordinated
attack with 16 Group was impracticable as
aircraft had to return by 2030 due to fog on
aerodrome. Consequently 16 Group laid on a "Strike" just after
dark, but one aircraft was retained to take off later if possible
to locate convoy and assist M.T.Bs. by dropping flares.
Unfortunately this proved impracticable. Aircraft attacked the
convoy at 1917 in 53° 15' N., 04° 37' E. hitting three ships.
This information was passed to M.T.Bs. at 2150/18.
After an extensive search M.T.Bs. did not find the convoy. But
at 0450/19 in 53° 41' N., 05° 08' E., four small vessels were
sighted apparently moving northwards at very slow speed. M.T.Bs.
238 and 88 attacked without observed result and M.T.Bs. were not
fired at until disengaging. M.T.B.93, with silenced main
engines, had been detached previously to make a wider search for
the convoy, did not make contact.
There was no damage or casualties to our M.T.Bs.
(C. in C. Nore, 1244A/20 to Admty).

Operation
"Carton".

My 0247/19. Operation "Carton". Intend D day to
be 22nd January weather permitting.
(A.C.O.S., 1900A/20 to Admty. C.C.O. etc).

Allied Air Activity.

Unknown
operation.

Your 1550/19. Probable complement required for
first operation 6 fighters and if possible 9
T.S.R. but information may necessitate last minute
change to 12 fighters and 3 T.S.R. Request
aircraft be allocated, torpedoes carried and crews
trained so that either complement can be ordered.
(C. in C. H.F. 1204A/20 to V.A.A.)
Your 1550/19. Arrangements have been made for 804 Sqdn. to
embark in Liverpool area from SPEKE. N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1020/15
refers. Request information if these arrangements are to stand.
(R.A.N.A.S., 1449A/20 to R.A.A. H.F.)
C. in C. H.F., 1204/20. Propose 816 sqdn. should be
earmarked for this commitment.
(R.A.N.A.S., 1840A/20 to Admty, R.A.A.H.F., C. in C. H.F.,
C.D.B., DASHER).

War Diary.

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

A/C and Convoys. Occasions arise when the reason for instituting an A/S sweep near a convoy may be outweighed by information only in possession of the S.O. Escort who might well wish for an Aircraft to carry out a particular sweep or Patrol.

2. To meet this contingency, aircraft could be briefed that if convoy was met to contact S.O. Escort by V/S and offer to patrol or sweep if desired by him.

3. Codewords Pln, Hungry do not quite meet the case. Suggest a single code word be allocated meaning "My task is A/S Sweep but if you have an urgent commitment for me I will remain with you." (A.C.I.C., 2131/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Deptford attacked. Low-level enemy attack on Deptford at 1210 today. One probable light H.E. bomb hit parapet wall on wharf alongside hydraulic crane No.4. Repair work being put in hand immediately.

(S.C.E. Deptford District 1455A/20 to C.E. in C.)

During air-raid today at approx. 1230 hours a bomb was dropped on wharf front opposite former No.5 stores causing slight damage to coping of river wall. Consider bomb failed to explode and may be in the river. Bomb disposal officer has been requested by telephone to investigate.

(Supt. R.V.Y. Deptford 1555/20).

Greenwich College bombed. Regret to report Naval College hit by H.E. bomb today. Only serious casualty Commander A.R. Chalmer R.N. retired missing, believed killed. All efforts to recover remains have failed. (Naval College, Greenwich, 1850/20 to Admty).

C.E.148 C.E.148 has been reported by enemy aircraft. (Portsmouth, 1900A/20 to MEYNELL, CLEVELAND).

Mining.

M/S F. 4. Sweep of Q.Z.X.887. Your 1640/18. Request approval for ships of 4 TH M.S.F. to remain in Harbour until p.m./27th to make good defects after recent heavy weather before undertaking this operation. (M/S F.4 0928A/20 to C. in C. Plymouth). Your 0928A/20. Approved. Also Capt. D's 1147/20. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1302/20 to M/S F.4).

Dover Area. Routine Sweeping carried out 19/20 by L.L. and S.A. Trawlers in Q.Z.S. 377 and 385 between positions 2 miles N.E. of S.W. Gate and 2 miles S.W. of D Buoy and back to S.W. Gate. One Magnetic Red Mine detonated in 50° 59' 45" N. 01° 11' 11" E. (V.A. Dover, 0930A/20 to Admty).

War Diary.

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

NORDAN (Swedish, 256 tons) Dec. 27th Fishing (?Vessel) NORDAN mined and sunk in 54° 59.5' N., 10.02' E.
AJAX (Danish, 260 tons) Dec. 28th Danish M/V AJAX 260 tons mined and probably sunk between Nakskov and Copenhagen.
INGOLF (Swedish 1191 tons) Jan. 8th Fishing vessel INGOLF mined and sunk at 56° 09' N., 11° 53' E.
mined. Graded A.2. Source D 1 S.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1131/20 to D.N.I.)

Operation "Tincture". Request operation "Tincture" may be completed by noon 22nd.
(D.M.S., 1251A/20 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Operation EY. My 1445/12. Para. 1. Intend CIRCE to sail p.m./23rd on completion of that day's sweeping and transfer orders for operation E Y to Fly.
(N.O.I.C. Reykjavik, 1430A/20 to CIRCE).

ASTA mined. Press reports Danish schooner ASTA 245 tons mined and sunk of Helsingborg January 20th.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1551/20 to Admty).

Sweep off Iona. Request I may be informed of limits of area you require me to search and at what speed trawlers can operate double sweep of whether confined to single.
(SHIPPIGAN, 1700A/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

My 1611/17. WEDGEPORT and DORNOCH are also available for carrying out this sweep.

(C. in C. W.A., 1936A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Your 1720A. Limits of area radius 8 miles from given position. Trawlers can operate single sweep only at approximately 5½ knots. WEDGEPORT and DORNOCH arriving Londonderry at 0900 tomorrow, are available if required to complete operation without delay.

(Capt. M/S Clyde. 2143A/20 to SHIPPIGAN).

Humber Area. Following 16 mines exploded by sweepers today.
At 0916/20 in 178° 62 Buoy 3 cables.
At 1004/20 in 215° 62 Buoy 3 cables.
At 1026/20 in 291° 62 Buoy 1 mile.

At 1036/20 in 235° 62 Buoy 3 cables.
At 1114/20 in 291° 62 Buoy 7 cables.
At 1117/20 in 306° 62 Buoy 1½ miles.
At 1121/20 in 306° 62 Buoy 2 miles.
At 1135/20 in 311° 62 Buoy 1.8 miles.
At 1156/20 in 180° 62 Buoy 4 cables.
At 1156/20 in 161° 62 Buoy 2½ cables.
At 1326/20 in 201° 62 Buoy 4 cables.
At 1614/20 in 241° 57 E Buoy 1½ cables.
At 1624/20 in 148° 57 E. Buoy 5 cables.
At 1625/20 in 148° 57 E. Buoy 4 cables.
At 1650/20 in 160° 57 E. Buoy 3 cables.
At 1850/20 in 160° 57 E. Buoy 3 cables.
(F.O. Humber, 1729/20, 2010/20, 2220/20).

/CYPRESS...

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.CYPRESS
mined.

CYPRESS struck by floating mine. Holed forward. Vessel beached East of Shoreham Harbour. Request salvage officer.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 2355A/20 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Enemy Intelligence.

1 Battle-Cruiser,
1 Heavy Cruiser, and
3 destroyers
in Great Belt.

My 1202/12. Now confirmed that this northward passage was made Jan. 10th and not Jan. 11th as reported.
(N.A. Sotckholm, 1127/20 to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

P.556

Defects to number 7 main bearing starboard engine necessitate returning to Fort Blockhouse at 6 knots at day-break today.
(P.556 0530A/20 to Capt. S.5).

BOURNEMOUTH
QUEEN.

Departure H.M.R.T. DANUBE 5 to assist BOURNEMOUTH QUEEN with fouled paddle.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1201A/20).

M.G.B.648

My 1440/19. Sailed 1259/20. W/T set not working.
(N.O.I.C. Poole, 1310/20 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Barges at
Salcombe and
Stoke Gabriel.

1. Salvage of three barges sunk by enemy action at Salcombe now complete it is considered by representative of Admiralty Salvage Department that all are damaged beyond repair and it is requested that a representative of W.P.S. may carry out survey to confirm this opinion.
2. There are in addition 3 damaged barges at Stoke Gabriel and one at Salcombe all lying close inshore which are worth repairing. Request who will arrange to carry out repairs.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1551/20 to Admty).

GIRONDE

(In convoy M.K.S.5) Requires dockyard assistance for permanent boiler repair.
(SCOTTISH, 1600A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

STONECROP

Capt. D's 1009/18; STONECROP has sustained damage in collision rendering her unseaworthy. Can be taken in hand by Manchester Dry Dock about 23/1.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1612/20).

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- D.S. 36 D.S. 36 sailed at 2337/19.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0001/20).
- P.W.D. 281 Sailing of convoy postponed owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Plymouth, 0850/20).
- M.K.S. 5 Your 2204/19. Loch Ewe ships are to proceed
independently from position (s).
(C. in C. W.A., 0903A/20 to BLACK SWAN).
Owing to congestion in port Liverpool ships of
both North and South routed sections are on arrival to anchor at
Bar and commence entering harbour at 0930A/22nd.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1152A/20 to Escort M.K.S. 5).
My P.C.S. 53° 30' N., 11° 54' W., 036° 8 knots.
(SCOTTISH, 1600A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)
Cancel my 1152A/20 and substitute owing to congestion in
Liverpool ships of Southabout portion for this port are to
anchor at the Bar and commence entering harbour at 0930A/22.
Ships of Northabout portion are to adjust speed to arrive
at Bar at 1130A/22 and can then proceed up harbour.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1712A/20 to Escorts M.K.S. 5).
Owing to Congestion, ships whose final destination is Clyde
are to proceed to Bangor Bay, Belfast Lough. N.O.I.C. Greenock
is requested to arrange with F.O. Northern Ireland the re-sailing
of those ships to Clyde. Anticipated delay will be a few hours
only.
(C. in C. W.A., 1922A/20).
M.K.S. 5 Ships for Clyde E.T.A. Bangor Bay 0900/21.
2. MOANDA E.T.A. Barrow 1200/21.
3. CITY OF PERTH, FRANCIS PARKMAN, and TOPALSFIORD. E.T.A.
position F. 1730/21, Bar 1130/22nd.
4. LA MALOUINE escort from 2330/20.
(BLACK SWAN, 2235A/20 to A.I.G. 191).
- K.M.S. 8 Intend sailing convoy escorted by S.O. 40th E.G.
in LANDGUARD and CORNCRAKE passing Clyde boom
1600⁸/21 to R/V with Liverpool portion and escorts
from Londonderry in position (R) at 1000A/22.
Codeword "Conifer".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0934A/20).
Your 1151A/51 amended by your 0001A/18. Codeword
"Limelight" arrived Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0936A/20 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff).
- R.U. 58 Quest returned.
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 0951A/20).

/J.W...

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- J.W.52 My 0200/10. Para. 2. Delete METEOR. My 1126/18 para. 1 for OBEDIENT read ORKAN.
(C. in C. H.F., 1044A/20 to A.I.G.47).
Destroyers addressed proceed to pass Switha 1500A today to arrive Seidisfjord p.m./22nd routed through 062° 20' N. 005° 26' W, 066° 07' N., 012° 10' W. thence via Q.Z.L. 51 and 52.
(2) On arrival complete and act in accordance with C. in C. H.F., 1126/18.
(R.A.D., H.F., 1105A/20 to QUEENBOROUGH, ORKAN, ECHO, RAIDER).
Seidisfjord. Departures ONSLAUGHT, OFFA, MATCHLESS, BEAGLE, BULLDOG, MUSKETEER and PIORUN at 0655.
(A.C.I.C., 1140A/20 to BLANKNEY).
On being released by ONSLAUGHT proceed Seidisfjord and fuel. Then BLANKNEY, MIDDLETON to Scapa proceeding west of Iceland north of Rona Mine barrier. LEDBURY is to be detached to Clyde.
(2) Attention of LEDBURY is called to Q.Z.X. message 910.
(C. in C. H.F., 1404A/20 to BLANKNEY).
Ships arriving Kola Inlet are warned that: (1) Type of enemy aircraft attacking ships with bombs in Kola Inlet are Junkers 87 and 88 and Messerschmitt 109.
(2) Types of fighters used by Russians are Hurricane Airacobra, Yak, Tomahawk, Mustang. Possibility Russian P.E. two and Hampden bombers from Vaenga Bay aerodrome often flying low over ships in the vicinity Vaenga Bay.
(3) Two Russian military spotters will be placed on board each ship as soon as possible after arrival to assist in detailed identification.
(C. in C. H.F., 1419A/20 to Force R. S.E.C. J.W.52).
My 1105A/20. Sailed.
(R.A.D. H.F., 1612A/20 to A.C.I.C.)
From A/C report convoy position at 1430A/20 was 067° 18' N., 009° 57' W., course 052° speed nine point five knots.
(2) S.O. of Escort gave estimated position of convoy at 0800/21 as 069° 01' N., 004° 02' W.
(A.C.I.C., 2009A/20 to C. in C. H.F., ONSLAUGHT).
J.W.52 was reported by A/S air escort in 067° 18' N., 009° 57' W., at 1430A/20, course 052°.
(C. in C. H.F., 2335A/20 to ONSLAUGHT).
- K.M.F.8 K.M.F.8 intend sailing RELENTLESS escorting
W.S.26. DUCHESS OF YORK, SAMARIA, EMPIRE PRIDE and of
W.S.26 DEMPO 1700Z/22 for R/V 270° oversay 6
miles in accordance with A.Ms. 0100/14, 0040/14,
1904/15, 1716/17, and 1116/17. E.T.A. R/V 1200Z/
23. S.O.A. 10½ knots. Codeword "Apricot One".
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1124A/20)
W.S.26 Liverpool Section sailed as in my 1452/19 less
DEMPO escorted by SKATE. My 1454A/19 also refers.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1150A/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
- STAGHOUND. Route STAGHOUND (U.S.A.) 02413 (1092) 16½ knots.
New York 23rd January.
(N.C.S.O. Avonmouth, 1236A/20 to Admty).

/North...

War Diary.

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

North Russia Convoys. Your 1601/16 para. 5, and Admiral Miles 1141/18 Concur. Harriman Mission and M.O.W.T. have agreed that no more ships are to go White Sea this winter.
(D.T.D., 1755A/20 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

O.S. Convoys. Resumed sailings will commence on 14th February with O.S.43. Thereafter the convoys will run on a 20 day cycle.

2. It is desired to limit these Convoys for the time being to 40 ships. Where it is anticipated that Presenters are likely to be in excess of this number it may be possible to arrange for some ships to be sailed in convoys to Gibraltar for onward routing.

3. With the North Atlantic Cycle opened to 10 days it may be necessary to adjust sailing dates at a later stage.
(D.T.D., 1806A/20).

R.U.58 R.U.58. Convoy P.C.S. at 2000, 062° 26' N., 021° 34' W., 120° 3. VASCAMA not present, position at 1330 062° 28' N., 020° 48' W. Four merchant ships missing believed to be JAN KRSTNMAERSK, GRENLAND, ROSENBERG.
(HUGH WALPOLE, 1845A/20 to A.C.I.C.)

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

Refits of French ships. B.A.D. 0011Z/20 to Admty. See America and West Indies.

Speed of French Ships. M.K.S.6. Request you will observe and report speed of French ships NANCEEN, MERS EL KEBIR, MINDIDAN, MARIGOT. If they are capable of maintaining speed 8 or 9 knots, speed of convoy should be increased accordingly after passing Straits and SALACIA instructed to remain in convoy to U.K. If this higher speed can be maintained V.A. Gib. is requested not to include any ship which cannot maintain such speed. BADDECK pass to Cdre. (N.C.X.F., 1225A/20 to BADDECK, Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.6, (R) V.A. Gib., Admty., C. in C. W.A., Cdre. Algiers.)

Re-arming French Convoy Escorts. Your 1910/16. Arrangements are being made to send 30 complete Oerlikon equipments to Gib. and 40 to Algiers in ships now loading. 2. 3,000 rounds per gun will be sent. Half equipments will be for D.E.M.S. but more may be transferred from warships to D.E.M.S. if desired. (D.G.D., 1640A/20 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gib.)

French Warships. Ref. A.M. (General) A.57. Following orders regarding treatment of French warships and M.S. in Western Mediterranean are to come into force forthwith: (A) French ships encountered in free area of Western Mediterranean Basin (T.S.G.O.31) para. 1 (b) are to be treated as friends unless they commit hostile acts. (B) Within this sink-at-sight zone (T.S.G.O.31) French ships S. of 038° N. and W. of (009°) 00' E. are to be treated as friendly unless they commit a hostile act: outside these limits they are to be treated as hostile. K.213 is cancelled. (N.C.X.F., 2134A/20 to all S.Os., etc.)

From War Registry:

CORRECTION to

N.C.X.F.'s 2134/20

009 degs. 00' East in Para (B) is correct and is no longer queried.

Recd 31.1.1943.

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Survivors from RHAKOTIS. N.A. Madrid's 1300/13. Cdr. Prior left by air A.M. to-day Jan. 20th. Request Combined Operations also informed. Ref. V.A. Gibraltar's 1224/12 air passages were not available all are taking passage in S.S. ORMONDE sailing today. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1025A/20 to Admty. for D.N.I.)
- M.K.F. 7. Gib. section arrived including IRENE DUPONT (8 ships). My 1630/19th. Ships sailed. Q.Z.H. 109 Q.Z.S. 394 Q.Z.Y. 369. (V.A. Gib. 1040A/20 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)
- M.K.S. 6. Intend sailing to join BARON KINNAIRD (Iron Ore), EMPIRE SPINNEY (Oranges), MARRAKECH (French) (Wine). Request pendant numbers Admty. is requested to signal destinations. (V.A. Gib. 1110/A 20 to Cdre. Algiers. (R) Admty N.C.X.F.; C. in C. W.A.; Connav.) Reply 0931A/21.
- T.M.F. 2. Request destination of COLORADO be amended to Casablanca. (D.T.D. 1130Z/20 to V.A. Gib.)
VENOMOUS and WIVERN R/V in position (E) 24 34 16 12 at 1200/21st. to act as additional escort. (V.A. Gib. 1842A/20 to S.E. T.M.F. 2, (R) VENOMOUS, WIVERN.)
Convoy T.M.F. 2 will be 6 hours late. R/V with me 40 miles 214° from position E. at 1500. Weather report V.A. Gib. pass to N.C. X.F. and S.N.O. Casablanca. (RACEHORSE, 1901A/20, to VENOMOUS, WIVERN, (R) Admty. V.A. Gib. N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca.)
T.M.F. 2 COLORADO, SEAKAY, BUNKERHILL, SHELDON CLARKE are all required to return Aruba on completion discharge. (D.T.D. 1908A/20 to N.C.X.F.)
- Situation report Area "Y". KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR repairing cable vicinity of 037° 41' 026° 46'. Situation 2001A 20th. 2. Swedish relief ships AKKA YARRAWONGA, 36.01 18. 40 270° 12. 3. GLENROY, ST. DAY 025° 30' 021° 01' 000° 11. (V.A. Gib. 1232A/20 to N.A.S.)
- K.M.S. 7. You were reported by German A/C at 1145A. (V.A. Gib., 1246A/20 to Escorts of Convoy K.M.S. 7. (R) N.C.X.F., Admty.)
- TORBAY. After crossing 043° 01' proceed on surface at discretion of C.O. through (b)36 51 09 13 at 0800 27th. (c) 36 37 07 24 at 2000/27th. (d) 35 53 06 15 at 0500/28th. (f) 35 57 05 56 at 0700/28th thence Gib. S. of A. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots. 2. You should not pass position (f) before time stated. 3. All times zone minus 1, positions N. and W. 4. Total bombing restrictions arranged 10 miles each side of route 35 miles ahead and astern your estimated position. Report if unable to keep within bombing restrictions. (V.A.Gib. 1254A/20 to TORBAY (R) P.339, F.O.S. Capt. (S)3 Capt.S.6.) 24 hours added, see 1005/21.

/P.339...

War Diary.

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

P. 339. After crossing 043° N. proceed diving by day to position (a) 042° 09' 012° 47' at 1800/25th thence on surface at C.O.'s discretion through (b) 036° 51' 009° 13' 1240/27th. (c) 036° 37' 007° 24' 2320/27th. (d) 035° 53' 006° 15' 0800/28th. (f) 035° 57' 005° 56' 1000/28th. thence Gib. S. of A. 8½ knots. 2. All times Zone minus one positions N. and W. 3. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged 25th. thereafter total restrictions 10 miles each side route 35 miles ahead and astern your estimated position. Report if unable keep within bombing restrictions.
(V.A. Gib. 1258A/ 20 to P. 339 (R) TORBAY, F.O. (S) Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8.)
24 hours added, see 1005/21.

CORRIENTES German ship CORRIENTES reported to be leaking has been removed from present berth to along-side German KERSTEN MILES and is now discharging drums from number 3 hold to the KERSTEN MILES.
(Las Palmas 1430/20 to Admty. (R) S.O. (1) Gib., B.N.A. Madrid.)

LOCH OSKAIG. E.T.A. 0930A/21st, weather report.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1500A/20, to V.A. Gib. (R) S.O.T.)

G.U.S. 3. My 2252/19.G.U.S. 3 add EMPIRE DEWAL departs Casa 1400Z/20th. escort 33, Admty. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) pass to N.S.H.Q.
(S.N.O.C.A. 1645Z/20 to N.C.X.F., Admty., Cominch, etc.)

U/B Following recd. by Flowerdown W/T. Am over enemy attacked. S/M in 36.28 N. 00.40 W. on surface when first sighted was on course 070° estimated speed 8 knots.
(A/C C/S C 80 5(7S) 1850/20 to Gib.W/T)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C C/S C 80 Duty S, 1853/20 to Gib. W/T.)

Sabotage With reference to diplomatic action at present Seville. proceeding with Spanish Government about sabotage attempt against our ships at Seville can H.M. Ambassador quote case of S.S. MIRIAM?
(N.A. Madrid 2020/20 to Admty.)

LLANGIBBY Your 1431/21 Oct. What is present position CASTLE regarding Reardon?
Boatswain. (M. Branch 2313A/20 to N.A. Lisbon)

Movements. Arrivals. 0850 PENN. PANTHER, PATHFINDER from Oran. 1220 ENCHANTRESS, ERNE. 1530 SCARBOROUGH. 1745 ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH, all ex G.U.S.3(o)
Departures.0630 BADSWOTH, WOLVERINE to R/V G.U.S. 3 (o) 1515 LIMBOURNE with Gib. Section G,U.S. 3 to join main C. 13 Groups missing, correction to follow.
(V.A. Gib. No. T.O.O./20th. to Admty. N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SOBIESKI

Air Ministry are very anxious to arrange for early movement from Middle East to U.K. of 491 tour experienced aircrew personnel now awaiting passage.

2. A.O.C. in C. M.E. can arrange to fly them to Takoradi.
 3. P.S.T.O. X.F. is requested to arrange for SOBIESKI ex K.M.F.7 to proceed to Freetown with BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE and ORBITA
 4. D.S.T.O.W.A., should arrange as a matter of high importance for aircrews to be moved from Takoradi to Freetown to embark in SOBIESKI.
 5. SOBIESKI will then return to U.K. with ORION and BRITANNIC, probably sailing Freetown about 6 February. Admiralty state that it is essential that ORION and BRITANNIC should not be delayed.
 6. D.S.T.O. W.A. should take advantage of this sailing to embark all available personnel requiring passage to U.K. from West Africa.
- (D. of S.T. 0438A/20 to D.S.T.O.W.A., P.S.T.O.X.F.)
Replies P.S.T.O.X.F., 1230A/21. (North Atlantic)
S.T.O.W.A., 1451Z/21 (South Atlantic).

INTEGRITY,
lighter.

Departures 0520 G.M.T./20th Tug INTEGRITY towing crane lighter escorted by INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA, S. of A. 5 knots. E.T.A. a.m./23rd. Escort shifts W/T organization to area J at 0300 Z/21st. (N.O.I.C. E. London, 0548Z/20 to Admty. etc).

My 0548Z/20th. Tug INTEGRITY with crane lighter VIVIANA, INDIAN STAR returned to East London.
(N.O.I.C. East London, 1512Z/20 to Admty. etc).

Movements

Arrived MAGNOLIA.
(Cdre. Durban, 0922Z/20 to Admty etc).
Simonstown arrival 20th ROCKROSE.
(C. in C. S.A., 1000C/10 to Admty etc).

French
Convoys,
liaison.

Your 1919/11. For their own safety French convoys must be run in the same manner as British convoys. This is only possible if the French are reasonably secure and accept Liaison Officers in convoy escorts, which from (d) of your 1231/11 does not yet seem to be the case.

2. You should therefore take a very early opportunity of pointing out that a unified convoy system for all the United Nations is absolutely essential and that unless there is the fullest measure of co-operation between us the only beneficiaries will be U-boat commanders. All Allied warships (except U.S.) engaged in Ocean convoy escort carry Liaison Officers and these are essential if a proper use is to be made of C.B.04234. Liaison arrangements are, of course, particularly necessary at the beginning of our co-operation with the French.
3. We hope Collinet will see the force of these arguments but, if not, B.N.L.O. Dakar should be instructed to give him and his staff necessary extracts from C.B. 04234 to enable convoys to be run, and such other information as is essential especially with a view to enabling the French to keep F.O.C.W.Af. V.A. Gibraltar and Admty. fully informed of shipping movements. (Hd. of M.I. Approved by V.C.N.S. 1042A/20 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib).

/Information...

War Diary.

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Information for Admiral Collinet. Your 1319/6. There is no security objection to this information actually being passed to Admiral Collinet since a secure method is available through B.N.L.O. Dakar using S.P.s. referred to in your 1415/3, or direct to Admiral Collinet in Anglo-French Cypher with S.P. 02341 (your 1847/4 and my 1424/5).

2. It is not clear to Admiralty, however, whether or not it is Admiral Collinet's intention to promulgate by W/T to French warships operating under his orders most secret information of this nature obtained from British sources. Presumably he will wish to do so at times, and this raises important question of security of Code or Cypher he would then use.

3. You should point out frankly to Collinet that we are greatly hampered in passing this kind of information to him owing to the security risks involved in its subsequent use. You should employ this argument to reinforce strongly the arguments in A.M.1042A/20 that we cannot work properly together without Liaison Officers being attached to French warships. If, after pressing him on these lines, you fail to persuade him to accept L.O.s we agree to the information being passed subject to the following conditions being rigidly observed in the subsequent dissemination of the information.

4. (Technical).

(b) The volume of such messages should be restricted to minimum essential to operational conduct of French warships concerned. These precautions are important. Restriction at (b) could be relaxed when more additions of Tables for use with Anglo-French Books become available.

5. If arrangements in preceding para. are not practicable and it is Admiral Collinet's intention to continue communicating with his warships in purely French Code or Cypher, then subject to remarks in next para. there are strong objections to his using such Code or Cypher for W/T messages containing secret operational information supplied to him by us. This is because (as already stated) we have reasons for believing that French Codes and Cyphers hitherto used in Africa are in general not wholly secure against the enemy.

6. Failing use by Admiral Collinet of Anglo-French Books, however, we should be agreeable to his using his own system if it could be clearly established that: (Technical details).

7. It would be very desirable if Admiral Collinet would authorise disclosure to B.N.L.O. Dakar of full repetition full details of French Code or Cypher he wishes to use failing Anglo-French Cypher or Code. B.N.L.O. then to report these details for information of Admiralty with particular reference to the points mentioned in para. 6. This would enable Admiralty to decide whether it is sufficiently secure for transmission by W/T of secret operational information received from British sources.

8. It would obviously be preferable, from point of view of co-ordinating Naval communications in West Africa, if Admiral Collinet could be persuaded to use Anglo-French Book for W/T communication with his warships, and to discontinue use of purely French system for this purpose. There are admittedly, however, logical grounds for his wishing not to do so since Anglo-French Books are designed primarily for communication between British and French and not between French themselves.

/This...

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Information for Admiral Collinet. Contd.

This should not however preclude their use for later purpose. Moreover sufficient copies of Anglo-French Cypher and Table are probably not at present available locally for the dual purpose. Additional stocks of the Cypher, Code and Tables are however being despatched immediately from U.K. to Freetown.

9. The security of French cyphers is too important a matter for any risk to be taken and you are to reach no final agreement on this question without further reference to Admiralty. (V.C.N.S. 1050A/20 0233A/22 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) N.C.X.F.)

K.X. 8, 0.19, PICT. BURDOCK, HYDRANGEA, BELLWORT, BREDON with convoy K.X. 8, 09.05 17.02 154° 9. CORINTHIAN 09.40 16.02 to Freetown 13. H.M.N.S. 0.19 019° 32' 019° 36' 358° 9. PICT, 2 M.L. escorting, about 12.53 17.35 021° 8. (R.A.W.A., 1121Z/20 to A.I.G. 149).

Situation Reports. Tug PRUDENT standing by MELISKERK in the vicinity 031° 33' S., 029° 46' E. VIVIANA, INDIAN STAR, escorting INTEGRITY towing crane lighter leaving East London for Durban 20th January speed 5 knots.

SUNDRRA escorting R.F.A. DORYSSA 031° 15' S., 033° 15' E. to Durban 8 knots.

CHESHIRE 036° 30' S., 028° 30' E., 204° 13 knots. (C. in C. S.A., 1128C/20).

COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, F.S. DUNCTON 2 M.L. with S.T. 53, 06.04, 12.07 126 9. COPINSAY, SARABANDE escorting off Cape Formosa to Takoradi 8½. BURDOCK, BELLWORT, HYDRANGEA, BREDON with convoy K.X. 8 09.05 17.02 154 9. DRANGEY off Freetown to join K.X. 8. DUNKER off Freetown to Marshall. ST. WISTAN 2 M.Ls. off Marshall. BALUCHISTAN 001° 40' S., 005° 00' E., to Pointe Noire 12.

NORTHERN ISLES 004° 55' S., 008° 15' E., 170° 7½.

RUMBA escorting MERCATOR about 003° 00' S., 009° 15' E. to Lagos 7½.

CROCUS escorting Pointe Noire Area to Takoradi 12. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1141Z/20).

MARIPOSA Messages relating to U.S. Transport MARIPOSA should be dealt with in accordance with my 2301/20/7/42. (D.S.T., 1236A/20 to D.S.T.O.W.A., P.S.T.O.S.A., etc).

DESPATCH Intend to sail DESPATCH for Dakar at 0730Z/21st Jan. Route (a) 008° 30' N., 014° 43' W. (b) 010° 24' N., 017° 40' W. (c) 013° 06' N., 017° 50' W., thence Dakar. E.T.A. Isle de Gorban 1245Z/22nd. (F.O.C.W.A., 1243Z/20 to B.N.L.O. Dakar, (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty. DESPATCH).

/Bauxite...

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.Bauxite
Ships.

For consideration, in view of present U-boat situation, that valuable ships of 12 knots and over should not be designated to load bauxite in Trinidad Guiana Area. Example TINDAREUS 14 knots sailed 17th January from Durban. (C. in C. S.A., 1306C/20 to Admty. (R) M.W.T.) Reply: Admty. 1917/21.

HOLCOMBE,
ILEX,
MEXICO.

Your 1144Z/19 HOLCOMBE and ILEX escorting MEXICO arrive Casablanca 31st Jan. My 2223Z/15 refers. Information now received that MEXICO carries about 27 personnel all for U.S. from Dakar to Casablanca and not 510 as in B.A.D. Washington's 1951Z/26 Nov. to N.C.X.F. (F.O.C.W.A., 1543/20 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gib. Admty. B.A.D.)

S.T.53

Departure 19th Jan. DUNCTON, M.L. 261, 278, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, COMMANDANT DROGOU, F.S. with S.T.53. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1649Z/20 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi)

HIGHLAND
MONARCH.

C.1. HIGHLAND MONARCH sailed 20th Jan. for Chesapeake Bay. E.T.A. 19th Feb. Personnel on board. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 1746C/20 to B.A.D., D.S.T.)

Group
Sailings.

In order to obtain maximum value of air and surface escorts groups sailings should be routed to conform generally with approach lines reversed of unescorted traffic. (C. in C. S.A., 1830C/20 to N.O.I.C., Durban, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Capetown, N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, N.O.I.C. East London, C. in C. E.F.) See also 1538C/22.

S/M Flares

Your 1247/18 (not to V.A. Gibraltar). British submarine flares should be issued to French submarines.

2. Request you arrange for supplies from V.A. Gibraltar.

(D.S.D., 1843A/20 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) V.A. Gib).

MERCATOR,
RUMBA.

Departure Congo River 1430Z/19th MERCATOR escorted by RUMBA routed through Equator 080° E. E.T.A. Lagos Nigeria a.m. on 24th. (B.N.L.O. West Africa, 1925/20 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Capt. Freetown.)

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements

Arrival 19th Jan. U.S. Destroyer ERICSSON departure 20th U.S. Destroyer ERICSSON U.S. Destroyer JOUETT U.S. Corvette TENACITY U.S. Submarines Chassers P.C. 495, 575 and 610. (R.O. Recife, Pernambuco, 1933Z/20 to Admty).

BERGENSFJORD

D. of S.T.'s 2022A/17.

(i) Propose BERGENSFJORD proceed Dakar direct to disembark Norwegians and thence Bathurst as no onward carriage available. E.T.A. Dakar 29th

Jan. F.O. West Africa agrees.

(ii) B.N.L.O. Dakar Pass to Allen, M.W.T. Representative and confirm that ship can be received and sailed within 12 hours. (D.S.T.O. West Africa, 1957Z/20 to P.S.T.O. X.F., B.N.L.O. Dakar (R) N.C.X.F., D. of S.T., F.O.C.W.A.)

K.X.8

Convoy K.X.8 P.C. and S. at 1601Z/20th 009° 42' N., 017° 23' W. Suffix A 153° 9½ knots. Your 1445Z and your 1642Z/20 E.T.A. position (X) 0145Z/21st. (CORINTHIAN, 2001Z/20 to F.O.C.W.A.)

B.Y.M.S.

From latest reports from R.N. and S.A.N.F. Office in America it appears that B.Y.M.S. will not be suitable vessels to sweep in the heavy seas frequently encountered in Cape Waters.

2. Suggest that 5 B.Y.M.S. referred to in my 1153/12th Nov. 1942 for which S.A.N.F. crews are already in America should be sent to Mediterranean direct instead of the 4 LL sweepers referred to in my 1213/13th. Dec.

3. If proposal is concurred in request that approach may be made through High Commissioner for S.A. in London. (C. in C. S.A., 2008C/20 to Admty).

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- RORQUAL. Your 0923/19th (No trace in W.R.) acknowledged. Well done. Look out for 2 fast destroyers northbound at dawn 20th. They have been warned of your route.
(Capt. S.10, 0014A/20 to RORQUAL.)
Estimate RORQUAL at 0700A/20th 035° 00' 013° 30' routed through 035° 00' 016° 05' thence course 360° to her patrol area North of 037° 40' and West of 016° 40'.
(Capt. S.10, 0805A/20 to Submarines on Patrol, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.)
- P.44. Your 2146/19th acknowledged. Well done indeed. Expect you 1300A/20th. UNA arriving 1100A/20th.
(Capt. S.10, 0030A/20 to P.44, (R) UNA.)
- Enemy Units. Following has been read:- P.C. and S. of enemy, one destroyer, 34.3 N. 10.40 E., 300°, 15 knots.
(A/C using call sign FCVU Nr.3, 0045A/20.)
Position course and speed of one small enemy merchant ship, 33.55 N. 11.10 E. course unknown, speed unknown.
(A/C using call sign FCVU, 0200A/20.)
P.C. and S. of one small enemy vessel 33.57 N. 11.08 E., 340°, 10 knots.
(A/C using call sign FCVU W.5, 0220A/20.)
Position of one small M/V is 34.15 N. 10.32 E.
(Call sign FCVC, 0245/20.)
Position, course and speed of one small M/V 34.20 N. 11.00 E. 340°, 7 knots.
(Call sign FBVQ, 0330A/20.)
- PAPANICOLIS. 1830/18th (No trace in W.R.) Well done. Report when safe to do so, if unable to comply with my 1109/17th (N.T. in W.R.)
(Capt. S.1, 0102B/20 to Greek sub. PAPANICOLIS.)
- TEVIOT BANK. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 0345Z/20 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.R.S.C.A., Com. Aden.)
- M.T.B.315. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0750A/20 to Admty., etc.)
- Force K, Ships sunk. My 0937/19th. KELVIN and JAVELIN sank two schooners four small Naval Auxiliaries, one M.L., one small merchant ship, three unidentified small steam-ships.
2. No damage or casualties in H.M. Ships.
3. At about 2200/19th Albacore sank two merchant ships reported as 2000 tons and 5-6000 tons off Turgoeuness. 1 destroyer damaged.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0755A/20, 0930A/20 to C. in C. Med., (R) N.C.X.F., Admty.)

/KELVIN ...

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War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Force K, KELVIN and JAVELIN returned from operation.
Ships sunk. (V.A. Malta, 0830A/20.)
(Contd.) 2 destroyers of Force K pass through position
 035° (?) 21' N. 013° 44' E. at 1530A today 20th
 thence position 034° 16' N. 010° 53' E. at about
2130 thence south-easterly coastwise at about longitude 012° E.,
thence return direct to Malta.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0945A/20 to C. in C. Med., 247 Wing, 201 Group
H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., (R) N.C.X.F., (?) Admty.)
JERVIS and NUBIAN sailed for operation.
(V.A. Malta, 1300A/20 to Admty., C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

Movements, Arrival 19th Jan. HURWORTH, BELVOIR.
Alexandria. Departure 19th Jan. ERICA, M.L.348, M.L.1051,
 M.L.351, SOUTHERN MAID, M.L.1028, TAURUS, PROTEA,
 Greek Destroyer IERAX, French Ship LA MOQUEUSE,
 French Ship COMMANDANTE DOMINE.
 (S.O.I. Alexandria, 0914A/20 to Admty., C. in C.
 Med.)

Enemy P.C. and S. of 3 enemy small craft 34.50 N.
Units. 10.55 E., 045°, 6 knots.
 (A/C Call sign BTAP, 1000A/20 to K.T.1.)
 P.C. and S. of 1 enemy destroyer 34.50 N. 11.35
 E., 090°, 15.
 (A/C using C/S BTAP, 1030A/20 to K.T.1.)
 P.C. and S. of one enemy destroyer 34.05 N. 10.40 E., 010°,
12 knots.
 (A/C Call sign BTAP, 1100A/20 to K.T.1.)
 Position of 3 transport barges and 1 small craft 33.08 N.
11.54 E. On course 090°, speed 6 knots.
 (A/C C/S BTRP, 1135/20 to A.H.Q. Malta.)
 Following read: Addressed K.T.1 from A/C using call sign
BTAP. P.C. and S. of 6 enemy transport barges 33.08 N. 12.06 E.
270°, 6.
 (Alex. W/T, 1140A/20 to Whitehall W/T.)
 Position of 10 transport barges 33.00 N. 12.20 E. On
course 270°, speed 6 knots.
 (A/C C/S BTAP, 1145A/20 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.42, P.45, Establish patrol forthwith west of line 340°
P.46. from Kerkenah as follows.
 (1) P.42 south of latitude 035° 30'.
 (2) P.45 north of P.42 and south of latitude 036°.
 (3) P.46 north of P.45.
(Capt. S.10, 1103A/20 to P.42, P.45, P.46, (R) C. in C. Med.,
Capt. S.1.)

Movements. Sailed to Alexandria SEAHAM, SOUTHERN ISLES,
Benghazi. WOLBOROUGH.
 (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1104B/20 to Admty., (R)
 C. in C. Med.)

/Sailed ...

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements, Sailed M.T.B.82, 77, 61; arrived and sailed
Benghazi. WHITEHAVEN.
(Contd.) (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1703B/20 to Admty., (R)
C. in C. Med.)

M.T.Bs. Arrived M.T.Bs 260, 264, 267 and 313.
(V.A. Malta, 1112A/20 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

A. 656, Bi- Night 18th/19th Jan. Six Wellingtons despatched
Weekly to mine and bomb Khalkis Harbour, Greece were
Opsum No. unable to reach objective, one Wellington bombed
92, Part 4. Lavrion Harbour south-east of Athles starting a
fire. During day 19th Jan. 8 B.24s bombed
shipping in Tripoli Harbour, results mainly
obscured by low cloud but two hits scored on Spanish Mole.
Enemy fighters intercepted and B.24s shot down 1 F.W.190 probably
destroying 2 Me.109s. 10 B.24s bombed shipping in Sousse
Harbour claiming hit on small merchant vessel. Many bombs
burst on docks and quays. Photographs Tripoli show Harbour
entrance partially blocked by 2 Merchant vessels apparently sunk.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1148Z/20.)

MAURO CROCE Sailed from Valencia 2100/18th Jan. for Genoa.
(Italian) (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1203A/20 to S.O.I. N.C.X.F.,
S.O.I. Malta.)

OXFORDSHIRE. Request you will sail Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE
to arrive Algiers 0800A/24. After embarking
casualties proceed to Oran to complete thence
to U.K.
(N.C.X.F., 1215A/20 to F.O.I.C. Oran.)

HOLCOMBE, A.M. 2310/19th Dec. HOLCOMBE and ILEX have now
ILEX, been allocated to Western Med. to replace
EGGESFORD. QUIBERON and QUALITY.
2. EGGESFORD is allocated to Eastern Med. She
is expected to be ready to leave U.K. by middle
of March.
(D.O.D.(F), 1231A/20 to C. in C. Med., (R) N.C.X.F.
etc.)

K.M.S.7. Destination AUTOWICKIS Philippeville.
(N.C.X.F., 1232H/20 to VANOC, Escorts of Convoy
K.M.S.7; (R) Admty., Cdre. Algiers, Philippeville.)
Destination of CALUMET and FORT SIMPSON is Bone. VANOC pass to
Cdre. and ships concerned.
(N.C.X.F., 1650A/20 to VANOC, Escorts of K.M.S.7, (R) Cdre.
Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, Admty.)

/Cositrep ...

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositrep No. 662, Part 2, Air. 4. Following operations from Malta - torpedo Wellingtons and a Beaufort on offensive R/C between Sicily and Tunisia made 4 separate attacks on shipping. 1 merchant vessel about 9000 tons left sinking. Flash and red glow seen on second vessel about 4000 tons. Third ship 4000 seen moving at reduced speed after attack. 6. Beaufighters and Naval Albacores provided illumination and diversionary bombing for naval operation off Tripoli. (C. in C. M.E., 1300B/20.)

TAKU. Capt. (S) 1 1109/17th and your 1340/18th. Estimate you will pass position (C) at 0001A/23rd. Onward route diving by day through 035° 20', 014° 10' to R/V with sweepers at end of searched channel at 0830A/25th. (Capt. S.10, 1330A/20 to TAKU, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1., Subs on Patrol.)

M.K.S. 6. Sailing telegram. (Cdre. Algiers, 1416A/20, 1418A/20 to Admty. etc.) My 1418A/20. Following ships did not sail AGEN,

WALT WHITMAN, CAP PINEDE. 2. Additional ships for Oran, MAMMY, ODYSSEUS; to Oran for Beni-Saf, HAMPTON LODGE. (Cdre. Algiers, 1420A/20 to Admty., etc.) M.K.S.6. Algiers section arrived plus WALT WHITMAN. Six merchant ships. (C.O. Algiers, 1440A/20 to Admty., etc.)

S/Ms. Arrived THUNDERBOLT, UNA, P.44. Sailed P.37. (V.A. Malta, 1529A/20 to Admty., etc.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one medium M/V and 2 small M/Vs 35.29 N. 11.08 E., 360°, 8 knots. (A/C C/S FFDA, 1530A/20 to A.H.Q. Malta.) Transmit this message at next routine time using Broadcast Method MS. Following received. Addressed A.H.Q. Malta, from A/C C/S FFDA. P.C. and S. of 3 small vessels 35.02 N. 11.12 E., 350°, 10 knots.

(Alex. W/T, 1538/20 to Admty.)

W.R. Note: Action taken by W/T Room.

Broadcast following at next routine time by broadcast method MS. Following read: Addressed A.H.Q. Malta, from A/C C/S FFDA. 1 medium vessel beached in 34.55 N. 11.01 E.

(Alex. W/T, 1541/20 to Admty.)

W.R. Note: Message passed by Whitehall W/T.

Transmit following at next routine time using broadcast method MS. Following read: To A.H.Q. Malta, from A/C C/S FFDA. Position of 1 medium vessel 34.30 N. 11.70(sic) on course 030°, speed 12 knots.

(Alex. W/T, 1545/20 to Whitehall.)

W.R. Note: Passing action taken by Whitehall W/T.

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. (Contd.) 1 destroyer, 4 small vessels in 34.44 N. 10.48 E.
(A/C C/S FFDA, 1550/20 to A.H.Q. Malta.)
Broadcast following at next routine time by broadcast method MS. Following read: Addressed A.H.Q. Malta, from A/C C/S FFDA. Position of 7 F-Boats 34.33 N. 10.48 E., on course 010°, speed 8 knots.
(Alex. W/T, 1552/20 to Whitehall.)
W.R. Note: Message passed by Whitehall W/T.
Transmit following at next routine time using broadcast method MS. Following read, to A.H.Q. Malta from A/C C/S FFDA. Position of 6 F-Boats 33.30 N. 11.32 E., on course 327°, speed 8 knots.
(Alex. W/T, 1618/20 to Whitehall W/T.)
Transmit following message at next routine time using broadcast method MS. Following read from A/C C/S FFDA. 10 F-Boats 33.14 N. 11.42 E. on course 305°, speed 10 knots.
(Alex. W/T, 1625A/20 to Whitehall.)
Passed by Whitehall W/T.

DOLFIJN. Leave patrol passing 038° 26' 000° 01' at 2000A/21st, 038° 26' 002° 30' at 2000A/22nd. Thence on the surface at your discretion. R/V escort in 037° 01' 002° 59' at 0801A/23rd for onward escort to Algiers.
2. All positions North and East.
(Capt. S.8, 1534A/20 to DOLFIJN, (R) S.O.(S) Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, (S) 8, Cdre. Algiers.)

P. 54. 1. Convoy from westward arrives Algiers 0800/21st.
2. Fast convoy leaves Algiers to East at 0130/21.
3. 5 H.D.M.Ls leave Algiers 0530/21st to East.
4. Your escort will be M.L.280.
(Capt. S.8, 1538A/20 to P. 54.)

E.A.C. Report. A.249 20th Jan. Op. Summ. No.70, 1800 hours 18th Jan. to 1800 hours 19th Jan.
A. Night 18th/19th. Attack on convoy N.W. of Bone by low flying E/A seen by Beaufighter but no contacts made. 18 Wellingtons from Blida attacked Bizerta and docks at Ferryville. Attack successful, large fires started in town and docks, last aircraft to leave reported target well alight with fires visible from a distance of 40 miles.
(E.A.C. Africa, 1600A/20.) W.D. Note: No Part 2 received. Part 3 my A.249. The 608 Sqdn. aircraft on this escort sighted at 1515A 5 vessels, aircraft flashed letter of day to leading corvette and received "Robert". Aircraft flew down line of vessels 10 feet and distance of 50 yards. Second vessel opened fire on aircraft and 2 other vessels following suit causing serious damage to aircraft and wounding both gunners. Ref. my Opsum 69, Jan. 19th, para. A. in first U-Boat attack U-Boat fired 6 star cartridge as aircraft approached shortly afterwards a Ju.88 appeared as if in answer to signal. E/A chased Hudson for 4 minutes there being no combat.
(E.A.C. Africa, 1810A/20.)

/Fourth

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

E.A.C. Report. (Contd.) Fourth and final part my A.249. F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 28 B.17s escorted by 19 P.38s attacked 2 objectives in the Tunis Area 10 miles S.W. of Tunis. 9 B.17s attacked industrial area immediately S. of Tunis. 19 B.17s attacked marshalling yards at Jibel Jellond, S. of Tunis. 18 B.25s escorted by 16 P.38s attacked Medenine Town and motor park. (E.A.C. Africa, 1855/20.)

Movements. Sailed PAKENHAM, G.S. BASILISSA OLGA. (V.A. Malta, 1650A/20 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., S.O. Force I.)
20th Jan. Port Said arrivals DELPHINIUM, GLOXINIA, CUMBRAE, IERAX. Departures IERAX, M.L.359. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1706B/20 to Admty., etc.)

Situation Report No. 49. 1. Bone 3 M.T.Bs on patrol off Ras-Al-Korad night 19th/20th. L.C.T. transport service to La Calle was stopped and L.C.Ts sailing for Algiers p.m. 20th to transport tanks east.
2. L.S.I. ferry service disembarked troops at Bone p.m. 18th Jan. When off Bougie westbound p.m. 19th Jan. LAMERTON shot down S.79 torpedo aircraft. Crew of 5 taken prisoner.
3. M.K.S.6. PORT ARTHUR sank Italian S/M TRITONE in attack with depth charges off Bougie at 1425A/19. C.O. three officers and 22 ratings captured. At 0640A/20 WALT WHITMAN was torpedoed aft by aircraft off Algiers. Arrived Algiers under own power. Vessel was light.
4. Algiers. Tanks and vehicles ex ASHJERA now loaded in BACHAQUERO who sails to Philippeville with K.M.S.7. L.S.Is leave on second ferry trip early a.m. 21st Jan., three ships for Bone one for Philippeville.
5. Merchant ship torpedoed by TRIBUNE, Sitrep 45, now reported as 7000 tons similar to SAN ANTONIO and a total wreck on exposed beach.
6. BRILLIANT claims one Ju.88 shot down by escorts of L.S.Ts., Sitrep 47. (N.C.X.F., 1705A/20 to Admty.)

Air R/C. P.R.U.609, 20th. 1305, Taranto, visuals, 1 battleship in inner, 1 in outer harbour. Photographs taken. (V.A. Malta, 1745A/20.)

P.42, transport believed sunk. At 1600A/20th P.C. and S. 6 F-Boats 033° 28' 011° 24' 300°, 9 knots. At 1749A/19th one hit on northbound 5000 ton transport believed sunk 033° 45' 011° 12'. Am moving to vicinity 035° 22' 011° 10' in compliance with your 1103/20th. (P.42, 1746A/20 to Capt. S.10, (R) C. in C. Med., P.45, P.46.)

/PORT ARTHUR ...

War Diary.

20.1.1943.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

PORT ARTHUR, My 1838/15 (U-Boat destroyed by R.C.N. Corvette
U/B sunk. VILLE DE QUEBEC). A further U-Boat kill has
been made by PORT ARTHUR on 19th Jan. by means
of depth charges and gunfire.

2. Your ships are doing good work.
(N.C.X.F., 1804A/20 to N.S.H.Q.)

CAIRO CITY. Following is a repetition of my 1800^{*}/19th (begins)
F.O.C. Red Sea Force, (R) S.S.T.O. Suez, N.O.I.C.
Aden, C. in C. E.F., G.H.Q.M.E., Admty. for D. of
S.T. Movement 80 Area. My 0850/5⁴ Jan. Request CAIRO CITY
on completion of repairs may be held at Suez to (? embark) Free
French personnel for Madagascar and sailed to take advantage
of escort arranged ex Aden for returning ships C.M.37. S.S.T.O.
Suez to arrange embarkation accordingly. Agree with G.H.Q.M.E.
S.S.T.O. Suez pass to Movement 80 Area. (Ends).
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 1815B/20 to F.O.C.R.S.F.)

* No trace of previous receipt in W.R.

⁴ Re postponement of moving Free French personnel to Madagascar
in CAIRO CITY.

P. 37. P.37 left Malta searched channel at 1500A/20th
routed through (1) 035° 20', 014° 14'. (2) 035°
20', 015° 40' thence direct to patrol area between
latitudes 037° 15' and 038° and West of longitude 015° 46'.
(Capt. S.10, 1825A/20 to Submarines on Patrol, (R) C. in C. Med.,
Capt. (S) 1.)

Information One fleet destroyer sailing from Malta at 1900A/20
for S/Ms. direct to Benghazi. She has orders not to attack
S/M North of 034° 50'.
(Capt. S.10, 1845A/20 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Malta 2000A/19 to 2000A/20.
Intelligence Naval. Two destroyers sank two schooners, four
Summary. small naval auxiliaries, one motor launch, one
small M/V and three unidentified small steamships
west of Tripoli during the night 19th/20th Jan.
1943. 4 M.T.Bs carried out a raid on Tripoli harbour during
the same night and sank a submarine which was being towed by
tugs off the entrance. Two destroyers sailed at 1300 hours
20th Jan. to carry out a sweep off Turgueness.
Military. Convoy unloading almost completed.
(Govr. Malta, 1910Z/20.)

Enemy Following read by Alex. W/T. Addressed Air H.Q.
Destroyers. Malta. Four destroyers 37.55 N. 11.52 E. course
090°, speed 25 knots.
(A/C C/S AQQ Duty 'Z', 1930A/20.)

/Following ...

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War Diary.

20.1.1943.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Destroyers. (Contd.) Following has been read by Malta W/T. Addressed Air H.Q. Malta. P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers 37.40 N. 11.10 E., 180°, 15 knots.

(A/C C/S AQQ Duty 'B', 2040A/20.)

P.C. and S., of 2 destroyers and two unknowns

37.27 N. 10.43 E., 300°, 12 knots.

(A/C C/S AQQ Duty 'Z', 2210/20 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Have lost touch with 2 destroyers and 2 unknowns. Enemy's

last observed position was 37.33 N. 10.52 E. at 2310.

(A/C C/S AQQ Duty 'Z', 2310/20 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Position and course of four unknown enemy vessels 37.32 N. 10.52 E. 090°, speed unknown.

(A/C call sign AQQ Duty 'B', 2335A/20 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

M.L. Flotillas. The 31st M.L. Flotilla consisting of M.Ls 554, 555, 556, 557, 560, 561, 564 and 566 is allocated to the Western Mediterranean.

2. The 22nd M.L. Flotilla consisting of M.Ls 218, 232, 240, 258, 449, 460, 468 and 494 is allocated to the Eastern Mediterranean.

3. Both these flotillas should be ready to leave U.K. about end of February.

4. Request you will report where these flotillas will be based in order that spare gear etc. may be despatched.

5. Arrangements for passage of 22nd Flotilla through Mediterranean should be made between C. in C. Med. and N.C.X.F.

(D.D.O.D.(C), 1945A/20 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

Movements, Arrivals: BRILLIANT, ANTELOPE, BADDECK, PORT Algiers. ARTHUR, ALBERNI, POZARICA, WILTON, BUDE, WHEATLAND, SUMMERSIDE, MISOA, BACHAQUERO, Tug ST. DAY, M.M.S. 80, 135 with M.K.S.6. QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES

BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, AVONDALE, ZETLAND, LAMERTON, SIRIUS, LOYAL from Bone. Chasseur 3rd from eastward.

Departures: BRILLIANT, ANTELOPE, BADDECK, PORT ARTHUR, ALBERNI, FELIXSTOWE, LUNENBURG, SUMMERSIDE, Tug ST. DAY with M.K.S.6.

AVON VALE to overtake M.K.S.6. M.Ls 307, 443 to Oran.

(Cdre. Algiers, 2009A/20 to Admty.)

P.211. Departure S/M P.211 to patrol. (Cdre. Algiers, 2014A/20 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., S.8, S.10.)

Sinking of S/M NARVALO. My 1332/18th Jan. U-Boat sank in position to 034° 08' N. 016° 04' E. (C. in C. Med., 2027B/20 to Admty., (R) R.A. Malta.)

/Sweep ...

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20.1.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Sweep by Force K. My 1925/19th Jan. para. 3. This was Italian Trawler or Corvette STROMBOLI carrying petrol for Lampedusa, and sank North of Lampione. 2. KELVIN and JAVELIN sank following during sweep from Ras Makhage to Zuara night 19th/20th Jan. - Two schooners, four small naval auxiliaries, one M.L., one small M/V 3 unidentified small steamships. In addition Albacores sank one M/V 2000 tons, one M/V 5/6000 tons and damaged a destroyer off Ras Turgoeuness. (C. in C. Med., 2050B/20 to Commodore (D), R.A. Alexandria, F.O.R.S.C.A., V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O.L.A., C. in C. E.F.)

Situation Report No. 326. Western Desert. Naval beach party established Buerat 19th Jan. Enemy withdrawal from Tripoli Libya continues. Considerable movement of shipping to westward night of 19th/20th Jan. 11 small ships destroyed by KELVIN and JAVELIN V.A.M's 0755/20th Jan. refers. Further demolition taking place Tripoli Libya particularly Spanish Mole. All active shipping withdrawn. Complete blocking of harbour has not yet taken place. My 1925/19th Jan. para. 2 for F Lighter read 1 small M/V. 4 M.T.Bs from Malta carried out attack on Moles Tripoli Libya night of (19th/20th) January to interfere with demolitions and blocking. One M.T.B. believed lost and some casualties. (2) Red Sea. American merchant ship engaged enemy U-Boat in vicinity Cape Guardafui 1210/19th Jan. Blenheim from Aden carrying out search. (C. in C. Med., 2056B/20 to Admt.)

Movements, Tobruk, Derna. Departure Tobruk PINDOS, CROOME. Departure Derna M.T.B.61, 77 and 82. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2157B/20 to Admt.)

QUEEN OLGA. Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 2234A/20 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

WELSHMAN. 20th Jan. departure a.m. arrival p.m. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 2341B/20 to Admt., etc.)

Transports Oran. This is a repetition of my 1529/19th, not to D. of S.T. Liaison reports transports FRANCONIA and REINA DEL PACIFICO sailed a.m. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 2350A/20 to D. of S.T., (R) P.S.T.O.X.F.)

/Malta ...

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War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Malta Air
Report.A.I.514, 20th Jan. C.S.R. Malta.
Section 1, Part 1.

Offensive night 19th/20th Jan. 11 Wellingtons sent to attack shipping with roads and M.T. as secondary targets in the Tripoli area dropped 159 x 250 lb. bombs between 1840 and 2007 and scored hits on roads near Tripoli and amongst buildings at Castel Verde. Other bombs burst among 2 large groups of vehicles one west the other east of Tripoli starting a fire. A large fire was seen in Tripoli town. 3 Beauforts laid mines at entrance to La Goulette Harbour.

3 Wellingtons aimed 3 torpedoes at a small M/V sighted at 0305 hours north of Djerba. 1 hit was seen and the ship was probably sunk. 1 special Wellington 3 operating with Malta based naval units dropped flares over enemy shipping in Gulf of Gabes. 1 special and 3 torpedo carrying Albacores sighted 2035 2 M/V, 1 D/R 330° Cape Turgueuness 3 miles course 340° speed 5 knots. 1 Albacore scored a hit with a torpedo on 1 M/V 2000 tons and the special Albacore hit same M/V with 1 bomb. M/V blew up and sank. Another Albacore aimed torpedo at 1 M/V 5/6000 ton and an explosion was seen and the ship heeled over. Exact results from third Albacore's torpedo were not observed but flash followed by smoke was seen on 1 D/R.

Day 20th Jan. 16 Spitfire sorties were flown on offensive sweeps over South East Sicily. 8 Beaufighters carried out offensive sweeps against enemy aircraft and shipping off East Tunisian coast but no suitable targets were found.

Part 2. Enemy air activity, day 20th Jan. 12 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta 4 Spitfires provided escort for incoming friendly Naval units. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 2358Z/20.)

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy
B.P. 66½.

Sailing, telegram, Part 1. Escorts. BATHURST, ORISSA.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0230Z/20, to Admty.)
Sail 0230Z/20 Escort BATHURST, ORISSA. Speed, Route etc.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0240Z/20)
Note: 1st part of this signal has already been circulated (T.O.O. 0230/20).

Convoy
B.M. 37.

B.M. 37 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Madras, 0359Z/20 to Admty.)

GURNA.

Your 1701/19th. Yes certainly. GURNA can be spared.
(C. in C. E.F., 0527Z/20 to C. in C. Med. (R) S.N.O. Red Sea Canal Area, Cdre. R.I.N., Cdre. Aden, Admty., N.O.I.C. MASSAWA.)

B.A. 3.

B.A. 3. 1103/21 Jan. ILE DE FRANCE, Suez 1600 G.M.T. 27th. Jan. Passes 055°. E. 1100Z/23rd Jan. P. 017°. 54' 069°. 36'. Q 017°. 03' 062°. 27' R 015°. 49' 055°. 23' S. 012° 06' 046° 15' thence to Suez.
(N.C.S.O., Bombay, 0622Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

B.P. 66½.

Arrival 0740 P.M. MARYBOROUGH with KOROA departure 0201 BATHURST and ORISSA with B.P. 66½. 0316Z MADRAS escorting GEORGIC through focal area. (S.O.I. Bombay 1112Z/20 to Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N. S.O. (I) Colombo, S.O. (I) Kilindini, N.O.I.C. Hormuz, S.N.O. P.G.)

Ceylon
movement
summary
No. 34 of
20th. Jan.

(1) BATHURST and ORISSA leave Bombay 20th Jan. escorting B.P. 66½.
(2) BENGAL and SONAVATI left Bombay 18th Jan. escorting B.P. 66. (3) MARGUERITE leaves Madras 20th Jan. for Trincomalee to escort two merchant ships to Colombo. (4) TULIP leaves Addu Atoll 22nd. Jan. escorting two merchant ships to Colombo.
(5) GERALDTON and PUNJAB left Bandar Abbas 17th Jan. escorting P.B. 22. (6) GAWLER leaving Bombay 24th. Jan. escorting B.M. 38
(7) MAYBOROUGH left Colombo 17th Jan. escorting one merchant ship due Gargand Point 20th Jan. Thence escorting one merchant ship to (?Colombo) (8) HIRAVATI left Bandar Abbas (?17th) Jan. escorting P.A. 20. (9) KONKAN leaving Calcutta 20th Jan. as escorting one merchant ship to Vanderlin Island.
(10) LISMORE leaving Colombo 23rd. Jan. escorting one merchant to Diego Garcia. (ii) BOMBAY and BENGAL leaving Bandar Abbas 24th Jan. escorting P.B. 23.
(12) RATNAGIRI arrived Aden 11th Jan. from Bandar Abbas. (F.O. Ceylon. 1115Z/20)

/RANCHI...

War Diary.

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

RANCHI.

Arrival 20th. Jan.
(F.O.E.A., 1231Z/20 to Admty.)

Martlets.

Request supply position of Martlet IV (F.4F.) may be signalled . If spares cannot be supplied within 2 months it will be necessary to reduce a few aircraft to (corrupt group) to provide for the maintenance of the Light Forces.
(R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean, 1310Z/20 to Admty.)

Aircraft
for S.
Atlantic.

Your 1406/18. The following air reinforcements are being placed at the disposal of C. in C. S.A. From Ceylon area. 7 Flying Boats and 6 Flying Boat Amphibians. From East Africa. 3 Flying Boats. All these aircraft should be available in S.A. by about Feb. 3rd. 2. It is anticipated the 6 Sunderlands will be available from Med. which will be retained in the Kilindini-Diego Suarez area for protection of shipping in Mozambique Channel. 3. These Flying Boat dispositions are being made without prejudice to the provision of air cover for operation "Pamphlet" and the movements of Force A, and the maintenance of a detachment of three Catalinas in Persian Gulf area.
(C. in C. E.F. 1845Z/20 to Admty. (R) C.in C. S.A. R.A.N.A.S. A.H.Q.E.A., 222 Group.)

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Refits of French Ships. Ref. despatch No. 5937 of 17th Jan. from Algiers to Usfor. U.S. Authorities request supply of British Asdics for these commitments. They have been informed that stocks will permit of this. Further particulars are being requested concerning the 21 trawlers and inshore patrol vessels and concerning the supplies available. (2) It appears that the most urgent commitments are French ship TEMPETE and French ship SIMOUN which presumably require type 128C. Will these sets be sent from U.K. to Casablanca? (3) It has been tentatively decided that U.S.N. will instal the gear in those ships not being sent to the U.K. for the purpose but will require technical advice and assistance from U.K. in those ships being fitted in African ports. (4) Request I may be kept informed of all decisions and action taken in this matter.
(B.A.D., 0011Z/20, to Admty.)

Movements. St Johns Nfld., Jan 19th. Arrivals NIAGARA, TIMMINS, BUCTOCHE, MINAS, MEDICINE HAT ex H.X.223. ESCANABA, TAHOMA, TAMPA ex S.G. 18. Departures NAFJNEE, ROSTHERN, DIANTHES, TRILLIUM, DAUPHIN, LINCOLN to H.X.223, ESCANABA, TAMPA, TAHOMA escorting three Merchant Ships to Argentia SWALE, GARLAND, LOBELIA to S.C. 117.
(N.O.i/c St. Johns N.F., 0014Z/20 to Admty.)

Attacks on Convoy H.X.217. Your 1543/14. Concurrence of Headquarters U.S. Naval Forces in London was obtained before issue. It is regretted that para. 5 of Admiralty 1408/1 was not complied with, but as the story was not live news, and U.S. representatives in London had been informed, it was considered unnecessary to telegraph such a long account.
(D. of P. V.C.N.S. Approves, 0030A/20 to B.A.D.)

U/B By D/F on 3920 Kc/s. at 2141Z/19, U-Boat estimated to be anywhere within 75 miles of 59° 00' North. 30° 00' West.
(D.D.I.C., 0456A/20 to A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.)

CHELSEA, S.S. BRILLIANT (U.S. tanker torpedoed 18/11/42) My P.C. and S. at 0600Z/20th 046° 10' North 057° 37' West 280 7. BRILLIANT unable to steer for position J. is steering for Sydney. Weather report.
(CHELSEA, 0810Z/20 to F.O.N.F., (R) C.O.A.C., N.O.I/C Sydney, A.I.G. 301.)
BRILLIANT reports she is in danger of breaking in two. Is unable to proceed Louisburg. Am standing by with FRISKY. My position 46.28 North 59.00 West.
(CHELSEA, 1600Z/20 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax, Connav, Comtask 24 Admiralty, C. in C, W.A. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Comtask 24-M.)

/Following...

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

CHELSEA, S.S. BRILLIANT (U.S. tanker, torpedoed 18/11/42.) Contd. Following received: BRILLIANT broken in two, am endeavouring to pick up survivors. 1620Z/20th. (Ends.) (CHELSEA, 1710Z/20 to F.O.N.F., Connav (R) Admty. etc) Your 1710/20th. Expect present gale will continue until P.M. 21st. When all possible survivors have been recovered recommend you endeavour to seek shelter at Louisburg. FRISKY, SALISBURY, to remain with you if still in company. Report possibility of salvage of BRILLIANT. (C.O.A.C., 1915Z/20 to CHELSEA, Connav, N.O.1/c Sydney Cape Breton, FRISKY, SALISBURY. (R) C.T.F. 24. Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

Unable so far to rescue any survivors. Fore end BRILLIANT likely to sink soon. After end still afloat with men on board. Am unlikely to be able to keep in touch during the night. FRISKY not in company. Possibility of salvage existing. Request ?guard rescue tug. My estimated position 2100Z/20th, 046° 17' North 058° 23' West. (CHELSEA, 2130Z/20 to C.O.A.C.(R), F.O.N.F. etc.)

U.S. Dispositions. Cominch's 192011 (Serial No.57), addressed for action to Admty., informs as follows: Change my 121551 (1016/13.) Pacific: CARD at sea IDAHO at San Pedro. Atlantic: BROOKLYN, CINCINNATI, TEXAS, MARBLEHEAD, SAVANNAH, SANTEE, CHESTER at sea. MILWAUKEE at Recife. (Commaveu, 0815/20 to Admty.)

ORILLIA O.N.S.160. Your 2235/19th. Will commence transmitting on 9380 Kc/s at 1200Z/20th. Am escorting ship SAN FRANCISCO my P.C. and S. (observing) at 0500Z/20th 058° 21' North 037° 18' West 195° 8.5 knots.

(ORILLIA, 0830Z/20 to C.T.U. 24.1.12. (R) C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0830/20th. Give SAN FRANCISCO my compass bearing and my course and speed, 193° 7 knots. Join me best speed. Prepare to fuel on arrival. Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.1.12., 1425Z/20 to ORILLIA (R) Connav, C.T.F.24. Admty. A.C.I.C., C.T.G.24.7, C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

Overdue Ships. Overdue Trinidad Brazilian COMMANDANTE PESSOA, BRAZIL. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1036R/20 to Admty. etc.) See 1431Z/21.

REGENT. My 1709/16. Preliminary Trial not satisfactory. Sailing postponed at least 24 hours. If next deep trial is not successful I recommend REGENT should return to U.K. accepting limitation to diving. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 1112Q/20 to Admty.)

U/Bs 4/1 Master of Spanish RITA SISTER reports 2 large German U/boats on surface at 1400 A.T.S. on 4th Jan in 32° 59' North, 33° 25' West. Did not

/contact...

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/Bs
4/1
(Contd.) contact ship. 2. Master being Republican requests source of this report be kept secret, fearing Falangist W/T operator in ship. 3. Master considered reliable.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 1219/20 to Admty.)

U.G.S.4. N.K. Alter route after dark tonight Wednesday for new (E) 40 - 30 38 01 new (F) 40 - 40 24 - 10 thence to (R). Omit (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q). Cancel Straggler route points off T.Z.A.B. substitute (G) 41 - 30 37 - 45 (H) 41 - 15 23 - 10.
(Connav, 1255/20 to C.T.F. 38 (R) C. in C. Lant, Admty., N.S.H.Q., N.C.X.F., S.N.O., C.A., V.A. Gibraltar.)

S/M
estimate
Jan. 20th.
U.S. S/M
Notice. (Cominch, 1452/20, 1453/20, 1524/20, 1525/20, 1526/20)

Curacao,
Convoy
facilities. S.B.N.O. Curacao's 1704/17th (?I) concur (?generally). (A) Request Engineer Officer be sent. None available on station. (B) Concur that Hamilton should remain for supervision and repairing A/S equipment and care of radio D/F equipment. (C) Pearce will be retained for the time being and one officer is to be transferred from Aruba for coding and liaison duty. (D) Request ratings (?required) be sent from U.K.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1532Q/20 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

U/B
O.N.S.160. U-Boat position by D/F at 1218Z/20th within 150 miles of 54.30 North 38 West. 110.68 KC/S type B.T.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1544/20, For Information Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.12, Mid Ocean Escort, T.U. 24.1.18.)

Escorts
for French
Warships. U.S. Authorities wish to know if British escorts can be provided for RICHELIEU, MONTCALM, FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE from Dakar to Bermuda, sailing as early as possible after 25th Jan.
(B.A.D., 1601Z/20, to Admty., F.O.C.W.Af. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)

FORT LAMY,
NORSE KING. O.N.S.154. Have you any news of FORT LAMY and NORSE KING (Norwegian) due New York and Boston respectively about 12 Jan.?
(D.T.D., 1603A/20, to N.S.H.Q.)

GUNNEL. Admty.* is requested to place on Rugby submarine routine for transmission GUNNEL. U.S. Submarine notice. GUNNEL will pass through 50.01 North,

*Passing action being taken by W.R.

/26.01...

War Diary.20.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- GUNNEL
Contd. 26.01 West. 1400/21st. All dates January. Times Z. Advancing 250 miles daily. On the surface. Dive at discretion. Then through following positions. 44.23 North 33.46 West. 38.39 44.29. 37.29 52.31. Arriving 39.07 North 68.55 West at 1130/30th. Thereafter to 40.32 71.04 running submerged at 2 knots during daylight 30th. Thence follow Narragansett swept channel to Point Judith and Block Island sound. Destination is New London. Area limit 50 miles ahead 100 miles behind estimated position. Also 15 miles either side of track. Submarine will report if limits are exceeded. Estimated time of arrival Point Judith 1330/31st. (Cmdre. Subs. Atlantic Fleet, 1611Z/20 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet who is requested to pass to Comnav, Admty. F.O.S., Consubron 50.)
- F.H. 31. My 1201/19 (F.H. 31 pre sailing) Owing to weather conditions F.H. 31 delayed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O.St. John, 1623Z/20 to Admty.)
- EMPIRE
BOY. O.N.S. 160, EMPIRE BOY main discharge pipe seriously fractured making water freely but under control. Intend detaching her at Westomp for St. John's N.F. with EMPIRE OPOSSUM and one escort. 5657 3730 2760 7523. (C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1635Z/20)
- H.M.S
QUEEN
ELIZABETH. Your 1616/2 Jan. On completion of refit it is requested that you will arrange for QUEEN ELIZABETH to carry out 14 days working up practices. Full work will be undertaken in home waters. 2. Destination is U.K. and anticipated date of completion should be signalled as soon as possible when port will be notified. 3. Ship should be manned in accordance with C.A.F.O. 1325/42 and on arrival in U.K. leave may be granted as detailed in A.F.O. 4374/41. 4. Complement will be adjusted and endeavour will be made to relieve as many ratings as possible who have been 18 months on board. 5. Request a report of outstanding items of work remaining to be taken in hand in U.K. may be signalled as early as possible. (D.O.D.(F), 1748A/20 to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q., QUEEN ELIZABETH.)
- Wreck. O.N.S. 160, ORILLIA and SAN FRANCISCO. ORILLIA reported she passed sinking wreck of oil tanker in 061° 00' 026° 15' at 0630Z/18th. Jan. (C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1900Z/20 to Connav (R) Admty. etc.)
- U.C/C.U.
Convoys. It is intended to commence Tanker Convoys between U.K. and Curacao, the first Convoy U.C.1. sailing 13th Feb. 1943. 2. Convoys will be run on a 20 day cycle. 3. The sailing cycle allowed for is as follows:- Sail U.K. D. day. Arr. Curacao D + 21. Sail Curacao D + 28 at latest. Arr. U.K. D + 49. Sail U.K. D + 60. 4. It is important that all shore authorities in U.K. and D.W.I. commercial and naval, /concerned...

War Diary.

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.C./C.U. concerned with the loading, discharging and
Convoys. sailing of these convoys should appreciate
Contd. importance of maintaining quick turn-round. Sum
total of wasted tanker days has a direct effect
on military operations in every theatre of war..

5. It is intended to build up the Convoys to 40 tankers per
convoy. 6. Some adjustment of sailing dates may be necessary in
due course in order to "stagger" arrivals in U.K. with arrivals
of other Convoys. 7. Ocean Routes will be agreed with Cominch
and promulgated in accordance with principles established for
Trade Trans-Atlantic Convoys. 8. An Escort Carrier will sail
with each Convoy. Proposals are being worked out and will be
promulgated. 9. Each ship sailing from U.K. will be provided
with approach route to U.K. ports for use on homeward journey.
Important amendments arising after sailing of Convoy must be
communicated to Masters by B.R.L.Os before C.U. Convoy sails.
10. Two Commodores will sail with the first U.C. one of whom will
return as Commodore of the first C.U. the second remaining to
sail with the second C.U. 11. Arrangements are being made for
Incon Tables to be supplied to Curacao, Aruba and Trinidad.
12. Connav is requested to arrange for U.S.R.O. to co-ordinate
information in respect of Joiners (if any) from Aruba and
Trinidad and to despatch Sailing Telegram in two parts in
accordance with C.B. 04024(41) Article 88. 13. C. in C. W.A.
is requested to pass to N.Os. I.C. and N.C.S.Os. in U.K. Ports
as requisite.
(D.T.D., 1937A/20 to Cominch C. and R. C. in C. W.A., etc.)

Sub Para. D. Y.M.S. 1 attacks sound contact 22.58 N.
attack 79.02 W. 1940Z/01. U.S.S. ONYX attacks periscope
and 29.39 N. 88.17 W. 2244Z/11.
sighting (Cominch, 1948/20 to Admty. for O.I.C.)
summary.

MONCTON MONCTON despatched assistance MERTON. O.N.S.158
MERTON 22 ships hove to over an area of about 25 miles
O.N.S.158. centre 43.32 N. 61.10 W. since 1230Z/20th T.U.
24.18.9. Halifax convoy hove to to westward.
Commodore O.N. 158 has been asked to detach
Halifax portion independently as soon as possible. IRONBARON
and INNERTON still Halifax stragglers. Captain in charge
standing to (?all shipping) limit of endurance. Weather report.
(LEAMINGTON, 2000Z/20 to C.O.A.C. (R) C.E.S.F. etc.)

Escort of Your 2047/16th. Good weather is considered of
A.F.D.24 greatest importance and therefore to avoid North
to Freetown. East Trade, Connav suggests route via Kingston
and Trinidad thence to about 003° N. 045° W.
through 005° 20' W. to Freetown. 2. If ALCANTARA
can embark a deck cargo of coal suggest it should be possible to
fuel trawlers at sea in these latitudes. 3. ORIANA will require
Diesel oil from ALCANTARA. Other tugs both burn Admiralty fuel
but should have sufficient endurance for voyage from Trinidad.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Escort of A.F.D. 24 to Freetown. Contd. 4. MILFORD arrange to comply with para 6 of F.O.C.W.Af's signal when at New Orleans. 5. Consider desirable that ALCANTARA should if possible proceed New Orleans in order attend conference request escort will now take on 1st Feb. 6. Sailing date 2nd Feb. (B.A.D. 2039Z/20 to F.O.C.West Africa, MILFORD (R) Admty., S.B.N.O. W.A. ALCANTARA.) Reply F.O.C.W.A. 1337/21.)

Position Reports. Your 1120/19th. (Is it Connav's wish that these positions should be confined to Atlantic and Indian Ocean?) Yes until further notice. (B.A.D. 2121Z/20 to Admty.)

W.S.F. W.L.E.F. destroyers. Best information available to me regarding destroyers assigned W.S.F. - W.L.E.F. is as follows:- (A) Total allocated 17. (B) Undergoing refit or extensive repairs 12. (C) Proceeding refit near future 1. (D) Minor repairs 2. (E) Available for operational requirements this date 2 and an additional 2 are scheduled for readiness on Jan. 22nd. Foregoing situation does not permit temporary assignment any of the available destroyers to reinforcement W.L.E.F. Groups at this time. C.O.A.C. requested return all the available destroyers to St. Johns for employment in W.S.F. (C.T.F.24, No. T.O.O./20 to C.O.A.C. (R) F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., Cominch C. & R. C. in C. W.A. Cinclant.)

Australia and New Zealand.

MAURETANIA. Anticipate H.T. MAURETANIA with 6000 U.S. troops for Suez will leave Fremantle about 7th Feb. (A.C.N.B. 0341Z/20, to C. in C. E.F. (R) Comsowestpac Unit, N.Z.N.B., C. in C. M.F.)

Movements. Departure Apia U.S.S. DELPHINIUS for Penrhyn, Bora Bora and Aututaki. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0610Z/20, to Admty.) Arrivals 20th January Newcastle U.S. Transport VAN HEUTSZ. U.S. Transport FEIGN arrived Cairns 19th and departed 20th due Brisbane 23rd. U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER departed Cairns 19th due Thursday Is. 21st thence Darwin. (A.C.N.B. 1636Z/20 to Admty., Connav.)

War Diary.

20.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand
America and West Indies. - Contd.

Digest At noon Liberator dropped bombs down centre
No. 363 Gasmata runway which appeared repaired. (2)
Jan. 19th. Another Liberator over Gasmata shortly after
noon saw bomb craters runway and added more in
building and runway area. Later bombed
Finschaffen waterfront. (3) Liberator during morning bombed
warehouse Madang and beached transport Lae. Also strafed 3
loaded barges off shore Cape Hollman (North William ? Peninsula).
4. R/C Fortress during morning reported 1 Light Cruiser
3 Destroyers 40 miles E.N.E. Cape St. George. Course 260°
Speed 20 knots. Over Rabaul at noon where observation
prevented by cloud cut saw three Destroyers entrance Blanche
Bay, course south, also large transport Rugen Harbour. Hour
later eluded 12 to 15 fighters seen in distance over Gasmata
where no aircraft on runway. (5) 7 B.25s bombed supply dump
Malahang 3 during morning while 3 Bostons conducted offensive
sweep Salamaua to Mambare and 3 Beaufighters strafed Mangrove
Island (off Gona). (6) 18 Enemy Aircraft ineffectively bombed Buna
area after dark 18/1. (7) 3 or 4 Enemy Aircraft bombed Milne
Bay evening 18th. No material damage. (8) 1 Enemy float
plane bombed Merauke during morning. No damage. (9) Kittyhawk
unsuccessfully intercepted 1 enemy aircraft approaching Darwin
morning 19th, where 2 enemy aircraft indicated early afternoon.
(10) 77, 8 (?7 - 8) unidentified aircraft over Windham area
during morning. (11) 3 B.25's bombed Tyeal (Kai Is.) demolishing
some buildings during morning and same time 4 Beaufighters
strafed Beacobaucau Road in Eastern Timor. (12) Ship sunk off
Sydney 1430Z/17 identified as KALINGO. Ref. Digest Serial No.
362 Para. 10, 32 survivors reached Sydney, 2 casualties,
MOBILUBE now reached port.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0824Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

KALINGO Union Steamship Co.'s vessel KALINGO (2047 tons
(sunk gross) torpedoed and sunk 1430Z/17th in 034°
17/1) 07' South 153° 15' East 2 firemen killed.
Survivors reached Sydney (N.S.W.) in life boats.
Ship was struck amidships. Submarine surfaced
300 yards distance after attack.
(A.C.N.B., 1206Z/20 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

MOBILUBE U.S. Tanker MOBILUBE (10222 tons gross) was
(Torpedoed struck in port quarter by a torpedo 1105Z/18th
18/1) in 033° 56' South 152° 09' East. Three
members of crew killed. Vessel reached Sydney
(N.S.W.) safely.
(A.C.N.B. 1207Z/20 to Admty., C. in C. E.F. NZN.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines reported.

Estimated positions (D.D.I.C. 1411A/20, 1419A/20)

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

A message from the Admiralty to B.A.D. Washington today gives the provisional allocation of the 8 British escort aircraft carriers which are expected to be in service by the end of June. All of them are to be employed on trade protection

Home Commands.

J.W.52

Force R (KENT, GLASGOW and BERMUDA) sailed from Seidisfjord at 0130 today to cover the convoy. V.A.2 in ANSON with SHEFFIELD, FAULKNER, INGLESFIELD, ECLIPSE and MONTROSE, sailed from Scapa at 2202 to cover the convoy.

Norwegian
M.T.B.
operations.

M.T.B.s 618 and 623 from Lerwick attacked Target No. 59 with gunfire at 1900 today. There was no resistance.

Aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the docks at Cherbourg and Flushing in the early afternoon of today.

Several more ground mines were detonated in the Humber area today.

South Atlantic.

ALCANTARA and WOODRUFF sailed from Freetown for patrol today. WOODRUFF will proceed to Kingston, due 3rd February.

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

M.T.B.
operation
at Tripoli(L)

M.T.Bs. 264 (S.O.), 260 and 313 carried out intermittent attacks on the mole at Tripoli from 2400/20 to 0330/21. They were heavily engaged by the shore batteries. At 0350 the M.T.Bs. withdrew, leaving behind flares and smoke floats which the enemy engaged for half an hour or more. All M.T.Bs. were repeatedly hit, but were not seriously damaged. Casualties were 2 ratings wounded. M.T.B. 267 which set out had to return with a damaged propeller when 30 miles north of Tripoli.

A further blockship has now been sunk in the entrance to the harbour, though there is a gap of 120 feet remaining in the centre of the channel.

1,000,000 tons of shipping have been sunk by H.M. Submarines in the Mediterranean during the present war..

3 M.T.Bs. left Malta this afternoon to operate off Kuriat and Sousse tonight, nothing was sighted and the operation is to be repeated tomorrow night

U.301 sunk.

P.212, reports having sunk a medium sized west-bound merchant vessel flying the Nazi ensign in 44.8 N., 8.18 E., at 1305/14 and U.301 on 21 Jan. in 41.27 N., 7.4 E., and picking up one junior officer survivor. She also bombarded the seaplane hangar at Finale, Marina (Gulf of Genoa).

SS. OCEAN RIDER in convoy K.M.S.7 was damaged forward by a bomb at 1700 today off Algiers. VANOC reports that she shot down one of the attacking aircraft.

N.C.X.F. reports that SS. HAMPTON LODGE in M.K.S. 6 was sunk by enemy action last night about 80 miles west of Algiers.

Air Activity.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft is suspected last night off the entrance to Algiers harbour, though sweeping gave no result. There were 3 minor air raids but no naval damage was caused. Bombs or mines are reported to have been dropped off Mers-el-Kebir and Oran.

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air Activity.
Contd.

Naval torpedo carrying Albacores at 0312 today attacked a 3/4000 ton merchant ship escorted by 3 destroyers in 350° Cape Bon 15 miles and sank the merchantman but did not see the results of attacks on the destroyers, the Albacore which sank the merchant ship is missing. Beauforts hit with torpedo a tanker of 3/4000 tons and possibly a merchant ship of similar tonnage. Wellingtons attacked Bizerta last night but no naval targets are mentioned.

U/B attacked.

Beaufighters today shot up small vessels off Kerkenah Island and set a tug on fire. 6 B.25s of the 12th A.F. obtained a hit and 2 near misses on an enemy tanker off Tunis. A Wellington at 2230 today attacked a surfaced U-boat in 37.34 N., 4.35 E. (30 miles N.E. of Algiers) with 4 depth charges, two of which exploded on either side of the U-boats track about 25 ft. astern; the stem of the U-boat was seen to lift after the explosion.

12th A.F.

Six B.26s report sinking by bombs one medium sized merchant ship and damaging a second by near misses about 15 miles west of Pantellaria this morning.

Operation
M.H.3

A convoy of 4 merchant vessels, one R.F.A. and one tug, escorted by (BEAUFORT, HURSLEY, EXMOOR, ALDENHAM, DULVERTON, PALADIN, and Greek destroyer KANARIS) left Alexandria at 0907 today destined for Tripoli (L). Tripoli (L) mine clearance force and tank landing craft are moving forward from the Benghazi area.

America & West Indies.

WITCH (B.5 group) arrived at St. Johns N.F. today with her foremast carried away and other damage which will require about 7 days to repair.

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

3 Liberators this morning attacked enemy shipping in the Amboina area and obtained hits on a merchant vessel and a cruiser; the hit on the cruiser was confirmed by photographs. 3 Fortresses attacked shipping in Rabaul harbour early this morning, dropping 500 lb. bombs from low level; it is believed that at least two merchant ships were damaged, one of which was seen in a sinking condition.

745

War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Russian
S/M's
at
Rosyth.Request I may be informed whether presence of Russian S/Ms in Rosyth is still to be considered as Most Secret. The S/Ms are giving usual short leave, and their presence at Rosyth must be known in the vicinity.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1516A/21 to Admty.) *Reply 1618/26*Movements.W.A.
Command.Situation at 2005A/21. Details.
(C. in C. W.A. 1357A/21, 1703A/21, 1808A/21.)
See Lion Copy.O.15,
P.216.F.O.S. 2154/19. Intend sail D.S. O.15 escorted by LORD LLOYD p.m. today to Lerwick to arrive first light 22nd. (2) LORD LLOYD will then be available to escort P.216 to Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 0945/21 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)
Scapa Departure 1559 O.15 escorted by LORD LLOYD.
(A.C.O.S. 1616A/21)NEWFOUNDLAND. After completing degaussing range at approximately 1700/21 proceed by Searched Channel to Scapa.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1020/21 to NEWFOUNDLAND.)
Catapult trials successfully completed.
(NEWFOUNDLAND, 1621A/21 to A.S. C.B.S.)

P.219.

Capt. (S) 3's 1635/20. 1. BRYONY is to escort P.219 from Clyde January 25th to vicinity of Scapa and is available for return escort if not unduly delayed.
(C. in C. W.A. 1404A/21.)

SALVIKING.

SALVIKING is to join Eastern Fleet Command. On completion of trials she is to be sailed for Colombo by the Cape.
(D.D. of Salvage (F) 1245A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)P.225
P.53.Capt. S.3's 1635/20.
(1) BERGAMOT is to escort P.225 and P.53 from Clyde January 23rd to Lerwick and is available for return escort if not unduly delayed.
(C. in C. W.A. 1406A/21.)EMPIRE ROACH,
EMPIRE TITAN,
EMPIRE CHUB.Admiralty 1826A/20. Weather permitting intend sail vessels named in para one on 24th January.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1421A/21.)S/M.
Positions.At 0800/22. Details.
(F.O.S. 1514A/21, 1724A/21, 1842A/21, 2208A/21.)
See Lion Copy.

/Positions...

War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

Positions of S/Ms at 0800/22 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) U.S.S.R. S/M S.51 71° 30' North 21° 20' East proceeding on surface at C.O.'s discretion to Eastward speed 9 knots. (B) P.314 TRIDENT on patrol off Alten Fjord. (C) P.224 70° 01' North 13° 50' East through 70° 50' North 16° 13' East to patrol in vicinity of 70° 50' North 21° 56' East (D) P.339 50° 10' North 10° 56' West proceeding dived by day through 50° 10' North 12° 40' West. 49° 10' North 13° 50' West thence course 180° S. of A. 145 miles per 24 hours. (E) TORBAY 49° 50' North 10° 40' West proceeding dived by day through 49° 50' North 12° 34' West 49° 10' North 14° 22' West thence course 180° S. of A. 140 miles per 24 hours. (F) U.S.S. HERRING zone K.505. (G) U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao. (H) P.219 escorted by CUTTY SARK 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles thence to Clyde. S. of A. 10 knots. (F.O.S. 1514A/21.)

H.33. Intend to sail H.33 escorted by KING HAAKON 7 from Rothesay at 2030 A/22 to Londonderry. E.T.A. Lough Foyle Buoy 0930A/23.
(Capt. S.7. 1658A/21.)

P.312 P.312 is to be escorted as far as the Boom.
P.219. CUTTY SARK then to proceed Falmouth and R/V with P.219 outside the Boom and proceed in execution of Capt. (S) 3 1409/16.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1713A/21 to CUTTY SARK.)
My 1713/21. CUTTY SARK is to R/V with P.219 at 0300/22.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2133A/21 to CUTTY SARK.)

Operations.

Operation "Valuable". Your position by R.D.F. is 164 Beachy Head 11 miles. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0415A/21 to CLEVELAND.)
My 1550A/20 and 1000A/20. Request SOUTH CAROLINA Grade A from 1700 today till 0400 tomorrow.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1322A/21 to Admty. (R) C.C.O.)
Your 1322/21. This has been arranged.
(C.C.O. 1501A/21, to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Following is a repetition of my 1316A/21 addressed N.O.i/c Newhaven, Capt. (D) 1, (R) Admiralty 947, C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, etc. (1) My 1000/20. Force A. consisting of CLEVELAND, BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE, GOATHLAND, patrolling as in para. 4 but passing E.A.5 Buoy inward at 0600/22. Force B to consist of Motor Gunboats 611, 613 and M.T.B's 86, 242, 243: Also M.T.B. 89 if ready. (2) 9th M/8 Flotilla and 2 M.L.s operating to Southward of Beachy Head. (3) M.L. 247 and R.M.L. 523 patrolling 050° 20' N. between 001° 30' W. and 002° 05' W.
(4) P.W. 282 escort SLAZAK (P. Dest.) sails from Needles 1700/21st.
(5) W.P. 282 escort WENSLEYDALE arriving Needles 0900/22nd.
(6) KINGSTON TURQUOISE, LORD WAKEFIELD and Chaser 15 at St.Helens.
(7) UNST at Yarmouth (I.O.W.) Ends.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1327A/21.)

/Two...

War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Two Enemy Launches shelled. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in the Dover Strait between 0900/20 and 0900/21. Track El 2D. Two small vessels from Calais at 1720 to position 100 South Foreland 9 miles. Coastal Batteries fired nineteen rounds of 8 inch and fourteen of six inch at these vessels which were identified by Aircraft as 70 foot Launches probably engaged on air-sea Rescue work. Results unobserved. (V.A. Dover, 0942A/21 to Admty.)

Coastal Patrols. 1. Intend M.L.247 (S.O.) and R.M.L.523 to Patrol tonight on Lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W and 02° 05' W. 2. Leave Portland 1700 via Q.ZS.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 "Devise". (F.O.I.C. Portland 1124A/21.)

Patrol tonight. (2) Forces employed M.T.B.'s 235 (S.O. of Force) 204, 240, and 238, M.G.B.8. (3) Patrol between positions: (A) 040° Sept. Iles Light 7, and (B) 285° Sept Iles Light 12. (4) Object to intercept enemy on Coastal passage. (5) Information Own P.W. 282 escorted by SLAZAK passes Dart Buoy about 0600/22. W.P. 282 escorted by TYNEDALE passes Start Point about 2338/21. Enemy coastal shipping may pass patrol-line bound west or east. Armed escort may be expected. E-Boats may be in Guernsey or Cherbourg. Torpedo-Boats in Brest or Cherbourg. (6) Execution. Leave Dartmouth 1800 today and proceed to position B at speed not exceeding 20 knots. Leave patrol as required to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light. (7) Code Word "Occasion". (C. in C. Plymouth, 1703A/21 and No T.O.O./21.) Your 1703/21. "Occasion" sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1814A/21 to C. in C. Plymouth.) Your 1703/21. "Occasion" returned. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 2114/21 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation V.P. "Cartoon". Carry out V.P. operation "Cartoon". (1) Patrol B for Baker. (2) 626 S.O. 627 619 S.O. covering Force, 631 625. (3) 0800A/22nd or first suitable day thereafter. (4) One (5) Protection sufficient. (6) Yes, in Patrol Area after 2000A attacking between 2100A and 2140A and remaining in patrol Area as long as possible. (7) 0800A 60 miles from B. (A.C.O.S. 1232/21 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

2 M.T.Bs. in Frojso. At 1940A/21 German Naval authorities reported by W/T in P/L that two M.T.Bs. were in Frojso (61° 45' N. 05° 00' E.) (D.D.I.C. 2301A/21 to A.C.O.S.)

Forthcoming S/M Patrols. 1. My 1311/15 para. (a). For P.225 read P.216. Cancel para. (d). Para. (a) should now read P.53, O.15, SOKUL, and P.216 leaves Lerwick 25th January for patrol returning about 8th February. 2. My 2154/19. Cancel para. 3. 3. Captain (S) 3rd.

/Sub...

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Forthcoming Sub. Flotilla is requested to sail P.225 for
S/M Scapa on 23rd January.
Patrols (F.O.S. 2321A/21.)
Contd.

Mining.

Sweep Captain M/S Clyde's 2143A/20. In view of great
off difference in ships performances submit that
Iona. trawler be instructed to search independently from
Eastern Edge of area whilst I complete the Western
half then work across to meet them using WEDGEPORT
and DORNOCH as well.

(SHIPPIGAN, 0120A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Your 0120/21 approved. Instruct trawlers accordingly
GUNNER is now S.O. of trawlers.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0809A/21 to SHIPPIGAN.)

Area to be searched is a circle of 8 mile radius with centre
266° Skerryvore 9½ miles. Trawlers are to search from as near
Eastern Limit of area as Navigational danger permits on line
approximately North and South. Ships in line abreast 4 cables
apart single Oropesa. Depth of sweep 7 fathoms until 2½ miles
West of Eastern Limit when depth of sweep is to be 10 fathoms.
Carry on with search independently of me as rapidly as weather and
endurance permit. Keep me informed of what you have swept.

(SHIPPIGAN 1040A/21 to GUNNER.)

Intend proceeding with WEDGEPORT, DORNOCH, and QUALICUM at
0140A/22 to relieve search in Western Section at daylight.

(SHIPPIGAN 1105A/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

CYPRESS. Trawler CYPRESS beached off Shoreham Harbour.
(R.N.O. Shoreham, 0205/21.)

CYPRESS was struck by a floating mine at about
2130/20 one ½ 180° from Shoreham Pier. Vessel has been beached
east of Shoreham Harbour.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1010/21 to Admty.)

Operation My 2350/10. Q.Z.L. 51 has been widened 2 miles to
EY. eastward by a very close search. To avoid
excessive dan-laying with limited number of
sweepers available a close search in J-Formation
was adopted instead of 100% clearance. Search covered more than
90% and as all results were negative this section of operation is
considered completed. Intend to sail CIRCE for Greenock P.M.
January 23 vide Admiralty's 1232/11 not to A.C.O.S. Remaining
sweepers will continue operation extending channel 1 mile to
westward.

(A.C.I.C. 1524A/21 to C. in C. H.F.)

Humber Following 10 Mines exploded by Sweepers today.
Area. At 0925/21 in 150° 62 Buoy 2 cables. At 1054/21
in 146° 57E Buoy 14 cables. At 1131/21 in 178°
East Dudgeon Buoy 16 cables. At 1245/21 in 157°

/East...

749

War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Humber East Dudgeon Buoy 2 miles. At 1248/21 in 155°
 Area East Dudgeon Buoy 18 cables. At 1250/21 in 110°
 Contd. East Dudgeon Buoy 15 cables. At 1403/21 in 154°
 57 E. Buoy 19 cables. At 1532/21 in 158° East
 Dudgeon Buoy 22 cables. At 1537/21 in 160° East
 Dudgeon Buoy 19 cables. At 1537/21 in 160° East Dudgeon Buoy
 19 cables.
 (F.O. Humber, 1827/21, 2145/21 and 1850/26.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats Inconclusive D/F bearings at 0941Z/21 indicate
 reported. U/Boat possibly within 60' of 59° 30' N. 15° W.
 (D.D.I.C., 1145A/21 to Escorts D.S.36.)
 Am over enemy submarine in 45° 52' N. 09° 57' W.
 (A/C O.G.5.A., 2135/21 to 19 Group.)
 Have lost touch with enemy submarine.
 (A/C O.G.5A., 2137/21 to 19 Group.)

Navigational.

North Russian ice forecast for 1st February based on
 Russia. observations over long period and on recent reports
 Ice. of Russian ships sailed independently South of
 Bear Island. 75.30 N. 15.30 E. 74.10 N. 19.00 E.
 75.00 N. 25.(?33) E. 75.45 N. 32.00 E. 75.15 N.
 40.(00?) E. 75.30 N. 44.00 E. 74.45 N. 49.30 E. (?45) 60 miles from
 Nova Zemlya (corrupt group) to 70.30 N. 49.00 E. and 30 miles N.W.
 Bear Island Kanin Nos to Cape Gorodetski.
 (S.B.N.O. Polyarno, 0956A/21 to Admty. C. in C. H.F.)

Jan From Jan Mayen. North Coast Ice to shore. No
 Mayen. passage.
 Ice. (A.C.I.C. 1126A/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.)

Casualties and Defects.

ABEILLE 21. Tug ABEILLE 21 towing lighter C.608 adrift in
 299° 10 miles from Holyhead Lighthouse at 0356A/21.
 Requires assistance.
 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0537A/21 to POPPY, CAMPION, MYOSOTIS,
 CARNATION, N.O.I.C. Holyhead.)
 Your 0537A/21. LEEDS UNITED standing by ABEILLE and lighter.
 270° South Stack 7 miles.
 (CARNATION, 0814/21 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

OSTENDE S.S. OSTENDE beached in Loch Na Lathaich on fire and
 (Suspected abandoned. Reported total loss. Two of crew not
 sabotage). yet accounted for. LYDIA LONG alongside ship at
 LYDIA LONG. time and also suspected total loss. Crew all safe.
 (N.O.I.C. Oban, 0726/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/My...

War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

OSTENDE (Suspected Sabotage.) LYDIA LONG Contd. My 0726/21. In view of mysterious circumstances both of mining on 17th and explosions on morning of 21st consider that sabotage should be suspected. LYDIA LONG safe but damaged. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1017A/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) Your 0726A/21. Request you hold a Board of Inquiry into the circumstances in which LYDIA LONG was damaged. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1358/21 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

MAYDAY, DUNERA. Following has been read. MAYDAY, DUNERA steam trawler requiring assistance S.E. of Malarrif Light (Reykjavik W/T T.O.R. 1255N/21 to Admty.) X.329 O.N. 1670 Kcs. MAYDAY ship requiring immediate assistance S.E. of Holderness Light. (Jones, Reykjavik T.O.R. 1413A/21 to Admty.)

NORTHERN SUN. Asdic dome carried away. Request instructions. My 1600 P.C.S. 062° 05' N. 020° 18' W., 120° 2 knots approx. 1 merchant ship in company. Weather 2852 8429. (NORTHERN SUN 1530Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. (T.A.33.) My 0109/8 para 3. As EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND will not now be ready to leave Glasgow until 22nd Jan. it is confirmed that arrangements have been made for embarkation of approximately 3,000 personnel to take place in Glasgow p.m. 21st and a.m. 22nd Jan. (D.S.T. 0219A/21.)

Intend sailing EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND pass Clyde Boom 2359A/22 to pass through position (P) at 0800Z/23, thence in accordance with A.M. 1721A/18. Speed to (P) 15 knots, thence S. of A. 19½ knots. Codeword "Sparrow." (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1214A/21.)

J.W.52. Your 1725A/18. Left present patrol position 0058A/21, arriving position (A) 1230A/21. (P.224 0313A/21 to Capt. S.9.)

Intend to proceed in ANSON with SHEFFIELD in company passing Hoxa Gate at 2200A to-day. Route via Q.Z.S. (?15) and east of Faeroes to 066° 12' N. 011° 50' W. Speed of advance 16 knots. C. in C. Rosyth is request to provide A/S air escort. (V.A.2. 1101A/21 to A.C.O.S, C. in C. H.F.)

Sailing CUMBERLAND for Scapa. 2. I hope to bring NORFOLK back shortly.

(C. in C. H.F. 1107A/21 to NORFOLK.)

C. in C. H.F.'s 1126/18 para. two. Time of R/V amended to 0703A/23rd. Intend to pass through R/V on 320°, reversing course at 0730 and subsequently every 60 minutes until met.

Acknowledge by L/T through A.C.I.C. (V.A.2. 1123A/21 to QUEENBOROUGH.)

/Your...

War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

J.W.52. Your 1830/10. Arrived at 1220/20. (KENT, GLASGOW, Contd. BERMUDA.)
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1636A/20 to A.C.O.S.)
J.W.52 reported by A/S Bomber in 068° 15' N. 007° 26' W. at 0224A/21st. Course 52°.
(C. in C. H.F. 1908A/21 to A.I.G.47.)
Departure CUMBERLAND 1925/21 in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 1107/21. E.T.A. 0800/23. Request dawn A.L.T. on arrival.
(A.C.I.C. 1950A/21 to A.C.O.S.)
Scapa departure V.A.2. in ANSON with SHEFFIELD, FAULKNER, INGLEFIELD, ECLIPSE, MONTROSE.
(A.C.O.S. 2202/21.)
Seidis Fjord departure at 0130/21st Force "R"
(A.C.I.C. 2301A/21 to ONSLAUGHT, V.A.2.)
J.W.52. P.C.S. at 1200A/21, 069° 11' N. 003° 40' W. course 52° speed 8½ knots. Weather 4571 1116.
(BLANKNEY, 2305A/21 to H.F. Ops.)

W.S.26. Your 1452. Codeword "Manual" arrived
K.M.F.8. Clyde escorted by SKATE.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0738A/21 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)
Intend sailing convoys in company escorted by ships in repeated address passing Clyde Boom 0100A/23 to R/V Liverpool portion K.M.F.8 and escorts from Londonderry in 270° Oversay 6 miles 1300A/23, thence in accordance with A.M. 1904A/15. Codeword "Apricot".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0956A/21)

H.X. 222F. VANSITTART's 1447/19. Report names of ships in company.
(C. in C.W.A. 0743A/21 to ST. CROIX.)

H.X.222. F.J. WOLFE and LECHISTAN, stragglers last in company at 2000Z/20.
(VANSITTART, 0926Z/21.)

O.N.M.162. Your D/1/111 13/8/42. Intend sailing GDYNIA
GDYNIA. destination Halifax in O.N.M.162 from Belfast
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1005A/21 to Admty.)

M.K.S.5. Your 1600/20. (1) Detach GIRONDE to proceed independently from position (S) to Loch Ewe for onward escort to Middlesborough where repairs have been arranged. (2) BLAIRESK to be detached at 7° W. to proceed independently to Barrow. (3) SCOTTISH to proceed Londonderry and await orders.
(C. in C.W.A. 1101A/21 to SCOTTISH.)
C. in C. W.A. 1922A/20. Request ships be sailed to arrive Clyde Jan. 22 after daylight.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1938A/21 to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

/TJALDUR...

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

TJALDUR. Intend to sail at 1700/22nd. TJALDUR kite balloons (troops) escorted by DULCIBELLE speed 10 knots for Aberdeen, E.T.A. 1500/23rd. Routed by my 1125/14.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1145A/21 to A.C.O.S.)
My 1535/19. Sailed (TSALDUR).
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1933/21.)

| Ocean and Troop Convoys. | Order of sailing Group | Takes Out. | Sails | Brings Back. |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | B.1 | O.N.162 | Liverpool. 22nd Jan. | S.C.119 |
| | C.3 | O.N.S.163 | 23rd Jan. | H.X.226 |
| | B.7 | O.N.164 | 1st Feb. | S.C.120 |
| | B.6 | O.N.S.165 | 2nd Feb. | H.X.227 |
| | A.3 | O.N.166 | 11th Feb. | S.C.121 |
| | B.3 | O.N.S.167 | 12th Feb. | H.X.228 |
| | B.5 | O.N.168 | 21st Feb. | S.C.122 |
| | B.2 | O.N.S.169 | 22nd Feb. | H.X.229 |
| | B.4 | O.N.170 | 3rd March | S.C.123 |
| | B.1. | O.N.S.171 | 4th March | H.X.230 |

(2) (A) "Torch" Convoys will sail as follows begins:- K.M.S.9 February 6th. K.M.F.9. February 7th. then at 16 days intervals (B) Unit S.2 will escort K.M.S.9. A special escort will be provided for K.M.F.9. (3) (?Dates of arrival) for C Groups are anticipated as follows. (A) C. one arrives U.K. January 22nd. Sails February 22nd with K.M.S.10. (B) C.4 arrives U.K. Febraury 7th. Sails February 23rd with K.M.F.10. (C) C.2 arrives U.K. February 15th. Sails March 10th with K.M.S.11. (D) C.3 arrives U.K. February 24th. Sails March 11th with K.M.F.11 (C. in C. W.A. 1209A/21.)

H.X.221. Average speed 8.6 knots, arrived off Oversea 0915Z/13. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 1233A/21 to Connav.)

K.M.S.8. My 1102/19. Sailed AYRSHIRE escorting Liverpool section. INDIAN PRINCE delayed with engine defect.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1251A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
K.M.S.8. My 1102/19th and 1251/21. Intend sailing BLUEBELL escorting INDIAN PRINCE 0100Z/22nd to overtake K.M.S.8. Expected time of overtaking 0800Z/23rd. S. of A. 13 knots to Oversay then 12 or better. Codeword "Cement".

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1706A/21.)
Request fighter protection K.M.S.8 as follows.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1708A/21 to 9 Group, 13 Group.)
My 0934A/20. Sailed. Codeword "Conifer".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2006A/21.)
K.M.S.8 53 ships sailed 2330/21 Pendants.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 2350/21 to D.S.T.)

S.C.116. Departure Reykjavik 1700/21. Intend to remain

/ahead...

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.116 ahead S.C.116 during the night and make contact
Contd. at daylight 22nd.
(KINGCUP, 1730Z/21 to C.T.U. 24.1.4.)
Sailed 1745/21. KINGCUP to rejoin you.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1815A/21 to C.T.U.24.1.4.)
Hval Fiord arrivals BURZA at 2020/21st.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 2029A/21 to C.T.U. 24.1.4.)
Intend to proceed at 0400Z/22 and expect to rejoin convoy
by 1230Z/22.
(BURZA, 2201Z/21 to C.T.U. 24.1.4.)

Explosives Reference A.L. M.0271/42 dated 10th January 1942.
in M/Vs. 2. Owing to increasing quantities of explosive
on East being shipped to U.K. it has been found necessary
Coast. to loosen the restrictions on the amount which may
be carried to the East Coast. 3. The Ministry
of War Transport has been informed that (a) a
maximum of 1200 tons explosive may be carried in a single ship
North-about as far as Leith, where any quantity surplus to 500
tons must be discharged before the ship proceeds further. (b)
should the docks at Leith be already occupied by ships discharging
explosive, or should there be insufficient water to permit entry
without delaying a ship off Leith, the ship may be permitted to
carry up to 1200 tons explosive as far as the Tyne for discharge
in Tyne dock or at the Corporation Quay. (c) Subject to the
exception mentioned at (b) 500 tons is the maximum allowed South
of the Firth of Forth as far South as the Humber inclusive.
Beyond the Humber the present maximum of 50 tons which is now
under discussion must stand for the present.
(D.T.D. 2013A/21.)

RANGITATA. Codeword "Container". Sail RANGITATA at 2100A/21
independent for Avonmouth escorted by SHIKARI.
E.T.A. Barry Roads 1745Z/22nd.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 2250A/21 to A.I.G.200.)

War Diary.

21.1.1943
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch"Area.

Fromgramme for K.M.F. convoys. Your 1954/19. Confirmed. (N.C.X.F. 1051A/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.At., V.A. Gib., F.O.C.W.A.F.)

Tankers for N. Africa. D.T.D. 1249A/21 to B.A.D. See America and W.Indies

M/V Discipline. Your 2051/13. There have been a number of minor cases of indiscipline among Merchant Seamen. These have chiefly occurred ashore where the men have thought that they could not be punished by either the local French or the Military Authorities. Until my 2039/11 was made this was also the opinion of local Naval and Military Authorities.

2. The only serious case on board occurred in the CITY OF EDINBURGH when an armed guard was placed on board.

3. My 2039/11 was made in order that all concerned should know my views on the legal situation and my wishes. (N.C.X.F. 1333A/21 to Admty.)

French Navy payment. Admty. 2340/18. Question of payment to French Navy has been classified by Allied C. in C's. N.A.F. 108 dated 18th Jan. to Combined Chiefs of Staff, which makes clear desire of French High Commissariat to maintain French armed forces in N. Africa without recourse to direct financial assistance from U.S.A. Allied C. in C's proposed policy is to respect this desire and orders have been given to Rear Adm. Hall to suspend arrangements for payment to French Navy.

2. Reply will be made later on maintenance arrangements. It appears that in the "Torch" area the present somewhat tangled state of affairs as regards assistance to French naval rearmament should be allowed to work through its initial stages as at present arranged. (N.C.X.F., 1836A/21, to Admty. (R) B.A.D. F.O.C.W.A.)

Co-Operation with French I, will present to Adm. Michelier that after the initial dispatch of French ships RICHELIEU, MONTCALM and two destroyers which is now under consideration by C.C.S. all future proposals and dispatch of operational units overseas should be referred to F.O. C. W.A.F., or myself accordingly to the area concerned.

4. Reference para 6. Co-operation with French in Algiers area is increasing rapidly and has been considerably helped by minor assistance in supply of Oerlikons and inclusion of French personnel in A/S and target practices. 5. These trifles help to affect the impression at first prevalent in French circles that they would get little assistance from U.K. Even so in view of A.M.? 2301/1 the time is not yet ripe in the "Torch" area to propose transfer to the British supply responsibility within principles of C.A.F.O. 1204/42. (N.C.X.F. 1850A/21 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. Washington.)

Note; First part of this message was circulated under T.O.O. 1836/21.

ILEX, HOLCOMBE. ILEX forms part of 6th D.F., HOLCOMBE forms part of 59th Division. (N.C.X.F. 1950A/21 to G.M. Western Med. 257K (R) Admty., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Air Report AI 73 21 Jan. Op. Sum. No. 80 for 24 hours ended midnight 20 Jan.
(G) Sightings and attacks. Hudson S/233 on A/S sweep east attacked fully surfaced U-boat at 1850/20. in 36.28 N., 0.40 W., with 4 D/Cs course 070° 8 knots. Too dark to see result but it was thought that track of U-boat was seen between swirl made by D/Cs.
(H.Q., R.A.F. Gib., 0015Z/21).

TORBAY My 1254/20 and my 1258/20. Add to all times P.339. 24 hours.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1005/21 to TORBAY, P.339 (R) F.O.(S) Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 8).

Dispositions. 1. GU.S. 3, C.T.F.33, 31.45 12.26 237° 9.
2. IMPERIALIST, ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER (E) 30.06 13.36, hove to. Arrive 2003A/21.
3. PENELOPE 35.59 09.19 to Gibraltar 16.
4. M.K.F.7, WESTON, 2 Sloops, 2 Cutters, 1 (?corvette) 38.22 (?13) 18 through 40.01 16.16 thence 003° 13.
5. D.65, French Sloop Minesweeper ANNAMITE 28.51 11.12 coastwise to Casablanca, 5.
6. SCARBOROUGH, ERNE, 30.32 11.31 through 28.43 12.(?51) at 0900/22nd to R/V with T.M.F.2 and part company again with 1 tanker in 30.01 11.53 at approx. 1900/22nd 319° 13.
7. T.M.F.2, RACEHORSE, 4 destroyers 26.07 15.07 through 26.48 14.37 and 28.29 13.04 thence 34° 12½.
8. M.K.S. 5 (X), HAVELOCK, 1 destroyer, 3 corvettes, 3 minesweepers (E), 43.30 15.(?04) 000° 8.
9. WISHART, VELOX, 1 merchant ship 35.54 05.46 through 35.51 06.01 and 35.45 06.23 to 34.02 07.49 15 thence escorts return Gibraltar reverse route 15½.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1116A/21 to A.I.G.63).
Situation 2002A/21st Jan.
GLENROY, JANUS 029° 55' 021° 01' through 030° 01' 021° 01' thence 330° 11.
(2) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR, working cable vicinity 037° (?41') 026° 46'.
(3) Swedish relief ships AKKA, YARRAWONGA, 036° 01' 024° 37' 270° 12 4 U.G.F.4 T.F.34, 40.27, 32.41 through 40.30 31.10 thence 090° 11.4.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1305A/21 to A.I.G.64).
Situation 2001A/21.
(3) PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER 26.11, 15.42 through 23.36 17.22 to 20.01 18.01 16 knots.
(4) Netherlands S/M 0.19 022° 56' 019° 44' 358° on surface 9.
(5) U.G.F.4 T.F.34, 40.27 32.41 through 40.30 31.10 thence 090° 11.4.
(?6) T.F.22, 27.24 22.33 through 26.01 25.01 thence 270° 14.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1402A/21, 1550A/21 to A.I.G.65).

AJAX AJAX is to cease to form part of 12th Cruiser PENELOPE. Sqdn. and is to be administered by V.A. Gibraltar until she leaves the station. PENELOPE is to form (?part) of 12th C.S.
(N.C.X.F., 1220A/21 to C.S.12, V.A. Gibraltar (R) S.O. Force H, Admty. 12th C.S.)

/SOBIESKI...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

- SOBIESKI Your 0438/20th. (see South Atlantic). Regret impossible to divert SOBIESKI, ship having already passed Gibraltar and escorts not available (P.S.T.O.X.F., 1230A/21 to D.S.T.)
Your 0438A/20th SOBIESKI passing Gibraltar 0700/20th in convoy M.K.F.7.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1522A/21 to D.S.T.)
- M.K.F.7 Sailed in M.K.F.7 0700/20, ORMONDE, VILLE D'ORAN. Numbers on board.
(S.T.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1250/21 to D.S.T.)
- D.64 Arrived D. 64 consisting of CHAMPOLLION, GROIX, JAMAIQUE, MEDIE II, CEPHEE, RHEA, FOMALHAUT, NIVOSE. Escort U.S.S. AUK and 3 P.Cs. British CYCLAMEN, BUTSER, BIRDLIP, and French DUMONT D'URVILLE.
(S.N.O. Casablanca 1521Z/21 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af. B.N.L.O. Dakar).
Ships to R/V with M.K.S.6 see 2301A/21.
Warships U.S.S. AUK, PETEU, CHAPS 480 - 481 - 482, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, BUTSER, BIRDLIP, French DUMONT D'URVILLE arrived Casablanca with D.64 (?).
(Comseafon W.T.F., 2046Z/21 to Admty. etc).
- NORDFELS, Jan. 21st. Arrived Bilbao 20th German 62
LIVADIA. (NORDFELS) and German LIVADIA, to be known in future number 63.
(Consul Bilbao, 1530/21 to Admty (R) M.E.W. B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar)
W.R. Note:- Passed H.Q.C.C., F.O.(S), C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.
- ADVENTURE A.M.1343/18th and C. in C. W.A. 1357/21. If not previously routed by Admiralty onward route through (L) 43.02 15.26 (M) 40.09 15.19 (N) 36.03 09.57 (O) 35.51 06.29. thence Gib.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1754A/21 to ADVENTURE (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.)
- Movements Arrival 0905 LOCH OSKAIG. Departures 1615 H.D. M.L. 1136 and 1238 L.C.I.(L) 97 to Algiers. 1812, WISHART, VELOX SS. BERGENSFJORD to Casablanca Q.K. 3, Q.K.A.84.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1924A/21 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)

/BELRAY....

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

BELRAY,
BELPAREIL,
BELNOR.

Pass to F.Os. I.C. and N.C.S.Os.
Following is repetition of A.M.2343B/5th May 1942
(begins) - The M/Vs BELRAY, BELPAREIL and BELNOR
are peculiarly valuable vessels owing to their
ability to lift heavy and awkward cargo.

2. These ships are only to be sailed in the
Mediterranean or the Atlantic north of 5° S., either in convoy
or with a special escort of not less than one A/S vessel. (Ends).
(D.T.D., 2135A/21 to N.C.X.F.)

M.K.S.6

Request S.N.O. Casablanca Area will sail
CHAMPOLLION, JAMAIQUE, GROIX and MEDIE II
escorted by WISHART and VELOX to R/V with convoy
M.K.S.6 in 035° 52' 006° 01' at 1200/23rd.

(2) WISHART and VELOX are to enter Casablanca with BERGENSFJORD
and place them under orders of S.N.O. Casablanca area for duty
in para. 1.

(3) Request French ships may be watered, fuelled and provisioned
to proceed to U.K. and issued with Mersigs and necessary convoy
instructions.

(4) Route for M.K.S.6 following by immediate signal.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2301A/21 to S.N.O. Casablanca area,
WISHART, (R) N.C.X.F., VELOX, Escorts convoy M.K.S.6).

~~M~~ 2301/21st. Convoy M.K.S.6 escorted by PELICAN S.O.,
5 corvettes one cutter, 4 minesweepers passes Europa Point 0700/
23rd routed through (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 S. of A. 8
knots.

(2) Stragglers route as above letter V to Y with instructions
to keep 30 miles to port.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 2317A/21 to S.N.O. Casablanca, WISHART)

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HOLCOMBE, SAIL HOLCOMBE to R/V with ILLUSTRIOUS in
ILLUSTRIOUS, position (Q) 001° 18' N., 011° 36' W., at 0800Z/
ILEX. 24th. ILLUSTRIOUS routed from (G) 010° 08' S.,
004° 45' W, to (H) 006° 47' N., 014° 48' W.
thence Freetown. S. of A. 21 knots, unescorted
18 knots escorted.

ILEX will join escort from Freetown. R/V will be signalled.
N.O.I.C. Takoradi pass to HOLCOMBE.

(F.O.C.W.A., 0101Z/21 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R) Admty.

ILLUSTRIOUS, ILEX, Capt. D.18, HOLCOMBE).

My 0101/21. HOLCOMBE is to be sailed to join escort of
ILLUSTRIOUS in 000° 56' N., 008° 44' W., at 0700Z/24. ILLUSTRIOUS
routed from (X) 010° 00' S., 003° 00' E., to (H), thence
Freetown. Pass to HOLCOMBE.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1047Z/21 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R) Admty.

ILLUSTRIOUS, C. in C. S.A., ILEX, Capt. (D) Freetown,
HOLCOMBE).

Alter course forthwith for position 010° S., 003° E.,
thence to position H given in C. in C. E.F., 1314/9th.

(C. in C. S.A. 1102C/21 to ILLUSTRIOUS (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.A.)

CORINTHIAN E.T.A. 1615Z/21st.
(CORINTHIAN 0901Z/21 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Capt. (D)
Freetown).

HYDRANGEA, Detach HYDRANGEA escorting BERWICKSHIRE for
BERWICKSHIRE. Freetown. Pass to Commodore.
(F.O.C.W.A., 0931Z/21 to BURDOCK (R) Admty.
C. in C. S.A., HYDRANGEA)
Cancel my 0131Z/21 (0931Z/21 intended)
(N.O.I.C., W.A., 1559Z/21 to BURDOCK (R) HYDRANGEA
C. in C. S.A. Admty).

Dispositions. Situation at 2001Z/21st ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF,
08.10 14.10 250 12½.
COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S., COMMANDANT
DROGOU F.S., DUNCTON 2 M.L. with S.T.53 03.42
08.55 to (?02).55 07.49 thence 076° 9.
COPINSAY, SARABANDE escorting about 04.31 02.40 (?thence) to
Takoradi 8½. BURDOCK, BELLWORT (?05).56, 15.20 to Freetown 12½.
BREDON 05.55 15.(?21) to Freetown 10.
HYDRANGEA escorting 07.42 14.38 to Freetown. (?12). ST. WISTAN
off Marshall. RUMBA escorting MERCATOR about 00.36 S., 08.20
(?thence) to Lagos 8½. BALUCHISTAN 03.32 S., 09.22 (?thence)
Pointe Noire 12. NORTHERN ISLES 07.50 S., 08.50 (?thence)
(?Takoradi) 7½.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1103Z/21 to A.I.G.150).
CARNATIC 016° 21' 018° 17' 156° (?41') DESPATCH 009° 53'
016° 52' to 010° 24' 017° 40' thence 356 19.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1235Z/21 to A.I.G.149).

CARNATIC Proceed Bathurst for escort to Freetown as
ordered by N.O.I.C. Bathurst. Report E.T.A.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1232Z/21 to CARNATIC (R) N.O.I.C.
Bathurst, Admty).

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

VALIANT
destroyers.

C. in C. S.A., 1758/19, not to N.C.X.F. It appears that VALIANT will arrive Freetown about 8th February. Except for the destroyers escorting W.S.26 there will be no destroyers in West Africa until the arrival of QUIBERON and QUALITY.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1301Z/21 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., N.C.X.F.)

DESPATCH

Departure 21st Jan.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1313Z/21 to Admty. B.N.L.O. Dakar).

ALCANTARA,
WOODRUFF,
Escort of
A.F.D. 24
to Freetown.

Your 2039Z/20th.
(i) I had suggested more Northernmost route as my information indicating probability of finer weather to North and emphasized route also avoids strong contrary currents. But consider C. in C. U.S. Fleet should decide.
(ii) As corvette's S. of A. is limited to 12½ knots ALCANTARA with corvettes escort cannot

reach New Orleans in time for conference. Intend therefore that ALCANTARA with WOODRUFF shall arrive Kingston (Jamaica) on 3rd Feb.

(iii) 100 tons coal in bags could be embarked at Kingston (Jamaica). If possible this should not be done by ship's derricks which are unsuitable.

(iv) Up to 150 tons diesel oil can be supplied by ALCANTARA.

(v) Total requirements at Trinidad will be signalled by ALCANTARA from Kingston.

(F.O.W.A., 1337Z/21 to B.A.D. (R) MILFORD, Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A., ALCANTARA).

Sailed ALCANTARA escorted by WOODRUFF at 1700/21st for Kingston proceeding by following route

A. 010° 00' N., 023° 40' W. B. 012° 9' N., 038° 45' W.

C. 014° 10' 055° 01' D. 015° 01' 061° 05'

E. 017° (735') 076° 25' thence Kingston. Estimated S. of A. 12-12½ knots. E.T.A. p.m./3rd Feb.

2. ALCANTARA shifting from group FT to Washington broadcast at 0800/25th Jan. Codeword "Palmnut".

(F.O.C.W.A., 1701C/21 to Admty. (R) C.C.S.F., C. in C. U.S., Fleet, S.B.N.O. W.At. WOODRUFF, MILFORD, B.A.D., ALCANTARA, N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica).

LADY ELSA,
WELLARD,
HERTFORDSHIRE,
LADY ROSEMARY.

Your 0947/21st (not to Admiralty). LADY ELSA WELLARD sail 1330/21st E.T.A. Capetown 1100/25th HERTFORDSHIRE, HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY sail 1400/21st E.T.A. Capetown 1800/25th. Coastal route. All ships fully bunkered and loaded with sundry salvage cargo ex DUNEDIN STAR.

(2) Minor engine repair only effected as boiler defects too extensive to be completed within week specified in your 1117/15th.

(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1422C/21 to C. in C. S.A., Admty).

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

SOBIESKI Following is a repetition of my 1115/21st (begins)
Addressed D. of S.T., S.T.O. Gibraltar, (R)
N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A., F.O.W.A., G.O.C.W.A.,
P.S.T.O.X.F., (S) S.T.O. Takoradi from D.S.T.O.
W.A.,.

Ref. D. of S.T. 0438/20th. Latest information ORION and
BRITANNIC E.T.A. Freetown 8th.

(ii) In view of above suggest SOBIESKI proceeds to Takoradi
embarking all personnel for passage to U.K. thence to Freetown,
thus arriving Cap Padaran to proceed with original programme
in connection with W.S.26.

(iii) S.S.T.O. Gibraltar requested to signal E.T.A. and draught
arriving Takoradi.

(iv) F.O.W.Africa concurs (Ends).

(S.T.O. W.A., 1451Z/21 to N.C.X.F., for P.S.T.O. X.F.,
S.S.T.O. Takoradi).

Escorted Your 1305/19th Jan. para. 2. Request you will
Group say whether you will be able to start group
sailings. sailings escorted throughout between Capetown
and Durban by end of January.
2. Brief explanation of safeguards referred to
in your para. 3 would be appreciated.
3. Request you will say if aids to navigation referred to in
your para. 4 are considered adequate and what if any additional
aids are in hand or contemplated.
(D.T.D., 1519A/21 to C. in C. S.A., (R) F.O.C.W.A., C. in C.
E.F.)

TYNDAREUS, N.C.S.O. Durban's 0611/17th. TYNDAREUS is
fire. proceeding Capetown with fire in number 4 hold.
(C. in C. S.A., 1650C/21 to Admty. Connav).

BELLWORT E.T.A. 0800Z/22nd.
(BELLWORT 1704Z/21 to R.A.W.A.F. (R) Capt. (D)
18th D.F.)

UMGENI Your 2024A/22nd Dec. UMGANI now considered
overdue.
(H.M.C.G. Pernambuco, 1741Z/21 to Admty).

Dakar I expect to arrive Dakar p.m./22nd Jan. Length
Meeting. of stay uncertain. Whilst at Dakar I shall
hold (list of S.Ps. etc). Request message
concerning my discussions with French be passed
B.N.L.O. Dakar for me.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1745Z/21 to Admty, N.C.X.F., etc).

PRIAM My 1246/30 Dec. Intend to sail PRIAM 21st Jan.
(damaged). (F.O.C.W.A., 1753Z/21 to C. in C. S.A., (R)
Admty).

/ARNDALE...

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21.1.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

ARNDALE,
GOLD RANGER
refits.

In view of your 0548/4 para. 3 and fact that ARNDALE's refit will require about 6 weeks request approval of following:

(i) Take GOLD RANGER in hand 1st Feb. to make good defects. Time required approx. 5 weeks during which, and weeks preceding whilst cargo is being discharged and ship made gas free oiler will not be available for fuelling.

(ii) Defer refit of ARNDALE until completion of refit of GOLD RANGER. During period GOLD RANGER is under refit ARNDALE to be used for fuelling H.M.S's former to replace latter when under refit.

Impossible to refit these oilers at the same time. (reason). Moreover one is required for port fuel duty, but it might be practicable to commence refit of ARNDALE about a week before completion of GOLD RANGER if not required for fuelling. (C.S. Durban, 1755/21, to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty. etc).

MATADIAN

My 1249Z/14 and my 1645Z/17 (Sailing of MATADIAN with corvette escort to R/V with escorts of 43rd escort group) Amend R/V to read 20° N., 18° W. (F.O.C.W.A., 1831Z/21 to Admty N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar).

Movements

Departure 21st Jan. M.L. 209, 244 escorting SS. JENNY Freetown 26th Jan. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1847Z/21 to Admty. N.O.I.C. West Africa, N.O.I.C. Lagos).

Supplies,
Dakar.

Request I may be informed of policy with regard to supply of oil fuel, lubricating oil, and coal to French at Dakar for naval purposes for next three months.
2. Estimated requirements are being ascertained by B.N.L.O.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1851Z/21 to Admty. (R) B.N.L.O. Dakar).

Bauxite Ships. Your 1306/20th Jan. This has been fully considered but bauxite programme entails allocation of of these ships.

(2) With institution of Bahia - Trinidad convoys the risk should be reduced. (D.T.D., 1917A/21 to C. in C. S.A.).

Freetown-
Trinidad
Convoys.

Request you will include in part two of sailing telegram of Freetown Trinidad convoys the No. of days for which each ship is bunkered.
(D.T.D., 1937A/21 to F.O.C.W.A.)

/K.X....

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

K.X.8

Your 1111Z/20th and your 1729Z/20th (N.T. in W.D.)
K.X.8 dispersed 1901Z/21st in 005° 47' N.,
015° 23' W. BERWICKSHIRE reported no further
trouble and is proceeding as pre-arranged.
(BURDOCK, 2131Z/21 to F.O.C.W. Africa, (R)
Admty. C. in C. S.A., Connav).

JULES VERNE

Sailed French Sub. Parent ship JULES VERNE
2030/21st. E.T.A. 0830/22nd.
(B.N.L.O. Dakar, 2249Z/21 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst
Gambia (R) Admty. N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.A. S.N.O.
Casablanca).

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.T.Bs. My 2056/20. All four M.T.Bs. have now returned to Malta.
(C. in C. Med., 0023B/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., V.A.M., F.O.R.S.C.A., R.A. Alexandria, S.N.O.L.A., V.A. Gib. N.C.X.F., Com. (D) C.S.15).

Tonnage for N. Africa ports. Your 1830/31st December, 1814/1, 0943/6, 2021/7, 1215/8, 1337/15 and 1801/16. Request you will state whether any demands involving allocation of ocean-going tonnage for Benghazi, Tripoli, etc. are expected in addition to those already reported.

2. Can it be assumed that the ships already allocated will be released on completion of one voyage?
(D. of S.T., 0221A/21 to P.S.T.O. M.E.)

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 37.34 N., 4.35 E. Enemy previously reported was on surface. When first sighted was on course 110° speed 12 knots.
(A/C call sign INB Duty N.0230A/21 to Gibraltar).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(Call sign INBN 0250A/21 to Gibraltar).

Enemy Units. Following has been read from aircraft P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers, 2 unknown 37.24 N., 10.50 E., 300° 8 knots. Have attacked enemy with torpedoes estimated no hits.
(Malta W/T 0245/21 to Admty)
Following has been read by Alex. Position of 2 enemy merchant vessels and 2 destroyers 37.15 N., 11.00 E.C. & S. unknown.
(A/C F.O. Duty A. 0415/21 to A.H.Q. Malta).

GRETE German controlled GRETE sailed from Valencia for Marseilles night of 20th.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 0500A/21 to S.O.(I) Malta S.O.(I) X.F.)
GRETE will sail tonight 20th for Marseilles.
(Valencia? ? No T.O.O./21 Recd. 1745/21 to Admty)

Tonnage Sunk by S/MS *a wonderful result* Total tonnage sunk in the Mediterranean by H.M. Submarines has just topped the one Million mark. My sincere congratulations and thanks to all submarines now serving or who have served in the Mediterranean who have achieved this magnificent result under most difficult conditions
(1st S.L., 0805A/21 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

Force K Arrived JERVIS, NUBIAN.
(V.A. Malta, 0901A/21 to Admty. C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)
My 0945/20th. Nothing sighted.
(V.A. Malta, 0950A/21 to C. in C. Med.)

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements Alexandria. Arrival 20th Jan. APHIS, ALDENHAM, BEAUFORT, DULVERTON, Greek destroyer KANARIS. (S.O.(I) Alex. 0922B/21 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

Enemy Destroyer. Following read by Alexandria W/T. P.C. and S. of one enemy destroyer is:- 34.34 N., 11.12 E. 190° 15. (A/C Using Call sign FDOL, 0930/21).

M.K.S,6 Your 1110A/20 P.D.T.S. 94, 95 and 85 respectively. (2) My 1416, 1418 and 1420 of 20th Jan. Admty. pass these messages to C. in C. W.A. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) (Cdre. Algiers, 0931A/21 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib. (R) Admty. Connav, C. in C. W.A.)

RHYL, STORNOWAY. My 2325A/20 and VINDICTIVE's 0137A/21st. Defects completed. Intend sailing 1400A/21st after fuelling. STORNOWAY in company. (RHYL 1006A/21 to F.O.I.C. Oran (R) Cdre. Algiers N.C.X.F., (?S.O. Force H)).

M.T.Bs. Arrived M.T.Bs. 82, 77, 61. (V.A. Malta, 1016A/21 to Admty etc). 3 M.T.Bs. leaving Malta at 1530A today 21st to operate off Kuriat and Sousse during the night. Passage both ways North of Linosa. (V.A. Malta, 1101A/21 to C. in C. Med., 201 Group H.Q., M.E., 247 Wing (R) N.C.X.F. Admty). M.T.Bs. 264, 307 sailed on operation. (V.A. Malta, 1602A/21 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. N.C.X.F.) To carry out a sweep Kuriat. (Govr. Malta, 1920Z/21).

P.42, P.45, P.46. P.42 leaving to patrol after dark tonight and returns Malta through (1) 035° 01' 012° 20' (2) 035° 02' 014° 10'toR/V with sweepers at 0830A/23rd. (2) P.45 moves forthwith north of latitude 036° keeping south of 036° 15'. (3) P.46 keep north of 036° 15'. (4) Three M.T.Bs. from Malta will be operating off Tunisian Coast between 035° and 036°. They are routed North of Linosa and have orders not to attack S/Ms. (Capt. S.10., 1116A/21 to S/Ms named).

/U.S...

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

U.S. Air Report. 16 B.17 despatched against shipping Tripoli Harbour. Clouds 10/10ths over target. Bombers bombed secondary target Camp Mangin on way home at 1535 hours. 6 B.25 scored a direct hit and two near misses on an enemy tanker while flying counter shipping mission.
(12th Air Force, 1121Z/21 to Etoussa for action, (To Eaker Brereton Signed Eisenhower from Doolittle)) See also 1800A/21.

P.51 Arrival.
(V.A. Malta, 1130A/21 to Admty etc).

Axis Shipping. Reported B.2. that Italian ship 4,000 tons and Greek ASPASIA 1200 tons now due Mitylene to load 5,000 tons olive oil.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1142C/21 to S.O.(I) Med., S.1., S.10., D.N.I.)

A. 659 Bi-weekly Opsum. No. 93. Night 19/20. Jan. 2 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli, 2 Wellingtons bombed Memlaha aerodrome east of Tripoli harbour. 1 fire started on Ean aerodrome, large fires on south shore of Tripoli harbour. 20 Jan. 15 B.24s in 2 formations bombed shipping in Tripoli Harbour. First formation claim hits on wreck alongside Spanish Mole and probable hit on another vessel. Fires started in Spanish Mole. Results of bombing by second formation obscured by cloud, but columns of black smoke seen rising. A Marauder on offensive R/C for enemy shipping in Aegean Sea torpedoed a 1,500 ton merchant vessel North of Crete. Hit on bows caused explosion and ship sank almost immediately. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1147Z/21, 1207Z/21).

P.212, P.247. 1. P.212 is to leave patrol to pass 038° 50' 008° 13' at 2001/23 038° 19' 004° 59' at 2030/24 and R/V with escort Algiers in 037° 01' 003° 13' at 0830/25.
2. P.247 is to leave patrol to pass 040° 01' 013° 15' at 1959/23 038° 42' 011° 48' at 0600/24th 038° 29' 007° 58' at 1900/25th 038° 16' 004° 04' at 0001/27 to R/V escort for Algiers in 036° 59' 003° 04' at 0802/27.
(Capt. S.8., 1214A/21 to 8 S/M F. (R) N.C.X.F. etc).

Cositrep 663. Air Night 19/20 Jan. Following operations from Malta. Naval Albacores sank a 2,000 ton merchant vessel in Gulf of Gabes. Explosion caused on another ship about 5,000 tons and destroyed. A torpedo Wellington probably sank a small merchant vessel same area. Another Wellington co-operating with H.M. ships dropped flares to illuminate enemy shipping in Gulf of Gabes. Beauforts mined entrance to La Goulette Harbour.

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Cositrep 4. 20 Jan. B.24s made two attacks on shipping
663. in Tripoli Harbour. First formation claim hits
Contd. on wreck alongside Spanish Mole and probable hit
on another vessel. Fires started on Spanish Mole
cloud obscured results of second attack. A
Marauder torpedoed and sank 1500 ton merchant
vessel in Aegean Sea.
(C. in C. M.E., 1300B/21).

K.M.S.7 Following arrived. (List).
(Cdre., Algiers 1312A/21 to Admty etc).

Enemy Units Following read by Alex. W/T. P.C. and S. of
one enemy merchant vessel 35.27 N., 11.05 E.
360° 15 knots.
(A/C using call sign FAYK, 1340A/21).
Following has been read. Five enemy transport barges in
34.40 N., 10.50 E. course 140° speed 10 knots.
(A/C using call sign FAYK 1406A/21).
Following read by Alex. W/T. P.C. and S. of 4 enemy
small craft and 7 enemy transport barges is 4247 (as received)
stationary.
(A/C using call sign FAYK, 1406A/21).
Following read by Alexandria W/T. P.C. and S. of Enemy
War Motor Boat 33.57 N., 11.46 E. 320° 14 knots.
(A/C using call signs (FAYK) 1440A/21).
Following read from Aircraft using call sign FAYK.
My 1440 P.C. and S. of one enemy minelayer (?motor launch
intended) 34.20 N., 12.00 E., course 005° speed 20 knots.
(Alex. W/T, 1540/21).

Air R/C. P.R.U. Jan. 21st 1220 Taranto, visuals. 1
battleship inner and 1 outer harbour. Messina
10/10 cloud.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1518A/21 to C. in C. Med., etc).

P.228 Your escort will be M.L. 444.
2. RHYL and STORNOWAY arriving Algiers 0800/22nd
from Westward.
3. 4 T.L.Cs. arriving Algiers 0900/22nd from
Westward.
(S.8., 1600A/21 to P.228).

ADRIAS Your 1933/17th para. B. (See North Atlantic) I
MIAOULES. am in urgent need of these ships. If they can
be spared from W.S. 26 after Freetown I must
request they be sent here via the Cape to
arrive Suez by mid March. The diversion through
Western Med. may delay their arrival here
indefinitely.
(C. in C. Med., 1613B/21 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F.)

/Movements...

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- Movements
Beirut. 19th. Arrival EASTERN, ROVER, WELSHMAN,
Departure Greek (D) SPETSAI, WELSHMAN.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 1635/21 to Admty (R) C. in C.
Med).
20th Jan. Arrival WELSHMAN Greek Destroyer
SPETSAI M.L. 358 Departure ISLAY Greek Destroyer AETOS,
WELSHMAN.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 1645/21 to Admty).
- Malta Stores. Presume shortage mentioned in V.A. Malta's 1515/16
Jan. will be dealt with by you, and Admiralty
kept informed of items which are not available
from your own resources.
(4th S.L., 1743A/21 to C. in C. Med).
- T.E.14 V.A. Gibraltar is requested to sail T.E.14 at
2345/26th by route (q) thence 036° 53' N.,
003° 04' E., 92.25 36.91 to Bone lettered
(a) to (k) omitting (i). Stragglers as convoy.
S. of A. 8 knots. E.T.A. Bone 1330/30th.
2. Escort BICESTER, SAMPHIRE, SPEEDWELL, MUSKETEER, ALBACORE,
CADMUS.
3. Sections detached or joined with local escort as follows -
(a) Oran position 109 at 0600/28th (b) Algiers position 036°
(753') 003° 04' E., at 0630/29th.
(c) Bougie position 25 at 1800/29th.
(d) Philippeville position 037° 13' 006° 56' E., at 0700/30th.
4. Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Bruce".
5. First two letters wireless call sign TX.
6. All times A.
(N.C.X.F., 1759A/21 to Capt. (F) C.G.12, V.A. Gib. A.I.G.261,
Capt. (S) 8, F.O.I.C. Oran Air Force, A.H.Q. Gib. (R) F.O.I.S.
S.O. Force H. Admty. F.O.C.S.12, Connav).
- Situation 1. Algiers air activity night 20/21. possibly
report No. 50. air mining off harbour entrance but sweeping got
no result. 3 minor raids with small amount of
damage to civilian property only.
2. Oran. Reported that enemy aircraft dropped
3 bombs or mines off Mers el Kebir and 2 off Oran. No damage.
3. Casablanca. 14 unloading berths now in use.
4. P.212 reports 1 medium sized Westbound merchant vessel
sunk and seaplane hangar at Finale bombed (See 2215A/25).
5. K.M.S.7 JEAN JADOT torpedoed and sunk by U-boat at 1700/20.
VERITY rescued 250 survivors. OCEAN RIDER damaged forward by
bomb at 1700/21 now at Algiers. VANOC claims one aircraft.
6. U.S. 12th Air Force claims 1 hit with 500 pound bomb on
tanker 25 miles North East of Bizerta at 1340/20th.
(N.C.X.F., 1800A/21 to Admty).

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements Port Said. 21st Jan. Port Said departures GLOXINIA, DELPHINIUM. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1818B/21 to Admty. etc).

N.O.I.C. Tripoli. Your 2302/18 (N.T. in W.R.) Am held up at Tarhuna. Do not expect to be able to enter Tripoli until a.m./23rd. N.L.O. contacted Cmdre. Cowley Thomas and the whole of Party Bardia. (N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya) 1820B/21 to C. in C. Med (R) S.O. Force I etc).

Malta Intelligence Summary. 2000A/20 - 2000A/21. Naval. Two M.T.Bs. sailed 1500 hours to carry out a sweep Kuriat. (3) Strikes. Night 20/21 Jan. Torpedo-carrying Albacores sank 1 M/V 3/4,000 tons 350° Cape Bon 15 miles. Beauforts scored one hit with torpedo on tanker 3/4,000 tons and one possible hit on M/V 3/4,000 tons. Day 21 Jan. Beaufighters attacked a schooner off Kerkenah Island and 2 tugs 6 miles south of Kuriat, scoring many hits with cannon and machine-guns and setting one tug on fire. (Govr. Malta, 1920Z/21).

Movements Arrival 21st January H.M.S. LAMERTON, ROYAL ULSTERMAN also F.P.V.2013. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1935A/21 to Admty). Arrivals. QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ZETLAND, LAFOREY. (N.O.I.C. Bone, 1945A/21 to Admty etc). Arrival AVON VALE departure RHYL and STORNOWAY. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1959A/21 to Admty etc). Algiers arrivals. ROTHESAY. VERITY from K.M.S.7. Departures. POZARICA, CLACTON, BRIXHAM, VERITY, BACHAQUERO with K.M.S.7 QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX. ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, LAFOREY, LAMERTON, ZETLAND, to Bone. LOYAL WILTON to overtake K.M.S.7. H.D.M.Ls. 1234, 1239 1165, 1232, 1123 to Bougie. (Cdre. Algiers, 2021A/21 to Admty). Arrivals. WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY, HYACINTH, PRIMULA, BURRA, CROOME, SKUD, 4, BOKSBURG, GAMTOOS, FALK, KINGSTON CRYSTAL, M.L.354 PINDOS. Departures, WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY, PRIMULA, SKUD 4, BOKSBURG, KINGSTON CRYSTAL M.L.354 T.L.C. 100, 101, 111, 114, 118, 129 139, 149 153, 154, 157,158, GAMTOOS All to Westwards. PINDOS, CROOME to (?North). (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2022B/21 to Admty). Arrived S/M P.54 from patrol. (Cdre. Algiers. 2023A/21 to Admty).

/Situation...

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation report No. 327. My 2056 Jan. 20 and 0023/21st Jan. (N.T. in W.R.) 3 M.T.Bs. sighted S/M in tow of three tugs North of Tripoli Libya at 2330 20th Jan.* M.T.Bs. engaged and U-boat was sunk by M.T.B.260. Tugs who had abandoned U-boat were engaged by gunfire and repeatedly hit. One Tug set on fire and apparently beached.

2. Intermittent attacks carried out on Mole 2400 to 0330/21st Jan. Mole obscured by smoke and M.T.Bs. were heavily engaged by shore batteries.

3. M.T.Bs. withdrew at 0350 leaving flares and smoke floats behind which shore batteries engaged for at least thirty minutes. All M.T.Bs. were repeatedly hit but no serious damage. Two ratings wounded.

4. The following M.T.Bs. took part. 264 (Senior Officer) 260 313, M.T.B. 267 had to return with damaged propellor when 30 miles North of Tripoli Libya.

5. Further blockship now sunk Northern part of Harbour entrance. Gap of 120 feet still left in middle of Channel. Spanish quay wrecked

6. JERVIS and KELVIN made coastal sweep Kerkenah Ras Turgeuness and Zuara night of 19/20/ but found nothing.

7. Submarines. RORQUAL has laid mines in vicinity of Cani Rock. P.42 reports one hit on northbound 5,000 ton transport believed sunk at 1849/19 January in position 33° 45' N., 11° 12' E.

8. Operation M.H.3, convoy of 4 merchant vessels one R.F.A. one tug escorted by one fleet and six Hunts has left Alexandria destined for Tripoli Libya. Tripoli Libya mine clearance force and landing craft tanks moving forward from Benghazi area. (C. in C. Med., 2113B/21 to Admty).
*Formers and also Admty. announcement to Press, (The Times 23 Jan. 1943), state U/B was sunk night of 19/20. See also C. Med. 20 113/1/2/43 with para 2330/19.

W.D. Note ? 20/21.

M.K.S.6. Destination DANIEL HUGER, JOHN WHITTIER, SAMUEL CHASE is U.K. if in company. (N.C.X.F., 2130A/21 to BRILLIANT, (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, Escorts of M.K.S. 6, Connav, Admty).

Enemy Units Following has been read - on 1570 k/cs 1 Shad 270° 6 untrue - 37.4 N., 5.19 E. (POZARICA? 2150/21 to Admty). Transmit following* at next routine time using

Broadcast method:-
Following received - addressed Air H.Q., Malta from A/C C/S BUN/O:- P.C. and S. of one M/V and 2 destroyers 37.13 N., 10.47 E., 030° speed unknown. (Alex. W/T, 2205A/21 to Whitehall W/T) *Action taken by W/T.

VETCH Am entering harbour with seriously wounded ratings request medical assistance. (VETCH 2215A/21 to Bougie (R) Algiers).

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PAPANICOLIS Your 1935/21st (N.T. in W.R.) Proceed on both engines through $032^{\circ} 40' 031^{\circ} 06'$ thence on course 180° GLOXINIA will meet you about 0700. Onward route follows.

(C. in C. Med., 2219B/21 to Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS (R) Capt. S.1.)

My 2219/21. Onward route through (B) $031^{\circ} 47' N.$, $031^{\circ} 06' E.$ (C) $031^{\circ} 44' N.$, $031^{\circ} 51' E.$ (D) $031^{\circ} 27' N.$, $032^{\circ} 26' E.$ Do not pass (B) before 0800.

Estimate GLOXINIA will pass (B) about 0700 course 360° . No movement letter to you.

(C. in C. Med., 2247A/21 to PAPANICOLIS, (R) Capt. (S) 1, N.O.I.C. Alexandria).

Movements,
Cyprus.

Arrival and departure 21st Jan. Greek destroyer SPETSAI, departure A.M. arrival p.m./21st Jan. WELSHMAN.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta (Cyprus) 2229B/21 to Admty. etc).

Malta Air
Report.

AI 531 21 Jan. Night 20/21 Jan. 1 special Albacore and 3 torpedo carrying Albacores of the F.A.A. despatched to attack shipping in Sicilian Narrows (Forndat (as decyphered))
0312 hours 350° Cape Bon 15 miles on M/V 3/4000 tons and 3 D/Rs course 040° speed 10 knots. 1 Albacore attacked M/V scoring hit with torpedo impact only depth setting 6 feet M/V heeled over and sank. Remaining Albacores attacked 2 D/Rs dropping two torpedoes impact only depth setting 6 feet from 40 feet range 500 yards but did not observe results. Very accurate heavy and light A/A was encountered from D/Rs and the Albacore which sank M/V is missing. 2 Beauforts and 3 Wellingtons carrying torpedoes were despatched to attack shipping North and West of Cape Bon. Beauforts sighted at 2352 hours 330° Cape Bon 38 miles one M/V one Tanker both 3/4000 tons and 7 probable D/Rs course 030° speed 5/8 knots. 1 Beaufort attacked Tanker with torpedo impact only depth setting 6 feet dropped from 60 feet range 600 yards scoring hit on stern of vessel causing column of water and steam. Second Beaufort attacked M/V with torpedo impact only depth setting six feet dropped from 100 feet range 800 yards. Results could not be observed owing to evasive action from intense and accurate flak, but rear gunner of the other Beaufort saw red flash on sea at time of (corrupt group). One special Albacore and three torpedo carrying Albacores despatched to attack enemy shipping off the East Tunisian coast found no suitable targets.
Day 21st Jan. 2 Spitfires on shipping search of Sicilian coast attacked 2 schooners 3 miles west of Cape Rossello scoring many hits with cannon and machine guns. 4 Spitfires on shipping search in Linosa area made no sightings. 8 Beaufighters carried out offensive sweeps against enemy transport aircraft and shipping off East Tunisian Coast. Beaufighters attacked a schooner off Kerkenah Island and 2 tugs 6 miles south of Kuriat scoring many strikes with cannon and machine guns and setting one tug on fire.
Part 2. Enemy air activity. Night 20/21 Jan. no enemy air activity locally. Day 21st Jan. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2254Z/21).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

P.45,
P.46.

From dawn tomorrow 22nd P.45 operate between
035° 30' and 036° 00'. P.46 operate North of
036° 00'.
(Capt. S.10. 2257A/21 to P.45, P.46., (R) C. in C.
Med., Capt. (S) 1).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

A.F.D.23. From Mitchell A.F.D.23. Reply your telegram 10th sufficient main drainage valves available to complete centre sections but if replace electric cable not delivered U.S.A. until end April taking into account that average time for transport from U.S.A. to Nile has been approx. four months it would be impossible to adhere September date for completing centre sections. At present progress is two months behind expected schedule but we are trying to make this up. Whether above would delay final completion at destination will depend partly on whether enough tugs will be available to tow the two parts simultaneously or whether towage of end sections will have to wait return of tugs from towage of centre sections.
(N.O.I.C. Bombay 0822Z/21 to Admty.)

Torpedo workshops. Your 1151/18th. Concur. R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean is requested to arrange the necessary diversion of stores and equipment.
(C. in C. E.F., 1108Z/21 to F.O. Ceylon. (R)R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean, Cdre. N.A.S. Ceylon, Admty.)

CHITRAL. Departure 21st.
(N.O.I.C. E.A., 1401Z/21 to Admty.)
CHITRAL sailed Kilindini 1820/21st Jan. E.T.A. Simonstown P.M. 29th Jan.
(C. in C. E.F., 1615Z/21 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty., F.O. E.A. CHITRAL, Cdre. i/c Durban, Capt. Supt. Simonstown.)

DONAU, INTEGRITY. Your 1410 16th Jan. Owing to extensive boiler defects tug DONAU will not be ready for sea until April approx. This was communicated to you in my 1456/10th Oct. 2. It is proposed to sail rescue tug INTEGRITY now at East London for Suez as soon as this is available, to be retained by you until such time as DONAU is ready.
(C. in C.E.F., 1201Z/21 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

Movement. Departure 21st Jan. WOLLONGONG escorting convoy.
(N.O.I.C.E.A. & Zanzibar, 1402Z/21 to Admty.)

?BURGENLAND. Following received from M.A. Chungking (begins).
(1) Chinese D.M.I. report German vessel due to leave Saigon about 18th Jan. load 3000 tons rubber 900 tons tin 100 tons antimony total 4000 tons. (2) Name of vessel given as HOCHALAND in Chinese characteristics. Impossible to ascertain correct Romanisation of first part but name ends in "land". (3) D.M.I. states his source is certain but gives no further details so I am unable to grade. (Ends.)
(F.O. Ceylon, 0308/21 to C. in C. E.F.(R) Admty. etc.) This may refer to German ship BURGENLAND, which probably arrived in Far East from Europe in December.

/U/B...

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East Indies - Contd.

U/B. From Colombo W/T Following received addressed Bombay Fort W/T. In A/S contact with enemy S/M. Have attacked with depth charges. Result unknown. Position 22 D.W.A.R. (?K) A light 10 miles. ((Originator indecipherable), 0455Z/21.)

ILE DE FRANCE. My 0622/20 (Re B.A.3.) ILE DE FRANCE late 1½ hours. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0508Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

MARGUERITE. Arrival 0345Z/21st. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0545Z/21 to Admty.)

A.M.Cs. Your 1725 15th Jan. (Re necessity to pay off A.M.C's in order to commission the new escort carriers.) 1. RANCHI leaving Kilindini 22nd Jan. on escort duty due Durban 28th January and depending on subsequent escort commitments should reach U.K. 1st week in March. 2. WORCESTERSHIRE is required for (?escort) (?referred to) in my 1658 9th January to Admty (I) and will be released immediately on completion these duties reaching South Africa 2nd week in April and U.K. mid-May. 3. Following is employment of remaining armed merchant cruisers, (a) ALAUNIA expected to be available for release for duties at Hormuz about end of February (b) QUEEN OF BERMUDA operation PAMPHLET (c) CHITRAL dock and refit Simonstown complete end (?March) (d) CARTHAGE lent to (?South Atlantic Station) in exchange QUEEN OF BERMUDA (e) RAMPURA ocean escort for troop convoy. 4. Request future ALAUNIA may be reviewed. Your 1053/18th August, refers. (C. in C. E.F. 1055Z/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A., R.A.W.A.)

U.S. Disposition. A.M. 1043/14. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Pacific:- CARD at sea IDAHO at San Pedro. (D.O.D.(F), 1120A/21 to C. in C. E.F.)

Movement. Departure 1242Z/21st Jan. TULIP escorting TAIPING and M.F. A. SINGU. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 1245Z/21 to N.C.S.O. Kilindini (R) S.O.(I) Bombay. S.O.(I) Colombo. S.O.(I) Kilindini. S.O.(I) Aden.)

THAMES. Your 1958/25th Dec. Request Rescue tug THAMES may be docked for bottom cleaning at Montevideo (? if time) allows. (C. in C. E.F., 1251Z/21 to Admty.)

Tugs, Trincomalee. Your 1002Z/18/1. (N.T. in W.D.) Confirmed that berths should be resited. 2. Ref. your 1331Z/14, it is realised that powerful tugs will in any case be required for berthing ships at Trincomalee. (D.of L.D., 2216A/21 to F.O. Ceylon, C. in C.E.F. N.O.i/c Trincomalee.)

War Diary.

21.1.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

S/M Estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0020/21, 1458/21, 1459/21,
U.S. S/M 1518/21, 1519/21, 1520/21, 2138/21.)
Notice.

Design Your 2221Z/7. In "Tracker" class longitudinal
of A.C.Vs. bulkhead will be fitted in bomb magazine 136-149
hold at the intersection of ships side frames
with the bomb magazine flat. This bulkhead will
therefore not be parallel to the middle line but will run in
aft with the ships side. (Details).
No objection to an agreement being reached to fit non-watertight
bulkheads and omitting drums.
(D.N.C., 0125A/21 to B.A.D.)

T.A. 34. Convoy T.A.34 sailed from U.K. on 19th Jan. for
New York.

2. Details of personnel on board are being
communicated by War Office to Milstaff Washington and N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa.

(D.S.T., 0220A/21 to B.A.D., etc.)

T.A.34 alter course at position (E) for new (J) 39.06 65.02 new
(K) 39.06 71.30 thence point (Z) omitting (F) and (G). "T.A.34
has by separate despatch.

(Connav, 1420/21 to T.A.34, (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet,
C.T.F.24, C.E.S.F., Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.,
C.O.A.C., Port Director N.Y.)

T.A.34. To enable docking on tide you should if possible
arrive Quarantine New York at 1430Z January 24th. Cdr. U.S.
Sea Frontier East pass to Port Director New York.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C & R), 1630/21 to QUEEN ELIZABETH,
(R) C.E.S.F., Port Director New York.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. Jan. 20th 1943 arrivals RED DEER
ex S.C.117, departure ORCHIS to S.C.117, TENACITY
to assist drifting motor minesweeper off Cape
St. Francis.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 0356Z/21 to Admty.)

Kingston arrival 20th, U.S.S. Y.O.56.

(S.O.I. Jamaica, 0951/21 to Admty., etc.)

Arrival 21st U.S. S.C.532.

(B.R.O. Georgetown, 1000/21 to Admty., etc.)

Departure 21st U.S.A. Cutter MARION.

(R.N.O. Grenada, 1030Q/21 to Admty., etc.)

New York departure 20th Jan. B.Y.M.S.5, 6, 7 and 8 for
Norfolk.

(N.S.H.Q., 1315Z/21 to Admty.)

U.S.S. POLARIS escorted by U.S. Destroyer BABBITT arrived
1140Z/21 from S.C.116.

(U.S.S. HARADEM, 1403Z/21 to Connav.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|----------------|--------------|
| Movements Summary. | 1800 G.M.T. 21st January. | | |
| | Ship | Position | Course Speed |
| | CARNARVON) | 40° S. 45½° W. | 186° 13 |
| | CASTLE) | | |
| | T.A. 32 | 43° N. 59° W. | 295° 19 |
| | T.A. 34 | 45° N. 40° W. | 255° 26 |
| | U.S. S/M) | 49½° N. 27° W. | 223° 10 |
| | GUNNEL) | | |
| | (D.O.D.(F), 1015Z/21 to Opanav, (R) Comnav.) | | |

SS. My 1632/19 (Sailed H.M.R.T. BUSY escorted by
INGERTRE. M.L.484). BUSY and M.L.484 returned Port of Spain. SS. INGERTRE refloated herself and proceeded Port of Spain without assistance. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1102Q/21 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

A.C.Vs. Your 2203Z/14, para. 1. This reinforcement is very welcome.
2. Your para. 2. The present intention is to employ all British escort carriers (A.C.Vs.) on trade protection. The provisional allocation is as follows:-

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ship | Ready for Service | Convoy |
| DASHER | 11th February | North Russian |
| ATTACKER | Ready in U.S.A. | D.W.I - U.K. tanker convoy No. 1. |
| ARCHER | 3rd March | U.K. - D.W.I. No.2. |
| | | D.W.I - U.K. No.2. |
| BITER | Mid-March | U.K. - D.W.I. No.3. |
| | | D.W.I - U.K. No.3. |
| BATTLER | Mid-April | North Russian |
| STALKER) | Early June (estimated) | |
| HUNTER) | Mid-June (estimated) | North Atlantic. |
| FENCER) | End June (estimated) | |

3. It will be noted that at least six weeks is necessary after escort carriers arrive in the U.K. to carry out essential modifications, after which a period must be allowed for working up.

4. Your para. 3. As she was equipped only with Martlets BATTLER decided not to carry out anti-submarine patrols unless in an emergency. This did not arise, and no sorties were flown. Six days out of 21 at sea were suitable for flying with the inexperienced pilots she had embarked.

(D.O.D.(H) Approved by V.C.N.S., 1155A/21 to B.A.D.)

CHELSEA, Lost touch with BRILLIANT after anchoring in
BRILLIANT, 46.24 N. 58.29 W. at 2100Z/20th. CHELSEA
FRISKY. unable to stem* sea to remain in locality.
Have 36 hours water remaining and unable to make more. Ship iced up badly. Am proceeding to St.

Johns. Estimate my P.C. and S. at 1100Z/21st, 45.54 N. 55.01 W.
090° 10. Weather report. FRISKY reports vessel ice bound and un-navigable, have to run before sea. Main wireless apparatus iced up.

(CHELSEA, 1230Z/21 to C.O.A.C., (R) Connnav, etc.)

* as received.

/Tankers ...

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21.1.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- Tankers for N. Africa. Cominch 2126/12th Jan. para. (D). Masta 4808 and Masta 4814 informed B.M.S.M. of total N. African oil requirements and requested information as to how programme was to be implemented. If we are unable to find necessary escorts for third and subsequent alternate convoys we should prefer these to sail from Caribbean, tankers loaded at Gulf ports being sent to assembly port.
(D.T.D., 1249A/21, 2246A/21 to B.A.D.)
- Convoy diversions. Diversions promulgated on relatively short notice for S.G.117 and H.R.223 in the vicinity of Westomp led to confusion and multicibility of cancellations and orders to local and Ocean Escorts during the critical period in which contact and relief for escorts was being attempted. While it is realised that sudden changes in the submarine situation may require immediate diversions it is submitted that such diversions at this critical period should carefully weigh the suspected danger due to estimated submarines and the real danger of the possibility of confusing escorts to such an extent that relief is made difficult if not impossible. It is recommended that diversions be planned sufficiently far in advance to allow early dissemination to all concerned or that diversion be delayed until change over of escorts have been effected.
(Comtaskfor 24, 1407/21 to Cominch C and R, Info. Cinclant, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.)
- TAIGETE, ARCOLA. Your 1145/19. Loading arrangements depend upon agreement with Italians to third flight of liners. Italians have been asked to confirm it will take place but have not yet replied, although indications are favourable. Sailing of tankers will not take place until liners have sailed from Italy, therefore duration of stay at Curacao cannot yet be estimated.
(M. Branch, 1420A/21 to S.B.N.O. Curacao.)
- Overdue Ships. Your 1036R/20th (re overdue Trinidad Brazilian COMMANDANTE PESSOA, BRAZIL.) Both ships left Pernambuco 20th to join convoy B.T.1.
(A/S.O.(I) Recife, 1431Z/21 to S.O.I. Kingston.)
- Movements. Departures 20th - KENTVILLE, GODERICH escorting H.J.29, H.M.C. Tug ST. ANNE to assist CALDWELL. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1431Z/21 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Cominch (C and R), C.T.F.24.)
- Wreck of Tanker. C.T.U.24.11.12 message 1900/20. Request air search for wreck of tanker if other commitments allow with view to possible salvage.
(D.T.D., 1452A/21 to A.C.I.C., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

S.C.115. Average speed 7.1 knots. Arrived off Oversay 1445Z/15.
OCEAN VAGABOND straggler torpedoed and sunk.
Bad weather. Remaining ships arrived.
(D.T.D., 1453A/21 to Connav, N.S.H.Q.)

Dispositions. Section East.
H.X.223, M.O. E.T.U. 24.1.3, 054° 10' 051° 40' 021° 9' alter to 066° in 056° 15' N.
S.C.117, M.O. E.T.U. 24.1.17, 050° 27' 051° 10' 355° 4.
CHELSEA, FRISKY standing by SS. BRIONY (? Tanker BRILLIANT) broken in two estimated position set and adrift 045° 53' 057° 16' 110°, 2.
CALDWELL disabled position set and drifting 044° 52' 056° 52' 110°, 2.
SALISBURY, WASAGA, FOUNDATION FRANKLIN in the vicinity to assist. Tug ST. ANNE 044° 48' 058° 56' 087° 12 to assist CALDWELL.
TENACITY proceeding to assistance SS. IMPERIAL MONARCH vicinity 049° 15' 050° 18'.
WITCH, MATAPEDIA, due St. Johns N.F. p.m. 21st from eastward. (C.O.A.C., 1615Z/21, 2038Z/21 to G.B. 7A.)

O.N.161. C. Mid-Ocean Escort Task Unit's 1219Z/21st (re O.N.161 - N.T. in W.D.) Request you sail Western Local Escort as soon as practicable.
(C.T.24, 1651Z/21 to C.C.N.F.)

B.T.1. Serial No.3 Following ships joined convoy B.T.1 (Serial No.2) off Pernambuco at 2200/20th:
OLAMBALA Panamanian, CAMBOINADS, ARARANAGUA, 2 Brazilian for Fortelaza.
MATTHEW MAURY U.S.A. for Paramaribo.
NELA, KINGSWOOD, FRESNO STAR, EMPIRE FOREST, 4 British, WASHINGTON U.S.A., NICOLAS Greek, PELOTASLOIDE, ALOIDE, COMMANDANTE PESSOA 3 Brazilian for Trinidad.
(A/S.O.(I) Pernambuco, 1733Z/21 to Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica, N.S. Ottawa, F.O.C.W.Af., B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

W.L.E.F. Your 2009/11 para. 3.
2. In view of urgent requirements for A/S M/S trawlers in Western Mediterranean, regretted that concurrence cannot be given to your request.
3. It is intended to provide reinforcements in para. 2 above from U.K. but this cannot be done until arrival of R.N. A/S M/S trawlers from Canada.
4. Therefore requested that following ships may be sailed to U.K. as soon as possible and that anticipated dates of sailing may be signalled.
(a) The 8 R.N. "Isles" class trawlers at present lent to R.C.N. and referred to in your 2009/11 para. 3.
(b) The 5 R.N. "Isles" class trawlers at present in commission not lent to R.C.N., excluding FLINT, TEXADA and GATESHEAD.
(c) FLINT, TEXADA and GATESHEAD now at Quebec as reported in B.A.T.M's 1916/4 as soon as ice conditions permit.
(D.M.S., 1745A/21 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C.O.A.C., B.A.D., etc.)

/REGENT ...

War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- REGENT. My 1112/20 deep trial satisfactory.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1812Q/21 to Admty.)
(Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 2147Z/21 to Admty.)
- Shipping Routes. Your 2216/15 to Admty. only.
My 2038/12 refers to ships from U.S. Atlantic seaboard. Subject to directions of Cominch C & R no change is intended for ships from U.S. Pacific seaboard both oil and coal fired ships should continue to be routed trans-Pacific.
(D.T.D., 1824A/21 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Connav, B.A.D.)
- F.H. 31. F.H.31 sailed 1815/21st one ship only Greek SS. MAKEDONIA under escort MULGRAVE. Remainder of ships unable to depart due to heavy wind and severe icing. Intend to sail them as F.H.31B at 1700/22nd under escort MILLTOWN.
(N.C.S.O. St. John N.B., 1832Z/21 to Admty.,
(R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., Connav.)
- O.N.S.160. ORILLIA detached to St. Johns N.F. unable to fuel in heavy sea.
SHERWOOD (? crooked) steering.
POLYANTHUS has boiler room fan defects maximum speed $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots (one corrupt group) $54^{\circ} 02' 38''$ $36' 5''$ knots. All well. Weather.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1835Z/21 to C.T.F.24, (R) Connav, etc.)
- CHOMEDY. Departure 21st 1730 SS. CHOMEDY (Brit.) escorted by U.S.S. S.C.534, (route) Barbados. E.T.A. 2213/30. Thence when ready return Trinidad (route).
(R.O. Port of Spain, 1838/21 to Admty.)
- Convoy Cycles & Escort Groups. Your 0015/21st (N.T. in W.D.)
A. Referring part C of A.M. 1319/18th, para. (2). Concur if 10 day cycle can be accepted 8 mid-ocean escort group should in theory be sufficient. Experience with O.N.152 and O.N.153 does not encourage optimism. Western Local Escorts will still be essential and also a Western support force.
B. If Admty. consider our best contribution will be to escort these tanker convoys, suggest concurrence as temporary measure only. Strongly recommend, however, that we retain our position in Newfoundland, otherwise we may lose all control of our own ships for good and stop control of coastal waters Newfoundland and Labrador and coastal convoys.
C. Further suggest that proposed 8 mid-ocean groups be based St. Johns N.F. which is geographically most obvious place. This would render Argentinia unnecessary as ocean escort base until M.E.F. restored to full strength. Strongly urge everything possible be done to get increased air support both from R.C.A.F. and U.S. Force.

/D. ...

War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Convoy
Cycles &
Escort
Groups.
(Contd.)

D. It is pointed out that losses sustained by Canadian escorted convoys must be attributed as much to lack of strength particularly in destroyers of escort groups, and also lack of modern equipment (such as H/F D/F type 271, modernised corvette bridges) as to lack of training. Necessity for recent extensive changes in Senior Officers of groups also has had its effect. If Canadian groups are to be detached for this duty request such groups remain as far as possible homogeneous and be given greater opportunity for group training than has been possible in the past due to constant drain on our forces for purposes other than trans-Atlantic convoys. In fact it is considered complete groups should from time to time be withdrawn for concentrated training.

(F.O.N.F., 1927Z/21 to C.N.S. Ottawa.)

W.R. Note: This message is passed to Admiralty for information and any action considered necessary (see N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2345/19.)

Trinidad,
bunkers.

Your 1339/19. M. of W.T. have reminded their representatives at Freetown that whenever time permits coal fired ships should bunker so as to avoid off-take at Trinidad. N.C.S.O. Freetown is being instructed to include number of days bunkers.

(D.T.D., 1936A/21 to B.A.D., (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, F.O.C.W.Af.)

WITCH.

WITCH arrived with foremast carried away and other damage requiring approx. seven days to repair. (F.O.N.F., 2036Z/21 to C.T.F.24, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

STALKER.

Your 2115/15. Due to delay in completion of repair and trials of STALKER E.T.D. 26th Jan. (Cdr. W.S.F., 2058Z/21 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, (R) C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.), Commdt. 11th U.S. Naval District San Diego, etc.)

Parachutes
VICTORIOUS.

Inspect all parachutes of Nos. 892, 894, 896, 898, 840 and T.A. Sqdn. for correct packing. VICTORIOUS and S.B.N.O. Quonset report if any parachutes are incorrectly packed. R.A.N.A.S pass to Nos. 892 and 894 Sqdns. if they are no longer embarked on BATTLE.

(B.A.M.R. Washington, 2100Z/21 to VICTORIOUS, R.A.N.A.S., BATTLE, S.B.N.O. N.A.S. Quonset, (R) Admty., Cdre. 2nd N.A.S.)

/ U/B ...

Awl
779A

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.)

2100Z/21st January
OUT

MOST SECRET MESSAGE Date 21.1.43

TO. RAFDEL Washington Escort Vessel and Merchant Ship Construction.

CYPHER

From. A.M. Whitehall.

IMMEDIATE

AX.780. COPROD 20 for Sinclair. Ref DORPOC 3 21 Jan 43 /

1. This telegram has not yet been cleared with all concerned but we will cable before your meeting on Saturday.

2. We welcome C.P.R.B. enquiry into escort vessel programme (see C.O.S.(W) 429). No part of the war production programmes is of greater importance at the present time, but we want, as the President wrote to the Prime Minister, both to have our cake and eat it. Every effort must be made to increase the output of escort vessels without reducing merchant shipbuilding. Please impress upon your American colleagues that we must both have the ships to protect them and the means to protect them.

3. U.K. corvette programme was last revised in November, when the Cabinet decided that 200 corvettes should be built for delivery by the end of 1944. At the same time it was laid down that repairs to merchant shipbuilding should retain equal priority with corvette construction and that the planned production of merchant shipbuilding of 1,800,000 deadweight tons should not be reduced below 1,570,000 deadweight tons as a result of increased corvette production. As originally phased, the bulk of the deliveries of corvettes would have been in 1944 and the cost to merchant shipbuilding would have been slight in 1943. Since the Cabinet decision, steps have been taken to accelerate the planned rate of delivery in 1943. The present forecast of deliveries in 1943 is 38 single screw and 40 twin screw. The balance of the 200 will be produced evenly in 1944. This programme will reduce merchant shipbuilding by 76,000 deadweight tons in 1943 to about 1,724,000 tons and by 230,000 in 1944 to about 1,570,000 tons.

4. Within the Admiralty programme corvettes have the highest priority. No special machinery has yet been

found/....

found necessary to resolve conflicts between the Admiralty programme and the programmes of other departments.

5. Further acceleration in the delivery of corvettes is limited by very definite production bottlenecks in the manufacture of engines and gear including R.D.F. and by shortage of fitting out labour. Any further expansion of the corvette programme made at the expense of merchant shipbuilding could not be effective until 1944.

6. We have already reduced escort vessels to 2 standard types - destroyers and corvettes. Corvettes themselves fall into two types - single screw and twin screw. Some of the yards building corvettes can only turn out the single screw type. On standardisation of merchant ships we have imposed simplification of design and minimum variation of type consistent with operational needs and production facilities available. Simplification cannot be carried further. After his exhaustive tour in U.S.A. Ayre reports that sheer necessity has already imposed on us a greater degree of simplification than has been adopted in U.S.A.

7. U.S. programme of escort vessels. We note with concern (C.C.S.137/2) that the revision of the U.S. programme in December results in a reduction from 79 to 43 of the deliveries of destroyer escorts in the first half of 1943. Clearly one escort vessel delivered within the next six months is worth much more than a vessel delivered towards the end of the year.

8. We have not yet had Dorling's detailed list of requirements in which we could help U.S.A. towards their corvette programme, but in advance we are considering whether any capacity for steam and water valves or other components could be gained from the modifications in Ministry of Supply programmes at present under way. There is no capacity available for turbine gear cutting.

We fully realise the importance of trying to supply from this country parts which are holding up the delivery of escort vessels in the U.S. The Admiralty and the Ministry of Production will give the closest attention to this problem.

MOST SECRET

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

-3-

9. But it is essential that U.S. production of merchant ships in 1943 should be at least 18.8 million tons. The increase in escort vessels now contemplated should be at the expense if necessary of the surplus over that figure which was thought possible when the Minister of Production was in Washington.

10. The interference with the escort vessel programme by synthetic rubber and high octane plants is most serious, and requires careful watching. Please see C.O.S.(W) 443. We shall await with interest your report on the exact degree in which these three programmes overlap. We agree with MIN15 that absolute priority for any one of the three programmes would be a mistake, and that proper scheduling of the bottleneck parts is the most effective procedure. Please send us regular report on the progress of these three vital programmes.

11. Canada. While we recognise the limitations of single screw corvettes please impress on Mr. Howe that any corvette in 1943 is better than none; and it may be possible to increase the output of single screw corvettes without interfering with merchant shipbuilding. Please do not take any decision involving reduction in Canadian output of merchant ships without giving us opportunity to study the consequences,

2100z/21

✓ 1848/6

Recd. from Air Ministry 1935/22.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)
D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(W)
A.C.N.S.(UT)
Secretary
N.A.1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
P.A.S.(PR)
A.S.(C)
C.M.S.R.
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
E.N.I.(4)

D.S.D.
D. of P.(2)
Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.A/S.W.
D. of P.(Q)
Hd. of M.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.B.
Admiral Blake
M.A.S.(3)
Admiral Bellairs
E. in C. (for Eng.R.A.Parnell)
D.T.S.D.
D.M.B.
Hd. of M.S.

Circulation:-
Standard COPROD/DORPOC
P.S.to First Lord
P.S.to Minister of War
Transport
Sir Cyril Hurcomb,
M/War Transport
Mr.Eccles (Orig.)

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War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B. Intercept from San Juan reports submarine sighted 11° 30' N. 61° 25' W. at 2240 G.M.T. Jan. 21st. (Kingston, Jamaica, 2114R/21 to Admty.)

REGENT. (? Leave) Bermuda at 2100Z/22nd Jan. and proceed to Gibraltar passing as directed by Cominch through following positions - (E) 033° 30' N. 056° 50' W. (F) 034° 15' N. 047° 30' W. (G) 034° 10' N. 034° 20' W. (H) 033° 01' N. 023° 50' W. (J) 037° 10' N. 021° 05' W. (K) 036° 40' N. 011° 40' W. S. of A. 11 knots. On the surface, diving at discretion, E.T.A. Gibraltar 3rd Feb. (2) Communications. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 2122Z/21 to REGENT, (R) N.O.B. Bermuda, Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q., N.C.X.F., F.O.S., Cominch, B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Bermuda, Cinclant.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. D. U.S.S. NEMESISIR attacks sound contact 28.41 N. 88.27 W. 1737Z/7. P.C.464 attacks contact 21.24 N. 76.02 W. 1100Z/21. Y.403 sound contact 38.27 N. 74.47 W. 1910 to 1950Z/21. (Cominch, 2125/21 to Admty.)

ASHKAHABAD and IJORA. Both Russian, reported Jan. 20th ashore in Akutan Bay. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2201Z/21.)

Tanker Convoy for "Torch" Area. Para. No.D. My 2126/12th. First convoy will sail Aruba about Feb. 5th destination changed to Dakar. Convoy expected to consist of 4 tankers. B.A.D. and Glassfurd informed. Admty.* pass to C. in C. A.F. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2225/21 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet U.S., (R) C.C.S.F., C.A.F.A.C., N.C.X.F., S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty., B.A.D., etc.) * Passing action being taken by W.R.

MONCTON, MERTON. Have not located MERTON. Have you any further information for me. Wind West force 9. High sea. Barometer falling 30.06. Temperature 29. Visibility moderate. R.D.F. out of action. Can only keep one 161 frequency namely 105 k/cs. (MONCTON, 2300Z/21 to C.O.A.C.)

T.U. 24.1.18. Report your best estimate of the time each individual ship your unit will be required to detach for fuelling. (C.T.24, 2347/31 to C.T.U. 24.1.18, C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.12, (R) C.C.N.F.)

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War Diary.21.1.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival 18th Jan. Milne Bay U.S. Patrol Gunboat
TULSA 19th Jan. Departure 19th Jan. CALO(?UN)DRA
U.S. Destroyer PATTERSON on escort duty.
(N.B. Melbourne, 0148Z/21 to Admty., etc.)

Arrival 20th Jan. Port Moresby U.S. Transports BONTEKOE, TASMAN.
21st Thursday Island U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER.
(N.B. Melbourne, 1341Z/21 to Admty., etc.)

Transport D.S.T's 0510Z/14 para. 2.
of Italians. As no direct sailing available from Australia
intend embarking Italian personnel in AQUITANIA
unless South African authorities prefer tranship-
ment at Durban in which case would use ILE DE FRANCE.
(A.C.N.B., 0427Z/21 to D.S.T., S.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O.
Durban, (R) D.S.T.O. Kilindini, P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Digest No. Cargo vessel and destroyer Buka Passage, refer
364, Jan. 20. Digest No.362, para. 1 departed night 19th - 20th
Jan.
2. Photos Rabaul 18th show 13 warships, 44 merchant
vessels, 4 tankers in harbour, 110 fighters, 8 bombers Lakunai
no aircraft on new strip near Kokopo.
3. Liberator bombed Gasmata aerodrome morning 20th. Runway
apparently unserviceable.
4. Second Liberator during morning bombed Madang wharf area and
runway which appeared serviceable but unused. At noon bombed
Cape Gloucester Runroi (as received) area scoring three hits on
gun position.
5. R/C aircraft during morning reported four ships including
one light cruiser, two transport off Wewak course 030°. 22
aircraft on strip and 3 more taking off. Striking force four
Liberators unable locate convoy owing interception approx. 25
Zeros of which 12 destroyed plus six damaged. Zeros mostly
appeared new and pilots more experienced than previously
encountered.
6. Six B.25s bombed supply dumps Lae mid morning. Same time three
Beaufighters conducted coastal sweep strafing Kurenada village at
mouth Kamusi.
7. Reduction enemy strong points Sanananda continuing. Offensive
action continues against four main enemy pockets.
8. Unidentified aircraft over Darwin shortly after midnight
20th but no report of bombs dropped.
9. Three B.25s intercepted over Fuiloro (Eastern Timor) by five
Zeros a.m. 19th Jan. and possibly damaged one. Next morning
while bombing Dobo Jetty three B.25s encountered three enemy
float-planes and probably shot one down.
10. Morning R/C Liberator sighted four ships Ambon Bay including
possible cruiser and other shipping outside not clearly observed.
Also four float bi-planes Halong. Two Zeros intercepted and
one shot down. Nothing seen Ternate (as received) Djailolo, good
visibility.
11. Two R/C reports of possible submarines off coast N.S.W.
20th January.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0718Z/21 to Admty., etc.)

/QUEEN ...

War Diary.

21.1.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

Military request QUEEN OF BERMUDA may disembark
Melbourne. Agreed G.H.Q. M.E.
(P.S.T.O. Port Said, 1059B/21 to A.C.N.B.
Melbourne, Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1329A/21, 1400A/21.)

War Diary.

22.1.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A.M. A.2. report from Stockholm today states that in the engagement off Bear Island on 31st December HIPPER was struck by 3 shells and is now being temporarily repaired at Narvik; and that the German Destroyer sunk in the same engagement was FRIEDRICH ECKHOLDT.

The destroyer CHESTERFIELD was damaged by underwater explosion in Londonderry harbour today.

The new cruiser NEWFOUNDLAND arrived at Scapa this morning.

CAPE PORTLAND reported at 0658 that she had picked up 2 survivors of Swedish S.S. NEVA of Convoy U.R.59 in 61.35 N. 14.15 W. The ship was sunk, presumed torpedoed at 0600/22.

Fog.

Combined Convoy W.S.26 and K.M.F.8 is delayed owing to fog in the Mersey. The port of Rosyth was closed owing to low visibility from 2340A/22 to 1056A/23.

Mining.

69 aircraft out of 85 despatched laid 182 mines last night off the Frisian Islands.

Three mines were cut 12 miles west of Skerryvore this morning, in the area where S.S. OSTENDE was mined on 17 Jan. Several more mines were detonated off the Humber.

North Atlantic.

PENELOPE arrived at Gibraltar from the U.K. today.

/South...

War Diary.

22.1.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

M.V. SILVERWALNUT (Lagos to Hampton Roads and U.K.) reports that she has picked up 6 survivors of S.S. OCEAN COURAGE (Freetown to Trinidad and U.K.) in 9° 5' N. 23° 49' W.

Aircraft Transport Vessel ATHENE sailed from Durban today for Freemantle on detachment to South Pacific area.

Mediterranean.

C.S.15 in CLEOPATRA, with EURYALUS, JERVIS, JAVELIN, NUBIAN and KELVIN sailed from Malta at 1449 today to carry out a bombardment of Zuara (west of Tripoli) between 0030/23 and 0130/23.

M.Ls. 126 and 459 sailed from Malta at 1133A today to join a mine sweeping force which is approaching Tripoli.

K.M.S.7

Convoy K.M.S.7 arrived safely at Bone from Algiers p.m. today. Two heavy air attacks took place (date not reported), in the course of which the ships shot down 2 aircraft and Beaufighters another two. No damage to the ships is reported (but see 21 Jan.)

Air
Operations.

Last night, in order to delay the departure of shipping from Zuara before the anticipated attack by a force under C.S.15 (see 23 Jan.) 3 formations totalling 56 Kittyhawks escorted by 18 Spitfires bombed the harbour. One merchant vessel is reported to have been hit with small bombs, and there were several hits on the jetty and wharves. A submarine and lighters in harbour were machine gunned. Naval Albacores and a Beaufort made torpedo and bomb attacks early this morning on a 5000 ton merchant ship escorted by 2 destroyers 36 to 41 miles N.N.W. of Cape Bon, but results could not be seen and one Albacore is missing. 3 Mosquitoes patrolled the area to cover the attacking aircraft. Beaufighters attacked an 800 ton merchant ship at 1215 in the Gulf of Gabes and left it stopped and on fire. At 1630 two tugs were badly damaged by

/Beaufighters...

War Diary.

22.1.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Air
Operations.
Contd.

Beaufighters in 30° Sfax 15 miles, and at 1640 in 30° Sfax 25 miles Beaufighters found an 800 ton merchant ship very low in the water, possibly beached and attacked with cannon and machine guns. Five B.26s (12th A.F.) report 2 hits and several near misses on a merchant vessel and near misses by a second 18 miles N.E. of Bizerta today.

About 6 Ju.88s bombed the Benghazi area last night, but no damage is reported. There was a minor raid on Bone p.m. today, but no serious damage was caused.

East Indies.

A convoy of 3 or 4 river steamers and a few tugs sailing up the Arakan coast attacked Danson Bay today.

America and West Indies.

S.C.116.

Two ships in S.C.116 have been damaged in a severe easterly gale. CULEBRA has a broken stem post and requires a tug, ACANTHUS is standing by her, but at 0858Z/23 C. in C.W.A. asked C.T.G. 24.6 to detail a ship to relieve ACANTHUS, so that the latter could rejoin the convoy. (RABBITT was sent.). BAXTERGATE has a hatch stove in and is to be detached with the Iceland portion of the convoy tomorrow (arrived Iceland 2340Z/23.) At 1400Z the convoy was in 63.02 N. 29.03 W. U.S. destroyer SCHENCK has been detached with severely injured men. CULEBRA was taken in tow by DEXTEROUS on 24 Jan. and proceeded for Reykjavik escorted by trawler FETLAR; she arrived at 1005/28.

The U.S. Navy Dept. has given instructions that Chilean vessels are to be considered as United Nations vessels, confidential codes and books being issued on the advice of Intelligence Officers.

22.1.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

S.S. PETER H. BURNETT (Melbourne to San Francisco independently) was reported torpedoed today in 32.54 S. 159.32 E. (400 miles E. by N. of Sydney N.S.W.) At 1933L/23 she gave her position as 33° 40' S. 159° 5' E. and reported that she was damaged and drifting. The ship was subsequently located and taken in tow for Sydney. (arrived 2/2) The small naval auxiliary H.M.A.S. PATRICIA CAM was sunk off Cape Wessel (N.W. Gulf of Carpentaria) today, probably by a float-plane. 5 Liberators and 3 Fortresses attacked shipping in Rabaul Harbour before 8 a.m. today and obtained direct hits on 4 ships with 500 lb bomb. Two ships of 2000 to 4000 tons were seen to sink, one 6000 to 8000 ton vessel was seen on fire with numerous explosions, and one 6000 to 8000 ton vessel exploded. Photographs taken later in the morning showed 43 merchant ships totalling about 180,000 tons, 4 tankers, 7 destroyers, 5 submarines, 2 petrol craft, 8 flying boats and 4 float-planes.

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War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

P.511.

Your 1106/14. Approved.
(D.A/S.W., 0926A/22 to F.O.S.)MARCELLE
PIERRE.Your letter 3rd December and C. in C. Nore's No. 70.M of 21st December. MARCELLE PIERRE now ready for disposal. Request D. of S.T. will arrange for off-survey and any further necessary action to return vessel to Fighting French Authorities.
(Cdre. Sheerness, 1223A/22 to D.S.V.P.)Force W
organisation.

My 1830A/18/12. The responsibility of Flag Officer Force W in connection with the Force is as follows:

2. F.O. Force W is responsible to C.C.O. for the organisation and training of all units included in the Force. This includes responsibility for the normal maintenance of all vessels and craft, and for stores and equipment allotted to the Force.
3. For example, S.O.A.S.C. is responsible for providing L.C.A. to Force W. Force W is responsible for maintaining them in running order.
4. Administration of the Force in so far as discipline and victualling are concerned is, in the case of Flotillas and Beach Commandos, the responsibility of the ship or establishment in which they happen to be located.
5. Ships attached to Force W will be administered for the present by S.O.A.S.C.
6. All personnel of the Force other than those permanently belonging to seagoing ships, carrying their own accounts, are borne for pay on the books of QUEBEC to whom questions on this subject may be addressed direct by units without passing through F.O. Force W.
7. Changes in personnel are inevitable in a constantly growing organisation. Requirements of C.C.O. under this head will be arranged with the unit concerned through F.O. Force W.
(C.C.O., 2022A/22 to R.A.C.O., S.O.A.S.C.)

Movements.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Your 1020/21. E.T.A. Scapa 1000A/22.
(NEWFOUNDLAND, 0016A/22 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Rosyth sailed NEWFOUNDLAND for Scapa, E.T.A. 1000/22.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0112A/22 to A.C.O.S.)
Your 0112A/22. Arrived.
(A.C.O.S., 1038/22 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

O. 15.

O.15 arrived at Lerwick.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0931A/22.)

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- P.225, Intend sailing P.225, P.53 escorted by BERGAMOT
P. 53. from Clyde at 0800A/23 by searched channel and
Minches through (A) 000° Cape Wrath 5 miles at
1600A/24 thence West of Orkneys to Lerwick, E.T.A.
0800A/25. Speed 10 knots.
(2) A.C.O.S. is requested to detail escort to meet convoy at (A)
and escort P.225 to Scapa. E.T.A. 2130/24, speed 10 knots.
(Capt. S.3, 0945A/22.)
- P. 216. My 1514/21. Cancel paragraph (J).
(F.O.S., 1004A/22 to Admty.)
- P.312. P.312 arrived 2326/21.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1007/22.)
- FRASERBURGH, Request you sail FRASERBURGH and BOOTLE to
BOOTLE. comply with C. in C. H.F. 1007A/21.
(A.C.O.S., 1157A/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- BERWICK. Proceed to Clyde passing Hoxa Gate at 1630/22.
2. Route via Minches. Attention is called to
A.M. Q.Z.X.910.
4. Ship is to be ready to sail 2nd February.
(C. in C. H.F., 1455A/22 to BERWICK.)
- S/M Submarine positions at 0800/23rd Jan. and move-
Positions. ments for following 24 hours.
(A) P.314, TRIDENT, P.224 on patrol off Soroy
Island.
(B) P.339, 49° 10' N. 13° 50' W. diving by day, course 180°,
145 miles in 24 hours.
(C) TORBAY 48° 55' N. 13° 22' W. diving by day, course 180°,
140 miles in 24 hours.
(D) HERRING in zone K.505.
(E) SHAD off Bilbao.
(F) P.219 escorted by CUTTY SARK 53° 05' N. 001° 21' W., E.T.A.
Clyde 0600/24.
(G) H.33 escorted by KING HAAKON 7, E.T.A. Lough Foyle Buoy
0930/23.
(H) P.225 and P.53 escorted by BERGAMOT leave Clyde 0800/23rd,
E.T.A. 000° Cape Wrath 5 miles 1600/24, 10 knots.
(J) SOKOL and JUNON escorted by LOCH MONTEITH vicinity
Kinnaird Head, E.T.A. Lerwick 0800/24, 7 knots.
(F.O.S., 1614A/22 to Admty.)
Cancel my 2208/21. My 1614/22 para. (G). After KING
HAAKON VII amend to read leaves Rothesay 2030A/23, E.T.A. Lough
Foyle Buoy 0930A/24.
(F.O.S., 2239A/22 to Admty.)

/North ...

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

North Atlantic dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic.
Area Iceland (C): NORFOLK.
In Northern Waters: ANSON, SHEFFIELD, BERMUDA, GLASGOW, KENT, 7 Destroyers.

North Russia: 3 destroyers.
Scapa: HOWE, KING GEORGE V, MALAYA, BERWICK, JAMAICA, KENYA, CUMBERLAND, 1 Destroyer.
Operational Area: NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FURIOUS, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, SIRIUS, 7 Destroyers.
(D.O.D.H., 1645A/22 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

CIRCE. Seidisfjord departure CIRCE, E.T.A. Toward Point 0655/25.
(A.C.I.C., 1721A/22.)

EGGESFORD. A.M. 2055A/19. Intend to sail EGGESFORD with convoy P.W.283 on 23rd Jan. parting company with convoy at daylight 24th and proceeding to Scapa.
2. Routed after leaving convoy standard convoy routes and through Irish Sea and Minches in accordance with traffic regulations in force. Speed from leaving convoy till Smalls 20 knots, thence 16 knots. E.T.A. 0900/26.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1834A/22.)

EMPIRE ROACH,
EMPIRE TITAN,
EMPIRE CHUB. A.M. 1950/19 and 1826/20. Route through position T 180° Fastnet 10 miles. U 50° N. 15° W. V 48° N. 16° W. W 42° N. 16° W. X 38° N. 14° W. Y 36° N. 08° W.
2. Stragglers route as convoy route with same letters.
(D.O.D.H., 1909A/22 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

H. 33. My 1658A/21. Add 24 hours to all times.
(Capt. S.7, 1925A/22.)

BERWICK. Scapa departure 1642 BERWICK.
(A.C.O.S., 2027/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DELHI. A.M. 2110/18. DELHI has one Constructor Cdr. for H.F. and no mail. Should ship proceed Tyne direct.
(DELHI, 2149A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Operation "Carton". My 1900A/20 and 1232/21.
D day postponed to 23rd Jan.
(A.C.O.S., 0945/22.)
- Operation V.P. My 2015/19. M.T.Bs 618 and 623 returned Lerwick
0745/22. Attacked target number 59 with gunfire
1900/21. No resistance.
(A.C.O.S., 0958/22 to Admty.)
- Coastal Patrols. 1. Intend M.G.Bs 54 (S.O.) and 51 to patrol
tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 03' W.
and 02° 05' W.
2. Leave Portland 1715 via Q.Z.S.382 to patrol
line. Leave patrol line at dawn and return to base.
3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1135A/22.)
Patrol ordered in my 1703/21 is to be carried out tonight,
my 1703/21 being amended as follows. Para. 2. M.T.B.204 is
S.O. of Force. Para. 5. Delete reference to own convoy and
escort.
Add new para. 9. Lettered position XX Sept Iles Light.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1343A/22 to M.T.Bs 204, 235.)
Patrol 4 - WINDSOR. Patrol 7 - KITTIWAKE. Patrol 8 -
WIDGEON. Patrol 5 - COTTESMORE. Patrol 6 - CATTISTOCK.
(C. in C. Nore, 1600A/22.)
Your 1343/22. Sailed "Occasion".
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1806/22 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Your 1343/22. "Occasion" returned.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1932/22 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- Operation "Valuable". (1) My 1000/20. Force A consisting of CLEVELAND,
BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE, GOATHLAND, TYNEDALE
patrolling, as in para. 4 but passing E.A5 buoy
inward at 0600/23. Force B to consist of M.G.Bs
611, 613 and M.T.Bs 243, 242, 89.
(2) M.G.Bs 54, 51 patrolling 050° 20' N. between 001° 30' W.
and 002° 05' W.
(3) KINGSTON TURQUOISE, LORD WAKEFIELD, Chaser 15 at Saint
Helens and UNST at Jarbrick.
(4) CEDAR, RIGHTO, GOOLEX towing barges escorted by M.Ls 193,
214 sailed from Shoreham eastward at 1400/22.
(5) 4 trawlers towing barges escorted by M.Ls 153, 118 arriving
Needles a.m. 23rd.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1310A/22.)

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War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

No. 320 Air Ministry 1418A/2. It has now been agreed
Sqdn. that No. 320 Squadron less aircraft is to be
withdrawn from Coastal Command and transferred
to Bomber Command without the immediate reciprocal
transfer of a Bomber Command Squadron to Coastal Command.
Question whether Bomber Command Squadron is transferred to
replace 320 Squadron eventually will depend on decision as to
target figure for Coastal Command Expansion. You will be
informed of decision in due course.
(Air Ministry, 0936A/22 to H.Q.B.C.)

Bomber On day 21st 6 A/C attacked the docks at Cherbourg
Command and 12 A/C attacked the docks at Flushing. On
Operations. night 21st/22nd 59 A/C laid mines.
(H.Q.B.C., 1530A/22.)

Mining.

Sweep DORNOCH has cut 3 mines in 269° Skerryvore 12
off Iona. miles.
(SHIPPIGAN, 0905A/22 to Greenock.)
Your 0905/22. Report forthwith full details
of mines.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1005A/22 to SHIPPIGAN.)
PARRSBORO is to be sailed to join SHIPPIGAN when ready
to proceed.
(C. in C. W.A., 1325A/22 to Cdre. Londonderry.)
Intend to sail PARRSBORO from Lough Foyle at 0200A/23 to
meet you off Skerryvore daylight 23rd. Signal R/V to PARRSBORO.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1646A/22 to SHIPPIGAN.)
Investigation of evidence of object sighted near DORNOCH
float during sweeping in confused. Object was reported as
round and black but no horns were seen nor was it seen breaking
surface (corrupt group) as cut mine does. Near daylight
combined bright moonlight and black ridges to breaking sweels
made observation difficult. It seems most likely object was a
keg or oil drum low in water which soon sank as thorough surface
search failed to locate any such object. No evidence of more
than one object. In view of doubt that object was a mine submit
a higher percentage search in suspected area might be of value.
(SHIPPIGAN, 2330A/22 to ROYAL ARTHUR.)

Harwich. M.M.S. detonated 1 ground mine at 1045A/22 in
51° 53'03" N. 01° 37'13" E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1144A/22 and 1627A/22.)

Q.Z.X.771. My 1000/20. Passage through Q.Z.X.771 between
050° 18' N. 000° 15.06' E. and 050° 11' N. 000°
24.04' E. was swept (100°) to a width of 6 cables
by 9th M/S Flot. on night of 20th/21st Jan. when one mine was
swept, and again on night 21st/22nd Jan. to a width of 8 cables,
no mines being swept.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1212A/22 to Admty.)

/M.M.S. ...

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

M.M.S. for Request you will sail 3 Motor Minesweepers fitted
Dover. Crossley engines to Dover with moderate despatch.
They will operate temporarily under V.A. Dover.
On completion of operations, V.A. Dover is
requested to sail these 3 M.M.S. to Sheerness to join 102nd
M.S.F.

(D.M.S., 1558A/22 to F.O.C.N.I.)

V.A. Dover's 1121/22. Request you will sail 3 Motor
Minesweepers from your command to Dover to operate temporarily
under V.A. Dover. Newhaven M.M.S.s are suggested. V.A. Dover
is requested to sail these M.M.S. back to their base on arrival of
3 M.M.S. from Belfast, vide my 1558/22.

(D.M.S., 1811A/22 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Humber The following 16 mines were exploded by Sweepers
Area. today:-

At 1315/22 in 307° 57 D. Buoy 2½ miles.

At 1317/22 in 305° 57 D. Buoy 2½ miles.

At 1335/22 in 304° 57 D. Buoy 1½ miles.

At 1520/22 in 303° 57 D. Buoy 27 cables.

At 1524/22 in 302° 57 D. Buoy 22 cables.

At 1549/22 in 160° East Dudgeon Buoy 28 cables.

At 1618/22 in 161° East Dudgeon Buoy 18 cables.

At 1629/22 in 149° East Dudgeon Buoy 2 miles.

At 1634/22 in 147° East Dudgeon Buoy 17½ cables.

At 1636/22 in 166° East Dudgeon Buoy 2½ miles.

At 1650/22 in (-?) East Dudgeon Buoy 3 miles.

At 1659/22 in 152° East Dudgeon Buoy 22 cables.

At 1726/22 in 151° East Dudgeon Buoy 28 cables.

At 1732/22 in 308° 57 D Buoy 28 cables.

At 1735/22 in 307° 57 D Buoy 2 miles.

At 1738/22 in 308° 57 D Buoy 2½ miles.

(F.O. Humber, 1835/22, 2315/22, 1850/26.)

Explosion. Heavy underwater explosion with flash bore 130°
1.5 miles. My position 160°, 3C, 1.75 miles.
Area investigated with no result.
(MEYNELL, 1904A/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

CHESTERFIELD. CHESTERFIELD has sustained underwater explosion
damage as follows. Details. Request port for
repairs starboard engines considered unserviceable
for passage.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 2020A/22 to Admty.)

War Diary.

22.1.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

NORDFELS,
LIVADIA.

Listed F ship number 62 arrived Bilbao 21st Jan. German ship LIVADIA 3100 tons 12 knots also arrived. This ship will be listed as 63. (F.O.S., 1052A/22 to S/Ms.)

HIPPER.

(A) During Bear Island engagement HIPPER was struck by 3 shells and suffered damage to boiler room. She is to have repairs done at Narvik. Graded D.2.

(B) Coils of electric insulated cable and air compressors have passed through Helsingborg during past few days routed to Narvik. Graded A.2.

(C) Inference from above reports and my 1747/14th is that HIPPER is making temporary repairs at Narvik. Graded Z.C. (N.A. Stockholm, 1214/22 to D.N.I.)

O.I.C. Comment: A previous report grade B.3 stated HIPPER was damaged in a boiler room and her speed reduced.

FRIEDRICH
ECKHOLDT
sunk on 31st
December.
GRAF
ZEPPELIN.

FRIEDRICH ECKHOLDT (Z.16) was destroyer sunk in Bear Island engagement. Graded A.2. GRAF ZEPPELIN now expected to be ready for service towards end of March. Graded A.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 1803/22 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats
reported.

D/F activity on Series 1 and 7 indicates 3 or more U-Boats within 100 miles of 61° 00' N. 14° 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 1320A/22.)

Navigational.

Rosyth.

Port of Rosyth closed owing to low visibility. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2340A/22.)

Casualties and Defects.

DENNIS ROSE.

Ex P.W.282. DENNIS ROSE bound Barry Roads entered Falmouth owing engine defect. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1607A/22.)

MARIA.

My 1125/22 returned and entered harbour with engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1716A/22.)

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- VALOROUS. VALOROUS, tube plate cracked renders No. 3 boiler out of action. Owing to shortage of destroyers in Rosyth Escort Force intend that she shall escort F.S.23 and F.N.31 and, if satisfactory, continue to carry out escort duties on 2 boilers until her next refit, which is due on completion of VICEROY early March. (Capt. D. Rosyth, 1835A/22 to Admty.)
- THEEMS. THEEMS refloated nineteen hours and now proceeding under own power to St. Ives Bay for shelter. (C.S.O. Falmouth, 2015A/22.)
- Unknown wreck. Your 1452/21. Aircraft photographs taken on 17th Jan. in estimated position 61.29 N. 25.58 W. indicate that VESTFOLD* broke in half. Stern may have remained afloat until 18th and this may be that reported by ORILLIA. Since that date this area has been covered daily by A/C on A/S sweep without any report of wreck referred to. (A.C.I.C., 2032A/22 to Admty.)
* Torpedoed 17th January.
- JAN MAYEN. Admiralty's 1216/8/41.
1. (A) JAN MAYEN, Norwegian Fish Carrier.
(B) Leirabodi Reef - 15 feet at low water.
(C) Severe bottom damage, all compartments flooded, submerged at high water.
2. (A) Weather preventing operations at present.
3. (A), (B) and (C). Not yet known. Prospects successful salvage uncertain. If swell increases she will break up very quickly.
(A.C.I.C., 2130A/22 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- K.M.S. 8. My 1708A/21 and 1706A/21. Codeword "Cement" delayed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0040A/22.)
Convoy sailed in accordance with A.M. 1022A/15 and 1912A/18 less EMPIRE FLAMINGO, BELGIUM SEAMAN and EMPIRE SHEARWATER. Escort is in C. in C. W.A. 1214A/16 less BIDEFORD and CALGARY. Commodore in CITY OF VENICE, Vice-Commodore OCEAN MERCHANT, Rear-Commodores EASTERN CITY and BENLEDI.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0954A/22.)
Sailed HASTINGS, LOUISBERG, PRESCOTT, ALGOMA, MOOSEJAW, LULWORTH, WOODSTOCK, KITCHENER at 0630 for K.M.S.8. LONDONDERRY sailed 1030 to overtake. REGINA, CAMROSE following when ready.
(F.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1033A/22 to Admty.)

/Following ...

War Diary.

22.1.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.S. 8. Following 18 ships sailed with degaussing off
(Contd.) in accordance with A.M. 1624A/1st January.
EMPIRE CAMERON, THOMAS PINCKNEY, JAMES MONROE,
FORT CHILCOTIN, FORT BABINE, FORT MACLEOD,
NATHANIEL GREENE, ANDREW HAMILTON, THISTLEDALE, CARLADE, OCEAN
FAME, KONG SVERRE, BENLEDI, EMPIRE WYCLIF, FORT BOURBON, CITY OF
NORWICH, EMPIRE BUCKLER, DERWENTHALL.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1034A/22.)
My 2350/21. K.M.S.8. 52 ships sailing. The following
did not sail: H.137 collision damage, H.139 dynamo trouble and
winch defects. K.123 did not arrive Clyde.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1501A/22.)

S.C.116. BURZA departed Hvalfjord 0559 to rejoin you.
CULEBRA and (A.C.I.C., 0650A/22 to C.T.U. 24.1.4.)
BAXTERGATE S.C.116. P.C.S. 1400Z/22nd, 63° 02' N. 29° 03'
damaged. W. 095°, 5. Severe easterly gale this morning.
CULEBRA has broken stern post requires tug.
ACANTHUS standing by her 10 miles astern of
convoy. BAXTERGATE has number one hatch stove in. Intend to
proceed in company with Iceland portion tomorrow.
SCHENCK detached with severely injured men.
Task Unit 24.6.6, BURZA, and KINGCUP expected to join shortly.
(C.T.U. 24.1.4, 1553Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
Following S O S from T.R.42. Number one hatch stove in
and Captain seriously injured.
(A.C.I.C., No T.O.O. Recd. 1915/22.)
EGLANTINE delayed by boiler defects. Sails at 1940 to
rejoin you.
(A.C.I.C., 1954A/22 to C.T.U. 24.1.4.)
S O S message T.O.R. Reykjavik 1300/22 was probably from
HILVERSUM ex convoy S.C.116. Can you send assistance.
(D.T.D., 2244A/22 to A.C.I.C.)

U.R. 59, Have picked up 2 survivors Swedish ship NEVA 061°
NEVA. 35' N. 014° 15' W. Am searching area until
daylight.
(CAPE PORTLAND, 0658/28 to C. in C. W.A., (R)
QUADRILLE.)
My 0658/22. Have searched the area round position. No
further sign of any more survivors. Raft and wreckage seen.
Am now rejoining convoy.
(CAPE PORTLAND, 1106Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
CAPE PORTLAND's 0658/22. Report circumstances of
torpedoing of NEVA and if there are any other stragglers.
(C. in C. W.A., 1304A/22 to QUADRILLE.)
Two survivors from Swedish NEVA were picked up in 061° 35'
N. 014° 15' W. at 0758A/22. Sweep through this position and
keep lookout for survivors and U-Boats.
(C. in C. H.F., 1810A/22 to BLANKNEY.)

/J.W.52 ...

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

J.W. 52. Your 1404/20. Arrived at 0530/22 (ONSLAUGHT).
(A.C.I.C., 0700A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)
My 1725/18 para. 1.

P.224 after passing (B) passes 071° 10', 021° 20' to position
(C).
(Capt. S.9, 0901A/22 to S/Ms.)
Seidisfjord departure C. in C. H.F. 1404/20 (BLANKNEY).
(A.C.I.C., 1425A/22 to A.C.O.S.)
Arrival 1100/22 your 1105/20. (QUEENBOROUGH, ORKAN, ECHO,
RAIDER).
(A.C.I.C., 1427A/22 to F.O. D. H.F.)
N.O.I.C. Iceland's 1950/21. CUMBERLAND R/V with SUSSEX
in 58.58 N. 03.44 W. at 0720/23 and passing through position GG
at 0745 for serial 223 night Alt with flares.
(C. in C. H.F., 1545A/22 to CUMBERLAND, SUSSEX.)
P.216, O.15, SOKOL and P.53 are to be sailed for waiting
position as ordered by Capt. (S) 9 and to reach patrol position
by a.m. 30th as follows: A. P.216, 071° 10' N. 023° 44' E.
B. O.15, 071° 02' N. 022° 56' E. C. SOKOL, 070° 51' N. 021°
56' E. D. P.53, 070° 52' N. 021° 14' E.
(F.O.S., 1702A/22 to Capt. S.9.)
Amend para. 1 of my 1225/22 to read: My 1126/18 para. 4,
for ORWELL read OBEDIENT.
Para. 5, for ORWELL read ORKAN.
(C. in C. H.F., 1705A/22 to H.F. Operational.)

K.M.F. 8, Request you will arrange for SHIPPIGAN, QUALICUM,
and W.S.26. DORNOCH, WEDGEPORT to sweep route of "Apricot"
ahead of convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1125A/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
(1) A convoy passing through (A) 270° Oversay 6 miles at
1300A/24 for (B) 055° 22' N. 012° 28' W., speed 12 knots.
(2) You are to arrange to sweep ahead of this convoy with fleet
sweepers at depth of 6 fathoms as far as the hundred fathom line.
(3) Minesweepers to be sufficiently far ahead to allow convoy
to make a diversion if necessary.
(4) Trawlers to continue searching the area as already arranged.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1156A/22 to SHIPPIGAN.)
My 1124A/20. "Apricot One" delayed owing to fog.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1212A/22.)
Owing to fog in Mersey combined convoy delayed 24 hours.
(C. in C. W.A., 1512A/22.)

Peculiarly My 2343B/5 May 1942, para. 1. Add M.V. EMPIRE
valuable ELAINE.
vessels. (D.T.D., 1201A/22.)

Ocean A.M. 1619/21. It is desired to point out that
Convoy withdrawal of these trawlers will prohibit the use
Rescue of rescue tugs on ocean convoys as agreed at
Tugs. Admiralty rescue tug meeting and subsequently
embodied in my 1818/8th.
(C. in C. W.A., 1243A/22 to Admty.)

/U.C. ...

22.1.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

U.C. and
C.U. Convoy
Cycle.

Tanker convoys (up to 40 tankers) between U.K and Curacao will be run on 20-day cycle and commencing with U.C.1, sailing date 13th Feb. 1943.

The sailing cycle allowed for is as follows:
sail U.K. D day arrive Curacao D plus 21; sail

Curacao D plus 28 at the latest arrive U.K. D plus 49; sail U.K. D plus 60. The importance of maintaining quick turn round must be fully appreciated, the sum total of wasted tanker days having a direct effect on military operations in every theatre of war. Adjustments in sailing dates may be found necessary in due course.

Ocean route will be promulgated as for trade trans-Atlantic convoys.

An escort carrier will sail with each convoy. Each ship sailing from U.K. is to be provided with approach route to U.K. port for use on home journey. Important amendments arising after sailing of convoy will be communicated to Masters by B.R.L.O. before C.U. convoy sails.

Two Commodores will sail with first U.C., one to return as Commodore of the first C.U., the second remaining to sail with the second C.U.

(C. in C. W.A., 1404A/22.)

North
Russia
Convoy.
Discharge
arrangements.

Following from Commander Frankel. After thorough consideration and investigation have concluded that continued use of Molotovsk and Ekonomia practicable because of mild winter plus ample ice breakers and desirable because of increased over all capacity of North Russia plus greater safety factor in this area. Four vessels can be handled - simultaneously each port - estimated

turnaround between 16 and 20 days. Recommend American (?vessels) use Molotovsk because of deeper draft and availability chrome ore while Ekonomia limited by depth at bar of 23 feet. Consider possibility ships being immobilized for remaining winter months very remote and danger of ice damage negligible when compared with (group omitted)s involved over loading Murmansk with resultant congestion Kola Inlet. If these recommendations be accepted suggest that Soviet Authorities be impressed with necessity for reducing turn-around time by having out bound cargo ready for expeditious handling. S.B.N.O. Archangel fully concurs.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1718A/22 to M.W.T.)

Commander Stebel 1718/22. Although I agree in general with Stebel's remarks which are based on (sound) local knowledge I feel in view of S.N.O. North Russia's 1601/16th and Admiral Miles' 1141/18th I could not fully concur.

(S.N.O. Archangel, 2214A/22 to M.W.T.)

F.S. 18.

F.S.18 anchored between 14 and 12 buoy. Visibility varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. (QUANTOCK, 1729A/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- TJALDUR. My 1145/21. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1815A/22 to A.C.O.S.)
- H.X.22. MADOERA for Cardiff and TORTUGUERO for Avonmouth should be sailed on to destinations.
(2) Request report why ships came into wrong port.
(D.T.D., 1936A/22 to N.C.S.O. Liverpool.)
- D.S. 36. Reykjavik arrivals your 2338/19.
(A.C.I.C., 2010A/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- O.S.
Convoys. A.M. 1936/4.
O.S.43 will sail from Liverpool on 14th Feb. and thereafter O.S. Convoys will sail every 20 days.
2. Minimum speed for inclusion $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
3. In order to regulate the flow of shipping into the first O.S. convoy the following has been agreed with the Ministry of War Transport:-
(a) Ships bound for West Africa, South Africa and beyond, which would have been sailed in O.N.S.163 or any subsequent O.N. or O.N.S. Convoy (except BALTAVIA, BARON TWEEDMOUTH, and BARON DUNMORE now at Milford Haven, which are to sail in O.N.162 or O.N.S.163) are to be held for O.S. Convoy.
(b) Ships bound for East Coast of South America, South of Cape Orange which would have been sailed in O.N.166 or any subsequent O.N. or O.N.S. Convoy are to be held for O.S. Convoy.
(c) Ships for the East Coast of South America south of Cape Orange offering for O.N.164 and O.N.S.165 should be sailed in those Convoys unless special instructions are received to hold specified ships.
4. Detailed bunkering instructions will be issued by Ministry of War Transport, but for your guidance the steaming distance from Liverpool to Freetown should be taken at 4000 miles.
(D.T.D., 2133A/22.)
- S.D.36. S.D.36 route (L) $062^{\circ} 24' N.$ $021^{\circ} 59' W.$
(M) $060^{\circ} 01' N.$ $013^{\circ} 57' W.$ (N) $057^{\circ} 30' N.$
 $010^{\circ} 00' W.$ thence via route (K) to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 2220A/22 to A.C.I.C.)

War Diary.

22.1.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

U.G.F. 4, Request you will sail BRILLIANT, ANTELOPE, BADDECK, escorts ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, FELIXSTOWE and LUNENBURG, PORT and route. ARTHUR as convenient to R/V with U.G.F.4 in (7015°) 55' N. 011° 22' W. at 1700A/25 and escort Oran section. 2. Route through (H) (7035°) 20' N. 009° 55' W. thence 57 13 109 lettered J to L to Oran E.T.A. 1100A/27. Stragglers. as convoy speed of advance 13½ knots.

3. Gib. section to detach and join in position 57 at 1700A/26.
 4. Fighter protection priority 2 codeword Rigmarole.
 5. FELIXSTOWE is to be detached in position 109 and is to proceed to Algiers.
 (N.C.X.F. 1523A/22 to V.A. Gib.)

Coastal Your 2004/18. Lieut. Cmdr. Allen R.N.V.R. Force Temporarily in charge of M.T.B. Base was borrowed Bases. from Eastern Med. by arrangement with C.C.F.

2. Propose Allen remains at Bone in which case C.C.F. will require the Lt. Cdr. asked in my 1241/7 para 3 to fill vacancy at Coastal Force Base Malta.
 (N.C.X.F. 1644A/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, F.O. Inshore Squadron, C.C.F., C.F.W.)

Fitting Your 2301/1 para. (V) not to F.O.C.W.A.F. A/S in To assist me in making practical proposals for French escorts request information whether any of following ships could be taken in escorts. hand in U.K. for fitting Asdic type 123 A and additional A.A. Armament.

(A) Local escorts of the trawler or armed yacht type such as VICTORIA, ENGAGEANTE, GOELAND (?) or YACH GIRUNDIA, SECOND Z (?)
 (B) AVISOS of the Elan Class if this should prove quicker than proposal to ship material to Dakar.

2. For vessels in class (A) all docking facilities between Algiers and Casablanca will be fully employed for as far ahead as can be foreseen but there would be an opportunity to include them as escorts in a special slow convoy (Gib. to U.K.) consisting partly of French merchant ships which is visualised for about mid Febuary. 3. Detailed proposals will be made when possibilities are known. Following French ships now operating Western Med. have adequate (Asdic?) which has been overhauled locally SETOYSE British type 123. SERGEANT GOUARNE type 123 A. Chasseur 3rd. and ALGEROISE French equivalent to type 119.
 (N.C.X.F. 1648A/22 to Admty.)

MATADIAN Your 1931/19 (Proposal to include certain ships etc. for for onward convoy to U.K.) and 1317/22, concur but convoy. your 1033/20 cannot be traced.
 (N.C.X.F. 2133A/22 to F.O.C.W.A.)

War Diary.

22.1.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Opsum (G) Sightings and attacks Well. N/179 on A/S
 No.81. sweep East sighted visually at 2230/21 U-Boat fully
 surfaced in position 37.34 N. 4.35E. C.O. 110/12
 and attacked with 4 250 torpex D.C.S. 2 D.C.S.
 exploded on either side of U-Boat's track about 25 ft. astern and
 the stern of the U-Boat was observed to lift after explosion.
 Nothing further observed.
 (H.Q. R.A.F. Gib. 0125A/22.)

Dispositions. Situation report for Area X. My 1116/21st.
 Add new para. (X) WISHART, VELOX, 4 merchant ships
 sail p.m. 22nd, from Casablanca to R/V with M.K.S.6
 in 035° 52' 006° 01' at 1200/23rd.
 (V.A. Gib. 0738A/22 to N.A.S.)

T.M.F.2 Not met SCARBOROUGH in company my position 028° 42'
 N. 012° 57' W.
 (ERNE 1030/22 to T.M.F. 2 (R) V.A. Gib.)
 If not in company with convoy report position course and speed.
 (V.A. Gib. 1905A/22 to ERNE (R) escorts T.M.F.2 SCARBOROUGH, Admty)

LLANGIBBY Your 2313/20th. Reardon making good progress
 Castle, though still in plaster. Expects to be in hospit-
 Boatswain. al some weeks more. Further report follows when
 position from political point of view clears.
 (N.A. Lisbon 1033/22 to Admty.)

PENELOPE Arrival 0930. from U.K.
 (F.O.C.N.A.1132A/22 to Admty.)

M.K.S.5X Outward bound U-Boat estimated in your immediate
 vicinity today.
 (D.D.I.C.1143Z/22 to Escorts of M.K.S.5X).

U/B Following read by Gib. W/T. Am over enemy Sub. in
 35.53 N. 03.39 W. was sighted on surface and
 observed to submerge, when first sighted was on
 course 340° estimated speed 6 knots.
 (A/C Call Sign 9 H.Y. Duty U.1145A/22).

Dispositions. Situation 1959A/22nd. Swedish relief ships AKKA
 and YARAWONGA 36.01 30.34 270° 12.
 2. PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER, 20.16 17.58
 through 20.01 18.01 thence Southbound 16.
 3. T.F.22 26.01 28.20 270° 14. 4. D. S/M 0.19 26.30 09.50
 through 30.00 20.00 at 1900 23rd. thence 19° on surface 9 knots.
 (V.A. Gib. 1346/22 to Area Z).

/MIRROR ...

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

MIRROR. My 1536/10 (1536/14 intended) Operation completed 2359A/21. 2. MIRROR proceeded to carry out operations (A) (B) and (C) detailed in A.M. 1943/19 not to N.C.X.F. (V.A. Gib., 1551A/22 to Admty.)

BERGENSFJORD ORBITA. D. of S.T. 0438A/20th. and 0016A/16th. My 0810A/22nd not to all addressees LEOPOLDVILLE defective completes 28th Jan. approx. Intend sailing BERGENSFJORD and ORBITA as in my 0810A 22nd. (V.A. Gib. 1650A/22 to N.C.X.F. (R) D. of S.T., D.S.T.O. W.Af. P.S.T.O. Ex. F., S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.C.W.Af., S.T.O. Takoradi, D.S.T.O. M.E., C. in C. S.A.)

Movements. Following is repetition of my 1958/20 (undecypherable) (Begins)- Arrival, 2315/19th HAARLEM with S.S. BARON KINNAIRD from Melilla. 0850/20 PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE Tug NIMBLE from T.M.I. Search. 1650 BOREAS ex K.M.S. 7. Departure 1820 M/Ls. 341, 172 escorting S.S. ANTONIO to Melilla and back. T.O.O. 1958A/20 (Ends). (V.A. Gib. 2306/22 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

PELICAN, K.M.S. 7. Following is repetition of my 1532A/21 (Previously received undecipherable.) (Begins) My 1250/10 10/42 Q.K.A. 67 issued to PELICAN at Londonderry gives position (P) as 202° "A" (A) 8.5 cables. Routing instructions issued to PELICAN at Greenock for K.M.S. 7 give the same position. (2) Position (P) is 254° "A" (A) Head 8.5 cables. (3) Q.K.A. 73 and 78 also refer (Ends). (S.O.I. Gib. 2321A/22 to Admty.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

OCEAN COURAGE survivors. Picked up 6 survivors. OCEAN COURAGE, in 009° 05' 023° 49'.
(SILVER WALNUT 0215 G.M.T./22 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. for information)
W.D. Note: Freetown-Trinidad and U.K. post N.W and W.

KHYBER. Sails KHYBER routed through, (A) 026° 34' S. 037° 50' E. (B) 021° 30' S. 040° 20' E. (C) 015° 40' S. 042° 40' E. (D) 012° 20' S. 047° 30' E. (E) 011° 45' S. 049° 12' E. (F) 011° 58' S. 049° 33' E.
2. Shift to group V. at 0245 Eastbound 27th. 3. S. of A. 8 knots E.T.A. Diego Suarez 1500Z/30
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0427Z/22 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.R.I.N. Diego Suarez. C.C.O.)

BREDON. My E.T.A. 1530Z/22nd. My position 007° 30' N. 014° 13' W.
(BREDON 0725Z/22 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Capt.(D) Freetown. Extended Defence Officer.)

Transports. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and INDRAPOERA sailed 21 Jan. for Capetown E.T.A. P.M./24th Jan. personnel on board.
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 0934C/22 to S.T.O. Capetown, (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown, D. of S.T.)

HIGHLAND PRINCESS and MATAROA sailed 21st. Jan. for Chesapeake Bay. E.T.A. 21st. Feb. and 22nd. Feb. respectively. Personnel on board.
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 1036C/22 to D. of S.T. B.A.D. (R) Connav, Cinclant B. M.W.T. N.Y., S.B.N.O.N.A. , F.O.C. W.Af. P.S.T.O., Capetown, C. in C. S.A.)

Dispositions. Tug PRUDENT standing by MELISKERK in vicinity of 031° 33' S. 29° 46' E. CHESHIRE on patrol about 043° 00' S. 026° 00' E. BIRMINGHAM, CARTHAGE, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, HOTSPUR, INCONSTANT. BLACKMOOR with M.C.3. 029° 30' S. 034° 15' E. to Durban 12 knots KHYBER 028° 40' S. 033° 00' E. to Diego Suarez 8 knots. NORTHERN ISLES 010° 45' S. 009° 30' E. to Walvis Bay 8 knots. ROCKROSE, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY with C.N.I. 035° 10' S. 018° 00' E. to 037° 40' S. 011° 00' E. 8 knots. LADY ELSA, WELLARD 026° 40' S. 014° 40' E. to Capetown 8 knots. HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY, (?026°) 30'S. 014° 30' E. to Capetown 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 1052C/22 to Area Q etc.)

/Situation...

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Situation ILEX escorting 07.59 14.05 to 07.50 14.10 thence at 2000Z/22nd. 145.15.

CDT. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, CDT. DROGOU, DUNCTON and two M.Ls. with S.T.53 03.37 04.56 to 04.25 01.42 thence Takoradi.

HOLCOMBE off Takoradi to south west.

COPINSAY, SARABANDE escorting about 04.45 00.17 to Takoradi, 8 M.L. 209 and 244 escorting 04.15. 05.01 to 04.03 07.45 thence 295 8.

ST. WISTAN off Marshall to Freetown.

RUMBA escorting MERCATOR about 02.16 06.26 E., to Lagos 8½.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 1233Z/22 to Ships in Area P. of S.A. Stn. south of 8° N., Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos).

Situation at 2000Z/22nd ALCANTARA, MINUET, 09.21 19.00 278 12½. PORTSDOWN, INKPEN 2 M.Ls. escorting 12.24 17.34 to 11.47 17.49 thence 149 7, FANDANGO off Bathurst to (corrupt group).

(R.A.W.A., 1241Z/22 to Area P., north of 8° N).

UMGENI Your 1741/21. UMGANI proceeded to New York and has now left for Cristobal. (D.T.D., 1305A/22 to B.R.L.O. Pernambuco).

Ships for Convoy. My 1931Z/19th and my 1033Z/20th. Could TREFUSIS 8 knots and CHATEAU ROUX, 7½ knots also be accepted for onward convoy to U.K.? (F.O.C.W.A., 1317Z/22 to N.C.X.F.)

PATHFINDER, PANTHER, PENN. From position 020° 01' N., 018° 01' W., proceed through position X 011° 50' N., 018° 01' W. Y. 009° 30' N., 016° 40' W. thence to Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A., 1403Z/22 to Ships named (R) V.A. Gib. Admty).

U/B Aircraft operating from Port Etienne reports sighting U-boat on surface in 027° 41' N., 013° 58' W., at 1218Z/22nd. (F.O.C.W.A., 1417Z/22 to V.A. Gib. Admty. (R) RACEHORSE, N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca, B.N.L.O. Dakar).

BALUCHISTAN Departure from Pointe Noire 1300Z/22 BALUCHISTAN. E.T.A. (? Simonstown) a.m./28th. Shifting to area Q 1200Z/23. (B.N.L.O.W.Af., 1535/22 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. (Cpt., Addressee).)

Group Sailings Following is repetition of text in C. in C. S.A. 1830C/20th. In order to obtain maximum value of air and surface escort, groups sailing should be routed to conform generally with approach lines reversed of unescorted traffic. (Ends). (Chief Cypher Officer, Capetown, 1538C/22 to Chief Cypher Officer Durban, Aden, Port Elizabeth East London, Kilindini).

/Hook's...

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.Hook's
hydrofin
invention.

Definite statement whether or not Admiralty is interested in his ideas is most necessary. (C. in C. S.A., 1538C/22 to Admty).

ATHENE

Sailed ATHENE routed as in my 0411/16th.
2. S. of A. 15 knots E.T.A. Fremantle 0700Z/3rd Feb.
3. Shifts to group N U at 0245Z/Jan. 26th.
4. Request A.C.N.B. instruct ship when to shift to Australian W/T organization.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1539Z/22 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., N.O.I.C. Fremantle).INDRAPOERA,
EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.INDRAPOERA. Master's declared speed 12½ knots. Intend routeing via Magellan to Panama and New York. Please see my 1205/16 para. 2 concerning EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.
(C. in C. S.A., 1625C/22 to Admty (R) D. of S.T. D.S.T.O. Durban).HOLCOMBE,
ILLUSTRIOUS.1800Z/22nd. HOLCOMBE to R/V with ILLUSTRIOUS in position 000° (?56') N., 008° 44' W., at 0700Z/24th in accordance with (?F.O.C.W.A.F.) 1047Z/21st Jan. S. of A. 14 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1821Z/22 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F. ILLUSTRIOUS).O.S./S.L.
convoys.

Your 1824A/15. It is estimated that approx. 16 ships per month from Ports in my area would be available for inclusion in S.L. convoys. Admty. please pass to N.C.X.F., and Cominch. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1948Z/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A., V.A. Gibraltar).

P.614

Intend to sail A/M P.614 at 1800Z/24 for Pointe Noire pass through position
B. 001° 00' N., 004° 00' E? at 0100Z/27th.
C. 004° ? 00' S., 010° 00' E. at 1300Z/29th.
56 7½ knots E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0600Z/30th.
C. in C. S.A. is requested to pass route from Pointe Noire. Wireless routine will be changed from P to Q on leaving Pointe Noire, B.N.L.O. reporting exact time of sailing.
P.614 holds S.P. 02175 S.P. 02176 S.P. 02272 S.P. 02319 S.P. 02350 S.P. 02352 S.P. 02355 S.P. 02358 S.P. 02361 S.P. 02380 S.P. 02475 series.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 2001Z/22 to B.N.L.O. W.A., F.O.C.W.Af. (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, F.O.(S), Admty. Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. S.A., A.O.C. W.Af. N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
My 2001/22 sailing delayed 24 hours owing to defects.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1751Z/22 to F.O.C.W.A., B.N.L.O.W.Af. Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Simonstown, F.O.(S), Capt. (S) 8, A.O.C.W.Af).

War Diary.

22.1.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements Departure 21st Jan. ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF on patrol. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2011Z/21 to Admty. Comsolantfor).

PENN PENN arrived Bathurst 1600/23 to refuel and is then to be sailed Freetown through 011° 00' N., 017° (730') W. (R.A.W.Af. 2113Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) PATHFINDER, PENN, V.A. Gib. Admty).

Ships for S.L. convoys. My 1824/15 to assist selection of entries for S.L. convoys and sailings to Gibraltar for U.K. the following list of priorities has been drawn up by M.O.W.T. as a rough guide.

1. All ships under 15 knots carrying more than 719 passengers and/or refrigerated cargo.

2. Ships under 12 knots with cargo priority. (a) Loaded in West Africa (b) with oil seeds from India and River Plate.

3. Ships over 12 knots with cargo priority in same sequence as 2 (a) and (b).

Request M.W.T.R.'s may be informed.

(D.T.D., 2216A/22 to F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A., B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Connav, N.C.X.F.)

KANA, Sailed DUNKERY, M.L. 302 and M.L. 251 escorting
MACGREGOR, KANA and MACGREGOR LAIRD for Port Etienne at
LAIRD, 1900Z/22.
escorts. Route (A) 011° 01' N., 017° 40' W. (B) 015° 46' N.
017° 42' W. (C) 020° 00' N., 017° 30' W. thence
Port Etienne.

S. of A. 8½ knots. E.T.A. a.m./27th.

DUNKERY and M.L. then escort KANA and MACGREGOR LAIRD to R/V in (G) at 0800Z/28. My 1815Z/22, refers.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 2259Z/22 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A., N.C.X.F., B.N.L.O. Dakar, S.N.O. Casablanca, DUNKERY).

ILEX Sailed ILEX at 1530Z/22nd to (?R/V) with ILLUSTRIOUS in 000° 56' N., 008° 44' W., at 0700Z/24 and joining escort to Freetown. (F.O.C.W.Af., 2313Z/22 to ILLUSTRIOUS, (R) ILEX, Admty. HOLCOMBE).

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Vessels. Transmit the following message at method routine using Broadcast method. Following received addressed Air H.Q. Malta from ?? Med. A/C one medium vessel 2 destroyers bearing 360° distant one mile course 360° in 37° 40' N. 10° 48' E. (Alexandria, 0145Z/22 to Admty.)

Movements. Departure 0440Z/(22?) RATNAGIRI and ROMNEY in company. Arrival TEVIOTBANK. (Com. Aden, 0651Z/22 to Admty etc.)
21st Jan. arrival WELSHMAN, Greek Destroyer AETOS. Departure Greek Destroyer SPETSAI, Greek Destroyer AETOS, WELSHMAN. (S.O.I. Beirut, 0925B/22 to Admty. C. in C. M.E.)
Arrival 22nd, Greek Destroyer SPETSAI, DELPHINIUM, CUMBRAE, M.L. 355, 358. Departure 22nd, CUMBRAE, M.L. 356. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 1907B/22, Admty., C. in C. Med.)
Algiers arrivals RHYL, STORNOWAY from Oran VANOC, VERITY, LOYAL, WILTON, L.C.TS. 164, 160, 169, 170 from East Colonel Casse from Bone.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1946A/22 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)

Albacores, long range. Following for C.O.S. (R) N.C.X.F. from Cs. in C. Ref. your Cos(me) 350 (1615/18). 1. Present position with regard to long range Albacores is as follows: At Malta 821 and 828 Squadrons with nine aircraft each. In M.E. 826 Squadron with twelve aircraft just withdrawn from Cyrenaica for re-equiipping with long-range tanks. In reserve and under repair four aircraft. 2. Aircraft of 826 Squadron will be moved to Bone as soon as ready. Ground staff and stores will be shipped at first opportunity. 3 Your para. three. Request confirmation that these are long range aircraft. These are essential for the strikes you mention. (Mideast, 0830Z/22 to Air Min. (R) N.C.X.F.)

PAPANICOLIS. Report P.C. and S. Continue to Port. Said as ordered in my 2247/21 even if GLOXINIA is not met. (C. in C. Med. 0853B/22 to PAPANICOLIS)

Bisley being sent to search for you.

(C. in C. Med. 0907B/22 to PAPANICOLIS (R) 201 N.

Co-operation Group.)

Your 1290. Proceed to Port Said as ordered in my 2247/21. GLOXINIA sweeping reverse of your route should meet you about 1630.

(C. in C. Med. 1322B/22 to PAPANICOLIS (R) Capt. (S).1)

E. Boats. Following has been read by Alex. P.C. and S. of two E. Boats 36° 00' N, 10° 35' E. 360° 5 knots. (A/C C/S FAY Duty J., 0855A/22 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. two E-Boats N.H2 R. 2010 indecypherable 340° 5 knots. (A/C C/S FAY Duty J., 0945A/22, to Air H.Q. Malta.)

War Diary.

22.1.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Op. M.H.3. Arrival 21st. Motor Launch KLO, BULLFINCH, Greek Destroyer IERAX. Departure 21st. BEAUFORT, HURSLEY, EXMOOR, ALDENHAM, DULVERTON, PALADIN, BRIGAND, Greek Destroyer KANARIS. (S.O.I. Alexandria 0907/22 to Admty. C. in C. Med.) CLEOPATRA, EURYALUS, JERVIS, JAVELIN, NUBIAN, KELVIN sailed on operation. (V.A. Malta, 1449/22 to C. in C. Med. Admty. N.C.X.F.)
- M.T.Bs. M.T.B. 264, 307 returned from operation. (V.A. Malta, 0907A/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F.)
- M.T.Bs. My 1101/21. Nothing sighted. (V.A, Malta, 0951A/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.) Operation as in my 1101/21 will be carried out again tonight. (V.A. Malta, 0956A/22 to C. in C. Med. H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 201 Naval Coop Group, 247 Wing. (R) N.C.X.F. Admty.)
- P.45. Keep south of 035° 30' during hours of darkness 22nd-23rd. Motor torpedo Boat from Malta will be operating off Kuriat and have orders not to attack submarine. You may extend your patrol to 036° tomorrow Saturday. (Capt. S.10. 1015A/22 to P.45 (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1. Sub. P.46.)
- M/V Following has been read by Alex. P.C. and S. of one small Merchant Ship. 33° 55' N. 11° 00' E. 300° 5 knots. (A/C C/S FAY Duty J., 1030A/22 to Air H.Q. Malta.) Following has been read by Alex. My 1030 P.C. and S. of enemy one small merchant vessel 800 tons - 300° 5. (A/C C/S FAY Duty J., 1105A/22 to K.T.I.)
- 15th C.S. F.O.C. 15th C.S. in CLEOPATRA, EURYALUS and 4 to bombard destroyers of Force K leave Malta at 1430A/22. Zuara. proceeding direct to bombard Zuara between 0030/23 and 0130/23 then returning direct. (2) Fighter protection codeword "Burner" call sign B.D.Q. (V. A. Malta, 1110A/22 to H.Q.R.A.F. M.E., 201 Naval Co-operation Gp., (R) N.C.X.F., Admty.)
- M.Ls. 126, Sailed M.Ls. 126, 459. 459. (V. A. Malta, 1133A/22 to Admty C. in C. Med.) Naval. 2 M.Ls. sailed at 1100 hrs. to join a minesweeping force which is approaching Tripoli. (Gov. Malta, 1920Z/22.)
- Loss of Your 1937B/12 to C. in C. Med. Request any further P.311. information on following points:- (1) Can it be

/confirmed...

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Loss of P.311 Contd. confirmed that submarines concerned were detected when submerged? (11) Had an opportunity been given for R.D.F. detection?
(D. of L.D. (Approved by A.C.N.S. (W)), 1158A/22 to Capt. S.I. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O. S., Capt.S.10 N.C.X.F.) [Reply: 1007B/28, page 1036.]

Schooner. P.C. and S. of one schooner 34° 03' N., 11° 05' E. 125° 4 knots.
(A/C C/S FAY Duty J., 1213A/22 to A.H.Q. Malta.)
Note: Received via Alexandria W/T.

Air Report M.E. Part 1. a. 661 22nd Jan. Bi. Weekly Opsum, No.93
Part 2. Night 20/21st. 1 Kittyhawk formation machine gunned a Schooner and Seaplanes on Lake N. of Ben Gardan scoring many hits.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1214Z/22 to Air Min.)
Part 2 my A.611 T.O.O. 1142Z/22. 7 B.24s bombed shipping in Tripoli harbour. No hits 35 x 1000 lb H.E. 1 Beaufighter, 34 Hurricanes protection of shipping off Delta and Western Desert coast. 3 Spitfires photographic, 2 Baltimores strategical reconnaissances. 2 Walrus, 5 Bisleys, 2 Beauforts, 1 Wellington, 2 Hudsons, 2 Swordfish anti-submarine patrols and convoy escorts. 1 Beaufort attacked submerged submarine north of Cape Amer? with 4 depth charges. Results unobserved. Reference part 1 this Opsum additional 20 Hurricanes shipping protection 20th 2 Beauforts, 1 Wellington, 1 Swordfish and submarine patrols pilot of P?40 missing 20th now safe. Aircraft written off.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1214Z/22 to Air Min.)

3 Transport Barges. Following has been read by Alexandria W/T. P.C. and S. three transport barges 35° 48' N. 11° 04' E. 010° 12 knots.
(A/C C/S FAY Duty A, 1230A/22 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Air Report. C. in C. M.E. Cositrep No. 664. Part Two. 3 Air. Night 20/21 Jan. Following operations from Malta. Naval Albacores torpedoed and sank a merchant vessel about 3,500 tons off Cape Bon. Two destroyers also attacked with unobserved results. Beauforts attacked a tanker and a merchant vessel both about 3,500 tons same area. Torpedo hit on tanker followed by column of water and steam. Results of attack on merchant ship unobserved but red flash seen by another aircraft one Albacore missing. Another Mosquito attacked Pantellaria aerodrome destroying one aircraft on ground. One Mosquito one Beaufighter missing. Seaplanes and a schooner on lake near Ben Gardan were machine gunned. B.24s bombed ships in Tripoli harbour. No hits. Spitfires from Malta bombed Gela aerodrome and Licata in Sicily. Scoring hits on barracks and chemical factory at latter objective. Other Spitfires machine gunned two schooners off Sicilian coast. Beaufighters attacked small vessels off Kerkenah Islands setting one tug on fire.
(C. in C. M.E. 1340B/22 to W.O.)

U/B...

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.U/B sunk
20/1 by
M.T.Bs.

Your 2113/21. Admty. will issue Communique dealing with the successful operation of the M.T.Bs. including sinking of the U-Boat. It is hoped that you will arrange for any further releasable details to be given to local correspondents as follow-up material to the Communique, including name of the Senior Officer, which is not known in Admiralty. It is suggested that follow-up material might include any publishable details which may be available and which have not yet been published concerning the general work of light coastal forces in your area.
(D. of P.D. (Approved by A.C.N.S.(F)), 1419A/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta., N.C.X.F.)

Small
Vessel
and
E. Boat?

Following has been read by Alex.
P. C. and S. of one small vessel and one E.B?
36° 00' N. 10° 35' E. 360° 7 knots.
(A/C C/S BUL Duty B., 1435A/22 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

E.A.C.
Air
Report.

A. 288 22 Jan. OPSUM 72. - covering period 1800 hours 20 Jan. - 1800 hours 21 Jan. Ack. Operations night 20th to 21st. Day 21st. Tingle harbour base and convoy patrols carried out. Nothing to report. A.C.H.Q. Algiers Algiers Bay patrol by 2 Walrus and 2 Swordfish from dawn to dusk 3 500 sqdn. and 3 608 Sqdn. Hudsons on A/S sweep 3 500 Sqdn. Hudsons on A/S sweep to "Untrue". 2 608 Sqdn. Hudsons on A/S escort to "Riband." No incidents. Bertie. 6 Beer 26 escorted by 12 Peter 38s attacked shipping off Cap Bon. One medium sized freighter was sunk and another damaged. Two Cant Zebra 1007s and 3 Me. 109s were destroyed 2 Peter 38 were lost 4 Beer 25s escorted by 15 Peter 38s. on counter shipping mission over Straits of Sicily. No shipping seen.
(E.A.C. Africa, 1440A/22 to Air Min.)

1 Barge.

Following has been read by Alexandria. P.C. and S. of one transport barge 34° 50' N. 11° 06' E. 360° 10 knots.
(A/C C/S BUL Duty D. 1455A/22 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Air R/C.

P.R.U. 22nd visuals. 1310 Taranto one Battleship in inner, one in outer harbour. 1120 Messina three Cruisers. Photographs taken.
(V.A. Malta, 1520A/22 to C. in C. Med., S.O. Force "I", F.O.I.S., S.O. Force "Q" Cdre. Algiers, Naval Cmdr. X.F. (R) Admty., V.A. Gibraltar. S.O. Force "H".)

M/V

Following has been read by Alex. Position of one small merchant ship 34° 08' N. 10° 37' E. stationary.
(A/C C/S BUL Duty 1535A/22 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

/M.T.Bs...

War Diary.

22.1.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

M.T.Bs. 307, 313. M.T.B. 307, 313 sailed on operation.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1619A/22 to C. in C. Med. Admty.)
M.T.Bs. 307, 313 returned.
(V.A. Malta, 1945A/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

P.35. My 1028/4. not to all addresses. Intend to sail P.35 at 1300/24 diving by day to position H. E.T.A. position H.0100/26. Capt. S.8. is requested to route her thence Algiers to deliver secret mail and then to Gibraltar. V.A. Gibraltar is requested to arrange onward routeing to U.K. P.35 will carry 2 mark IV torpedoes only. (Capt. S.10, 1715A/22 to C. in C. Med. Capt. S.8., V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Capt. S.1., V.A. Malta., F.O. (S), H.M.S. P.35. N.C.X.F., Admty.)

12th Air Force daily Intelligence cable. Operations 21st. 2. 6 B-26s dispatched on counter shipping mission north and east of Cape Bon. Two medium sized freighters attacked, 1 destroyed. 1 damaged by near misses and strafing attack. 2 Cant, 1007 sighted and attacked by escort of P.38s, both destroyed. During encounter five to seven ME.109 attacked from cloud cover. Two P.38s shot down and three ME.109s destroyed. 3. 4 B.25s dispatched on counter shipping over Straits of Sicily. No shipping seen. Bombers attacked by 3 ME.109, 1 ME.109 destroyed. Escort intercepted remaining two which were damaged. 1 P.38 missing. North of Bizerte 2 ME.109s seen escorting 1 JU.52. The JU.52 destroyed. 4. 1.FW.190 destroyed when 3 FW.190s attacked escort just East of Cape Bon.
(Algiers, No T.O.O./22 To Usfor London) Recd. 1800/22.

M.N.B.D.O.II On arrival in Middle East R.M. Group M.N.B.D.O.II, will come under your operational control.
2. Owing to the exceptional circumstances at the time M.N.B.D.O. No. 1 was broken up into various detachments. It is desired that No. 2 should be kept complete for use operationally. 3. As No. 2 has been largely equipped by War Office and has been reorganised on Army lines, request you will arrange with C. in C. M.E. for the maintenance and supply of the force. War Office agree.
(V.C.N.S. 1923A/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) N.C.X.F.)
Arrival 22nd BACHAQUERO departure ROYAL ULSTERMAN, LAMERTON.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1950A/22 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)

R/C Tripoli. Ref. situation report 327 para 5. (2113/21)
Photo. R/C Tripoli (L) 21st two S.5 merchant ships block harbour entrance but small gaps still exist. Further demolitions on Spanish Mole.
(C. in C. Med., 2029B/22 to Admty. (R) C.B.15. R.A.(L), Com.(D) V.A. Gibraltar. S.N.O.L.A., C. in C. E.F. N.C.X.F. F.O.R.S.C.A. V.A. Malta.)

/Air...

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.- Contd.Air
Report,
Malta.

AI. 549 22nd C.S.R. Night 21/22. 2 special Wellingtons were despatched to locate enemy shipping in the Sicilian Narrows. 1 Wellington found at 2041 hours 360° Zembra 4 miles 1 M/V 5000 two D/Rs course 030° speed 8 knots. Wellingtons reported convoy and shadowed it until 0230 hours 1 special Albacore 3 torpedo carrying Albacores F.A.A. and 1 Beaufort were despatched to attack. Beaufort found convoy at (0047 or 0046?) (corrupt) hours in position (341 or 340?) (corrupt) degs. Cape Bon 36 miles and attacked M/V with torpedo but no results could be seen owing to intense flak. Special Albacore found convoy at 0120 hours in position (347 or 146?) (corrupt) degs. Cape Bon 41 miles course 050° speed 5 knots and as diversion dropped 8 x 250 lb bombs which fell just ahead of M/V Special Albacore then dropped flares for attacks by torpedo Albacores but results of attacks could not be observed owing to violent evasive action from intense flak. 1 Albacore is missing. 3 Mosquitoes patrolled area of strike to cover our attacking aircraft.

22nd. 3 Beaufighter despatched to attack shipping in the Gulf of Gabes found at 1215 hours 070° Gabes 28 miles one M/V 800 tons and raked it with cannon and machine guns leaving it stationary and on fire. 4 Beaufighters 2 carrying bombs on offensive sweep against enemy shipping Sfax area attacked at 1630 hours 2 tugs in position 030° Sfax 15 miles scoring near misses with (4 or 8?) (corrupt) X 250 lb bombs and shot up both vessels leaving them stationary and badly damaged at 1640 hours 030° Sfax 25 miles, Beaufighters found M/V 800 tons very low in water possibly beached and attacked with cannon and machine guns many strikes on superstructure. Part 2. Enemy Air Activity.

22nd. 4 Spitfires Airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 2 Beaufighters provided patrol over our Naval Units. Part 3. R/C 21st. 3 Spitfire photo R/Cs. First Palermo 1 M/V 8700 tons previously seen in Palermo is now outside harbour. Total shipping 8 D/RS, 1 U-Boat, 8 German E-Boats, 5 Italian E-Boats, 23 F-Boats, 1 Tanker, 9/10,000 tons, 1 Tanker 5/6,000 tons damaged one M/V 7/8,000 tons, 1 M/V 600 tons, 1 M/V 5/6,000 tons, 3 M/Vs 5,000 tons, 1 M/V 4/5,000 tons, 1 M/V 3/4,000 tons, 3 M/Vs 2/3,000 tons, 8 M/Vs 1/2,000 tons. Taranto since 20th Jan. 1 M/V 5,000 tons has arrived Seaplane base two BV. 222s, 16 C.Z. 506s, 11 C.Z. 501s, 8 small unidentified aircraft.

Part 4 Movements.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2058/22.)

WELSHMAN.

Departure A.M. Arrival P.M. 22nd. WELSHMAN.
(N.O.I.C., Famagusta, 2133B/22 to Admty., C. in C.
Med. Fleet, S.O.(I) Alexandria, Cmdre. (D)

War Diary.22.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Troop Movements. Following troop movements have been arranged:-
 (A) Bombay Addu Atoll via Colombo. One personnel ship EL MADINA sails 27th.
 (B) B.P. 68. 2 personnel ships NEVASA, VARSOVA sail 11th. Feb.
 (P.S.T.O. Bombay 0325Z/22 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Arminia, F.O. Ceylon, D. of S.T., N.O.I.C. Hormuz, N.C.S.O. Bombay.)

STORVIKEN. Sailed 21st. STORVIKEN for P.B. convoy for Karachi. (N.C.S.O. Abadan, 0523Z/22 to Admty., C. in C. E. F. Cmdre. R.I.N. S.O. (I) Colombo (R) S.N.O.P.G.)

B.P. 66½. B.P. 66½ Karachi portion sailed 0450Z/22 to R/V 0240Z/20 from N.C.S.O. Bombay refers. BANDRA BASRA via Ras- al- Hadd knots 9½ 21 22 Indship 6 military stores.
 (N.C.S.O. Karacki, 0601Z/22 to Admty. (R) Cdre. R.I.N. F.O.C. R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon N.C.S.O. Bombay C. in C. E.F. S.N.O.P.G. N.O.I.C. Hormuz.)

Movement Summary No.37 22nd. 1. WORCESTERSHIRE left Bombay 17th. due Aden 23rd
 2. CHITRAL left Kilindini 21st. due Simonstown 29th
 3. RANCHI left Kilindini 22nd. escorting one ship due Durban 28th. 4. RANPURA, IPSWICH escorting convoy C.M. 37A due Aden about 24th.
 5. Movement summary No.36 BIRMINGHAM and CARTHAGE due Durban 23rd. HAWKINS due Bombay 26th.
 (C. in C. E.F. 0805Z/22 to E.F. (?), Admty., F.O.R.S.C.A. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Durban.)

Tugs for Ceylon. Your 1542/31st Oct., tugs for Ceylon. Can further signal now be made.
 (F.O. Ceylon 1110Z/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

RANCHI, Convoy. Departure 22nd. RANCHI and convoy.
 (F.O.I.C. E.Af. and Zanzibar, 1141Z/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Durban.)

Air Rept. India. (A) 1 Hudson Offensive Reccos. 3. of Akyab gunned small craft in shore S. Ramree Island. All above sorties 21st Jan.
 (A.H.Q. India 1147Z/22 to Air Min.)

Japanese U/B's. Japanese U-Boat. 1 (one) possible off Cape Guardafui 19th. 1(one) possible 001° N. 074° E. 18th.
 (C. in C. E.F. 1156Z/22 to E.F. Y 186 (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. F.L.O. Delhi, Cmdre i/c. Aden. A.H.Q. E.F. 246 Wing.)

22.1.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Canadian
and other
escort
groups.

From Admty: Personal from 1st Sea Lord.
My 0014/19 final para. I should be glad to have your views on the alternatives suggested below which have been worked out by the Naval Staff. They have not yet been considered by Ministers and will not be put forward to them until I know your views.

2. We are most anxious to do all we can to meet your requirements.

3. Admiralty's present policy is to allocate new destroyers for service with the Fleet where air attacks or offensive action with enemy surface units is probable and your offer of the four Canadian Tribals for this service is most welcome.

4. The replacement or reinforcement of ocean escorts has therefore to be made from older destroyers released from the fleet by new construction, or by American built "Destroyer Escorts" (D.E's and B.D.E's).

5. For the reinforcement of Canadian and other Escort groups therefore we can only offer the older destroyers (D. to I. class) as they are released, or the new American Destroyer Escorts. Latter are the most suitable for R.C.N. war requirements. Those which we should be prepared to recommend would be D.E's of the better type, namely vessels of 1600 tons with a speed of 24 knots and endurance of 6,000 miles at 12 knots.

6. Under present programme vessels of type specified are due for completion as follows: one each in March, May, June and July and two in August 1943, total six, with others to follow.

10. In considering your longer term requirements you will no doubt bear in mind that there are likely to be ample opportunities at the end of the war to adjust the proportion of Fleet and Escort destroyers in the R.C.N. with those in the Royal Navy and under construction.

(V.C.N.S., 0107A/22 to C.N.S. Ottawa).

/s/M...

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

S/M sighted Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 2358 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. De NAR XXX CQ NAU HR. R.D.O. Trinidad CK 12 Govt. Navy. Urgent 2352 G.M.T./21 War warning XXX sub sighted 11° 30' N., 61° 25' W. 2240 G.M.T./21. (Plymouth, C.C.O. 0059/22 to Admty).

T.A. 34 (QUEEN ELIZABETH) U/B warning. T.A.34 Urgent transmission on 4600 k/cs at 2342Z/21 made by enemy submarine possibly your locality. (C. in C. (?as recd. from Washington) 0315/22 to Admty. (R) QUEEN ELIZABETH, C. in C. Atlantic).

Situation My 1615/21. Section East amend CHELSEA 045° 54' N., 052° 57' en route for St. Johns N.F. speed 10 S.C.117 mid ocean escort Task Units 24.1.17 050° 27' N., 051° 10' W. 036° 4. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0328Z/22 to Admty).

SAMBRAZ ^{Portuguese (L.B.1615)} Arrival 22nd ~~Naval~~ Naval Tanker SAMBRAZ. (S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1010QR/22 to Admty (R) S.O.(I) Kingston). *See 25/11/42 - p. 1172*

| Movements summary at 1800 G.M.T. 22nd. | Ship | Position | Course | Speed |
|--|-------------|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| | T.A.34 | 42° N., 53½° W. | 252° | 26 knots. |
| | (D.O.D. (F) | 1021Z/22 to Opnav | (R) Comnav | |

Craig Computers for ESSEX. Request 2 Craig Computers may be forwarded to H.M.S. VICTORIOUS for U.S. Aircraft Carrier ESSEX in order to assist the introduction of British fighter direction method in U.S. Aircraft Carriers. (VICTORIOUS, 1032Q/22 to Admty).

KARBAGH KARBAGH ex S.C.117 returning St. John's N.F. Defective steering. (ORCHIS, 1145Z/22 to Admty).

Movements Arrival 1045Q/22 U.S. S/M Chaser S.C.534. (Harbour Master Barbados, 1235/22 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica, Navy Dept. Washington). Kingston departure U.S.S. S.Y.O. 56. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 221632 to Admty. Opnav, N.O.B. Guantanamo, Comcarib).

S/Ms A.D.C. sighted S/Ms in 048° 22' N., 053° 16' W. at 1030Z/22nd. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1335/22 to G.B.7 A. C.T.F.24. (R) Connnav, 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).

/Fuelling...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- Fuelling** Your 2347/21. ASPHODEL, ANEMONE 1200/23. HIGHLANDER, BEVERLEY daylight 24th. ABELIA could remain further 24 hours, all subject to former high speed steaming.
(M.O. Escort T.U. 24.1.18, 1415Z/22 to C.T.F.24)
- U/B** Following is recyphered version of C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1255/22. "U-boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made first sighting report of a convoy or important unit 1237/A/22. 13768 k/cs". SWALE and Comtask 24 informed.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1430/22nd to HIGHLANDER).
- Chilean M/Vs.** Chilean Merchant Vessels shall be considered as United Nations vessels confidential codes and books shall be issued on advice Intelligence Officers reporting centres pass to routeing officers your area all interested parties informed.
(U.S. Nav. Com. Washington 1440/22 to Admty).
- U/Bs** U-boat position by D/F at 1237Z/22 within 100 miles of 51° 15' N., 41° W. 18 groups 13768 k/cs Enigma another at 1228Z/22 within 100 miles of 54° N., 44° W., 36 groups 13768 k/cs Enigma.
(Cominch, 1451/22 to Admty. (R) WAVENEY, HIGHLANDER, Comtask 24).
- S/M Estimate** (Cominch, 1454/22, 1455/22, 1530/22, 1531/22, 22nd. 1532/22, 2342/22).
U.S. S/M
Notice.
- C Convoy** C. in C. W.A. 0907/22 not to all addressees.
Groups, 1. Intend composition of C Groups being
Composition. transferred to U.K. as follows:-
C.1. ST. LAURENT (S.O.) ST. CROIX, BURWELL, NAPANEE, BATTLEFORD, KENOGAMI, SHEDIAC, ITCHEN,
C.2. BROADWAY (S.O.) SHERWOOD, CHAMBLY, PRIMROSE, MORDEN, DRUMHELLER, LAGAN.
C.3. ASSINIBOINE (S.O. BURNHAM, BITTERSWEET, MAYFLOWER, LA MALBAIE, EYEBRIGHT.
C.4. CHURCHILL (S.O.) RESTIGOUCHE, BRANDON, AMHERST, COLLINGWOOD, CELANDINE.
2. Request CHILLIWACK ex Group C.1. returned to Canada for refit on NAPANEE rejoining Group about 29th. My 1415/15th not to all Addressees refers.
3. ARVIDA will arrive U.K. mid March to relieve BATTLEFORD in C.1. Request BATTLEFORD then return Canada for refit.
4. CHAMBLY will sail independently from St. Johns to join C.2. Group in U.K. about 15th Feb.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

C Convoy Groups Composition. 5. POLYANTHUS now in Group C.2. to refit on arrival United Kingdom 15th Feb.
6. ORILLIA now in C.2. will refit on next arrival Canada about 27th.
7. Assume CELANDINE will rejoin C.4 on arrival of Group in U.K. 7th Feb. Request SHERBROOK, BOW in this Group be returned to Canada for refit on CELANDINE rejoining. To be sailed as escort Westbound convoy if desired.
8. First to complete of WETASKIWIN and PICTOU will relieve CELANDINE in Group C.4 early April. CELANDINE then to refit in U.K.
9. AMHERST, EYEBRIGHT, NAPANEE next ships due for refit will be relieved by GALT, AGASSIZ, SACKVILLE respectively on completion current refits late March or early April.
(F.O.N.F., 1515Z/22 to C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., Admty. C.O.A.C., Cdre. Londonderry, C.C.C.S.)

Convoy Escort Groups. Ref. Comtask 24's 1815/20. It is considered that at least 6 destroyers must be left under orders of C.O.A.C. Halifax for W.L.E.F. and other commitments such as rendering assistance to damaged Men of War etc.

2. It is requested therefore that you will inform Comtask 24 that the following Canadian Destroyers are to be under orders of C.O.A.C. Halifax. ANNAPOLA, COLUMBIA, HAMILTON, NIAGARA, ST. CLITION and ST. FRANCIS.

3. When the 10 day cycle is in effect about mid February the W.L.E.F. can be reduced from 9 to 8 groups but C.O.A.C. states it cannot be reduced to 7 groups. The W.L.E.F. will then consist of 6 destroyers 25 Corvettes 9 Bangors or a total of 40 escort vessels. Allowing (?machinery defects) to be refitted or repaired this will give a group strength of only 3.4 which is considered inadequate. Admty. (?are) being asked to allow 8 R.N.(?First) class trawlers to remain in Canadian waters and this will allow 8 more Bangors to be allotted to the W.L.E.F.

(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1645Z/22 to Cominch (R) Naval Member Canadian Joint Staff Washington, Admty. Comtask 24 C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F.) Note: Former was circulated under no T.O.O./20

U/B D/Fs on 13768 k/cs at 1237Z/22 and 1548Z/22 indicate that U-boat is probably shadowing Convoy O.N.160, or possibly Convoy O.N.161. (D.D.I.C., 1720A/22 to Escorts of O.N.160, Escorts of O.N.161, (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C., Halifax, C. in C. W.A., C.T.G.24.7).

S.C.L.116 C.T.U.24.6.6 reports (?S).C.116 not met at 1530Z/22. If contact not made by 0800Z/23 request S.C.L.116 be detached with T.U.24.6.4, as escort. Ref. VERVAIN 1358Z/21. (C.T.G., 24.6., 1725V/22 to C. in C. W.A., (R) C.T.U. 24.6.6., C.T.U. 24.6.4, C.T.U.24.1.4.)

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FridayFOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

NORTHTON returned Burin boiler trouble ex J.H.29. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1726Z/22 to Admty. (R) Connav, N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24., C.O.A.C., N.C.S.O. Sydney, N.C.S.O. Montreal).

O.N.S.160 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1427/22 not to all addressees. O.N.S. 160 has heard H/F sighting reports bearing 333° and 349° believed within 30 miles at 1555Z and 1645Z. (C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1735Z/22 to Cominch, C.T.F. 24 (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, Ships Escorting O.N.H.)

O.N.S.160. My 2235/19. Cancel reference to GLAISDALE which has rejoined. PHILIP DODGE straggling (?since) a.m./21st BADJESTAN and EMPIRE SUMMER also straggling but overtaking slowly. (C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1800Z/22 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24., 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.).

O.N.S.160. My 1735/22. No further sign of shadows but am making evasive turn to 223° 7 knots from 2000Z until daylight. Request air cover then all stragglers except PHILIP DODGE rejoined. (C:T.U., 24.1.12, 1930Z/22 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24., Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7., Ships escorting O.N.161).

A.T.35 (ANDES). Convoy A.T.35 consisting of SS. ANDES will be ready to leave Halifax N.S. for Clyde p.m./26th carrying military personnel. 2. C.O.A.C. is requested to sail ship to pass through 56° 20' N., 09° 00' W., at 0830Z/3rd Feb. and that estimated S. of A. may be signalled. 3. Ship will be sailed independently and maximum air protection both A/A and A/S should be arranged. 4. Fighter protection Codeword "Hickory". (D.O.D. (H), 1907A/22 to C.O.A.C., Connav, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C.)

Your 1658/17. Details and destinations of Naval personnel were given in my 2240/14 and 0346/15. This information is always signalled at time of sailing, but in this instance was delayed in transmission (D. of S.T., 2218A/22 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax).

IMPERIAL TENACITY sailed 2003/21 to assist IMPERIAL MONARCH, MONARCH adrift in position 49° 15' N., 50° 18' W. TENACITY. (F.O.N.F., 1913Z/22 to Admty. for C.C.R.T. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/Landing...

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

Landing Craft. L.S.T.S. in special convoy from New York have been delayed and will probably arrive Bermuda seven days after L.C.I.(L)s from Norfolk which sailed 1600/21.

2. It is doubtful whether L.C.I.(L)s will be able to remain in company L.S.Ts if sailed together from Bermuda. See para. 2 of Admty's 1935/7. (not to V.A. Gibraltar).

3. Cominch would probably agree that if L.C.I.(L)s are in a fit state to proceed from Bermuda soon after their arrival, they should do so unescorted by route already signalled for convoy, without waiting for L.S.T.

4. Admty. is requested to signal whether they agree or not. (B.A.D., 1915Z/22 to Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A., (R) V.A. Gibraltar).

R.D.F. maintenance organisation. My 1532/20 Para. B.

(1) Propose following R.D.F. maintenance organisation (A) Mechanic trained promontory type pendant stationed Curacao for repairs, care of stores and assistance to group R.D.F. Officer.

(B) Defective units not repairable Curacao to be returned U.K.

(C) Replenishment spares to be demanded from U.K. by signal and shipped in next U.C. convoy.

(2) Alternative of full maintenance organisation at Curacao in charge of R.D.F. Officer not considered necessary in view of your 1954/16th para. 4 and 6. Request early confirmation of this.

(S.B.N.O.W. At. 1923Z/22 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. Curacao, B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

O.S./S.L. Convoys. A.M.1824/15. O.S./S.L. convoys. Para. (3). Proposal to ask F.O.C. W. Africa on each occasion for inclusion of a ship in S.L. convoy not considered practicable.

2. Propose:-

(a) All ships of 10 to 11.9 knots be routed automatically to Freetown subject to diversion to Bahia.

(b) Communication with ships of under 10 knots system Resumption (see A.M. 2110/21st Dec. 1942) should be maintained and ships continue to be routed to Bahia subject to diversion to Freetown.

(c) Ships of 12 to 14.9 knots to continue to be routed via (?Durban) or by A.M. 2330/1st Sept. 1942, those proceeding direct by Atlantic route to be diverted Freetown as convenient.

3. Foregoing proposals are provisional pending further developments referred to in para. (5) of A.M. quoted.

(C. in C. S.A., 1954Z/22 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Freetown, F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. & R., B.N.S.O.)

W.S. FARISH. W.S. FARISH cargo Admty. fuel and planes put in St. Johns N.F., 22nd. lost convoy because heavy weather. New York to the U.K. slight damage deck. Particulars and prospects later. (Bowring St. Johns N.F., T.H.I. 2051/22 to Shipminder London, (R) Shipminder New York).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movements

Departures COLUMBIA to assist CALDWELL.
Arrivals LEAMINGTON, MELVILLE ex O.N.158.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 2101Z/22 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.,
Cominch, (C. & R) B.A.D., C. in C. W.A.,
F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24).

French Fleet refits.

This is Radio Washington's 2111/22. Your *1416Z/17 the following action regarding rearmament of French fleet is approved.
Escort vessels. Satisfactory to (?requisition)
French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE to U.S.A.

Convert LA GRANDIERE in Africa.

Send three 15 inch guns and 15 inch ammunition from French Battleship JEAN BART to U.S.A. for RICHELIEU. Have each S/M proceeding U.S.A. carrying 2 torpedoes for emergency use and leave remainder for operating S/Ms

Overhaul. Upon arrival can take RICHELIEU at New York, FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE at Boston, MONTCALM, ARCHIMEDE, AMAZONE, and PHILADELPHIA. Will arrange for (?PHILADELPHIA) take additional cruisers, destroyers, and S/Ms when foregoing are completed. S/M overhaul will probably be particularly slow for all vessels to be overhauled in U.S.

Operations. Information in regard to escorts and movements will follow. Admiralty pass to British Chief of Staff, N.C.X.F. for information and C. in C. Atlantic Fleet for action. (remainder is technical). Glassford also has for action. (C.C. of Staff 2111/22 to C. in C. African Force, Glassford, Admty. (R) British Chiefs of Staff, N.C.X.F., Comtask Group. No. 26.7). * 1416/17 from Algiers intended, re armament of French Fleet.

REGENT

Bermuda departure REGENT in accordance with my 2122/21.
(2) REGENT (corrupt group) is painted dark grey with dazzled conning tower with letters N.41 in white on it.
(3) (Corrupt group) K.(?A) 84.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 2122Z/22 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib. N.S.H.Q., F.O.S., B.A.D., C. in C. At. Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.C.X.F.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary.

Para. A. Schooner C.S. flight 4 shells sunk 13° 30' N., 70° W 2330Z/11.
Para. C. Sub. sighted 48° 22' N., 53° 16' W. 1030Z/22 and 12° 15' N., 68° 11' W., 1645Z/22.
Action.

Para. D. CG - 452 attacks sound contact 34° 11' N. 76° 27' W., 2242Z/21 also attacked by CG-74349
0300Z/22 same area. CG - 83361 sound contact 38° 27' N., 74° 54' W. about 0250Z/22 also by SC - 1023 0430Z/22 same area.
K.14 made contact 37° 10' N., 74° 14' W., 1745Z/22. Commercial. Pilot sights sub area. 11° 25' N., 73° 30' W., 1255Z/22. Surface craft sound contact 20° 17' N., 73° 26' W., 0800Z/22.
(Cominch, 2145/22 to Admty for O.I.C.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. (Contd.)

LINCOLN Detached from H.X.223 at 1930/22nd in 57.17 46.10
(B) Proceeding St. Johns N.F. Your 1957/22nd
fuel remaining does not permit me to join S.C.117.
Ref. (? your 1403)/15th. (A) (?63) (B) 48 (?%)
Weather report 5781, 8613, 3397, 1304.
(LINCOLN, 2200Z/22 to A.I.G. 302, (R) C.M.O.E.T.U.
24.1.17, C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3)

L.C.I.(L)s Re/provision of ratings for passage to U.K.
ratings. (B.A.M.R. Washington, 2230Z/22 to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

ACHILLES Following is proposed approx. programme of
ACHILLES for return (?to) U.K. subject to any
interim urgent requirements by Comsoupac.
Arrive Auckland 14th Feb. Depart Auckland 19th
Feb. Arrive (?Bora Bora) for fuel and depart 23rd Feb.
Arrive Balboa 6th March for fuel and onward routeing instructions
(2) Admty. requested to arrange mail accordingly.
(N.Z.N.B., 0042M/22 to Admty Comsoupac, (R) B.A.D., ACHILLES,
S.B.N.O.W.A.)

MAURETANIA Your 0341/20th. Anticipated E.T.A. Fremantle
0100Z/8th Feb.
(N.Z.N.B.0208Z/22 to A.C.N.B. (R) C.C.E.F.
Comsowestpac, C. in C. Med.)

Movements Arrival Milne Bay 20th BENDIGO Port Moresby 21st
SWAN Thursday Island 21st WARREGO, INVERELL.
Sydney N.S.W. 21st U.S. GRIDLEY, BUNDABERG,
departure Port Moresby 21st KATOOMBA for Townsville.
(A.C.N.B., 0434Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

Digest Photos portion Rabaul harbour noon 21st show
No.365 21st. 60 vessels including one large hospital ship 1
tanker 38 other merchant vessels 20 small warships
including destroyers patrol craft and submarines. 9 fighters 10
medium bombers shown Lakunai Aerodrome with 3 fighters airborne.
8 flying boats 4 float-planes also in harbour.
2. Recco. A/C reported afternoon 21st one cruiser one destroyer 2
large merchant vessels position 5° 5' S., 152° 43' E. on course
175° speed approx. 12 knots.
3. Another A/C sighted 3 destroyers 2 transports with steam up in
Wewak harbour same afternoon although early morning Recco. this
area reported nil shipping. Four fighters patrolling overhead
attacked our aircraft without effect. 4. During morning three
Liberators attacked enemy shipping Ambon area including one cruiser
4 large merchant vessels one possible tanker 2 other smaller
merchant vessels. Hits scored on one merchant vessel and cruiser.
/Interception by ...

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No.
365. 21st.
Contd.

by approx. 20 Zeros one destroyed one other probable.
Three Fortresses attacked shipping Rabaul harbour early morning 21st 500 lb. bombs dropped from Low level. At least two merchant vessels believed damaged one of which observed in sinking condition.

6. Two Catalinas and twelve Fortresses attacked airfields at Vunakanau Lakunai and Kokopo early same morning. Many bombs fell in target areas damaging runways and starting fires.
7. Another Catalina dropped bombs runway area Gasmata.
8. Enemy barge or launch reported operating off mouth Mambare River night 20/21.
9. Further enemy position captured Sanananda area evening 20th pressure being maintained against remaining enemy pickets which have been completely surrounded.
10. Two groups enemy aircraft attacked airfields Milne Bay night 20/21 destroying one aircraft.
11. Two medium bombers attacked Darwin early morning 21st without effect. Interception by four Kittyhawks one enemy aircraft possibly destroyed.
12. Single enemy Recco. floatplane over Merauke noon.
13. Three B.25s dropped bombs Lautem (Timor) morning 20th.
14. On 21st 6 B.25s attacked supply dumps Lae while four Bostons attacked Salamaua dropping bombs among buildings causing fires. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0801Z/22 to Admty. etc).

Movements

Hired transport TAROONA arrived Port Moresby 21st
U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT departed Brisbane 21st
due Townsville 25th.
(A.C.N.B., 1409Z/22 to Connav, Admty).

O.C.64

(A) O.C. 64 (B) 1510Z/22nd (C):-
Ships Name Spelt Destination
BARWON, Newcastle
MASULA, Newcastle
KOOYANG, Newcastle
WEAR, Newcastle
IRON KING, Newcastle
SALAMOA * Sydney N.S.W.
PATRAS, Sydney N.S.W.
VANSWOLL, Sydney N.S.W.
KOSPINRA, Sydney N.S.W.
ADELONG, Sydney N.S.W.
KOONDA, Port Kembla
KOORINGA. Port Kembla.
(Melbourne, 1517Z/22 to Admty.) * as received.

ROAMER

Departure Auckland, U.S.S. ROAMER, E.T.A.
Ispiritu Santo 2300Z/27.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1835Z/22 to Admty).

LUXOR

Request destination LUXOR (GSKJ) (Tanker message)
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 2207Z/22 to Admty (R)
N.C.S.O. Auckland).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1354A/22, 1359A/22).

War Diary.

23.1.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

The Combined Chiefs of Staff have decided that in order to assist in maintaining Spanish neutrality in the interest of Allied strategy such quantities of oil, raw materials and other supplies as are necessary to maintain a reasonable wartime economy should be made available to Spain subject to all proper safeguards. No special tonnage will be made available to Spain for this purpose.

Home Commands.

Photographs of Trondheim today showed TIRPITZ still in the same berth at Lo Fiord and no other large naval vessels in Lo Fiord or Foetten Fiord.

Convoy J.W.52 is estimated to have been about 130 miles S.W. of Bear Island at 0800 today; V.A.2 in ANSON with SHEFFIELD and 4 destroyers was sighted at 1250A by a F.W. A/C in 67° 47' N., 08° 50' W.

S/Ms O.15 and P.216 left Lerwick tonight to patrol off Trondheim, and the S/Ms JUNON and SOKOL are to leave Lerwick tomorrow to complete this patrol.

Rosyth was re-opened at 1056A today.

U.S. Fortresses bombed Lorient and Brest this afternoon.

4 mines were exploded by Sweepers off the Humber.

South Atlantic.

The Admiralty are anxious to have a base for contraband control in the eastern Atlantic close to the trade routes, to provide a check on neutral traffic between South America, East and West Africa and the Iberian Peninsula. There are objections to Gibraltar, Casablanca and Freetown. Dakar is suggested.

/B.N.L.O...

War Diary.

23.1.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

B.N.L.O. Dakar on 1st Feb. reported that U.S. BENJAMIN SMITH (Charleston for Takoradi and Accra) torpedoed and sunk on 23 Jan. about 50 miles off the Ivory Coast. 68 survivors landed at Sassandra.

Mediterranean.

Bombardment
of Zuara.

The force under C.S.15 (see 22 Jan) carried out the bombardment of Zuara in the early hours of today as planned. Good fires and explosions were seen. No shipping was encountered or seen in harbour. There were no casualties or damage to H.M. ships. A mined area is suspected off Zuara.

P.228

P.228 reports that at 1915/15 she attacked 2 merchant ships of 6,000 tons escorted by 3 destroyers in 40.37 N., 13.47 E. One hit stopped one merchant ship, the other ship returned to Naples. P.228 attacked the first merchant ship again at 2350/15 and at 0835/16 sank her with a torpedo hit.

Force H.

Captain Jacomb of NELSON has assumed the duties of S.O. Force H in place of V.A. Syfret, sick.

Air Operations

4 Beauforts from Malta laid mines last night in the Kerkenah area. 12th Air Force (U.S.) aircraft last night attacked small freighters or barges off Tunisia. One ship exploded, one caught fire and capsized, and a third was listing when last sighted. There were 2 enemy air raids over Bone last night and minelaying is suspected. No serious damage was caused. Convoy E.T. 9 X was attacked by aircraft at about 1840 today in 37.14 N., 6.29 E. Beaufighters shot down 3 of the enemy. No damage to the convoy is reported.

Eastern
Mediterranean.

P.37 reports two torpedo hits on an 8,500 ton ship in 37.53 N., 15.43 E. (Straits of Messina) at 0820 today. The ship was in tow of two tugs and is believed to have been sunk. P.37 was heavily counter attacked by 4 escorts, causing some damage to her batteries.

War Diary.

23. 1. 1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Tripoli (L)
occupied.

Advanced troops of the 8th Army entered Tripoli (L) at 0500 today, and the N.O.I.C. and advance base party entered 5 hours later.

WELSHMAN has completed the move of 4,200 troops into and out of Cyprus.

At 0650 U-Boats set on fire a schooner off Round Island (north of Tripoli (S).)

Air
Operations.

Two groups of Fortresses of the 12th A.F. bombed Bizerta naval base and shipping in the immediate vicinity today. One large vessel was sunk and another probably damaged by direct hits, and the harbour installations were badly damaged. Both groups of Fortresses were attacked by enemy aircraft; the first group destroyed 3 to 6 and damaged 4 out of 15 to 20 of the enemy; the second group were attacked by 25 to 30 planes and destroyed 16 to 20 and damaged 5. The Fortresses suffered no losses. At 2045 Wellingtons bombed Bizerta with excellent results. At 1340 B.26s attacked shipping off Tunis, damaged a freighter and destroyed two barges or small freighters. Two Wellingtons last night mined and bombed Khalkis harbour, Greece.

America and West Indies.

O.N.S.160.

C.T.U.24.1.12 this evening reported that POLYANTHUS's maximum speed was reduced to 7 knots by defects but he was hoping to keep her with the convoy until reinforcements arrive. BADJESTAN is a straggler and in difficulties.

War Diary.

23. 1. 1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Fortresses again bombed shipping in Rabaul Harbour before dawn, but no hits are reported. During the morning, a Liberator secured a direct hit and 5 near misses on a 12,000 ton transport in Simpson Harbour (Rabaul) and stopped an 8000 ton transport outside the harbour with 2 near misses.

Milne Bay (Papua) was raided by a few aircraft twice before dawn today, some casualties and damage being caused.

War Diary.23.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

M.T.B.92 M.T.B.92 will be ready to be handed over to Free French Navy on 25th January. (HORNET, 2125/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Use of Neutral Waters. LIVADIA. S.M.Z.40 applies to LIVADIA. 3094 tons turbine engines. (2) If a successful attack is made no further ship should be attacked within territorial waters without instructions. (F.O.S., 2139A/23 to S/Ms).

Movements.

VASCAMA Report your P.C.S. (C. in C. W.A., 0002A/23 to VASCAMA).

DELHI Your 2149/22nd. Proceed to Tyne direct. (C. in C. W.A., 0033A/23 to DELHI).

DAFFODIL, Request you sail DAFFODIL p.m. today to PRINCESS IRIS. Portsmouth by fastest route to R/V with PRINCESS IRIS off Skerries. (S.O. A.S.C., 1002A/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). My 1002A/23 and my 1008/23. Request you sail PRINCESS IRIS to R/V Skerries with DAFFODIL on passage from Clyde to Portsmouth and thereafter to Portsmouth in company with DAFFODIL by fastest route. (S.O. A.S.C., 1004A/23 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool). My 1002A/23 and 1004A/23. On arrival DAFFODIL and PRINCESS IRIS are to embark all L.C.M.(1) and as many L.C.A. as possible from NORTHNEY for passage to Clyde. Request you will sail DAFFODIL and PRINCESS IRIS to Clyde as soon as possible after embarkation of craft by fastest route arranging special escort as necessary. (S.O. A.S.C., 1006A/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth). My 1002/23 and my 1004/23. Request you will arrange special escort for IRIS and DAFFODIL on passage to Portsmouth. (S.O., A.S.C., 1008A/23 to C. in C. W.A.) S.O.A.S.C's 1008/23. Cdre. Londonderry is requested to sail SKATE to R/V with PRINCESS IRIS and DAFFODIL 270° Skerries 13 miles at 1700A/24 and escort them to Portsmouth. (C. in C. W.A., 1459A/23 to Cdre. Londonderry). Intend to sail PRINCESS IRIS 1030A/24 for R/V with SKATE and DAFFODIL 270° Skerries 13 miles in accordance with S.O.A.S.C. 1004A/23 and C. in C. W.A's 1459A/23. E.T.A.1700A/24. Speed of advance 10 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1623A/23 to C. in C. W.A.) Intend to sail DAFFODIL at 2359A/23 for Portsmouth to comply with S.O.A.S.C's 1002A/23. E.T.A.1600/26. Ship will R/V with PRINCESS IRIS and SKATE in 270° Skerries 13 miles at 1700A/24 and proceed in company. DAFFODIL is S.O. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1806A/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

War Diary.23.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

P.219, Intend sailing P.219 escorted by BRYONY from
P.56. Clyde at 1700A/25 for Scapa, E.T.A. 0800A/27,
speed 10 knots.
(2) P.219 to await onward escort to Blyth.
(3) A.C.O.S. is requested to sail BRYONY escorting
P.56 for Clyde as soon as possible.
(Capt. S.3., 1027A/23).
Arrived P.219 escorted by CUTTY SARK.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1454A/23).

EMPIRE ROACH, Your 1826/20, and 1909/22nd. Weather permitting
EMPIRE CHUB, intend sailing EMPIRE ROACH, EMPIRE CHUB, and
EMPIRE TITAN. EMPIRE TITAN at 0900A/24 for Gibraltar.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1056A/23).

P.225, Capt. (S) 3 0945A/22. P.225 P.53 escorted by
P.53. BERGAMOT sailed 2 hours late.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1108A/23 to A.I.G.219).
Your 0945A/22. Intend sailing PRESTON NORTH END
at 1000/24 to R/V with P.225 in 000° Cape Wrath
5 miles at 1600A/24 to act as onward escort to Scapa.
BERGAMOT pass to P.225 and P.53.
(A.C.O.S., 1411/23 to Capt. S.3).

BERWICK Clyde arrival BERWICK.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1338A/23).

GURNARD. (1) Request you sail GURNARD at 1100A/25 to
360° Round Island Scilly Islands 7 miles thence
through L. 050° 01' 009° 30' M 049° 09' 019° 00'
N. 047° 58' 026° 02' dived by day when east of
020° West.

(2) F.O.S. will arrange bombing restrictions to 026° W.
(3) Daily speed of advance 300 miles on surface, 175 miles when
dived by day.

(4) Request you will arrange onward route from "Chop" with
C. in C. U.S. Fleet.

(5) My 1434/19th and your 1005/19th. refer.
(F.O.S., 1504A/23 and 2009A/23 to Comsubron 50).

(1) Intend sailing GURNARD escorted by CUTTY SARK from
Roseneath at 1100A/25 via searched channel and standard route to
000° Round Island Scilly Isles 7 miles, E.T.A. 2300A/26, speed
12½ knots.

(2) Thence GURNARD by route laid down C. in C. W.A., 1132/23rd.
(Comsubron, 50 1545A/23 and 0906A/24 to F.O.S.)

F.O.S.1504/23. E.T.A. Round Island 2300A/26. "Chop"
2000A/30th.

(Comsubron, 50, 2015A/23 to F.O.S.)

23.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

S/M Positions. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/24th and movements for following 24 hours :-
 (a) TRIDENT, P.224, P.314, in North Norwegian waters east of 20° E.
 (b) JUNON and SOKOL escorted by LOCH MONTEITH arriving Lerwick from Southward. After fuelling these submarines proceed independently to North Eastward.
 (c) H.33 escorted by KING HAAKON due Londonderry 0930 from Rothesay.
 (d) P.53 and P.225 escorted by BERGAMOT vicinity Little Minch due 000° Cape Wrath 5 miles at 1800/24th thence P.53 with same escort West of Orkneys due Lerwick 1000/25th. P.225 with escort from Scapa due Scapa, 2330/24th.
 (e) H.32 leaves Sheerness with C.E.149 for Portsmouth.
 (f) P.339 46° 48' N., 13° 50' W., dived by day due 43° 01' N., 13° 50' W. at 0400/26th.
 (g) TORBAY 46° 36' N., 13° 22' W., dived by day due 43° 02' N., 13° 22' W, at 0230/26th.
 (h) U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao.
 (j) U.S.S. HERRING in zone K.505.
 (F.O.S., 1554A/23 and 1156A/24 to Admty).

ACANTHUS Hvalfjord arrival ACANTHUS at 1530/23.
(A.C.I.C., 1617A/23).

BONAVENTURE On completion of trials and acceptance request BONAVENTURE may be ordered to Rothesay.
(F.O.S., 1851A/23 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

H.32 My 1900/23. Add para. 6. H.32 escorted until daylight by M.L. 208 and thence by Motor Balloon Barrage Vessel. Detailed by S.O. of escort will sail 5 cable astern rear ship of starboard column.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1902A/23 to C. in C. Nore).

H.33 My 1658/21 amended by my 1925A/22. Sailed.
(Capt. S.7., 2031A/23 to Cdre. Londonderry).

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 1135A/22. "Device" returned to Harbour owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0310A/23).
 1. Intend M.L. 303 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 497 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N., between 01° 30' W., and 02° 05' W.
 2. Leave Portland 1715 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 "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1230A/23).

/Patrol...

23.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. Contd. Patrol tonight 2 M.G.Bs. (L) no. 2 buoy, 2 M.Ls. each Z 13 and Z 11. (C. in C. Nore, 1535A/23). M.Ls 137 and 138 patrolling between Rye and Fairlight Buoys. (V.A. Dover, 1645A/23).

Operation "Cartoon". My 1232A/21 and my 1947/22. V.P. - D. sailed 0820/23. (A.C.O.S., 0935A/23 to 18 Group, Sumburgh, Wick).

Operation "Valuable". My 1000A/20. Para. 10. Amend Force A call sign to read 3 W.B.G. (R) 3 W.B.G. Other call signs unaltered. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1015A/23 to CLEVELAND etc).
1. (1) Force A consisting of CLEVELAND, BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, GOATHLAND patrolling south of Beachy Head as in para. 4 of my 1000/20 tonight. Force A passes E.A.5 Buoy inward at 0600/24. Force B at Newhaven to consist of M.G.B. 616 (S.O.) 613, and M.T.B. 86, 89, 242, 85.
(2) M.L.303, R.M.L. 497 patrolling 050° 20' N., between 001° 30' W., and 002° 05' W.
(3) FYLLA, KINGSTON TOPAZ, CHASER 14 at Saint Helens. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1300A/23 and 2040A/23).

Biscay S/M Patrols. Your 1055/22. In order to leave no gap in patrols in Bay of Biscay Areas it is intended to recall SHAD and HERRING from patrol after dark 4th February and to sail BARB and BLACKFISH from Roseneath on 1st February.
2. Henceforward the length of time on patrol will be 30 days making a total of 40 days at sea and 20 days in harbour.
3. To simplify escort arrangements submarines will normally be sailed for a recalled from patrol in pairs. (F.O.S., 1146A/23 to Comsubron 50).

Norwegian Coastal S/M Patrols. P.216, JUNON, SOKOL, O.15. (1) P.216, JUNON, O.15 and SOKOL are to be sailed from Lerwick as soon as practicable to take up following patrol positions -
(A) P.216, 063° 20' N., 006° 44' E.
(B) O.15, 063° 08' N., 006° 44' E.
(C) JUNON, 062° 31' N., 005° 23' E.
(D) SOKOL, 062° 27' N., 005° 04' E.
JUNON to operate East of and SOKOL West of line 315° from Flaavae Light 062° 19' N., 005° 36' E.
P.216 to operate North of and O.15 south of 063°

15' N.
(2) Objects Cruiser and above. S/Ms are to be attacked if definitely identified as hostile. A full salvo is to be kept for heavy unit. (F.O.S., 1217A/23 and 2011A/23 to Capt. S.9).

War Diary.

23.1.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norwegian Coastal S/M Patrols. P.216, JUNON, SOKOL, O.15. Contd.

(1) F.O.S. 1217/23. Request you sail P.216 and O.15 at 2001A/23 and 2300A/23 respectively to position
(A) 098° Muckle Flugga 10 miles.
(B) 062° 55' 003° 10' E. thence P.216 to patrol-position 063° 20' 006° 44' and O.15 to patrol-position 063° 08', 006° 44' E.
(Capt. S.9., 1505A/23 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).
Add to my 1542/23. P.216 and O.15 leave Lerwick 2000 and 2300 respectively to north-eastward.
(A.C.O.S., 1756/23).

P.216 left Lerwick 2005A/23 unescorted and on surface at C.O's discretion through 098° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and 062° 55' 003° 10' E. thence diving by day to patrol in vicinity of 063° 20' N., 006° 44' E.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2044A/23).

Request you sail JUNON and SOKOL from Lerwick at 1200A/24 and 1500A/24 respectively through positions.
(A) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles. (B) 062° 20' 003° 59' E., thence patrol position as ordered in F.O.S's 1217/23.

(2) S/M to proceed on surface at C.Os. discretion until within 60 miles off Norwegian coast thence dived by day.

(Capt. S.9., 2105A/23 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

O.15 left Lerwick 2305A/23 through (a) 098° Muckle Flugga 10 miles (b) 062° 55' 003° 10' E., thence to patrol in vicinity of 063° 08' 006° 44' E. Unescorted and on the surface at C.O's discretion to position (b), thence diving by day.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2309A/23).

O.15 sailed for Patrol.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2311A/23 to Admty).

My 1554/23. Add new Paras. (K) P.216, 61° 47' N., 01° 10' E., proceeding on surface at C.O's discretion through 62° 55' N. 03° 10' E., thence to patrol in 63° 20' N., 06° 44' E.

(L) O.15, 61° 10' N., 00° 08' E., proceeding on surface at C.O's discretion through 62° 55' N., 03° 10' E, thence to patrol in 63° 08' N., 06° 44' E.

(F.O.S., 2339A/23 to Admty).

Operation "Gearbox".
CHULMLEIGH,
survivors.

Following from Master CHULMLEIGH. Begins:-
I hereby support Captain Ullrkig's 0625/3rd Jan. and 1220/4th Jan. about survivors dead and missing (corrupt) 9 personnel. Literally all making good recovery thanks timely rescue and good treatment by Norwegian garrison. I am specially grateful to Captain Ullrkig and Doctor Honningstad. Ends.
("Gearbox", 1246Z/23 to Admty).

23.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Patrols.

P.R.U. Trondheim in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1035A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)
D.C.I.55. Patrol 1 A and 2 A will be carried out by Swordfish and Whitley Aircraft from 1900/23rd to dawn 24th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1401A/23 to Escorts P.W.283, W.P.283).
My 1035/23. Negative owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1637A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)

LARGS and
BULOLO work-
up.

It is desired to work up air communications and fighter direction of H.Q. Ships LARGS and BULOLO in the Clyde area. For this purpose the periodical co-operation of 6 fighters and 3 T.B.Rs. from Machrihanish would be appreciated. If this can be agreed to it is proposed that C.C.C. should make detailed arrangements with Machrihanish. Period envisaged covers the next two months. Initial exercises will need to be of an elementary nature working up to joint operating with R.A.F. fighters.
(C.C.O., 1140A/23 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Murmansk
Balloon
Barrage.

Your 2148A/19. Owing to prevalence of non-flying weather since commencement of arrival of Russian balloons extent of barrage not yet ascertained, but authorities state it will cover dock and Boma area only. Russians suggest cover of flying balloons from barges for protection of ships at anchor between Boma and Vaenga Bay. Consider this most improbable due scarcity of barges. Replenishment of hydrogen in ship flown balloons promised by Russians, but there will be some difficulties owing to fact that only un(corrupt group)ed hydrogen in Faeroes contains (corrupt group). Essential to be able to fly balloons from ships at anchor as high as possible. Most ships at present only carry K.B.1. A wires which are only in 1,000 feet length. Request urgently supply 3 dozen reels piano wire in 4,000 feet lengths and that all future ships be supplied with 4,000 feet piano wire for harbour use on separate drums to K.B.1. A list for sea use.
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk 1319Z/23 to Admty).

Bomber
Command
operations.

On day 22nd 12 A/C bombed Cherbourg - Maupertus A/D.
(H.Q.B.C., 1640A/23).

Mining.

Search off
Iona.

My 1646/22. Sailed (PARRSBORO)
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0225A/23 to SHIPPIGAN).
2 Trawlers are to sail to Ardrossan to collect 20 Dan buoys each with extra moorings. You and one other Trawler meet me off entrance to Loch Liathaich at 0630 when we will transfer some dan Buoy to you.
(SHIPPIGAN, 0430A/23 to GUNNER).
Your 2330A/22. Comply with my 1727A/22.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0927A/23 to SHIPPIGAN).

/GUNNER...

23.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Search off Iona. Contd. GUNNER, THOMAS ALTOFT are sailing Ardrossan returning with orders to bring back as many Dan buoys as possible. When transfer of M/S's Dan buoys to Clyde Trawler is completed intend to proceed Ardrossan and commence clearance from Centre outward. Thence to comply with your 1156A/22. Then to Merville for fuel as Dan buoy situation probably not permitting further clearance operation until return of GUNNER.
(SHIPPIGAN, 1015A/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Your 1015. Approved.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1545A/23 to SHIPPIGAN).
I shall have commenced sweep ordered in your 1156A/22 at 0800/24. Does your 2055A/23 cancel this or am I to detach one or two ships to comply.
(SHIPPIGAN 2150A/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

M.M.S's for Dover. A.D.M.1811A/22. Request you sail 3 M.M.S's to Dover forthwith.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1026A/23 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven).
Arrival M.M.S. 60, and 64.
(V.A. Dover 1729A/23).

Humber Area. Following 4 Mines exploded by Sweepers today.
At 1231/23 in 172° H.3 Buoy 7½ cables.
At 1412/23 in 180° 57 E buoy 3 cables.
At 1427/23 in 162° 57 E buoy 1¼ miles.
At 1427/23 in 162° 57 E buoy 1¼ miles.
(F.O. Humber 1747/23).

7th M/S F. After arrival of 9th M.S.F. at Harwich, request you will sail 7th M.S.F. to Granton.
(D.M.S., 1748A/23 to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

Flushing on 21st January. Photos taken by 88 Squadron at 1455/21 show Flushing ten possibly eleven auxiliaries present compared with four possibly nine on 16 Jan. M class minesweeper now moved from dry-dock to alongside at Marine Dock. No other significant change noted. Vlissingen A/D two small aircraft present.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 1700A/23).

TIRPITZ Photographic R/C of Trondheim shows TIRPITZ still in same berth in Lo Fiord, no other large naval vessels seen in Lo or Foetten Fiord.
(D.D.I.C., 2120A/23 to A.I.G.47).

LIVADIA (1) My 2139/23. Description.
(2) Vessel arrived Bilbao 20th January.
(F.O.S., 2227A/23 to S/Ms).

War Diary.23.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.U-boats
reported.Indefinite D/F bearings at 1355Z, 1950Z, 2038Z,
and 2107Z indicate U-boats in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 2322A/23 to Escorts S.C.117).Navigational.

Rosyth

Cancel my 2340/22.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1056A/23).Casualties & Defects.

LACENNIA

My 2120/20. Delayed with D.G. defect.
(F.O. Humber, 0129/23).

ITCHEN

My 1007/22. ITCHEN's Hedgehog mounting has been
removed and stool found distorted. It will be
necessary to provide a new stool and fit a new
mounting.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0955/23 to Admty).ST. CROIX,
CHESTERFIELD.Escort Group C.1. has no ship fitted H/F D/F H.M.
Consider most important fit ST. CROIX during
present period. Ship available one month but
required second fortnight for training exercises.
I propose either (A) F H 3 be allocated and sent
at once to Londonderry or (B) H.3 be removed now from CHESTER -
FIELD and fitted in ST. CROIX. CHESTERFIELD is proceeding for
repairs estimated to take at least 6 weeks. Request in this
case a new set be allocated and fitted in CHESTERFIELD during
repair.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1255/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

VOLUNTEER

My 1130/8 and 1111/11. VOLUNTEER delayed owing
to defect in safety-valves.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1513/23).

BITER

Admty. 2132A/20 and V.A.A's 1001A/22, 1003A/22.
If these alterations are to be undertaken the
refit date of completion now given at 15 Feb. 1943
cannot be kept.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1645/23 to Admty).

DUNNET HEAD.

F.N.25. SS. DUNNET HEAD arrived with boiler
trouble.
(N.C.S.O. Harwich 1758A/23).

PUFFIN.

Your 1920. Proceed into Great Yarmouth Roads.
Do you require tug to assist.
(C. in C. Nore, 2025A/23 to PUFFIN).
Departure tugs KROOMAN, DIVERSION to assist PUFFIN
in Yarmouth Roads.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2257A/23).

835

23.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys

- T.A.33. My 1214/21. Sailed. Codeword "Sparrow".
(EMPRESS OF (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0014A/23).
SCOTLAND). Sailed EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND in accordance with
A.M.1721A/18. Estimated S.O.A. from position
(P) 19 knots. E.T.A. Halifax 2000Z/29.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0016A/23) (D.S.T.O.Greenock,
0020/23).
- S.C.116. Standing by SS. CULEBRA from S.C.116 with broken
CULEBRA. stern post. Position 063° 04' N., 029° 14' W.
Pending (?C. in C's) instructions and weather
permitting propose taking (?CULEBRA) in tow at
daylight and (?steering) 090°. Weather 6471
9034.
(KINGCUP, 0100Z/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
Intend to proceed at 0400Z/23 and expect to rejoin S.C.116
at 1600Z/23.
(VERVAIN, 0219Z/23 to A.C.I.C.)
Sailed 0310 tug DEXTEROUS escorted by FETLAR to assist
CULEBRA.
(A.C.I.C., 0315A/23 to KINGCUP).
Your 2244A/22. From C.T.U.24.1.4's 1553Z/22 it appears
that vessel may be BAXTERGATE who is being detached with Iceland
portion of convoy today. H.M. Trawler WINDERMERE is at
immediate notice to proceed if required.
(A.C.I.C., 0949A/23 to Admty).
VERVAIN departs (H)valfiord 0600A to rejoin you.
(A.C.I.C., 0632A/23 to C.T.U.24.1.4).
Request you will detail either BABBITT, WILLIAMSBURG or
DUANE to relieve corvette standing by CULEBRA. Corvette is
required to rejoin convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 0858Z/23 to C.T.G.24.6.)
Request you sail WHITEHALL, MALLOW, and BLUEBELL to
arrive 060° 52' N., 014° 06' W., at 0700Z/26 to join B.6. group
escorting S.C.116.
(C. in C. W.A., 1058A/23 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).
My 0315/23. Keep FETLAR informed of your action. Your
0100Z/23 has been passed to FETLAR.
(A.C.I.C., 1143A/23 to KINGCUP (R) FETLAR).
Have detailed BABBITT to proceed and relieve KINGCUP as
screen for CULEBRA until arrival of DEXTROUS and FETLAR.
(C.T.G.24.6 1248Z/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
Intend to sail WHITEHALL, MALLOW, BLUEBELL 0500/24 for
R/V S.C.116 in 060° 52' N., 014° 06' W. in accordance with
C. in C. W.A., 1058A/23. E.T.A. R/V 0700Z/26. S.O.A.12 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1258A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1547/23. Rescue tug and escort trawler were sent to
assist, vide my 0315/23.
(A.C.I.C., 2014A/23 to Admty).
- H.X.222 Commander Mid Ocean Escort Task Units 24.1.11 in
VANSITTART plus CHESTERFIELD, ST. CROIX,
CHILLIWACK, KENOGAMI, BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC arrived
from H.X.222.
(C.T.G.24.7., 0830Z/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

/R.U...

23.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

R.U. and
U.R. convoys.

Request you will allocate 2 reference positions to each R.U. and U.R. convoy. These should be carried with each convoy, and should be within 40 miles of convoy route. Signal to be addressed to C. in C. W.A. repeated Admiralty and when applicable A.C.I.C. (C. in C. W.A., 1045A/23 to A.C.I.C., N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe).

D.W.I.
Tanker
Convoys.
BITER,
BATTLER,
ARCHER.

It is understood that the auxiliary A/Cs BITER BATTLER and H.M.S. ARCHER are being allocated to C. in C. Western Approaches for employment on escort duty with D.W.I. Tanker convoys.
2. It is considered that the complement of aircraft carried in each ship should be 9 Swordfish and 3 Martlets. It is requested that these squadrons be allocated now.

3. It is suggested that immediate consideration should be given to building up a nucleus of spare aircraft of both types at the appropriate D.W.I. and U.K. terminal ports in which case the available space for spare aircraft in these ships might be utilized on the outward run.
4. It is considered eminently desirable that each ship should carry at least 6 aircraft torpedoes for use against possible enemy raiders.
5. It is further requested that the fitting of all these ships with H/F D/F may be expedited and that the necessary complement of telegraphist (S.O.) and their equipment may be embarked.

(C. in C. W.A., 1102A/23 to Admty).

J.W. 52

FREDERICK J. LOVATT. E.T.A. J.W. 52 at position M.Z. 0700A/26.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1103A/23 to Home Fleet).
Scapa arrival CUMBERLAND.
(A.C.O.S., 1201/23 to A.C.I.C.)

At 1200A, 3 H.E. 115 took off from Banak on R/C West Barents Sea.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1215A/23 to H.F.)
Sighted by Focke Wolfe at 1250A. P.C.S. 067° 47' N., 008° 50' W., 050° 18. Weather 5582 1533.
(V.A.2., 1258A/23 to C. in C. H.F., C.S.1. ONSLAUGHT).
Arrived Akureyri 1500/23 INGLEFIELD, MONTROSE.
(A.C.I.C., 1942A/23 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2).

K.M.S. 8

K.M.S.8. My 0954/22. Add to ships that did not sail INDIAN PRINCE.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1128A/23).

War Diary.23.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- K.M.F.8 My 1816/15. Add EXE to para. 1 (b). N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail EXE as soon as ready to overtake.
(C. in C. W.A., 1359A/23 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
My 1124A/20 and 1126A/20. Sailed codeword "Apricot One".
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1800A/23).
- AMSTERDAM Intend sailing transport AMSTERDAM from Cromarty at 2302/26, 17 knots, routed A.M. Q.Z.S.150 352 to 35 Buoy, thence 3 miles East of Fair Isle. E.T.A. Lerwick 1002/27. Request escort and fighter protection.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon 1533A/23 to C. in C. Rosyth)
- TJALDUR Your 1145A/21 and escort arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1546/23 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).
- O.S. Convoys. A.M. 2133A/22. Ships from East Coast ports for O.S. Convoys will assemble at Loch Ewe.
(D.T.D., 1549A/23).
- U.R. 59 "Miracle" arrived less NEVA (believed sunk) and LOCHNAGAR (straggling).
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 1859A/23).
- M.K.F.7 Convoy M.K.F.7 comprising the following ships for destinations as shown is due U.K. 26 Jan. Details. ORMONDE has sustained damage by collision.
(D.S.T., 2136A/23).
- W.S. 27 P. Convoy W.S. 27 P will comprise the following troop transports: DERBYSHIRE, NEA HELLAS, MONARCH OF BERMUDA. Embarkation dates.
(D.S.T., 2137A/23).

War Diary.

23.1.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area.

Re-
armament
of French
Fleet. Technical details of British commitments.
(Admty. 1319A/23.)

Force H. My 1114/23rd. Capt. H.B.Jacomb NELSON has assum-
ed the duties of S.O. Force 'H' temporarily.
Flag of Vice Admiral Syfret will be struck at sunset
today 23rd. Jan.
(S.O. Force H. 1416A/23.)

BARFOIL,
BARWIND. A.M. 0808/13. On arrival at Gib. BARFOIL should
be sailed first opportunity for Oran to work on
Boom Defences in that area while awaiting onward
passage. My 1843/21 BARWIND will remain at Gib. in lieu of PHY-
LLISIA ? and should be sailed for Mers El Kebir as convenient.
(N.C.X.F. 1740A/23.)

Local Following local convoy programme is intended - read
Convoy in 7 columns for eastbound convoys.
programme.

| Convoys | Gibraltar | Oran | Algiers | Bougie | Philippeville | Bone |
|----------|-----------|------|---------|--------|---------------|------|
| for: | | | | | | |
| K.M.S. 8 | Feb. 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 4th | 5th | 5th |
| T.E. 15 | " 10th | 11th | 12th | 12th | 13th | 13th |
| K.M.S.9 | " 18th | 19th | 20th | 20th | 21st | 21st |
| T.E. 16 | " 26th | 27th | 28th | 28th | March 1st | 1st |

Read in 7 columns for westbound convoys.

| Convoys for: | Bone | Philippeville | Bougie | Algiers | Oran | Gibraltar |
|--------------|---------|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| M.K.S.7 | Feb 1st | 1st | 2nd | 2nd | 4th | 6th |
| E.T.11 | " 9th | 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th | 14th |
| M.K.S.8 | " 17th | 17th | 18th | 19th | 20th | 22nd |
| E.T.12 | " 25th | 26th | 27th | 28th | March 2nd | |

(N.C.X.F., 1747A/23.)

U.G.F.4 T.F. No.34 escorting convoy U.G.F. 4 arrives point
H. 9 hours 30 minutes Point J 18 hours 30 minutes
Z 25th. Request R/V with British escort for Med.

Section of convoy. Also request Air coverage to destinations
and local escort through Casablanca mine fields. Latest infor-
mation concerning entrance furnished by U.S. Port Director at New
York 13th. No quarantine diseases ships bound Casablanca.

Weather report.

(Comtask 34 1822/23 to Cdre. North W.Af. Sea Frontier. (R) C. in
C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) Admty.)

Gibraltar Repeated A.O.C. E.A.C. North Africa from Air Min.
to Malta Owing to the recent heavy demands for transport
air shuttle aircraft in other directions, lack of suitable air-
service has caused the shuttle service between Gibraltar
and Malta to be suspended temporarily.

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War Diary.

23.1.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area Contd.

Gibraltar
to Malta
air shuttle
service.

Request you will reduce this accumulation of urgent stores at Gib. by transporting as much as possible by sea to Malta.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1857A/23 to N.C.X.F.)
Amended, See 1543A/24.

North
African
operations,
communications
lessons
learned.

For Eisenhower, From Combined Chiefs of Staff.
1. So that many useful lessons learned in communications resulting from North African operations may be available as soon as practicable for all concerned could you submit such a report to Combined Chiefs of Staff without seriously overburdening your staff and interfering with more urgent matters? Report proposed would cover only outstanding deficiencies in communications planning

and material in order that mistakes in future Combined Operations can be avoided.

Relayed to Algiers by Cables (Action)
(Agwar Recd. 2230Z/23 to Etousa (Action)

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23.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Gibraltar Opsum 82 for 12 hours end 2400/22 sorties 18 hours
air report. 124.
(A) A/S 12 Huds. east 1 A/C diverted to search
for U/B sighted 35.53 N., 3.9 W. by U/233 75
(EHRS?) 1 Wel. search around M.K.S.6 followed by
square search NHYG 5351 night 22/23 1 Well., east night 22/23
1 hour balance of flying time Wells. night 21/22 20 hours.
((E) Convoys 2 Cats. M.K.F.7 and 2 Cats. G.U.S.3 cancelled sea
conditions. 3 Huds. M.K.S.6 all met LBDW 1756 at 1910/22 18
RS 1 Well. M.K.S.6 Met 8 hours 30 mins. 2320/22 LBDW 0840
10 hours Huds. and Wells. Det Agadir to T.M.F.2 no details
available.
(G) Sightings and attacks? Hud. U/233 on escort M.K.S.6
at 1120/22 sighted U/B surfacing distant 16 miles 35.53 N., 3.9
W. CO 340/6 submerged too soon to attack. Cat. A/210 in transit
from U.K. sighted a fully surfaced U/B dead ahead at 2135/21
45° 52' N., 9° 47' W. CO 270/10 U/B submerged. Not attacked.
(H.Q., R.A.F. Gibraltar, 0130Z/23).

M.K.S.6 Sailed PELICAN, LYME REGIS, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR,
WORTHING -AZALEA, SPIREA, GERANIUM, PENNEN,
ROTHER, SPEY Gibraltar section M.K.S.6 to join
main convoy. QUEEN ZEBRA H.127 S.394 X. 913 Y.374
(V.A. Gib. 0650A/23, 0930A/23).
M.K.S.6. Gibraltar section arrived plus BRITISH CHIVALRY,
less CROMARTY FIRTH, and ERIDAN (Total 11 ships).
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1440A/23).
Arrivals. 1030 BRILLIANT, ANTELOPE, FELIXSTOWE, ALBERNI,
SUMMERSIDE, PORT ARTHUR, LUNENBURG, BADDECK Tug ST. DAY French
ships LA SETOISE, SERGEANT GOUARNE, ex M.K.S. 6.
(V.A. Gib. 1950A/23).

Convoy Docking of FLAMINGO intend to sail convoy
T.F.8. T.F.8 codeword Mascot consisting of DUNKERQUE,
CAPITAN ARMAND, JGLEBORGNE, M.L. LEBORGNE,*
GALLIUM, VAL DE LA HAYE, escorted by LOCH OSKAIG,
NORTHERN GIFT, F.S. TAPAGEUSE, F.S. SERGEANT
GOUANE routed through
(d) 35.51, 06.01 (e) 34.10, 07.08 (f) 33.53, 07.46
Speed of advance 7 knots.
2. NORTHERN GIFT instructed to return to Gibraltar on American
Minefield Escort taking over.
3. S.N.O.C.A. please pass to Admiral AFRIQUE.
(V.A. Gib. 1224A/23 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) N.C.X.F.)*As received.

CORRIENTES. German CORRIENTES now returned to original berth.
Reported also discharging in bulk some 200 tons
gas oil into Woermanns lighter wharf oil storage.
(Las Palmas, 1230/23 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gib.
B.N.A. Madrid).

/Situation...

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23.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Situation 1200ZA/23rd. Situation report Area Y SCARBOROUGH, ERNE 1 Tanker 33.09 15.09 through 33.26 15.25 thence 298° 14.
(2) GLENROY, JANUS 037° 32' 025° 50' to Ponta Delgada sailing again a.m./24th 022° 11.
(3) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR, 38.39 26.15 picking up cable 054° one knot.
(4) U.G.F.4 T.F.34 039° 40' 021° 01' 116° 11.4.
(5) G.U.S. 3 T.F.33 028° 53' 019° 40' 231° same.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1230A/23).

MARNE MARNE, ready to proceed 2nd Feb.
(2) Request tug be obtained.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1247A/23).

BERGENSFIORD. Intend sailing BERGENSFIORD 1500A/24th to R/V with ORBITA escorted by ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH at 1800A/24th position (B) 034° 01' N., 007° (749') W., thence as ordered by V.A. Gib.
(708)10A/22nd. C.T.U. 26.7.1. escort through minefields and assist R/V C.T.U. 26.7.2 provide sweep ahead.
(S.N.O. Casablanca 1305Z/23) Amended see 1602/23.
Modify my 231305 to comply V.A. Gib. 1052A/23.
BERGENSFIORD will sail 1100A/24 to R/V ORBITA position 34.50 N. 07.09 W., at 1800A/24.
(Comseafon W.T.F., 1602/23).

MAURO CROCE. Barcelona reports departure 22nd Italian MAURO CROCE for Genoa.
(M.W.T., 1342/23 to Admty).

Movements JANUS and GLENROY arrived 1730 G.M.T./23rd.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1745/23 to S.O.(I) Gib.
(R) Admty).

Convoy F.T.8. F.T.8 consisting of STEEL TRAVELLER, ATLANTA CITY, JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS, ILLINOIAN, JULIA LUCKENBACH, CHAMPILLION, GROIX sailed 1530Z/23 S.O.A. 8 route coastal to Gibraltar.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1603Z/23).

Warships. BUTSER, BIRDIP, BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE, LIMBOURNE, departed Casablanca for Gibraltar escorting F.T.8. U.S.S. BISCAYNE departed Port Lyautey for Casablanca.
(Comseafon C.T.F.1900/23).

Sabotage attempt against our ships at Seville. Your 2020/20. Yes.
(Hd. of M. (I) 1819A/23 to N.A. Madrid).

WISHART, VELOX. Arrived Casablanca departed for Gibraltar.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1947Z/22).

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War Diary.23.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Escorted
Group
Sailings.

Your 1758/19th not approved.
The difficulties at the Cape are appreciated but these four destroyers will be required to escort VALIANT and ships in company through to U.K. as no other destroyers are available.
(D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 0011A/23 to C. in C. S.A., (R) F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. E.F.)

Situation
at 1959Z/23.

BENBHRACKIE 15.45 (?22).45 to St. Vincent 9.
(?ALCANTARA), WOODRUFF 10.00 24.00, (126 or 277), 12.5.
DUNKERY, 2 motor launches (? escorting) 10.14 16.12 to 11.01, 17.40 thence 359, 8.5.
PATHFINDER, PANTHER 14.18 18.00 to 11.54, 18.01 thence 151, 14.5.
PENN off Bathurst to 11.00 17.30 thence Freetown 15.
PORTDOWN, INKPEN, 2 motor launches escorting 09.55 16.42 to Freetown, 7.
CORINTHIAN, ARRAN, 2 motor launches escorting 09.00 14.06, 299, 7.5.
PICT, 2 motor launches escorting 12.17 17.21 to 11.00 17.18 thence Freetown 8.5.
CARNATIC 09.44 15.29 to Freetown 12.
(R.A.W.Af., 0103Z/23 to A.I.G.149, Amended 2007Z/23.)

FRITILLARY,
THYME.

Sailed FRITILLARY, THYME to Capetown coastwise S. of A. 13 knots, E.T.A. Capetown 1400Z/25.
(2) Shift to W/T organisation SL at 1700/23.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0331Z/23 to Admty., etc.)

M.C. 3.

Arrived BIRMINGHAM, CARTHAGE with M.C.3.
(Cdre. Durban, 0511Z/23 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., F.O.E.A. & Z.)

Position at
2000Z/23rd.

HOLCOMBE, 02.15 07.01 244°, 14.
ILEX, 03.05, 11.01, 145. 15.
2 M.L. escorting 04.28, 08.08 to Freetown, 8.
RUMBA escorting MERCATOR about 05.00, 04.35 E. to Lagos, 8½.
CROCUS escorting off Pointe Noire to Takoradi, 11.
M.L.285 escorting off Pointe Noire to Lagos, 9.
P.614 sailed Takoradi 1800Z/24 passing through 01.00 N. 04.00 E. at 0100Z/27, 7½.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 0949Z/23 to Ships in Area P of S.A. Stn., South of 8° N.)
Casablanca - CYCLAMEN.
Bathurst Area - PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER.
Dakar - DESPATCH.
Freetown area - CORINTHIAN, WOODRUFF, ALCANTARA, CARNATIC.
Freetown - BRIDGEWATER, EDINBURGH CASTLE, H.M.P.615, PETUNIA, HYDRANGEA, BURDOCK, ARMERIA, PHILOCTETES, BELLWORT.
Cape Palmas Area - ILEX, HOLCOMBE.
Takoradi - COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S., H.M.S. VICTORIAN, H.M. P.614.

/Pointe ...

War Diary.23.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Positions at Pointe Noire - BALUCHISTAN.
2000Z/23rd. Pointe Noire Area - CROCUS. Detaching CARNARVON
(Contd.) CASTLE, MILFORD, MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE,
AUBRETIA, SNOWDROP, VIOLET, ROCKROSE, AMARANTHUS,
LOBELIA, TAMARISK, SOUTHERN PRIDE, SOUTHERN GEM,
PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE.
(F.O.W.Af., 1559/23 to Admty., etc.)
Departure 22nd U.S.A. Corvette SURPRISE.
(R.O. Para, 1110/23 to Admty., (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)
Arrival 23rd. SARABANDE, COMMANDANT DROGOU F.S., COMMANDANT
D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S., DUNCTON, COPINSAY, Motor Launch 261,
278.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1835Z/23 to Admty., N.O.I.C.W.Af.,
R.N.O. Lagos.)

Positions. CHESHIRE on patrol about 043° 00' S. 026° 00' E.
NORTHERN ISLES 015° 10' S. 010° 20' E. to Walvis
Bay 8 knots.
ROCKROSE, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY with C.N.1
036° 30' S. 014° (00') E. to 037° 40' S. 011° 00' E. 8 knots.
LADY ELSA, WELLARD 029° 30' S. 016° 30' E. to Capetown 8.
HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY 029° 00' S. 016° 00' E. to Capetown
7 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots.
STANDERTON, VERE ENIGING TURFONTE in with C.A.6 off Cape
Agulhas to 037° 10' S. 025° 00' E. 10 knots.
SONDRA 032° 20' S. 029° 10' E. to East London, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
FRITILLARY, THYME 032° 50' S. 028° 30' E. to Capetown 13 knots.
NORMAN escorting HONG YIANG, EMPIRE DILIGENCE 029° 15' S. 032°
30' E. to Kilindini 10 knots.
(C. in C. S.A., 1052C/23 to A.I.G. 125.)

Weekly State. S.A. Station 23rd Jan. Area 'Q'.
Cape Area - ROCKROSE, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY
CITY. J.2D, NORTHERN ISLES. Walvis Bay to Cape -
LADY ELSA, LADY ROSEMARY, WELLARD, HERTFORSHIRE.
Durban to East London - SONDRA.
Durban to Cape - FRITILLARY, THYME.
Durban Area - NORMAN, BLACKMOOR, M.(?3)B, CHESHIRE.
Simonstown - M.Ls 380, 382, 381, P.552, DAUNTLESS, ROCKWOOD,
GENISTA, LE TIGRE, BARCROSS, KHETI, H.D.M.Ls 11, 50.
Durban - EREBUS, RESOURCE, ALBATROSS, NAPIER, FREESIA, JASMINE,
NIGELLA, VALIANT, HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, (? INCONSTANT), FORTUNE,
NEPAL, QUILLIAM, CERES, CARTHAGE, BIRMINGHAM, MAGNOLIA, ARCTIC
EXPLORER, EMILE BAUDOT, MEAD.
Capetown - F.S. COMMANDANTE DUBOC, ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN,
FERNMOOR, CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN DUKE, (corrupt group 26) OLWEN,
EMPIRE WARLOCK, Motor Launch 383.
Port Elizabeth - SPHENE, NORWICH CITY, PACHECO, STORMWRACK.
San (? Saldanha) - MANCHESTER CITY, SPINDRIFT, BARBRAKE.
East London - COLOMBIA, D.S. 0.21, NORTHERN CHIEF, ST. LOMAN,
INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA, CECILE MAPLESON.
(C. in C. S.A., 1101C/23.)

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23.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

A/S Trawlers and Group Sailings. A.M. 1519/21. Of 18 trawlers that have reached the Station only 5 will be operative ^{kill} by the end of Jan. (See amendment 1715/27). It is not anticipated that group sailings will be started between Capetown and Durban before end of Feb.

(2) There are two established approaches to Capetown (A) via Saldanha from northward. (B) via Agulhas from eastward. Dispersal points for outward escorted sailings are 400 miles from Capetown. As far as possible inward traffic is routed through these dispersal points to obtain cover by returning escorts. Approach to Durban is at right angles to the coast and similar arrangements for cover are in force.

(3) Aids to navigation are adequate. All coast lights except in immediate vicinity of harbour and radio beacons have been re-established.

(C. in C. S.A., 1146C/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.W.A.F.)

Reply: Admty. 1730A/25.

CYCLAMEN. Your 0801A/22 (N.T. in W.R.) not to CORINTHIAN. Request confirmation that CYCLAMEN will join southbound convoy off Casablanca.

(F.O.C.W.A.F., 1224Z/23 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca, CORINTHIAN.)

Fairmile M.Ls. Experience of Fairmile M.Ls 380 - 1 - 2 - 3 has shown they are not suitable for South African waters where heavy seas are common at all seasons and ports a long way apart.

2. In view of their small escort value propose they be dispensed with on this Station.

3. H.D.M.L. 135 Flotilla will be used for Harbour Defence.

(C. in C. S.A., 1248C/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.W.A.)

Free French Corvettes. A.M. 0009A/19 not to B.N.L.O.W.Af. Propose to sail F.S COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES to arrive Cape about 20th Feb. if you can conveniently arrange (? relief) at this time. (R.A.N.A.F., 1301Z/23 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty., B.N.L.O.(?W.Af.), F.N.L.O. Freetown.)

Gibraltar Convoy Number 1. Columns 10, 11, 12. TREFUSIS 8 knots iron ore for Gibraltar, KANA 9 knots West African produce joining from Port Etienne for Gibraltar. MATADIAN 10 knots M/F palm oil for Gibraltar. PINTO 9.5 knots stores for Bathurst. CHATEAUROUX 7.5 knots West African produce for Gibraltar. MACGREGOR LAIRD 10.5 knots West African produce joining from Port Etienne for Gibraltar. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1414Z/23 to Admty., (R) V.A.C.N.A., Connav, N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.23.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Gibraltar
Convoy
Number 1.
(Contd.)

1. Gibraltar convoy number 1.
2. 1200/23.
3. Nil.
4. 7½ knots.
5. All positions North and West. (X) 1100 1740
(G) 2018 thence as ordered by N.C.X.F.

6. CORINTHIAN (S.O.)

15 A.V.D. codeword and W/T call sign "Carter", C.L.D. allotted Q.L.A.151, Q.K.A.84. KANA and MACGREGOR LAIRD join in position (G) at 0800/28. PINTO to be detached a.m. 26th to proceed Bathurst direct. Endurance MATADIAN 27 fuel oil, TREFUSIS 30 coal, CHATEAUROUX 35 fuel oil.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1519/23 to Admty.)

Fast
Tanker
Convoy.
Aruba to
Dakar.

U.S.99.

The following was received from Admiral King as 222050 for Action Admiral Glassfurd and for information British Chiefs of Staff London and Combined Chiefs of Staff.

"Navy Department is making arrangements for special movements 4 fast tankers with 3 destroyers

escorting to Dakar leaving Aruba about 5th Feb. with approx. following cargo in order that petroleum products may be available for issue by you.

70,000 barrels 50 octane naval diesel. 260,000 barrels Navy special fuel oil. 800 drums diesel engine oil. 12,000 barrels 80 octane motor gas meeting Army specifications. 100 drums turbine oil and matching amounts of greases. 300 drums marine engine oil.

There is in addition for delivery to Army Air Corps 75,000 barrels 100 octane aviation gasoline.

The above products should be viewed as emergency shipment to make provision for situation you outline. It must be understood clearly however, that no programme for regular supply has been arranged nor is it considered practicable until relations of Freetown and Dakar to overall bunkering needs are agreed. On the latter point discussions with British have been undertaken here and it is requested that you submit your comments bearing upon this".

The above is in reply to Admiral Glassfurd 291135 December not held by Comnavu.

(Comnavu, 1416/23 to British C.O.S.)

GERUSALEMME.

Your 1205/15 not to C. in C. S.A.

Portuguese approached H.M.G. in 1941 enquiring whether we would agree to transfer of Italian

GERUSALEMME, now in Lourenco Marques, to Portuguese Flag. Our conditions were given but not accepted. Since then H.M.G. have not been approached and are certainly not behind any arrangement to sail vessel to Lisbon with Portuguese crew. If vessel sails, C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange for her interception as an enemy ship.

(For Head of M.(I), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1439A/23 to S.O.(I) Capetown, (R) C. in C. S.A.)

/Cape ...

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

- Cape Ships ex K.X. 8. From F.O.C.W.Af. for all Cape ships ex K.X.8. Steer immediately for position GG which is amended 000°, 360 miles, thence to HH. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1441/23 to Area 3A, Admty.)
- INDRAPOERA, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Your 1625/22. INDRAPOERA and 1205/16 EMPRESS OF RUSSIA route by Magellan is correct for these and all other unescorted ships of declared speed between 10 and 15 knots provided they satisfy other conditions for the route. This is intention of my 0952/14 para. 2(b). (D.T.D., 1548A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)
- D.N. 12. D.N.12 sailed at 1600Z/23 consisting of HONG SIANG and BRITISH DILIGENCE escorted by NORMAN. Route in accordance with my 0832/23. BRITISH DILIGENCE routed from position (D) as in my serial number 930. Commodore Master of HONG SIANG convoy W/T call sign BVD3. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1633Z/23 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.) Sailed NORMAN escorting D.N.12 in accordance with N.C.S.O. Durban 0832/23. E.T.A. Kilindini 0400Z/31. (2) Shifts to Group 'V' at 0245Z/28. (Com. i/c. Durban, 1622/23 to Admty., etc.)
- Contraband Control Base, Eastern Atlantic. Opnav has security objections, which he is now pressing to neutral ships calling at Trinidad for contraband control. In any case, we ourselves are anxious to have a base in Eastern Atlantic close to the trade routes to provide a check on neutral traffic between South America, East and West Africa and the Iberian Peninsula. Trinidad has of course, always had a limited usefulness owing to distance off trade routes.
2. Gibraltar can deal with the Straits traffic but will be unable to take on any more on account of operational requirements. Unloading of large suspicious cargoes cannot be undertaken there in any case.
 3. Casablanca undesirable for military and other reasons.
 4. Unnecessary to dwell on the objections to Freetown.
 5. Geographically, Dakar is ideal, since it would enable us to deal with northbound ships before reaching Atlantic Islands. Harbour facilities also appear adequate.
 6. Requirements are as follows:-
 - (a) Ten to fifteen ships calling per month with possibility of maximum of three in port together. Largest ships will be CABO DE HORNOS class/passenger ships.
 - (b) Periodically, a ship to be wholly or partly unloaded for examination of actual cargo, requiring temporary storage of cargo.
 - (c) Accommodation ashore for staff with about ten officers and sixty ratings.
 - (d) Necessary harbour boats.

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Contraband
Control Base,
Eastern
Atlantic.
(Contd.)

7. Disposal of seized cargoes needs further consideration on legal side, but we are advised that satisfactory arrangements can be made if French are co-operative.

8. We should, of course prefer that base should be wholly British but fully realise that some French participation will almost certainly have to be accepted. In practice, their assistance with interpreters in examination of passengers might be useful.

9. We appreciate that you have many more immediate pre-occupations and that it would be wise to defer any approach to the French until you are more certain how you stand at Dakar. Meanwhile, we should be glad to have your views. If expert opinion is desired, suggest V.A. Gibraltar be asked to send C.C.S. O. Gibraltar to you for consultation.

(Head of M.(I), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1731A/23 to F.O.C.W.Af.,
(R) B.A.D., N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)U/B
sighted
by A/C.U.S. aircraft on transit report sighting submarine in a position to 002° 25' N. 002° 56' W. at 1225/23. Conning tower and periscope sighted from height 1000 feet distance 1 mile before submarine submerged completely.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1811Z/23 to Ship in Area P.3.,
(R) Admt.)

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23.1.1943.

Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Reports. Following has been read by Alex. W/T. P.C. and S. of 1 destroyer is $39^{\circ} 02' N. 13^{\circ} 10' E.$ 045° 22 knots.
(A/C ANL/U, 0130A/23.)

*Transmit following message at next routine using broadcast method. Following received addressed:- Air Hqs. Malta from A/C BUL/L. P.C. and S. of one small vessel $35^{\circ} 57' N. 10^{\circ} 45' E., 350^{\circ}$, 6 knots.
(Alexandria, 0816A/23 to Whitehall W/T.)

*Action taken by Whitehall W/T.
Transmit following message at next routine using broadcast method:- Following received addressed Air H.Q. Malta from A/C BUL/LI. P.C. and S. of one small vessel $35.55 N. 10.45 E., 170^{\circ}$, 6 knots.
(Alexandria, 0817A/23 to Whitehall W/T.)

Transmit following message at next routine using broadcast method. Following received: Addressed A.H. Malta from A/C BUL/L. P.C. and S. of one small craft $35^{\circ} 45' N. 11^{\circ} 01' E. 180^{\circ}$, 4 knots.
(Alexandria, 0835A/23 to Admty.)

Transmit following message at next routine using broadcast method. Following received addressed: Air Hqs. Malta from A/C BUL/L. P.C. and S. of 2 transport barges $34.20 N. 10.45 E. 010^{\circ}$, 6 knots.
(Alexandria, 0910A/23 to Whitehall.)

P.C. and S. of one small vessel $34^{\circ} 40' N. 11^{\circ} 15' E. 020^{\circ}$, 6 knots.
(A/C BUL/L, 0935A/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of one small vessel NI + ZR 5203, 280° 5 knots.
(A/C BUL/A, 1315A/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

One small vessel anchored in $34.52 N. 11.7 E., 4$ small vessels, 3 M.T.Bs anchored in $34.43 N. 10.46 E., P.C. and S. of 2 M.T.Bs 34^{\circ} 45' N. 10^{\circ} 50' E., 060^{\circ}$, 7 knots. 2 small vessels 3 M.T.Bs anchored in position FQUU 4655. Am over enemy S/M in $34.42 N. 10.48 E.$ S/M is on surface.
(A/C FFO/A, 1400A/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of 5 transport barges $33^{\circ} 12' N. 11^{\circ} 12' E., 350^{\circ}$, 5 knots.
(A/C FFO/A, 1433A/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

One merchant vessel of 6,500 tons anchored in $32^{\circ} 56' N. 12^{\circ} 06' E.$
(A/C FFO/A, 1450A/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of one medium and one small vessel with 2 destroyers:- $39^{\circ} 35' N. 13^{\circ} 35' E., 190^{\circ}$, 5 knots.
(A/C FFO/L, 1550A/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of 12 small merchant ships (not exceeding 2000 tons) $37^{\circ} 51' N. 11^{\circ} 54' E., 240^{\circ}$, 5 knots.
(A/C FAY/V, 2005A/23 to A.O.C. in C. Malta.)

P.C. and S. 2 destroyers 2 merchant ships $3/4000, 180^{\circ}$ 8 knots.
(A/C CXO/Q, 2035A/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of enemy $38^{\circ} 57' N. 13^{\circ} 08' E., 180^{\circ}$, 8 knots.
(A/C CXO/Q, 2035/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. 2 medium merchant ships one destroyer $39^{\circ} 00' N. 12^{\circ} 55' E., 180^{\circ}$, 6 knots.
(A/C FAY/R, 2035A/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Enemy course 090° .
(A/C FAY/R, 2125/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

/Enemy ...

War Diary.23.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Reports. (Contd.) Enemy previously reported is accompanied by one destroyer positioned 5 miles south of convoy. (A/C FAY/R, 2135A/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.) P.C. and S. of 9 destroyers, 2 M.T.Bs 37° 42' N. 11° 57' E., 225°, 20 knots. (A/C CXO/Q, 2202A/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.) P.C. and S. one destroyer 38° 50' N. 13° 05' E., 000°, 20 knots, 2 unknown 14° - 13° E. (A/C FAY/U, 2250Z/23 to H.Q. Malta.) Enemy previously reported one small merchant vessel, one destroyer 38° 55' N. 13° 20' E., 135°, 8 knots. (A/C FAY/U, 2327Z/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.) P.C. and S. five small merchant ships 37° 34' N. 10° 00' E. 240°, 5 knots. (A/C FAY/U, 2335Z/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

M.K.S.6. Following is a repetition of my 1804A/21 (not received). (Begins) To N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., Cdre. Algiers, V.A. Gibraltar from F.O.I.C. Oran. Tact. M.K.S.6 sailed as in my 1245/16 (not received) and my 0950/19 less NANCEEN, MERS EL KEBIR plus SAMUEL CHASE. ERIDAN now for Gibraltar Outcon 329 issued French ship holding extract Mersigs I only. 50 British ratings in BRITISH CHIVALRY. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 0215/23 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival WORCESTERSHIRE. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0501Z/23 to Admty., etc.) Departures 22nd BELVOIR, KLO, L.C.T.9 and 18 mainstay Greek destroyer IERAX. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 0909B/23 to Admty., C. in C. Med.) Departures 23rd DELPHINIUM, Greek destroyer SPETSAI, FAREHAM, M.Ls 359, 355, 358. Arrivals 23rd WELSHMAN. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa), 1839B/23 to Admty., C. in C. Med.) Departure BACHAQUERO, BORDE. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1935A/23 to Admty.)

Zuara bombarded by 15th C.S. My 1110/22. Bombardment carried out as planned. Good fires and explosions seen. No shipping encountered or seen in harbour. No damage or casualties in H.M. Ships. (V.A. Malta, 0910A/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) N.C.X.F., Admty.)

CLEOPATRA, EURYALUS, JERVIS, JAVELIN, NUBIAN, KELVIN returned from operation. (V.A. Malta, 1048A/23 to C. in C. Med., Admty., N.C.X.F.) My 0910/23. Mean range 8000 yards. Great majority of rounds fell in extreme Western limits of Harbour and Zuara town. Oil fire started at about tenth broadside. Very spectacular explosions immediately after bombardment completed, followed by a second satisfactory explosion. 2. A few rounds of shrapnel fired from shore at EURYALUS. 3. Strongly suspect mined area off Zuara. JAVELIN reported floating mine and CLEOPATRA parted P.V. wire three inches from P.V. (V.A. Malta, 2237/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) N.C.X.F., Admty.)

War Diary.23.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.42. Arrived P.42.
(V.A. Malta, 1042A/23 to Admty., C. in C. Med.,
Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, (R) N.C.X.F.)

Movements, Following is repetition of my 1635/21.
Beirut. 19th arrivals (? Greek destroyer AETOS), WELSHMAN
ISLAY. Departure Greek destroyer SPETSAL,
WELSHMAN. (Ends).
(S.O.I. Beirut, 1043B/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)
22nd Jan. arrival WELSHMAN, Greek destroyer AETOS. Departure
motor launches 355, 358, LADY MAY, Greek destroyer AETOS,
WELSHMAN.
(S.O.I. Beirut, 1515B/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

U/B sunk A.M.1419/22 (re successful operation of M.T.Bs
21st Jan. details requested for communique). Lieut. G.P.
by M.T.Bs. Evenlon, R.N.V.R. was S.O. Lieut. H.E. Sadds,
R.A.N.V.R. was C.O. of Motor Torpedo Boat 260
which sunk U-Boat.
(C.C.F., 1101A/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A.
Malta, Admty.)

Bi-Weekly Night 21st/22nd Jan.
Opsum In order to delay departure of shipping Zuara
No. 93. before anticipated attack by Naval Force 3
formations totalling 56 Kittyhawks escorted by
18 Spitfires bombed harbour direct hits with 40
lb. bombs claimed on 1 merchant vessel, several direct hits on
jetty and wharves. Near miss on 1 vessel leaving harbour.
Kittyhawks machine-gunned a submarine and lighters in harbour
and troops in vicinity. About 20 vehicles destroyed and damaged
last formation to attack found 5 Me.109s circling harbour.
Kittyhawks shot down 3 Me.109s damaged remaining 2. 51 Spitfires
10 Kittyhawks sorties on patrol Tripoli - Zuara Area without
incident. 1 Beaufighter, 12 Hurricanes protection of shipping
off Delta and Levant coast. 4 Walrus, 4 Swordfish, 1 Wellesley,
5 Hudsons, 4 Bisleys anti-submarine patrols and convoy escorts.
(A.H.Q. M.E., 1157/23.)

Cositrep, 3. Air. Night 21st/22nd Jan.
666. A Beaufort and Naval Albatrosses attacked a five
thousand ton merchant vessel escorted by destroyers
north of Cape Bon. Results unobserved one

Albatross missing.
22nd Jan. To delay departure of shipping from Zuara before
anticipated attack by Naval Force escorted Kittyhawks made three
attacks on Harbour. Hits with small bombs scored on one Merchant
vessel jetty and wharves. Near miss on another vessel leaving
Harbour. A submarine and lighters in Harbour and M.T. and
troops in vicinity were machine-gunned. Last formation found
five Me.109s circling Harbour and shot down three, damaging
remaining two. Spitfires from Malta bombed Lampedusa aerodrome

/and ...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Cositrep
666.
(Contd.)
- and railway targets in Sicily. Hits scored on rolling stock and buildings and two stations machine-gunned. Beaufighters attacking shipping off Tunisian Coast set fire to one vessel 800 tons and seriously damaged two tugs.
(C. in C. M.E., 1330B/23 to W.O.)
- P. 35.
- Your 1715/22 onward route for P.35 through G thence pass 038° 18', 010° 39' reported 2100/26 038° 18', 003° 53' at 2000/29. Thence proceed on surface at discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 59', 003° 00' at 0745/30.
(Capt.S.8, 1354A/23 to Capt. S.10, (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S., V.A. Malta, V.A. Gibraltar, P.35, Subs on Patrol, Cdre. Algiers.)
- Information
for TAKU.
- 2 fleets leaving Malta after dark today 23rd through 034° 35', 015° 00' thence south-east. Ordered not to attack S/M North of 035°. Keep North of this latitude after dark.
(Capt. S.10, 1425A/23 to TAKU.)
- Situation
Report
No. 51?
1. Bone. Two M.T.Bs on patrol night 22nd/23rd off Ras al Korad. L.S.Is disembarked second load of troops ex K.M.F.7 p.m./21st. Swordfish carried out sweep in vicinity of Cani Rocks p.m. 21st nothing seen.
 2. M.K.S.6 HAMPTON LODGE was sunk by enemy action night 20th/21st approx. 80 miles west of Algiers.
 3. K.M.S.7 arrived safely at Bone from Algiers p.m. 22nd Jan. Two big air attacks took place when ships shot down two aircraft and Beaufighters another two. No damage reported. Heavier scale attack in ideal weather probably forestalled by bombing attack by Wellingtons on Elmas.
 4. P.228 reports at 1915/15 in 40° 37' N. 13° 47' E. attacked two merchant ships 6000 tons escorted by 3 destroyers. One hit stopped one merchant ship the other returned to Naples. First merchant ship again attacked at 2350/15 and 0835/16 when she was sunk with one torpedo hit. At 1415/19 39° 41' N. 9° 43' E. attacked convoy of 1 2000 laden merchant vessel escorted by 200 ton A/S schooner and 400 ton armed trawler. Schooner sunk by gunfire. Trawler beached in sinking condition, Merchant ship sunk by torpedo.
(N.C.X.F., 1438/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, V.A. Gibraltar, A.F.H.Q. London, F.O.H., B.A.D.)
- ADRIAS,
MIAOULES.
- C. in C. Med. 1613/21.
Do you anticipate any undue delay in passing these ships through the Mediterranean.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1610A/23 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. Med.)

/ARGO ...

War Diary.23.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- ARGO. My 1215/14 and R.O.C.A's 1815/22 not to all addressees. On completion of temporary repairs sail oiler ARGO to Haifa to load full cargo furnace oil. Report date repairs will complete. (C. in C. Med., 1646B/23 to N.O.I.C. Suez.)
- QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Your 1059/21 not to C. in C. S.A.. Not approved. QUEEN OF BERMUDA must disembark at Fremantle as she is required for other service as soon as possible.
2. This was accepted by A.C.N.B's 0636/11. (D.O.D.(F), 1716A/23 to P.S.T.O. Port Said, (R) A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. Med., G.H.Q.M.E., C. in C. S.A.)
My 1822Z/17 shall be 4 hours early. Acknowledge. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA, 1945C/23 to N.O.I.C. Aden, (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.S.F.)
- WELSHMAN. Departures 23rd WELSHMAN. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1755B/23 to Admty., etc.)
- T.E. 14. Request you will sail following ships in T.E.14. For Algiers: EMPIRE DAY, MAHSUD, HARDINGHAM, OCEAN VIRTUE, OCEAN VISTA, OCEAN LIBERTY, JUNE CREST, EMPIRE RUSKIN, HARPALYCUS. For Oran: ARTEMUS WARD. For Bone: BERNARD CARTER, OCEAN VOLGA. (N.C.X.F., 1810A/23 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, Admty., Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone.)
T.E.14. Request you will sail LWOW for Algiers in T.E.14. (N.C.X.F., 2147A/23 to F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) Cdre. Algiers, Admty.)
My 1810A/23. Add LOCHEE for Philippeville. (N.C.X.F., 2149A/23 to V.A. Gibraltar.)
- OXFORDSHIRE. Your 1215A/20. OXFORDSHIRE sailed Algiers E.T.A. 0800/24. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1947A/23 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cdre. Algiers, V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.)
- Bone Movements. Departure POZARICA, HUSSAR, FLEETWOOD, CLACTON, BRIKHAM. (N.O.I.C. Bone, 1954A/23 to Admty., N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)
- JAVELIN, NUBIAN. Sailed JAVELIN and NUBIAN for Benghazi. (V.A. Malta, 2001A/23 to Admty., C. in C. Med., S.O. Force I, N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Benghazi.)
- DOLFIJN. Algiers arrival Dutch submarine DOLFIJN. (Cdre. Algiers, 2001A/23 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.8, S.10.)

/Algiers ...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Algiers, Movements. Algiers arrivals QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, LAMERTON, ZETLAND, LIGHTNING from Bone. L.C.I.(L) 97, H.D.M.Ls 1136 and 1238 from Gibraltar. L.C.T. 135 from Bone. M.L.471 and F.S. ENGAGEANTE escorting one French merchant vessel from Oran. Departures VERITY, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND to eastward.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2006A/23 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.Gibraltar)

Situation, Report No. 328. Western Desert Tripoli (L) 2 advanced elements of 8th Army entered 0500. Naval Officer in charge and advance base party entered 5 hours later. No details known yet of state of harbour but blocking believed completed.

(2) Khoms. Jetty, a few lighters and numerous small craft found in serviceable condition. Facilities in town and port have been left practically untouched.

(3) Buerat. L.C.Ts now discharging petrol.

(4) Malta. CLEOPATRA, EURYALUS, JERVIS, JAVELIN, NUBIAN and KELVIN bombarded Zuara night 22nd/23rd. Fires and explosions seen. No shipping met or seen in harbour.

(5) Submarines P.51 at 1006/17 in 33° 55' N. 11° 2' E. torpedoed and sunk 2000 ton northbound merchant vessel escorted by a destroyer.

(6) Z1110/18th in 32° 58' N. 12° 10' E. torpedoed and sank further 2000 ton northbound merchant vessel.

(7) Levant. WELSHMAN has completed movements of 4,200 troops into and out of Cyprus. 1 schooner attacked by U-Boats and set on fire off Round Island (north of Tripoli (S)) at 0650/23.
(C. in C. Med., 2121B/23 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.567, 23rd Jan. Night 22nd/23rd Jan. 10 Spitfire bombers were despatched at intervals from 1655 to 2335 hours to attack targets in Sicily, direct hits with 250 lb. bombs were scored on two warehouses at Ispica, engine shed at Noto and railway line of Syracuse. Spitfires also shot up with cannon and machine guns railway installations and other targets including A.A. and searchlight positions. 2 Mosquitos made intruder patrols Zuara - Sfax area and strafed westbound M.T. vehicles. 3 Mosquitos patrolled West? of Sicily as cover to aircraft engaged on shipping strike. 1 special Wellington and 5 Torpedo Wellingtons despatched to attack shipping west and north of Sicily. 2 Beauforts despatched to attack shipping near Sousse found no suitable targets. 4 Beauforts laid mines in the Kerkenah area. 1 Mosquito intruder in co-operation with our Naval Force near Zuara and 1 Sunderland provided anti-submarine protection Naval Force of 2 cruisers and 4 destroyers of Force K bombarded Zuara causing fires and explosions.

Day 23rd Jan. 11 Beaufighters have made offensive sweeps against enemy shipping in the Sousse area. 4 Beaufighters attacked 2 tugs between Sousse and Kuriat scoring near misses with 4 - 250

/Y.W. bombs ...

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23.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. (Contd.) Y.W. bombs and strikes with cannon and machine guns another 4 Beaufighters strafed 1 M/V 500 tons off Ras Kaboudia scoring numerous strikes. Part 2. Enemy air activity day 23rd Jan. 12 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 2 Beaufighters provided escort for our returning Naval Forces. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2254Z/23.)

Movements, Tobruk. Arrived and sailed BRIGAND, DULVERTON, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, HURSLEY, BEAUFORT, PALADIN, PAKENHAM, BELVOIR, G.S. QUEEN OLGA, KANARIS. Sailed ANTWERP, CROOME, PINDOS (Greek ship). (Tobruk C.C.O., 2205B/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

Benghazi, Movements. HYACINTH, BURRA, SOUTHERN ISLES, M.Ls 1028, 1051. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2343B/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

Port Said, Movements. 23rd Jan. Port Said arrivals GLOXINIA, PAPANICOLIS, IERAX, KLO, GRAF VAN VLAANDEREN. Departures 2 lighters Nos. 3, 23, 24, 43, GLOXINIA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 2358/23 to Admty.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements.

BRITTANY left.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0200Z/23 to Admty., etc.)
Arrival KONKAN escorting GLWG EMPIRE DEFIANCE.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 0525Z/23 to Admty., etc.)
Calcutta departure 24th POONA for Madras.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 1101Z/23 to Admty., etc.)

OPHIR.

Hospital Carrier OPHIR due you p.m. 23rd to act
as Base Hospital Ship.
(F.O.I.C. Ceylon, 0350Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Addu
Atoll, (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty.)

Refits of
ARNDALE and
GOLD RANGER.

Your 1755/21 approved.
(C. in C. E.F., 0752Z/23 to C.S. Durban, (R)
Cdre. i/c Durban, C. in C. S.A., Admty.)

B.P.66(?),
BANDRA.

Karachi portion of B.P.66(?). Transport BANDRA
sailed for Basra via Ras al Hadd 22nd Jan.
(S.T.O. Kilindini, 0817Z/23 to D.S.T.O.P.G., (R)
P.S.T.O. (Corrupt Group), D. of S.T.)

Intelligence
Summary
No. 314.
23rd Jan.

Int. 104, 23rd Jan.
2 Hudson offensive reccos attacked river craft
Mazin Taungup.
(A.H.Q. India, No T.O.O. Recd. 1723/23 to Air
Ministry.)
(E) Enemy effort 23rd Jan. 2 E/A attacked
Chittagong 0405 hours. E/A (number not yet
reported) attacked Chittagong area 1300 hours.
(A.H.Q. India, 1221Z/23 to Air Ministry.)

AQUITANIA.

23rd sailed AQUITANIA, E.T.A. Suez 1400B/25.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa 1415Z/23 to Admty.)

F.S. LEOPARD.

F.N.F.L. have proposed programme for F.S. LEOPARD
as follows:-

After making good defects, leave Mauritius 31st
for Reunion and Tamatave.

2nd Feb. embark High Commissioner at Tamatave and sail for
Reunion, Mauritius, Reunion, Diego Suarez and Majunga where
High Commissioner will disembark on 16th Feb.

16. Feb. leave Majunga for Tulear, Port Dauphin, Tamatave and
Diego Suarez, subsequently arriving Reunion 26th Feb.

2. There are no political objections to this programme.

3. Do you concur in programme. Request early reply.

(D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1647A/23 to C. in C. E.F.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. Jan 22. Arrivals SALISBURY ex Halifax CHELSEA ex escorting BRILLIANT and FRISKY to Halifax. Departures MINAS, GEORGIAN to J.H.31 GEORGETOWN, TIMMINS, BUCTOUCHE to C.N.161. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 0057Z/23 to Admty.) Arrivals 22nd U.S.A. Transport ENGLEMAN. (B.R.O. Aruba, 0938QR/23 to Admty.) Departure MAYFLOWER to assist CALDWELL. Arrival MONCTON Ex O.N.158. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1301Z/23 to Admty.)

| Movements summary at 1800 G.M.T. 23rd, | Ship. | Position. | Course. | Speed. |
|--|---|------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| | T.A.34 | 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 60° W. | 252° | 20 knots. |
| | REGENT | 33° N. 61° W. | 080° | 11 |
| | (D.O.D.(F), 1040Z/23 to Opnav, Commaveu.) | | | |

Escorts for RICHELIEU &c. from Dakar to Bermuda. Your 1601/20. It is regretted that there is no prospect of providing escorts at such short notice. 2. We are out to clinch as regards escorts and yet far below desirable scale even for large personnel convoys. With the present U-Boat threat we cannot afford to detach any escorts until W.S.26 is out of danger. (D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1050A/23 to B.A.D. Washington, (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.Af., V.A. Gibraltar.)

Convoy Cycles. Your 2126/12th. (re proposals of supply of liquid fuel to U.K. and North Africa.). Concur in general with your proposals. 2. Your para. (C). The following schedule is intended for D.W.I. U.K. tanker convoy:- 13th Feb: sail U.K., 6th March: arrive D.W.I., 12th March: sail D.W.I. A.M. 1907A/13. We have not yet been able to find reinforcements for the escort of this convoy. 3. Your para. (D). The provision of the British quota of escorts is under investigation but no solution is yet in sight. (D.O.D.(H), 1210Z/23 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Landing Craft. Your 1915/22. Agree that L.C.I.(L) should proceed unescorted from Bermuda when ready, without waiting for L.S.T. Convoy. (D. of P., 1257A/23 to B.A.D. (R) S.B.N.O. W.A. V.A. Gibraltar.)

Escort Vessels dispositions. Your 1752Z/20 para. 3. (N.T.) In part 2 of A.M. 0132A/8 12 destroyers and 68 corvettes of the Royal Canadian Navy were included in the numbers given. Today's count gives a total of 12 destroyers and 77 corvettes, an addition of nine vessels. 2. Your para. 4. The number of ocean-going escorts for the D.W.I. - U.K. tanker convoys is being increased from the 18 shown in part 2 of A.M. 0132A/8 to 23, and that for the O.S/S.L.

/convoys...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Escort convoys from 15 to 19, an addition of nine vessels
Vessels from new construction. 3. The grand total of
dispositions. ocean going escorts, including R.C.N., now
Contd. therefore becomes 375 instead of 357. Details of
this total as requested in your para. 4. are:-
(a) Long-legged destroyers - 43 (b) Short-legged
destroyers - 83. (c) Sloops, cutters and twin screw corvettes -
56. (d) Flower class corvettes - 193. Grand total: 375.
4. Your para. 5. (a) The number of A/S fitted minesweepers is
141. (b) The number of A/S trawlers suitable for ocean escort
work is 80. 5. These numbers do not include British-manned
vessels under the strategic control of U.S.
(D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 1311A/23 to B.A.D.)

ALCANTARA, Your 1337/21. (One) Cominch C. and R. will
MILFORD. route dock initially as far as Trinidad only.
Escort of While still favouring southerly route they feel
A.F.D.24 final decision as to onward route from Trinidad
to should be taken nearer the time when U-boat trend
Freetown. can be more accurately assessed. (2) Since no
spare fuel can be carried in dock it is felt
there should be some stand by arrangement for
sending out fuel for escort and tugs should some mishap befall
ALCANTARA.
(B.A.D. 1559Z/23 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. MILFORD, ALCANTARA,
S.B.N.O. W. At.)

S/M U.S. S/M Notice.
estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1602/23.)
Jan. 23rd.

MANSFIELD. (A) Comtask 24 direct that MANSFIELD sail
independently for St. Johns N.F. when ready.
(B) MANSFIELD will comply passing through (M)
63.20 N. 27.05 W. (N) 60.12 N. 36.22 W. (O) 54.37 N. 45.38 W.
(P) 48.29 N. 51.28 W. Thence St. Johns N.F. (C) Upon arrival
St. Johns N.F. report to F.O.N.F. for orders. (D) Maintain
usual W/T organization. Connav pass to F.O.N.F.
(Comtask 24.6 1612Z/23 to MANSFIELD (R) Comtask 24 C. in C. W.A.
Connav.)

Your 1612Z/23. Propose leaving for St. John's N.F. at
1800Z/24. S. of A. 14 knots E.T.A. about 1800Z/28.
(MANSFIELD, 1900Z/23, to C.T.Group 24.6. (R) C.T.24. C.C.N.F.
Force. C. in W.A. A.C.I.C. Connav.)

Air Facilities A.M. 1954/A/16. Request you report by signal
Curacao or what Air Facilities are available at Curacao or
Aruba. A. Aerodromes available with length of
runways. Distance and transport facilities to
nearest Port. B. If the following could be provided. (1)
Permanent accommodation for 15 reserve aircraft, approximately
6 officers and 50 ratings. (ii) Limited aircraft erection and
repair facilities. (iii) Occasional temporary accommodation for
one Carrier disembarked Squadron consisting of 12 aircraft,

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- Air Facilities, Curacao or Aruba. (Contd.) 24 officers and 100 ratings. Accommodation for personnel in B (iii) would be reduced if transport facilities from airfield to port are convenient. (D.N.A.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(A.), 1619A/23 to S.B.N.O. W.At., (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, S.B.N.O. Curacao, B.A.D. Washington, C. in C. W.A.)
- U.C/C.U. Convoys. My 1937/20. Request names of U.S. addresses required for inclusion in A.I.G. to be issued to escorts of U.C. and C.U. Convoys. (D.T.D. 1631Z/23, to Connav.)
- W.L.E.F. Personal for First Sea Lord. A.M. 1745/21 will result in the withdrawal of eight Bangors from the W.L.E.F. 2. I consider that this will leave the W.L.E.F. unacceptably weak. In addition C.O.A.C. will be left with no ships available to send to the assistance of damaged Men-of-War such as CALDWELL and PROVIDER now broken down in extremely heavy weather. Also there are numerous damaged merchant ships which require assistance and other unforeseen commitments. 3. Request therefore A.M. 1745/21 may be reconsidered on receipt of N.S.H.Q.'s 2135/21. (C.N.S. of Canada, 1646Z/22 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)
- Corvettes and Frigates. Personal for 1st S.L. Your 0237A/10. Decision to use the name "Frigate" for Canadian twin crew corvettes was not taken until after you had told me in Ottawa that you were in favour of it for Clarity, brevity of signals, and also from Morale point of view. I concur and point out that twin screw corvettes outclass single screw in (A) more than double the gun armament (B) greater speed (C) greater endurance (D) greater offensive power. (11) Hence a distinctive type name, sufficiently different to permit no mistakes, will be instant help to all concerned with operations and maintenance. "River" type corvette in Canada conflicts with our "river" type destroyers. Suggest no confusion will exist if you adopt R.C.N. proposal, unless of course you are reserving "Frigate" for some other type of vessels, in which case I am open to alternative proposals. (C.N.S. Canada, 1650Z/23 to Admty.)
- O.N.S. 160. O.N.S.160. POLYANTHUS maximum speed 7 knots. One boiler room fan beyond repair. The other has slack rivets. Vibrating heavily. Danger of pipes fracturing. Hope to keep her with convoy at least until reinforcements arrive. (C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1730Z/23 to Comtask Force 24. (R) Connav, Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, Comtask Group 24.7.) My 1700/23. P.C. and S. of O.N.S.160. (Corrupt group) a straggler BAJESTAN reported 90 bulkhead deep tank carried away and ship difficult to manage. (C.T.U. 24.1.12, 2030/23 to Connav (R) Comtask Force 24, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, Comtask Group 24.7.)

U/B...

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

U/B Submarine sighted 52° 10' 44° 14' at 1800 G.C.T./23 (Cominch, 1807/23 to All Commands in Atlantic Area interested in submarine report.)

S.C.117. My 1245Z/23. Ships regarded as missing. W.S. FAVISH, ACME, LACKENBY, EDWARD L. SHEA, L.V. STANFORD, ZAGLOBIA, DANAE II, BOLTONHALL, MOUNT MYCALE, ROBERT E. HOPKINS (4 corrupt groups) DAGCHILD, TELEMACHUS, KARABAGH returning to St. Johns N.F. with defects. (C.T.U. 24.1.7., 1930Z/23 to Connnav, (R) Comtask Force 24, 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.) HARMONIC, ZAGLOBA (Polish). ED. L. SHEA (U.S.), DANAE II, ACME (U.S.), W.S. FARISH (U.S.) all stragglers ex S.C.117. L.V. STANFORD (U.S.) straggler ex SC. 117. Heavy weather deck and rigging damage. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F. 1931Z/23, to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Connnav, Comtask 24, C.O.A.C. Halifax, Port Director New York, N.C.S.O. Montreal, M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17 for Cdre.)

Escorts With ref. A.M. 1954/16 extracts from letter from
for Cominch received today are given in paras. two
Tanker and three below.
Convoys. Para. 2. "It is noted that the Admty. proposes to
Convoy use escort groups consisting of approx four sloops
Cycles. and four corvettes each for these 40 tanker
convoys. This appears to be more nearly adequate
than the strength previously indicated which was
five sloops. (A.M. 0132/8 refers). In view of the attack on
convoy T.M. one I feel that this additional indicated strength of
escorts is essential for such a large convoy."
Para. 3. "With regard to the changes in Atlantic convoy systems
incident to establishing Curacao-U.K. and Gulf-Gibraltar tanker
convoys the Admty has not yet replied to Cominch 2126/12
proposing the necessary changes. The ten day cycle has already
been put in effect and the Canadians have agreed from their point
of view but the despatch can not be fully implemented until the
Admiralty's reply is received."
Para. 4. Comments. A.M. 1249/21 and 1937/20 imply but do not
specifically give concurrence in Cominch 2126/12. My 2159/21
refers.
Para. 5. Presume that initial strength of escort will be six
vide your 1907/13 and they will be increased as soon as
practicable.
Para. 6. Request clarification on these two points as early as
possible.
(B.A.D., 2011Z/23 to Admty.)

A.C.Vs. Technical re equipment (B.A.D., 2021Z/23.)

/Supplies...

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

Supplies to Spain. Ref. C.O.S.(W) 436 (1650/10). At their meeting today the Combined Chiefs of Staff accepted the following resolution with regard to Spain and directed that it should be forwarded to the appropriate U.S. and British authorities - "In order to assist in maintaining Spanish neutrality in the interest of Allied strategy such quantities of oil, raw materials and other supplies as are necessary to maintain a reasonable wartime economy should be made available to Spain subject to all proper safeguards. No special tonnage will be made available to Spain for this purpose".
2. Embassy and War Trade Department had previously agreed that this resolution would be satisfactory to them.
(J.S.M. Washington, 2035Z/23 to War Cabinet Offices, London)

PETER H. BURNETT, CITY OF LYONS. Connav serial 22 and 23. PETER H. BURNETT torpedoed 22nd 32° 54' S. 159° 32' E. CITY OF LYONS reported in collision 21st convoy H.X. 223, proceeded St. Johns N.F. (Connav, 2040/23 to Admty.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. B.U.S.S. MONOMOD sights sub on surface 52.10 N. 44.14 W. about 1814Z/23. Para. D. Panair Pilot sights sub submerging course 140 21.50 N. 76.40 W. 1430Z/23. C.G.R. makes possible sound contact 42.21 N. 70.25 W. 2000Z/23. S.C. 508 attacks sound contact 24.26 N. 82.40 W. 1650Z/22. Action to Admty. for O,I,C. From Cominch. Eastern Air Lines Pilot sights sub course 020 21.40 N. 73 W. 2143Z/22. BLACK BEAR attacks sound contact 10.11 N. 61.42 W. 1830Z/09 U.S.S. BACHE attacks sound contact 43.20 N. 61.04 W. 1733Z/08. Plane sights sub area 17.50 N. 74.15 W. 1412Z/04. (Cominch 2121/23)

T.A.33 (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND) Convoy T.A.33 comprising EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND sailed from U.K. on 23/1 for Halifax. 2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by W.O. to N.D.H.Q. Ottawa and Milstaff Washington. (D. of S.T. 2135A/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax, B.A.D.)

ASHKAHABAD, IKORA. Both refloated. No apparent damage. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2159Z/23 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Sydney (N.S.W.) 21st destroyer HOVEY, Departure Brisbane 22nd ARUNTA for Sydney (N.S.W.) Townsville 21st VENDETTA for Milne Bay. (A.C.N.B., 0331Z/23)

/Arrival...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival 22nd. Townsville U.S. Transport MAUI,
Contd. BANTAM. Brisbane Dutch Naval Store Ship SOEDOE
Hospital Ship WANGANELLS. 23rd Melbourne U.S.
Store Ship GOLDSTAR. U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER
departed Thursday Island 22nd due Darwin 25th. Hired Transport
DUNTROON, KATOOMBA departed Townsville 22nd due Fall River 24th.
Hired Transport TAROONA departed Port Moresby 22nd due Cairns
25th.
(A.C.N.B., 1103Z/23.)

Digest 5 Liberators 3 Fortresses attacked shipping Rabaul
Serial Harbour before dawn latter from 250 feet and lower
No.366 five second delay 500 pounders obtaining direct
22nd Jan. hits four ships. 2 ships 2000 to 4000 tons seen
to sink other one vessel 6000 to 8000 tons
burning with numerous explosions. One vessel
6000 to 8000 tons exploded. Photos mid morning show 43 merchant
vessels totalling approximately 180,000 tons four tankers
7 destroyers 5 submarines 2 patrol craft also 8 flying boats
4 floatplanes on water. 102 fighters, 7 bombers Lakunai
aerodrome. Correct Digest 365 para. one to read 94 fighters on
Lakunai aerodrome. (2) Liberator reported Gasmata runway
unserviceable 22/1 but saw 2000 ton vessel 60 miles further east
off Cape Beechy. (3) Morning R/C aircraft bombed Madang runway
(4) Seven B.25s with four lightnings top cover bombed and strafed
dumps LAE and three Bostons conducted morning sweep Salamaua to
Kumusi River. (5) Organized resistance Sanananda area overcome
21/1. (6) Probably three enemy aircraft over Milne Bay after
dark 22nd dropped bombs no damage or casualties. (7) PETER H.
BURNETT (U.S. Liberty Ship) torpedoed night 22/1 32° 54' S. 159°
32' E. (8) Photos confirm hit cruiser at Ambon 21st. Refer
Digest 365 Para four. (9) Hudson unsuccessfully bombed three
small merchant ships 4° 14' S. 132° 28' E. course N. morning 22/1.
(10) One enemy float-plane bombed Merauke noon 21st no damage or
casualties. (11) Two medium bombers over? Darwin before
midnight 21/1 dropped bombs without success.
(G.H.Q. S.W. P.A., 0829Z/23.)

PETER H. U.S. Cargo Vessel PETER H. BURNETT (7176 tons gross)
BURNETT. torpedoed 1110Z/22 in 032° 54' S. 159° 32' E.
Vessel 1933L/23 gave position 033° 40' S. 159° 05'E.
damaged drifting.
(A.C.N.B. 1131Z/23 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B)

MAURETANIA Your 0341/20 not to last addressee. 6,900 U.S.
troops on board MAURETANIA are for Bombay en route
to Persian Gulf and not Suez.
(D. of S.T. 2134A/23 to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.F.
Comsowestpac Unit, N.Z. N.B., C. in C. Med.
P.S.T.O. India.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1414A/23, 1429A/23.)

War Diary.

24.1.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands

V.P.
Operation
"Cartoon".

M.T.Bs. carried out successful raids on the Norwegian coast last night. Parties of men from M.T.Bs. 626 and 627 destroyed objectives at the pyrites mines at Lillebo and quay at Sagvaag Fjord (about 40 miles south of Bergen) and brought back 3 prisoners. M.T.B.625 had several casualties. M.T.Bs. 620, 631 and 625, who formed the covering force, set on fire the watch post at Midtoe. M.T.B.620 set on fire a 2,000 ton ship in Languenen and M.T.B.625, laid mines in Lairsk. M.T.Bs. 620 and 631 sustained minor damage but no casualties. One Ju.88 was shot down by M.T.Bs. 631 and 625.

Convoy
J.W.52

The convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by 4 torpedo bombers at 1230 today, about 150 miles E.S.E. of Bear Island: at least 2 of the enemy aircraft were shot down. At 1930A ONSLAUGHT reported U-boats in contact.

E-boat
activity.

E-boats were reported late this evening off Lowestoft and Beachy Head. Two groups operated off Lowestoft and were engaged by MENDIP (northern group) and WINDSOR (southern group) respectively. Hits were reported by both destroyers, and WINDSOR possibly destroyed one E-boat. The weather was indifferent and visibility bad, and the coastal forces were unable to get into action. Minelaying is not suspected. Four A/C appear to have been working with the E-boats. It is thought that an attack on convoy F.N.26 as on the night 5/6 Jan. was planned but owing to fog the convoy left Southend $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours late and was not found by the enemy who left the area about 2200.

There were four nuisance air raids on shipping in Kola Inlet, but no ships were damaged. It is believed that SS. EL OCEANO shot down one enemy plane.

Three more mines were detonated off the Humber today.

War Diary.

24.1.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE is proceeding to Ponta Delgada at 4 knots with defects, accompanied by cable ship MIRROR. At 1400Z their position was 38.45 N., 26.32 W. They were reported in Ponta Delgada on 5th February.

Convoy
T.M.F.2.

Tankers SEAKAY, SHELDON CLARK and BUNKER HILL arrived at Gibraltar this afternoon escorted by WIVERN, VENOMOUS, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT and QUICKMATCH.

South Atlantic.

A single living survivor of SS. CERINTHUS, torpedoed on 9 Nov 180 miles from Cape Verde Islands, was picked up today in 11.22 N., 38.56 W. from a lifeboat which originally contained 20 men.

Mediterranean.

Convoy
M.H.3

ORION, JERVIS, KELVIN and TETCOTT sailed from Malta at 1557 today to escort the convoy from Egypt which is approaching Tripoli.

M.T.Bs 315, 260, 264 and 307 sailed from Malta at 1530A to carry out a sweep off Monastir. They sighted no shipping, but shot up Monastir before returning.

An explosion occurred this afternoon in the dock magazine at Malta, apparently due to spontaneous combustion of smoke generators, to which the loss was found on examination to be confined. There were no casualties.

/Air...

24.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air
Operations.

Wellingtons and Beauforts from Malta, with torpedoes and bombs last night carried out in 345° Ustica 30 miles a successful attack on a south-bound convoy consisting of 4 merchant vessels escorted by 2 destroyers, which had been sighted by Baltimores at 1515/23. One merchant ship was hit by 2 torpedoes and set on fire and a second ship was hit by one torpedo and burst into flames and broke in two. One of the destroyers was hit at least once by a 250 lb. bomb and its A.A. fire was silenced.

4 B.17s of the 12th A.F. this morning attacked shipping at Sousse and report a hit with 500 lb. bomb on a merchant vessel.

4 B.24s last night bombed shipping in Palermo starting fires on a quay in the Naval Harbour. Near misses are reported on a merchant vessel in convoy outside the harbour. Some bombs were also dropped on Messina by a B.24 unable to reach Palermo.

Fighter bombers today attacked shipping in Zuara harbour to hamper the unloading of barges. Near misses are reported on a merchant vessel and a direct hit on a warehouse and a fire started on the jetty. Near misses are reported on a ship off Sabratha.

Spitfires from Malta bombed Porto Empedocle (Sicily).

America & West Indies.

O.N.S.160

At 0038Z today C.T.U.24.1.12 reported that Convoy O.N.S.160 was badly scattered. SS. VILLE DE TAMATAVE is reported on her beam ends C.T.U.24 .1.12 is searching but he feared that rescue work would be impracticable, and at 1734Z he reported that he feared she was lost. The estimated position of the convoy was 50.17 N., 40.55 W. SHERWOOD, who is damaged, was at 1225Z standing by SS. FAIRWATER whose steering gear is completely disabled in about 50.18 N., 40.18 W. No tug was available at St. Johns to tow her until TENACITY sailed at 2145/25. SHERWOOD later proceeded to St. Johns N.F., short of fuel and was relieved by PRIMROSE. The corvette MORDEN is proceeding to St. Johns N.F., with dangerous stability and 4 days' fuel remaining, WAVENEY, S.O. of escort, reported at 1225Z that she was almost hove to on course 250°. The destroyer SALISBURY left Halifax in the early hours of 25 Jan. to reinforce the convoy and rescue tug TENACITY escorted by THREE RIVERS sailed from St. Johns N.F. at 2145/25 to assist FAIRWATER.

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Sunday.

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SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

S.C.117

C. in C. W.A. considers that convoy S.C.117 is seriously threatened. The convoy at 0800 today was estimated to be in 53.30 N., 51.30 W. Yesterday evening C.T.U.24.1.17 reported 12 or more ships missing, but some of them appear to have returned to St. Johns N.F. C. in C. W.A. proposed at 1354Z/24 that the available ships of B.2 group should sail immediately to reinforce the escort.

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

M/S vessels at Sheerness. The number of Motor Minesweepers based at Sheerness has now increased sufficiently to allow of commencing the reduction in numbers of older types of vessels, as proposed in A.L. M/M/S.010/43 of 11th January, 1943. The following five L.L. Drifters can be dispensed with immediately, SOLSTICE, VERNAL, EUNICE AND NELLIE, INTERNOS, WARSTAR. The 1st named vessel, which is a small trawler, is at present refitting at Rochester and is being paid off on 29th January. (C. in C. Nore 2309A/24 to Admty.)

Movements.

H.33. Arrived H.33.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0718A/24.)

JUNON. JUNON arrived Lerwick.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0900A/24.)

P.219, Capt. (S) 3's 1027A/23. Intend to sail PRESTON
P.56. NORTH END at 0530A/27 Jan. to R/V with BRYONY and
P.219 at 0700A/27 position 000° Dunnet Head 3
miles for onward escort to Blyth. 2. Request
BRYONY enter Scapa to await P.56 for onward passage to Clyde
3. Capt. (S) 6 is requested to sail PRESTON NORTH END to Scapa
as escort to P.56.
(A.C.O.S. 1001/24.)

EMPIRE ROACH, My 1056A/23. Sailing postponed on account of
EMPIRE CHUB, account of Gale warning.
EMPIRE TITAN. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1124A/24.)

O.19. 1. V.A. Gib. 1112/17. Onward route from (O) 043°
01' N. 013° 50' W. Proceed diving by day through
(N) 049° 10' N. 013° 50' W. (M) 050° 10' N.
012° 40' W. (L) 050° 10' N. 009° 00' W. to R/V in (K) 360°
Round Island Scilly Isles 7 miles at dawn 2nd with escort for
passage to Clyde as ordered by Capt. (S) 3. 2. Estimate your
speed during the night 27th - 28th 9 knots, then daily advance
125 miles.
(F.O.S.1221A/24 to O.19.)

U.S.S.R. Kola Inlet arrival at 1430A/24 your 2116/16.
S/M. Admiralty pass to F.O.S.
S.51. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1505A/24.)

S/M Positions. Positions of submarines at 0800/25th and
movements for following 24 hours. (A) P.224,
P.314, TRIDENT in North Norwegian waters E. of
20° E. (B) P.216 patrol vicinity 63° 20' North
06° 44'E. (C) O.15 63° 01' N. 05° 20' E. to patrol vicinity

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Positions. Contd. 63° 08' N. 06° 44' E. (D) SOKOL 61° 50' N. 02° 45' E. through 62° 20' N. 04° 01' E. to patrol vicinity 62° 31' N. 05° 23' E. (E) P.53 escorted by BERGAMOT arriving Lerwick from South. (F) H.32 with convoy C.E. 149 Sheerness E.T.A.1145

25th. (G) TORBAY 44° 20' N. 13° 20' W. course 180° dived by day crosses 43° N. at 0230A 26th. (H) P.339 44° 35' N. 13° 44' W. course 180° dived by day crosses 43° N. at 0400/26th. (J) U.S. Submarine HERRING in Zone K.505. (K) U.S. Submarine SHAD off Bilbao. (L) U.S. Submarine GURNARD escorted by CUTTY SARK sails Clyde 1100A/25th E.T.A. Round Island Scillies 2300A/26th thence westward. (M) P.219 escorted by BRYONY sails Clyde 1700A/25th via Minches 10 knots to Scapa E.T.A. 0800A/27th. (F.O.S. 1601A/24.)

My 1601/24 para. (e). add P.53 sails Lerwick 1300A/25th through 62° 00' 01° 01' E. thence Northeastward. 2. Add para. (n) JUNON 61° 44' N. 02° 02' E. probably on the surface through 62° 20' N. 03° 59' E. to patrol vicinity 62° 27' N. 05° 04' E. (F.O.S. 2139A/24.)

DELHI DELHI arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1705/24.)

STRAIDE. Your 1629/23. Request reason for arrival of STRAIDE in your area.
(D. A/S.W. 1812A/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

P.225. Scapa arrival P.225 and PRESTON NORTH END.
(A.C.O.S., 2255A/24.)

Operations.

Operation "Cartoon". P/L intercept at 2351Z/23 from German vessel reported enemy M.T.B. at Lervik.
(D.D.I.C., 0132A/24 to A.C.O.S.)
My 0132A/24. Further P/L messages intercepted from ships as follows: 1. At 0237A/24. 2 M.T.B.'s. Attacks driven off. Hits observed. 2. At 0238A/24. In action with M.T.B.'s. 3. At 0249A/24. After heavy action, M.T.B.'s. retired to Westward.

(D.D.I.C. 0331A/24 to A.C.O.S.)
Following received from M.T.B.626. Operation complete left at 0320. Air support required. Have casualties 1 dead, 8 wounded. Ambulance required on return to harbour. Have 3 prisoners.

(A.C.O.S., 0645/24 to 18 Group, Wick, Sumburgh.)
My 1232A/21 and 0935A/23. V.P. operation "Cartoon". M.T.B. 626 and 627 returned Lerwick 1630/24 report operation successfully completed all priority targets at mines and quay destroyed. M.T.B. 626 6 wounded and 6 slightly wounded. Many machine-gunned in boat. M.T.B.627 no casualties no damage. Fynn force 1 (one) killed, 2 wounded, 3 enemy military prisoners taken.

/Estimated...

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Cartoon".
Contd. Estimated 8 or 10 enemy killed several wounded. Covering force M.T.B's. 620, 631 and 625 returned Lerwick 1800. No shipping seen in Leirvik, heavy shore gunfire returned. Watchpost at Midtoe set on fire. M.T.B. 620 engaged 2,000 ton ship in Languenen at such close range that torpedoes passed underneath but ship took fire and was beached in sinking condition south of Lairvsk. M.T.B. 625 laid mines in Lairvsk. Heavy fire experienced from TITTELSNES and BJELLAND. Fire returned, several machine guns silenced. On return passage 631 and 625 shot down J.U.88 which exploded in the air. No casualties in these 3 boats. 620 and 631 received minor damage.
(A.C.O.S., 2005A/24 to Admty.)

Coastal Patrols. My 1011A/23. "Device" arrived 1005A/24. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1020A/24.) S.O. Force J's memorandum J. 0502/12 of 10th December and S.O. Force J's 1108A/23rd. 1. Intend sailing M.G.Bs. 316 (S.O.). 312, 317, and 326 at 1800 today. 2. S.O.A. approx 18 knots, E.T.R. approx. 0900/25. 3. Codeword "Jovial". 5. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange fighter protection and bombing restrictions. (6) Craft may shoot at sight when south of 050° 15' N. and East of 003° 10' W. (N.O.I.C. Portland, 1115A/24 to C. in C. Plymouth.) Patrol to-night. 3 Motor Launches and 3 Motor Gunboats (S) vicinity of Ymuiden. 5 Motor Torpedo Boats and 4 Motor Gunboats (S) vicinity of Hook of Holland. 4 Motor Gunboats (S) Z 10. 2 Motor Launches each Z.12, Z.15, and Z.17. 2 Motor Gunboats (L) number 2 Buoy. 3 Motor Gunboats (S) each number 60 buoy and Q.J.J.T.57 20. (C. in C. Nore, 1542A/24.) My 1115A/24 cancelled owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1632A/24.) Deps. M.T.Bs. 32, 71, 224, 70, 69. M.G.Bs. 74, 80, 81, 63, 67, 65, 64. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1706A/24.) My 1542/24. For Z.10 read Z.6 shifting to Z.10 at 2130. (C. in C. Nore, 1809A/24.) Proceed A. buoy, then 6 buoy, and sweep (100%) up Q.Z.S. 287. (Chatham, 2131A/24 to S.E.E.C.C.D. (R) M.L's. 323, 321.)

Operation "Valuable". (1) Force A. consists of CLEVELAND, BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, MELBREAK patrolling south of Beachy Head as in para (iv) of my 1000/20. Tonight Force A. pass E.A.S. Buoy inward at 0600/25. Force B. at Newhaven to consist of M.G.B's. 616, 613 and M.T.B. 243, 89, 86, 85. 2. FYLLA, KINGSTON, TOPAZ, CHASER 14 at Saint Helens. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1323A/24.)

S/M Patrol off Trondheim. My 1217/23. JUNON and SOKOL are to exchange positions. (F.O.S. 1028A/24.)

/JUNON...

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24.1.1943.
Sudnay.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M JUNON left Lerwick 1720A/24 through 091°. Muckle
Patrol Flugga 10 miles and 062° 20' N. 003° 59' E. thence
off to patrol in vicinity 062° 27' N. 005° 04' E.
Trondheim. keeping West of line 315° from Flaavae light.
Contd. Proceed unescorted and on surface at C.O.'s
discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian coast,
thence dive by day.
(S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 1723A/24 to S/MS.)
JUNON sailed for patrol.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1725A/24.)

Biscay In order that there shall be no gap in patrols in
S/M Bay of Biscay zones, HERRING and SHAD will be
Patrols. required to remain on patrol until dark 4th.
HERRING (F.O.S. 1217A/24.)
SHAD.

P.53 F.O. (S) 1702/22. Request you will sail P.53
Patrol. from Lerwick at 1300A/25 through position.
(A) 062° 00', 001° 01' E. by route "Orange" to
(B) 071° 02', 016° 56', thence waiting position
(C) 071° 21', 020° 20'. (2) Submarine to proceed on the surface
at C.O.'s discretion until within 2 miles of Norwegian coast
thence dive by day.
(Capt. S.9. 1715A/24 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bombing My 1221/24. Submerged bombing restrictions
restrictions. arranged as follows.
(F.O.S., 1426A/24 to O.19.)

Lorient Damage assessment 52 A Sortie S/705 Lorient 23rd
damage Jan. Much destruction and severe damage chiefly
on by fire to buildings throughout the town including
23rd several areas devastated. One or two small fires
January. still burning. Important items include damage
or destruction of a number of buildings in Arsenal
area including large barracks. Also Customs and
Municipal workshops Bisson and Frebault barracks and power station.
No confirmation of damage to submarine Pens at Keroman on
preliminary examination. Shipbuilding workshops on East of
River Scorff cloud covered. Mean time of photography 1445 hours.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 1615A/24.)

541 Squadron P.R. sortie C/890 at 1115/24 shows Lorient town
and dockside buildings between wet dock and dry docks off Port
Militaire devastated while three large sheds immediately to the
east and west of Northern U-Boat Pen at Keroman seen to be gutted.
Fires still burning at main workshops of Lorient shipbuilding yard
and among barrack-type buildings south of entrance channel to Port
de Commerce as well as in centre of old town.

(P.R.U. Benson, 1955A/24 to Admty.)

/Mining...

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Search off Iona. Your 2150A/23. If no trawler is available defer search ordered in my 2055A/23 until completion of sweep in accordance with my 1156A/22.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0103A/24 to SHIPPIGAN.)
Cancel my 2055A/24 and 0103A/24.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0955A/24 to SHIPPIGAN.)

Arrived SHIPPIGAN, WEDGEPORT, PARRSBORO, QUALICUM, DORNOCH.
(Cdre. Londonderry 2245A/24.)

Clearance of Q.Z.X.887. Your 1640/18. Intend to sail ELGIN (S.O.), LYDD, SUTTON, SALTASH for Portland at 0700/27th.
Datum Dan to be laid on passage and clearance to be started following day in accordance with 4th M.S.F. Operation Order 2/43.
(M/S.4, 1029/24 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation Q.U.2. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.U.(2) tonight. (1) Supporting Force, one Unit 8th M.G.Bs with 51st M.L. Flotilla. (2) Diversion available M.T.Bs. and one Unit 8th M.G.Bs. M.T.Bs. to approach vicinity Hook of Holland from direction of R.B.12, M.G.Bs. to be in support from vicinity Q.J.P.B.O.450. M.G.Bs and M.T.Bs. to proceed in company until M.T.Bs. S commence silent approach. (3) Diversion is to be timed to take place at same time as Q.U.(2).
(C. in C. Nore, 1114A/24 to BEEHIVE.)

Thames Estuary. Owing to suspected parachute mine navigation is prohibited within a radius of 3 cables from 51° 30' 10" N, 00° 42' 30" E.
(N.O.I.C. Southend, 1518A/24.)

Humber Area. Following 3 mines exploded by Sweepers today.
At 1635/24 in 232° H.3 Buoy 5 cables.
At 1714/24 in 288° 62 Buoy 1 mile.
At 1718/24 in 198° H.3 Buoy 6 cables.
(F.O. Humber, 2147/24.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest La Pallice. Seven torpedo boats reported at Brest and four torpedo boats at La Pallice. Cancel my 1551/12 1911/12, 1449/15.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1409A/24.)

E-Boats off East Coast. Positions. (WINDSOR 2003A/24, 2020/24)(Harwich W/T 2005/24)(Nore 2021A/24, 2027A/24, 2031A/24, 2034A/24, 2047/24, 2047A/24, 2115A/24, 2130A/24, 2133A/24, 2134A/24, 2139A/24.)

E.Boats in Channel. E-Boats in 104° Beachy Head 19 miles, Course 270°, 25 knots.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2216/24 to EGLINTON.)

/Plot...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats in Channel Contd. Plot doubtful my 2216.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2235A/24 to EGLINTON.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. D/F bearings at 1154Z indicates U-Boat in vicinity of convoy probably reporting it.
(D.D.I.C., 1337A/24 to Escorts S.C.117)

Navigational.

Portsmouth. Port Western Entrance closed due to fog.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0918A/24.)
Port Western Entrance open.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1049A/24.)

Casualties and Defects.

PUFFIN. Arrival PUFFIN with tugs DIVERSION and KROOMAN.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0104A/24.)
Be prepared to sail in order to be off Lowestoft Harbour entrance at 1100/25. Tug KROOMAN will proceed in attendance.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0812A/24 to PUFFIN.)

SUERTE. Steamship SUERTE from O.N.S.M.16 B. Intend proceeding Belfast with engine trouble. E.T.A. 2000A/24.
(VELETA, 1006A/24.)

SEAGULL, HARRIER. SEAGULL has recently been incapacitated through tube cracks and leaks in number 2 tank in which all A (corrupt group) A rows were renewed last November and further trouble expected. As retubing cannot be done locally intend to send her home with R.A.52. 2. HARRIER could be kept till R.A. 53 but crew head list of minesweepers for service in North Russia and presume desirable for M.S. 1 to organize newly constituted flotilla. Am therefore prepared to manage with only one minesweeper until J.W.53 arrives.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1013A/24 to C. in C. H.F.)

DUNNET HEAD. Steamship DUNNET HEAD missing from Morning's muster. It is thought she may have gone up A.M. Q.Z.S.277 from Sheringham.
(VANITY, 1118A/24 to C. in C. Nore.)

SAINT ROSARIO. S.S. SAINT ROSARIO proceeding Humber with engine trouble. Tug CHAMPION standing by.
(VANITY, 1247A/24.)

/My...

War Diary.

24.1.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

SAINT ROSARIO.
(Contd.) My 1247. CHAMPION reports SAINT ROSARIO proceeding to rejoin convoy.
(VANITY, 1335A/24.)

Clyde.
Repair situation. Facilities for refits and repairs on The Clyde remain saturated. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1347/24 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

J.W.52. EMPIRE BAFFIN arrived Akureyri ex J.W.52 having been sent in by S.O. of escort as she could not maintain convoy speed. She will be sailed independently to Reykjavik.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0029A/24 to Admty.)
Scapa Arrivals:- BLANKNEY at 0354. MIDDLETON at 0355.
(A.C.O.S. 0426/24 to Admty.)
Scapa arrival FAULKNER, ECLIPSE.
(A.C.O.S. 0948A/24 to V.A.2.)
J.W.52 local escort. FORESTER, ICARUS will be sailed to sweep approaches to Kola Inlet before arrival of Force R. and will R/V Force R. when E.T.A. is known provided this can be done in daylight. (2) Russian destroyer BAKU and one other will be sailed to meet convoy in daylight south of position G. provided it is certain they will not meet Force R. (3) Russian fighters will provide daylight cover for both forces for last 60 miles.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0955A/23 to H.F. Operational.)
Russian air R/C report at 1028A/24 in Alten Fiord three cruisers, 5 destroyers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1051/24 to H.F.)
D/F indications that convoy has probably been reported by U-boats.
(D.D.I.C., 1157A/24 to S/MS, Escorts J.W.52 A.I.G.47.)
ORIBI with OBEDIENT proceed passing Switha 1330/25 to Hvalfjord routed through 058° 50' N. 007° 02' W. thence through Reykjanes Passage. 2. After landing mail and personnel at Hvalfjord proceed Akureyri to arrive by 28th January. Complete and act in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 1126/18 amended by 1225A/22 and 1705/22.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1425A/24 to ORIBI, OBEDIENT.)
My 1126/18. para. (3). When detached by V.A.2. ECHO is to proceed to Akureyri.
(C. in C. H.F. 1429A/24 to V.A.2, C.S.1.)
U-boats in contact. My P.C.S. 073° 15' N. 029° 32' E., 183°, 9 knots, steering 99° for 6 hours from position G, thence position H. E.T.A. M.Z. 0800A/26th. Abortive attack by 4 torpedo-bombers at 1230/24th. 2 shot down certain. Weather 5661 0764.
(ONSLAUGHT, 1930A/24 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, H.F.)

S.C.116. Have been relieved by BABBITT and proceeding to rejoin S.C.116. FETLAR and tug within 10 miles.
BAXTERGATE. My P.C.S. 063° 26' N. 029° 48' W. 104° 13.5.
CULEBRA. (KINGCUP, 0145Z/24 to A.C.I.C.)

/ACANTHUS...

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- S.C.116. ACANTHUS departed Reykjavik 0135/24 to rejoin you.
BAXTERGATE. (A.C.I.C. 0130A/24 to C.T.U. 24.1.4.)
CULEBRA. Relieved by FETLAR. DEXTEROUS in 063° 26' N. 030°
Contd. 57' W. Proceeding to Reykjavik.
(BABBITT, 0525Z/24 to C. in C. W.A.)
Sailed (WHITEHALL, MALLOW, BLUEBELL) in accordance
with my 1258A/23.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0655A/24 to C. in C. W.A.)
On completion of escort BURZA is to proceed to Clyde. FAME,
VERVAIN, ACANTHUS, KINGCUP, EGLANTINE are to proceed to
Londonderry.
(C. in C.W.A., 1139A/24 to C.T.U.24.1.4.)
Arrived BAXTERGATE ex S.C.116 damaged.
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 1224A/24.)
My 0315/23. CULEBRA taken in tow, and proceeding
Reykjavik. P.C.S. at 1520/24 63.06, 31.12. 075°, 2 - 3 knots.
(A.C.I.C.. 2025A/24 to Admty.)
- K.M.F.8. Following ships sail 0258A/24. Pendants.
W.S.26. (D.S.T.O.Greenock, 0300A/24.)
My 0956A/21. Sailed. 24 hours late. Code word
"Apricot."
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0308A/24.)
DUNOTTAR CASTLE sailed Clyde 1000/24 to overtake K.M.F.8,
speed 16 knots.
(C. in C.W.A. 0938A/24 to Escorts K.M.F.8.)
W.S.26 and K.M.F.8. Convoys sailing in accordance with
Admiralty 0040/14, 0100/14, 1450/14, 1505/14, and 1850/14, 24 hours
late. Cmdre. of combined convoys and Cmdre. K.M.F.8. in DURBAN
CASTLE. Vice Cmdre. Combined convoy and Cmdre W.S.26 in
STRATHEDEN. Rear Cdre. combined convoy and Vice Cdre. of convoy
W.S.26 ARUNDEL CASTLE. Rear Cdre. combined convoy and Vice Cdre.
of convoy K.M.F.8 CIRCASSIA. Escort as in A.M. 0040/14 and
A.M.0100/14 plus EXE for K.M.F.8.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0948/24.)
Sailed TEST, FISHGUARD, CLARE, BANFF for K.M.F.8.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1050A/24.)
K.129 returned Rothesay Bay from K.M.F.8 with engine defects.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 2150/24.)
- S.C.L.116. S.C.L.116 arrived 2340Z/23. PLEIADES. ICELANDIC,
KATLA, and FJALLFOSS. BAXTERGATE for medical care
and repairs. U.S.B. GOVERNOR JOHN LIND not
arrived not arrived. Escorted by C.T.U. 24.6.6. in WILLIAMBURG.
Which is dissolved. C.T.U. 24.6.5. in DUANE remaining as escort
to S.C.116. BABBITT proceeding to assist S.S. CULEBRA.
(C.T.U.24.6, 0610Z/24 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S.162. Sailed KALE, MONKSHOOD, ROCKINGHAM, WALLFLOWER,
MEADOWSWEET, DAHLIA and Tanker ARDOUR for O.N.S.162.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0852A/24 and 1627A/24.)
- OIL
RELIANCE. Following from OIL RELIANCE. Returning Clyde 9
knots, position 055° 23' N. 006° 08' W.
(Port Patrick Radio, 0959/24.)

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- F.N.26. F.N.26 has not yet sailed owing to fog. F.S.19
F.S.19. is to anchor if necessary between Warp and East
Spile until F.N. is clear of gate. WHADDON's
1000/24 approved.
(C. in C. Nore, 1041A/24 to WHADDON, WOLSEY.)
- U.C. It is intended to introduce Tanker Convoys
and between U.K. and Curacao commencing with U.C.1
C.U. between Liverpool on 13th February and thereafter
Convoys. on a 20-day cycle. 2. Convoys will assemble
in the normal West Coast Assembly Ports, ships
from East Coast assembling at Loch Ewe.
3. Minimum speed for inclusion 10 knots. 4. M. of W.T. will
inform agents of the tankers allocated for these convoys, but
N.C.S.Os. are to check entries with Admiralty Ext. 363.
5. It is intended that the maximum number in each convoy shall
be 40 vessels and, as it will not be possible to sail 40 tankers
in the earlier U.C. convoys, dry cargo ships for West Indies,
Panama Canal and East Coast of South America may be included to
make up the number. N.C.S.Os. having such ships offered whose
names have not been passed to them by Admiralty should
immediately communicate with Admiralty Ext. 363. 6. Return
convoys will commence with C.U.1 sailing from Curacao on or
about 13th March and subsequently every twenty days.
(D.T.D., 1108A/24)
- R.A.52. Your 0916/14 para. 2 and my 1015/14. Probable
number of starters 17 including 4 ships from
White Sea who may be slightly delayed through ice.
Request latest date for sailing convoy if necessary to wait for
White Sea ships.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1315A/24 to C. in C. H.F.)
Your 1013/24. Concur. HARRIER and SEAGULL return to
R.A.52. 2. S.B.N.O. Russia pass to ONSLAUGHT on arrival.
(C. in C.H.F., 1901A/24 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- K.M.S.8. Pass through 055° 30' N. 013° 20' W. thence 219°
CORNCRAKE. Search for CORNCRAKE on passage, possibly hove to
near above position. If met, remain with her if
in danger and report.
(LANDGUARD, 1344A/24 to REGINA.)
Your 1344/24. REGINA is not sailing until a.m. tomorrow.
(C. in C. W.A. 1913A/24 to LANDGUARD.)
P.C.S. at 2000A/24. 054° 26' N. 015° 20' W., 219° 4½ knots.
K.M.S.8 all ships in company except ?CORNCRAKE, not seen since
dark 23rd. ?Unable to (?position) by W/T. Request information
re INDIAN PRINCE and BLUEBELL.
(LANDGUARD, 2015A/24 to C. in C.W.A.)
- S.C.117. S.C.117 considered seriously threatened.
S.C.118. Propose available ships of B.2 Group sail
immediately to reinforce S.C.117 and that B.4
Group and remainder of B.2 Group escort S.C.118.
- Comtask 24. Pass to C.T.U. 24.1.16.
(C. in C.W.A. 1354Z/24 to C.T.F.24.)

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- Murmansk. 1316A/18. All waiting vessels now berthed here.
Berthing (Dalgleish, Murmansk, 1404A/24 to Admty.)
of U.S.
Ships.
- U.R.59. Swedish NEVA sunk presumed torpedoed at 0600/22
NEVA. in approx. 61° 35' N. 14° 15' W. Two survivors
landed Reykjavik. C.B.'s presumed sunk with ship.
(A.C.I.C. 1441A/24 to Admty.)
Your 1225/24. U.R.59. Were hove to on account of bad
weather in D.R. position 61° 15' N. 13° 32' W. from 1215/21 for
12 hours. Convoy proceeded again at 0001/22 when weather had
moderated somewhat. QUADRILLE on starboard beam of convoy
heard a muffled explosion from port quarter of convoy at 0620/22.
No snowflake or rockets were seen. QUADRILLE turned to
investigate but could only make about five knots against sea.
CAPE PORTLAND following about half a mile astern of convoy saw
and heard a dull explosion from NEVA then on her port bow. Ship
sank in about three minutes and two survivors were picked up.
CAPE PORTLAND's W/T failed about 1000/22 owing to sea water
damage. QUADRILLE received your 1304/22 and replied to it in
Message 1405/22 but owing to W/T failure on H/F this and earlier
signals were not received by shore authorities. H/F defect may
have been due to misadjustment of neutralising condenser of
T.W.12 E.H. and also to inexperience of operators in H/F transmission.
Instruction is being given before returning to U.K.
(A.C.I.C., 1950A/24 to C. in C. W.A.)
- M.K.F.7. P.C.S. at 2000/24 052° 32' N. 012° 55' W. 027°
13.25 knots. Request destination of ship not
mentioned in A.M. 2054A/22nd. Will local escort
R/V position P.
(WESTON 1631Z/24 to C. in C.W.A.)
- TAWALI. Following received from TAWALI. Begins. Returning
from convoy. Received at 1920A/24 by V/S.
(N.O.I.C. Lamdash, 1926A/24, to Admty.)
- S.D.36. My 1807/23rd sailed at 1945/24. E.T.A. Greenock
(LEICESTER) 1200/27.
(A.C.I.C. 2004A/24.)
- M.K.F.7. Your 1631/24. Destinations REINA DEL PACIFICO,
FRANCONIA, BATORY, SOBIESKI all for Clyde. No
local escort. You are to detail one escort for
Clyde portion and one for Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A., 2054A/24 to WESTON.)
- O.N.S. U.S. Destroyer LEARY arrived independently from
160. O.N.S.160 at 1220Z/23rd.
(C.T.G.24.6, 2120Z/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.24.1.1943
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

Ships fitted with Type 241. (1) Admty 2217/30/12 not to Headquarters E.A.C. Type 241 in AURORA tuned to 208 M. cycle has been so far found to (Corrupt group) Beaufighter's I.F. F. up to range of 17 miles.

(2) AURORA is now fitted with a 1 beacon code letter V. Trials have not been yet carried out.

(3) Very good response has been obtained from I.F.F. fitted in American aircraft. This set is believed to be S.C.R. 535-A. Request this may be verified. Response obtained every 5 seconds on approx. 94 M cycles up to range of 130 miles.

(4) N.C.X.F. pass to H.Q. E.A.C. and SIRIUS. F.O. Force H pass to PENELOPE.
(C.S. 12 0958A/ to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O. Force H, Headquarters E.A. C. , 12th. C.S., Admty.)

MATADIAN.

Your 1645/17. Concur.
(N.C.X.F. 1200/24 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Docking priority for week Commencing 25th. Jan.

(A) Gibraltar. No.1 WINOOSKI, CAMERONIA, ALMAAK. LALANDE. No.2 AJAX, ARGONAUT. No.3 VELOX, FARNDALDE, MANXMAN. HENGIST as opportunity occurs. No.4 ALERT, VILLE DE QUEBEC, ALERT, (sic) FLUELLEN. (B) Algiers. No.1 TRIBUNE, LAMERTON, HARMATTAN, COWDRAY, ITHURIEL. NO. 2 P.217 CHASSEUR. No.3 L.C.T. 152 VILLE DE BOUGIE L.C.

I.(L) (E) EMPIRE BAIRN M.M.S. 80 ALARM. (C) Oran No. 1 SCYTHIA, VILLE DE STRASBOURG, HARPALYCE, No.2 ESKIMO, JANINE, TASAJERA, PORCUPINE. (D) Casablanca HAMBLETION (U.S.S.)
(N.C.X.F. 1200A/24 to V.A. Gib., S.N.O. Casablanca Area, N.O.I.C. Oran, Cmdre. Algiers,(R) Admty., F.O.I.S.)

Convoy titles.

As titles F.T. and T.F. are already allocated to Freetown-Trinidad Convoys and in view of proximity of areas request that the titles of North African Convoys may be changed. Suggest C.G.-G.C.
(D.T.D. 1211A/24 to N.C.X.F. V.A. Gib. (R) Connav. F.O.C.W.Af. B.A.D.)

Gibraltar to Malta air shuttle service.

A.M. 1857/23. After "suspended" add new para:-
" This has led to the accumulation of 120,000 lbs. of urgent stores at Gib. required in Malta by the Government and all three services".
(V.C.N.S. 1543A/24 to N.C.X.F.)

French demands for repair material.

Required to clarify situation as regards French demands for repair material for warships and merchant shipping. 2. French have handed to A.F.H.Q. a very large total of requirements for N.Africa as a whole, including Dakar. 3. For Algiers and Oran arrangements are being made to demand as much material as can reasonably be worked in a period of 6 months by existing resources and personnel and to treat this as an Allied pool subsequent supplies will be requested on this basis. 4. Request you will confirm whether you have already demanded from U.S.A. material

/on...

War Diary.

24.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area Contd.

French demands for repair material.

on similar basis for Casablanca including material for repair of French warships. If not request you will co-ordinate with Glassfurd Mission as necessary and report summary by signal to me details to follow by letter.

5. Understand Glassfurd Mission have requested repair material for Dakar from U.S.A.

6. B.N.L.O. Dakar pass to Adm. Glassfurd.
(N.C.X.F. 2022A/24 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) Admty. F.O.C. W.Af., B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

War Diary.

24.1.1943.

Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy sighted by U/B. Convoy sighted by Italian S/M in approx. 037° 00' N. 005° 40' E. at 1850 G.M.T. (From V.A. Gib. to 0233A/24 to N.C.X.F. (R) C.O.I. S. Alexandria, Admty.)

MAURO CROCE (Italian). MAURO CROCE sailed from Barcelona for Genoa night of 22nd. (S.O.I. Gib. 0239A/24 to S.O. (I) Malta S.O. (I) X.F.)

BERGENSFJORD. BERGENSFJORD will be escorted by CYCLAMEN, my 1602/23, V.A. Gib. pass to ROCHESTER. (S.N.O.C.A. 0535Z/24 to V.A. Gib., C.T.U. 26.7.1. 26.7.2. 26.7.3., (R) ROCHESTER.)

ADVENTURE. My position 037° 16' N. 011° 44' W. E.T.A. Gate 0830A/25. Weather report. (ADVENTURE 0758A/24 to V.A. Gib.)

BRAMHAM, M.K.S.6. Departure 0810 BRAMHAM to overtake and act as additional escort to M.K.S.6. (V.A. Gib. 1013A/24 to Admty.)

JANUS, GLENROY. JANUS and GLENROY left 2355 G.M.T. 23rd. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1036/24 to S.O. (I) Gib. (R) Admty.)

F.T.9. Intend sailing F.T.9. consisting French ships JAMAIQUE, MEDIE II, CEPHEE, FOMALHAUT RHEA, escorted by one A.M. 2 P. C. plus French minesweeper BOUDEUSE 0830A/26 to Gib., route coastal, S. of A. 7.5 E.T.A. 4 miles south Tarifa 0900A/27. Convoy code word "Tarbat". Escorts guard Gib. FOX 500 Kc/s and within 100 miles Casablanca 2333 Kc/s. C.T.U. No. 26.7.2 provide air coverage to dusk. Mission 46. (Comseafon W.T.F. 1105Z/24 to C.T.U. 26.7.1, C.T.U. 26.7.2, C.T.U. 26.7.3. (R) F.O.C.N.A., N.C.X.F., Admty., S.N.O. Casablanca.) S.N.O.C.A.'s 1105/24. Request French minesweeper BOUDEUSE be inspected at Gibraltar with view to fitting Asdic set. Report on suitability and Asdic type recommended should be made for Admiralty (R) N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A. (N.C.X.F., 2355A/24 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

French S/M IRIS. Your 1141 Dec. 16th my 2112 Dec. 30th and my 1731/1. Barcelona reports C.O. IRIS now wishes to escape with ship whilst in tow to Cartagena if she could be picked up by H.M. Ships. Subject to your concurrence I propose to reply not approved. Submarine will be inside territorial waters and escorted; we have agreed not to object to her removal. (B.N.A. Madrid, 1120/24 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gibraltar.) Reply: Admty. 1523A/27. /Situation ...

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War Diary.24.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Situation 2001A/24th. ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH, CYCLAMEN, 2 merchant vessels 34.29, 07.26 through 34.01, 07.49 and 33.26, 09.12 thence 217°, 12½.
2. BRAMHAM 36.35, 08.30 through approx. 22° Cape St. Vincent 18 thence 13½ knots to join

M.K.S.6 at 1600/25th.
(3) M.K.S.6 PELICAN, 1 cutter, 5 corvettes, 4 minesweepers 37.02, 10.49, 310, 8.
(4) Netherlands Sub. O.19 33.29, 18.32 on the surface 019°, 9.
(5) U.G.F.4, T.F.34, 36.45, 13.41 through 35.20, 09.55 and 35.01 09.25 at 1230A/25th thence (?46) 14.
(6) WISHART, BRILLIANT, FELIXSTOWE, BADDECK, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, PORT ARTHUR, LUNENBURG 35.32, 07.04 to R/V U.G.F.4 in 35.01, 09.25 at 1230A/25th and escort Oran section through 35.33, 07.01 thence through Straits 13.
(7) IMPERIALIST, ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER (E) 30.58, 12.31, 044°, 1½.
(8) T.F.8, NORTHERN GIFT, LOCH OSKAIG, LA TAPAGEUSE with GOUARNE 35.06, 06.31 through 34.10, 07.08 and 33.53, 07.48 to Casablanca
7. NORTHERN GIFT, LOCH OSKAIG return at 9 knots by reverse route Gibraltar when (corrupt group) escort meeting off Casablanca at approx. 1000A/25.
(9) 4 aircraft Jig boats sail Port Lyautey 0830/25th coastwise Gibraltar, 20.
(10) ADVENTURE (E) 35.59, 08.52 to Gibraltar, 14.
(11) LIMBOURNE, BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE, 1 merchant ship sail 1915/24th through 35.52, 06.01, to 35.45, 06.23 to 34.02, 07.49 thence to Casablanca, 12.
(V.A. Gib., 1237A/24 to A.I.G.63.)

KINGSTON CHRYSOLEITE. Proceeding Ponta Delgada 4 knots accompanied by MIRROR. KINGSTON CHRYSOLEITE (? steering) engine defect high pressure cylinder rings broken (? position) now 038° 45' N. 026° 32' W. Weather report.
(KINGSTON CHRYSOLEITE, 1400Z/24 to V.A. Gib.)

T.M.F.2. Arrival WIVERN, VENOMOUS, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH with T.M.F.2.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1609A/24.)
T.M.F.2, SEAKAY, SHELDON, CLARK, BUNKER HILL arrived.
(V.A. Gib., 1730/24 to Adnty.)

BANNAR MATTIS. S.G.M.218, BANNAR MATTIS arrived.
(S.O. S/MS Gib., 1715A/24 to F.O.S., (R) S.8.)

/Casablanca ...

24.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Casablanca
movements.

Warships arrived Casablanca. ASPIRANTE, BRUN,
ANNAMITE from Dakar. U.S.S. BISCAYNE, OSPREY,
P.C.474 from Port Lyautey. (?CYCLAMEN) departed
Casablanca for Bathurst.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1900Z/24, 0955Z/25.)

F.T.8,
U.G.F.4.

Arrivals 1750 LIMBOURNE, WOLVERINE, BADSWORTH,
BUTSER, BIRDLIP with F.T.8.
Departures 0700 LOCH OSKAIG, NORTHERN GIFT,
French ship SERGEANT GOUARNE TAPAGEUSE with
T.F.8. 1220 WISHART, BRILLIANT, ALBERNI, BADDECK,
SUMMERSIDE, PORT ARTHUR, LUNENBURG to R/V U.G.F.4 to escort
Oran section Q.B.A.25. 1910 LIMBOURNE, WOLVERINE, BADSWORTH to
Casablanca Q.K.A.83, Q.K.3.
(V.A. Gib., 2035/24 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.24.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

KHYBER

KHYBER returned to Durban to land medical case and sailed routed as in my 0427/22.
 (2) Shifts to group V at 0245Z/29.
 (3) E.T.A. Diego Suarez 1400Z/1st Feb.
 (C. i/c Durban 0732Z/24 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez).

Fuel from
 D.W.I. for
 ?Dakar.

Following is Admiral Glassfurd's 231440 to Cominch, Combined Chiefs of Staff and British Chiefs of Staff London.
 "In reference to dispatch 21225 (not received) of Cominch. Are tankers to be discharged Dakar? If so are any for civilian use and what is nature of cargoes? If none for civilian use, what is

ultimate destination?

If 500,000 gallons gasoline can be allocated for civilian use Dakar from this convoy will endeavour obtain from local French military stores approx. equivalent amount for prompt use necessary civilian requirements.

In view local needs recommend efforts be made secure this allocation".

(Comnaveu, 0809/24 to British Chief of Staff).

Movements

Arrival 24th MERCATOR, RUMBA.
 (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1005Z/24 to Admty).
 Arrival 24th CARNATIC.
 (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1506Z/24 to Admty etc).

Arrival 24th CARNARVON CASTLE.

(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 1634Z/24 to Admty).

INKPEN and M.L. 290 in company. E.T.A. 0730Z/25.

Estimate E.T.A. BARDELL and M/L 281 is 1800Z/25.

(PORTSDOWN, 1730Z/24 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Capt. (D), C.O. Coastal Force Base).

TALISMAN

TALISMAN has been diverted by me to pass through new position C 020° N., 035° W. thence to R approx. position and course 200° 24th Jan. 019° 30' N., 030° W. 275°.
 (F.O.C.W.Af. 1006/24 to V.A. Gibraltar).

Situation.

ILEX, HOLCOMBE escorting Naval Unit 03.36 11.30 to 06.(?47) 14.48 thence to Freetown 18 2 motor launches escorting (?05).54 (?11).00 296 8.

ORFSAY, COPINSAY escorting off Takoradi to Lagos 9.
 COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU F.S., escorting off Takoradi to Lagos 12½. CROCUS escorting about 01.57 S. 07.42 E. 305 12. M.L. 285 escorting off Cape Lopez to Lagos 9. S/M 614 now leaving Takoradi 1800Z/25 passing through 01.00 04.00 120 at 0100Z/28 7½.
 (F.O.C.W.Af. 1013Z/24 to A.I.G.150).

/Situation...

War Diary.24.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Situation. CHESHIRE on patrol about 40.00 S., 26.00 E.
NORTHERN ISLES 18.20 S., 10.40 E. to Walvis Bay 8.
ROCKROSE, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY 37.00 S.
12.40 E. to Capetown 10.
LADY ELSA, WELLARD about 32.30 S. 17.40 E. to Capetown E.T.A.
0800Z/25.
HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY about (?31).40 S., 17.00 E. to
Capetown E.T.A.1500Z/25.
STANDERTON, VEREENIGING, TURFONTEIN with C.A.6 in position
37.00 S., 24.25 E., 37.10 S., 25.00 E. 10.
FRITILLARY THYME 34.20 S., 22.30 E. to Capetown E.T.A.1400Z/25.
CARTHAGE leaving Durban p.m./24th for Saldanha Bay.
BALUCHISTAN 17.00 S., 10.30 E. to 26 12½.
(C. in C. S.A., 1043C/24 to Ships in Area Q of S.A., Admty.)

RANGITIKI 1500Z/24. New York via Chesapeake Bay 22nd Feb.
Route to St. Helena and Saldanha Bay. Codes etc.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1051Z/24).

Escorts for Your 1601Z/20. No escorts available from West
French Africa.
Warships. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1107Z/24 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.
N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar).

Situation ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF 10.40 29.05 277 12½.
at 2003Z/24. DUNKERY 2 M.Ls. escorting 12.46 17.41 359 18½.
(?CORINTHIAN), ARRAN (?2)M.Ls. escorting 10.18
16.20 to 11.00 17.40 thence 359 7½.
PICT 2 M.Ls. escorting 09.51 15.33 to Freetown 8½.
PORTSDOWN, INKPEN 2 M.Ls. escorting 08.46 14.09 to Freetown 7.
PANTHER, PATHFINDER 09.20 16.07 to Freetown 14½.
PENN about 09.(?22 or 36) 14.50 to Freetown 15.
PETUNIA, ARMERIA escorting 09.50 15.29 to 11.00 17.40 thence
359 12½.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1121Z/24 to A.I.G.149).

P.614. Route for P.614 from Pointe Noire.
D. 010° 00' (?S) 007°? 00' E.
E. 030° 00' S., 012° 00' E. F. 032° 00' S. 015°
00' E.
(2) B.N.L.O. W. Africa pass to P.614.
(3) Surface escort to Simonstown will be sailing from vicinity
of position F.
(C. in C. S.A., 1156G/24 to B.N.L.O.W.Af. F.O.W.Af. P.614,
(R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, F.O.C.(S) Capt. (D) 8th S/M Flot.
A.O.Cmdg. W.Af.).

SOMERS Departing Bathurst 0900Z/27 E.T.A. Dakar 1600Z
(U.S. Destroyer) same day. Opnav pass to S.O.P. destination.
By hand to N.O.I.C. here.
(SOMERS, 1202Z/24 to Opnav (R) Comsolant,
F.O.C.W.Af.)

War Diary.

24.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

O.21 Departure 1222Z/24. O.21 escorted by SONDRRA.
(2) Communications and W/T watch.
(N.O.I.C. East London, 1223Z/24 to Admty. etc).

Takoradi Departure 24th F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting
movements. HAI LEE, Lagos, 25th, SARABANDE and COPINSAY
escortng CAP PADARAN, Lagos 26th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1825Z/24 to Admty. etc).

PENN, 1. PENN proceed forthwith to R/V with
ILLUSTRIOUS, ILEX and HOLCOMBE in 006° 04' N.,
ILEX, 014° 04' W., at 0800Z/25 and join escort to
HOLCOMBE. Freetown.
ILLUSTRIOUS routed from (7000°) 56' N., 008° 44'
W., to 006° 47' N., 014° 48' W. 18 knots.
2. After PENN joins escort ILLUSTRIOUS proceed
to Freetown through 007° 50' N., 014° 10' W.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1903Z/24 to PENN,ILLUSTRIOUS, (R) Admty. PATHFINDER,
ILEX, HOLCOMBE).

PALACIO Urgent. Revise your course return to your Port
of Departure.
(Freetown, 1954/24 to PALACIO).

Shipping A.M. 0952/15th. Summary of routeing policy -
routeing Atlantic para. 2 (B). (Corrupt group) (?it has
Atlantic. been) intended to include returning transport of
declared speeds between 10 and 15 knots if
unescorted and provided they satisfy other
conditions for the Magellan route A.M.1548/23rd
(to C. in C. S.A. only) refers.
(C. in C. S.A., 2046C/24 to N.C.S.O's Capetown
Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London, (R) Admty.)

War Diary.24.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy report. P.C. and S. of 2 E-boats 37.40 N., 12.00 E.
(A/C CXRW 0201/24 to A.H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S. of three enemy destroyers 37.53 N.
11.43 E. 210° 10 knots.
(A/C FAY/R 0258A/24 to A.O.C. in C. Malta).
One small merchant vessel and one transport barge in
36.20 N., 11.10½ course 260 speed 5 knots.
(A/C FFO/K 0945A/24).
P.C. and S. of one small merchant vessel 36.12 N. 11.10 E.
270° 5 knots.
(A/C FFO/K 0948/24).
P.C. and S. 1 small enemy craft 35.20 N., 11.10 E. 10
360. 2.
(A/C FFO/K 1005/24).
P.C. and S. of 3 enemy transport barges 33.20 N. 11.20 E.
290° 10 knots.
(A/C FFO/K 1101/24).
P.C. and S. of one small merchant vessel 36.25 N. 10.35 E.
stationary.
(A/C FFO/L 1446/24).
P.C. and S. of one transport barge 35.41 N. 10.55 E. 270°
5 knots.
(FFO/L 1515/24).
P.C. and S. of 6 enemy transport barges 34.22 N. 10.50 E.
360° 6 knots.
(A/C FFO/L 1620/24).
Aircraft sighted at 0915/23rd one tanker and 2 escorts
038° 59' N., 016° 56' coast crawling south at 12 knots.
(Capt. (S) 10, 1647A/24 to S/Ms on patrol).
P.C. and S. of one enemy destroyer 37.40 N. 11.35 E.
030° 25 knots.
(A/C CXR/2 2005A/24).
P.C. and S. of 1 destroyer 37.28 N., 10.52 E. 350° 12 knots.
(A/C CXR/U 2050A/24).
P.C. and S. of one medium merchant vessel and 2 destroyers
38.10 N. 13.25 E. 180° 9 knots.
(A/C CXR/Z 2312A/24).

Convoy C.M. Arrived.
37 A. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0715Z/24).

Movements Departures WORCESTERSHIRE, TEVIOT BANK and
SUTLEJ in company 0430Z arrivals RANPURA and
IPSWICH in company 0630Z QUEEN OF BERMUDA and
HIRAVATI.
(Cdre. Aden, 0808Z/24).
U.S. Transport MARIPOSA arrived 0750Z/24th.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0808Z/24).
PROTEA, SOUTHERN MAID M/L 351 M/L 348 PINDOS, H.M.S.
ERICA, LA MOQUEUSE, COMMANDANT DOMINE H.M.S. NUBIAN, JAVELIN,
CROOME all arrived.
Sailed PINDOS, KINGSTON CRYSTAL H.M.S. CROOME, JAVELIN, NUBIAN,
LA MOQUEUSE.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1934B/24).

/Algiers...

War Diary.24.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Movements
Contd.

Algiers arrivals. OXFORDSHIRE from Oran.
LAMERTON, VERITY, WHEATLAND from Eastward.
BACHAQUERO, BORDE from E.T.X.(sic).
Departures. M.T.B.78 RHYL Stornaway to Bone.
OXFORDSHIRE to Westward. VANOC, VERITY, TASAJERA
to R/V E.T.9 X.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2019A/24).

Malta Stocks
and convoys.Following for C.O.S. repeated Governor Malta
from Cs. in C.

1. We agree that present opportunity should be taken to stock Malta to ensure safe maintenance up to Mid October.
2. With the exception of certain items which are not of high importance, we can find the necessary stocks from Mideast reserves. We can find the Naval escorts and the shipping without detriment to the operations of Eighth Army and R.A.F.
3. We are accordingly making arrangements to send three convoys of three ships each between now and mid March over and above M.W.20.
4. We are not certain that Malta will be able to accept and store all the Naval ammunition, torpedoes and mines which we think will be necessary to cover this period. We are consulting Governor on this, but you can rest assured that everything that can be put into Malta by mid March will be sent.
(Mideast, 0955Z/24 to Air Min).

M.T.B.sweeps.

4 M.T.Bs. leaving Malta at 1530A today 24th to operate off Monastir during the night. Passage both ways between Linosa and Lampedusa.
(V.A. Malta, 1030A/24 to C. in C. Med. H.Q., R.A.F.)

M.E. 201 N.C.G.247 Wing. (R) N.C.X.F. Admty).

M.T.Bs. 315, 260, 264, 307 sailed on Operation.(V.A.Malta 1530A/24).

RORQUAL

My 0841/20th P.37 is returning to Malta. Your area is extended to include Straits of Messina South of 038° N., and E. coast of Sicily as far South as Augusta.
(Capt. (S) 10, 1114A/24 to RORQUAL (R) C. in C. Med., S/MS on patrol, Capt. S.1).

TAKU

Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 1130A/24).

M.E. Air
Report.

Malta - Beauforts laid mines off Kerkenah Islands. Torpedo Wellingtons and Beauforts searched for shipping off Sicily and Tunisia but found no suitable targets. Beaufighters from

Malta attacked small shipping off Tunisian Coast scoring hit on two tugs and a five hundred ton vessel with cannon fire.
(C. in C. M.E., T.O.O. 1240B/24).

Convoy
M.H.3

Sailed ORION, JERVIS, KELVIN, TETCOTT.
(V.A. Malta, 1557A/24).

War Diary.24.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

P.35

Sailed.

(V.A. Malta 1630A/24 to Admty. C. in C. Med., Fleet. Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, (R) N.C.X.F.)
 My 1354/23*passing 038° 18' 010° 39' at 0100/27th
 038° 18' 004° 32' repeated 038° 18' 004° 32' (sic) at 2000/29th
 thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 59' 003° 07' at 0830/30th.
 (Capt. (S) 8 1901A/24 to P.35, (R) N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S.,
 S/MS on patrol, Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10).
 * Onward route for P.35.

12th A.F.
report.

Jan. 23rd Daily Intell. Cable, 12th A.F. Ops.
 1. 23 B.17 dispatched against Bizerta Naval Base and shipping in immediate vicinity. One group attacked 2 large M/Vs in Channel near Base. 24 tons of H.E. dropped from 23000 ft. Direct hit on one vessel which broke up and sank. Near misses probably damaged the second. Formation attacked by 15 to 20 E/A. Three E/A destroyed, three probably destroyed, four damaged. All of our planes down safely.
 2. The second group attacked the Naval Base dropping 35 tons H.E. from 23000 ft. Results good. Bursts seen on hangars, Workshops and near by oil tanks. After bombing run formation encountered by 75 to 100 E/A. 25 to 30 E/A attacked our bombers. 16 E/A destroyed. Four probably destroyed and five damaged. All of our planes down safely.
 3. Five B.26 escorted by 12 P.38 on counter shipping mission off Tunisia. One freighter damaged, two small freighters destroyed. One CZ 1007 attacked and destroyed. One B.26 crashed into sea, cause unknown, one P.38 missing. (12th A.F., 1705Z/24).

OXFORDSHIRE.

Sailed Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE at 1700/24 to Oran for onward routeing to U.K. S. of A. 12 knots. E.T.A. Oran 1100A/25. (Route) (Cdre. Algiers, 1749A/24).

E.T.9 X.

E.T.9 X sailed in accordance with N.C.X.F.'s 1421A/22 SAN AMADO (Tanker) and GULF PORT (Tanker) to Gibraltar. CAP PINEDE (Fr) and M.S. TASAJERO to Oran. FINTRA did not sail. (Cdre. Algiers, 1759A/24).

M.W.21

Propose using following ships for M.W.21 required to be loaded by 14th Feb. KAIKOURA PANAMA, SUTHERLAND if latter not ready to load in time propose to replace by ORNA. Request your immediate confirmation. Agree Murrant. (P.S.T.O. M.E., 1825/24 to D.S.T.)

/Allocation...

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Allocation of ocean going tonnage for Benghazi, Tripoli etc.

Your O221/21st. Conditions at Tripoli (Libya) not yet clear and will reply fully as soon as possible. Meanwhile AGWISTAR and EDWARD EVERETT being used for one voyage motor transport and tanks to Cyprus and (Turkey?) respectively to be released on completion. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL will not repeat not now be required. Request you inform B.A.D. Washington. Agreed.
(P.S.T.O. M.E., 1832/24 to D. of S.T.)

E.A.C. Africa report.

Operational Summary No. 74 covering period 1800/22 to 1800/23.

A. Operations. Night 22/23 Souk el Arba. 4 Beaufighters sorties flown in Bone Area. 2 Enemy raids (No. unknown) over Bone. Second raid flew very low over harbour. No bomb reports. Mine-laying suspected. 2 E/A detected no contact made.

F. 12th A.F. (U.S.) 23 B.17s escorted by 23 P.38s attacked Bizerta Naval Base and Shipping in immediate vicinity 2 large M/Vs were sighted and attacked 96 500 lb. bombs were dropped from 23000 ft. and 1 M/V received direct hit and was seen to break up and sink hits or many near misses were seen on the second vessel. 15 or 20 Me. 109s attacked the formation. 3 Me.s were destroyed 3 probably destroyed and 4 damaged.

Intense heavy accurate flak encountered, 12 B.17s attacked Bizerta Naval Base at 1145 hours dropping 142 x 500. Bursts were seen on hangars, workshops and oil tanks. 75 to 100 E/A were encountered. 25 or 30* Me. 109s destroyed 4 probably destroyed and 3 were damaged.

(E.A.C. Africa, 1835A/24).

*W.D. Note. 12th A.F. 1705Z/24 says 16 E/A destroyed.

Part 4 my A.300. 5 B.26 escorted by 12 P.38s attacked shipping off Tunisia attacks were made on small freighters or barges, direct hits and near misses were observed, 1 ship exploded, 1 caught fire and capsized and another was listing when last sighted. 1 Cant. Z.1007 flew straight in formation and was destroyed.

G. Attacks on shipping. See paras. A. and F. Message ends.

(E.A.C. Africa, 1918A/24).

Day 22nd. 4 500 squadron and 2 608 squadron A/C A/S sweep, a U-boat sighted but immediately submerged and even swirl had disappeared when aircraft reached area. Baiting tactics adopted for 1 hour with no results. 1 Hudson searched area for 4 hours but no sightings.

Part 4. 12th U.S. A.F. 6 B.26s escorted by 12 P.38s attacked shipping between Tunisia and Sicily a freighter was hit on stern and amidships and when last seen was listing.

(E.A.C. Africa, 1930A/24).

P.212

(1) Your escort will be M.L.336.
(2) 3 Landing craft arriving Algiers at 0900/26th from eastward.
(Capt. (S) 8, 1902A/24 to P.212)

War Diary.24.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Explosion at Malta. Explosion occurred at 1555/24 in dock magazine apparently due to spontaneous combustion of smoke generators which were in the second magazine from the entrance. Known loss appears to be confined to smoke generators and primers. Magazine passage is partially blocked about 100 feet from entrance. There appears to be no further danger. No casualties. Further report will be made.
(V.A. Malta, 1957A/24) See 1524/25.

E.T.9 X. E.T.9 X 5 hours early. E.T.A. off Oran 1800A/25th (VANOC, 2001A/24).

Algiers, air report. 1. Bizerta Naval Base and shipping in immediate vicinity bombed by B.17s at 1140 hours. One large merchant vessel sunk, another damaged by direct hits, also harbour installations were badly damaged. The formation was engaged by approx. 80 enemy aircraft. Incomplete reports indicate 28 Me. 109s destroyed, 7 probables and 9 damaged. No losses.
2. B.26s attacked shipping off Tunis at 1340 hours. One freighter damaged, two barges or small freighters destroyed. One CZ 1007 plane destroyed. One B.26 one P.38 missing.
3. Wellingtons bombed Bizerta with excellent results at 2045 hours.
(Algiers 2440Z/24).

Malta C.S.R. AI 576 24th Jan.
Part 1. Offensive. Night 23/24th Jan. 2 special Wellingtons 6 torpedo carrying Wellingtons 2 Beauforts with torpedoes and 2 Beauforts with bombs took part in successful attack on convoy sighted by Baltimore 1515 hrs. see Part 3. Special Wellingtons sighted convoy at 1955 hrs. consisting of 1 M/V 4,000 tons 1 M/V 4/5000 tons and 2 D/Rs 345° Ustica 30 miles course 180° 6 knots and dropped flares for striking force. Strike Wellingtons aimed 2 torpedoes at M/V 4,000 tons scoring direct hit amidships and causing column of water and steam. Beauforts then aimed 2 torpedoes at same M/V scoring 1 hit and causing large explosion. Beauforts also dropped 8 250 lb. bombs on D/R scoring at least 1 direct hit and silencing its A/A fire. At 0100 hrs. 1 Wellington aimed 2 torpedoes at second M/V 4/500 tons scoring 1 hit and causing M/V to burst into flames and break in two. Mosquito on intruder patrol in Ustica area saw both M/Vs burning fiercely. 1 Beaufort was attacked by a Ju.88 but not damaged. Intense flak was encountered from D/Rs. and 1 Wellington is missing. Meanwhile as diversion for shipping strike 3 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols on Ustica area. One attacked 1 of 5 ships sighted at 2229 hrs. 290° Cape Bon 30 miles and set the bridge on fire. Mosquito and 6 Spitfires over Sicily. Another 3 Mosquitoes on intruder patrols in East Tunisia strafed 4 ships near Pantellaria.

/Day...

24.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta C.S.R.
Contd.

Day 24th Jan. 11 Spitfire bombers escorted by 14 fighter Spitfires attacked Porto Empedocle at 1230 hrs. scoring hits on buildings adjoining power station and transformer and on railway.

4 of escorting Spitfires attacked power station scoring many strikes with cannon and machine guns. 8 Spitfires provided rear cover for returning bombers. 4 Beaufighters on offensive sweep against enemy shipping off Tunisian coast found a northbound schooner carrying deck cargo 3 miles south of Nahdia and made repeated attacks with cannon and machine gun scoring many strikes. 1 Beaufighter was damaged by striking mast of schooner but landed safely in Algeria.

Part 2. Enemy Air Activity. Day 24th Jan. 12 Spitfires were airborne for raiders which approached Malta but turned back before reaching coast.
(Malta 2051/24).

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

F.S. LEOPARD Concur with your 1647/23rd.
(C. in C. E.F. 0656Z/24 to Admty.)

E.F. weekly disposition signal No. 20. (A), (B), (C) no change (D) BIRMINGHAM at Durban HAWKINS due Bombay 25th CAPETOWN (?to) Masirah others no change. (E) Nil.
(C. in C. E.F. 0820Z/24).

BOLD Your 1110/22. Rescue Tug BOLD now at Durban completing soon will be sailing for Colombo when ready.
(C. in C. E.F. 0912Z/24 to F.O. Ceylon (R) Admty.)

B.M. 38 Departure MARYBOROUGH with ?B M 38. Details.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0841Z/24, 0950Z/24, 0952Z/24 to Admty.)
(S.O.I. Bombay 0922Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

Jan. 24th Intelligence Summary No. 315. (A) Jan. 23. 2 Hudsons attacked river steamers north of Danson Bay small craft Singaung and South of Sebok. Night Jan. 23/24.
(D) Enemy effort. Ref Summary No. 314 Jan. 23. 18 B (Baker) escort 4 F (Fox) attached Chittagong (1200) hrs. Jan 23. 11 Hurricanes intercepted. One E/A destroyed one probable.
(A.H.Q. India 1202Z/24 to Air Min.)

Movements. Colombo arrivals 24th Jan. 0130Z MARGUERITE 0500Z H.N.M.Sub. O. 24, 0530Z TULIP.
Departures Nil 21st, 22nd, 23rd, blank.
(F.O. Ceylon 1254Z/24 to Admty. etc.)
Arrival 24th G. Q R B. RECORDER.
(N.O.I.C. Tamatave 1330Z/24 to Admty etc.)

War Diary.24.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

TARIA, (Corrupt group) TARIA, Dutch. In Convoy H.X.224
H.X.224. returned New York Jan. 23rd. Amend both parts
my sailing despatch.
(Port Director New York, 0036Z/24 to Admty.)

O.N.S.160. O.N.S.160 badly scattered. Commodore reports
VILLE DE TAMATAVE on beam end. Am searching
but fear rescue work impracticable. Ship hardly
may manage. Estimated position 050° 17', 040° 55'.

(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 0038Z/24 to Connav, (R) CAMPANULA, SALIS-
BURY, C.T.F.24, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7.)

O.N.S.160. Cannot contact POLYANTHUS. WAVENEY, PRIMROSE
have no ships adrift. LAGAN, MORDEN one each. SHERWOOD 3
including FAIRWATER with steering gear broken beyond repair
requests tug. MORDEN reports dangerous stability and 4 days
fuel remaining proceeding St. Johns N.F. In R/T contact with
SALISBURY, CAMPANULA. WAVENEY almost hove to course 250°
(5010 4120 1862 7169).

(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1225Z/24 to A.I.G.301, (R) CAMPANULA,
MIGNONETTE, SALISBURY.)

My 1225Z/24. Am now in wireless touch with POLYANTHUS.
(C.T.U.24.1.12, 1415Z/24 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24, Admty.,
etc.)

O.N.S.160 apparent situation. Weather moderated. CAMPANULA
MIGNONETTE, SALISBURY not met. All homing on PERTH. Other
escorts as follows.

(A) WAVENEY nothing in sight. Searching eastward. 7 days fuel.

(B) LAGAN in contact EMPIRE OPOSSUM. Steering north to search
for remainder. Ample fuel.

(C) SHERWOOD sustained some damage hove to for repairs. 4 days
fuel.

PRIMROSE, MORDEN 3 merchant ships in vicinity. (Corrupt group)
damaged, FAIRWATER.

(D) PRIMROSE 7 days fuel. Directed to stand by FAIRWATER.

(E) MORDEN 4 days and stability doubtful. Proceeding to
destination.

POLYANTHUS boiler fan trouble previously reported. 4.4 days
fuel. Her observed position 1500Z was 049° 33' 041° 20'.
Proceeding to destination. Has sighted THRAKI one tanker and one
other. Fear losses of VILLE DE TAMATAVE and possibly MAPLEWOOD.
Suggest broadcast following 1200Z R/V to all ships. 25th 048°
52' 041' (22' or 55'). 26th 047° 35' 044° 10'.

(C.T.U.24.1.12, 1734Z/24 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24, Admty.,
C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7,
Ships escorting O.N.S.160, CAMPANULA, MIGNONETTE, MATAPEDIA,
SALISBURY.

C.M.O.E. T.U's 24.1.12's 1225/24. Our only rescue tug
TENACITY now towing IMPERIAL MONARCH to St. Johns should arrive
here a.m. 25th. Nothing else available for FAIRWATER.

(F.O.N.F., 1746Z/24 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, (R) C. in C.
W.A., Comtask 24, SALISBURY, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. Mid Ocean
Escort T.U. 24.1.12, C.O.A.C.)

PRIMROSE has relieved me screening SS. FAIRWATER steering
borken down and awaiting tug position 050° 06' 040° 11' at
2100/24. Estimate drift eastward 2 knots. Am proceeding St.

/Johns ...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

O.N.S.160. Johns N.F., short of fuel. PRIMROSE has 7 days
(Contd.) fuel remaining. Weather report.
(SHERWOOD, 2331Z/24 to M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.12, (R)
A.I.G.301, A.I.G.302, PRIMROSE.)

Am standing by FAIRWATER whose steering gear is completely disabled.

My position 2200Z/(?24) 050° 18' N. 040° 18' W. estimated drifting 090° one knot. Weather report.
(PRIMROSE, 2345Z/24 to Connav, (R) M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.12.)

H.X.223. Following R/V for stragglers has been broadcast "stragglers R/V for 1500Z/24 in 058° 50' N. 041° 05' W. and for 1500Z/25 in 061° 02' N. 037° 30' W."

(Connav, 0121/24 to M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, Admty.)
D/F transmission at 2206Z, 2306Z, 2328Z all on 4600 k/cs indicate enemy S/Ms your vicinity, 2328Z may be (? departing).
(Cominch, 0146/24 to M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. Jan. 23rd. Arrivals KENTVILLE escorting H.J.29. Halifax, SARNIA towing motor minesweeper. Departures MEDICINE HAT to O.N.161, SALISBURY to O.N.160, SARNIA to assist and escort H.M.R.T. TENACITY towing SS. IMPERIAL MONARCH.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 0411Z/24 to Admty.)

Arrival 24th Jan. U.S. Minesweeper Y.M.S.33 and U.S.

Armed Launch Q.20.

(Harbour Master Barbados, 0815/24 to Admty.)

Arrival 23rd, U.S. Army Transport LEISERING escorted by Y.P.428.

(R.N.O. Nassau, 1030/24 to Admty.)

S/M Estimate Modify my 1500/23 (circulated under T.O.O. 1602/23)
24th, U.S. Cancel movement of O.7.

S/M Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0625/24, 1523/24, 1524/24, 1610/24, 1611Z/24, 1612/24.)

S/M Estimate This is C.E.S.F.'s 0139/24 addressed to all
and inform- commands concerned with submarine reports in the
ation. E.S.F., Gulf Sea Frontier, Panama Sea Frontier
(Atlantic) and Caribbean Sea Frontier west of 55°
W. and informs as follows:

Submarine estimate for information escort commanders K.N., N.K., G.N. and N.G. convoys.

One 25.05 N. 73.25 W. at 0605Q/23 attacked by FOOTE.

One 23.00 N. 78.55 W. at 1740Q/23 attacked by P.Ts.

One 21.50 N. 76.40 W. sighted by plane at 1030Q/23 course 140.
(Connaveu, 0914/24 to Admty.)

S.C.L.116, My 0610/24 (N.T. in W.D.) GOVERNOR MILLPORT LIND
(GOVERNOR arrived at 1045Z/24.
MILLPORT (C.T.G.24.6, 1045Z/24 to C.T.F.24, (R) Connav,
LIND.) Admty., etc.)

/REGENT ...

War Diary.

24.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.- Contd.

- REGENT. P.C. and S. at 1800 G.M.T./24 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 55° W.,
085°, 11.
(D.O.D.(F), 1130Z/24.)
My 2122/21, para. 2. Amend time of shifting W/T watch to read
1700Z/27.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 1653Z/24 to REGENT, (R) Admty.)
- K.M.S. 8. Ships and destinations.
(D.T.D., 1255Z/24 to Connav.)
- U/B. U-Boat sighted by aircraft in 04° 35' N. 09° 54'
W. at 1058/24. Proceeded to north-west before
submerging.
(F.O.C.W.At., 1357Z/24 to Ships in Area P.2 and
P.3, (R) Admty.)
- BEVERLEY. My P.C. and S. at 1500Z 048° 41' N. 045° 46' W.
255° 10.5 knots en route St. Johns N.F. to fuel.
weather report.
(BEVERLEY, 1502Z/24 to C.T.F.24.)
- R.-A. Donald This is my 1215/24. R.-A. Donald (?B.) Beary
Beary, sailing U.S.N. sailing in U.S.S POLARIS. Propose sailing
in POLARIS, POLARIS under escort to join O.N.162. Please
O.N. 162. advise.
(C.T.G.24.6, 1520Z/24 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1520/24. Agree. Suggest POLARIS joins in
position (V) amended route was passed to A.C.I.C. in my
0933/24.
(C. in C. W.A., 1820Z/24 to C.T.G.24.6, (R) Admty., etc.)
- KING A.M. 1302/28 Oct. is it the intention of the
HAAKON VII. Norwegian Admty. to return KING HAAKON VII for
service in Canadian waters on completion of A.
and A.s.
(N.S.H.Q., 1716Z/24 to Admty.)
- S.C.117. TILEMACHOS (Greek), R.E. HOPKINS (U.S.), DAGHILD
(Nor.) straggler ex S.C.117.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns, 1801Z/24 to Admty.)
- M.M.S. 102, Kingston Jamaica departure M.M.S.102, 103, 105,
103, 105, 106, 107, E.T.A. Trinidad 0800Q/29.
106, 107. (N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica, 1800/24 to Admty.,
(R) B.A.D., etc.)
- LONE STAR LONE STAR damaged number 5 hold in collision
(U.S.) ex H.X.223.
collision. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1802Z/24 to Admty.)

War Diary.24.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Bermuda Movements. Arrivals (L) 177, 99, 102, 174, 176, 178, 242, 243, 245, 246, 247, 175, U.S.S. MURPHY JEFFERS, MATTOLE and MORENO. Departure U.S.S. MURPHY JEFFERS, OWL and DYNAMIC. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 1902Z/24 to Admty.)

ORILLIA. E.T.A. 0030Z/25 boiler hours number one 442 2 358. Urgent A/S defect. P.C. and S. 048° 02' N. 051° 22' W. 240°, 12 weather. (ORILLIA, 2000Z/24 to F.O.N.F.)

Escorts Situation. Ref. your 1354Z/24 (N.T. in W.D.) VANESSA and VIMY at Boston for repairs. GENTIAN and HEATHER en route join O.N.161. CAMPANULA and MIGNONETTE to join O.N.160. SWEETBRIAR departed Argentina 1900Z/24 join S.C.117. Reinforcing O.N.160 and 161 necessitated due mid ocean escorts those convoys being detached because fuel shortage prior reaching position where Western local could relieve. Heavy weather preventing mid ocean escorts refuelling, considerable lengthening voyage of convoys as presently routed, limited radius of many Western local escorts, non-availability excessively large number M.S.F. ships due refits and defects. All combine to create critical situation in escorting westbound convoys between approx. 40 and 50 West. (C.T.F.24, 2019A/24 to C., in C. W.A., (R) F.O.N.F., Connnav, Admty., Cinclant.)

STALKER. My 2058Z/21. Probable departure date STALKER now 30th. (C.W.S.F., 2030Z/24 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. C. Army Transport plane sighted sub. 14.45 N. 63.35 W. 1800Z/23. Action to Admty. for O.I.C. from Cominch. Para. D. U.S.S. FOOTE attacks sound contact 25.06 N. 73.23 W. 1005Z/23. K.-33 (? had) contacts and SS. CHERRY VALLEY attacks 39.55 N. 70.50 W. 2030Z/23. (Cominch, 2045/24 to Admty.)

ASPHODEL. My 2000Z. P.C. and S. 048° 18' N. 048° 56' W. (S) 253°, 11 knots. Expect to arrive 0930Z/25. (ASPHODEL, 2341Z/24 to F.O.N.F.) Amended 0945Z/25.

War Diary.24.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

C.O.65. Sydney portion C.O.65 sailed 23rd comprising two ships CARADALE bound Melbourne and FALKEFJEL bound Abadan.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, 2331Z/24 to Admty., (R) Connnav.)

Digest
Serial
No. 367,
Jan. 23rd.

R/C noon 23rd Jan. saw two transports, two destroyers 5° 45' S. 153° 50' E. course 21, speed 10 knots also two vessel probably one destroyer, one cargo vessel 5° 35' S. 154° 29' E. course 21, speed 10 knots. One medium cargo vessel stationary Buka passage. One heavy cruiser 5° 17' S. 156° 04' E. course 180°, speed 3 knots. Air activity

Buka passage continues.

(2) 8 Fortresses bombed shipping Rabaul Harbour, Vunakanau and Lakunai Aerodromes before dawn. Nil hits claimed on shipping fuel dump fired Vunakanau. Sighted three merchant vessels and one possible light cruiser St. George's Channel headed Rabaul. Single Liberator during morning scored direct hit five near misses on 12,000 ton transport Simpson Harbour and stooped another 8000 tonner with two near misses outside harbour. Reported over fifty ships in harbour.

(3) Another Liberator bombed warehouse Madang and houses Finschaffan during morning. Reported Cape Gloucester strip possibly ready for fighters.

(4) A.m. R/C sighted five small vessels all stationary spread between Gasmata and Arawe.

(5) Afternoon Liberator sighted one destroyer, three transports ten miles off Wewak course north. (From G.H.Q. S.W.P.A.) encountered eighteen Zeros destroying three certain plus two probable.

(6) During morning six B.25s bombed supplies Lae starting fires including possible fuel dump.

(7) Four Beaufighters on morning offensive Waria River to Salamaua strafed huts and sank barge. Later four Beaufighters swept coast Kumusi to Salamaua strafing barges and boats. Starting noon three Bostons bombed and strafed Mubo to Salamaua track. Enemy patrol fifty strong moving S.W. from Mubo 21st Jan.

(8) Mopping up occasional stragglers continues Sanananda area otherwise ground fighting has ceased.

(9) Approx. 100 Japanese patrolling south of Madang. Some at Kumiang (fifty miles south Madang).

(10) Milne Bay raided twice before dawn 23rd by probably two and six aircraft. Some casualties and material damage.

(11) Port Moresby bombed twice night 22nd/23rd Jan. No damage or casualties reported.

(12) Four Beaufighters strafed Fuiloro strip morning 23rd.

(13) One float-plane bombed Merauke during morning causing no damage.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0747Z/24.)

Movements.

Departure Vila U.S.S. SOLACE for Auckland, E.T.A. 1800Z/27.

(D.N.I. Wellington, 1830Z/24 to Admty.)

War Diary.

24.1.1943.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1427A/24, 1436A/24.)

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.25.1.1943.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

A further 8 A/S trawlers, making 12 in all, are allocated to North Russian convoys and are to be based at Belfast and administered by F.O.C.N.I.

P.53 sailed from Lerwick at 1445A today for position 71° 21' N. 20° 20' E.

SCHARNHORST,
PRINZ EUGEN.

An aircraft at 1335 today reported 2 enemy cruisers and 5 destroyers 45 miles west of the Skaw steering 100° at 25 knots. At 1415 they were reported to be steering 294°. (D.O.R.1256 states that 23 torpedo carrying Hampdens took off to attack the enemy, but did not locate them before reaching the limit of their endurance.) A B.2 report states that HIPPER, KÖLN and 3 destroyers anchored in Fiskfjord (68.34 N. 15.20 E.) today.

CORNCRAKE,
(K.M.S.8)

The controlled minelayer CORNCRAKE, a straggler and out of touch since dark 23rd January from Convoy K.M.S.8 was reported sinking in 55.10 N. 13.30 (120 miles west of Bloody Foreland) at 0913A today. LANDGUARD (S.O. of Escort) detached LONDONDERRY and also ordered REGINA to search for her, but REGINA was not reported sailing from Londonderry until 1709A today. At 1045Z today LANDGUARD reported that he had detached LONDONDERRY to stand by CORNCRAKE who is in danger of sinking and C. in C. W.A. diverted to her assistance a Sunderland aircraft en route to K.M.S.8. A Fortress is to assist in the search tomorrow.

C. in C. W.A. reports that the continued high percentage of failure of air escorts to meet convoys causes anxiety.

12 Bostons with fighter escort and target support attacked the docks at Flushing today.

A few bombs were dropped at Poole early this afternoon. Some slight naval damage was caused ashore.

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT."Torch" Area.Special
"Torch"
tanker
convoys.

In order to meet a substantial portion of the Allied requirements of petroleum products in the "Torch" area the C. in C. U.S. Fleet is completing arrangements to despatch two groups of 6 13½ knot tankers, each group escorted by 3 destroyers. These will be in addition to tankers in regular U.G.S. convoys, thus eliminating future bulk oil requirements from the U.K. to "Torch" area. It is planned to operate these vessels regularly, but not east of Gibraltar.* The first special group movement is scheduled to leave the Caribbean about 20th February and thereafter every 25 days.
* Later this decision was reversed (see 5th Feb.)

North Atlantic.

ADVENTURE arrived at Gibraltar this morning from the U.K. with mining gear for the Mediterranean.

Mediterranean.

Nine mines were cut in the approaches to Tripoli (L) today.

NUBIAN and JAVELIN transported 600 R.A.F. personnel from Benghazi to Malta last night. SS. PRINCESS KATHLEEN completed the move of about 3000 personnel from Tobruk to Benghazi between 16th and 25th January.

Black Sea.

N.L.O. Black Sea reports much increase in the number of convoys between Roumania and Sevastopol/Feodosia. There are no signs of the enemy withdrawing from the Tuapse area. Black Sea naval aircraft have carried out large scale air raids on Novorossisk, Kerch, Tihoretsk, Tiltskaya and Ahtirskaya. In Kerch dockyard several small craft have been sunk and considerable damage caused ashore.

/At ...

899

25.1.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

At 1125 today an aircraft of the 12th U.S.A.F. depth charged a U-Boat about 48 miles north-east of Oran, bringing much debris to the surface. A destroyer and aircraft were sent to search the area, but by 1730 no further information had been received.

East Indies.

A convoy of 3 or 4 river steamers and a few tugs sailing up the Arakan coast attacked the Thade River today.

An R.I.N. patrol vessel rammed and sank an enemy launch in Mayu Estuary last night: the enemy casualties are estimated at 50.

America and West Indies.

S.C.117.

It is considered that a heavy U-Boat attack on Convoy S.C.117 is impending. At 0800 the convoy was estimated to be in 54.33 N. 48.30 W. The convoy is being shadowed, and 20 or more U-Boats may be between latitudes 55° 01' and 56° 59' and longitudes 39° 02' and 47° 58'. SS. IMPERIAL MONARCH who lost her rudder and rudder post, was towed to St. Johns N.F. and arrived at 0753/25 January by TENACITY escorted by SARNIA. The tanker KARABAGH put back to St. Johns N.F. today.

H.X.223.

CITY OF LYONS and LONE STAR both arrived at St. Johns N.F. today with collision damage. KOLLBJORG broke in two yesterday in 59.9 N. 40.28 W. and became a total loss. An unidentified ship is reported to have been torpedoed about 1525Z today in 59.54 N. 39.00 W. SS. FORT LA MAUNE (New York to Clyde) was reported in distress, estimated position at 1430Z/25 59.41 N. 42.29 W. hove to. MANSFIELD searched for her unsuccessfully; she considered there were at least 3 U-Boats in the area.

/MANSFIELD ...

War Diary.

25.1.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

H.X.223.
(Contd.)

MANSFIELD left the area at prudent limit of endurance at 1601Z/27, without finding trace of FORT LA MAUNE.

SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH with personnel for U.S.A. arrived at New York this evening from the U.K.

Australia and New Zealand.

Eight Fortresses bombed shipping in Rabaul harbour from a low level at midnight/24th January and hit one unidentified vessel whilst a second was seen to explode.

Three Fortresses attacked shipping and a runway in the Kokopo area (New Britain) where 3 new jetties have been constructed.

Enemy troops are reported to have landed from 4 barges near the mouth of the Waria River (south of Morobe Harbour) last night.

Our M.T.Bs last night attacked 4 enemy barges south of the Kumasi River, destroying 3, whilst the fourth was beached.

25.1.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Treatment of French Warships & M/Vs by U.S.A. Forces. Cominch's 1501/24 addressed to Cinclant, Comso-westpacfor, all Sea Frontier Commands, Comso-eastpacfor for action and Comnav and Vice Opnav for information, informs as follows:- For guidance in the treatment of French warships and French merchant shipping the following instructions are issued:- (A) Action taken should be in accordance with Admty. 1510/14 which is being sent to action addressees of this message for dissemination, within British strategic areas. (B) Unless sailing under the control of the U.S., British, Free French or French Authorities in North and West Africa, or a voyage of a Vichy French ship approved by the State Dept., they must be regarded suspiciously and, in the case of merchant ships, they should be sent to the nearest U.S. port under armed guard or escort, when within U.S. strategic areas. Cominch will issue appropriate advance notice to forces afloat in the case of a voyage of a Vichy French ship approved by the State Dept. Unless a submarine notice has been issued by U.S. or Allied Authority, treat any French submarine as hostile. (Comnav, 251051 to Admty.)

North Russian Convoy Trawlers. Base & Administration. The following A/S Trawlers allocated to North Russian convoys are to be based at Belfast and administered by F.O.I.C.N.I. (3) The following trawlers also allocated to North Russian convoys are already based at Belfast. (C. in C. W.A., 1109A/25.)

Scapa. A.P. Drifters. To save labour and material required to fit M.F.Vs LAILA and NJORD for service in Auxiliary Patrols Scapa, intend to retain these vessels in Drifter Pool and to allocate instead M.F.Vs ESCALLONIA and GROUVILLE from the pool. The latter vessels are already fitted for service in the Auxiliary patrol and were so employed prior to October 1941. (A.C.O.S., 1741/25 to Admty.)

Movements.

P.225,
P. 53. S.3's 0945/22 arrived.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1055A/25.)

GURNARD. Sailed GURNARD escorted by CUTTY SARK in accordance with Comsubron 50 1545A/23.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1208A/25.)

ORWELL. Sail at 1800 tomorrow and proceed by searched channels to Scapa, adjusting speed to arrive by 0800/27.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1301/25 to ORWELL.)

H.32. Arrival H.32.
(C. in C. Nore, 1418A/25.)

North Atlantic dispositions. My 1645A/22.
Area Scapa: Delete BERWICK. Add SUSSEX.
(D.O.D.H., 1611A/25 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- P.219. Sailed P.219 escorted by BRYONY in accordance with S.3's 1027A/23.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1818A/25.)
- S/M Positions. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/25 and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) P.224, P.314, TRIDENT in North Norwegian waters East of 20° E.
(B) P.216 patrol vicinity 63° 20' N. 06° 44' E.
(C) O.15 patrol in vicinity 63° 08' N. 06° 44' E.
(D) SOKOL patrol vicinity 62° 31' N. 05° 23' E.
(E) JUNON patrol in vicinity 62° 27' N. 05° 04' E.
(F) P.53, 62° 30' N. 01° 35' E. probably on surface towards 68° 59' N. 11° 01' E.
(G) HERRING in zone K.505.
(H) SHAD off Bilbao.
(J) GURNARD escorted by CUTTY SARK 51° 56' N. 05° 48' W., due 360° Round Island Scillies 7 miles 2300/26, thence unescorted diving by day through 50° 01' N. 09° 30' W.
(K) P.219 escorted by BRYONY 56° 35' N. 07° 12' W. via Minches 10 knots to Scapa. E.T.A. 0800/27.
(F.O.S., 1629A/25 to Admty.)
- H.34. Intend sailing H.34 escorted by AQUAMARINE from Lough Foyle 0600A/27, by standard routes to Rothesay. Speed 8½ knots, E.T.A. 1800A/27.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1752A/25.)
- TORBAY. Delay engine defects now made good. My P.C.S. at 2300/25, 044° 36' N. 013° 24' W., 8 knots.
(TORBAY, 2306A/25.)

Operations.

- E-Boats engaged by WINDSOR and MENDIP. Coastal Force recalled now, returning via number 4 Buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 0153A/25 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)
Weather unsuitable. Proceeding to anchor off Rough. E.T.A. 0545.
(Capt. D.21, 0255A/25 to C. in C. Nore.)
Report of E-Boat activity night 24th/25th.
1. As deterioration in weather was expected about midnight C/Fs were disposed to meet early attack in Yarmouth area. Air patrol also arranged from 1830 close east of mine barrier.
 2. Two groups of E-Boats operated, one between 55A and 4 Buoys the other between 4 and 3C Buoys. Southern Group passed south of M.L.146 and 147 at Z.12 being detected by H.E. at 1905. E-Boats must therefore have left harbour at 1600 at latest thus crossing air patrol line before aircraft reached their patrol.
 3. WINDSOR on No.6 patrol twice engaged Southern Group first near 3C Buoy at 2006 and again East of 4 Buoy at 2100. Hits observed in both actions. In second action observation and R.D.F. indicated one E-Boat possibly destroyed.

25.1.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E-Boats engaged by WINDSOR and MENDIP. (Contd.)

4. MENDIP (D.21) engaged Northern Group at 2100 4 miles N.E. of 4 Buoy. Hits are claimed.
5. C/Fs although showing good anticipation did not get into action owing partially to indifferent weather conditions limiting the visibility from them.

6. Minelaying not suspected. Four aircraft appear to have been working with E-Boats.* It appears almost certain that E-Boats intended torpedo attack on F.N.26 near 4 Buoy as on night 5th/6th. Owing to fog convoy left Southend $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours late and so were not found by E-Boats. It is clear from all reports that E-Boats were roughly handled by the destroyers, groups being split up and not given a chance to reform. They left the area about 2200. C/Fs operating off Ijmuiden and Hook did not make contact with returning E-Boats, bad weather being largely responsible for this.

7. R.D.F. conditions appeared good, all East Anglian K sets obtaining plots. There is every reason to suppose that if E-Boats had approached an unguarded stretch of the war channel invaluable R.D.F. information would have been supplied by those sets.

(C. in C. Nore, 1718A/25 to Admty.)

* See also D.N.I. 1616A/30 to C. in C. Nore.

Coastal Patrols.

1. Intend M.L.123 (S.O.) and R.M.L.523 to patrol tonight on latitude $50^{\circ} 20'$ N. between $01^{\circ} 30'$ W. and $02^{\circ} 05'$ W. Details. Codeword "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1043A/25.)

My 1033A/25 sailing of M.Ls cancelled on account of weather. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1425A/25.)

My 1043A/25. Cancelled on account of weather. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1605A/25.)

Operation "Valuable".

Tonight 25th/26th.

(1) Force A consisting of GLAISDALE (S.O.), ESKDALE, GOATHLAND, BLEASDALE, MELBREAK patrolling south of Beachy Head as in para. 4 of my 1000/20.

Force A passing E.A5 buoy inwards at 0600/26.

Force B at Newhaven to consist of M.G.Bs 616 (S.O.), 613 and M.T.Bs 89 (S.O.), 85.

(2) M.L.123, R.M.L.523 patrolling $050^{\circ} 20'$ N. between $001^{\circ} 30'$ W. and $002^{\circ} 05'$ W.

(3) UNST, LORD WAKEFIELD, Chasseur 11 at Saint Helens and KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth Rd. (I.o.W.)

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1337A/25 and 1347A/25.)

P.53 Patrol.

P.53 left Lerwick 1445A/25 unescorted and on the surface at C.O's discretion until within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast then diving by day. Routed through $062^{\circ} 00'$ N. $001^{\circ} 01'$ E. then by route

"Orange" to $071^{\circ} 02'$ N. $016^{\circ} 56'$ E., thence direct to waiting position $071^{\circ} 21'$ N. $020^{\circ} 20'$ E.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1449/25.)

25.1.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Failures of Air Escorts to meet Convoys. The continued high percentage of failure of air escorts to meet convoys involving waste of effort and loss of security causes anxiety.

2. Aids to navigation provided by W/T homing and R.D.F. beacons must be exploited to the full. Results with some noticeable exceptions continue to be disappointing.

3. The attention of S.Os of escort group and Commanding Officers is invited to W.A.S.O.213, W.A.G.O.0334 and W.A.G.M. 512N of 3rd Jan. 1943. They are to ensure that these and relevant instructions are understood by all Officers and ratings concerned. The importance of passing D/F bearings to aircraft immediately in P/L 3 figure groups is to be emphasised.

4. All H/F D/F sets are to be calibrated on 6666 k/cs. Calibration on 3925 k/cs should be arranged when time permits. Any ship fitted H/F D/F but not at present calibrated on both these frequencies is to report by signal.
(C. in C. W.A., 1754A/25.)

Codeword "Patrick". A.C.I.C. 2131/20, para. 1. Concur. Para. 2. Should shore authority ordering the sweep have urgent reason unknown to S.O. of Escort for the sweep not being interfered with, this contingency could also be covered in briefing instructions. Para. 3. Intend codeword "Patrick" be introduced into W.A.E.C. with the meaning suggested by A.C.I.C.
(C. in C. W.A., 1904A/25 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Sandbanks bombed. Two requisitioned houses damaged by bombs, former beyond repair, latter repairable.

2. Raid at 1347/25 by four aircraft including one F.W.190. Four bombs dropped.
(Sandbanks, 1600/25, 1824A/27 to Admty.)

Following is report on air raid on Sandbanks, Poole Harbour at 1345/25 during heavy rain squall, visibility 400 yards. 5. F.W.190s flying at sea level crossed coast rising to 300 feet and circling round W.S.S. Sandbanks returned to south. Following H.Es estimated 500 Kgs. were dropped.

(1) On East Wing Haven Hotel damaging A.A site, killing 1 R.M. injuring about 12 other slightly.

(2) On 2 houses accommodating personnel of R.N.A.S. 1 house destroyed, 1 badly damaged. Only 1 slight casualty.

(3) In sea between R.N.A.S. and Brownsea Island. Exploded near examination vessel ROGER ROBERT. No damage.

(4) On shore near Studland. No damage reported. No civilian casualties reported.

ROGER ROBERT fired 50 rounds Hotchkiss. A/A sites, 3 rounds 3.7, 4 rounds 40 m.m. and 47 rounds of small arms. Results now known.

Naval telephone line from W.S.S. to 347 Bty. Brownsea Island out of order.
(N.O.I.C. Poole, 1645/26.)

/Enemy ...

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Sandbanks
bombed.
(Contd.)Enemy air action. Following casualties are notified.
Time of incident 1340/25th.
(R.M. Light A/A Regt., 2145/25 to Admty.)Murmansk
bombed
on 24th
January.During raid 1300C/24 BEAUCHAMP and EL OCEANO were dive-bombed in Inlet. No damage to ships or casualties. EL OCEANO believed to have shot down one plane but this is not yet confirmed. Three other nuisance raids without incident.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 2010C/25 to Admty.)Mining.

Q.Z.X.867.

Mines swept yesterday in Q.Z.X.867. One German Z in 51° 11' N. 01° 48' E. Three further drifting "Z" type mines were sunk by rifle fire.
(V.A. Dover, 1008A/25 to Admty.)Search
off Iona.Intend DORNOCH be taken in hand for boiler cleaning forthwith and that four ships on 16th M.S.F. proceed to Moville p.m. tomorrow, sailing to arrive Area and R/V with trawlers at daylight 27th to begin clearance at 20 fathoms in accordance with your 1727A/22.
(M/S.16, 1500A/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)3 M.Ls to
Felixstowe.Request you will sail 3 M.Ls of 1st Flotilla fitted for laying "A" mark I - 4 mines to Felixstowe on 28th Jan. Asdic domes should be unshipped before sailing.
(C. in C. Nore, 1814A/25 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)Operation
Q.L.9.Prepare to carry out operation Q.L.9 with available M.Ls of 51st and 1st M.L. Flotillas on 30th Jan. or next suitable night.
(C. in C. Nore, 1816A/25 to BEEHIVE.)Enemy Intelligence.Enemy Force
off Skaw.Two cruisers, five destroyers position 270° Skaw 45 miles, course 100°, 25 knots. Enemy has altered course to 100°.
(A/C 5RV Duty 'S', 1335/25 to 18 Group.)

2 enemy cruisers and 5 destroyers P.C. and S. are 270° Skaw 45, course 294°, 25 knots.

(A/C 5RV Duty 'S', 1415/25 to 18 Group.)

Reported at 1415/25 two enemy cruisers and five destroyers steering 294° speed 25 knots in position 270° the Skaw 45 miles.
(F.O.S., 1514A/25 to S/MS.)

/HIPPER ...

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

HIPPER,
KÖLN. B.2 report states HIPPER, KÖLN, and 3 destroyers anchored in Fiskfjord (68° 34' N. 15° 20' E.) 25th January.
(D.D.I.C., 1815A/25 to A.I.G.47, S/Ms on Patrol.)

Casualties and Defects.

EXE. Cancel my 1359/23. EXE defective.
(C. in C. W.A., 1214A/25.)

CLARE. My 1104/25. Hedgehog part of frame carried away causing bad leakage. Leakage in upper Anti-Sub. compartment due to parting of bracket in bulkhead, instruments will have to be removed to enable repairs to be carried out. Steering? trunk carried away.
(CLARE, 1309A/25 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

St. Merryn C.B.04068 para. 27. Padlock for safety-bar of R.N.A.S. one tank in main bulk petrol storage discovered Sabotage. completely sawn through at 2250/24th. No other damage discovered. Probably done between dusk and 2250/24th. No evidence to show identity of offender.
(R.N.A.S. St. Merryn, 1549A/25 to Admty.)

ST. ORAN. Your 1221A/11.
ST. ORAN has damaged her cable laying apparatus beyond capacity of local repairs. Propose sailing her for Clyde.
(A.C.O.S., 1605A/25 to Admty.)

CHESTERFIELD. Your 2020/22. CHESTERFIELD can be received at H.M. Dockyard Devonport forthwith.
(D.O.D.H., 1617A/25 to Cdre. Londonderry.)
A.M. 1617A/25. Intend sailing CHESTERFIELD from Lough Foyle at 1630A/26 by standard routes to Plymouth arriving 0830A/28. Speed 13 knots one engine only available. Tugs required for berthing.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1904A/25 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

FAIRWAY. Your 1207/24. Arrived and anchored in Roads.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1635A/25 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

VICTRIX. Following from A.S. Portsmouth begins. Following received from M.C.D., to A.S.
C. in C's 1655/24. VICTRIX damage. Repairs to

/damage ...

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.VICTRIX.
(Contd.)

damage in vicinity of waterline can be temporarily repaired to enable vessel to proceed to Plymouth p.m. 25th Jan. Damage to bulwarks cannot be made good in this time and vessel should only proceed if weather conditions are favourable. Ends. T.O.O. 2311/24.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, No T.O.O/25 to Admty. Recd. 2238/25.)

FORT LA
MAUNE.

SS. FORT LA MAUNE reported in distress in 058° 45' N. 014° 25' W. at 2330Z/24. (? Investigate) report and assist as circumstances dictate. (Comtask 24, 2357/25 to MANSFIELD.)

Shipping and Convoys.

J.W. 52.

By D/F U-Boats reported in 073° 06' N. 032° 03' E. and 073° 15' N. 029° 05' E. at 2355A/24 and 2400A/24.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0110A/25 to Escorts J.W.52)

By direction finding U-Boats reported in 072° 00' N. 035° 30' E. at 0640A/25.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0720A/25 to Escorts J.W.52.)

By direction finding one U-Boat in 072° 04' N. 035° 20' E. at 0811A.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0851A/25 to Escorts J.W. 52.)

One shadowing A/C. My P.C.S. 072° 24' N. 036° 50' E., 145°, nine knots. A/C (? suspected) homing.

(ONSLAUGHT, 1030A/25.)

After passing Toros Island carry out A/S sweep through K and M Z to H position 070° 51' N. 036° 05' E. adjusting speed as necessary to reach H at 2200A/25.

(2) On reaching H turn back and continue A/S sweep between H and M Z, keeping at least 10 miles ahead of convoy. R/V with convoy in position M Z at 0800A/26 and augment A/S screen.

(3) Convoy E.T.A. position H at about 2330A/25, speed of advance 9 knots. These orders may be amended when whereabouts of S.O. Force R is known.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1048A/25 to FORESTER.)

My noon position 071° 52' N. 037° 34' E., course 200°, speed 18 knots. E.T.A. 2200A/25, approaching M Z course 200°. Oiler UKAGIR to BERMUDA on arrival.

2. Request group R 1700A to 2230, Y 1900 to 2230, V 2100 to 2300, W 2230 to 0100.

(S.O. Force R, 1055A/25 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Russian air R/C Altenfiord at 1012A/25th reports 3 cruisers, 5 destroyers.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1145A/25 to H.F. Operational.)

Your 0029/24 and my 1710A/24. Request reason ship unable to maintain convoy speed. Master declared speed of 9 knots at convoy conference. (EMPIRE BAFFIN).

(D.T.D., 1322A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

Sailed ORIBI, OBEDIENT to Hvalfjord and Akureyri. E.T.A. Hvalfjord 2359/26.

(R.A.D.H.F., 1332A/25.)

/My ...

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- J.W. 52. My 1210/23. HARRIER, SEAGULL, HYDERABAD and
(Contd.) OXLIP are to return to Kola Inlet. Russian
escort being provided for merchant ships. (2
corrupt groups) to arrive before J.W.52 whose
E.T.A. at M2 is 1000C/26th. (Corrupt groups)
E.T.A. before sailing. Acknowledge.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 16??C/25 to 1st M/S.F.)
My 1055A/25. 1½ hours late. Request beacons and lights
be kept on till further notice.
(S.O. Force R, 1617A/25 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
Proceed to pass Switha 1200/26 to Akureyri routed through
062° 20' N. 005° 25' W., 066° 06' N. 012° 10' W., thence via
north coast of Iceland.
(2) On arrival complete with fuel and act under orders of V.A.2
H.F.
(R.A.D.H.F., 1730A/25 to ECLIPSE.)
- M/Vs in My 1343A/24. Sailed 0600C/25 Molotovsk SAN
North CIPRIANO, RICHARD BASSET, WEST GOMOMSKA and
Russia. OREMAR.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0721A/25.)
- R.A. 52. Your 1315/24. 29th Jan. is latest acceptable
date for sailing R.A. 52.
2. Delay beyond that date will affect sailing
date of J.W.52, and it is not desired to prolong
the stay of Force R at Kola Inlet.
(C. in C. H.F., 1034A/25.)
- S.C.116, EXMOUTH arrived ex S.C.116, 1700A/24.
EXMOUTH, (N.C.S.O. Iceland, 1021A/25.)
CULEBRA. My 1058/23 and C.T.U. 24.1.4's 1923/24. R/V
as convenient.
(C. in C. W.A., 1043A/25 to WHITEHALL, MALLOW,
BLUEBELL.)
Estimated positions at 2202 tonight. FETLAR, DEXTEROUS towing
CULEBRA 063° 20' N. 029° 19' W. to East.
(A.C.I.C., 1503A/25.)
- K.M.S. 8. Have detached LONDONDERRY to CORNCRAKE reported
CORNCRAKE. in danger of sinking in 055° 10' N. 010° 30' W.,
also instructing REGINA to assist and will send
aircraft when in touch. My P.C.S. at 1000A/25,
053° 55' N. 016° 05' W., 219°, 3 knots.
(LANDGUARD, 1045A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)
Proceed utmost safe speed to assist CORNCRAKE reported
sinking in 055° 10' N. 013° 30' W. Report.
(LANDGUARD, 1115Z/25 to REGINA.)
Following received at 0913A/25th in LOXO without call sign.
"Pass to Admty. from 5XCT urgent in distress require immediate
assistance sinking 055° 10' N. 013° 30' W. T.O.R. 0845. End.
Have been detached by LANDGUARD to search. My P.C.S. are
1200A/25: 054° 18' N. 015° 54' W., 058°, 14 knots. Weather
3472 9458.
(LONDONDERRY, 1240A/25 to Admty.)

/Sunderland ...

909

25.1.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- K.M.S. 8.
CORNCRAKE.
(Contd.) Sunderland aircraft on route to K.M.S. 8 has been diverted to assist CORNCRAKE.
(C. in C. W.A., 1514A/25 to LONDONDERRY.)
Sail REGINA to assist CORNCRAKE in accordance with LANDGUARD's 1115Z/25.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1709A/25 to Admty.)
- TJALDUR. Intend sailing at 1600/27 TJALDUR kite balloon for Lerwick with troops escorted by DULCIBELLE routed by my 1535/19. E.T.A. Lerwick 1400/28.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1045/25.)
- K.M.F. 8. TAWALI returned Clyde. ARGUS informing Commodore.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1128A/25.)
- AMSTERDAM. Intend to sail transport AMSTERDAM and escort at 1800/27, speed 13½ knots, for Invergordon. E.T.A. 0800/28.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1205A/25.)
- NIEUW HOLLAND. Intend sailing SS. NIEUW HOLLAND escorted by COREOPSIS at 1700/27 for Greenock. E.T.A. first light 29th.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1516A/25.)
- U.C. and C.U. Convoys. My 1108/24 has been passed to C. in C. H.F. for information.
(D.T.D., 1559A/25.)
- W.S. 26 and W.S. 26R. Details of Personnel.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1630/25.)
- O.N.S. 163. Commander Mid Ocean Escort Task Units 24.1.13 in BURNHAM (H/F D/F) plus ASSINIBOINE (H/F D/F), BITTERSWEET, EYEBRIGHT, LA MALBAIE, JED sailed for O.N.(?S).163.
(C.T.G. 24.7, 1730Z/25 to C. in C. W.A.)
- P.W. 284. My 1724A/24. Convoy P.W. 284 postponed 24 hours due to weather.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1742/25.)
- H.X. 223. H.X. 223. C.T.U's 24.1.3 2330/24. Request you will sail tug and escort if available.
No tug available in Newfoundland.
(D.T.D., 1917A/25 to A.C.I.C.)
Your 1917/25. DEXTEROUS the only rescue tug in Iceland is towing in CULEBRA and at present rate of progress is unlikely to get her in before 29th Jan. My 2025/24 refers.
(A.C.I.C., 2122A/25 to Admty.)

/F.S. 20 ...

War Diary.

25.1.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- F.S. 20. Endeavour to shepherd remaining ships of F.S.20 to Southend anchorage at approximately 2200 after moon has risen.
(C. in C. Nore, 2035A/25 to VEGA.)
- O.N. 164. On completion repairs in Clyde, request WINGA and F.J. WOLFE, each with approximately 600 tons Admiralty Furnace Oil cargo (Tanker message) be sailed as escort oilers in O.N.164 destination New York.
(D. of Stores, 2121A/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- K.M.F.8. Cancel my 1359/23. EXE defective.
(C. in C. W.A., 1214A/25.)

War Diary.

25.1.1943.

Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Repairs to merchant ships and tankers.

My 2206/26th. Nov. M.W.T. has sent message dated 31st. Dec. addressed representatives Cairo, Basra, Bombay, Mombasa, Capetown, Sydney N.S.W., Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Trinidad, B.M.S.M. Washington, Sparks, Huband.

2. Purport is that all types of Merchant ship are very scarce and that programmes of drydocking and repairs must not automatically favour any particular type.

3. The message referred to was not intended to suggest that repairs to tankers have become any less urgent than hitherto, but rather to ensure that other cases of urgency receive full consideration.

4. In assessing priorities for drydocking and repairs account must therefore be taken of any special factors known to M.W.T.R. or to Naval authorities. M.W.T.R's have been instructed to refer cases of doubt to the Ministry whenever time permits.

Agreed with M.O.W.T.

(D.T.D 1601A/25 to A.I.G. 19 C. in C. E.F. C. in C. Med. C. in C. S.A. A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. F.O.C.W.Af. B.A.D. Washington, (R) Connav, F.O. Ceylon.)

"Torch"Area.

Tankers for "Torch" Area.

S.U.3. The following received from Washington as Cominch 242130 addressed Admiral Glassfurd repeated Combined Chiefs of Staff, British Chiefs of Staff London and B.A.D. Washington.

" It is expected tankers will be discharged Dakar. Cargoes assigned to you for disposition as essential requirements demand. If you so request quantity diesel programmes may be reduced and motor gas increased correspondingly. Refer Admiral Glassfurd's dispatch 231440 (0809/24/1.) and Cominch's 222050." (Comnav 0300/25 to British Chiefs of Staff, London.)

Coasters.

To overcome crew, repair and storing difficulties essential that Coasters should after making three or four coastal voyages return in rotation to U.K.

This is estimated to require an additional three petrol and six store carriers. Could GUDRUN, MAERSK, LEWANT and LOCHEE relieve three petrol Coasters for this purpose. Request arrangements be put in hand forthwith. Air mail letter follows.

(P.S.T.O.X.F. 0823A/25 to D.S.T. London.)

ADRIAS, MIADULES

Your 1610/23. No. Perhaps C. in C. Med. would like to state precisely where delay is expected. (N.C.X.F. 1151A/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.) Reply C. in C. Med. 1049B/31.

OPALIA.

White tanker OPALIA in K.M.S.8 was sailed to Gib. for orders and not Algiers as stated in my 1912/18. (D.O.D. (H) 1613A/25 to N.C.X.F.)

/ABDIEL...

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area Contd.

- ABDIEL. My 1735/21st. 2. Request you will sail ABDIEL when loaded to arrive Algiers A.M. 29th and ADVENTURE escorted by 2 destroyers to arrive Mers-el-Kebir 30th.
(N.C.X.F. 1748A/25 to V.A. Gib. ?(R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, F.O.I.C. Oran, WELSHMAN, ABDIEL, ADVENTURE.)
- RORQUAL. Your 2046/24th. I have no immediate requirements for RORQUAL pending completion of surface lays in my 1735/21st.
(N.C.X.F. 1749A/25 to C. in C. Med.)
W.R.Note: None of the formers has been received.
- G.U.F.4 Request ocean route for convoy G.U.F.4 sailing about 1st. Feb.
(N.C.X.F. 1753A/25 to Admty.)
- BARWIND. Your 1740A/23 addressed to V.A. Gib. not to F.O.C. W.Af. BARWIND is allocated to Freetown and on arrival there will be at short notice to meet other commitments. Admty. messages 2124A/15/Dec. 42 and 2054A/2/Dec. 42 neither to N.C.X.F. refer.
Request she may be sailed for Freetown as soon as practicable.
(D.B.D. 2043A/25 to N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.

25.1.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

NORDFELS. German 62 left for France 0745 G.M.T./25.
(N.A. Madrid No T.O.O. S.O.(I) Gib. 1015/25 to Admty. (R) M.E.W. B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib.)
(Bilbao, 1015/25 to Admty.)

LIVADIA. German 63 left 0800 G.M.T./25.
(N.A. Madrid No. T.O.O./25, Consul Bilbao 1100/25).
* LIVADIA.

ADVENTURE. Arrived.
(S.O. (I) Gib. 0856A/25.)

Situation Report. Area X, 2001/25th. ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH, CYCLAMEN, 2 merchant ships 31.01. 11.29. through 30.01. 12.22. and 28.10. 13.41. thence 223° 12½. 2. TORBAY crossing 43.01. 13.22. at 0230 26th. thence 152° on the surface 7¾. 3. P. 339 crossing 43.01. 13.50. at 0400 26th. thence diving by day 2½ surfacing by night 9 to 42.09. 12.47. at 1800 26th. thence 152° on surface 8½. 4. Dutch S/M 0.19 36.50 17.05 019° on surface 9. 5. M.K.S.6 PELICAN, BRAMHAM, one cutter, 5 corvettes 4 M/S (A) 39.28 14.22 through 39.59 15.10 thence 003° 8.3. 6. IMPERIALIST, ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER (corrupt group) 31.19 12.19 044° 1½ knots. 7. U.G.F.4 Oran section WISHART, BRILLIANT, FELIXSTOWE, BADDECK, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, PORT ARTHUR, LUNENBURG 35.26 07.31 through 35.33 07.01 thence through Gibraltar Straits 13. 8. NORTHERN GIFT LOCH OSKAIG 34.56 06.38 through 35.51 06.01 to Gibraltar 9. 9. F.T.9 1 A.M. 2 P.C.F.S. LA BOUDEUSE sails 0830/26th from Casablanca coastwise to Gibraltar 7½ 10. LORD HOTHAM sails Gibraltar 1400/26th direct position 32.02 11.29 9 knots. (V.A. Gib. 1117A/25 as amended 0154A/26) For additions see 0732A/26 Area 'Z'. (1) Escorts of convoy U.G.S. 4 T.F. 38, 40.35 32.50 089° 7.3. (2) Escorts of G.U.S. 3, T.F. 33, 25.12 26.07 277°. 9. (V.A. Gib. 1209A/25.)

Area Y. SCARBOROUGH, ERNE, 1 tanker 37.33 25.21 to Ponta Delgada 12½. Escort patrolling outside territorial waters to await tankers.
(V.A. Gib, 1421A/25)

REGENT. Estimate you will pass following position at time stated, G. 2000 28th. H. 2000 30th. J.2200 31st. K. 1500 2nd. 2. After passing K at 1500 2nd. proceed on the surface at C. O's discretion through L. 36.49 09.01 at 0900 3rd. M. 36.37 07.24 at 1900 3rd. N. 35.53 06.15 at 0430 4th. O. (747) 57 05.56 at 0700/4th thence Gib.

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

- REGENT. S. of A. $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots from K. 3. You should not pass position O before time stated. 4. Total bombing restrictions arranged 10 miles each side of route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of your estimated position report if unable keep within bombing restrictions. 5. All times zone minus one, positions N. and W. (V.A. Gib. 1520A/25 to REGENT (R) F.O.S. Capt. (S) 8, S.B.N.O. W.A.)
- M.K.S.6 Not met. My position is $038^{\circ} 58' N.$ $013^{\circ} 38' W.$ Intend making good convoy course and speed through out night and searching 15 miles S. of (group incomplete) at daylight. (BRAMHAM, 1840A/25 to V.A. Gib. (R) PELICAN.)
- U.G.F.4 11 ships for Oran, one for Gib. E.T.A. position 57 at 0001/26 and E.T.A. Oran 1700/26. Weather. (WISHART, 1856A/25 to V.A. Gib. (R) N.O.I.C. Oran. N.C.X.F.)
- F.T.9 My 1105Z/24th. Sailing delayed 3 hours. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 1935Z/25 to C.T.U. 26.7.1. C.T.U. 26.7.2. C.T.U. 26.1.3. (R) N.C.X.F. Admty. V.A. Gibraltar.)
- Movements. Departures 0312 ASHANTI for Mers El Kebir. 1957 FELIXSTOWE to R/V U.G.F. 4 thence Algiers. (V.A, Gib. 2035A/25 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)
- Tugs. Admty. 1739A/13. and 1628A/23. Rescue Tugs EMPIRE NED and EMPIRE FRED after arrival should be made available for requirements of N.C.X.F. (Capt.I/C, Rescue Tugs 2156A/25 to V.A. Gib. (R) N.C.X.F. P.S.T.O.X.F.)
- U.G.F.4 Task Force 34 arrived Casablanca with U.G.F.4, four French escorts, LATAPAGUESE, SERGEANT GOUANE. T.F.8 H.M.S. LOCH OSKAIG and NORTHERN GIFT arrived with T.F. 8. LOCH OSKAIG and NORTHERN GIFT returning Gib. LAMBOURNE, BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE arrived from Gib. (S.N.O.C.A. 2206Z/25 to N.C.X.F. Admty., F.O.C. Gib. Cominch.)

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.SALDANHA
BAY

CARTHAGE. Sailed CARTHAGE by route R.8 to position E.034° 55' S. 019° 50' E. thence to Saldanha Bay as ordered by C. in C. S.A. (2) Shift to group S.L. at 1900C/25th. (3) S. of A. 16 knots. E.T.A. position E. 0200C/27th.
(N.O.i/c Durban, 0912C/25, to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A. N.L.O. East London, Port Elizabeth, Capetown, Sandanha Bay.)

French Destroyers. Sailing LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE, for Casablanca 0100/29th. Speed 19 knots E.T.A. 1200/28th.
(B.N.L.O. Dakar, 1003Z/25 to F.O. W.A. (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca.)

U.S. Movements. Arrival 24th U.S. Navy Transport MUNARGO, U.S. Corvette SAUCY.
(R.O. Para. 1011/25 to Admty., (R) B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro.)

C.F.11. Sailing telegram Route to Capetown. (6) Escorts VALIANT, INCONSTANT, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, HOTSPUR.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 1035Z/25, to Admty., etc.)
Sailed VALIANT escorting convoy C.F.11 to Capetown by route R.9 A/S escort, INCONSTANT, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, HOTSPUR. (2) Shifts to group S.L. at 2200C/25. (3) S. of A. 16 knots. E.T.A. Capetown 1800C/27.
(Com. i/c Durban, 1231C/25 to Admty., C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F.)

COMMANDANT DROGOU. Arrival 25th Jan.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1127Z/25 to Admty.)

Situation 1957Z/23rd. Two M.Ls. escorting 07.18 13.54 to 07.38 14.30 thence Freetown, 8. SARABANDE, COPINSAY, escorting 05.18 01.52 E. to Lagos 9. M.L.305 off Sulimo. ORFSAY off Accra. CROCUS escorting off Pointe Noire to Takoradi, 10. M.L. 285 escorting about 01.(750) 06.30 E. to Lagos, 9. P.614 sailed Takoradi 1800Z/25th arrives position 01.00 04.00 E. to 0100/28th 7½. Allied Naval Unit about 01.45 19.41 010° inward.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1205Z/25 to Area P. etc.)

INDRAPOERA, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, MATAROA. Ref. Admty. 1548/23rd, as INDRAPOERA has Prisoners of War on board request confirmation that it is in order for her and other ships similarly loaded to call South American ports. (2) EMPRESS OF RUSSIA reports her endurance is now only 12½ days at 12½ knots which is insufficient to reach South America with adequate margin. Intend sailing her independently to Freetown. (3) MATAROA is being diverted to Capetown for re-routing via Magellans.
(C. in C.S.A. 1221C/25 to Admty. (R) D. of S.T. Connnav, F.O.C.W.Af. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)
Reply Admty. 1530A/26.

/Dispositions....

25.1.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Dispositions. CHESHIRE 039° 30' S. 022° 40' E. to Capetown 12½ knots.

NORTHERN ISLES 021° 00' S. 012° 30' E. to Walvis Bay 8.

ROCKROSE, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY about 037° 00' S. 012° 30' E. to Capetown 10.

STANDERTON, VEREENIGING, TURFONSTEIN, about 035° 30' S. 021° 00' E. to Capetown 10.

FRITILLARY, THYME, 034° 55' S. 019° 40' E. to Capetown E.T.A. 0400Z/26th.

CARTHAGE, 032° 20' S. 029° 00' E. to Saldanha Bay 13.

BULUCHISTAN 021° 50' S. 012° 00' E. to Simonstown 12½.

CHITRAL 025° 50' S. 034° 40' E. to Simonstown 12½.

SONDRA with 021 032° 30' S. 034° 00' E. to Diego Suarez 11.

VIVIANA. INDIAN STAR escorting tug INTEGRITY towing crane lighter 032° 10' S. 029° 20' E. to Durban 5.

VALIANT, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, HOTSPUR, INCONSTANT, with C.F.11. 032° 14' S. 029° 42' E. to Capetown 15.

(C. in C. S.A. 1246C/25 to Area Q etc.)

EMPIRE Fire in bunker under control. Proceeding on passage
HAZLITT. (Burnham Radio, 1330/25 to Naval Control, Durban, Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

PRIMERO My 1845Z/13 to Admiralty, C. in C. S.A. N.O.1/c
DE MAYO, Falkland Islands only. Press states that Argentine
Argentine Naval Transport PRIMERO DE MAYO sailing 28th Jan.,
Expedition. voyage exploration Southern Waters lasting two
months. 3 Chilian Naval Officers, Capt. Cordobez,
Cdr. Vio, Lieut. Cdr. Rodriguez have arrived to
sail in her. Officials of Ministry of Marine, Agriculture, also
go. (2) Do Colonial regulations require foreign Government
vessels obtain previous permission to visit Falkland Island
dependencies? (3) Call sign L.O.B.Z. working on 850 metres.
South Orkneys meteorology station has only short wave 27 and 56
metres.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1440Z/25 to Admty., (R) B.A.D. etc.)
Further details, 1425Z/26.

RANGITIKI. (Corrupt group) 8 RANGITIKI sailed 24th Jan. for
Chesapeake Bay E.T.A. 22nd Feb. (?Personnel)
on board.
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 1506C/25 to D..S.T., B.A.D.)

French A.M. 1332/5/1 para. 3 (E)(re codes and
Communications. communications, French Naval and Naval Air Force
and Merchant ships should be provided with.)
R.A.F. are issuing Syko to French aircraft and
aerodromes. 2. Request position regarding issue to warships.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1605Z/25, to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., V.A.Gibraltar,
S.N.O.C.A.)

/U/B...

War Diary.

25.1.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

U/B

French aircraft reported U-Boat in position 019° 12' N. and 017° 15' West at 1040Z/25. (R.A.W.A., 1620Z/25 to Ships in Area P.1. (R) Admty.)

Dakar
French
agreement.

Following From V.A. Pegram. After full discussions between Glassfurd, Collinet, A.O.C. West Africa and myself complete agreement has been reached which will enable the provisions (?of) the Glassfurd Collinet (?agreement) to be put in force at once. It is intended that the frontier and district command referred to shall be known as the West African Command (short title F.O.C.W.A.F.) and the Dakar Naval district (short title Comar Dakar) respectively. As well as complete agreement on question of (corrupt group) which fully ensured necessary control of operations and convoys and shipping protection remaining in my hands and other safeguards as required by the Chiefs of Staff Collinet agreed to the following:

Part 2. A. R.A.W. Af. is sole diverting authority in waters of the West African Command. B. Principle of having British (?Liaison) staff in French warships. C. When B (?can) be effected all operational (?signals) to French warships (?shall be) passed in British cypher. D. Pending this Anglo-French cypher to be used with safeguard as in A.M. 1050/20th not to all addressees. E. Dakar radio to form part of group F.T (?R/T) British W/T ratings being provided. This when operating should enable area P to be extended to 027° repeated 027° N. F. To join B.A.M.S. organisation using French operators.. G. To adopt R.A.F. coastal (?procedure) A.O.C. W.Af. will signal further to Air Ministry. H. To accept principle of joint Anglo-French convoys or Allied convoys and pooling of escorts in the Command. French ships to join O.S. (?and) S.L. convoys when possible.

Part 3, final. It is also agreed that Collinet shall control the use of allotted French merchant shipping placed at his disposal not chartered by War Shipping Committee. In this respect his responsibilities are similar to those of M.W.T.R. under British system. Glassfurd is reporting to joint Chief of Staff and agrees to very early promulgating of new W.Af. Command and Dakar Naval (?S.T.O.) most desirable with object of getting (?active) co-operation started. Collinet has asked me for my written instructions to him which I will give him as soon as new commands are published. I have been gratified at frankness of our discussions and at friendliness shown to me. This satisfactory atmosphere was evident at a Rugby match between DESPATCH and Etat Major where fairly large crowd including Mayor was present and later I am informed equality evidently in other very much less official surroundings. F.O.C.W.Af. pass to G.O.C.W.Af. and Resident Minister.

(B.N.L.O. Dakar, 1719Z/25, 1721Z/25 to Admty. etc.)
Further remarks, see 1402Z/26.)

BRITANNIC,
ORION.

A. 2 BRITANNIC and A.7 ORION sailed 25th Jan. for Capetown E.T.A. p.m./27th. Personnel on board for U.K.
(D.S.T.O. (?Durban), 1726C/25 to S.T.O. Capetown
(R) P.S.T.O. Capetown D. of S.T.)

/A/S...

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

A/S
Trawlers
and Group
Sailings.

Your 1146/23. A. This first intimation of very high degree of unserviceability amongst trawlers is most disturbing and immediate report is to be forwarded stating reasons. Meanwhile, repairs to these trawlers are to be given first priority, work on other ships refitting and under repair being stopped if necessary until trawlers are in service again. B. Request report in detail as to dates they will become ready for service and effect on other ships in hand. C. Before taking any action see further Admiralty message regarding trawlers.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1730A/25 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F.)
Reply C. in C. S.A. 1715C/27.

P. 614

Sailed 1800Z/25th Jan. S/M P.614 as in my 2001Z/22nd Jan. Request total bombing restrictions be imposed as necessary. Q.L.A.148. G.A.120.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1815Z/25 to B.N.L.O.W.Af. R.A. W.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Simonstown, F.O.S., A.O.C.W. Af. (? Capt. S.8.)

ILLUSTRIOUS
and escort.

Arrivals 25th Jan. ILLUSTRIOUS, PATHFINDER, PANTHER.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1901Z/25 to Admty. etc.)
Arrival 25th Jan. PENN.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1924Z/25, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

U.S.
Movements.

Arrival 24th Jan. U.S. S/M chasers P.C.577 and 609.
Arrival 25th U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI, U.S. Destroyer GOFF. Departure 25th Brazilian light cruiser BAHIA, Brazilian minelayer CARAVELAS.
(R.O. Recife, 1953Z/25, to Admty., (R) B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro, S.O. (I) Freetown.)

MEXICO,
HOLCOMBE.

B.A.D. 1545Z/25th. In view of U)boat in vicinity of Dakar consider it desirable to hold MEXICO until 28th Jan for escort by HOLCOMBE to vicinity of 022° W. This will result in HOLCOMBE arriving Casablanca 3rd Feb. instead of 31st Jan. if this is acceptable to N.C.X.F. HOLCOMBE will be due for boiler cleaning on arrival.
(F.O.W.A. 2351Z/25 to N.C.X.F. B.A.D. (R) Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet. B.N.L.O. Dakar, V.A. Gibraltar.) Concur (N.C.X.F. 1846A/26.)

919 ~~921~~

25.1.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. 5 Unknown vessels position 37.34 N. 10.50 E. course 070° speed 7 knots.
(A/C, C.X.R/U., 0210A/25 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of 4 medium M/Vs 2 E-Boats 37.34 N. 10.50 E. 050° 7 knots.
(A.C. C.X.R/U. 0230/25 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of 2 medium M/Vs 3 destroyers 38.10 N. 12.47 E. 130° 6 knots.
(A/C C.X.R/Z. 0243A/25, to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of 5 unknown vessels 37.38 N. 10.58 E. 060° 10 knots.
(A/C C.X.R/W., 0255A/25 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P. C. and S. of 4 medium M/Vs and 2 E-Boats 37.87 N. (sic.) 11.02 E. 060° 8 knots. (A/C C.X.R/U. 0310A/23 to A.H.Q. Malta.)
Following read by Malta. P.C. and S. of enemy (one small vessel under 1000 tons) 36.22 N., 10.35 E., stationary.
(A/C B.T.W./J. Nr. 1., 0930/25.)
P.C. and S. at 1152B, one small merchant ship 36.08 N. 25.08 E. 6 knots.
(A/C F.A.C/U., 1512B/25 to No. 201 H.Q. Mid East.)

Movements. Departure QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0409Z/25 to Admty. etc.)
Arrival NUBIAN, JAVELIN.
(V.A. Malta, 0901A/25, to Admty., etc.)

LIANGCHOW, My 2021 7th Jan. para. (2). LIANGCHOW is resting
Benghazi. on bottom with about 30° list to port at western end of Murray's Landing, well down by stern.
Consider there is reasonable prospect salvage.
(P.S.T.O. M.E. 0909B/25 to Admty. for D.S.T.)

Movements Arrivals 24th Jan. GLOXINIA, SEAHAM, SOUTHERN ISLES,
Alexandria. WOLBOROUGH, MAPLE, GENERAL BIRDWOOD. My 0915/24th
Jan. (Departure M.T.B.359, N.T. in W.D.) for
M.T.B. read Motor Launch.
(S.O.I. Alexandria, 0920B/25 to Admty C. in C.Med.)

Malta M.T.B. 315, 260, 264, 307 returned from Operation.
M.T.B.s (V.A. Malta, 0939A/25 to C. in C. Med.)

OXFORDSHIRE, Your 1740A/24th. OXFORDSHIRE arrived 1100A/25th.
V.A.Syfret. Intend to delay onward passage until 1800/26th,
possible embarkation of V.A. Syfret for passage to U.K.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 0957A/25, to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H, OXFORDSHIRE, Cdre. Algiers.)

Movements. Arrival 25th Jan. ASIS, GURNA.
(F.O.R.S.C.A., 1009B/25 to Admty.)

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25.1.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- P.37. Arrival.
(V.A. Malta, 1016A/25 to Admty. etc.)
- P.212 P.212 and P.247 transferred to 8th Flotilla as
P.247 from 8th Dec. 1942 and P.211 as from 1st Jan.1943.
P.211. (Capt. S.8. 1044A/25 to F.O.S.(R) Admty., Capt.
(S) 10.)
- F.T.8. Arrived.
(V. A. Gibraltar, 1050/25 to S.N.O. Casablanca,(R)
N.C.X.F., Admty., Connnav.)
- Opsum A.667, 1113Z/25th. Bi-weekly Opsum No.94 Part 2,
No.94. night 23/24 Jan. 9 B.24s despatched to bomb
shipping in Palermo Harbour 3 aircraft returned
early owing to technical troubles. Of remainder
4 bombed Palermo starting fires on quay in Naval Harbour another
fire in vicinity. 5 near misses claimed on ship in convoy
outside Harbour. 1 B.24 unable to reach Palermo bombed Messina.
Results unobserved. Remaining 1 aircraft landed Malta. 4
enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk area without causing damage.
2 Beaufighters up but no interceptions. 24th Jan. 19 P.40s
bombed Zuara landing ground scoring near miss on 1 A/C. taking
off. Only 3 A/C seen off? landing ground. 12 Kittyhawks,
40 p.40s made 5 attacks on shipping Zuara Harbour to hamper
unloading of barges.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1222Z/25.)
Section 2 of Part t. Near misses with 40 lb bombs claimed
on 1 merchant vessel direct hit on warehouse and fire started on
jetty. 11 P.40s also machine gunned harbour. Further 12
Kittyhawks bombed a ship off Sabratha claiming near misses.
Following additional details received night 22/23 January.
2 Wellingtons laid mines in Khalkis Harbour Greece, 1 Wellington
bombed railway station as diversion, another bomber Wellington
missing.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1241Z/23 (25 intended.))
- Air P.R.U. Jan.25th. 0900, Messina, Visuals, 3
R/C. cruisers present. Taranto, 10/10 cloud.
(V.A. Malta, 1225A/25, to C. in C. Med. etc.)
P.R.U. Jan 25th. 1530, Messina, visuals, 3 cruisers
present. Taranto was not covered.
(V.A. Malta, 1716A/25 to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- P.45. Leave patrol after dark 26th passing through
035° 42' 012° 02' to 036° 02' 012° 21' thence R/V
with sweeper at 0830/28th.
(Capt. S.10. 1232A/25 to P.45 etc.)
- 22 M.L. Your 1945/20, para 4 22nd. M/L Flotilla will be
Flot. operating from Western Desert Ports. Request
spare gear be sent to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 1245B/25, to Admty.)

/TURBULENT...

25.1.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- TURBULENT. On passing position G. at 0100/27th proceed patrol at your discretion in an area bound by 038° N. and 039° N. and between 011° 40' E. and 013° 20' E. (2) P.211 is on patrol off Naples withdrawing as necessary to seaward.
(Capt. S.8. 1402A/25 to TURBULENT (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 10 P.211)
Sailed TURBULENT.
(V.A. Malta, 1500A/25 to Admty., etc.)
- MARIPOSA. Departure 0850Z/25 U.S. Transport MARIPOSA knots 20 Massawa 1000Z/26.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 1440Z/25 to Admty. etc.)
- Malta magazine explosion. My 1957/24. Primer not exploded and those so far examined suitable for issue.
(V.A. Malta, 1524A/25 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)
Your 1331/25th (N.T. in W.D.) Access to magazines has now been effected and in view of satisfactory condition of stores nothing is now required except smoke generators, of which 250 tons lost. Oerlikon ammunition has been subject to very high temperature and is being tested. From a visual examination it does not appear to have suffered.
C. in C. Med. pass to A.S. Alexandria and WELSHMAN.
(A.S. Malta, 1901A/25 to C. in C. Med. (R) A.S. Alexandria, Admty., V.A. Malta, WELSHMAN.)
- ALBARO. My 1124/21. ALBARO not yet arrived: reason for delay unknown. N.L.O. Black Sea informed.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, via N.I.D., 1545C/25 to S.O.I. Med)
- E.A.C. Report. M.S. 6947 Part 1. A.305. 25th Jan. Opsum 75 1800 hrs. 23rd Jan.- 1800 hrs. 24th Jan. A. Night 23rd/24th, Souk El Arba. 4 Beaufighter sorties carried out in Bone Area. At 1900 hrs. 10 E/A approached Philippeville from east, part of this force turned and followed coastline to attack Bone. 1 DO.217 shot down and destroyed at 0430/24 and E/A dropped a D/A bomb on runway at Bone which was later disposed of by (Bds?) Blida. 6 Wellingtons of (148 or 142?) Squadron and 4 of 150 Squadron attacked Bizerta Docks between 2034 and 2101. No cloud over target below 15000 feet. (77 or 70 corrupt) per cent of bombs were seen to fall in target area, the 4000 lb burst in the west part of town between Barracks and Railway. F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 4 B.17s and 9 P.38s attacked shipping in Sousse Harbour, and a direct hit observed on one ship. Numerous other R/C and ferrying missions carried out.
(E.A.C. Africa, 1641A/25.)
- AQUITANIA. Arrived 1145 G.M.T.
(N.C.S.O., Suez, 1715B/25 to Admty.)

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

RORQUAL. The Taranto Messina Railway carries very important traffic.
(Capt. S.10, 1735A/25 to RORQUAL.)

TAKU defects. A crack from water cooling space into scavenging trunk has now developed in starboard after main cylinder casting in TAKU similar to that in starboard forward casting. Previous attempts to repair forward casting by welding have failed. This engine cannot be run very much longer in this condition without risking severe damage whilst a satisfactory repair can only be achieved by renewing both main (castings?) Request decision whether this submarine should return to U.K. for repairs whilst the defective engine is still workable or whether she should be used for short distance patrols until the engine finally fails or spare castings arrive here. Rough estimate of time required to fit two new castings three months.
(S.10, 1751A/25, to C. in C. Med. ? (R) F.O.S. S.1. V.A.M., TAKU.)

WELSHMAN. Departure 25th Jan.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 1753B/26 to Admty, C. in C. Med.)

P.42. Sailed.
(V.A. Malta, 1803A/25 to Admty. etc.)

Black Sea. (1) Naval. (a) No fleet activity to report.
(b) Number of convoys between Roumania and Sevastopol and Feodosia much increased.
(c) A 6000 ton M/V reported sunk off Sulina by torpedo aircraft. (2) Land. (a) Russians continue attack on Novorossisk Maikop and Krasnodar front but are meeting strong enemy resistance and counter attack, a few inhabited points have been captured. (b) No signs of enemy withdrawing from Tuapse area. (3) Air Operations. (a) Black Sea Naval aircraft have carried out large scale air raids on Novorossisk, Kerch, Tihoretsk, Tiltaskaya, Ahtirskaya. (b) 4 F ? barges and 4 R boats sunk at Kerch dockyard and considerable damage to harbour buildings, railway stations and track. (c) At other places large quantities of rolling stock equipment mechanical transport etc. destroyed, also damage to railway stations and tracks. (4) Russians report that German troops in Greece and Serbia are being replaced by Bulgarians.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 1837C/25 to Admty., etc.)

Malta AI. 548/25th Jan. Night 24th/25th Jan.
Air 3 Torpedo carrying Wellingtons on search for enemy
Report. shipping North of Palermo made no important
sightings. 2 special Wellingtons with torpedoes
searched for enemy shipping in Cape Bon Marittimo
Area. 1 torpedo Wellington sighted 0325 hours 005° Cape Bon

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta 35 miles 1 M/V 2000 tons 1 M.T.B. course 050° and
Air aimed 1 torpedo at M/V; no results observed.
Report 3 Mosquitoes co-operating with shipping strike
Contd. patrolled Cape Bone Ustica Area, 1 Mosquito at
2100 hrs. strafed an M/V 3000 tons North East of
Marittimo course 120° 8 knots scoring numerous
hits on super-structure.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1900Z/25.)

PANTHER H.H.M.S. PANTHER is to be administered by R.A.(D)
(Greek). Med., and maintained by Greek Repair Ship
HEPHESTOS. Accounts of Liaison Personnel are to
be kept in NILE.
(C. in C. Med. 1918B/25 to R.A. (D) Med. B.A.O. NILE, (R) PANTHER
Greek C. in C. ERICA, Admty.)

Movements. Arrival ASHANTI, departures nil.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1959A/25 to Admty., N.C.X.F. V.A.
Gib.)

Algiers arrivals AVONVALE from Oran TARANA from Gibraltar
L.C.I. (L) 6, 162, 210 from Bougie. POZARICA, BRIXHAM, CLACTON
from E.T.9. Departure QUEEN EMMA, PRINCES BEATRIX, WHEATLAND,
WILTON to Bone. French ship ENGAGEANTE and M.L.471 escorting
two French merchant ships to Oran.

(Cdre. Algiers, 2014A/25 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.
Gibraltar.)

Algiers arrivals. S/M.P.212 from patrol.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2016A/25 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., S.8, S.10,
V.A. Gibraltar.)

Tonnage At their meeting this evening War Cabinet were
Sunk by informed that Mediterranean S/Ms had turned
S/Ms. million tons mark of enemy shipping sunk. War
Cabinet directed that their high appreciation of
this fine achievement should be conveyed to all

Concerned.
(V.C.N.S., 2106/25 to Capts. S.8, 10, 1.)

Situation 1. Bone. Bad weather prevented two M.T.Bs
report completing sweep night 22/23. Three were on
No.52. patrol off Cani Rocks night 24/25 no report yet.
Minor enemy air activity P.M. 22 and P.M. 23. No
serious damage. Beaufighters shot down one Do.217.
2. 12th Air Force. 6 B.26 claim 1 medium sized merchant
vessel sunk by bombs and another damaged by near misses
approximately 15 miles west of Pantellaria A.M. 21. On 22, 5.B.26
claim 2 hits and several near misses on a merchant vessel and
near misses around another 18 miles north east of Bizerta.
On A.M. 24, 4 B.17 attacked shipping at Sousse and claim 1 hit
with 500 pound bomb on a Merchant Vessel. 3. E.T. 9 X. In an
attack on the Convoy at about 1840/23 in 37.14 N. 6.29 E.
Beaufighters shot down three aircraft. No damage reported.
4. Two L.S.I. with 1500 parachutists from Algiers arrived Bone
P.M.25. 5. Sitrep 50, (1800/21). Item 4. P.212 now report
that Merchant Vessel Flying Nazi Ensign was sunk in 44.8 N.

/8.18...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
report
No. 52
Contd.

8.18 E. at 1305/14 P.212 also sank U.301 at
0834/21 (0831/2)(as recd.) in 41.27 N. 7.4 E.
and has one Junior Officer survivor.
(N.C.X.F. 2215A/25 to Admty.)

Axis
Shipping.

Arrival 23rd German ANJOU arrival 24th German
SAINT ALBERT (Both formerly French). Both Cette
in ballast. Castellon. Departures 22nd
ENRIQUE ILLUE Cette Oranges MANUCHU will sail
26th for Marseilles. Burriana. BACHI with iron ore from
Segunto loading oranges for Marseilles.
(Valencia T.H.I., 2300/25 to Admty.)
SEBASTIAN and SAINT ALBERT will sail tonight 25th for
Marseilles.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 2300/25 to Admty.)

Tripoli

*Condition of harbour. (Cin C. Med., 2057 B/25 15
Admty., DULOLO, repeated N.C.X.F. - HUSH, Most Secret.)
Copy in A.R.N.S. (F) file, Vol. 9, page 440)*

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Fairmile M.L.s. C. in C. S.A. 1248/23 not to S.N.O.P.G. I am anxious to reinforce Persian Gulf A/S Forces with Fairmile M.L.s as soon as possible. Conditions there should suit their capabilities.

2. First two EE Fairmiles Building in East Africa will not be ready till March.

3. Request Fairmiles 3-80-1-2-3 complete with crews may be allocated to Eastern Fleet and sailed from S.A. when ready. (C. in C. E.F.0617Z/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., S.N.O.P.G.)

F.S. LEOPARD F.N.F.L. have arranged programme for LEOPARD involving visits to Mauritius Reunion and Madagascar ports during whole of February.

2. Ship will therefore not be available to reinforce anti submarine escort for operation "Pamphlet".

3. Presume LEOPARD subsequent transfer to Mediterranean will be arranged in London as in B.A.D. 2115/17. (C. in C. E.F. 0758Z/25 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

C.M. 37 B Arrival HAWKINS with C.M. 37 B. (S.O.I Bombay, 0801Z/25, 0938Z/25)

Air Escort Aden & P.G. for shipping and convoys. Following is brief report in accordance with your 1242/22. In order to give air escort Aden and Persian Gulf require times of crossing certain latitudes or longitudes for all incoming ships. Times are included in route signal or convoy sailing telegrams.

2. C. in C. S.A. commented on the work involved probable inaccuracies due to weather, diversion etc. and suggested the information would be more readily available from C. in C. E.F. plot.

3. Draft proposal for a daily plot signal has been sent in my 1420/23 (not yet received in W.R.) which is now repeated to you. (C. in C. E.F. 0807Z/25 to Admty.)

CATTERICK Departure 24th Jan. (F.O. East Africa 1136Z/25)

Movements Colombo departure 24th 1300Z LISMORE 25th. (F.O. Ceylon 1208Z/25)
Departure 25th CESSNOCK. (F.O.E.Af. and Zan. 1501Z/25)

Air Report India 2 Hudson Offensive Reccos Taungup attacked small craft Myebon steamers and small craft area 16° 31' N 94° 13' E. All above sorties 24th. (A.H.Q. India 1221Z/25 to Air Min.)

/Swordfish ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Swordfish
A/C
sabotage.

Uncrating of 25 Swordfish of series H S 164 to H S 193 discloses flexible connections in brake lines from fuselage to both undercarriages have been wantonly severed. Air mail letter with photographs follows.
(R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean 1309Z/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., R.A.N.A.S. Wingfield)

Italian Naval
Prisoners
for
Repatriation.

Your 0455Z/31st Dec. and A.M.1141A/19th. Names of Italian Naval prisoners already passed for repatriation should be communicated to Admiralty immediately.
(Admty. 2028A/25 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements St. Johns N.F. 24th 1943. Arrivals LOBELIA ex S.C.117, LINCOLN ex H.X.223. Departure Q.061 to Harbour Grace, RIMOUSKI to O.N.160. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 0001Z/25).
Departure 24th U.S. Army Transport LEINSENRING escorted by Y P 428 Miami 25th. (R.N.O. Nassau 0945/25).
Departure 24th U.S.A. Transport ENGLEMAN to sea. (Aruba 1108QR/25).
24th departure HAMILTON, BRANTFORD, DUNDAS, GANANOQUE. Escorting H H.X. 224 arrivals U.S.S. NUTMEG U.S.C.G. HIBISCUS from Boston DRUMMONDVILLE from Shelburne H.M.C. Tug ST. ANNE from Louisburg Approach. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1301Z/25)
Army Transport ANTIGUA (U.S.) arrived San Francisco 22nd. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1949Z/25 to Admty).
Departures NUTMEG, HIBISCUS to Argentia via Louisburg, MULGRAVE, BROCKVILLE escorting H.F.32.
Arrivals WASAGA ex search for CALDWELL. CALDWELL towed by COLUMBIA screened by MAYFLOWER. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 2101Z/25 to Admty etc).

F.H.32 My 1738/24 and 1740/24. Convoy F.H.32 returned to St. Johns N.B. owing to defects of escort. (N.C.S.O. St. John, N.B. 0013Z/25 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.C.S.O. Montreal, Connav, H.M.C.S. NIPIGON)

ROODE ZEE Sailed ROODE ZEE for Montevideo routed in accordance with Port Director Trinidad's 241815 not to all addressees. E.T.A. Montevideo 2200Z/10th Feb. S. of A. 11 knots. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad 0902Q/25 to S.B.N.O.W.At).

TAIGETE, ARCOLA. Italian tankers TAIGETE and ARCOLA sailed for Aruba 25th to await loading instructions. My 1145/19 to Admty. only refers. (S.B.N.O. Curacao, 0948QR/25 to Admty (R) S.O.(I) Kingston).

| Movements | Ship | Position | Course | Speed |
|-------------|--|----------------|--------|-------|
| summary at | REGENT | 34° N. 50° W. | 085° | 11 |
| 1800 G.M.T. | ALCANTARA) | 11½° N. 34° W. | 278° | 12½ |
| 25th. | WOODRUFF } | | | |
| | (D.O.D. (F) 1020Z/25 to Opnav (R) Connaveu). | | | |

TA.33 Alter course forthwith for new position A. 45° 30' N., 30° 10' W. new B.45° N., 40° W. thence rejoin route at V. (D.O.D. (H), 1105A/25 to T.A.33 (R) Connav, N.S.H.Q.)

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

S/M estimates (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1105/25, 1106/25, 1553/25,
Jan. 25th. 1554/25, 1619/25, 1620/25, 1621/25).
U.S. S/M
Notices.

CITY OF LYONS (British) collision. CITY OF LYONS holed in port bow in collision ex H.X.223. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns 1131Z/25 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, Port Director New York, Connav, T.U. No. 24.1.3. for Cdre. Comtask 24, C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.C.S.O. Montreal).

Curacao and Aruba airfields. Admty. 1619/23. Reply giving details, runways and accommodation etc. (7) Request particulars (Carriers?) and Complement. (N.C.S.O. Curacao 1137R/25 to Admty. etc).

T.B.33 HILARY, NORSOL. T.B.3. In view of estimated reduction in number of U-boats in area request (a) HILARY be detached as soon as possible direct to Lagos. (b) That you will arrange NORSOL R/V direct with F.O.C. W.Af. as in his 1115/24 and detach ship earliest convenient date. (D.T.D., 1145Z/25 to Connav, (R) F.O.C.W.Af. B.A.D.)

NORLAGO (U.S.). H. O.N.158. My 2023/19 pendant 133 NORLAGO arrived Shelburne, Nova Scotia 24th engine repairs. (C.O.A.C.Halifax 1311Z/25 to Admty).

TENACITY, IMPERIAL MONARCH, (S.C.117) FAIRWATER (O.N.S.160). Following for C.C.R.T. my 1913/22 TENACITY arrived St. Johns 0753/25 with IMPERIAL MONARCH in tow and departed St. Johns 2145/25 to assistance of FAIRWATER broken down in position 50° 18' N., 40° 18' W. (F.O.N.F., 1325Z/25 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.) C.T.U. 24.1.12 (2030Z/24 intended) TENACITY escorted by THREE RIVERS sailed St. Johns N.F. 2200/25 to assistance of FAIRWATER. (F.O.N.F., 2201Z/25 to C.T.U.24.1.12 (R) Cominch, Comtask 24, Admty. C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.T.G.24.7 PRIMROSE)

O.N.161 O.N.161 Southbound ships detached at dusk tonight Monday. (Connav, 1359/25 to C.T.24,18.2 (R) Admty. C.T.24., C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa).

/Your...

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.O.N.161
Contd.

Your 1359Z/25. In view of unformed state of convoy request instructions be broadcast to ships concerned for benefit of stragglers and those out of visual signalling touch. Ref. my 1130Z/25. (C.T.U.24.18.2 1628Z/25 to Connav, (R) C.T.F. 24., 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).

This is Connav B.A.M.S.1952/25 area 2A transmitted to all stragglers of convoy O.N.161 "Southbound ships O.N.161 detach at dusk tonight Monday".

(Connav, 2002/25 to Admty etc).

C.1. Group.

Your 1515/22nd. Report why 3 destroyers and 5 corvettes have been allocated to C.1. group in view of N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1553. (N.S.H.Q., 1359Z/25 to F.O.N.F., (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty. C.O.A.C., Cdre. Londonderry C.C.C.S) Reply 1211Z/26.

U.G.S.5

Cinclant's 2346/24, informs as follows: Destroyer Division 14 plus PARKER, BOYLE and MERRIMACK hereby constituted T.F.35, Captain Wattles commanding. Escort convoy U.G.S.5 scheduled to depart New York February 7th for Casablanca and other ports in Northwest Africa. Use MERRIMACK to fuel destroyers at sea. Follow route Cominch (C. and R) prescribes. Operational control passes from me to Admiralty at 40° W., then to N.C.X.F. at 10° W. Turn over ships in convoy bound for Mediterranean to British escort at point Cominch (C. & R) initially designates. Return New York escorting convoy G.U.S.5 when directed by C.T.G.26.7 and follow Admiralty routeing. (Comnav, 1437/25 to Admty).

T.M.1

Request reply. To my 1851/17. (B.A.D., 1437Z/25 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty).

Tankers for
"Torch" area.

In order to meet substantial portion of Allied petroleum products requirements "Torch" area arrangements are being completed for 2 groups of 6 13½ knots 130,000 barrel tankers and escort of 3 destroyers for each group. These will be in addition to tankers in regular U.G.S. convoys thus eliminating future bulk petroleum movements from U.K. to "Torch". Details of plans. First special group movement scheduled for departure Caribbean Sea about 20th Feb. Thereafter regular movements departing this side about every 25 days. Based upon reported inventories and estimated requirements received through British it is assumed present inventories of all "Torch" areas sufficient until arrival of at least 3 white and 2 black cargoes in U.G.S. 5 supplemented later by deliveries herein outlined. Details. (Cominch, 1455/25 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) Cinclant, N.C.X.F. Admty. C.C.S.F., B.A.D., V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. African Forces) See Admiralty 1527A/27.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

FORT LAMY,
NORSE KING.

Your 1603/20. FORT LAMY arrived Philadelphia Jan. 12th vide my Amply 57 Part 2. NORSE KING torpedoed Dec. 28th. No further information available.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1457Z/25 to Admty).

U.G.S.4

U.G.S.4 Stragglers R/V all from point H all 1200Z/26 265° 324 miles 27th 261° 137 miles. Received too late for 25th R/V.
(C.T.F.38 1500Z/25 to Admty. (R) Cominch).

MEXICO

Your 1543/20 and 2223/15.
1. U.S. authorities request you sail MEXICO unescorted from Dakar direct Trinidad.
2. This change occasioned due to 500 personnel not being embarked as in my 1951/26 Nov.
(B.A.D., 1545Z/25 to F.O.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. Cominch, B.N.L.O. Dakar, V.A. Gibraltar).
My 1545Z/25 the question of dislocation of your escort arrangement due to change of plan is fully realised by U.S. Navy who are representing it strongly to their army.
(B.A.D., 2301Z/25 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Admty).

MATHILDA
(Norwegian).

O.N.S.156.
Have you any news of MATHILDA due Boston about 17th Jan.
(D.T.D., 1627A/25 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

IMPERIAL
MONARCH.

IMPERIAL MONARCH lost rudder and rudder post. Ex S.C.117.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1634/25 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Connav, Comtask 24, C.O.A.C. Halifax Port Director New York, N.C.S.O. Montreal M.O.E. T.U.24.1.17 for Cdre.)

Convoy
Cycles.

Escort of tanker convoys Gulf or Caribbean Sea to Casablanca/Gibraltar my 2126/12. D will be entirely a U.S. Commitment. Cinclant provides at least 4 destroyers or old destroyers preferably former to augment British escort of Caribbean Sea - U.K. tanker convoys.
C. Same despatch. Direct destroyers designated report by despatch to Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces in Europe for duty in connection with Caribbean Sea (2 corrupt groups) oil convoys. When destroyers report to Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces in Europe direct them to further report as requested of Admiralty for this duty. British are taking steps to increase number of escorts assigned North Atlantic convoys.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1634/25 to Cinclant, Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces in Europe. (R) Comtask 24. C.C.S.F., C.E.S.F., Admty. S.N.O. Casablanca, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, N.C.X.F. C. in C. A.F.)

War Diary.

25.1.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

GENTIAN, S.C.117. Your 0155/25 (N.T. in W.D.) Am proceeding direct to join S.C.117 HEATHER (?in company). My P.C. and S. 046° 20' N., 047° 05' W. (C) 030° 7 knots. Weather report. (GENTIAN, 1702Z/25 to C.T.24 (R) C.M.O.E. T.U. 24.1.17. Connav F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)

B.Y.M.S. Weather permitting intend to sail B.Y.M.S.2, 3, 4 and 30 Great Circle to Londonderry at 1430Z /26th. (F.O.N.F., 1755Z/25 to Admty. (R) Cominch, C.T.F.24., C. in C. W.A., B.A.D. C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q.)

Bermuda A/S working up base. Although arrival of submarine detailed for A/S working up base Bermuda has been postponed intend that base shall be completed as soon as possible so that facilities may be used for A/S craft at or visiting Bermuda. 2. This will avoid wasting personnel already sent from U.K. for base and afford them useful training, in their new duties. 3. Request therefore that despatch of all outstanding equipment may be hastened. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 1824Q/25 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., B.A.M.R., N.S.H.Q)

ST. LAURENT refit. Your 1640/24. Due to delay in completion ST. LAURENT cannot now arrive before 16th Feb. (F.O.N.F., 1839Z/25 to Cdre. Londonderry (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A. ST. LAURENT).

Zigzagging of ships in S.A., extension of area. C. in C. S.A. 1225C/6 affirmative. (Connav 1850/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A.)

H.X. 224 Ocean Escort. T.U. 24.1.14 CHURCHILL (S.O.) RESTIGOUCHE (H/F D/F) AMHERST, BRANDON, COLLINGWOOD, SHERBROOKE designated ocean escort for H.X.224. (F.O.N.F., 1905Z/25 to C.T.F.24 (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty. C.T.G.24.7., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C. Com. Londonderry, CHURCHILL). Cancelled by 1509Z/26 q.v.

EXTAVIA (Ex EMPIRE ORIOLE) (U.S.) My 2215/29/9/42 EXTAVIA due to sail New York 26th similar route. (B.A.D., 1931Z/25 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B., C. in C. E.F., Dep. C. in C. E.F., S.N.O. P.G.)

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

H.X. 223 Unless events not known to me require detachment (C.T.G.) 24.6 1610Z/25 INGHAM and Tankers, consider they should remain with convoy until 25° W.
(Comtask 24.1941/25 to C.T.G. 24.6. (R) C.E.S.F., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. and R. C.T.U. 24.1.3, C. in C. W.A. INGHAM).

U.K. -
Curacao
Tanker
Convoys. A.M.1954/16 to S.B.N.O.W.A. Para. 7.
Has any indication been given by the Navy Department as to the extent of the assistance they are likely to provide?
2. In the meantime we are going ahead on the basis of S.B.N.O. Curacao's 1704/17 and S.B.N.O. .W.At. 1532/20.
(Admty. 1949A/25 to B.A.D. Washington, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. S.B.N.O. Curacao, S.B.N.O. Trinidad, C. in C. W.A.)

Sub attack
and sighting
summary. Para. B. B.18 sights Sub. 07° 30' N., 57° W. 1035Z/25 course 270° speed 3. Para. D. SBD plane sights periscope 41° 12' N., 71° 25' W. 1545Z/24. Sound contact about 42° 08' N., 69° 43' W., 1915Z/24. Plane attack same, position 2100Z/24. Sub sighted 21 S., 40° 10' W. 24 Jan. Sub. contact 23° 07' N., 74° 22' W., 0235Z/25. B.18 attacks 20° 30' N., 74° 25' 0800Z/25.
(Cominch, 2003/25 to Admty. for O.I.C. Info. N.S.H.Q.)

Jamaica
convoy
despatches. Effective Feb. 1st discontinue S.O.(I) Jamaica convoy despatches inform Brokingston only such information as necessary to join or break off vessels in convoy passing near Jamaica. Cominch C. and R. will continue to inform (on per Tzining?) to convoys as at present.
(Navcom Washington 2024/25 to Comcaribseafon, Compaseafon, (R) Comgulfseafon, N.O.B. Trinidad, N.O.B. Guantanamo Cuba, N.O.B. Key West Florida, C.A.F.A.C., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty London. S.O.(I) Jamaica).

LIPSCOMB LYKES, Connav Serial 24 and 25.
CITY OF LYONS LIPSCOMBE LYKES serial 19 now reported complete loss.
KOLLBJORG. CITY OF LYONS serial 23 and LONE STAR both arrived St. Johns N.F. with collision damage ex H.X.223. KOLLBJORG Broke in two 24th Jan. 59° 09' N., 40° 28' W. same convoy.
(Connav, 2056/25 to Comnav (R) S.O.(I) Kingston, N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.O.S.F., C.C.S.F., N.O.B. Bermuda).

HUNTER HUNTER Norfolk Jan. 30 at Norfolk. Route E 29° N. 85° W. via Rebecca Shoals in daylight thence to point (c) via route Xile then to 37° 05' N., 74° 46' W. Speed 15.5.
(R.O. New Orleans, 2043/25 2219/25 to Admty).

/My...

War Diary.25.1.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.HUNTER
Contd.

My 2043/25. Vessel will transmit and receive
4155 k/cs continuous and copy Comgul Sea Fron.
215 KCSF to 30 North.
(R.O. New Orleans, 2219/25 to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrival Brisbane 23rd ROCKHAMPTON Townsville 22nd
LATROBE 23rd Katoomba 24th SWAN Port Moresby
23rd BALLARAT Sydney N.S.W. 24th ARUNTA Fremantle
24th KANIMBLA Milne Bay 24th VENDETTA.

Departure Port Moresby 22nd SWAN for Townsville 23rd BALLARAT for
Milne Bay 23rd BENDINGO for Port Moresby Brisbane 23rd ROCKHAMPTON
for Sydney N.S.W. Cairns 24th PIRIE for Port Moresby Darwin
22nd KALGOURLIE for Thursday Is. Sydney N.S.W. 23rd H.M.A.S.
BUNDABURG on escort duty Fremantle 22nd U.S. Seaplane Tender
WILLIAM B. PRESTON for Exmouth Gulf.
(A.C.N.B., 0646A/25).

Hired Transports DUNTROON, KATOOMBA arrived Fall River
24th. U.S. Transport BONTEKOE departed Port Moresby 24th due
Oro Bay 26th. Hired Transport TAROONA departed Cairns 24th due
Townsville 25th. U.S. Fleet Oiler VICTORIA departed
Townsville 23rd for Palm Island.
(A.C.N.B., 1308Z/25).

Digest
Serial No.
368.

Five Fortresses bombed Lakunai aerodrome before
dawn starting 2 large fires and 4 small. Same
time 3 Fortresses bombed Vunakanau causing
fires. Searchlights also bombed and strafed
extinguishing some. Noon recco. sighted 42
medium to large ships Rabaul harbour also many
small vessels, 24th.

(2) Single unidentified ship 7° 20' S., 153° 38' E. attacked
by Catalina during early morning 24th. Near misses and possible
hits scored.

(3) Morning Liberator saw approx. 10 Zeros West of Gazelle
Peninsula and at noon submarine on surface Kimbe Bay. Later
sighted 3 Zeros over Finschaven where strip serviceable but no
aircraft thereon.

(4) Evening 23rd small possible gunboat West Cape Gazelle course
190°.

(5) Forenoon 24 Jan. Liberator bombed Gasmata runway therein
craters seen and no activity. Anti-aircraft positions appeared
abandoned.

(6) Same afternoon Liberator bombed Cape Gloucester runway.

(7) Another Liberator over Wewak one hour before recco.
reported Digest serial 367 para. 5 saw one light cruiser one
destroyer 3 cargo vessels in harbour with steam up. Nine
Zeros intercepted 2 destroyers.

(8) Seven B.25s bombed Terrace area Lae at noon. Photos show

War Diary.

25.1.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
Serial No.
368. Contd.

6 buildings destroyed and direct hits 3 A.A. positions. Three fighters 3 bombers seen on aerodrome.

(9) During morning 4 Bostons bombed and strafed Salamaua Isthmus and swept coast to Kumusi River.

(10) Probable enemy submarine sighted 70 miles S.S.E. Osprey Reef this afternoon.

(11) (?Seen) off S.W. Celebes 23/Jan. Natori class cruiser with escort course West also aircraft carrier 2 large vessels 2 destroyers course East.

(12) Liberator bombed Dilli during morning. Probably shot down one of 2 intercepting Zeros.

(13) Small seaplane tender or tanker sighted Manokwsri during morning also one medium merchant vessel and 3 small vessels at Babo.

(14) Refer Digest 366 para. 7 PETER H. BURNETT located afloat. Survivors seen in 2 lifeboats.

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0740Z/25).

ACHILLES

My 0042/22nd proposed programme concurred in by Comsoupac.

(N.Z.N.B. 0945M/25 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., ACHILLES, S.B.N.O.W.At).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C., 1339A/25, 1343A/25).

War Diary.

26.1.1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

J.W.52,
R.A.52.

Force R (C.S.1 in KENT with BERMUDA and GLASGOW) arrived at Kola Inlet at 0015A today. The force will cover the passage of convoy R.A.52 to the U.K.

Fresh orders were sent today to the S/MS on North Norway patrol. P.314, P.224 and TRIDENT were ordered to leave patrol and proceed to Lerwick. P.216 O.15, SOKOL and P.53 were ordered to patrol off North Norway.

FAME left S.C.116 at 0930Z today in 60° 10' N., 12° 54' N., with defects and weather damage.

Further mines were detonated off the Humber today and one off the Nab Tower.

South Atlantic.

The Eastern Fleet corvettes NIGELLA, FREESIA, JASMINE and FRITILLARY at Durban have been placed under the operational command of C. in C. S.A. as from 17 Jan.

ILLUSTRIOUS sailed from Freetown for the U.K. today, escorted by PATHFINDER, PANTHER, HOLCOMBE, and ILEX.

CARNARVON CASTLE left Port Stanley today to visit the South Shetlands and assert British sovereignty. It is reported that the Argentine Govt. are sending a warship to take formal possession of the South Orkneys and Shetlands.

War Diary.

26.1.1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Reconnaissance of Marseilles today shows a marked decrease in tonnage since 29 December. Amongst the departures are several large liners and tankers and 25 smaller ships. On 28 Jan. R/C of Genoa showed a considerable increase in merchant shipping both in number and total tonnage, since 21 Dec 1942.

ORION and 6 destroyers returned to Malta this morning from covering Convoy M.H.3.

Tripoli
(L).

The harbour entrance at Tripoli (L) is completely blocked by 8 ships. It is hoped to clear a 100 ft. passage for ships up to 24 ft. draught by 8 Feb. and there is every prospect that the port will be repaired and in full working order by the time the entrance is clear. The enemy left behind 4 harbour tugs and 54 lighters, most of them serviceable. The wreck of a submarine is visible to east of the harbour (c.f. 20 Jan).

C. in C. Med., reports that P.42 attacked, hit and it is believed sank a 5,000 ton escorted north bound ship in 33° 45' N., 11° 12' E. date not known

P.44 reports a probable torpedo hit on a 7,000 ton northbound ship at 1727/17 in 38° 4' N., 11° 40' E. Heavy counter attacks by destroyers and E-boats kept P.44 down for 36½ hours.

Syria

There has been a recrudescence of U-boat activity off Tripoli (S). Last night 3 schooners with military convoys were sunk.

Air Operations.

Fighter bombers made three attacks on Zuara today, to hamper the use of the harbour by the enemy. Hits were made on the mole and near misses by a schooner. 48 Kittyhawks and 24 B.24s in 2 formations were despatched to bomb Naples at dusk. Owing to bad weather they were unable to reach Naples. One formation bombed Messina, the second formation bombed Palermo harbour, cloud obscured the results.

26.1.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Seven B.24s attacked shipping and wharves at Rangoon today. No details are known.

America & West Indies.

The designation O.T. has been assigned to the fast tanker convoys from the Gulf of Caribbean to and from West Africa. The first eastbound sailing will be from Aruba 5 Feb. for Dakar.

A convoy of 9 L.C.I.(L) sailed unescorted today from Bermuda for Gibraltar.

At 1900A an aircraft reported a tanker on fire in 58.13 N. 39.27 W. (160 miles S.E. of Cape Farewell). No survivors were seen. (Possibly KOLLBJORG, see 25 Jan).

O.N.160

SHERWOOD, POLYANTHUS and MORDEN from O.N.160 (See 23 Jan. 24 Jan) arrived at St. Johns N.F. today. NIAGARA and RED DEER sailed for O.N.160.

Australia & New Zealand.

Seven Fortresses attacking shipping at Rabaul before daylight saw very few vessels in harbour (c.f. 22 Jan) but made hits on one unidentified ship followed by a large fire. Shipping was apparently dispersed between Praed Point and Duke of York Island where a large concentration was seen.

Two aircraft raided Port Moresby in the early hours of today but caused no damage or casualties.

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Russian
S/MS at
Rosyth.

Your 1516A/21. Vessels should be considered in same category as ours and other Allied major war vessels.

Russian authorities have been informed.
(D.N.I. 1618A/26 to C. in C. Rosyth).M/S Vessels
at Sheerness.Your 2309/24. Approved in principle.
2. Further details will be promulgated regarding the future employment of these vessels and the disposal of the LL equipment.
(D.M.S., 1838A/26 to C. in C. Nore).Scapa.
A.P. Drifters.Your 1741/25. Concur.
(D.S.V.P., 2154A/26 to A.C.O.S.)Movements.

TORBAY

My 1629/25. Add para. (M) TORBAY 43° 32' N., 13° 22' W. course 180° dived by day, crosses latitude 43° 01' N., at 1900A/26.
(F.O.S., 1027A/26 to Admty).Destroyer
Escort for
Fleet Units.Six destroyers will be required to escort Fleet units to U.K. relieving Gibraltar destroyers in approx. 46° N., 17° W.
2. Request four Western Approaches Destroyers and 2 Plymouth Type II Hunts may be ready at Plymouth by January 29th.
(D.O.D. H., 1146A/26 to C. in C. Plymouth).

A.M.1146A/26. Cdre. WESTERN ISLES Tobermory is requested to sail ESCAPADE for Moville when ready tomorrow. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail SARDONYX, SCIMITAR, ESCAPADE, and LAUDERDALE, as soon as ready on 28th to Plymouth).

(C. in C. W.A., 1905A/26).

H.28
H.44.Intend sailing H.28 and H.44 escorted by AQUAMARINE from Rothesay at 2100A/27 to Lough Foyle. E.T.A. 0900A/28th. Speed 8 knots.
(Capt. S.7., 1151A/26).

P.56

Intend to sail P.56 escorted by PRESTON NORTH END at 1730A/28 to Scapa arriving 0830A/30 for onward escort by BRYONY to Holy Loch.
(Capt. S.6., 1525A/26).

TUNA

Intend sailing TUNA escorted by CUTTY SARK for Holy Loch at 1300/27.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1845A/26).

/S/M...

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

S/M Positions of submarines at 0800/27 and movements for following 24 hours.

A. TRIDENT 71° 06' N., 19° 30' E. through 71° 02' N., 13° 21' E., and 69° 01' N., 07° 48' E.

B. P.314, 70° 50' N., 17° 01' E., through 70° 50' N., 14° 01' E., thence 69° N., 08° 52' E.

C. P.224, 70° 50' N., 18° 10' E., through 70° 50' N., 14° 01' E. thence 69° N., 08° 52' E.

D. P.216, 64° 30' N., 06° 10' E., probably on the surface through 65° 30' N., 05° 50' E. thence towards 71° 10' 17' 20' E.

E. SOKOL, 63° 38' N., 04° 45' E., probably on the surface through 64° 25' N., 04° 15' E., thence towards 70° 52' N., 16° 30' E.

F. P.53, 65° 12' N., 04° 20' E., probably on the surface towards 70° 50' N., 15° 10' E.

G. JUNON on patrol vicinity 62° 27' N., 05° 04' E.

H. Q15, 64° 14' N., 05° 40' E., probably on the surface through 64° 59' N., 05° 01' E. thence towards 71° 01' N., 16° 55' E.

J. HERRING in Zone K.505.

K. SHAD off Bilbao.

L. P.219, escorted by BRYONY arriving Scapa from the westward.

M. GURNARD 50° 05' N., 08° 50' W., through 50° 01' N., 09° 30' W., 49° 09' N., 19° 01' W., diving by day speed of advance 175 miles in 24 hours.

N. H.34 escorted by AQUAMARINE vicinity Rathlin Is. by standard route to Rothesay expected time of arrival 1600/27.

O. O.19 passed through 43° 01' N., 13° 50' W., at 2200/27 diving by day for 49° 10' N., 13° 50' W.

P. H.8 and H.44 escorted by AQUAMARINE sail from Rothesay 2100/27 by standard route for Lough Foyle expected time of arrival 0900/28.

(F.O.S., 2024A/26 to Admty).
My 2024/26. Add new para. Q. TUNA escorted by CUTTY SARK sails Plymouth 1300/27 for Clyde.
(F.O.S., 2321A/26 and 0046/27 to Admty).

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. 1. Intend M.L.303 and M.L. 123 (S.O.) to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N., between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.

2. Leave Portland at 1715 via Q.Z.S.382 to patrol-line adjusting position so as to cover passage of P.W. convoys. Leave patrol-line at dawn and return to base.

3. Object:- Anti-E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0958A/26 and 1623/26).

Operation "Valuable". Patrols for tonight.

1. Force A consists of CLEVELAND (S.O.), GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, GOATHDALE, TYNEDAILE, MELBREAK patrolling south of Beachy Head as in para. (4) of my 1000/20. Force A to pass E.A.5 outward at 1900/26 and inward at 0600/27. Force B at Newhaven to consist of M.G.B.616 (S.O.), 613 and M.T.B.243 (S.O.) 242, 85.

2. UNST, LORD WAKEFIELD, CHASER 11 at St. Helens and KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth.

3. 9th M/S Flotilla (S.O. BRIDPORT) sailing eastwards, passing E.A. 5 2100/26 and Beachy Head 0100/27.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1230A/26).

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Command operations. On day 25th 12 A/C attacked the docks at Flushing. (H.Q.B.C., 1445/26).

Toulon. Our 1615/17, and your 1750/18, and N.C.X.F's 1107A/20. Understand Toulon is now covered by P.R. aircraft in the Mediterranean theatre. If this is true request that Toulon commitment from this country may be cancelled. (Coastal Command, 1925/26 to Admty).

Mining.

Sweep of Q.Z.S.117 and Q.Z.S.151. My 1220A/22. Intend to sail BRIDPORT (S.O.) BANGOR, BRIDLINGTON BLACKPOOL, and SARGASSO at 1845 today for Harwich.
2. Routed standard convoy route and Q.Z.S.191 117, 151, 351 and 263. Speed 11 knots, E.T.A. 1600/27.
3. Sweeping Q.Z.S. 117 and 151 on passage. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1145A/26).
My 1145A/26. Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1855A/26).

Search off Iona. Anchored Loch Laithaich. Unable to transfer Dan buoys. (GUNNER, 1405/26 to M/S 16).

Operation D.F.9. Intend carrying out operations D.F.9 as follows
A. Experimental distant control in the North Minch in the immediate vicinity of M.1. buoy.
D. PORT QUEBEC escorted by WELLS on 1st February. Details. (R.A.M., 1518A/26 to Admty).

Portsmouth Area. One magnetic mine red detonated by LL in approx. 210° 4.1 miles from Nab Tower. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1720A/26).

Operation N.L.29 A. M.Ls. 102, 210, 213, 128, and 107 and M.T.Bs. 38, 219, and 221 supported by M.G.Bs. 110, 113, 108, 329, 324, 330 and M.A.S.B. 32 and 24 carrying out operation N.L. 29A. E.T.D.1745, E.T.R. 2300. (V.A. Dover, 1747A/26).

Humber Area. The following 4 Mines were exploded by sweepers today.
At 1012/26 in 182° 62 Buoy 8 cables.
At 1351/26 in 152° 62 Buoy 15 cables.
At 1449/26 in 178° 57 E-buoy 6 cables.
At 1622/26 in 198° 57 E-buoy 8 cables. (F.O. Humber 1914/26).

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

MONBALDO . Intercept 0143 G.M.T. From MONBALDO bearing from
(Italian, Humber Radio 051°. Acknowledged by Gothenburg
6214 tons). Radio 0144 G.M.T.
Translation. MONBALDO to Gothenburg. S O S Ship
aground near Nidingen. Please send assistance
immediately.
(Humber Radio, 0245 B.S.T./26).
Following from MONBALDO. Lifeboat on the way coming soon.
(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O. Recd. 0355/26).
Following received. MONBALDO to Gothenburg Radio send
Salvage ship as quickly as possible.
Gothenburg to MONBALDO - Salvage ship proceeding 0500.
(Wick Radio, 0605/26).
Following received. Gothenburg to MONBALDO.
Translation:- There in about 2023 hours.
(Burnham Radio, T.O.R, 0559/26).

E-boat E-boat bears 100° approx. from G by D/F.
(C. in C. Nore, 2131/26 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)
E-boat bears 093° approx. from G by D/F.
(C. in C. Nore, 2154/26).
E-boat bears approx. 060° from W and 111 from G
by D/F.
(C. in C. Nore, 2234/26).

U-boats.

U-boats At 0556Z/26 a U-boat transmitted, probably from
reported. your vicinity, and may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C., 0759A/26 to Escorts M.K.S.6).
Am investigating suspicious object possibly
periscope in 58° 50' N., 13° 40' W.
(A/C D. of 206 Sqdn. 1645/26 to 15 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 56° 55' N., 40° 06' W. Submarine
was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C of 228 Sqdn. Duty W., 1720A/26).

Navigational.

Needles Following received from XDOW.
Channel. Port Needles Channel now open. 1038/25.
(C. in C. Portsmouth No T.O.O./26 to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

FAME Left S.C.116 in 060° 10' N., 012° 54' W.
(X) at 0930Z. FAME has large numbers defects.
Boat damaged and superficial upper-deck damaged
and leaks. New asdic training unit and lifting
motors required. Could arrive Liverpool 1600A tomorrow
Wednesday if more convenient than Londonderry for repairs.
(FAME, 1206A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1206/26. Proceed to Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A., 1453A/26 to FAME).

War Diary.26.1.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

L.15 My 2144/18. On completion of temporary repairs expect L.15 will be ready to sail for U.K. on 31st January. She can only proceed on surface. Request instructions whether
 (1) A special escort can be provided. (2) She should be sailed in R.U.50. (3) She should be sailed independently with local trawler escort.
 Probably WINDERMERE could be made available.
 (A.C.I.C., 1321A/26 to Admty).

ST. CROIX My 1255A/23 and C. in C. W.A., 1811A/23. Fitting of F.H. 3 H.F/D.F. in ST. CROIX necessitates reduction of top weight. Proposals. A.M.1118/20 Jan. refers.
 (Cdre. Londonderry, 1331A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

TAKU. S.10s 1751/25. It is proposed TAKU should return S/M refitting to U.K. at an early date for repairs to main arrangements. engines and periodical refit, normally due in June 1943.
 If approved the following revised Submarine refitting arrangements are proposed.
 (a) TAKU to follow TRUANT at Troon mid March in lieu of TRUSTY.
 (b) TRUSTY to follow OTUS at Swan Hunters early April in lieu of STURGEON.
 (c) STURGEON to follow TRUSTY at Swan Hunters in lieu of TAKU.
 It is further proposed that consideration be given to fitting new cylinder blocks of modified design in the Port engine concurrently with the replacement of fractured starboard engine cylinder blocks in TAKU.
 (F.O.S., 1644A/26 to Admty).

JAN MAYEN N.C.S.O. Iceland's 1831/18. Salvage Operation abandoned. Vessel has broken up in heavy swell.
 (A.C.I.C., 2142A/26 to Admty).

SAVORGNAN Starboard engine broken down unable to repair DE BRAZZA. at sea. Instructed by S.O. of Escort to proceed Londonderry for further orders. My P.C.S. at 2300, 053° 19' N., 014° 34' W, 030° 9 knots.
 (SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA 2315A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

T.A. 33 V.A. Gib's 1840/25. Amend position of T.A. 33 in (EMPRESS my 1355/25 to 045° 20' N., 026° 01' W, routed OF SCOTLAND,) through 045° 30' N., 030° 10' W., and 045° N. 040° W.
 (C. in C. W.A., 0015A/26 to V.A. Gibraltar, T.A. 33).

War Diary.26.1.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

K.M.S.8
CORNCRAKE. One Fortress will assist in search from 0930A at 1530A/26.
(C. in C. W.A., 0258A/26 to LONDONDERRY, REGINA).
Passed through 55° 10' N., 13° 30' W., at 2000A/25 and 1130/26. Searched in area between lat. 55.10 and 55.37 and long. 13.30 and 12.50 during the night, fired Snowflake occasionally. No response or to R/T call. Intend searching the area 40 miles to North eastward until otherwise ordered by you. My position 1200A/26 based on stars at 1855A/25 is 055° 11' 013° 29', course 50° making good 8. Fortress met co-operating in R/T communication with REGINA. My A/S Dome has carried away. Seaworthiness not affected. Weather 3772 1367.

(LONDONDERRY, 1230A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
LONDONDERRY's 1230/26. If nothing found by dark tonight LONDONDERRY is to return to Londonderry for repairs to A/S Dome. REGINA is to continue search until further orders.

(C. in C. W.A., 1617A/26).

Cancel my 1617/26.

(C. in C. W.A., 1652A/26 to Admty).

LONDONDERRY take REGINA under your orders and continue search for CORNCRAKE. A/C will co-operate tomorrow.

(C. in C. W.A., 1732A/26 to LONDONDERRY, REGINA).

Report immediately your P.C.S.

(C. in C. W.A., 1932A/26 to CORNCRAKE).

M.K.F.7 Your 2136A/23. Arrived 0433/26. (FRANCONIA, BATORY, SOBIESKI, ORMONDE)
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0820/26 to D.S.T.)
Clyde portion arrived.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0909A/26).

Arrived GORLESTON.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1154A/26).

Your 2136A/24. VILLE D'ORAN arrived 1102/26.

(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1229/26).

J.W.52 Force R arrived Kola Inlet 0015A/26.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0840A/26 to H.F.)
Sailed ECLIPSE to Akureyri. E.T.A. 0800A/28.
(R.A.D., 1204A/26 to A.C.I.C.)

Return to Scapa.

(C. in C. H.F., 1559A/26 to ECLIPSE).

P.314, TRIDENT, and P.224 are ordered to leave patrol forthwith for Lerwick.

(2) P.216, Q15, SOKOL and P.53 are ordered to proceed patrol position as in my 1702/22.

(3) JUNON is to remain in present patrol position until further orders.

(F.O.S., 1618A/26 to Capt. S.8).

S/Ms are to leave patrol at 2359/26 and proceed on surface at discretion of C.O. to new patrol position as follows.

2. P.216 through 065° 30' 005° 50' thence by route Orange through 071° 10' 017° 20' to patrol position 071° 10', 023° 44'.

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- J.W.52. Contd. 3. O.15 through 065° 01' 005° 01' thence by route Orange through 070° 59', 016° 55' to patrol-position 071° 02' 022° 56'.
4. SOKOL through 064° 25' 004° 15' thence by route Orange through 070° 52' 016° 30' to patrol position 070° 51' 021° 56'.
5. P.53 is to proceed forthwith by route Black through 070° 50', 015° 10' to patrol position 070° 52' 021° 14'. P.53 is not to cross 017° E. before 1200/30.
(Capt. S.9., 1807A/26).
Submarines are to leave patrol at 2359/26 and proceed to Lerwick on the surface at C.O's discretion as follows.
2. P.314 and P.224 through 070° 50' 014° 01' thence by route Pink.
3. TRIDENT through 071° 02' 013° 21' thence by route Grey.
(Capt. S.9., 1813A/26 to S/MS).
Hvalfjord arrival your 1332/25 at 2245/26 (ORIBI, OBEDIENT)
(A.C.I.C., 2359A/26 to R.A.D. H.F.)
- O.N.162 Detach WATCHMAN and ROCKINGHAM forthwith to Reykjavik to refuel and rejoin as soon as possible (C. in C. W.A., 0901Z/26 to Escorts O.N.162).
- O.N.S.163 BURNHAM and ASSINIBOINE proceed to Reykjavik forthwith to refuel, rejoining as soon as possible (C. in C. W.A., 0905Z/26 to Escorts O.N.S.163)
- TJALDUR My 1045/25. For DULCIBELLE read FORFEIT. Intend sailing in company SS. ST. ROGNVALD K.B. for Kirkwall. E.T.A. Kirkwall 0600/28.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1000/26).
- S.C.116 Left S.C.116 in 60° 10' N., 12° 54' W., at 0930Z.
(FAME, 1206A/26) See Casualties.
- U.R.60 U.R.60 split during gale. STAFNES, PAYNTER in company with 2 merchant ships. ARAB in company with 3 merchant ships. 1 straggler believed BELGOL. My position 132° 220 miles from position X X.
(STAFNES, 1500Z/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.M.F.8 Your 2150/24. Ship (K.129) should be held pending further instructions.
(D.S.T., 1604A/26 to D.S.T.O. Greenock).
- S.D.36 On reaching 007° W. LEINSTER is to proceed to Clyde independently. Destroyers to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 1849A/26 to SARDONYX).

War Diary.

26.1.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Russian
Convoys.
Ports of
Discharge.

Following from Harriman and M.O.W.T. to Dalgliesh and Frankel. Mast 348.

Signal 1718/22 from Commander Frankel makes strong recommendations regarding ships using White Sea with reasonable safety and advantage. This advice is contrary to previous signals from Admiral Miles Dalgliesh and S.B.N.O. North

Russia and Alusna Archangel on which our decision not to use White Sea further this winter was based. We have so far received no comment from these sources regarding Frankel's signal.

2. We do not wish you to feel finally committed or limited to previous decisions if the winter prospects and other factors suggest wisdom of reconsideration.

3. You should, therefore, interpret Admiralty message 1755/20 January as if the following words were added - "No repeat no more ships are to go to White Sea this winter unless weather prospects and other factors make this decision seem worth reconsidering, in which case Commander Frankel is given authority to order American ships into White Sea and Mr. Dalgliesh authority for British ships but we naturally expect that decisions will be agreed after your joint consultations. In our opinion, however, no more than five or six ships in total at a time should be so ordered and always subject to our previous views regarding damage or delay to such ships discharging in White Sea compared with Murmansk, also subject to concurrence of S.B.N.O. North Russia regarding safety of ships from enemy action.

4. For your guidance J.W.53 is expected to contain 28 dry cargo ships and 2 White oil tankers, total 30 ships.

5. Admiralty concur.

(D.T.D., 2226A/26 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area.

E.T.10. Destination of LEVENBANK is Gibraltar. H.M.S. RHYL pass to CREEK and LEVENBANK. (N.C.X.F., 1100A/26 to RHYL, Escorts of Convoy E.T.10, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Bougie, Admty.)

Raiders.

Intelligence. My 1826A/19.
1. No further reports of German or Japanese raiders.
2. No further reports of blockade-runners but some ships are almost certainly on passage from Far East. Sailings from Biscay likely in near future. (D.D.I.C., 2007A/26 to A.I.G.13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

Axis shipping. German controlled SAIL NALBERT (? ST. ALBERT arrived Marseilles 10th Nov.) and Spanish SEBASTIAN sail from Valencia for Marseilles night of 25th. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 0449A/26 to S.O.I. Malta, S.O.I.X.F.)

U.G.F.4. Arrived U.G.F.4 consisting of MONTEREY, SANTA ROSA, SANTA ELENA, ESSO PATERSON, KENNEBEE, JOHN ERIKSSON and Task Force 34, TEXAS, BROOKLYN, BUTLER, BRISTOL, BUCK, WILKES, SWANSON, LUDLOW, WOOLSEY, EDISON, ROE.
(Comseafon W.T.F., 0615Z/26 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, Cominch, Cinclant, Admty.)
U.G.F.4, ESSO HARRISBURGH arrived.
(Gibraltar, 0945A/26 to N.C.X.F., (R) Connav, Admty., F.O.I.C. Oran, S.N.O. Casablanca, N.S.H.Q.)

Dispositions, My 1117A/25th. Add new paras. (12) and (13).
Situation 4 aircraft rescue boats sailed from Port Lyautey
Report. 0830/26th to Gibraltar, 20.
U.S.A. destroyers (? BRISTOL), BUTLER sailed from Casablanca approx. 2000/25th coastwise to Dakar, 20.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 0732A/26 to A.I.G.63.)

/ERNE ...

War Diary.26.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

ERNE,
SCARBOROUGH. ERNE, SCARBOROUGH arrived off Ponta Delgada 25th 1730 G.M.T. Expect fuel 28th. Request you will inform Portuguese Naval Authorities Lisbon. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0925/26 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., N.A. Lisbon.)

TORBAY. Estimate you 43° N. at 0800. Proceed 9 knots to reach (B) at 0800/28th. (V.A. Gibraltar, 0931A/26 to TORBAY, (R) P.339, F.O.S.)

BARWIN,
PHYLLISIA. A.M. 2043/15. Cancel my 1740/23, para. 2. BARWIN should be sailed for Freetown as soon as practicable. PHYLLISIA is to remain at Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F., 1110A/26 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., F.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.C.W.A.F., GUARDIAN.)

GULF PORT. Request destination for tanker GULF PORT. (Adm. Gibraltar, 1129A/26 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.) Your 1129/26. GULF PORT New York (Tanker message) (D.T.D., 2055A/26 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F.)

NORDFELS,
LIVADIA. German vessel 62 (NORDFELS) and 63 (LIVADIA) returned to Bilbao evening 25th. It is reported vessels were attacked by aeroplane off Bermeo. (Consul Bilbao, 1145/26 to Admty., M.E.W., etc.) (W.R. Note: Passed to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)

KINGSTON
CHRYSOLITE,
MIRROR. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE arrived 24th 2300 G.M.T. with broken cylinder rings, maximum 5 days to complete repairs. Necessary arrangements with local N.A. have been made. Cable ship MIRROR arrived 24th 2245 awaiting escort's repair. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1242C/26 to V.A. Gib., (R) Admty., N.A. Lisbon.)

GENEROSO. Swiss GENEROSO 1437 G.T. speed 8 knots, national colours painted on sides, sailed 1330/26th for Genoa by approved route. Not to be interferred with this voyage. (2) N.C.X.F. pass to E.A.C. and V.A. Malta to A.O.C. Malta. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1315A/26 to S. and A. Area G, V.A. Malta, Capt. S.10, (R) Admty.)

F.T. 9. My 24/1105 F.T.9 sailed 1200A/26. (Comseafon W.T.F., 1315Z/26 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F., Admty.)

War Diary.26.1.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

BULOLO, Your 2334/25th. Through position (A) 35.10, 09.
 LIMBOURNE. 01. (B) 38.37, 12.01, (C) 42.30, 15.30.
 (D) 45.01, 15.30 thence as ordered by C. in C.
 W.A.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1317A/26 to BULOLO, LIMBOURNE, (R) Admty.,
 N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A., S.N.O. Casablanca.)
 Following is repetition of S.N.O. Casablanca's 1710/26th
 addressed V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.C.X.F.,
 BULOLO from S.N.O. Casablanca. BULOLO 2334A/25th V.A. Gib.
 1317/26th. BULOLO with escorts sailed 1630A/26th. To avoid
 linkage V.A. Gibraltar pass to all addressees. (Ends).
 (V.A. Gibraltar, 2129A/26 to Admty., N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.,
 BULOLO.)

Situation. 1957A/26th.
 SCARBOROUGH, ERNE on patrol, off Ponta Delgada.
 (2) U.G.S.4, T.F.38, 040° 37' 029° 05' 089°, 7.3.
 (V.A. Gibraltar, 1326A/26 to A.I.G.64.)
 2001A/26th. Situation report for Area 'Z'.
 G.U.S.3, T.F.33, 25.41, 30.04 through 25.45 30.50 thence 288°, 9.
 (2) ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH, CYCLAMEN, 2 merchant ships
 27.03, 14.52 through 25.01 16.55 thence to 191° 12½.
 (3) DUNKERY, M.L.830, 722, 2 merchant ships (approx.) 19.33,
 17.31 through 20.00, 17.30 thence Port Etienne 8½.
 (4) U.S. destroyer BRISTOL, BUTLER (approx.) 27.48 13.15
 coastwise to Dakar 20 knots.
 (V.A. Gibraltar, 1338A/26.)

Situation ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH, CYCLAMEN 2 merchant
 1958A/26th. ships 27.03 14.52 through 25.01 16.55 thence
 191° 12½ (see amendent) 2. M.K.S.6 PELICAN, one
 destroyer, one cutter, 5 corvettes 4 minesweepers
 42.31 15.08 03° 8.3. 3. P.(339) 42.52 12.38 152° on the
 surface, 8½ knots.
 4. IMPERIALIST, ST.NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER, 31.28 12.05 44°
 11. IMPERIALIST and ST. NECTAN hold (?proper) recognition sig-
 nals. (see amendent) 5. Neth. S/M O.19 40.16 15.35 to 42.11
 14.48 at 0900/27th. and 43.01 13.50 at 2200/27th on surface by
 night 9 knots, diving by day 2½. 6. TORBAY 41.22 12.17
 152° on surface, 9 knots. 7. F.T.9, one A.M. 2P.C.'s,
 French minesweeper BOUDEUSE, 34.40 06.49 coastwise to Gib., 7.5.
 8. LORD HOTHAM 35.44 06.20 228° 9. (See Amendment.)
 9. M.L. 174 M.L. 175 patrolling between 36.45 06.24 and 35.12
 06.08 10 knots. 10. U.S. (?ships) BRISTOL BUTLER approx
 27° 48. 13° 15. coastwise to Dakar, 20 knots.

/NORTHERN...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

Situation 1958A/26th. (Contd.) NORTHERN FOAM, LOCH OSKAIG one merchant ship sails 1845/26th direct Cape St. Mary thence coastwise to Tagus 9 knots. (See Amendment.)
12. BULOLO, WOLVERINE, LIMBOURNE, BADSWORTH, 34.20 08.18 through 35.10 09.01 thence 326° 13½. (V.A. Gib 1340A/26 for Area X.)
My 1340 26th para. (1) Amend position course and speed to read 27.08 14. 55 232° 12½. Para (4) Amend P.C.S. to read 31.28 12.32 288° 3½. Para (8) Amend course to read 248°. Para (11) Delete NORTHERN FOAM. Add new para. 13 NORTHERN FOAM sailed 2200 26th. direct patrol off Lisbon 9. (V.A. Gib. 1746A/26.)
My 1340/26th. delete para:11, add new para:14: LOCH OSKAIG 1 merchant ship sailing 1845 27th. coastwise to Cape Trafalgar thence direct Cape St. Mary 9. (V.A. Gib. 1832A/26.)

ESSO GETTYSBURG Request route instructions for ESSO GETTYSBURG U.S.A. Expected sailing P.M. 28th. destination Aruba speed (A) knots 14 (B) 15 Bunker 18 days H/F transmitter (21) (22) one ship 6 (372) (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1445/26 to Admty., V.A. Gibraltar.)

ROCHESTER etc. N.K. Alter Forthwith for New position (Q) 022° 30' N. 021° 30' W. thence New (R) 020° 01' N. 021° 30' W. (2) F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to amend R/V and time accordingly. (V.A. Gib. 1517A/26 to ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH. (R) Admty., N.C.X.F. F.O.C.W.Af. CORINTHIAN.)

OPHIR. Swiss chartered Spanish tanker OPHIR sails 26th. or 27th. from Barcelona to Savona. (D.E.W.D. 1625A/26 to Admiral Gib. (R) N.C.X.F.)

EMINENT. Your 1247/23. EMINENT will be sailed in E.T. 10. (N.C.X.F. 1645A/26 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty.)

Tankers. Intend sailing SEAKAY and ESSO CACRISBURG for Casablanca at 1900/28 escorted by ENCHANTRESS and BOREAS routed through (S) 35.52 06.01 (T) 35.45 06.23 (U) 34.02 07.49 S. of A. 13½ knots. (2) Both tankers are empty but carry Lockheed Lightning aircraft assembling facilities for which do not exist in Gib. (V.A. Gib. 1652A/26 to S.N.O. Casablanca Admty. N.C.X.F.)

/Distress...

War Diary.

26.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

Distress
Report.

Following has been read, BRF 3 V ???? Help LOTUS
37.07 N, 4.37 E. 1908 (Intercepted when
searching for M J L 5) T.O.R. 1926 T.O.D.
1929/26/1/43.
(Gib W/T.)

Movements
Casablanca.

Warships departed Casablanca U.S.S. BRISTOL and
BUTLER for Dakar U.S.S. OSPREY P.C. 473 and 475
French BOUDEUSE escorting C G-9 for Gib.
(Comseafon W.T.F., 2025Z/26 to N.C.X.F. Admty.
F.O.C. Gib. Cominch.)

M.T.B's.

M.T.B's 260,264,313,315 returned owing to weather.
(V.A. Gib. 2358A/26 to Admty., N.C.X.F., C. in C.
Med., F.O.I.S.)

War Diary.

26.1.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

DUNKERY, My 2259Z/22nd. (DUNKERY, M.L. 302 and M.L. 251,
etc. escorting KANA and MACGREGOR LAIRD.) Amend E.T.
A. 1830Z/26th. Jan.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0021Z/26 to B.N.L.O. Dakar (R)
DUNKERY, Admty.)

MAGNOLIA. Sailed Magnolia routed through following positions
to Diego Suarez, (A) 26.00 S. 41.00 E. (B)
22.00 S. 41.30 E. (C) 15.40 S. 42.40 E.
(D) 12.20 S. 47.30 E. (E) 11.45 S. 49.12 E.
2. W/T watch and S.P's. 3. E.T.A. 0900Z/6 Feb. S. of A.
7 knots.
(Com.I/C Durban, 0452Z/26 to Admty., C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.
N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, F.O.I.C. Ceylon.)

AQUITANIA, P.S.T.O. Capetown's 1438/19. Agree retention for
ILE DE FRANCE, three days of AQUITANIA at Capetown subject to
QUEEN MARY, concurrence of C. in C. S.A.
MAURETANIA. 2. Propose that ILE DE FRANCE be used for ferry-
ing of prisoners of war for QUEEN MARY from Durban
to Capetown instead of MAURETANIA.
3. A.C.N.B. is requested to regulate sailings from Australia
so that (a) ILE DE FRANCE has time to proceed to Durban embark
Prisoners of war and continue to Capetown to arrive concurrently
with QUEEN MARY and (b) AQUITANIA is not at Capetown at the
same time as QUEEN MARY and ILE DE FRANCE.
(D.S.T., 0630A/26 to P.S.T.O. Capetown. A.C.N.B. (R) P.S.T.O.
India, P.S.T.O. M.E. etc.)

INTEGRITY. Sailed 0916 G.M.T. 26th. INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA,
escorting tug INTEGRITY with lighter.
(2) E.T.A. Durban p.m. 28th. (3) Escort shifts
W/T organisation to J at 0800Z/27th.
N.O.I.C. East London, 1004Z/26 to Admty. C. in C. S.A. Cdre. in
C. Durban. C. in C. E.F. (R) N.L.O. Port Elizabeth.)

YERUSALEMME. Your 1439/23 C.S.A. Lourenco Marques reports that
Italian Ship YERUSALEMME is unlikely to be in a
condition to sail for at least 4 weeks.
(C. in C. S.A. 1026C/20 (226) to Admty.)

CROCUS, Departure from Congo Pier 0930Z/25th CROCUS escort
RHESUS. ing S.S. RHESUS routed in accordance with N.C.S.O.
Lagos 1636/2nd. (N.T. in W.D.) E.T.A. Takoradi
0900Z/29th.
(B.N.L.O.W.A., 1045/26 to F.O.C.W.A. Admty. etc.)

THRUSH. Arrival 25th. U.S. Aircraft Tender THRUSH.
R.O.Para 1047/26 to Admty. (R) B.N. Staff O.,
Rio De Janeiro.)

War Diary.

26.1.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.CARNARVON
CASTLE.Falkland Isles. 26th, departure. CARNARVON
CASTLE.
(F.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, 1049Z/26 to Admty.
C. in C. S.A. (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro Comsolant)

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Air cover will be provided by Sunderland or Hudson
from 0900Z each day until p.m. 29th Jan.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1109Z/26 to ILLUSTRIOUS (R) Admty.,
PATHFINDER, V.A. Gib., A.O.C. W.Af.)My 0220/26th. (N.T. in W.D.) Request notification of any French
aircraft patrolling S. of 025° N. in Vicinity of route of
ILLUSTRIOUS.(F.O.C.W.A. 1137Z/26 to B.N.L.O. Dakar ILLUSTRIOUS, PATHFINDER,
V.A. Gib.)N.K. 1. Alter course at 1930Z/26th. Jan. to pass through new
position- K. 20.01 N. 20.59 W. L. 22.10 N. 20.59 W.
M. 26.38 N. 15.01 W. thence E. 2. PENN from Bathurst
amend R/V to position Q. 12.58 N. 18.05 W. at 0700Z/27th.3. On Penn rejoining at 0700Z/27th detach HOLCOMBE to refuel at
Bathurst. HOLCOMBE then proceed by coastal route to rejoin
ILLUSTRIOUS before dark on 29th. Jan.(F.O.C.W.A. 1651Z/26 to ILLUSTRIOUS, PENN (R) B.N.L.O., Dakar,
N.C.X.F., PATHFINDER, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty., HOLCOMBE, V.A.
Gib., S.N.O. Casablanca.)Your 1155A/26 (N.T. in W.D.) Endurance of escorts prevents
Force passing through positions C and G. Intend route as in my
1651Z/26 Jan.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1707Z/26 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gib.)

Departures 26th. Jan. ILLUSTRIOUS, PATHFINDER, PANTHER, HOLCOMBE, ILEX.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 2051Z/26 to Admty. V.A. Gib. N.C.X.F. C. in C.
W.A.)

C.M.38.

Your 0927/21st.(N.T. in W.R.) C.M. 38 will prob-
ably leave Durban Tuesday 2nd. Feb. for Bombay
consisting of ARONDA, PULASKI, EKMA, and ASCANIUS.Last ship will embark the Lascar seamen mentioned in D. of S.T's
0417/9th.P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1122C/26 to P.S.T.O. India, (R) S.S.T.O.
Durban C. in C. E.F., D. of S.T.)Invention
by Mr. Hook.Your 1538C/22 Jan. Description and photographs
forwarded with your 1397/0409 of 15th. Dec.
received and matter under consideration.2. Further signal in reply to para.4 of your 1
1538C/22 will be sent as soon as possible.

(Head of M. Branch 11 1123A/26 to C. in C. S.A.)

Situation.

2004Z/26. PATHFINDER, PANTHER, ILEX, HOLCOMBE
escorting Fleet unit 09.48 16.50 to 11.19
19.40 thence 339.18 . PETUNIA, CORINTHIAN,ARMERIA escorting 15.41 17.49 357° 7.5. FANDANGO about
15.05 21.40 to Bathurst, BRIDGEWATER escorting 08.42 14.29 278°
11.5. Allied naval unit about 17.40 18.42 010° 15.(R.A.W.A. 1131Z/26 to Ships in Area P. of S.A. Station N. of
80° N. C. in C. S.A., Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic Contd.

Situation. 2002Z/26th. Jan. COMMANDANT (F.S.) D'ESTIENNE
D'ORVES about 01.44 02.44 E. to Pointe Noire, 12½.
CROCUS escorting about 01.45 S. 07.43 E. to
Takoradi, 11. P. 614 03.07 01.00 E. arriving position 01.00
04.00 E. at 0100/28th, thence 130° 7½.
M.L. 285 escorting about 04.00 05.00 E. to Lagos 9. M.L. 305
off Bulina. ORFSAY off Accra.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1231Z/26 to Ships in Area F of S.A. station, S. of
8° N., Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos.)

EMPRESS 0430Z/27 EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, U.K. Freetown 0230/8 (A)
of RUSSIA. 12½ (B) 13½ 13 days Freetown 3600 tons Welsh coal.
Route etc.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 1131Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. CHESHIRE from S. 12½ knots E.T.A. Capetown 0500Z/27
COVENTRY CITY, STELLA POLARIS 035° 25' S. 015°
30' E. to Capetown 8 knots. ROCKROSE with NTULANA
about 034° 30' S. 017° E to Capetown 11 knots CARTHAGE 034° 55'
S. 020° 40' E. to Saldanha Bay 16 knots BALUCHISTAN off Luderitz
Bay to Simonstown 12½ knots. CHITRAL 029° S. 032° 40' E. to
Simonstown 12½ knots. SONDRRA 030° 30' S. 037° 10' E. to Durban
10½ knots. VIVIANA, INDIAN STAR escorting INTEGRITY towing crane
lighter off Port Shepstone to Durban 5 knots VALIANT, EXPRESS,
FORTUNE, HOTSPUR, INCONSTANT with C.F. 11 035°. (05') S. 023° 08'
E. to Capetown 16 knots. E.T.A. 1500Z/27th. GENISTA ST. ZENO
with C.N.2 032° 20' S. 017° 30' E. to the N. 8 knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 1158C/26 to Ships in Area Q of S.A. Stn. Admty.
Cdre. I/C Durban, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. East London,
F.O.C.W.Af.)

JENNY. Norwegian Tanker JENNY now due Freetown destination
U.K. 2. Request you will route similarly to
MATADIAN when situation permits but not (Tanker
Message) independently for the time being. 3. My 1823/15 refers.
(D.T.D. 1350A/26 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gib.)

French From Vice Adm. Pegram. My 1721/25th. My conver-
West sation with Adm. Collinet and the knowledge I now
African have of conditions of French ships and aircraft
Route. together with Collinet's envisaged requirements for
movements of troops and other important convoys
leaves me in no doubt that the French in this com-
mand must remain a liability rather than an asset for some
considerable time. I feel it is only to be expected that occas-
ional U-Boats seeking a judicious spot will attack French West
African route. My small escort force already reduced by outside
commitments such as floating dock from New Orleans will have fur-
ther strain put upon them. This is also applicable to the Air
Force under A.O.C. West Africa which at a time when they are
required considerably to extend their activities are being reduced
For morale reasons I feel it must important to avoid serious set-
back to the French at this early stage, and to help them I shall
be obliged to accept increased risk to British shipping.
I therefore urgently request that any possible reinforcement
however small to my force may be given fullest consideration and
Air Ministry be pressed to effect reinforcement promised as

/quickly...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.French
West
African
Route.

quickly as possible. I am also seriously concerned at possibility of minelaying off British and French West African ports about which a further signal will be made.
(B.N.L.O. Dakar 1402Z/26 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. W.A. N.C.X.F.)

Shipping
Diversions,
bunkers.

From time to time it becomes necessary either on account of submarine activity or to avoid congestion to change the first Port of Call of ships routed to S. Africa. It would greatly facilitate such diversions if route signals contained details of

Bunker requirements stating quantity of coal, oil, fuel, or Diesel Oil required (See A M 1754 22nd. Oct.) and an indication whether a call at port to which ship is routed is essential for discharge, on loading of substantial quantity of cargo.

(C. in C. S.A. 1415C/26th. to S.B.N.O. Rio de Janeiro (R) Admty. S.O. (I) Callao, Assistant S.O. (I) Recife (Pernambuco.)
Reply Admty. 1943/28.

PRIMERO,
DE MAYO.
ARGENTINE
expedition.

My 1440Z/25th. Capt. Cordobez has informed press that expedition will visit Grahamland for one month. Transport PRIMERO DE MAYO last year installed lighthouse at Dallman Bay in that territory. Lieut. C. Rodriguez was with Byrd expedition. Cdr. Harriague commands transport.
(N.A. Buenos Aires 1425Z/26 to Admty. for D.N.I. (R) B.A.D. B.N.A. Santiago De Chile, C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, S.O. (I) Rio de Janeiro)

CITY OF
NEWCASTLE.

Overdue shipping. CITY OF NEWCASTLE from Durban to Trinidad diverted to Pernambuco 19th. not arrived (corrupt group).
(Asst. S.O.I. Pernambuco, 1517Z/26 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af. N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Kingston, Connav.)

MEMPHIS.

Expect duty to be completed and will depart Bathurst 0800Z/27 Jan. Your 251355, course West from channel entrance to fathom line thence 210. S. of A. 15 knots. By hand to N.O.I.C. Bathurst.
(U.S. Cr. MEMPHIS, 1525Z/26 to C.F. 23. (R) F.O. C.W.Af. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.T.G. 23.1.)

INDRAPOERA,
EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA,
MATAROA.

Your 1221/25 INDRAPOERA to be routed by eastern stream S. Atlantic traffic to Chesapeake thence New York for H.X. convoy. If both bunkers and water permit voyage should be made direct. Other wise take smallest requirement of fuel Capetown and call Freetown for balance to reach Chesapeake.

/EMPRESS...

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INDRAPOERA, 2. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and MATAROA, concur proposed
EMPRESS OF routes.
RUSSIA, (D.T.D. 1536A/26 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Connav,
MATAPOA. F.O.C.W.Af. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)
Your 1536 26th. my 1221 25th. Request
confirmation that MATAROA carrying 100 prisoners
of war can call at Colonial ports if necessary.
(C. in C. S.A. 2335/26 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A. Connav, (C and
R), B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)
Reply: Admty. 1441A/28.

CYCLAMEN. A.M. 1150A/26 (N.T. in W.D.) If diversion is
ordered request CYCLAMEN be detached to Port Et-
ienne to augment escort of MACGREGOR LAIRD and
KANA who could then join Northbound convoy in Cape Bojador Area.
My 2259Z/22 refers.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1705Z/26 to V.A. Gib. (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)

M.K. and Pass to N.C.S.O's. Masters of all ships sailing
S.L. Convoys. in M.K. and S.L. convoys should be provided with
the instructions in M.A.R.I. Sec.1 para.5. sub-
para.15. 2. These instructions should be put
in a sealed envelope which is not to be opened by the Master
until ordered to do so by the Commodore.
3. Commodores are to be warned that should a convoy or part of
a convoy be ordered to enter the Irish Sea via St. George's Chan-
nel Masters concerned should be instructed to open the envelope
referred to in para. 2. above.
(D.T.D. 1810A/26 to F.O.C.W.Af. V.A. Gib. N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C.
W.A.)

D'ESTIENNE Sailed 1745Z/26th. Jan. F.F.S. COMMANDANT
D'ORVES. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES. E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0800Z/30
Jan. Through H 001° 55' 111° 004° 20' E., speed
12½ knots.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1830Z/26 to B.N.L.O. W.A.
R.A.W.A.F. Admty. R.N.O. Lagos.)

MEXICO Your 2351/25, concur.
HOLCOMBE. (N.C.X.F. 1846A/26 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty., B.
A.D., Cominch, B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

Movements Arrival 25th Jan. U.S. cruiser MARBLEHEAD, U.S.
Pernambuco. Destroyers DAVIS, WINSLOW, departure 25th. Brazil-
ian tug HEITOR PERDIGO departure 26th, U.S. cruis-
ers MILWAUKEE, MARBLEHEAD, U.S. Destroyers DAVIS,
WINSLOW.
(R.O. Pernambuco (Recife) 1940Z/26 to Admty. (R)
B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, S.O.(I) Freetown.)

A/S Trawlers. Capetown arrivals 26th. LADY ELSA, WELLARD,
HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY, THYME, FRITILLARY.
(C. in C. S.A. 2003C/26 to Admty. F.O.C. W.Af.
N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, Cdre. I/C Durban.)

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

S/M
Broadcast.

Request repetition of position of S/M broadcast
by San Juan W/T to all ships at 2203Z/26.
(F.O.C.W.A., 2250Z/26 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)
Reply 1547/27

MEMPHIS
SOMERS.

U.S.S. SOMERS expected to leave Bathurst at 0800Z/
27th. proceeding to 013° 32' N. 017° 27' W.,
thence 210° 15 knots.
(F.O.C.W.A. 2259Z/26 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C.
Bathurst, ILLUSTRIOUS, PATHFINDER, B.N.L.O. Dakar,
B.A.D.)

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Enemy Reports. P.C. & S. of enemy fleet, 2 M/V, 2 destroyers
39.13 N. 13.40 E. 040° 10 knots.
(A/C FAC 0011/26)
P.C. & S. of one small vessel 35.51 N. 12.15 E. 120°5
(A/C C/S FDF/A 0900A/26 to A.H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. & S. of one small vessel (type not exceeding 2000 tons) and
3 E Boats:- 180° Speed ? unknown. P.C. & S. of 2 E Boats NHZR *
0420 270° 10 knots.* 35.04 N, 11.20 E.
P.C. & S. of 2 small vessels (type not exceeding 2000 tons) and
5 E Boats 24.45 N, 10.48 E.
(A/C C/S FDF/A 1000A/26 to A.H.Q. Malta)

M.W.21 Your 1825/24 (Ships for M.W.21). Proposals
approved. Request early advice whether
SUTHERLAND or ORNA will be used.
(D. of S.T. 0025A/26 to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

LLANDOVERY CASTLE. Intercept 0108 G.M.T. LLANDOVERY CASTLE hospital
ship. My P.C & S. at 0100 G.M.T.26 was 32.40 N
20.07 E course 223° speed 13 knots.
(Port Patrick Radio 0208/26)

Following received from Lands End Radio:- Intercept 1817 G.M.T.
Hospital ship LLANDOVERY CASTLE . My P.C. & S. at 1800 G.M.T.
was 32.34 N. 20.00 E. course 043° speed 13 knots. Master.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1919/26 to Admty.)

OXFORDSHIRE Sailed Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE at 0900A/26 for
U.K. speed of advance 12 knots. Same route as
AMARAPOORA.
(F.O.I.C. Oran 0901A/26 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gib.,
Cmdre. Algiers, Admty.)

Movements Alexandria. Arrival 25th Jan. FAREHAM, Greek Des. IERAX,
M.L.356. Departure 25th Jan. GLOXINIA, WOLBOROUGH,
IMOFF, HAILSTORM, BURGONET, SOUTHERN ISLES,
SOUTHERNSEA, M.T.B.309.
(S.O.(I) Alex. 0924B/26 to Admty. E. in C. Med.)

Movements Malta. Arrival ORION, JERVIS, KELVIN, PALADIN, CROOME,
ALDENHAM, BEAUFORT, CHERRY LEAF.
(V.A. Malta 0948A/26 to C. in C. Med.)

TAKU defects. Capt.(S) 10 1751 25th. (?First) starboard forward
block is in s.s. DUNDRUM CASTLE due Port Said
22nd March. Future movements of TAKU are
dependent on situation re further spares cylinder
blocks. If a second starboard forward block available in U.K.
propose TAKU be sailed home. If no other starboard forward

/block ...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

TAKU block available, propose TAKU be sailed Port Said.
defects. Replace starboard aft block to be sent fastest
route, air if possible, otherwise Algiers then
Malta via S/M for onward passage.

Suggest no decision until F.O.S. reply is received re spare
cylinder block. Consider TAKU should not be used for war
patrol.

(Capt. S. I. 0954B/26 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.(S), Capt. S.10,
V.A. Malta, TAKU)

M.T.B.s. (A) 4 M.T.B.s leave Malta at 1530 26th to operate
north of Kerkenah Bank during night. Passage
both ways south of Lampedusa.

(B) 3 M.T.B.s leave Malta at 1700 26th to operate between
Syracuse and Cercanvasenti Island.

(R.A. Malta 1040A/26 to C. in C. Med., No.201 Group, H.Q.s R.A.F.,
M.E. 247 Wing, (R) N.C.X.F. Admty.)

WELSHMAN Following is a repetition of my 1753/25th:-
Departure 25th Jan. WELSHMAN.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 1201B/26 to Admty.,
C. in C. Med.)

TURBULENT Adjust speed so as to be in close vicinity position
037° 53' N. 011° 22' E St. Thomas 0730A/27th.
After dark tomorrow Wednesday proceed patrol area
given in my 1402/25th.
(Capt. S. 8 1246A/26 to TURBULENT (R) Capt. (S)
10th S.F.)

MARIPOSA Arrival 26th.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa 1446Z/26 to Admty.)

Operation Sailed M.T.B.s 260, 264, 313, 315 on operations.
off (V.A. Malta 1543A/26 to Admty. C. in C. Med.,
Kerkenah. N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.)

Malta Situation Report W/E 23rd Jan. 1943.
1. Enemy air. 4 daylight alerts. No enemy A/C
crossed coast. No enemy night activity.
2. Own activity. Naval Force K bombarded Zuara night 22/23.
M.T.B.s raided Tripoli sank submarine night 19/20. Two D/Rs.
sank 11 small ships west of Tripoli same night. D/Rs and M.T.B.s
carried out various sweeps, 1 trawler sunk. 10 more prisoners.
Approx. 75 Spitfires daylight offensive sorties Sicily. No enemy
A/C sighted. Few A/C shot up ground targets. Approx. 64
Beaufighters offensive sweeps Tunisia Sicily Lampedusa. No
enemy A/C sighted. Schooners tugs small M/V shot up.

/Approx. ...

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Malta Approx. 20 Albacore 28 Torpedo Wellington 13 Beaufort sorties enemy shipping. 2 M/Vs blown up, 2 sunk, 4 M/Vs 1 tanker, 1 destroyer hit, 2 M/Vs 1 D/R probably hit. Other targets attacked but results not observed. Beauforts laid mines area Kerkenah and at La Goulette. 3. Convoy M.W.19 unloaded mainly by Army by 1700 hrs. 21st Jan. Total tonnage 27460. Infantile Paralysis outbreak stabilising. (Govr. Malta, 1545Z/26 to C. in C. M.E.)

MERANO My 1720C/13th. MERANO still expected, no indication of arrival date. (Beyoglu 1550C/26 to Admty).

French request for New Warships. N.A.F.122 to Agwar for C.C.S. to Usfor for British Chiefs of Staff signed Eisenhower. Ref. N.A.F.105 (1416/17).
1. Admiral Michelier has requested the provision from Allied new construction of 30 corvettes and 6 modern destroyers similar to British J class fitted for minesweeping, also 8 tugs, in addition to proposals for rearmament of existing French ships as outline in N.A.F.105.
2. I will make clear to him that this is a long term matter and that the possibilities of providing any of this requirement must be taken up with the C.C.S. by Admiral Fenard's mission in Washington.
3. Admiral Moreau on behalf of Michelier has represented that there is an urgent need in the near future for 12 additional escorts of the corvette type in the West African area while their own ships are rearming and, as a first instalment, Headquarters asked for this number. (Algiers, 1640Z/26).

Air R/C P.R.U. Jan. 26th, visuals, 1315 Messina, 3 cruisers present. Photographs taken. (V.A. Malta, 1610A/26 to C. in C. Med., etc).
P.R.U. Jan. 26th. 1210 Naples photographed. 9 destroyers, 5 Merchant ships 4/7000 tons all loaded, 4 torpedo boats present in Harbour. (V.A. Malta, 1800A/26 to C. in C. Med. etc).
P.R.U. Jan. 26th. Damaged 8 inch cruiser was reported at Spetsai on 16th Jan. (V.A. Malta, 1910A/26 to C. in C. Med., S.O. Force I, F.O.I.S. S.O. Force Q Cdre. Algiers, N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. V.A. Gib. S.O. Force M).

/S/M ...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

S/M Sanctuary. Submarine Sanctuary is established in area bounded by 000° 04' W., and 000° 07' E. south of 036° North between sunrise and sunset on 28th and 29th Jan. while submarine is exercising. Submarine will be accompanied by local escort.
(N.C.X.F., 1639A/26 to Gen. Mess. W. Mediterranean (AK orK)).

Operation of E. coast of Sicily. Sailed M.T.Bs. 61, 77, 82 on operations. (V.A. Malta, 1707A/26 to Admty. C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.)

Movements, Port Said. 26th Jan. Port Said. Departures H.H.M.S. PANTHER, Z Lighter No. 20, S/M NEBOJSCA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1711B/26 to Admty. etc).

CALPE My 0933A/26 Jan. (N.T. in W.D.) Have deferred sailing CALPE for the present. (HAYDON 1736A/26 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, (R) CALPE, F.O. Oran, Capt. (D), 6).

Movements, Malta. Arrived DULVERTON, HURSLEY, EXMOOR, PINDOS, KANARES. (V.A. Malta, 1741A/26 to Admty. C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

E.A.C. Report. A.312 Opsum 76 - 1800 hrs. 24 Jan. 1800/25 Jan. Part 3. F. 12th U.S. Air Force. All missions scheduled for medium and heavy bombers cancelled because of weather.

At 1125 hours an A.20 of the 68th Observation Group on S/M patrol sighted a U-boat approx. 48 miles N.E. of Oran. The plane dropped 3 depth charges all of which were seen to explode. Much debris reported to appear on the surface of the water. The Navy was notified. A destroyer and A.20 were sent to the area but no additional information was available at 1730 hours.
(E.A.C. Africa, 1743A/26).

U/Bs sunk. On 19/1 and 20/1. (Admty. 1841A/26) See U-boat Campaign.

G.U.F.4 Your 1753/25th January. G.U.F.4.
M. 36.00 15.01 N. 41.15 24.30 O. 41.20 34.55
P.41.45 45.10 Q. 40.40 52.30 R. 39.12 61.25
S. 38.00 69.58.

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.
(D.O.D. (F) 1843A/26 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.N.O.C.A. etc).

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- Movements Haifa. Arrivals 26th Jan. DELPHINIUM, KLO, CUMBRAE, ISLAY (corrupt group) M.L. 1038. Departure 26th Jan. DELPHINIUM. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, Haifa, 1844B/26 to Admty. C. in C. Med).
- Malta Intelligence Summary. 2000A/25 to 2000A/26. Naval. During day one cruiser and 11 D/Rs who had been escorting a convoy to Tripoli arrived Malta. 7 M.T.Bs. sailed during afternoon to carry out sweeps North of Kerkenah and off the Southern Sicilian coast. (Govr. Malta, 1910Z/26).
- Movements, Oran. Arrivals WISHART, BRILLIANT, SUMMERSIDE, BADDECK, LUNENBURG, ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR. Departures M.Ls. 307 and 443. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1957A/26 to Admty. N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A.)
- Situation report No. 329. ^{merchant} Western Desert. Operation M.H.3. First convoy of 3 layer ships ANTWERP and Fleet tug BRIGAND due Tripoli noon today 26th anchoring outside harbour. Fourth ship too slow so diverted to Tobruk and CHERRYLEAF to Malta. Escorts have proceeded Malta except two Hunts remaining
- Tripoli.
- (2) Tripoli. Harbour entrance completely blocked. Passage for lighters should be clear today 26th. Hope clear 100 feet passage for 24 feet draught ships by 8th Feb. Considerable demolition of port area and breakwaters, breached in several places but every prospect of working port fully by time entrance clear. 3 harbour tugs and 31 lighters left by enemy all serviceable.
- (3) Minesweepers swept channel to Tripoli a.m./25th cutting 9 mines and swept convoy into anchorage 26th. Salvage vessel and 10 loaded L.C.Ts. arrived 25th.
- (4) NUBIAN, JAVELIN transported 600 R.A.F. personnel Benghazi Malta night 24/25.
- (5) PRINCESS KATHLEEN completed move about 3000 personnel Tobruk Benghazi between 16th and 25th now returned Alexandria.
- (6) Four M.T.Bs. operated from Malta on Tunisian coastal route without? success.
- (7) Submarines. P.37 reports two torpedo hits on 8500 ton ship believed sank in position 37° 53' N., 15° 43' E. at 0820/23. Ship was in tow of two tugs and resembled VIMINALE. P.37 heavily counter attacked by four escorts causing some damage to battery.
- (8) P.42 attacked 5000 ton escorted northbound ship at 1748/1? in position 033° 45' N., 011° 12' E. One hit ship believed sunk.

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Situation report No. 329. Contd. (9) P.44 reports probable torpedo hit on 7000 ton Northbound modern ship at 1727/17 in position 38° 04' N., 11° 40' E. Heavy counter attacks by destroyers and E-boats kept P.44 down for 36 and half hours. P.44 also attacked by E-boats on 7th in same area. E-boats using

Asdics.

(10) Levant. Further U-boat attack on Schooner in position 035° 16' N. 034° 04' E. night 25/26.
(C. in C. Med., 2056B/26 to Admty).

Malta Air Report.

AI 594 26th Jan. C.S.R. Night 25/26. Special Wellington on shipping search Ustica area sighted 0006 hrs. 39.13 N. 13.40 E. 2 medium M/Vs 2 D/Rs course 040° 10 knots. Wellington sent sighting report and dropped flares for torpedo-carrying Wellington which at 0200 hrs. aimed 2 torpedoes at M/V 6000 tons 39.14 N., 13.45 E. No results could be observed owing to necessity for violent evasive action against intense flak.

Part 2, enemy air activity. Day 26th Jan. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2107Z/26).

HENRY STANLEY (British).

Understood that HENRY STANLEY is overdue at destination and that she had on board officer(s) for the Med. Request confirmation of this and information regarding replacement of missing personnel.
(C. in C. Med., 2112B/26 to Admty).

Haifa facilities.

My 2359/23 August 42 and letter 3239/00380/16 of 6th Sept. 1942 para. 7. Workshop for Base Engineer Officer is not now being proceeded with. Machine tools collected are being supplied to M.W.T.7 for use in their workshops now being installed.
(C. in C. Med., 2116B/26 to Admty).

E-boats.

P.C. and S. of 1 enemy M/V and 1 unknown 37.46 N. 11.52 E. 025° 12 knots.
(A/C GHN/N 2230A/26 to A.O.C. Malta)
W.R. Note Received via Alex. W/T.

Enemy previously reported are 2 E-boats.
(A/C GHN/N, 2322A/26 to Air H.Q. Malta).

P.C. and S. of 2 E-boats 37.40 N. 11.40 E. 300° 25 knots.
(A/C GHN/S 2325A/26 to A.O.C. Malta).

Movements.

Arrival 25th Jan. T.L.C. 101,100, (?114) 139, 153, 157,111,118,149,158, WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY, BOSTON, PRIMULA, HEKTOR, 7, (?BOKSBURG), SKUDD 4, M.L. 459, M.L.126 GAMTOOS. Arrival 26th Jan. ANTWERP, TETCOTT, BELVOIR, BRIGAND.
(?C.O.I.S. Malta (?Alex. intended) 2325B/26 to Admty).

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26.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

VASNA Hospital ship VASNA sailed for Kilindini via Seychelles a.m./26th E.T.A. Seychelles 31st. Numbers, requirements. (S.T.O. Colombo, 0517Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Seychelles, (R) C. in C. E.F., D.S.T.O. Kilindini, D.of S.T.)

MAURETANIA D.S.T. 2134/23. Request E.T.A. Bombay may be signalled as soon as possible. (P.S.T.O. India, 0626Z/26 to A.C.N.B.)

E. Fleet Corvettes under C. in C. S.A. NIGELLA, FREESIA, JASMINE and FRITILLARY have been placed under operational command of C. in C. S.A. as from 17th. (C. in C. E.F., 0829Z/26 to Admty).

LANCASHIRE. LANCASHIRE sailed today. Embarked Polish refugees. Numbers, requirements. (D.S.T.O. P.G., 0835Z/26 to S.T.O. Mombasa (R) P.S.T.O. Egypt, D. of S.T.)

KOSCIUSZKO, EL MADINA smoke. Escort KANARIS report on bad smoking of KOSCIUSZKO and EL MADINA forwarded by S.N.O.P.G. on 15th. Request information as to whether there is any organization in South Africa or India for investigation similar to that instituted in U.K. Extract from report is being passed to P.S.T.O.I. (C. in C. E.F., 0904Z/26 to Admty).

Troop transport. My 0828/18. Your 1950/19 (N.T. in W.R.) EKMA will not now arrive Bombay until about 10th Feb. in C.M.38. Can this delay be accepted. If not will you accept EASTERN PRINCE which can be sailed from Bombay 3rd Feb. or if absolutely essential KAROA could be made available to sail 3rd Feb. Speed 13 knots. Troop deck carrying capacity 1130. (P.S.T.O. India, 1039Z/26 to P.S.T.O.M.E., (R) D. of S.T.)

India Air report. Intelligence Summary No. 317 Jan. 26th. (A) 3 Hudsons offensive reccos. Arakan Coast attacked river steamers small craft. Above sorties 25th. (A.H.Q. India, 1107Z/26 to Air Min).
9 B.24s attacked Sule Pagoda Wharves and shipping Rangoon 6,000 ton M/V hit. IF 4 photo recco. Irrawaddy River Myitkyina Bhamo Mogaung area. (A.H.Q. India, 1126Z/26).

TULIP Colombo departure 26th 1030Z TULIP. (N.O.I.C. Colombo, 1341Z/26 to Admty etc).

War Diary.

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 25th. Arrivals - SARNIA, TENACITY ex Assistance and towing IMPERIAL MONARCH, ORILLIA ex O.N.160. THUNDER ex Halifax. ASPHODEL, ANENOME ex O.N.161. SWEETBRIAR ex Argentina. HIGHLANDER, BEVERLY ABELIA ex O.N.160. Departures - SWEETBRIAR to S.C.117. SARNIA to O.N.161. THREE RIVERS, TENACITY to assistance of FAIRWATER. MATAPEDIRUTO O.N.160. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 0229Z/26 to Admty.)

O.N.161. Have intercepted W.W. messages from U-Boats on U/Bs. 4600 kc/s at 0120Z, 0129Z, 0357Z bearing 085° 070° and 050° all first class consider convoy may be shadowed (?request escort) from dawn (corrupt group) P.C. and S. 44° 44' 49° 40' 245° 9. (C.T.U. 24.18.2. 0402Z/26 to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A. N.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7.) C.T.U. 24.18.2's 0402/26th. (1) Transmission at 0337Z/26th from land control station. (2) Transmission at 0120 and 0129Z/26th from U-Boats in approx 058° N. 041° W. and 055° N. 040° W. respectively. C. in C.W.A. pass to H.Q.C.C. (N.S.H.Q. 1417Z/26 to C.T.24. (R) H.Q.C.C., Connav., C.T.U. 24.18.2., C. in C.W.A., C.T.G.24.7, Admty., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

Situation Air R/C by Army Air sighting 25th. Sinking ship Greenland 059° 03' N. 042° 10' W. and apparently rescue report of vessel 059° 08' N. 041° 58' W. at 1425Z. Escort sinking vessel 059° 28' N. 039° 49' W. at 1503Z. Convoy ship. of estimated 9 merchantmen and 4 escorts on course 034° scattered from 059° 35' N. 039° 20' W. to 59° 54' N. 039° 01' W. at 1525Z. One torpedoed ship in sinking condition North, last position. Estimated 15 merchant ships and 2 escorts have to apparently reassembling at 046° 05' N. 039° 15' W. at 1545Z. One ship high in water seemingly abandoned 060° 05' N. 039° 50' W. at 1554Z. C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C. and R.) pass to all Canadian addressees and Comtask 24. (S.O.P.A. Greenland, 0510/26 to Cominch C. and R., C.T.24., N.S.H.Q. etc.)

FLEUR DE E.T.A. 1120Z/26. FLEUR DE LYS not met. LYS. (NIPIGON, 0550Z/26 to C.O.A.C.(R) N.O.I.C. Shelbourne. Capt. (D) Halifax.)

Adml. Following received from Washington as 260228 and Collinet, is a repeat of Admiral Glassfurd despatch 251600 Commander action Cominch British Chiefs of Staff London and Dakar Combined Chiefs of Staff information to Eisenhower Naval and Michelier. "Collinet Pegram and Cole District. Hamilton have seen and approved the following despatch. Air Vice Marshal Cole Hamilton Admiral Collinet and V.A. Pegram all at present in Dakar are in complete agreement as to implementation in detail

/of...

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Adml. of the command understanding without modification
Collinet, reached by Collinet and myself which is at
Commander present in fact being implemented. It is
Dakar recommended accordingly that formal approval at
Naval once be given to the understanding and that
District. proper notification be given of Collinet's
Contd. situation as "Commander Dakar Naval District
(Comar Dakar is short title)" with operating
headquarters at Dakar within the Allied West
African Command of Pegrum (F.O.C.W.A.F.) and under the latter's
command". Admiral Glassfurd refers to his 301525 Dec. (1921/31
Dec. from Opnav.) which is not held by Commaveu.
(Commaveu, 0646/26 to British C.O.S. London.)

T.A.G. 38, List etc.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 1020Q.R/26.)

| Movements | Ship | Position | Course | Speed. |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------|--------|----------|
| Summary at 1800 G.M.T. 26th. | REGENT | 34° N. 44½° W. | 090° | 11 kts. |
| | ALCANTARA | 12° N. 39° W. | 278° | 12½ kts. |
| | WOODRUFF | | | |
| | T.A.33 | 45° N. 35½° W. | 268° | 18 kts. |
| | (D.O.D. (F) 1032Z/26 to Opnav, (R) Commaveu.) | | | |

Treatment of French Warships. 261048. Cominch's 1610/25th correcting his 1501/24th* inform as follows: For Vichy substitute Martinique in both cases. (Commaveu, 1048/26 to Admt.)
*W.R.Note. Circulated under T.O.O. 251051 re guidance in treatment of French warships etc.

C.1 Your 1359/25 1. From past experience it has
Group. been found both ST.CROIX and BURWELL unreliable ships mechanically and consider unlikely both will run simultaneously. As all other groups already had two destroyers BURWELL was placed in C - 1 as a spare. Consider she could be re-allocated to any other group should one of their destroyers drop out. 2. Four R.C.N. corvettes allocated to C - 1 to work together as a corvette group. Consider ITCHEN might have to be withdrawn to substitute for a destroyer in some other group. We understood reason for loan ITCHEN, LAGAN was to substitute for destroyers which frequently break down in Winter so that there should always be two fast escorts in each group.
(F.O.N.F. 1211Z/26 to N.S.H.Q.) Amended 1458Z/30.

U.S. Arrival 26th U.S. transport. EL LIBERTADOR.
Movements. (B.S.N.O. Curacao, 1215Q.R/26 to Admt. (R)
S.O.(1) Jamaica.)

/ROODE ZEE...

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

ROODE
ZEE. S.B.N.O. W.A.'s 1559/18th and 2018/23rd.
Ship informed but sailed without amended W/T call
sign or signal from S.P. 02446. Request B.N.S.O.
Rio de Janeiro take necessary action on arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1232Q/26 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R)
B.A.D. etc.)

BYMS. My 1755Z/25 (Sailing BYMS 2,3,4 and 30 to
Londonderry.) BYMS delayed pending favourable
weather report.
(F.O.N.F. 1247Z/26 to Admty.)

Movements. 25th Jan. arrivals FENNEL, DUNVEGAN, CHEDABUCTO,
COWICHAN ex H.E.G. 224.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1301Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

VANESSA,
VIMY. C. 1st U.S. Naval District, Boston requested
sail VANESSA, VIMY to arrive St. Johns N.F. prior
1400Z/Jan. 30th.
(C.T. 24, 1401/26 to C. 1st U.S. Naval District,
Boston, VANESSA, VIMY. (R) B.A.M.R.; F.O.N.F.; C.O.A.C.;
C. U.S. Navy Yard, Boston; C. in C.W.A.)

HUNTER,
Collision. *Incorrect, HUNTER not delayed. (CO of HUNTER, 3-3-55)*
MYDIS 2043/25. HUNTER departure delayed due
collision with S.S.P.N. CAROLINA at Pilottown.
(Grabbag New York, 1409/26 to Admty.)

STALKER. San Francisco arrived from sea 1945/25 STALKER.
(N.S.H.Q. 1416Z/26 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

T.F. 36,
U.G.F. 5. This is Cinclant's 1640/25th addressed to
Comcrudiv 8 for action and Comnav, Admiralty,
N.C.X.F., C.T.G. 26.7, Cominch, and Comservforlant
for information. Task Force 36 under Read Adml.
Davidson is constituted as PHILADELPHIA, ARKANSAS, DESRON 15 and
SALAMONIE, and will escort U.G.F. 5 convoy scheduled to sail from
New York for Casablanca and other North African ports on Feb 8th.
Routing, operational control, return arrangements otherwise same
as in Cinclant 252033 Nov. Comcrudiv 8 acknowledge by mailgram.
Comnav inform Admiralty, N.C.X.F. and Comtask Group 26.7.
(Comnav, 1441/26 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

MANSFIELD
U/B. Am engaged in hunting enemy S/M 58° 12.8' N.
41° 38.5' W.
(MANSFIELD 1453Z/26 to Admty.)
Enemy S/M reported has submerged in 57° 53.3' N.
41° 56.5' W.
(MANSFIELD 1515Z/26.)

My 1545Z/26th. S/M last seen from 057° 49' N. 041° 48' W. about
15 miles distant returning at high speed to eastwards. Probably
two S/Ms are in vicinity.
(MANSFIELD, 1615Z/26, to Comtask 24, (R) Connav., Admty.,
C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T. 24.7, Cominch,
H.Q.C.C.) See also his 1900Z/26.

/M.T.Bs...

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America & West Indies - Contd.

M.T.Bs. Intend to sail M.T.Bs. 332, 333, 339, 341, 343, comprising remainder 19th M.T.B. Flotilla Jan. 28th for New York and M.T.B.335 to Nassau in accordance with following programme. By direct routes Gross Islet, St. Lucia, E.T.A. 1000Z/29th. Leave St. Lucia 2200Z/29th for San Juan E.T.A. 2000Z/30. Leave San Juan 0900Z/1st February for Ciudad Trujillo via Mona Passage E.T.A. 2200Z/1st. Leave Ciudad Trujillo 1900Z/2nd for Guantanamo E.T.A.1900Z/3rd. Leave Guantanamo 0900Z/4th for Antilla via Windward Passage E.T.A. 1900Z/4th leave Antilla 0100Z/5th for Miami E.T.A. 2100Z/5th February, thence to New York by inland waterways or coastal route as directed by B.A.D.
2. M.T.Bs. will burn dimmed navigation lights at night. Speed on passage 18 knots to Bahamas Channel, 26 knots thereafter.
3. N.O.B. Trinidad has been requested to arrange fuel as far as Miami. B.R.O. St. Lucia has been requested to arrange fuel at St. Lucia.
4. M.T.Bs. will require minimum 4 days Miami to effect running repairs.
5. On completion para. 4, M.T.B.335 will proceed independently to Nassau.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1502Q/26 to S.B.N.O.W.A., (R) Admty. B.A.D., Cominch, Comcaribseafon, Comcarib, Comgulfseafon, N.O.B. Guantanamo, N.O.B. Trinidad, S.O.(I) Jamaica).

H.X. 224 Cancel my 1905Z/25, T.U. 24.1.14 HIGHLANDER (S.O) (H/F D/F) CHURCHILL, RESTIGOUCHE (H/F D/F) AMHERST, COLLINGWOOD, SHERBROOKE, ASPHODEL designated ocean escort for H.X.224. (F.O.N.F., 1509Z/26 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Admty etc).

MONTGOMERY. Expected to be ready to sail Sunday 31st Jan. Request desired destination. (B.A.M.R., 1525Z/26 to C.O.A.C.)

S/M estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1537/26).
Jan. 26th.
U.S. S/M
notice.

Y.M.S.33 Departure 26th Jan. U.S. Minesweeper Y.M.S.33 for Trinidad. (Harbour Master, Barbados, 1603/26 to Admty).

/EMPRESS...

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

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Ref. discrepancy in figures between your 1239/17th to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa only passed to M.W.T. New York and Montreal and B.R.L.O. New York 23rd. 14th. Ministry of War Transport New York reports EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND arrived New York last voyage with following L.S.A.

A. 26 boats, capacity 1862. B. 68 tank rafts, capacity 1475. C. 199 buoyant apparatus, capacity 1990. D. Total L.S.A. 5327.

2. Of B total, 44 Units, capacity 1025, found defective. On sailing 18 Units capacity 450 considered unfit for service, balance accepted as efficient. To replace 18 unserviceable Units 18 Carley Type Units capacity 450 placed on board. These together with the defective units made total L.S.A. 57 refit (sic).

3. Request very early reply confirming: (A) that defective L.S.A. 613 made good. (B) that 18 Carley type units placed on board. (C) that total L.S.A. is now 57 refit. (N.S.H.Q., 1640Z/26 to D.S.T. (R) C.O.A.C. etc).

U/B Trinidad W/T reports submarine sighted 1842 G.M.T. 26th in 011' 43° N., 063' 38° W. (Kingston Jamaica, 1712R/26 to Admty).

PRIMROSE Have wire round propeller, all efforts to clear have failed. Request tug or other vessel to take PRIMROSE in tow. Steamship FAIRWATER in vicinity. Estimated position at 1500, 049° 56' N., 041° 05' W. drifting 235° 1 knot. Weather report.

(PRIMROSE, 1725Z/26 to C.T.F.24 (R) Mid Ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.12, THREE RIVERS, Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C.)

Cancel my 1725/26th. Obstruction cleared at 1940. Have had trials from main engines which are running satisfactorily. Am screening SS. FAIRWATER. Weather report.

(PRIMROSE, 2130Z/26 to A.I.G.302, C.T.F.24.etc).

SAN FRANCISCO O.N.160 detach SAN FRANCISCO for South Atlantic tonight Tuesday.

O.N.160 (?Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.5, 1726/26 to C. Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.12, C. Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.5 (R) N.S.H.Q., Admty. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

DOCHET, At 1500Z/26th sailed DOCHET and PORCHER to PORCHER. St. Johns N.F. routed through

(A) 44.25 N., 62.00 W. (B) 45.(?58) 57.00
(C) 46.20 52.45 (D) 47.30 52.15. Speed 8.5 knots
E.T.A.1200Z/29th W/T 105 k/cs. My 1329/16 Jan. refers.

(C.O.A.C., 1819Z/26 to C.C.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.T.M., Admty. C.T.F. No. 24 N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

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

- A.T.35
(ANDES). Pre sailing telegram. Codeword "Hickory".
(C.O.A.C., 1821Z/26 to Admty. etc).
Ref. my 1821/26. M.A.B. defective. Aerial array
missing, not replacable Halifax.
(C.O.A.C., 1827Z/26 to Admty).
- Curacao
Tanker
Convoys. It is requested that Masters of all ships
sailing in Curacao/U.K. tanker convoys may be
provided with the instructions in M.A.R.I. Sec.
I, para. 5, sub-para. 15.
2. These instructions should be placed in a
sealed envelope not to be opened until ordered by
Commodore.
3. Commodores to be warned that should the convoy or any part
of it be ordered to enter Irish Sea via St. George's Channel
Masters concerned should be instructed to open the envelope
referred to in para. 2 above.
(D.T.D., 1831A/26 to Connav (R) C. in C. W.A.)
- Task Unit
23.1.2. This is Comsolant 1322/25 action C.T.U. 23.1.2
addressed Cominch, C.T.G.23.1. T.G.23.1.
Cinclant. Task Unit 23.1.2 consisting of
MILWAUKEE and WINSLOW depart base F.26 Jan. prior
0800P. Search for and destroy enemy raiders and
blockade runners on northwesterly and southwesterly courses
advancing at speeds less than 15 knots scross a scouting line
with origin 02.00 S., 25.00 W. bearing 225 distance 120 miles.
Limit advance and retirement between equator and 15.00 south.
In proceeding to area remain south of 10.00 S. while west of
25.00 W. Arrive base F.5 Feb.
(Cominch, 1847/26 to F.O.C.W.A.)
- Task Unit
23.1.4 This is Comsolant 251956 Action C.T.U. 23.1.4
Info. Cominch, Cinclant, C.T.G.23.1. T.G.23.1
Task Unit 23.1.4 consisting of MARBLEHEAD and
DE(?LL)IS depart Base F (Recife) prior 1200 P
26 Jan. Conduct ocean patrol to point 32.00 S.
08.00 W. arrive Base B (Bahia) after 1200P 6
Feb.
(Cominch 1848/26 to F.O.C.W.A.)
- POLYANTHUS. Your 1515/22. para. 5 and C.T.U. 24.1.12's 1730
23. If you consider it necessary for
POLYANTHUS to be taken in hand before returning
to U.K. arrangements could probably be made for
her to be refitted at Bermuda in which case arrangements should
be made direct with S.B.N.O.W.A. and Admty. informed.
(D.O.D. (H) 1850A/26 to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. etc)
Reply: 1226/27.

/Tanker...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Tanker
on fire.

Following has been read by Iceland: Tanker on fire in 58.13 N., 39.27 W. No survivors seen. (A/C 409/W 1900A/26 to C/S C7N). Aircraft reports Tanker on fire in 58° 13' N. 39° 27' W., at 1900A/26. No survivors seen. (D.O.D. (H), 2245A/26 to Connav Escorts of S.C.117 (R) A.C.I.(C), C. in C. W.A.)

MANSFIELD,
FORT LA MAUNE.

Your 2357/25th. Have searched area between 059° N., 041 31' W., 0505Z/26 N., 041 31' W. and East to 040° 35' W., thence west to be in 042° 30' W., by 1100Z/27th. Consider there (?are) probably at least three S/Ms in vicinity. Weather report. (MANSFIELD, 1900Z/26 to C.T.24).

Continue search prudent limit of endurance then proceed St. Johns N.F. Estimated position FORT LA MAUNE at 1430Z/25th. 59.41 N., 42.29 W. hove to.

(C.T.F.24. 2357Z/26 to MANSFIELD, Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7).

Report of
sinking ship
25 Jan.

S.O. P.A. Greenland 0510Z/26 (Air R/C report of sinking ship 25 Jan) Request C.T.G. 24.1. make aircraft sweep of area and report results. (C.T.24., 1925Z/26 to S.O.P.A. Greenland, (R) Connav, C. in C. W.A., C.T.G.24.6 and 7 Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

U/B

Submarine sighted on surface at 1620Z/26 by British plane in 56.55 N., 40.06 W. speed 6 knots course 040. (Cominch, 2018/26 to Admty).

T.B.3

T. B.3 detach SS. HILLARY during darkness 26th to Lagos, HILLARY proceed to position D and omit C. (Connav, 2035/26 to U.S. Destroyer GREENE (R) Admty. Comsolant, F.O.C.W.A.)

L.C.I.(L)

11 British L.C.I.(L) depart Bermuda 1600Q/26th January in accordance with C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2318/17th and C. in C. Atlantic Fleet 2323/14. Route as directed by Connav 1717/18th.

L.C.I.(L) 178 detained by S.B.N.O.W.A. until about 28th Jan. for repairs. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, pass if necessary to Comtask 22. C. in C. U.S. Fleet pass to B.A.D. for information. (C.T.32 2042/26 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At. , C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.O.B. Bermuda, V.A. Gibraltar).

/Departure...

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L.C.I.(L) Departure Bermuda L.C.I.(L) 177, 99, 102, 174
 Contd. 175, 176, 242 243, 246, 247 sailed by C.T.F.32
 and routed in accordance with Connav 17(?)1/18
 (?1717/18 intended) January not to S.O.(I) Jamaica
 S. of A. 10 knots E.T.A. Gibraltar 9th Feb.
 (2) In case of diversion following reference positions have
 been given (SS) Ponta Delgada (TT) Plymouth.
 (3) Latest QKA message 84. All ships hold Q.Z.S. 278 and 347.
 (4) Communications.
 (5) Ocean Commanding Officers in 177 Senior Officer 242 246, 99.
 (S.B.N.O.W.A., 2252/26 to Admty etc). 1153Z/3/2/43.

Shipping Connav Serial 26. PETER H. BURNETT (torpedoed
 Casualties. off Sydney N.S.W. 22 Jan) serial 22 reported
 in tow for Sydney (C.B.) (W.D. Note. Should
 be Sydney N.S.W.)
 BRILLIANT (torpedoed 19 Nov. 1942, Sank in tow
 to repair port). serial 21 sank 25th Jan.
 Liberty ship LEWIS CAS aground Guadaloupe Islands Mexico 26th
 January.
 (Connav, 2050/26 to Comnav).

O.T.57 Designation O.T. (?57) assigned tanker convoy
 Gulf or Caribbean Sea to and from West Africa
 first eastbound sailing Aruba 5th Feb. for Dakar.
 (Connav 2053A/26 to N.C.X.F. etc).

Sub. attack Action to Admty. for O.I.C.
 and sighting A. Liberator sights sub on surface course 040
 summary. 56.55 40.06 1620Z/26.
 B. N.S. MANSFIELD sights sub diving 57.53 N. 41.56
 W. 1545Z/26. D. VP sights sub 33.39 N. 59.08 W.
 1331Z/26. Y.224 sights periscope makes sound
 contact 42.28 N., 70.30 W., 1720Z/26. Airline pilot sights
 periscope and sub shadow course 156 approx. 26.10 N. 79.55 W.
 1423Z/26. Eastern airlines, pilot sights periscope wake course
 230 changing to 120 20.55 N. 71.15 W. 1405Z/25. Sub sighted 22.
 35 N. 74.20 W. p.m./25. S.C.1042 attacks sound contact 21.35 N.
 76.58 W. 0930Z/24. SS. DELAWARE SUN sights sub. 27.18 N. 91.24
 W., 0250Z/24.
 (Cominch, 2129/26 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

BULKOIL Departed Curacao 1400 Jan. 26th BULKOIL, British,
 New York, Jan. 31st.
 (R.O. Curacao, via New York, 2147/26 to Admty).

RESTORER U.S. cable ship RESTORER sailed Seattle 24 for
 Alaska.
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2207Z/26 to Admty).

U/B A/C sighted S/M on surface 056° 55' N., 040° 06'
 W. 040° 6 knots at 1620/26th.
 (C.O.A.C., 2220Z/26 to G.B.7 A, C.T.F. 24 (R)
 Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
 C.T.G.24.7).

/SWEETBRIAR...

26.1.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

SWEETBRIAR. My P.C. and S. 051° 16' N., 047° 04' W.
(B) 060° 12.5 knots. Weather report.
(SWEETBRIAR, 2330Z/26 to C.T.F.24 (R) A.C.I.C.,
C. Mid Ocean, Escort T.U. 24.1.17 Connav, Admty.
C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.,
C.T.G.24.7).

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements Arrivals Sydney 24th (?H.M.A.S. LISMORE) 25th
Townsville KAPUNDA Port Moresby 25th H.M.A.S.
BENDIGO Port Darwin H.M.A.S. WARREGO, INVERELL,
from Thursday Island Cairns 25th U.S. Patrol
Gunboat TULSA from Milne Bay Townsville 25th H.M.S. GLENELG.
Departures Sydney 24th U.S. Destroyer TREVER for Wellington
Thursday Island CASTLEMAINE from Port Darwin.
(A.C.N.B., 0338Z/26 to Admty etc).
Departure Espirito Santo 2300Z/24 MONOWAI for Suva, E.T.A.
27th Jan.
Departure Nandi Bay 25th Jan. U.S.S. MONONGAHALA for Noumea.
Departure Penrhyn Island 2300Z/24 U.S.S. DELPHINUS for Bora Bora
E.T.A. 0001Z/27.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0434Z/26 to Admty).
Arrival Suva ENGADINE.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1042Z/26 to Admty).
Departure Suva ENGADINE for Tutuila and San Diego.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1815Z/26 to Admty).
Arrival 25th January Darwin U.S. transport MAETSUYCKER.
Sydney N.S.W. Hospital ship WANGANELLA. Townsville H.T. TAROONA
U.S. transport SWARTENHONDT, U.S. storeship GOLDSTAR departed
MELBOURNE 25th due Newcastle 29th. A.S.I.S. POYANG departed
Townsville 25th for Palm Island.
(A.C.N.B., 1334Z/26 to Admty. Connav).

Digest No. One small Merchant ship with large schooner
369 Jan. 25th. arrived Buka passage from South noon 25th.
2. One 2,000 ton merchant ship observed by Air
Recco off Kavieng forenoon 24th.
3. Photos Rabaul 24th show seven merchant ships
including one tanker off Kopopo where three new jetties
constructed new runway 1300 yards (Rapopo) and probable new A.A.
positions under construction near runway. 30 aircraft probably
bombers shown in dispersal area. Three fortresses attacked
shipping and runway Kokopo area midnight 24th while eight other
fortresses bombed shipping Rabaul Harbour from low level scoring
hit on one unidentified vessel while another 2000 tonner
observed to explode. Other results not observed. 4 1000 pound
bombs also dropped Vunakanau Aerodrome. Above aircraft reported
sighting 2 destroyers 3 cargo vessels at midnight centre St.
George Channel course 210°

War Diary.

26.1.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
No. 369
Jan. 25th.
Contd.

- (5) One Liberator bombed Gasmata morning 25th while another attacked small wrecked vessel off Finschaffan during afternoon without apparent result.
- (6) B.25 attacked dumps Lae area forenoon same day while 3 Bostons strafed small craft between Salamaua and Kumusi River without observing results.
- (7) Our motor torpedo boats attacked four enemy barges south of Kumusi River night 24/25 three destroyed one beached.
- (8) Enemy troops reported landed from four barges near mouth Waria River (South Merobe Harbour) night 24th.
- (9) Photos taken 22nd show Madang Runway being reconditioned.
- (10). Two or three unidentified aircraft airfield Milne Bay early morning 25th no damage reported.
- (11) Two to six unidentified bombers attacked airfield Port Moresby from 20,000 feet early morning 25th destroying one grounded transport aircraft.
- (12) One Liberator sighted enemy convoy one destroyer three large transports forenoon 25th 3° 50' S., 120° 10' E. on easterly course.
- (13) One medium Merchant vessel observed entering Ambon Bay same time and eight fighters on Laha Aerodrome.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0851Z/26 to Admty etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1346A/26).

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly
Summary.

My 1059/22nd July, 1942. On the 19th H.M.C.S. PORT ARTHUR between Bone and Bougie destroyed the Italian submarine TRITONE and took 3 officers and 22 ratings prisoner. On the 20th 3 M.T.Bs. sighted and engaged a U-boat which was being towed off the entrance of Tripoli Harbour and M.T.B. 260 sank it.
(D.A/S.W., 1841A/26 to Cominch B.A.D., etc).

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

H.X. 223. C.T.U. 24.1.3 reports H.X. 223 in 62.39 N. 25.50 W. at 1900Z today. Ten ships are missing, excluding KOLLBJORG (see 25th January) and FORT LA MAUNE (see 25th January).

J.W. 52. Convoy J.W. 52 and escorts (with the exception of one ship which put back) arrived at Kola Inlet at 1330A today, with the exception of SS. CORNELIUS HARNETT: all ships reached Iokanka by early afternoon 28th January.

HIPPER and KÖLN are reported to have been in Narvik yesterday, TIRPITZ at Trondheim; (B.2.)

156 aircraft set out to attack Lorient last night. Cloud, haze and smoke prevented a concentrated attack, but fires are reported in the dock and Keroman areas, and near the submarine pens, as well as in the town. U.S.A.F. Fortresses attacked Wilhelmshaven about noon today. Two Fortresses also attacked Emden. Six Mosquitoes attacked the shipyards at Copenhagen today, starting a large fire. Eight out of 9 Mosquitoes despatched attacked the Burmeister and Wain Diesel Works at Copenhagen.

"Torch" Area.

The S.O. of escorts of Convoy K.M.F.7 reports that no contact was made with A/S air escorts between daylight 9th January off Oversay and 15th January off Gibraltar, except for one Liberator on 12th January. A/S air escorts were to be provided daily. The Admiralty explanation was sent on 30th January.

The flag of Vice-Admiral Sir Harold Burroughs was hoisted in H.M.S. NELSON today as S.O. Force H.

War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic.Convoy
U.G.S.4.

SS. CHARLES C. PINCKNEY, a straggler from Convoy U.G.S.4 reported being torpedoed at 2147Z today in 36.37 N. 30.55 W. (about 150 miles S.W. of Azores), and SS. CITY OF FLINT, a straggler from U.G.S.4 was torpedoed and sunk in the area 34° 47' N. 31° 30' W. today.

South Atlantic.

VALIANT arrived at Capetown today (returning to U.K. for modernising).

Mediterranean.

4 M.T.Bs (260, 264, 313, 315) from Malta operated north of Kerkenah Bank last night and 3 M.T.Bs (61, 77, 82) off the south-east coast of Sicily.

Convoy
M.E.16

Convoy M.E.16 (4 empty merchant ships) sailed from Malta for Alexandria at 1849A today, escorted by DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, CROOME, EXMOOR, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, PINDOS, KANARIS.

Air
activity.

Two Beauforts and 3 naval Albacores from Malta laid mines last night in the Kerkenah area and off Sousse and Sfax. Early today a Wellington bombed an escorted merchant ship in 37.55 N. 11.30 E. and a Wellington attacked with torpedo a medium merchant ship escorted by 2 destroyers west of Cape Gallo, but no result was seen in either case. B.24s were despatched last night to attack shipping in Naples harbour, but only one reached the objective and cloud obscured the results. The remainder attacked Messina harbour; bombs burst in the area of the naval fuel tanks, but haze prevented observation of the results. Nine Wellingtons took off last night to attack the docks at Bizerta; one exceedingly heavy

/explosion ...

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
Activity.
(Contd.)

explosion was caused.
Bad weather hampered operations today.
Kittyhawks bombed 2 barges off Pisida (near
Zuara), destroying one of them.
6 U.S. B.25s escorted by 12 P.38s attacked two
destroyers (no position given) with 22 x 500 lb.
bombs. Two direct hits and 3 near misses were
made on one destroyer, leaving it in flames and
listing heavily when last seen. Four near misses
were made on the stern of the other, probably
damaging the rudder and propeller mechanism.

About 20 to 25 enemy bombers attacked Algiers
harbour last night. SS. VILLE DE STRASBOURG
was hit and damaged. Beaufighters and A/A fire
destroyed at least 5 of the enemy planes.

America and West Indies.

L.S.Ts for the U.K. sailed today from New York
for Bermuda, but numerous breakdowns occurred
and at least 5 returned to New York. Five
arrived at Bermuda on 31st Jan. The convoy is
delayed indefinitely.

U.S. CAPE DECISION was torpedoed at 0451 zone
time today in 22.57 N. 47.28 W. and was seen
sinking at 0532Q. In all, 5 torpedoes were fired
at her. 41 survivors landed at Barbados on 5th
Feb., leaving 37 still afloat. The ship was last
seen afloat after U-Boat abandoned attempts to
sink by gunfire, and may be a danger to navigation.

Australia and New Zealand.

It is reported that a U.S. aircraft bombed and
destroyed a Japanese midget submarine off
Guadalcanal on 6th December 1942.

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- H.34. Sailed AQUAMARINE, H.34
(Cdre. Londonderry 0410A/27)
- P.219. Scapa arrival 0841 BRYONY P.219, proceeded with
PRESTON NORTH END.
(A.C.O.S. 0935/27.)
My 2024/26 para. (L). Cancel all after BRYONY and
add due off Dunnet Head 0700/27 from Westward, thence escorted
by PRESTON NORTH END to Blyth.
(F.O.S.1234A/27 to Admty.)
- QUEENBOROUGH, Sailed for Scapa, routed East of Faeroes. E.T.A.
RAIDER and 0500A/29th.
ECHO. (S.O.2nd B.S. 1201A/27.)
- GURNARD. 1. Estimate at 2000A/28th Northbound convoy
M.K.S. 6 will be in 049° 02' N. 014° 40' W.
2. Amend your route forthwith to pass through
050° 30' N. 014° 00' W. thence Chop 047° 58' N. 026° 02' W.
3. Amended bombing restrictions arranged and follow.
(F.O.(S) 1517A/27 to GURNARD, (R) Comsubron 50, C. in C. W.A.
C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)
- TUNA. My 1845/26 sailed 1414. E.T.A. 0600/29. 12 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1629A/27 to Admty., F.O.I.C.
Greenock. (R) C. in C. W.A., S.3., F.O.S., F.O.I.C.
Falmouth, Cardiff, Milford, F.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.I.C.N.I.)
- Positions of Submarines at 0800A 28th and movements for following 24 hours.
- A. TRIDENT 69° 38' N. 09° 28' E. speed 10 knots for Lerwick.
B. P.224 69° 11' N. 09° 25' E. speed 9 knots for Lerwick.
C. P.314 68° 30' N. 07° 59' E. speed 10 knots for Lerwick.
D. P.53 68° 07' N. 07° 32' E. speed 8 knots to Northeastward.
E. P.216° 36' N. 08° 42' E. speed 9 knots to Northeastward.
F. O.15 67° 16' N 08° 10' E. speed 9 knots to Northeastward.
G. SOKOL 66° 45' N 07° 21' E. speed 8 knots to Northeastward.
All the above submarines are proceeding probably on the surface.
H. JUNON off Bredsund.
J. P.56 escorted by PRESTON NORTH END leaves Blyth 1730/28th., due Scapa 0830/30th.
K. H.28 and H.44 escorted by AQUAMARINE due Lough Foyle 0900/28th from Rothesay.
L. TUNA escorted by CUTTY SARK vicinity Smalls for Holy Loch.
M. U.S.S.GURNARD 50° 26' N. 13° 13' W. dived by day through 50° 30' N. 14° 00' W. and 47° 58' N. 26° 02' W. proceeding probably on surface after crossing 20° W.
N. 019 44° 25' N. 13° 50' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 13° 50' W.

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

Positions of submarines at 0800A/28th and movements for following 24 hours.

O. U.S.S. SHAD of Bilbao.
P. U.S.S. HERRING in Zone K.505.
Q. P.219 escorted by PRESTON NORTH END arriving Blyth from Northward.
(F.O.(S), 1636A/27 and 1341A/28.)

WATCHMAN. Hvalfjord 27th Jan arrival (?H.M.S. WATCHMAN) at 1650.
(A.C.I.C., 1744A/27.)
Sailing WATCHMAN to rejoin convoy.
(A.C.I.C. 2130A/27.)

Destroyers to R/V ILLUSTRIOUS. A.M. 1146/26. Request you will sail six destroyers to R/V at 1500A/2nd Feb. with ILLUSTRIOUS in 46° 00' N. 17° 00' W. 2. ILLUSTRIOUS with RENOWN, FURIOUS and 9 destroyers are expected to approach M.O.M.P. on mean course 330° S. of A. 16 knots. 3. Documents mentioned in A.M. 1320/27* are to be embarked in a Plymouth Destroyer.
(D.O.D.(H).1749A/27 to C. in C. Plymouth 933. (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C. Western Approaches 198, H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS.)* 1320/27 given Hush M/S distribution.

BARB, BLACKFISH, SHAD, HERRING.

1. Request you will sail BARB and BLACKFISH 1st Feb. so as to part company with escort in position (w) 180° Wolf Rock 10 miles at 1915/2nd Feb. thence S/M diving by day as follows.
2. BLACKFISH through (x) 048° 10' 006° 01' W. (y) 045° 10' 002° 40' W. to patrol off Bilbao.
3. BARB on Route Green passing through position (q) 045° 01' 012° 54' W. at 2100/5th to patrol Zone K.505. 4. F.O.S. will order (i) SHAD to leave patrol at 0700/5th thence return by BLACKFISH outward route. (ii) HERRING to leave patrol at 0800/4th via route red to R/V with an escort and SHAD in position (r) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, 0800/8th thence Clyde. 5. Estimated speed of S/Ms 175 miles per day diving by day.
(F.O.S. 1922A/27 to Comsubron 50. (R) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. N.O.i/c Falmouth, H.Q.C.C., Captain (S) 3.)

H.28 My 1151A/26 sailed.
H.44. (S.7 2103A/27.)

~~D.Z.I.K.~~^{DZIK} Your 1421/27th not to all addressees. P.S.D.Z.I.K. is to leave Holy Loch 30th Jan. for Lerwick thence to work up patrol in Zone K 104 bounded by latitudes 061° 20' and 060° 50' meridian 002° 45' E. and coast of Norway.
(F.O.S. 2129A/27 to Capt. (S) 3rd Submarine Flotilla, (R) Admty. A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, Capt. (S) 9th Submarine Flotilla, C. in C. Home Fleet, H.Q.C.C., S.O. Submarines, Lerwick.)

/Operations...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 0958A/26 and 1623A/26. "Device" returned to Harbour owing to defect in M.L 123. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0030A/27.)

1. Intend M.G.B. 56 (S.O.) and M.G.B. 51 to Patrol tonight, on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.

2. Leave Portland at 1800 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. Code word "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1028/27.)

Cancel my 1028A/27 owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1628A/27.)

My 1056/27th (N.T. in W.D.) cancel patrol. CATTISTOCK is to return to Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore, 1226A/27 to Capt.(D) 16, Capt (D) 21, N.O.I.C. Humber, N.O.I.C. Yarmouth. N.O.I.C. Harwich, S.E.E.C.C.D. CATTISTOCK.)

1. 5 destroyers patrolling south of Beachy Head passing E.A.5 buoy outwards at 1900/27 and inwards at 0600/28. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1519A/27, 1808A/27.)

Attempted interception of E-Boats. Last night Tuesday between 2130 and about 2300 Y raw material from shore stations indicated presence of E-Boats east of 4 buoy but at considerable distance. M.G.Bs sent out from Yarmouth and patrol destroyers report weather was quite unsuitable for E-Boat operations wind S.W. Force 4 to 5.

2. It is thought therefore that if E.Boats were in fact at sea they came over hoping to find reasonably calm conditions under the lee of our coast and as they did not find them they returned to their base without approaching the war channel. (C. in C. Nore, 1214A/24.)

Operation Valuable. *
Following is a repetition my 1330/27th begins, addressed E.D.O. (E) N.O.I.C. Portland N.O.I.C. Newhaven Capt. (D) 1 (R) Admty. 98 C. in C. Plymouth F.O.C. Dover H.M.S. CAMPBELL Group No. E.D.O.(W) Force A. Thorney Island R.A.F. Tangmere from C. in C. Portsmouth, Patrols tonight 27th/28th.

1. Force A consisting of CLEVELAND S.O. ESKDALE, BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, GOATHLAND, TYNEDALE patrol South of Beachy Head as in para 4 of my 1000/23 not to all addressees. Pass E.A.5 outward at 1900/27th inward at 0600/28th. Force B. at Newhaven to consist of M.G.Bs. 616 S.O. 611, 613 and M.T.B.'s 243, S.O. 242, 85. 2. FYLWILLA, KINGSTON, TOPAZ, CHASER 13 at St. Helens and KINGSTON, TURQUOISE at Yarmouth (I.O.W.) 3. M.G.Bs. 56 S.O.51 patrolling 050° 20' N. between 001° 30' W. and 002° 05' W.

4. W.P. 285 escort SLAZAK arrive Needles 0900/28th. 5. P.W.285 SO escort CORNELIAN sailed Needles 1715/27th. 6. C.W.152 escort H.M.S. CAMPBELL passing Beachy Head 0440/28th and E.A.5 0900. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1350A/27 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven, H.M.S. CAMPBELL)

* Not received.

/Allied...

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

A/C in Distress. Following from Lands End Radio. Following received at 0051 G.M.T. by 'phone from 19th Group R.A.F. Plymouth. Begins. S.O.S. Airmen in distress at 49° 35' N. 02° 55' W. at 1840 G.M.T./26 (C. in C. Plymouth, 0055/27 to Admty.)

Bomber Command Report. Day 26th Jan. (2) 8 Whitleys carried out anti-submarine operations. Night 26/27 Jan. (1) 156 A/C set out for the fourth night attack on Lorient this month. The force comprised 15 Heavies of P.E.F. 3 Lancasters and 138 Wellingtons, 120 of these attacked their targets. Weather in the target area was cloudy, being 7/10 at 10,000 ft. with occasional clear gaps and visibility was marred by haze and smoke. A few A/C of P.F.F. found early gaps, but in general the attack was delayed. Some A/C were able to identify the aiming point and fires are reported in the dock and Keroman areas and near the submarine pens, but the greater Part of the attack appears to have been scattered over a wide area. Large fires were seen in the centre and to the North and West of the town. Flak was again reported as moderate only. (3) Halifaxes of 6 Group took off to attack shipping in the Gironde River but only 2 found targets, No details are yet available. 2 Aircraft are missing from the attack on Lorient. (H.Q.B.C., 1445A/27.)

Employment of 405 Sqn. A.X.283 27th Jan. It is noted that aircraft of No. 405 (Canadian) Squadron were employed on the night of 26/27 Jan. on bombing of objectives in the Gironde. This squadron was originally loaned to Coastal Command from Bomber Command for G.R. work in connection with "Torch" convoys and subsequently retained for A.S. duties. If this squadron or a proportion of the squadron is no longer required for these duties it should be returned without delay to Bomber Command where it is urgently needed. Please signal your comments as to the need for further retention and an estimate of the date of return. (Air Min. 2040A/27 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Air raid on Sandbanks. Air raid at mid day 25th Jan. caused damage to requisitioned property at Sandbanks, Naval Air Station, as follows: (S.C.E. Fareham, 0945/27.)

Unexplained explosion. Trawlers in vicinity M.9750 at 2000 on 26th Jan. report low flying aircraft heard flying eastwards, and shortly afterwards an explosion to the eastward believed to be an aircraft crashing. (C. in C. Nore, 2301A/27.)

/Mining...

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Search off Iona. My 1500A/25. Intend remaining at Moville until weather prospects improve. (16th M/S 0350A/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operation N.L.29A. My 1747/26. Operation N.L.29A cancelled owing to weather. (V.A. Dover, 0941A/27.)

Nab. Tower. Report of ground mine detonated 1136/26 by (d) M.M.S. 204 212° Nab tower 4. 1 miles course 254° (E) Green 150° 250 yards. (F) On blue to port. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1533A/27.)

Humber area. Following mines detonated today: A. 1131/27 LL and S.A.Q. Formation. D. RECONO 167° - 16 cables 57 E. Buoy S.15 E. E. Red 150° F. On Pulse Blue to starboard. H. Suspected laid 5/1 possibly 18/19/1. (F.O. Humber, 1706/27.)

Enemy Intelligence.

HIPPER
KÖLN
TIRPITZ. A.M. 1815A/25. HIPPER and KÖLN reported in Narvik 26th Jan. (Graded B.2) 2. TIRPITZ and one destroyer reported to have been carrying out practice in Strindfiord Trondheim 26th Jan. (Graded B.2.) (D.D.I.C., 1241A/27.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Received at 0207 G.M.T. from Durham Head Radio. Begins: Intercepted at 0201 from unknown station, Begins - Warning sub. sighted (rest unread) QSA. 1/2. (Wick Radio, 0310/27 to Lyness.)

One enemy submarine circling 61° 30' N. 03° 00' E. Have attacked on S/M with torpedoes and estimate no hits. (A/C. J.G.I/L., 1610/27.)

U.Boat destroyed on 10th December. We consider that the attack by U.S.N. P.B.Y. aircraft H/84 on 10.12.42 while escorting H.X.217 destroyed a German U-Boat. Please give our congratulations and thanks to those concerned. (1st S.L. 2256A/27 to Cominch.)

U-Boat destroyed on 8th December. We consider that the attack by Liberator B/120 on 8.12.42 while escorting H.X.217 destroyed a German U-Boat. Please give our congratulations to those concerned. (1st S.L. 2303A/27 to Air Ministry.)

Navigational.

Jan Mayen. From Jan Mayen. North coast firmly pressed packs ice, south coast Brash. (A.C.I.C. 1940A/27.)

War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- CORNCRAKE, One Fortress A/C will assist in search from
~~S.C.116.~~ 0910A/27 to 1559A/27.
K.M.S.G. (C. in C. W.A. 0355A/27 to LONDONDERRY)
Regret nothing found. Area searched latitude
055° 33' and 055° 50' N. longitude 013° 30' and 011° 44' W.
Continuing in same area today but weather deteriorating, visibility
2 miles. My position 1200/27th based on Fix 1900A/26 055° 31' N.
012° 12' W. REGINA in company. A/C not met. Weather 1855 0147.
(LONDONDERRY 1205A/27 to C. in C.W.A.)
If nothing is sighted by dark tonight 27th, detach REGINA
to proceed independently to Gibraltar. LONDONDERRY continue
search. Aircraft will search between 055° 30' N. and 057° N.
010° W. to 012° W. tomorrow 28th.
(C. in C.W.A. 1457A/27 to LONDONDERRY, (R) V.A. Gibraltar,
Admty. LANDGUARD.
- EMPIRE Intercept 0757 G.M.T. Addressed Commodore O.N.163
SPEY, from EMPIRE SPEY. In collision, damage unknown.
O.N.163. 0730/27.
(Port Patrick Radio, 0900/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My P.C. and S. at 1100Z/27th 057° 59' N. 010° 49'
W. 310° 6 knots. EMPIRE SPEY was in collision at 0730Z/27th
with GEZINA a straggler from S.C.116. EMPIRE SPEY holed,
proceeding Clyde at 7 knots. GEZINA apparently undamaged and
ordered to accompany EMPIRE SPEY. Weather 2855 9746.
(J.E.D. 1130Z/27.)
- PUFFIN. A.M. 1756/26. PUFFIN is to be sailed for Tyne
with first available F.N. Convoy when weather
conditions are suitable.
(C. in C. Nore, 1006A/27 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)
- SAVORGNAN Your 2315/26 proceed to Greenock calling at
DE BRAZZA. Londonderry if necessary.
(C. in C.W.A. 1021A/27 to SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.)
My P.C. and S. at 2000A/27. 54.52 N. 11.12 W.
075° 8 knots. E.T.A. 1800A/28th. (?Arriving) Clyde 0400A/29th.
(SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, 2000A/27.)
- CULEBRA S.C.116. My 1649A/15. BAXTERGATE and EXMOUTH
(S.C.116.) arrived Iceland (C). CULEBRA damaged, proceeding
Iceland. (C).
(D.O.D. 1450A/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Indicate your P.C. and S.
(A.C.I.C. 1732A/27 to FETLAR.)
My 0315/23. Because of gale and inability to make headway
rescue tugs DEXTROUS and CULEBRA in tow are both anchored in 64°
23' N. 22° 37' W. Wind E.N.E. force nine. FETLAR has reverted
to port wave.
(A.C.I.C. 2045A/27 to Admty.)
- ROCKINGHAM Arrived at 1930/27th.
(O.N.162). (A.C.I.C. 2050A/27.)

/My...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

ROCKINGHAM My 2050/27th ROCKINGHAM delayed by (?Dynamo)
(O.N.162.) defect. E.T.D. 0900A/28.
Contd. (A.C.I.C., 2325A/27.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F.8. Convoy K.M.F.8 sailed from U.K. 24th January
comprising the following troopships.

| Code No. | Ship. | No. of Personnel on Board. | Destination of Personnel. |
|----------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| P.5 | LETITIA | 1431 | Gibraltar |
| P.8 | DURBAN CASTLE | 2595 | Algiers |
| | | 105 | Bougie |
| P.13 | STRATHNAVER | 3675 | Oran |
| P.31 | CIRCISSIA | 2749 | Bone |
| P.32 | DUNNOTTAR CASTLE | 863 | Algiers |
| | | 13 | Philippeville |
| | | 2078 | Bone |
| P.42 | DUCHESS OF YORK | 4361 | Algiers |
| P.50 | SAMARIA | 4087 | Algiers |
| P.55 | EMPIRE PRIDE | 2369 | Bone |

2. Particulars of P.50, P.55 with personnel for destinations
East of Oran are as follows. Details.
(D.S.T. 0310A/27)

S.C.116. Sailed NARVIK to R/V S.C.116 escorted by WHITEHALL.
S.C.116 E.T.A. position A.0700A/28.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0818A/27.)
My 0001A/27th. Will be four hours late at position (A)
delayed by Southerly gale. Present speed 5½. Have been unable
to detach Fast Section of Convoy today.
(WHITEHALL, 1840A/27 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,
Commodore Londonderry, N.C.S.O Aultbea, Comtask Group 24.7,
Capt. (D) Liverpool, Capt. (D) Greenock, NARVIK.)

S.S. Ref. A.M. 1322/25th. Unable to keep steam through
EMPIRE inefficiency of firemen.
BAFFIN. (N.C.S.O. Iceland, 1120A/27.)

W.S.27 P. WINDSOR CASTLE Code Number P.41 will now be
included in Convoy W.S.27.P. 2. Embarkation will
take place at Tail of the Bank on 6/2.
(D.S.T., 0459A/27.)

J.W.52. Scapa arrival 0844 - ORWELL.
(A.C.O.S. 0924/27.)
Arrived Akureyri V.A. (2) in ANSON with SHEFFIELD,
QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, ORKAN and ECHO.
(A.C.I.C., 1709A/27.)

/J.W.52...

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- J.W.52
Contd. J.S.52 and escorts arrived Kola Inlet 1330A/27 except CORNELIUS HARNETT who is expected shortly. Admty. pass to M.W.T. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2140A/27.)
- AMSTERDAM. My 1205/25. Codeword "Fitting" add K/B flown. N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1020A/27.) Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1748A/27.)
- EMPIRE ROACH, Your 1826A/20. EMPIRE ROACH, EMPIRE CHUB, EMPIRE EMPIRE CHUB, TITAN sailed 1000A/27 S. of A. $6\frac{3}{4}$ knots. E.T.A. EMPIRE TITAN. Gibraltar 7th Feb. (2) Route as in Admiralty's 1909A/22. (3) Air authorities informed. (4) Codeword "Petronel". (5) Communications. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1024A/27.)
- Fast Fish carriers. Fast fish carriers operated by Hellyer when carrying mails need not be ordered to Loch Ewe for convoy, but may make the passate between Cape Wrath and Iceland (C) independently as is normally permitted. 2. G.P.O. has been informed that these ships will sail independently but may still wish to embark mail in some of them. (D.T.D., 1149A/27, to N.C.S.O. Methil, (R) N.C.S.O. Humber, N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.)
- O.N.J.162. Delivered O.N.J. 162 at 1515Z/27th in 060° 58' N. 019° 30' W. Am entering Reykjavik through Reykjanæs passage, speed 15 knots; weather report 9472 7651. (BABBITT, 1630Z/27.)
- Use of White Sea. Your 2225/25th. I have no reason to alter the view and recommendation in my 1601/16th. (S.N.O. North Russia, 1659/27 to Admty., (R) Admiral Miles, S.N.O. Archangel, S.N.O. Murmansk.)
- K.M.F.8. P.C. and S. at 2000A/27th 048° 10' N. 016° 54' W. 190° 9 knots. MIAOULES insufficient fuel returning Londonderry. ADRIAS not in company 6 escorts remaining 33710657. (EGRET, 1740A/27.) . . .
- S.D.36. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1849/27.)

/D.F.2...

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

D.F.2

Convoy D.F.2 consisting of H.M.S. LEINSTER will be ready to leave Clyde for Faroes on 3rd Feb. (D.O.D.(H), 2146A/27.)

W.P. 286.

Milford Section will not sail owing to weather conditions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2237A/27.)

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27.1.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

Port Defences. Your 1537A/9. 2. Question of defence personnel has been consideration. Matter will be re-considered on receipt of your proposals but there is little prospect of more active officers becoming available for duty as Extended Defence Officers.
(D.L.D. Approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 1139A/27 to N.C.X.F.)

Gib. to Malta shuttle service. A.M. 1857/23rd (requesting accumulated urgent stores be sent by sea). Signal categories and quantities of stores concerned.
(N.C.X.F., 1814A/27 to F.O.I.C. Gib., (R) V.A. Malta, A.O.C. E.A.C., Admty.)

Following are intended movements of escorts.

(A) K.M.F.8, Gib. to Algiers and Algiers to U.K. Ocean escorts and ENCHANTRESS. (B) U.G.S.4, RHYL, STORNOWAY, FLEETWOOD, WEYBURN, HUSSAR, VETCH, CONVULVULUS. (C) K.M.S.8, Gib. to Bone, Canadian corvettes and ocean escort, Gib. to Oran ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH. (D) L.S.T. Tank Ferry Service Philippeville to Oran, SPEEDWELL, CADMUS. Algiers to Oran, POLRUAN. (E) M.K.S.7, Bone to Algiers, AVON VALE, ZETLAND. Bone to Oran, SAMPHIRE, NASTURTIUM, PENTSTEMON. Algiers to Oran BUDE, BRIXHAM, ROTHESAY, CLACTON. Oran to Gib., WEYBURN, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, CADMUS. Oran to U.K., ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH, FLEETWOOD. Gib. to U.K., BIDEFORD, HASTINGS, ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, LULWORTH, LANDGUARD. (F) It is thus hoped to reconcentrate escort group as unit. M/S Flotilla 13 to return to Algiers. Escort Group 36 to take over L.S.T. Ferry. 27th and (? 30) Canadian groups to work K.M. - E.T., M.K. - T.E. convoy in regular cycle. Destroyers of Gibraltar escort force and 12th Minesweeping Flotilla at Gib. 13th Minesweeping Flotilla at Algiers to meet U.G. - (?G).(?U) - T.M. convoy and other additional commitments. (G) Escort Group 43 FLEETWOOD, ENCHANTRESS will join C. in C. W.A. on arrival in U.K. (H) VENOMOUS, VELOX, WIVERN join 13th Destroyer Flotilla.
(N.C.X.F., 1906A/27 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers, (R) F.O.I.S., S.O. Force H, Capt. F., N.Os.I.C. Bone, Bougie, Philippeville, Capt. (D) Gibraltar, Capt. S.8, Capt. (D) 12.)

Tankers. Your 1155/9. ANTONIO in K.M.S.8 and AGATHA 3500 tons cargo in K.M.S.9 or next convoy are to be retained (Tanker message) for ferrying white and black products respectively. No other small tankers available but ALEXANDRE ANDRE 6000 tons cargo sailing in K.M.S.9 can carry equal quantities white and black and should be used for ferrying if suitable alternatively she should relieve BRITISH CHIVALRY or CARDIUM.

(D. of S., 1942A/27 to N.C.X.F.)

French Naval Re- Ref. Combined Chief of Staff 2111/22. This is armament. N.A.F.123 addressed Agwar for Combined Chiefs of Staff and Usfor for British Chiefs of Staff, (R) Admty., S.N.O., C.M.A. Dakar and signed Eisenhower. 1. Information on Asdic trawlers and patrol vessels being obtained will be communicated direct to British Admty. 2. Specimens of ammunition being transported as ships outfits RICHELIEU - 15 inch. MONTCALM - 6 inch. FANTASQUE 5.5 inch. One technical Ordnance Officer Lieut.-Cdr. Monier attached Fenard Mission leaves in NICOSE.

/3. ...

War Diary.

27.1.1943.

Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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"Torch" Area Contd.

French
Naval
re-
armament.

3. Stock ammunition remaining on shore in North Africa in Hadlo 15 inch nil. 6 inch 3340. 5.5 inch 9230. Estimated requirements follow.
4. Arrangements for removal of A/A batteries from ships sailing for U.S.A. and reduction of S/M torpedoes to two per ship have been made by Adm.
5. Adm. Fenard asked to bring essential ships

Michelier.

plans for first Echelon by air.

(N.C.X.F. 2212A/27 to Agwer, Usfor, (R) Admty. etc.)

My 1850/21. Combined Chiefs of Staff 2111/22 not to F.O.C.W.A. indicates that policy for supply to French African Naval Yards is under their consideration. It is therefore not intended to initiate action on Admty. 1319/23 para D and Admty. 2340/18. Para. 5 and 7, until it is clear that provisions of C.A.F.O. 1204/42 as regards the power responsible for supply is applicable to "Torch" Area of N. Africa.

2. Action is in hand to obtain details required for fitting A/S and Oerlikons to convoy escorts quoted in N.A. 105.

3. It is not possible here to assess the supply problem but suggest the ultimate naval repair and store arrangements for French North and West Africa should be somewhat as follows-
1. proposals for refits overseas to be referred to strategic zone naval authority, i.e. F.O.C.W.A. or myself.

(11) Detailed arrangements for technical side of refits in U.S.A. to be made by Adm. Michelier through Sernard Mission in Washington to Navy Department.

(111) British to provide (A) All Asdics in accordance with A.T. 1319/23 para. A.

(B) Close range armament (Oerlikons) depth charges and possibly W/T equipment for convoy escorts re-arming at Dakar and all minor A/S escorts in accordance with N.A.F. 105 para. 3.

D.E.M.S. equipment for small French merchant ships not able to proceed to U.S.A. or U.K.

(C) All dockyard repair materials and naval stores for Algiers and ports to the eastward.

(D) Dockyard repair materials and naval stores for Dakar after completion of initial ships ordered in U.S.A. by Glassfurd Mission.

(IV) U.S. to supply - (A) All provision for re-armament of units in U.S.A.

(B) All dockyard repair and Naval Store materials for Oran and Casablanca since U.S. Navy Dockyard staffs are established at these ports and the bulk of the supplies for these parts already comes from U.S.A.

(N.C.X.F., 2336A/27 to Admty.)

War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- E.T.9 (X) E.T.9 (X) arrived (Ten ships).
(V.A. Gibraltar 0925A/27 to N.C.X.F.)
- CYCLAMEN Detach CYCLAMEN forthwith to proceed direct to Port Etienne.
2. CYCLAMEN is required to reinforce escort of MACGREGOR LAIRD and KANA joining northbound convoy in Cape Bojador area.
3. Further orders for CYCLAMEN will be signalled.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1030A/27 to ROCHESTER, (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.A., CYCLAMEN).
My 1340/26th add to para. (1) CYCLAMEN parts company at approx. 1200/27th to proceed direct to Port Etienne 12½.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1044A/27 to A.I.G.63).
Your 1030A/27. E.T.A. Port Etienne 1200Z/28 50% fuel remaining at noon 28th Jan. Weather report.
(CYCLAMEN 2210Z/27 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) F.O.C. West Africa, DUNKERY).
- G.U.F.4 Admiralty's 1843/26. Request R/V for Oran Section G.U.F.4.
(N.C.X.F., 1031A/27 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. U.S. Cinclant, Admty).
Your 1031A/27, not to Cominch, Admty's 1843/26. Intend sail G.U.F.4 morning 1 Feb. R/V Oran Section 34.50 N., 08.08 W. at 1600Z/1 Feb. Thence to 35.40 N. 10.00 W. Thence as routed by Admiralty.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1805/27 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cinclant, Admty. Cominch).
- ABDIEL Intend to sail ABDIEL at 2100/27 for Algiers routed through 16, 82, 76, 49, 89, 100, speed of advance 25 knots.
(2) ABDIEL will carry W.R.N.S. as in D.C.X.F., 1612A/20.
(3) Codeword "Amazon".
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1035A/27 to N.C.X.F. Cdre. Algiers).
- PENELOPE Intend to sail PENELOPE at 20(00)/27th for Mers-el-Kebir routed through 78, 2, 109, speed being adjusted to comply with para. 1 of S.O. Force H. 1608/26th.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1045A/27 to S.O. Force H, F.O. Oran, (R) N.C.X.F., Admty, C.S.12, PENELOPE).
- DESTINY C.S. Gibraltar's 2030/17 (N.T. in W.R.)
Tug DESTINY should be employed to tow LARIGUANS to U.K. if you consider her suitable.
(N.C.X.F., 1120A/27 to V.A. Gib).

War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.EMINENT,
DESTINY.

My 1645/26 and 1120/27. Request Tugs EMINENT and DESTINY may be returned to Gibraltar on completion of tows.
(N.C.X.F., 1125A/27 to Admty. (R) F.O. Gibraltar)

REGENT

Cancel para 1. of my 1522/25 (re bombing restrictions) (2) TCAO 16.
(A) Total (B) REGENT, (C) 1600/28 31.30 37.01
0520/2 31.30 15.01 0730/4 35.58 05.57 (D) 11.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1155A/27 to R.A.F. Gib. S.N.O.C.A.)

Cancel paras one 2 and 3 of my 1520/25th. My 1003/27 not to Capt. S.8. Estimate you will pass (Q) at 1600/28th. From (Q) proceed on surface at C.O's discretion through (r) 31.30 15.01 at 0520/2nd 35.58 05.57 at 0730/4th. thence Gibraltar S. of A. 11 knots.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1618A/27 to REGENT (R) F.O.S. Capt. S.8).
At 1800A/27th alter course for position (Q) 031° 30' N.
037° 01' W. further instructions follow.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1005A/27 to REGENT (R) F.O.(S)).

T.E.14

T.E.14 sailed in accordance with your 1759A/21st, 1810A/23 and 2149A/23 plus BRITISH CHIVALRY for Oran and Tug DESTINY for Algiers.
All merchant ships hold SP. 02272 (22) and (23).
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1158A/27 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.C., Oran etc).

Situation
at 2000A/27th.

U.S. Destroyers BRISTOL, BUTLER 21.48 17.11 coastwise to Dakar 20.
2. G.U.S.3 Task Force 33, 26.42 33.52, 288° 9.
3. Portuguese sloop GONCALVES ZARCO left St. Vincent 26th for Funchal 9.

4. ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH 2 merchant ships 23.54 19.33 through 22.30 21.30 and 21.01 21.30 to R/V in 19.36 20.59 at 1700/28th with CORINTHIAN 2 and 3 merchant ships. At R/V escort change ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH 3 merchant ships proceed 312° 7½.

5. CYCLAMEN 23.27 17.33 to Port Etienne 12½.

6. REGENT 33.54 39.41 through 31.30.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1233A/27 to Area Z).

ROCHESTER

Adjust speed to R/V in accordance with F.O.C. West Africa's 0121Z/27 (0212/27 intended) Report if unable to comply.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1247A/27 to ROCHESTER).

/Situation...

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Situation IMPERIALIST, ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER
at 2004A/27th. 31.53 14.08 288 3½.
IMPERIALIST, ST. NECTAN hold incorrect recognition signals.
(2) LORD HOTHAM 34.22 10.27 248 9.
(3) S/M P.339 38.50 10.32 through 36.51 09.13 at 1240/28th
thence 099° on the surface 8½.
(4) TORBAY 38.14 10.09 through 36.51 09.13 at 0800/28th
thence 099° on the surface 9 to 0800/28th then 7¼.
(5) O.19 42.50 14.01 through 43.(?45) 13.50 at 2200/27th thence
000° dived by day 2½ surfacing at night 9.
(6) NORTHERN FOAM off Cape St. Vincent direct to special patrol
off Tagus 9.
(7) LOCH OSKAIG one merchant ship sailed 1900A. 27th coastwise
to Cape Trafalgar thence direct to Cape St. Mary's and direct to
Cape St. Vincent thence coastwise to Tagus 9.
(8) BULOLO, WOLVERINE, LIMBOURNE, BADSWORTH 38.42 12.08 through
42.30 15.30 thence 000° 13½.
(9) Portuguese S/M ESPADARTE exercising off entrance to Tagus
28th and 29th inside territorial waters.
L10) K.M.F.8 and W.S.26 Fleet unit CILICIA, CANTON, EGRET,
FISHGUARD, TEST, MIAOULES, BANFF, RELENTLESS, QUADRANT, ADRIAS,
46.51 17.15 through 45.05 17.20 thence 179 10.
(11) ENCHANTRESS, BOREAS 2 tankers sail from Gibraltar 1900A/28
through 35.52 06.01 through 35.45 06.23 and 34.02 07.49 thence
Casablanca 13½.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1354A/27 to A.I.G.63).

S/M IRIS N.A. Madrid's 1120/24. Concur. We could not
(French). intervene without risk of most serious incident
with Spaniards.
V.A. Gibraltar is requested to inform Admiral
Delaye of the position, omitting all reference
to our having consented to the Spaniards removing IRIS from
Barcelona to Cartagena.
(Head of M. (I) Approved A.C.N.S. (F), 1523A/27 to N.A. Madrid,
V.A. Gibraltar).

OXFORDSHIRE Intend sailing hospital ship H.M.S. OXFORDSHIRE
at 1700/27th routed through 036° 32' N., 008°
58' W. 040° 15' N., 013° 13' W. 045° 01' N., 013°
13' W. thence as routed by Admty. S. of A. 13½
knots.

2. Admty's decypher and pass to A.O.C. i/c Coastal Command.
(Passing action being taken by W.R.)
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1536A/27. Admty. SEALION, C. in C. Plymouth
(R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.S., A.O.C. in C. C.C. N.O.I.C. Avonmouth).

Gibraltar to Admiralty's 1857/23. Signal categories and
Malta air quantities of stores concerned.
shuttle (N.C.X.F., 1814A/22 (1814A/27 intended) to F.O.I.C
service Gibraltar (R) V.A. Malta, A.O.C. E.A.C., Admty).

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

U.G.S.4. Request you will sail FLEETWOOD, RHYL, STORNOWAY, CONVULVULUS, HUSSAR, WEYBURN, VETCH to R/V with U.G.S.4 in position
(Q) 034° 40' 009° 59' W., at 1300/1st and escort Gibraltar and Oran sections to destination.
(2) Onward route 035° 55' 006° 01' W. 57.72 109 to Oran letter D to G stragglers as convoy speed of advance 9 knots expected time of arrival Oran 1800/3rd.
(3) Gibraltar section join and detach in position 57 at 1630/2nd.
(4) All times zone A.
(5) Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Dunnock".
(N.C.X.F., 1827A/27 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) S.O. Force H, Cdr. Task Group. 38, Capt. (S) 8, Admty. C.G.12th Air Force, Air H.Q. Gibraltar, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.I.C. Oran, Capt. (F) Connav)

K.M.F.7 Senior Officer Escorts K.M.F.7 reports that no lack of contact was made with A.S. air escorts between air escort. daylight 9th Jan. off Oversay and 15th off Gibraltar excepting for one Liberator on 12th.
2. A.S. air escorts were to be provided daily.
C. in C. W.A.'s 0314/10, 0413/11, 1120/11, and 0126/13, and V.A. Gibraltar's 2209/13*, 1951/14*, and 1932/15* refer.
(N.C.X.F., 1911A/27 to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar).
/Not circulated in Admiralty. *Not received. Reply Admty. 1723A/30.

BUNKERHILL. American Tanker BUNKERHILL expected to sail for Aruba 29th Jan. Replacement of steering Motor necessary. Request owners be informed and forwarding arrangements made.
(C.S. Gibraltar, 2006A/27 to Admty).

F.T.9 F.T.9 arrived 8, 5 ships.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2049A/27 to S.N.O. Casablanca
(R) N.C.X.F., Com. Algiers, Admty, Connav).

Movements Arrivals 1020 M.L.s 443, 307, from Oran 1200 M.Ls. 174, 175, 1800 U.S.S. OSPREY, P.C.473, O.V.475, French ship LA BOUDEUSE with C.G.9.
Departures 2000, PENELOPE, for Mers el Kebir.
1820, L.C.I.(L) No.7 for Algiers. 1850, H.M.T. LOCH OSKAIG escort duties Lisbon/Gibraltar. 215, ABDIEL for Algiers, (F.O. Gibraltar, 2125A/27 to Admty N.C.X.F.)

ILLUSTRIOUS Re 1651/26th Jan. para. 3 F.O. West Africa.
HOLCOMBE. Overtaking speed is beyond my present endurance. Am proceeding best speed to Casablanca to refuel. Expect to arrive 0701Z/31st Jan.
(HOLCOMBE, 2319Z/27 to N.C.X.F. F.O.C.N.A.

ILLUSTRIOUS, S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O. West Africa, (R) PATHFINDER, Admty).
Cancelled by 1246Z/28 q.v.

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.-Contd.

PHYLLISIA,
BARWIND.

Your 1110/26 (Re A.M.1740/23 cancel, should be sailed for Freetown as soon as practicable PHYLLISIA is to remain at Gibraltar.) PHYLLISIA is not powerful enough to handle boom moorings in Bay. Request permission to retain BARWIND until completion of repairs which will take about 10 days.
(F.O. Gibraltar 2335A/27 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty).
Approved. (N.C.X.F., 1101A/28).

Movements.

Arrivals 0900. NORTHERN GIFT, LOCH OSKAIG ex T.F.8 p.m. VANOC, VERITY, HUSSAR, FLEETWOOD convoy E.T.9.

Departure p.m./25th M.Ls. 175, 174 to intercept Three Spanish Schooners on passage Larache/Seville. 0825/26. SS. LA SETOISE, LA SERVANNAISE, SS. AISNE to Algiers. 1434, LORD HOTHAM to relieve IMPERIALIST as escort to LADY DENISON PENDER. 2315. BICESTER, PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, SPEEDWELL, CADMUS, NASTURTIUM escorting T.E.14. 2200 NORTHERN FOAM vicinity of Lisbon.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 2353A/27 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- S.O.S. Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 2315 G.M.T. 500 kc/s. FGA Dakar Radio de VHS* S O S KTJ* on 4575 kc/s. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0016/27 to Admty.)
*Undecypherable.
- MATAROA. Your 1536/26. My 1221/25th, previously circulated with T.O.O. 2335/26, request confirmation that MATAROA carrying 100 prisoners of War can call at Colonial Ports if necessary. (C. in C. S.A., 0022C/27 to Admty., (R) F.O.C. W.A. Force, Comnav (C. and R.) British Naval S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)
- DUNKERY, (1) DUNKERY and ships in company are to remain in
CYCLAMEN. Port Etienne until joined by CYCLAMEN.
(2) CYCLAMEN report on sailing to comply with my 1253/Z 27th. (3) CYCLAMEN and DUNKERY are to keep W/T watch in accordance with North Atlantic organizations from (?time of sailing) until 2000 1st Feb. (F.O.C.W.A. 0632Z/27 to DUNKERY, CYCLAMEN (R) Admty. ROCHESTER, N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca.)
My 1705Z/26. Suggest CYCLAMEN on arrival Port Etienne join DUNKERY and 2 motor launches as escort to KANA and MACGREGOR LAIRD and proceed by coastal route to rendezvous northbound convoy in position 025° 55' N. 016° 40' W. at 1400Z/31 January. After R/V request CYCLAMEN, DUNKERY and Motor Launches return direct to Bathurst. (F.O.C.W.A., 1253Z/27, to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. CORINTHIAN, ROCHESTER, CYCLAMEN, DUNKERY, S.N.O. Casablanca.)
Discharging commenced. If good weather prevails estimate discharging will complete at earliest p.m. 29th January. All facilities very poor and impossible discharge if any wind. Will signal definite time as soon as known.
(DUNKERY, 1930Z/27 to F.O.C.W.A.)
- M.L.285. Departure from Pointe Noire 1600Z/26th M.L.285 escorting BELGIAN FISHERMAN routed through (a) 003° 20' S. 009° 20' E. (b) 001° 00' N. 007° 00' E. E.T.A. Lagos (Nigeria) 1500Z/30th. (B.N.L.O.W.A., 0815/27 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Takoradi. Capt. (D) Freetown Escort Force.)
- NORTHERN 0650/27th NORTHERN ISLE. (?arrived)
ISLE. (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 0852Z/27 to C. in C.S.A., Admty., F.O.C.W.A.)
- BRISTOL R/V arranged with examination steamer in 014° 26'
BUTLER. N. 017° 33' W. Approach course thence to leave Goree Island close to port. Pilot will board close outside boom. (B.N.L.O., Dakar, 0932Z/27 to U.S. Ships BRISTOL and BUTLER (R) S.N.O. Casablanca.)

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

U.S. Departure 26th U.S. Navy transport MUNARGO
Movements, U.S. Corvette SAUCY.
Para. (R.O. Para, 0947/27, to Admty., (R) B.N. S.O.
Rio de Janeiro.)

Situation PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER, ILEX, escorting Fleet
2000Z/27th. unit 16.27 19.29 to 20.01 20.59 thence 000° 18.
HOLCOMBE off Cape Verde to North 17½.
CORINTHIAN, PETUNIA ARMERIA escorting 18.01 19.01

310° 7½.

FANDANGO about 14.01 18.30 to Bathurst 9.
ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH escorting about 24.02 19.21 to 22.30
21.30 thence 180° 12½.
BRIDGEWATER escorting (709.20 19.01 278° 11½.
U.S. Destroyer MOFFETT about 13.30 17.35 to Dakar 15.
U.S. Destroyers BRISTOL and BUTLER off Cape Blanco to Dakar 20.
Portuguese sloop GONCALVES ZARCO left (Oran?) 26th January for
Lisbon 9.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1103Z/27 to A.I.G.149.)

Dispositions. BALUCHISTAN 030° 50' S. 016° 30' E. to Simonstown
12½ knots.
CHITRAL 033° 30' S. 028° 50' E. to Simonstown
12½ knots.
SONDRA 030° 10' S. 032° 20' E. to Durban 10½ knots.
VIVIANA, INDIAN STAR escorting INTEGRITY and PRUDENT towing Crane
lighter from Cape Morgan to Durban coastal 5 knots.
GENISTA (?ST. ZENO) with C.N.2 030° 40' S. 017° 05' E. to North
8 knots.
THYME escorting EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, INDRAPOERA 031° 20' S. 016° 30' E.
to 027° 55' S. 015° 10' E. 12.
FRITILLARY with C.A.7 off Cape Agulhas to 037° 10' S. 025° 00' E.
11 knots.
MAGNOLIA 029° 10' S. 032° 55' E. to Diego Suarez 7½ knots.
DAINTY BLACKMOOR escorting ARAWA 029° 10' S. 034° 30' E. to Durban
12½ knots.
(C. in C.S.A., 1153C/27 to Area Q.)

YOMA, Owing to uncertain dates of availability of ships
FELIX mentioned in P.S.T.O. India's 0401/17 it is proposed
ROUSSEL, that YOMA capacity 1880 and FELIX ROUSSEL capacity
C.M.39 2200 should form C.M.39 for India only and sail
C.M.40. from Durban Thursday 11th Feb. subject to escort
being available. 2. After this voyage FELIX
ROUSSEL should return to Durban to complete major
repairs and dry dock for repairs to after peak tank. 3. C.M.40
will probably be formed last week in February.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1221C/27, to C. in C.E.F.(F) C. in C. S.A.etc.)

MOFFETT, Arrival U.S. Destroyer MOFFETT, U.S. Destroyer
SOMERS. SOMERS 0915.
(Comar Dakar, 1234Z/27 to F.O. W.A., S.N.O.
Casablanca, V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., C. in C. U.S.
Fleet, Task Force No. 26.7.3. Cmdr. Gulf Sea Frontier. BRISTOL,
Task Force No.34.7.)

NEPAL...

War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- NEPAL. Sailed NEPAL to Kilindini routed through -
(W) 25° 00' S. 40° 30' E. (X) 15° 30' S. 42° 30' E. (Y) 08° 42' S. 41° 52' E.
2. S. of A. 19 knots, QJN Kilindini 1400Z/31 Jan.
3. Shifts W/T organisation to Group V at 0245Z/30.
(Cdre. Durban, 1301Z/27 to Admty., etc.)
- BRIDGEWATER. (1) Sailed BRIDGEWATER at 1400Z/26 Jan. escorting RHEXENOR to about position C.3, 12° 36' N. 035° 01' W. where RHEXENOR will be detached a.m. 31st Jan. to proceed independently to St. John (N.B.)
2. BRIDGEWATER will then R/V with NORSOL in 005° 50' N. 033° 45' W. at 1200Z/1 Feb. and escort direct to Freetown.
3. BRIDGEWATER maintaining wireless watch in accordance with A.F.O. 'S' 01/42.
(F.O.W.Af., 1327Z/27, 1656Z/27 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., Connav, BRIDGEWATER.)
- Situation F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting 01.54 06.35 E.
2000Z/27th. to Equator 08.00 E. thence 154°, 12.5.
F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 00.47 01.52
E. to 01.55 S. 04.20 E. thence 110°, 12.5.
CROCUS escorting 01.03 03.13 E. 307° 15 to
- Takoradi.
P.614, 01.18 03.33 E. through 01.00 04.00 E. at 0100/28th
thence 130°, 7.5.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1401Z/27, 2021Z/27, to A.I.G. 150.)
- U/B Following bearings of German U-Boat transmissions
transmission. on 75(94?) k/cs from Dakar, 0712(Z)?/26th 002°
first class. 0905Z/26th 340° first class.
1514Z/26th 340° second class.
(B.N.L.O. Dakar, 1430Z/27 to F.O.W.A., (R)
Admty.)
- French Your 1605/25. Issue of R.A.F. Syko Cards to
Communi- French warships should conform to policy agreed
cations. upon between you and A.O.C.
Air Ministry signal A.X.420 of 16th Jan. to
A.H.Q. West Africa refers.
2. Issue of Naval Syko Card to French warships should conform
to my 1332/5 para. 3(e).
(N.I.D.10 for D.N.I., 1507A/27 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) N.C.X.F.,
V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A.)
- Movements. Arrivals 27th Capetown VALIANT, CHESHIRE.
Simonstown INCONSTANT, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, HOTSPUR.
(C. in C. S.A., 1644C/27 to Admty., Com. i/c
Durban, C. in C. E.F.)

/ A/S ...

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War Diary.27.1.1943
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

A/S Trawlers and Group Sailings. Your 1730/25th. Fourth word from end of first sentence in my 1143/23rd (1146/23 intended.) should read "till" and not "by". Regret error which must have made situation appear rather grim.

(2) On arrival of trawlers on station urgency of matter was fully appreciated. As explained in my 1256/19th (circulated as 1305/19) trawlers boiler tubes immediately despatched to 6 Union ports so that repairs could be undertaken as a priority measure without undue publicity. (3) By 2nd Feb. 9 trawlers should be available as escort and 2 more a few days afterwards. S.A.N.F. have lent 3 A/S trawlers for escort duties and they are already in operation. In addition to this 6 corvettes are available. (4) High degree of unserviceability of trawlers appears to be due to prolonged steaming. Nearly all were in need of boiler (? inductors) and many have leaky tubes. Defects are mainly due to ordinary wear and tear. Trawlers taken in hand will be completed with the utmost despatch, but it is not possible to get firm dates of completion yet from Controller of Ship Repairs. No items are being undertaken that do not affect seagoing efficiency. (5) Twice weekly escorted convoys north and south from Capetown and east from Durban have already commenced as have group sailings between Agulhas and Durban and between Durban and Lourenco Marques. Both these latter are unescorted except for the air and it seems probable that owing to distances involved and slow speeds of convoys fully escorted sailings, with trawlers will not be possible for three or four weeks. (6) S.A.A.F. are already giving daylight air cover to all convoys and group sailings to limit of endurance. By 1st Feb. 13 Catalinas will have arrived. Group Capt. Drew, R.A.F. joined my staff today from Air H.Q. Africa to co-ordinate all air operations. (7) I still consider chief problem is lack of surface escorts for faster ships.

(C. in C.S.A., 1715C/27, as amended 0940C/28 to Admty. (R)
C. in C.E.F.)

B.T.2. Serial number 4, following ships sailed Bahia 1800/26th in convoy B.T.2. VICTORIA, LOIDE Brazil for Pernambuco. OCEAN VOLUNTEER British WILLIAM H. SEAWARD, GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN, EDWIN M. STANTON, GIDDEON WELLES 4 U.S. for Paramaribo, TACTICIAN British for Demerara. MIRANDA, INDUSTRIA, ORMINSTER, HARTLEPOOL, FILLEIGH, DUNELMIA, 6 British ESSO, PROVIDENCE, MINNESOTAM, HENRY KNOX 3 U.S. BAHIA, LOIDE Brazilian for Trinidad 8th. (Asst. S.O.(I) Pernambuco, 1741Z/27 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Kingston., (R) C. in C.S.A., F.O.C. W.Af., B.S.N.O. Rio de Janeiro)

HOLCOMBE, ILLUSTRIOUS. HOLCOMBE arrived 1330Z/27th left 1620Z/27th to rejoin ILLUSTRIOUS. (N.O.i/c Bathurst, 1755/27 to R.A.W.A.)

Bunkers, Trinidad. A.M. 1937A/21. Request you will also include quantity and type of bunkers each ship requires at Trinidad. My 1754/22nd Oct. refers. (D.T.D., 1914A/27 to F.O.C.W.A.)

/S.L...

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

S.L. Convoys. Your 1954/22. If F.O.C. W.Africa will in the initial stages indicate number of ships that can be accepted at Freetown by S.L sailing dates for inclusion in S.L Convoy or coastal convoy to Gibraltar, it is not considered that any difficulty should arise with A.M. 2216/22 to assist selection. 2. Since 22nd December apparently only 12 ships in Resumption category appear to have sailed from Cape Area.
(D.T.D., 2155A/27 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. It is most undesirable that you should be reported by the wireless station at Laurie Island until you have completed your visit to South Shetlands. South Shetlands should therefore be visited first and you are to shape your course accordingly.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved by V.C.N.S., 2240A/27 to CARNARVON CASTLE,
(R) N.O.i/c Falkland Islands.)

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

P.46 Cancel my 1107/26th (N.T. in W.D.) P.46 has freedom of action South of latitude 036°. (Capt. S.10., 0014A/27 to P.46, P.45, P.42).

Enemy Reports. P.C. and S. of two destroyers and two large merchant ships 38.10 N., 13.30 E. 310° 8 knots. (A/C GHN/O 0030A/27 to Air H.Q. Malta).
P.C. two destroyers one large M/V 38.09 N. 13.25 E. 240°.
(A/C GHN/O 0120A/27 to A.H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers 37.51 N. 11.42 E. 240° 10 knots. (A/C GHN/M 0124A/27 to Air H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S. one destroyer one medium merchant ship 37.55 N. 11.30 E. 210° 10 knots. (A/C FDS/N 0215A/27 to A.H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S. of 3 unknown enemy vessels 38.08 N. 13.00 E. 240° 8 knots. (A/C GHN Duty ? 0305A/27 to A.O.C. Malta).
P.C. and S. of 2 enemy destroyers and one M/V 38.08 N. 12.56 E. 260° 10 knots. (A/C GHN/J 0330/27 to A.O.C. Malta).
Three unknown vessels position 38.08 N., 12.55 E. Course 320° Speed 10 knots. (A/C GHN/M 0412A/27 to A.H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S. of two enemy transport barges is 33.20 N. 11.20 E. 130°. (A/C FDO/D 1135A/27).
P.C. and S. of 6 enemy war motor boats 34.48 N., 11.00 E. 020° 5. (A/C GLJ/K, 1407A/27).
P.C. and S. of 4 enemy destroyers, 37.50 N., 10.47 E. 045° 20 at 1555A. (A/C GLJ/S 1600A/27).

Convoy A.P.16 (1) A.P.16 (10), (12), 10½ EDWARD JOHNSON Abadan 11, DONACILLA, Abadan, E.T.A. Rooka p.m./4th. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0433Z/27 to Admty etc).

M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs. 61 77 (?82) returned from operations. (V.A. Malta, 0740/27 to Admty etc).

Algiers Air Report. To C.G.8th Air Force. From Allied Air Force H.Q. 12th Air Force From Spaatz To Eaker. Approx. 20 enemy bombers attacked Algiers harbour night of 26/27. 1 vessel hit, 4 trucks destroyed. 5 destroyed, 1 probable, by Beaufighters and A/A. Wellingtons bombed Bizerta through heavy cloud cover, results unknown. R.A.F. fighter bombers carried out harassing attacks principally on installations of and roads leading to Zuara harbour. Malta fighters attacked trains and ground installations in Sicily harbour. With results unobserved 1 Wellington made torpedo attack on 6000 ton merchant vessel. (Algiers, 0909Z/27).

/Movements...

War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Movements,
Alexandria.

Arrivals 26th Jan. HYACINTH, ROMEO, PAKENHAM
Greek QUEEN OLGA, BURRA, FALK, TAURUS, M.L.1048,
departures 26th Jan. BAGSHOT Greek Des. IERAX,
AMBER, REDWOOD, M.L.349 T.L.C.113. Arrived
and sailed 26th Jan. WELSHMAN F.S. LA MOQUEUSE.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0913B/27 to Admty.
C. in C. Med).

P.212,
U.301,
sunk.

C.A.F.O.1278/41. A. (A) 14th Jan. (B) 20th Jan.
(C) 21st Jan. B. (A) Medium size motor vessel
(B) Seaplane Hangar, Final (C) German U-boat.
C. H.M. S/M P.212 D. (B) 18 rounds 3 inch 20
hundredweight H.E. D.A.
G. (A) 3 21 inch mark 8 2 star, A.A.2388 A.W.392,
1268 (?C) 6 21 inch mark 8 2 star, A.A.1420 2519. A.W.841,
868, 896. E.R. 58 J. (A) 1 (One) hit, ship sunk. (B) 10 hits
(C) separate report*.
(Capt. S.8., 0931A/27 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. A.S. Gibraltar,
F.O.S.) * See Capt. S.8's 0933/27.
My 0931/27 para J (C) 1 hit, possibly 2. Proceeding on
surface, submarine U.301 sunk.
(Capt. S.8., 0933A/27 to F.O.S.)

LA MOQUEUSE.

S. of A. 12 knots, E.T.A. Cape Tortosa 1200/27.
(F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, 1024B/27 to S.O. Force I,
(R) A.I.G.71, and A.I.G.72 (Spares for C. in C.
Mediterranean, except N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh,
N.L.O. 8th Army).

ILE DE
FRANCE.

Arrived 0810/27th Jan. G.M.T.
(N.C.S.O. Suez, 1045B/27 to Admty. (R) Cdre. Aden,
etc).

Bi-weekly
Opsum No.
94.

Part 4. 26 Jan. Kittyhawks made 3 attacks on
Zuara Harbour where lighters had previously
been reported, no lighters seen in harbour, but
one near miss scored on schooner and 3 hits on
mole with 500 lb. bombs. Details sorties so
far received 48 Kittyhawks, 21 B.24s despatched
in 2 formations to make dusk attack on Naples Harbour. 1
formation 11 B.24s unable to reach objective before dark owing
to strong headwinds bombed alternative target Messina bombs
falling near train ferry terminus and railway sidings. Result
of second formation not yet received. 50 x 1000 lb. H.E.,
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1122Z/27).

NEBOJSCA

Following is a repetition of my 1037B/27 (begins)
To A.I.G.76, A.I.G.79, N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Syria)
C.C.F., East. (R) NEBOJSCA from Capt. (S) 1,
NEBOJSCA in position 032° 58' N. 034° 15' E. at
0800B/27th course 045° proceeding on surface E.T.A. Beirut 1700B
27th. Beirut S/M sanctuary in force 1300B to 1800B/27th (Ends).
(Capt. S.1., 1127B/27 to NEBOJSCA).

/Marseilles...

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Marseilles. P.R.U. 26 Jan. Since 29th Dec. there has been a marked decrease in Merchant ship tonnage. Departures include two tankers 500 feet and 390 feet, liners MASSILIA, MARIETTE PACHA, ANDRE LEBON, three SAN ANTONIO type and another of 440 feet. Also 25 smaller ships leaving 45 smaller ships present. Tanker 500 feet last seen at Etang de Berre has arrived. Port Vendres. No shipping of note present. (D.D.I.C., 1209A/27 to C. in C. Med etc).

M.T.Bs. A.M. 2008/8 (Re 32nd M.T.B. Flotilla). For M.G.B. 673 read M.G.B. 658. (D.D.O.D. (C) 1213A/27 to R.A.C.F. (R) N.C.X.F., etc).

Force H. Flag of Vice Adm. Sir Harold Burrough was hoisted in NELSON today 27th Jan. as S.O. Force H. (S.O. Force H., 1431A/27 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, F.O. Oran).

Air R/C. P.R.U. Jan. 27th visuals 1310 Taranto 2 Battleships. 1210 Messina 3 cruisers. Photographs taken. (V.A. Malta, 1524A/27 to C. in C. Med., etc). P.R.U. 27th Jan. Taranto and Messina photographed 1600 and 1630. No change since my 1524/27th. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1627A/27).

TURBULENT. My 1240/26 (1246/26 intended). After dark tonight Wednesday, proceed patrol in position 315° Cape St. Vito 3 miles until dark tomorrow Thursday when you have freedom of movement in your area. (Capt. S.8., 1528A/27 to TURBULENT, (R) Capt. (S) 10, P.211).

AQUITANIA AQUITANIA sailed 1252/27 Jan. G.M.T. E.T.A. Massawa 30th Jan. (N.C.S.O. Suez, 1600B/27 to Admty).

SIRIUS 12th C.S's 0958/24 para. 2. SIRIUS now fitted with A.I. beacon code letter U. Para. 3 confirmed. (N.C.X.F., 1605A/27 to 12 C.S. Admty. H.Q.E.A.C., S.O. Force H).

/Balloon...

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War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Balloon Warning. AX. 288 27 Jan. My AX. 592 19 Jan. and AX.11 25 Jan. (Re warning of navigational balloons). Period of warning extended until 4th Feb. Warn all concerned. Request C.A.1 pass to B.O.A.C. (Air Min. 1747Z/27 to E.A.C. etc).

M.E.16 Sailed: convoy M.E.16. DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, CROOME, EXMOOR, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, PINDOS, KANARIS. (V.A. Malta, 1849A/27 to Admty. etc).

Malta Intelligence summary. 2000/26 - 2000/27. Naval. Convoy M.E.16 escorted by 8 D/Rs sailed at 1830A/27. Air. 2. No enemy air activity. 3. Strikes. Night 26/27 Jan. 2 Beauforts and 3 Albatrosses laid mines in Kerkenah area. 0035 hrs. one Wellington bombed convoy of one M/V 4/5000 tons, one D/R in position 37° 55' N., 11° 30' E., course 210° speed 10 knots. One Wellington made torpedo attack on medium M/V escorted by two D/Rs ten miles west of Cape Gallo. No results seen. 4 Mosquitoes attacked railway traffic between Cape Spartivento and Cape Colonne Italy damaging 3 locomotives. One Mosquito shot up northbound tanker off Cape Stilo. (Govr. Malta, 1910Z/27).

P.247 Algiers arrivals P.247 from Patrol. (Cdre. Algiers, 2007A/27 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.8., S.10).

Malta Air Report. AI. 514 27th Jan. 43. Night 26/27 Jan. 1 Mosquito attacked a northbound tanker escorted by 1 D/R at 0100 hrs. 050° Cape Stilo 4 miles scoring strikes on superstructure. 8 Wellingtons and 5 Beauforts were despatched to attack shipping in Palermo Marittimo area. At 0035 hrs. 1 Wellington sighted 1 M/V 4/5000 tons and 1 D/R 37° 55' N. 11° 30' E. course 210° speed 10 knots. Wellington dropped 4 250 lb. bombs but owing to cloud could not observe results. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2010Z/27). Section 2 my A.I.154. At 0202 hrs. another Wellington sighted 1 medium M/V and 2 D/Rs 38° 12' N., 13° 8' E., course 260° speed 10 knots and attacked with 1 torpedo but no results could be seen as Wellington had to bank quickly to avoid flying into hills on the coast. 3 Beauforts and 3 Albatrosses laid mines off Sousse, Sfax and Kerkenah. Day 27th Jan. Bad weather curtailed offensive operations. (A.H.Q., Malta, 2037/27).

/Movements...

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,
Algiers.

Algiers arrivals. FELIXSTOWE from U.G.F. 4
CORIOLANUS, RONALDSAY from E.T.10. French
*GOELAND escorting one French M/V from Bougie.
Departures. WILTON, EMINENT to join E.T.10.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2011A/27 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.,
EO.C., Gibraltar).
* ? GROENLAND. A.P.V.

Movements,
Benghazi.

Arrived M.L. 354 sailed ERICA, PROTEA, SOUTHERN
MAID F.S. COMMANDANTE DOMINE M.L. 348 M.L. 351.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2143B/27 to Admty (R) C. in C.
Med).

1003

War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

SAMSON
(tug). Arrival H.M.S. SAMSON at 0500Z/27th.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0530Z/27 to Admty. etc).

B.M.39 1. B.M.39. 2. 0530Z/27. 3. Passing Cochin
1530Z/29 3a. E.T.A. Colombo 0330Z/31.
4. 10 knots (Route).
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0540Z/27 to Admty).

Ceylon Ref. summary 34 BATHURST and ORISSA escorting
Movement B.P. 66 due Bander Abbas 25 Jan. 3. MARGUERITE
Summary arrived (?Colombo) 24 Jan. 6. GAEJER escorting
No. 35, 27 B.1739 due Colombo 31 Jan. 8. HIRAVATI escorting
Jan. P.A.20 arrived Aden 24 Jan. 9. KONKAN arrived
Madras 23 Jan. 10. LISMORE due Diego Garcia
28 Jan. 11. BOMBAY and BENGAL escorting P.B.23
due Bombay 30 Jan. Summary No. 35. 1. SUTLEJ
escortng A.P.15 left Aden 24 Jan. due Bandar Abbas 30 Jan.
2. SONAVATI and ORISSA escorting P.B.14 leave Bandar Abbas 29
Jan.
3. ASTER leaves Colombo 28 Jan. to R/V with B.M.40 and escort
to Colombo.
4. TULIP escorting SINGU left Colombo 26th Jan. due
Trincomalee 28th Jan. thence returning to Colombo escorting
ATHELMERE, WARINA and SINGU due 31st Jan.
5. GERALDTON and PUNJAB escorting B.P.67 leave Bombay 27th
Jan. due Khor Kuwait 3rd February.
6. MARYBOROUGH escorting B.M.38 left Bombay 24th Jan. due
Colombo 29th January.
7. RAJPUTANA escorting BRITISH HOPE left Calcutta 24th Jan. due
Madras 29th Jan.
(F.O. Ceylon, 0622Z/27 to Admty etc).

CEDARDALE Tanker message. CEDARDALE arrived (?arrival) at
Bombay will be delayed until late February.
0614/31 Dec. refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 0720Z/27 to D.G., SR. Bombay (R)
Admty. Comdre. R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Seychelles).

B.M.38 Convoy B.M.38 Cochin portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Cochin 0841Z/27 to Admty. S.O.(I)
Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay).

BRITTANY Arrival 0849Z/27th Jan. BRITTANY.
(Netlayer). (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0854Z/27 to Admty).

/Arrivals...

War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Arrivals
Shatt el
Arab.

From 1st Feb. all ships arriving at Shatt el Arab for examination and awaiting berths will be included in M. of W.T. signals from N.C.S.O. Abadan.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1001Z/27 to Admty).

Movements

Departure 0435Z GAWLER with B.M.39. 0824Z PUNJAB and GERALDTON with B.P.67.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 1001Z/27).

Sitrep
No. 110.

1. Arakan. Convoy of 3 or 4 river steamers and few tugs sailing up Arakan coast attacked Danson Bay 22 Jan. Thade River 25 Jan. R.I.N. Patrol Vessel rammed and sank enemy launch Mayu Estuary night 24/25 Jan. Enemy casualties estimated 50.
(C. in C. India, No.T.O.O. Recd. 1620/27).

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War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

L.C.I.(L) Flotilla. My 1902/24. L.C.I.(L) Flotilla experienced good passage from Norfolk. L.C.I.(L) 178 damaged all blades of both propellers before leaving Norfolk and was towed to Bermuda. She completes 28th Jan. and will be sailed with next group. Other LC.I.(L) had minor defects only. 245 sailed and returned on 26th Jan. with engine trouble.
(2) Your 1935/7 para. 3. Experience with three groups indicates advisability of call at Bermuda as the minor defects repaired would probably cause trouble before end of long passage.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1002Q/27 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

Tankers for "Torch" Area. Cinclant's 2218/26 to C.T.G. 26.3 informs as follows: Supervision of escort of Caribbean - U.K. tanker convoy operations, contained in Cominch's 2126/12 para. C., West of "Chop" line, will be exercised by you and my operational control of these convoys while in Western Atlantic area and turn around and sailing of these convoys from the Caribbean area is hereby delegated to you. Take necessary action to furnish fuel supplies, provisions, and minor voyage repairs to both British and U.S. escort vessels assigned to these convoys. Keep me informed.
(Comnaveu, 1213/27 to Admty.)

U.S.N. dispositions. Cominch's 2125/26 addressed to Admty., informs as follows:-
Serial 58 (changes my 192011):
Atlantic - CINCINNATI at Recife.
CHESTER and PHILADELPHIA at Norfolk.
DENVER and MILWAUKEE at sea.
CARD in Canal zone.
BROOKLYN and TEXAS at Casablanca.
Pacific: CHICAGO, COPAHEE and MONTPELIER in South Pacific.
PENSACOLA at Pearl.
RICHMOND in Alaskan area.
(Comnaveu, 1216/27 to Admty.)

POLYANTHUS. Your 1850A/26th (POLYANTHUS to be refitted at Bermuda). As POLYANTHUS last refit was in U.S. port and in view of fact that ship will no longer be employed in mid ocean escort force, consider POLYANTHUS should refit in U.K.
(F.O.N.F., 1226Z/27 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

BRILLIANT salvage. Arrival H.M. Tug FRISKY, GODERICH ex attempted salvage BRILLIANT. Departure COLUMBIA for St. John, N.B. via Cape Cod Bay with convoy.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1301Z/27 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., Cominch C. & R., etc.)

/H.X.224 ...

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War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

H.X.224. Submit as CHURCHILL has reported unseaworthy. SHERBROOKE and COLLINGWOOD have not yet sailed due to defects, escort is insufficient for size of convoy. Request if possible some ships of T.U. 24.1.18 may be sailed to overtake in view of fact that ASPHODEL is only ship present of whose capabilities I have (? past) experience.
(HIGHLANDER, 1308Z/27 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.)
HIGHLANDER 1308Z/27th. C.C.N.F. requested sail one corvette of Mid Ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.18 to overtake.
(C.T.24, 1701Z/27 to C.C.N.F., (R) C.O.A.C., Admty., etc.)
Following is a recyphered version of my 1633/27th (begins):
C.T.24, (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., C.T.G. 24.7, HIGHLANDER from C.C.N.F.
COLLINGWOOD sailed 1300/27th, SHERBROOKE 1930/27th to overtake. LOBELIA at 4 hours notice. ANEMONE, ABELIA, BEVERLEY extended notice until 0230/30th. 1633/27th. (Ends.)
(C.C.N.F., 1823Z/27 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., C.T.G. No. 24.7, HIGHLANDER.)
Ref. C.T.24's 1701/27th. SHERBROOKE and LOBELIA sail for St. Johns p.m. 27th to overtake H.X.224.
(F.O.N.F., 1943Z/27 to C. Mid. O.E.T.U. 24.1.14, C. Western Local Escort T.Us. 24.18.6, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., etc.)

EMPIRE SYDNEY. Your 2038/12th, para. 2.
Owing to heavy deck cargo and vessel having flush deck it is proposed that EMPIRE SYDNEY bound Basra from New York Jan. 28th be routed via Panama and S. Pacific. Request your concurrence.
(N.S.H.Q., 1435Z/27 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., etc.)

VIMY, VANESSA. VIMY and VANESSA departed for Boston Jan. 27th 1943 at 1800Q en route St. Johns N.F. via (A) 42.07 N. 70.19 W. (B) 43.03 N. 65.10 W. (C) 44.55 N. 60.56 W. (D) 46.20 N. 52.50 W. (E) 47.30 N. 52.17 W. Speed 22.
(Comdr. 1st U.S.N.D. Boston, 1439Z/27 to C.E.S.F., (R) C.O.A.C., etc.)

S/M Estimate (Cominch, 1506/27, 1507/27, 1547/27, 1548/27, 27th Jan., 1549/27, 1925/27.)
U.S. S/M Notice.

Tankers for "Torch" Area. Cominch's 1455/25. In case there is any misunderstanding cancellation of para. 2 of A.M. 1249/21 was only made because information has been received to effect that C. in C. U.S. Fleet has withdrawn objection to tankers entering Eastern Mediterranean.
(D.T.D., 1527A/27 to B.A.D.)

/ U/B ...

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War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.U/B
Broadcast.

Your 2250/26. San Juan W/T 2203/26 not received here but you may be referring to submarine reported in 11° 43' N. 40° 06' W. at 1842/26 and subsequently corrected by originator to 11° 43' N. 63° 28' W.
(B.A.D., 1547Z/27 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty.)

MANSFIELD,
search for
FORT LA
MAUNE.

Have searched unsuccessfully area enclosed by following position: (A) 57.55 40.37. (B) 59.32 39.02. (C) 59.56, 43.26. (D) 59.05, 42.55. * Now at prudent limit of endurance and proceeding to St. Johns N.F. My position 058° 13' N. 043° 10' W. Weather report. *(E) 58.13, 43.10.
(MANSFIELD, 1601Z/27 to C.T.F.24, Cinclant, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., etc.)

Convoy
Schedules,
delays to
escorts.

Cominch's 2126/12/1 and related signals. Recent experience with O.N. convoys confirms opinion that five day lay-over at Western terminus for mid-ocean escorts will not be sufficient. Escorts from O.N.160 for example are arriving St. Johns up to four days after they were normally expected. Last winter every escort ship without exception arriving St. Johns after westbound passage had sustained weather damage often considerable and experience so far this winter is similar. Consider future schedule present grave risk of occasions arising when seriously depleted number of escorts only can be ready to sail with east-bound convoys.
(F.O.N.F., 1615Z/27 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C.T.F.24, etc.)

HUNTER.

Departure HUNTER from New Orleans delayed due to collision with PAT CAROLINA at Pilottown.
(N.S.H.Q., 1631Z/27 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

EMPIRE
STRENGTH.

Your 1617Z/26th (re O.N.161). EMPIRE STRENGTH reports 2 lifeboats smashed and unseaworthy and requires permission proceed to New York.
(C.T.U. 24.18.1, 1637Z/27 to Connav, (R) Admty., etc.)

ATTACKER.

A.M. 2059Z/7. Request programme for ATTACKER may be signalled, and confirmation that torpedoes, depth charges and associated spaces required by ATTACKER will be available.
(D.N.A.D., 1702A/27 to B.A.D.)

ST. SUNNIVA.

ST. SUNNIVA due Halifax 22nd Jan. has not arrived.
(N.S.H.Q., 1758Z/27 to Admty., Connav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

/ALCANTARA ...

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War Diary.

27.1.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

ALCANTARA. Your 1337/21. In view of Admiralty 1417/27 unless you have any special reason for ALCANTARA to proceed Kingston Jamaica suggest it would be preferable for her to proceed to Trinidad only. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1842Q/27 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty.) B.A.D.)
Concur. (F.O.C.W.A., 1115Z/28.)

H.X.223. H.X.223 1800Z/27th. INGHAM, NAPANEE detached for Iceland with SABINE SUN, ATLANTIC SUN, THYSVILLE for ballast and FORT ST. FRANCOIS flooded bunker. 1900Z/27th position (S) 62.39 N. 25.50 W., 093°, 6.5. 10 ships missing excluding KOLLBJORG reported total loss broken in half, 1 dead, 3 missing, 25 survivors rescued by PAN MARYLAND; NORTIND and excluding FORT LA MAUNE.
Weather. Suggest stragglers R/V 1400Z/28th 62.34 N. 20.02 W. 1300/29th 60.20 N. 15.38.
(C.T.U. 24.1.3, 1900Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.)

T.F. 35, U.G.S.5. C. in C. Lant's 1632/26 (N.T. in W.R.) addressed to Comdesron 16 for action and to Comnav, Cominch, Comeastseafon, Com.3, Comdeslant and Comservforlant for information informs as follows:-
In C. in C. Lant 2346/24 (Destroyers Division 14 plus PARKER, BOYLE and MERRIMACK to constitute Task Force 35 and escort convoy U.G.S.5.) delete Desdiv 14.
Names of vessels to be substituted will be communicated later. (Comnav, 1942/27 to Admty. (Pass to N.C.X.F. and S.N.O.C.A.))

WAVENEY. Amended E.T.A. 1230Z/28th. Boiler hours. Major defect. Steering gear, rudder, actuating gear defective.
(WAVENEY, 1945Z/27 to F.O.N.F.)

FRISKY. F.O.N.F.'s 2100/18. H.M.R.T. FRISKY has been taken in hand for boiler cleaning. Will be ready to proceed 31st Jan.
(C.O.A.C., 1950Z/27 to B.A.D., (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

Attacks on S/Ms. Cominch 1955/27.
See U-Boat Campaign.

KING HAakon VII. Your 1716/24 not to C.O.A.C. In view of light construction it is not considered desirable for KING HAakon VII to cross Atlantic at this time of year.

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War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

KING
HAAKON VII.
(Contd.)

2. She will be employed on duties in sheltered waters in U.K. until end of March.
3. She will then be sailed for Halifax.
4. It is considered that full Asdic value can only be obtained if employed in sheltered waters.
(D.A/S.W., 2037A/27 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C.O.A.C.)

Shipping
Losses.

Agreed that allowance for Merchant Ship losses of United Nations for 1943 should be considered by Combined Military Transportation Committee, who do not apparently agree with assessment made in London at M. of W.T. on 13th Nov. 1942 at which Admty. and U.S. Representatives were present.
2. As it is most desirable that Committee should be fully aware of the trend of U-Boat warfare before reaching any conclusion, request you will arrange for Capt. Morey or other suitable member of your staff to attend these meetings.
3. Mr. P.N. Harvey, Chief Statistical Adviser to M. of W.T. is proceeding to Washington to attend these meetings.
(D.T.D., 2057A/27 to B.A.D.)

CAMPANULA.

My P.C. and S. 045° 30' N. 047° 50' W., 315°, 12 knots to pass through 047° N. 050° W. thence (? 287°) to St. Johns N.F., MIGNONETTE in company E.T.A. 0400Z/28th.
(CAMPANULA, 2100Z/27 to C.T.F.24, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

U.K.-Curacao
Tanker
Convoys.

Your 1949/25th. Following reply received from Comcaribseafrom to C. in C. U.S. Fleet enquiry as to facilities. "Your 311731. Loading and assembly practicable. Escorts can be supplied with minimum service. Tankers should be loaded with sufficient foodstuff supplies for round trip and maximum water capacity".
2. Your para. No.2 noted, and Navy Dept. informed.
3. Request you indicate if any further assistance is required.
(B.A.D., 2109Z/27 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O.W.A., etc.)

C.4 Group.

My 1515/22 para. 7. (Composition of Group C.4, being transferred to U.K.)
Due to defective boiler BRANDON failed to sail with Group C.4. Request SHERBROOKE be retained in this Group until return of BRANDON.
(F.O.N.F., 2125Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) N.S.H.Q., Admty., etc.)

D.J.THORNHILL. Auxiliary Schooner D.J. THORNHILL en route St. Johns Newfoundland to Gloucester, Mass. Total loss, Jan. 22nd.
(N.S.H.Q., 2141Z/27 to Admty., Connav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

/CHARLES ...

War Diary.27.1.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

CHARLES C. PINCKNEY (straggler U.G.S. 4.) torpedoed. Following received from Portrush Radio 237°, class 2, was bearing CHARLES C. PINCKNEY distress. (Port Patrick Radio, Shiegra Radio, 2147 G.M.T./27 to Navycharge Greenock, (R) Admty.) (Ongar Radio, 2149 G.M.T./27.) SSSS CHARLES C. PINCKNEY 36.37 N. 30.55 W. torpedoed, no bearing obtained. Controlling station Valentia Radio. (Burnham Radio, T.O.R. 2149 G.M.T./27.) CHARLES C. PINCKNEY reports being torpedoed 36.37 N. 30.55 W. at 2147Z/27th. (Connav, 2231/27 to Admty.)

SS. ANDES. A.T.35 sailed as my 1821/26. (C.O.A.C., 2201Z/27 to Admty., Cominch (C. & R.), N.S.H.Q., etc.)

MONTICELLO. U.S. Navy MONTICELLO sailed Los Angeles 20th for Bombay via Wellington Feb. 5th. (N.S.H.Q., 2202Z/27 to Admty., D.N.I. Wellington, A.C.N.B.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. A. NEVA torpedoed sunk 61.35 N. 14.15 W. about 1510Z/22. B. H.M.S. MANSFIELD sights sub 58.13 N. 41.39 W. about 1450Z/26. C. Unidentified torpedoed 59.54 W. 39.01 W. about 1525Z/25. P.B.Y. sights sub. 11.43 S. 63.28 W. 1842Z/26 course 090. Subs. reported one area 04.30 S. 37.45 W. 26th Jan. one 44.51 N. 62.08 W. 2100Z/26 course West. D. Plane sights sub. 39.50 N. 71.10 W. 3rd January. P.C.464 attacks sound contacts 09.46 N. 79.41 W. 1946Z/16 and 10.01 N. 79.26 W. 2230Z/16. SS. DELAWARE SUN sights sub. 24.10 N. 82.09 W. 1220Z/21. C.G.83361 attacks sound contact 38.26 N. 74.46 W. 1650Z/22. BRAZIL SN. C.S.51, 52 and 53 attack sound contact 15.07 N. 63.27 W. 1640Z/25. Shore watchers sight sub. area 22.45 N. 74.05 W. 25th Jan. U.S.S. BIBB attacks sound contact 44.06 N. 62.38 W. 2105Z/26. (Cominch, 2210Z/27 to Admty.)

THREE RIVERS. THREE RIVERS, TENA CITY hove to 49° 40' 40° 10' just north of Fair Water, will attempt contact at daylight. Weather report. (THREE RIVERS, 2350Z/27 to C.C.N.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

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War Diary.

27.1.1943.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

LE TRIUMPHANT. Your 1534A/22nd. Manufacture of new port "A" bracket is now in hand. Necessary measurements were taken when F.S. LE TRIUMPHANT was in dock Jan. 17th. Port propellor has been removed in accordance with Captain's wish and ship is operating on one shaft. In order to avoid an additional docking it is proposed to (? examine) particulars for making pattern of starboard "A" bracket while Port "A" bracket is being fitted. 2. Request orders regarding disposition of LE TRIUMPHANT pending completion of new Port "A" bracket. In view of renewed S/M activity LE TRIUMPHANT can be very usefully employed in Australian waters. (A.C.N.B., 0221Z/27 to Admty., (R) Cmdr. S. Pacific, Cmdr. S.W. Pacific, F.S. LE TRIUMPHANT.)

Movements. Arrivals Newcastle 25th DELORAINE, 26th H.M.S. PIRIE. Exmouth Gulf 26th U.S. WILLIAM B. PRESTON. Port Hedland 26th U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON. Departures Exmouth Gulf 26th U.S. Seaplane Tender ?CHILDS for Fremantle. Townsville 25th (? SWAN) for (? Melbourne). 26th GLENELG for Milne Bay. (A.C.N.B., 0413Z/27 to Admty., etc.) Arrival Auckland U.S. Ship TALAMANCA. (S.O.(I) Wellington, 0430Z/27 to Admty.) H.T. DUNTROON, KATOOMBA departed Fall River 26th Jan. due Port Moresby 27th. U.S. Transport TASMAR depart Port Moresby 26th due Oro Bay 28th. U.S. Transport ROCHAMBEAU arrived Brisbane 27th. (A.C.N.B., 1109Z/27 to Admty., Connv.) Arrival Auckland U.S.S. SOLACE 1456Z/27. Departure Auckland 1845Z/27 U.S.S. CYGNUS for Tongftabu (as received) E.T.A. 2100Z/31st Jan. (D.N.I. Wellington, 2149Z/27 to Admty.)

Digest Serial No. 370. Jan. 26th. Two Catalinas bombed Buka aerodrome before dawn scoring hits stores dump position. Sighted three vessels described one small aircraft carrier two cruisers 60 miles S.W. Buka Passage course 290°. 2. Convoy at lease nine ships including large transports seen 40 miles East Buka course South during afternoon. Air activity continues Buka Passage aerodrome. 3. Seven Fortresses attacking shipping at Rabaul before daylight saw very few vessels in harbour but scored hits on one unidentified ship followed by large fire. Some bombs dropped new strip Kokopo where minimum ten searchlights seen. Shipping apparently dispersed between Praed Point and Duke of York Island, where large concentration seen. Encountered two night fighters. 4. Morning Liberator bombed Gasmata strip. 5. Another Liberator bombed buildings Finschaffen before noon starting fires and later bombed Cape Gloucester runway which was also attacked by third Liberator mid afternoon.

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27.1.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

- Digest
Serial
No. 370
Jan. 26th.
(Contd.)
6. Four Beaufighters conducted sweep Madang Hinterland during morning. No signs enemy activity.
7. Same time 6 Bostons, 4 B.25s covered by 10 Lightnings bombed and strafed Laejterrace area and supply dumps.
8. Five Bostons machine gunned and bombed Ruboto Komiatum track where enemy patrol reported moving south-west. Also swept coast to Mambare. Four Beaufighters on offensive sweep Salamaua to Kumusi River saw 50 native canoes Waria River.
9. Port Moresby raided by 2 aircraft early hours 26th. No damage or casualties.
10. Liberator over Kendari Area 25th Jan. refer Digest 369 para. 12 reported interception by fleet bi-plane which dropped small bombs at Liberator without success.
11. Photos Kendari 25th show 15 bombers, 6 fighters plus probably more obscured by cloud.
12. R/C 25th Jan. saw 8 Zeros Lahaa aerodrome Ambon. Photos reveal Namlea unused.
13. Forenoon 26th three small cargo vessels 4° 23' S. 123° 43' E. headed south attacked unsuccessfully by 2 Hudsons.
14. Photos Babo 24th Jan. show surfaced runway good condition. One fighter visible.
15. Unidentified aircraft over Sydney midnight 25th/26th Jan. Indications enemy submarine probably within 250 miles Sydney early morning.
16. Possible enemy submarine sighted 26° 30' S. 109° 10' E. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0901Z/27 to Admty., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1404A/27, 1417A/27.)

Submarines Attacked.

Midget S/M destroyed. Your 1059B/22/7. Two survivors landed on Brazilian coast and captured from attack off Fortaleza reported in 121745 Dec. 6th U.S.S. P.C.477 forced midget submarine to surface off Guadalcanal. 13 minutes later aircraft bombed and reported to have destroyed submarine. Two Japanese life-jackets recovered. 39 attacks reported in week ending 2400Z/24. B.A.D. and C.N.J.S.M. have by hand. Admiralty pass to Comnavu. (Cominch, 1955/27 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., Comnavu.)

War Diary.

28.1.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

CORNCRAKE.

No sign of CORNCRAKE having been found, LONDONDERRY abandoned the search at 1900A today (see 25 Jan.)

48 aircraft laid mines last night in the Baltic, N.W. German waters and the Gironde estuary.

2 mines were detonated off the Humber today and 2 off Harwich. A sailing barge was sunk in the Walleet.

"Torch" Area.

N.C.X.F. reports that from 8th November to 8th January the following totals were discharged at ports in "Torch" area (exclusive of discharge of K.M.1 at Oran, and discharges at Bone prior to 24th November, no records being available.)
Deadweight tonnage 1,303,000. Personnel 437,200
Vehicles 42,420.

North Atlantic.

W.S.26.

Three of the escorts (all foreign manned) of W.S.26 which left the Clyde on 24th January, have lost touch, viz. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA (returning to Clyde) and Greek destroyers MIAOULES (lost touch on 24th January.) and ADRIAS. The Admiralty today asked N.C.X.F. to sail QUIBERON and QUALITY to join W.S.26 as soon as possible; as QUIBERON is Australian manned she is to continue to the East Indies and exchange ratings at Kilindini.

French cruisers LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE arrived at Casablanca from Dakar this morning.

U.G.S.4.

Another straggler from Convoy U.G.S.4 is reported (D.O.R.1259) to have been sunk 300 miles south of the Azores, viz. JULIA WARD HOWE, Portuguese destroyer LIMA picked up survivors.

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War Diary.

28.1.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS left Bathurst today for patrol in the Atlantic Narrows. French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES sailed from Dakar at 1800 today to carry out anti-raider patrol in the Atlantic on the line Dakar to St. Pauls Rocks West of 23° W for about two weeks under the initial direction of F.O.C.W.Af.

Mediterranean.

CLEOPATRA, JERVIS, JAVELIN and KELVIN sailed from Malta at 0107A today.

M.T.Bs. 307, 313 sailed for Malta at 1531A today to operate off Hammamet, and M.T.Bs. 82, 77 and 61 sailed at 1730A to operate between Augusta and Correnti Island.

P. 45 reports the following results of attacks on shipping:- One 500 ton armed merchant vessel and two 250 ton schooners sunk, one small merchant ship beached and abandoned and another probably foundered. One 50 ton Tunisian ketch demolished after air attack and 2 other small vessels hit by gunfire.

Air
Operations.

Bad weather again interfered with operations. Eight Kittyhawks made 2 attacks on shipping at Pisida (near Zuara) and report 3 near misses, 27 B.17s of the 12th U.S.A.F., escorted by 18 P.38s attacked the docks at Sfax at 1422 today. 15 B.26s escorted by 11 P.38s attacked Sfax harbour at 1450; many near misses around numerous small vessels are reported.

War Diary.

28.1.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

| | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|
| MARRAKECH. | French ship MARRAKECH is due Tail of the Bank | |
| Survivors | about 1st Feb. convoy M.K.S.6 with following | |
| from BARON | personnel on board:- | |
| VERNEN, | R.A.F. | 34 |
| EMPIRE METAL, | British Merchant Navy Survivors: | |
| ALBERT | (a) ex BARON VERNEN | 2 |
| ELLSWORTH, | (b) ex EMPIRE METAL | 1 |
| MINISTER | Norwegian Merchant Navy Survivors: | |
| WEDEL, | (a) ex ALBERT ELLSWORTH | 1 |
| NORVIK. | (b) ex MINISTER WEDEL | 2 |
| | (c) ex NORVIK | 2 |
| | Merchant Navy | 3 |
| | Civilian | <u>1</u> |
| | Total | <u>46</u> |
| | (D.S.T., 0459A/28.) | |

Movements.

P.219. Arrived P.219.
(Capt. S.6, 0930A/28.)

ARCHER. Programme up to and including Monday 8th approved. Wednesday 10th p.m. sail carrying out gun-trials on passage. F.O.C. A/C H.F. 1155A/23 refers. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1045/28 to ARCHER.)

H. 28, Your 2103A/27 arrived.
H. 44. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1050A/28 to Capt. S.7.)

BULOLO, V.A. Gibraltar 1317/26. Onward route -
LIMBOURNE, (E) 49.01 N. 14.20 W. (F) 180° Fastnet 10 miles,
BADSWORTH, thence Q.Z.L.18. Destination BULOLO and
WOLVERINE. LIMBOURNE Clyde. WOLVERINE to break off as
convenient to Liverpool. BADSWORTH to Londonderry
(C. in C. W.A., 1057A/28 to BULOLO.)
My 1057/28. Amend destination LIMBOURNE to
Plymouth from position (F) as routed by C. in C.
Plymouth.
(C. in C. W.A., 1509A/28.)

IROQUOIS. Canadian authorities intend that IROQUOIS should visit St. Johns Newfoundland on completion of working up.
2. F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail IROQUOIS, on completion of repairs, as required by C. in C. W.A., who is requested to sail her as additional escort for the first convenient convoy to St. Johns N.F.
(Admty., 1335A/28 to C. in C. H.F., etc.)

/DZIK ...

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War Diary.28.1.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

DZIK. Intend sailing DZIK escorted by ANCHUSA from Clyde at 1000A/30 by searched channel and Minches West of Orkneys to Lerwick, E.T.A. 1200/1st Feb., speed 10 knots.
(Capt. S.3, 1553A/28.)

S/M Positions. Position of submarines at 0800A/29 and movements for following 24 hours.
A. TRIDENT 66° 10' N., 003° 50' E. to Lerwick 10 knots.
B. P.224, 66° 10' N. 4° 30' E. to Lerwick 9 knots.
C. P.314, 64° 50' N. 02° 58' E. to Lerwick 10 knots.
D. P.53, 70° 27' N. 13° 59' E. through 70° 50' N. 15° 10' E. towards 70° 50' N. 16° 59' E.
E. P.216, 70° 25' N. 15° 01' E. through 71° 10' N. 17° 20' E. to patrol in 71° 10' N. 23° 44' E. 9 knots.
F. O.15, 70° 05' N. 13° 50' E. through 70° 59' N. 16° 55' E. to patrol 71° 02' N. 22° 56' E., 9 knots.
G. SOKOL 69° 15' N. 11° 45' E. through 70° 52' N. 16° 30' E. to patrol in 70° 51' N. 21° 56' E., 8 knots.
Submarines in (A) to (G) are probably on surface.
H. JUNON off Bredsund.
J. P.56 escorted by PRESTON NORTH END vicinity Tod Hd., due to R/V at 0700A/30 with BRYONY at No. 36 Buoy for escort to Clyde.
K. TUNA escorted by CUTTY SARK arriving Clyde from Plymouth.
L. U.S.S. GURNARD 49° 45' N. 17° 35' W. through 47° 58' N. 26° 02' W. Diving by day to 20° W. then probably on surface 12½ knots.
M. O.19, 46° 30' N. 13° 50' W. dived by day course 360° 125 miles a day.
N. U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao.
O. U.S.S. HERRING in Zone K.505.
(F.O.S., 1556A/28 and 2229A/28 to Admty.)

BARB, BLACKFISH. 1. Intend sailing BARB and BLACKFISH escorted by SHIKARI from Roseneath at 1100A/1st by standard route for 180° Wolf Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 1915A/2, S.O.A. 15 knots.
3. Thence S/Ms proceed dived by day by route laid down in F.O.S. 1922A/27.
(Comsubron 50, 1701A/28.)

Destroyers to R/V ILLUSTRIOUS, RENOWN, FURIOUS. Intend sailing SARDONYX (S.O.), SCIMITAR, ESCAPADE, TANATSIDE, LAUDERDALE, and MELBREAK at 0300A/31st to comply with your 1749A/27.
(ii) Documents will be embarked MELBREAK.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1721A/28 to Admty.)

P. 56. Intend sail BRYONY to R/V at 0700A/30 with P.56 and PRESTON NORTH END in No. 36 buoy, A.M. Q.Z.S. 323 for onward escort to Holy Loch, E.T.A. 1000/1st, speed 8 knots.
(A.C.O.S., 1721A/28.)

/My ...

War Diary.28.1.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

P. 56.
(Contd.) My 1525/26. Sailed. Amend S.O.A. to 7 knots.
E.T.A. remains unaltered.
(Capt. S.6, 1745A/28 to F.O.S.)

SUSSEX,
KENYA. On completion of working up, SUSSEX and KENYA
will sail independently to join Eastern Fleet
via Cape.
2. When ready, request you will sail them for
Clyde to embark stores and passengers.
(A.C.N.S.F., 1936A/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

GURNARD. GURNARD 2000/28th, 50.30 N. 14° W. to 49.18 N.
20.01 W.
(C. in C. W.A., 2151A/28 to REGINA.)

Operations.

Operation "Valuable". 1. CLEVELAND (S.O.), GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, BLEASDALE,
TYNEDALE, GOATHLAND, SLAZAK forming Force A to
patrol as in para. 4 of my 1000/20, southward
of Beachy Head, passing E.A5 1900/28 and 0600/29.
Force B at Newhaven.

M.G.B. 616 (S.O.), 613, 611, M.T.B.242, 243, 85. 28th/29th
January night patrols.

2. FYLLA, KINGSTON TOPAZ, Chasseur 13 at Saint Helens and ASIE
at Yarmouth.

3. Two M.G.Bs stand by at Portland.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1300A/28.)

Operations V.P.,
"Cartoon". Please convey to the officers and men and the
maintenance staff of the 30th M.T.B. Flotilla
Their Lordship's congratulations on the recent
series of operations carried out in the Norwegian
fiords.
(V.C.N.S., 1931A/28 to A.C.O.S.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Command operations. On day 27th January 8 A/C attacked the Burmeister
and Wain Diesel Works at Copenhagen from heights
ranging from 50 to 150 ft. Although no aircraft
was able to observe it's own bursts, crews report
explosions followed by a huge sheet of flame
which enveloped the test-shops.
On night 27th/28th 48 A/C laid mines.
(H.Q.B.C., 1215A/28.)

Sumburgh and Scatsta reinforcement. In view of close R/C by enemy A/C on Lerwick
request fighter strength at Sumburgh may be
increased forthwith.
(A.C.O.S., 1600A/28 to 14 Group.)
Your 1600A/28. Air reinforcement being sent to
Sumburgh and Scatsta.
(14 Group, 1815A/28 to A.C.O.S.)

/D.W.I. ...

1019

28.1.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - Contd.

D.W.I. Your 1102A/23.
 Tanker BITER and ARCHER have been allocated.
 Convoys. ARCHER has 892 Squadron 6 Martlet and 819
 Squadron 6 Swordfish. These number of aircraft
 are considered most suitable in view of her small
 hangar capacity. BITER has 811 Squadron 12
 Swordfish. This squadron will be reformed into a composite
 squadron of 9 Swordfish and 3 Martlets.
 Para.3. Inquiries have been made regarding air facilities at
 the terminal port in D.W.I. with the object of establishing a
 small Naval Air Section with reserve aircraft. If a favourable
 reply is received arrangements will be made to allot reserve
 aircraft to be taken out in the overhead stowages in ARCHER and
 BITER.
 Para.4. BITER has an outfit of 16 torpedoes. ARCHER has no
 torpedo stowage or facilities.
 Para.5. Question of fitting H/F D/F in Escort Carriers is under
 consideration. Sets are at present in short supply and experi-
 ence in DASHER is being awaited before diverting sets from other
 important commitments.
 (D.N.A.D., 1930A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

M.A.C. It is proposed to institute a short course for
 Ships. Masters of M.A.C. ships in include one week at a
 Instruction Naval Air Station preferably that at which their
 of Masters. squadrons are working up.
 R.A.N.A.S. is requested to prepare a syllabus to
 include the objects of an M.A.C. ship, the
 capabilities of aircraft, their equipment and weapons with
 flying experience if desired.
 The first matter is expected to be available about 15th Feb.
 Decision as to the station will be made later.
 (D.N.A.D., 2227A/28 to R.A.N.A.S.) *Amended, see 1537A/30, p. 1092*

Enemy Air Activity.

Lerwick. At 1132 today an aircraft visually identified as a
 Junkers 88, a Beaufighter, or a Mosquito, flew fast
 and low over Lerwick from West to East. There
 were no R.D/F plots. No guns opened up. Fighters sent up but
 did not intercept or identify. No hostile action taken by
 aircraft which is thought to be a Junkers as no British aircraft
 were known to have been over Shetlands at that time.
 Comment: Probably the Stavanger Zenit plane homeward bound.
 (A.C.O.S., 1301/28 to Admty.)

Mining.

Harwich Following two mines exploded by Sweepers today.
 Area. At 1125A/28 in 51° 55' 34" N. 01° 39' 09" E.
 At 1148A/28 in 51° 54' 36" N. 01° 37' 42" E.
 Details. Position of second mine confirmed by
 M.M.S.191.
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1217A/28, 1827A/28.)

/Humber ...

1020

28.1.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Humber
Area. Following two mines detonated today.
At 0920/28 in 246° Spurn Light 32 cables.
At 1017/28 in 155° East Dudgeon Buoy 17½ cables.
Details.
(F.O. Humber, 1710/28.)

RESOLUTE
(Sailing
Barge)
mined. At 1130/28 in approx. 51° 47' N. 01° 14' E.
Skipper rescued, Mate missing. Sailing barge
MILDRED in vicinity.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1743A/28 to Admty.)

Operation
"Tincture". Request completion of "Tincture" by noon 30th
January.
(D.M.S., 1849A/28 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHARNHORST, (A) SCHARNHORST Squadron.
GRAF (1) There is good reason to think Admiral
ZEPPELIN, Commanding Squadron which proceeded northbound
HIPPER, through Kattegat January 25th is now back in
TIRPITZ. Baltic port probably Gdynia or Kiel. Graded A.2.
(B) GRAF ZEPPELIN is now reported to be (unbarking)
aircraft and it is understood one division of
Stukas is part of her outfit. It is now
considered possible she could be ready for operations before
third part of March. Graded A.3.
(C) HIPPER and certain destroyers are believed to be at Bogen.
Graded A.4.
(D) TIRPITZ. Gunfire heard at Storlien on Swedish frontier
January 26th is believed by Swedish staff to have been reports
from heavy armament of TIRPITZ. Graded A.3.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1728/28.)

O.I.C. Comment:

Para. (A) SCHARNHORST, PRINZ EUGEN and 5 destroyers were sighted
by aircraft in the Skaggeiak at 1415/25th January course West;
at 1435/25th they altered course to the east. Subsequent sweeps
by aircraft failed to locate them and it is believed they
returned to the Baltic.

Para. (B) GRAF ZEPPELIN was located in dry dock at Kiel on 24th
January, as far as is known she has not yet carried out any
trials and it is considered that she will not be ready for
operations in March 1943. It is more probable that she will
only begin trials during that month.

Para. (C) Corroborates previous information that HIPPER was in
Narvik on 26th January. KÖLN was also reported there.

Para. (D) It has been previously reported that TIRPITZ has been
carrying out practices in Trondheim Fiord.

War Diary.28.1.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.Oiling
at Sea.

Your 1446/16. Captain Rogers is permanently attached to Superintending Naval Store Officer, Clyde Area exclusively for oiling at sea duties. Assistant Fuelling Officer, Greenock, should act as his deputy on this duty at Greenock when Rogers is engaged elsewhere in Clyde Area or when Rogers has occasionally to visit other ports such as Londonderry to complete a tanker. Correction to C.B.4080 are in hand.
(D. of Stores, 0052A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.ROCKINGHAM.
Convoy
O.N. 162.

Sailed ROCKINGHAM at 1050/28th to rejoin.
(A.C.I.C., 1115/28.)

CULEBRA
(Broke down
on 22nd Jan.
in S.C.116)

Reykjavik 28th January arrival DEXTEROUS towing CULEBRA escorted by FETLAR at 1005.
(A.C.I.C., 1143A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1143/28. CULEBRA has no rudder, one blade remaining on propeller and deck cargo adrift. Portion of cargo will have to be transhipped here. Expect vessel will be ready for towage to U.K. by 8th Feb. Request that powerful tug may be sent as DEXTEROUS will already be employed vide my 1526/28.
(A.C.I.C., 1927/28 to Admty.)

SAVORGNAN
DE BRAZZA.

Unable to navigate with safety in narrow channel. Request approval proceed Clyde.
(SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, 1205/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1205/28. Approved.
(C. in C. W.A., 1315A/28 to SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.)

MARQUIS.

Leakage in MARQUIS was due to fractured main ballast pipe in stoke hold. Pipe has been repaired, valves closed, and flooded compartments pumped dry by METINDA. Vessel can now continue voyage.
(C.S.V.O., 1410/28 to A.C.O.S.)

CORNCRAKE
(S.C.116)

If nothing sighted by dark tonight return to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 1548A/28 to LONDONDERRY.)
Your 1548A/28. Search abandoned in 055° 55', 010° 48', at 1900A. E.T.A. Merville 1200A/29. My course and speed 098°, 9. Weather 9070 7438.
(LONDONDERRY, 1910A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
2000/28 situation. REGINA 051° 08' N. 014° 00' W. to south. M.K.S.6 as in my 1517/27.
(F.O.S., 1919A/28 to GURNARD.)

/ST. CROIX ...

1022

War Diary.28.1.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

ST. CROIX. Your 1331/26 and 1255/23. Approved to remove both 4" guns mounted abreast galley-top and replace by 4 Oerlikons. Approved to fit twin Bren (? triple mounting) on Lewis gun pedestals on both wings. Approved to hand over twin 0.5 inch Colts from bridge wings of corvettes and replace with single Oerlikons. Details. (N.S.H.Q., 2257Z/28 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.116. Sailed Norwegian whaler NARVIK for S.C.116. (Cdre. Londonderry, 0630/28 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

J.W. 52. How many ships in convoy J.W.52 have arrived at Kola Inlet. (V.C.N.S., 0747A/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.) Your 0747/28. 12. Last ship now entering Iokanka. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1230A/28 to Admty.)

H.X.223. C.T.U. 24.1.3's 1900/27. Request early information regarding probable delay to THYSVILLE carrying 1055 passengers.
2. If NAPANEE is retained for escort to U.K. could C.T.G. 24.6 reinforce with one escort for approximately 2 days. (C. in C. W.A., 0931Z/28 to A.C.I.C., C.T.G. 24.6.) Your 0931Z/28. BABBITT designated as THYSVILLE escort for approx. two days. (C.T.G. 24.6, 1155Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.) SS. THYSVILLE escorted by C.T.U. 24.6.3 in INGHAM and NAPANEE arrived 1730Z/28 from H.X.223. T.U. 24.6.3 has been dissolved. 1930Z/28 SABINE SUN and ATLANTIC SUN arrived from H.X.223. (C.T.G. 24.6, 2100Z/28 to C.T.F. 24.) Regret it now seem unlikely that NAPANEE can rejoin. Was necessary to go to Hvalfjord to refuel (? owing) to ATLANTIC SUN and SABINE SUN becoming stragglers and delayed in arrival. Will endeavour to obtain fuelling gear prior to departure. (NAPANEE, 2350Z/28 to C.T.U. 24.1.3.)

P.S. 28, S.P. 28. P.S. and S.P.28 cancelled. Escorts to sail with P.S. and S.P. 29. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1040A/28.)

O.N.164. Escort for O.N.164. C.T.U. 24.1.5 in TAY fitted H/F D/F, WOODPECKER, SNOWFLAKE, LOOSESTRIFE, ALISMA, PINK, JONQUIL. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1101A/28.)

" 1023

28.1.1943.

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

- M.K.S.6. All ships for Bristol Channel and Mersey are to be detached at dusk to proceed South of Ireland through 180° Fastnet 10, thence via Q.Z.L.18 escorted by BRAMHAM, SENNEN and all the corvettes. Southabout section designated M.K.S.6 (South) codeword "Loose". One escort to be detached for Bristol Channel section. (C. in C. W.A., 1111A/28 to Escorts M.K.S.6.)
- O.N.162. Sailed ROCKINGHAM at 1050/28 to rejoin. (A.C.O.S., 1115A/28.)
- K.M.F.8, Intend proceeding to Londonderry for oiling.
W.S. 26. Have not secret chart aboard. Request instructions for course and entrance. My P.C.S. at 1200/28, 054° 22' N. 012° 56' W., 036°, 18 knots. (MIAOULIS, 1235/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
Lost convoy night 24th. Unable to contact again. Ordered to return to Londonderry by signal by EGRET owing to oil fuel schedule. (MIAOULIS, 1300A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
ADRIAS report P.C.S. if not with convoy. If with convoy EGRET report fact on next occasion of breaking W/T silence. (C. in C. W.A., 1552A/28 to ADRIAS, EGRET.)
- O.N.S.163. Hvalfjord arrivals BURNHAM, ASSINIBOINE at 1430. (A.C.I.C., 1421A/28 to C. in C. W.A., (R) JED.)
Sailing BURNHAM and ASSINIBOINE at 2035/28. (A.C.I.C., 2004A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
- R.A. 52. Request you will sail MONTROSE for Scapa when you leave for second sortie. (C. in C. H.F., 1522A/28 to V.A.2.)
Your 1023/28 (See Special File).
My 1126/18 para. (5). For 032° E. read 022° E. (C. in C. H.F., 1741A/28 to V.A.2.)
- W.S. 26. Following transports sailed from U.K. on 24th January in Convoy W.S.26:- HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, MOOLTAN, RUYS, SIBAJAK, DEMPO, MALOJA, STRATHEDEN, CALIFORNIA, VOLENDAM, DOMINION MONARCH, ARUNDEL CASTLE, EMPRESS OF CANADA, ORDUNA, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND carrying 44,997 personnel for M.E., Iraq, India, W. S. & E. Africa, Ceylon &c.
2. H.M.S. CANTON with 638 personnel on board and H.M.S. CILICIA with 185 R.N. all for West Africa also sailed in convoy.
3. ANTENOR sailed in Convoy W.S.26 but has returned to U.K. with engine trouble.
4. Seed potatoes for M.E. were shipped in HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, ARUNDEL CASTLE. M.T., guns, stores for India in DOMINION MONARCH.
5. Following freight ships also sailed in Convoy W.S.26:-
REMBRANDT - M.T., stores, ammunition for Middle East.
CHYEBASSA - M.T., stores, guns, ammunition for Colombo and Calcutta.

War Diary.28.1.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

W.S. 26. 6, 7, 8. Re on-carriage of personnel from South
(Contd.) Africa, Freetown, Bombay.
9. HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, MALOJA, ARUNDEL CASTLE
and ORDUNA will proceed to Middle East and
MOOLTAN, STRATHEDEN and DOMINION MONARCH to Bombay.
10. EMPRESS OF CANADA will turn round in South Africa and
return to U.K.
12. Commodore of Convoy is Commodore C.N. Reyne in STRATHEDEN,
Vice-Commodore is Master of ARUNDEL CASTLE, Rear-Commodore is
Master of DUCHESS OF RICHMOND.
(D.S.T., 1555A/28.)

TJALDUR. Your 1045/25. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1605/28 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

K.M.S. 10. Following ships will load as indicated.
At Avonmouth - DELRIO
At Newport - FORT A LA CORNE, ST. BERNARD,
EMPIRE STANDARD, MASIRAH.
At Cardiff - MIDDLESEX TRADER.
At Barry - FORT DOUGLAS, OCEAN TRAVELLER,
WILLIAM BRADFORD.
At Swansea - DELANE, THURLAND CASTLE.
At Penarth - HARBURY, CONTRACTOR.

The ships should complete loading in time to sail from Barry
Roads midnight 18th/19th February for the Tail of the Bank for
inclusion in Convoy K.M.S.10. MIDDLESEX TRADER, OCEAN TRAVELLER
and FORT DOUGLAS should complete to sail two days earlier in
order to carry out any necessary A.N.D. work at Greenock.

(D.S.T., 2044A/28.)

DIRECTOR and HINDUSTAN loading in Manchester. LAGOSIAN,
WEARPOOL, TOPDALSFJORD, STAD MAASLUIS, CITY OF PERTH, PORT ST.
JOHN, TIBA, CLAN MURRAY, FRANCIS PARKMAN loading in Birkenhead
should complete loading in time to sail from the Mersey a.m.
19th for Tail of the Bank for inclusion in K.M.S.10.

MOANDA loading in Barrow is for same convoy and should complete
to sail same time.

OCEAN COURIER and OCEAN GALLANT loading in Bromborough for the
same convoy should complete to sail two days earlier in order
to carry out any necessary A.N.D. work at Greenock.)

(D.S.T., 2053A/28.)

My 2253/26. EXCHESTER at Tail of Bank will load in Glasgow
and sail in K.M.S.10.

(D.S.T., 2054A/28.)

K.M.S. 8. K.M.S.8 P.C. and S. 1938A/28 X. 048° 28' N. 017°
49' W., 171°, 5¼. All ships present. Intend
detaching MARCHFOIL with Londonderry section as
she has only 5½ days coal. As that escort has to be detached
with this section request REGINA may be instructed to join
convoy. Weather report 4476 5792.
(LANDGUARD, 2117A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

1025

28.1.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

S.C. 117.

Admty. 1403A/28. If S.C.117 situation requires - any 3 of following escorts SPENCER, CAMPBELL, TRILLIUM, ROSTHERN, DAUPHIN available to augment M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17. Only requirements 3 days for voyage-repairs prior to next trip. (M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 2220Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

28.1.1943.

Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area.

Aircraft
for French
W. Africa.

Adm. Michelier asks me urgently whether proposals of A.O.C. West Africa have been approved for despatch of a French N.O. to Air Ministry, London, to settle questions of training of personnel and delivery of material to French Naval Air Force in

West Africa.

Adm. Amanrich accompanied by Aeronautical Engineer has been suggested. 2. Only information here is indication in Admty 0240/15 that Air Ministry are considering token offer of suitable aircraft.

3. Understand from Michelier that Collinet at Dakar has accepted offer of two Sunderland and four Hudson aircraft from Allied Mission and he is sending crew to Bathurst to obtain knowledge of material.

4. Request clarification since total French Naval Air Force proposals for rearmament have also been handed to A.F.H.Q. here.

5. Question of a French Naval Air Officer in London is parallel with question of French N.L.O. in London and will presumably be considered accordingly.

(N.C.X.F., 1247A/28 to Admty., (R) F.O.C. W.Af., Air Ministry.)

K.M.F. 8.

K.M.F.8 adjusted speed to pass Europa Point position at 2300A/30th thence through position 70.109 44.100 036° 53' 003° 04' E. lettered K to P to

Algiers E.T.A. 0630A/1st, S. of A. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.

2. Oran section detached in position 109 at 1600A/31st (? with) local escort.

3. V.A. Gib. is requested to sail ENCHANTRESS as additional escort from Gib.

4. Fighter protection priority 1, codeword "Collins".

(N.C.X.F., 2231A/28 to EGRET, (R) E. of C. K.M.F.8. V.A. Gib. S.O. Force H. Capt. (S) 8. Admty., F.O.I.C. Oran. Cdre. Algiers. Capt.(F), A.H.Q. Gib. H.Q. E.A.C., C.G. 12th Air Force, Connnav.)

Relief
system
for
petrol
coasters.

Your 0823/25, proposal under consideration. To enable future supplies to be arranged request (a) forecast of dates on which GUDRUN, MAERSK, LOCHEE, LEWANT, and ATLANTIC COAST, can be expected U.K. (b) Similar information in respect of any vessels you would substitute for these if proposal were approved.

(D.S.T. 2254A/28 to F.S.T.O.X.F.)

1027

War Diary.28.1.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- OXFORDSHIRE. Situation report, area 'X'. My 1354A/27th add new para. (12) Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE sailed 1700/27th through 036° 31' 009° 02' thence 319° 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 0236A/28 to N.A.S.)
- PENTSTEMON (T.E. 14) U/B. PENTSTEMON is searching in 036° 20' N. 000° 15' W. until 1400A. Contact was confirmed as submarine by PENTSTEMON and lost after 1 depth charge attack.
(BICESTER, 1035A/28 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gib.)
- K.M.F. 8. N.P., alter course forthwith direct to G. (D.O.D.(H), 1057A/28 to Escorts of K.M.F.8, (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.)
See also 1126/28, 1614/28, 1831/28.
- BARWIND. Your 2335/27. Approved. BARWIND to be sailed first opportunity after 8th Feb.
(N.C.X.F., 1101A/28 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., F.O.C.W.Af.)
- LEOPOLDVILLE, WAYLAND, W.S. 26. Your 1740A/27th not to all addressees. Intend to sail LEOPOLDVILLE and WAYLAND escorted by RACEHORSE, REDOUBT and QUICKMATCH at 0900/30th to R/V convoy W.S.26 in position (G) 036° 01' N. 009° 58' W. to 0600/31st. Report if unable to comply.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1126A/28 to EGRET, Ships escorting K.M.F.8, Ships escorting W.S.26, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.Af., S.N.O. Casablanca Area.)
Ref. Admty. 1057/28th. Cancel my 1126/28th. Further orders follow.
(V.A. Gib., 1614A/28 to EGRET, Escort of Convoy K.M.F.8, and Ships escorting Convoy W.S.26, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., R.A.W.Af., S.N.O. Casablanca.)
- PUCKERIDGE. N.C.X.F. 0903/28 (N.T. in W.D.) Intend sailing PUCKERIDGE at 1600A today routed through position 72 to arrive Gibraltar 0800A/29th.
(S.O. Force H, 1149A/28 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., (R) Capt. D.6, PUCKERIDGE, F.O. Oran.)
- ERNE, SCARBOROUGH. ERNE, SCARBOROUGH arrived 1400 G.M.T./28th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1205/(?28) to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

/Situation ...

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

Situation LORD HOTHAM 33.01 14.29 to R/V IMPERIALIST, ST. NECTAN dawn 29th.
2002A/28. (2) IMPERIALIST, ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER 32.12, 14.57 to vicinity 32.26 16.05, 4 (as amended 1628A/28). IMPERIALIST on relief by LORD HOTHAM proceed Funchal. IMPERIALIST, ST. NECTAN hold incorrect recognition signals.

(3) TORBAY 36.37, 07.24 on surface through 35.53 06.15 at 0700/29th thence to Gibraltar 7 $\frac{3}{4}$.

(4) P.339, 36.41 07.58 on the surface through 36.37 07.24 at 2320/28th to 35.53 06.15 at 0800/29th to 35.57 05.56 at 1000/29th thence Gibraltar 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

(5) NORTHERN FOAM on patrol off Lisbon.

(6) LOCH OSKAIG one merchant ship 37.24 08.54 coastwise Tagus 9 thence LOCH OSKAIG to R/V with NORTHERN FOAM.

(7) Two Portuguese submarines exercising off Tagus 28th and 29th inside territorial waters.

(8) U.S. M/S OSPREY, P.C.473, P.C.475, 2 tankers sailed 1900/28 through 35.52 06.01 and 35.45 06.23 to 34.02 07.49 thence Casablanca (? 15).

(9) U.G.S.4, T.F.38, 39.44 21.52 118°, 7.3.

(10) SCARBOROUGH, ERNE, one tanker expected sailing p.m. 28th from Ponta Delgada direct to Gibraltar 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.

(11) Portuguese Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO left Cape Verde Is. 26th for Funchal, 9.

(12) K.M.F.8, W.S.26, Fleet Unit CILICIA, CANTON, EGRET, French Sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, BANFF, FISHGUARD, TEST, RELENTLESS, QUADRANT (E) 44.42 16.36 150°, 9.

(13) OXFORDSHIRE 38.41 11.29 through 40.15 13.13 thence 000°, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ (V.A. Gibraltar, 1214A/28 to Area 'X'.)

See also 0148A/29.

Area 'Z': Portuguese Destroyer LIMA searching vicinity 034° 47', 031° 30'.

2. G.U.S.3, T.F.33, 027° 48' 037° 46', 288°, 9.

3. ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH, 3 merchant ships 019° 50', 021° 18' through 020° 01', 021° 30' and 022° 30', 021° 30' thence 051°, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

5. REGENT 031° 30', 036° 12' on the surface 090° 11. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1306A/28 to N.A.S.) My 1306/28th add new para. 6.

Fleet Unit PENN, PANTHER, PATHFINDER, ILEX 022° 49', 020° 09' through 026° 38', 015° 01' thence 044° 18'. HOLCOMBE joins from southward before dark 29th. (F.O.C.N.A., 1619A/28 to Area 'Z'.)

HOLCOMBE. Cancel my 2319/27th Jan. Am rejoining ILLUSTRIOUS. (HOLCOMBE, 1246Z/28 to N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Gib., ILLUSTRIOUS, S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.W.Af., (R) PATHFINDER, Admty.)

ADVENTURE, Intend to sail ADVENTURE (escorted by VANOC and
VANOC, VENOMOUS) for Mers-el-Kebir at 2000/29th.
VENOMOUS. Routed through 16, 50, 86, 9, 3, 109, S. of A.
20 knots. (2) Destroyers instructed to return
Gibraltar with moderate despatch on ADVENTURE
entering Mers-el-Kebir.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1252A/28, 1801A/28 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty.,
V.A.(M), S.O. Force H, F.O.I.C. Oran, ADVENTURE, ABDIEL.)
/SEAKAY ...

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- SEAKAY, My 1622A/26 para. 2 (Sailing of SEAKAY and ESSO
ESSO HARRISBURG carrying Lockheed Lightnings - N.T. in
HARRISBURG. W.D.) Amend escort to read U.S.S. OSPREY, P.C.
473, P.C.475, S. of A. 15 knots.
(2) Communications constant watch Gibraltar
Broadcast, transmitting watch on Gibraltar or
Casablanca Port Wave.
(3) Codeword "Cygnet".
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1304A/28 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) Admty.,
N.C.X.F.)
- G.U.F.4. G.U.F.4, intend to sail following to join (13
ships, list etc.)
Destination of all ships New York.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1501A/28 to N.C.X.F.)
- K.M.S.8. Request you will sail EMPIRE LORENZO to Algiers
with K.M.S.8.
(N.C.X.F., T.H.I. 1545/28 to F.O.C. Gibraltar,
(R) Com. Algiers, Admty.)
- FULGOR. Spanish Government have agreed to move Italian
Tanker FULGOR into inner harbour at Cadiz.
We shall get this in writing shortly.
(N.A. Madrid, 1649/28 to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar.)
- W.S. 26, My 0040/14, 1159/14 and 1933/17.
destroyer SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA and MIAOULES no longer with
escort. W.S.26. ADRIAS has lost touch (W.D. Note, see
1831/28.)
2. N.C.X.F. is requested to sail QUIBERON and
QUALITY to join W.S.26 as soon as possible.
3. As QUIBERON is Australian manned she should continue to
Eastern Station for exchange of ratings at Kilindini. Letter
20/N.C.X.F./2 not to other addressees refers. REDOUBT is to
remain in her place at Freetown. My 1855/17 not to C. in C.
E.F. refers.
4. Whether QUALITY and REDOUBT will remain at Freetown or
continue with the convoy will be decided in the light of the
U-Boat threat at the time.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1655A/28 to N.C.X.F., V.A.
Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af., (R) C. in C. E.F.)
- K.M.F. 8, K.M.F.8 and W.S.26. V.A. Gibraltar 1126A/28th.
W.S. 26. P.C. and S. 043° 26' N. 016° 08' W., 149°, 13
knots. E.T.A. position G 1300A/30th.
(2) C. in C. W.A., 1552A/28th, ADRIAS in company.
(3) Test A/S gear out of action, dome loose. Weather report.
(EGRET, 1831A/28 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.W.Af., S.N.O. Casablanca.)

/CYCLAMEN ...

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

CYCLAMEN. Comply with F.O.C. West Africa 1253Z/27th.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1852A/28 to CYCLAMEN, (R)
Admty., N.C.X.F., CORINTHIAN, ROCHESTER, F.O.C.
W.Af.)

NIVOSE. My (?1954/10). French report naval tanker
NIVOSE ready to sail from Casablanca after Feb.
5th. Speed 10 knots. Ship requires docking
and French request defects including re-tubing required in two
boilers may be carried out in U.S.A.
(N.C.X.F., 1858A/28 to Cominch, (R) S.N.O.C.A., F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Movements, LE FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE arrived 1100A. VENDOME
Casablanca. and DUNKERQUE escorted by LA GRANDIERE, SERGEANT
GOUVE and LA GRACIEUSE departed 1500A for Dakar
estimated S. of A. (? 8) knots.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1905Z/28 to B.N.L.O. Dakar,
F.O.W.Af., (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)

Movements, Arrival 1035 CALPE from Mers-el-Kebir. 1825
Gibraltar. WISHART, BRILLIANT from Oran. Departures 1630
M.Ls 176, 174 escorting SS. FIDRA to Almeria
and back. 1835 U.S.S. OSPREY, P.Cs 473, 475
escortng ESSO HARRISBURG, SEAKAY to Casablanca.
V.A. Gibraltar, 1916A/28 to Admty., N.C.X.F.,
Cominch.)

U/B Area, Following the sinking of CHARLES PINCKNEY it is
REGENT. appreciated that U-Boat patrol area S.W. of
Azores may extend as far South as 31° 30' N.
between 33° 30' W. and 28° W. Recommend further
diversion of REGENT.
(Duty Capt. for D.O.D.(F), 1952A/28 to F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, (R) F.O.(S), Capt. (S) 8.)

ESSO Request you (tanker message) will reply to
GETTYSBURG. Ponta Delgada 1445/26 (requesting route
instructions).
(D.T.D., 2045A/28 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R)
N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- W.S. 26 Following personnel arriving Freetown in convoy W.S. 26 will require onward conveyance:- (details).
2. Request you arrange accordingly. My 0502/14 refers.
(D.S.T., 0410A/28 to D.S.T.O. West Africa,
(R) F.O.C.W.A.)
- D.C. 3 D.C. 3 expected to sail 1000Z/29th consisting of 7 ships, speed 8½ knots. (list) for Capetown E.T.A. p.m./2nd Feb. EDAM, PENRITH CASTLE to Bahia.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 0927Z/28 to Admty etc).
- Employment of French S/MS. French have a number of submarines available (?capable) of proceeding to sea. They are not fitted with Asdic or R.D.F. I had in mind employing them in mid-Atlantic or anti-blockade runner (?patrol) and to re-inforce escort of? certain convoys. Should be grateful for any other (?suggestions).
(F.O.C.W.A., 1008Z/28 to F.O.S.) Reply: F.O.S. 2322A/1 February.
- MOFFETT, SOMERS. Commander Dakar 1234Z/27th informs as follows: Arrival 0915 U.S.S. MOFFETT, U.S.S. SOMERS, both destroyers.
(Comnavcu, 1021/28 to Admty. (passed by W.R. to C.T.G. 34.7 and C.T.U. 26.7.3).
- GEORGES LEYGUES. Sails 1830Z/28 for position (K) (?08).30 N., 23.00 W. thence to patrol area 60 minutes either side of line K to St. Paul's Rocks. Speed on passage and patrol 20 knots. Aircraft may be flown. Ship leaves patrol area to arrive Freetown 1200Z/3.
2. GEORGES LEYGUES keeping group F.T. and 500 k/cs. Ship shore frequency for transmitting. Wireless silence will be preserved. Anglo-French cypher and Loxo number 18 and 20 carried.
3. Request all necessary information including shipping and U-boat intelligence be passed to GEORGES LEYGUES direct, repeated Comar Dakar.
(Comar Dakar, 1031Z/28 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, Comsolantfor. N.C.X.F., C. in C. S.A.)
My 1031/28th not to Admty. Sailed Fr. Cr. GEORGES LEYGUES to patrol line Dakar to St. Pauls Rocks west of meridian 023° W.
(Comar Dakar, 2024Z/28 to R.A. West Africa, (R) Admty).
- ALCANTARA WOODRUFF. Your 1842Q/27. Concur. Request ALCANTARA and WOODRUFF be diverted to Trinidad.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1115Z/28 to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty. B.A.D.)
F.O.C. West Africa's 1115/28. Cominch is taking necessary action.
(B.A.D. 1717Z/28 to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.Af.)

/Argentine...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Argentine expedition.

Information received that Argentine expedition will visit Black headland for one month. Last year transport PRIMERO DE MAYO installed light-house at Dallman Bay in that territory.
(C. in C. S.A., 1120C/28 to CARNARVON CASTLE (R) Admty). See also 1153/31.

Situation report.

BALUCHISTAN off Saldanha Bay. E.T.A. Simonstown 0530Z/29th.
CHITRAL 36.00 S., 23.40 E. to Simonstown 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
VIVIANA INDIAN STAR escorting INTEGRITY and PRUDENT towing crane lighter off Durban from Cape Morgan 3.
GENISTA, ST. ZENO 30.00 S. 16.00 E. to Capetown 10.
THYME 30.30 S. 16.00 E. to Capetown 12.
FRITILLARY with C.A.7 36.35 S. 23.35 E. to 37.10 S. 25.00 E.11.
(C. in C. S.A.25C/28 to Ships in Area Q).
Situation 2001Z/28 Jan.
HOLCOMBE off Cape Blanco N.E.17.
ROCHESTER, SANDWICH, LEITH, escorting 20.01 21.30 001° 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.
PETUNIA, CORINTHIAN, ARMERIA, escorting, 18.58 20.33 N. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Allied Naval Unit 11.37 18.34 210° 15.
BRIDGEWATER escorting 10.01 23.32 278° 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.
FANDANGO and 2 M.Ls. off Bathurst to Freetown 8.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1325Z/28 to Area P).
F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting 02.20 S. 09.19 E. to Pointe Noire 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S., 02.27 S. 05.29 E. to Pointe Noire, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
P.614 00.31 S. 05.52 E. L.27.00 S., 10.00 E. at 1300Z/30 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.
M.L. 285 escorting 00.50 07.07 E. to Lagos 9.
ST. WISTAN escorting BARDELL off Freetown to 07.38 14.15, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1345/28 to Area P).

SOMNERS,
MEMPHIS.

Departure 0920Z/27th U.S. Dest. SOMERS, (70840Z) 28th U.S. Cr. MEMPHIS. U.S. Cr. MEMPHIS keeps following W/T watch continuously on 8590 k/cs. From 2200 to 1000 on 4295 k/cs. While in area P take V P U 0400Z broadcast on 5176 k/cs. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1209/28 to R.A.W.Af. Opanv).

M.Ls.

A.M.1211/27 (re 49th M.L. Flotilla consisting at present of M.Ls. 381-383 inclusive is re-allocated to Eastern Fleet) For M.Ls. 381 383 inclusive read M.Ls. 380 - 383 inclusive. (D.D.O.D. (C) 1234A/26 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)

/Oil...

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Oil Supplies, Following from Adm. Pegram. In company of
W. Africa. Collinet Glassfurd and M.W.T.R. W. Africa I have
met Lieut. Col. Howze and Lieut. Comdr. Walstrom
who are now in Dakar en route Algiers.
Telegram from State Department to Glassfurd
indicates Eisenhower and Murphy have recommended supplies of
petroleum products to French W. Africa be controlled by
Eisenhower through member of U.S. Army and Navy Petroleum Board.
It was not clear whether this arrangement has been agreed by
Allied Chiefs of Staff but it would appear contrary to
principles laid down in C.A.F.O.1204.
Should be grateful for early information on this matter as
Collinet much prefers to put forward his requirements through
British Channels in order to have common means of supply in
W. Africa Command.
(B.N.L.O. Dakar, 1235Z/28 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.W. Africa)

CARTHAGE Saldanha Bay, arrival 27th.
(C. in C. S.A., 1326C/28 to Admty etc).

INDRAPOERA, Your 1221/25 and your 2335/26, latter not to
etc. with all addressees, INDRAPOERA and other ships
P.O.W. carrying prisoners of war may call at any South
American ports other than Argentinan ports.
Vessels may also call at Colonial ports where
necessary.
(Hd. of M. 1441A/28 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Connav,
etc).

KEARNEY Arrival 27th departure 28th U.S. Destroyer
KEARNEY.
(R.O. Para., 1653/28 to Admty. (R) B.N.S.O.
Rio de Janeiro).

CATTERICK In position 121° Oro Point 99 miles E.T.A.
1000C/29th. Weather report.
(CATTERICK, 1724Z/28 to Cdre. Durban).

DRANGEY Your 1058C/13th not to Admiralty. Propose
trawler DRANGEY escort KELT towed by EMPIRE
SAM to Cape leaving Lagos (Nigeria) about 6th
February.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1746Z/28 to C. in C. S.A. (R)
Admty. Capt. D.8th D.F., R.N.O. Lagos (Nigeria)
Cdre. i/c Simonstown).

ST. WISTAN, Sailed ST. WISTAN escorting BARDELL for
BARDELL. Takoradi at 1800Z/28th Jan. (Route). Estimated
S. of A. about 6 knots. E.T.A. p.m./3rd Feb.
(2) ST. WISTAN is placed under orders of R.N.O.
Lagos until ship can be docked and refitted at
Lagos.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1801Z/28 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi,
R.N.O. Lagos, (R) ST. WISTAN, BARDELL, Admty).

/U/B...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

U/B My 2027A/25th Nov. Following are January
Assessments. Assessments of attacks in your area:-

| Date | Ship | Position | Assessment |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 12.10.42. | WIVERN & SOUTHERN GEM | 03° 37' N. 07° 07' W. | F |
| 23.10.42. | AMARANTHUS | 04° 49' S. 11° 46' E. | F |
| 30.10.42. | KELT | 02° 20' S. 08° 30' E. | F |
| 30.10.42. | French Chasseur | 02° 26' S. 01° 32' E. | G |
| 2.11.42. | SOUTHERN GEM | 02° 33' S. 09° 11' E. | G |
| 12.11.42 | ST. LOMAN & NORTHERN CHIEF | 11° 06' N. 56° 55' W. | H |

(D.A/S.W. 1847A/28 to R.A.W.A.)

MEMPHIS My 2259/26. U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS left Bathurst at 0840Z/28th proceeding to 013° 32' N. 017° 27' W. thence 210° 15 knots. (F.O.W.A., 1923Z/28 to Admty).

MONTE Spanish ship MONTE MARANCO left Buenos Aires 27th January due Las Palmas 23rd February. NARANCO to be intercepted. Desirable to intercept before reaching Las Palmas and to send her under armed guard to Gibraltar. She carries contraband and two ex GRAF SPEE men as stowaways bearing names of Gunther Groski and Albert Meintlen.

Amongst contraband are 6 kilos platinum concealed in cases of tinned peaches cases marked Bagley. Armed guard should look out for any such cases and take charge of them if located. Armed guard officer should warn officers and crew that nothing may be thrown overboard during voyage without permission and he must take all possible steps to enforce this. (D.E.W.D., Approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 1939A/28 to F.O.C.W.A., Admiral Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F., B.A.D.)

Shipping Your 1415/26th to S.B.N.O. Rio de Janeiro. Diversions, Information re leading and discharge ports in bunkers. South Africa should be readily available from M.W. T. R. Capetown. (D.T.D., 1943A/28 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply: 0907C/1

Movements. Arrival 28th January Brazilian Minelayer CABEDELLO and CAMAQUA. Departure 28th U.S. Destroyer GOFF U.S. Submarine Chasers P.C.577 and 601. (R.O. Pernambuco, 2003Z/28 to Admty. (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, S.O.(I) Freetown).

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South Atlantic - Contd.

HOTSPUR
C.F.11.

My 1627/27. After examination in dock it has been decided that HOTSPUR can accompany C.F.11. (C. in C. S.A., 2156C/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

B.S.2

Serial No. 5 following ships joined B.S.2 off Pernambuco 1800/28th: NARIVA, British; BRIGADIER GENERAL H.F. RETHERS, TENNESSEE, 2 U.S.; SANTAREM, SULOIDE, 2 Brazilian, for Trinidad.

To join off Natal ESSHEER CONCORD U.S. Trinidad, to join off Ceara OLAMBALA, Panama, Trinidad. (S.O.(I) Pernambuco, 2323Z/28 to Admty etc).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CLEOPATRA, Sailed CLEOPATRA, JERVIS, JAVELIN, KELVIN.
destroyers. (V.A. Malta, 0107A/28 to Admty., C. in C. Med.,
N.C.X.F.)

P.45. 1 500-ton Armed merchant vessel and 2 250-ton
R. of P. schooners sunk one small merchant ship beached
and abandoned and another probably foundered.
One 50 ton Tunisian Ketch demolished after air
attack, 2 other small vessels hit by gunfire, 4 torpedoes and all
gun ammunition expended.
(P.45, 0301A/28 to Capt. S.10.)
Arrival P.45.
(V.A. Malta, 1036A/28 to Admty., etc.)

Axis Arrival 25th German SAINT LUCIEN (formerly French)
Shipping. mercantile in ballast. CASTELLON MANUCHU will
sail tonight 26th 2100.
(Valencia No. T.O.O. recd. 0330/28) W.R. Note
Message passed to H.Q.C.C. & F.O.S.(S) C. in C. Plymouth & C. in C.
W.A.

Arrival 26th departure 26th LEZARORIEUX Marseilles, INNGASH
in ballast, Marseilles, oranges. Arrival 26th CONAM CETTE in
ballast. ST. LUCIEN will sail to-night 27th Marseilles oranges.
Burriana. Arrival 25th JOSE ILLUECA CETTE in ballast. BACHI
will sail tomorrow 28th 1800 for Marseilles oranges.
(Valencia No.T.O.O. Recd. 0950/28) This message has been passed
to F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, and C. in C.W.A.

Enemy P.C. and S. of 3 unidentified vessels ^{*}270° 8 knots.
reports. (A/C 0343Z/28 to A.H.Q. Malta.) *37.39 N. 11.00 E.
P.C. and S. of 2 enemy destroyers 1 tanker 38.35 N.
16.45 E. 045° 10 knots.
(A/C F.B.G./S., 1340/28 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

TURBULENT. My 1528/27th. You have freedom of movement in
your area from now on.
(Capt. S.8. 0834A/28 to TURBULENT (R) P.211.)

Air P.R.U Jan. 28th. Taranto 0715 and Messina 0835,
R/C visuals. No change since my 1627/27th.
(V.A. Malta, 0956A/28, 1644A/28 to C. in C. Med.etc.)
P.R.U. 28th Jan. visuals. 1220 Taranto
2 Battleships present. 1300 Messina 3 cruisers.
(V.A. Malta, 1425A/28 to C. in C. Med etc.)

Loss of Your 1158/22nd. M.A/S. Bs. went straight to
P.311. position where TAKU has been charging during night
12 miles from Leros and 7 miles from Levitha. It
was considered noise of engines had been picked
up by shore-based hydrophone but detection by R.D.F. quite
possible.
(Capt. S.1., 1003B/28 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

/M.T.Bs...

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M.T.B.s. A. 2 M.T.Bs. leave Malta at 1530/28th to operate off Hammamet. Passage both ways north of Linosa. B. 3 M.T.Bs. leave Malta at 1730/28th to operate between Augusta and Correnti Island. (V. A. Malta, 1030A/28 to C. in C. Med. etc.)
M.T.Bs. 307, 313 sailed on operation.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1531A/28 to Admty etc.)
M.T.Bs. 82, 77, 61 sailed on operation
(V.A. Malta, 1730A/28 to Admty etc.)

G.U.F. 4. Request you will sail Oran section of G.U.F.4 at 0900A/31 escorted by BADDECK, PORT ARTHUR, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, LUNENBERG to R/V in 34.50 N. 8.8. W. at 1700A/1. 2. Route through positions 109.50 37.108 lettered T. to W. Stragglers as convoy. S. of A. 13 knots.
3. Gibraltar section join and detach in position 37 at 0400A/1 or as ordered by F.O.C. Gibraltar. Onward route from R/V through 35.40 N. 10.00 W. then as ordered in Admty. 1843/26.
5. Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Irving." 6. S.N.O.C.A. is requested to order R/V of ESSO, GETTYSBURG escorted by ERNE and SCARBORO. 7. Escorts return to Gibraltar on completion.
(N.C.X.F., 1035A/28 to F.O.I.C. Oran (R) S.N.O. C.A., F.O.C. Gibraltar Admty. Cinclant Cominch, F.O. Force "H" Capt. S.8, Capt. F (F), A.H.Q. Gibraltar, C.G. 12th A.F. Connv.)
Re S.B.N.O. Casablanca 1805/27th, your 1035A/28th following ships should be ready by 31st Jan. ANNE ARUNDEL, DEPLORE, SHAWNEE, EVANGELINE, ANCON, SANTA PAULA, BORINGUEN, MCANDREW, Request S.N.O. Casablanca pendants of whole convoy.
(F.O.I.C. Oran., 1120A/28 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

T.E.14. Am detaching CADMUS, SPEEDWELL to arrive at Algiers Harbour 0800A/29th. Request berths alongside and working party to take charge of 153 bags of mail 5 tons of stores for VIENNA, MAIDSTONE from CADMUS, 105 bags of mail from SPEEDWELL. Request mail and correspondence for SPEEDWELL and CADMUS be ready for them on arrival and that for other escorts of T.E.14 be placed in AVONVALE and ZETLAND. (BICESTER, 1139A/28 to Cmdre. Algiers, N.C.X.F., POZARICA, MAIDSTONE, VIENNA.)

M.W.21. Your 0025/26th. (Ships for M.W.21.) ORNA will be used.
(P.S.T.O.M.E.1205B/28.to D. of S.T. Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Bi-weekly Opsum. Part 1 my Opsum. 94, part 4. Second formation 8 B.24s despatched against Naples Jan.26 also unable to reach objective before dark and bombed Palermo Harbour. Results obscured by low cloud. Further 2 B.24s returned with bombs. Night 26/27 Jan. 8 B.24s despatched to attack shipping at Naples. Owing to delay in take off caused by B.24s returning from Palermo only 1 aircraft reached objective. Results of bombing obscured by low cloud. Of remainder 5 bombed Messina Harbour. Haze

/hampered...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Bi-weekly hampered observation of damage but bursts were
Opsum. seen in area of naval fuel tanks and on West
No.95. shore of harbour. 2 B.24s returned early owing
Contd. to technical troubles. January 27 bad weather
hampered operations forward area Tripolitania.
12 Kittyhawks bombed 2 barges off Pisida scoring
direct hit on 1 which blew up. Near miss on seaplane in Pisida
Harbour overturned aircraft. Of further 2 formations totalling
32 Kittyhawks despatched against same target 12 returned owing
to low cloud. Second formation had inconclusive engagement
with Me. 109s and returned. 1 Kittyhawk missing. 40 Hurricanes
protection of shipping off Malta and Tripoli.
(A.Q. R.A.F.M.E., 1207Z/28)

QUEEN Arrival 28th.
MARY. (N.C.S.O. Massawa, 1356Z/28, to Admty.)

WELSHMAN. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1450A/28 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

E.A.C. Op. summ. No. 78. 1800 hours 26 Jan. to 1800 hours
Report. 26 Jan. 1800 hours 27 Jan. A. Operations.
Night 26/27. Blida. Five Wellingtons of 142
Squadron and 4 of 150 took off to attack docks at
Bizerta. Visibility over target area was bad. Two A/C bombed
concentrations of flak and searchlight 1 at Bizerta and 1 possibly
at Tunis. Remaining A/C went in at 3000 ft. finding no cloud
below that height, 8 x 5000 were dropped on S.W. corner of
Bizerta, a terrific explosion followed which lit up the scene.
F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 6 B.25s escorted by 12 P.38s on an
anti-shipping mission sighted 2 enemy destroyers, attacking them
with 22 x 5000 lb bombs. Two direct hits and 3 near misses
scored on starboard side of one leaving this destroyer in flames
and listing heavily when last seen. Four near misses scored on
stern of other, crews of A/C reporting probable damage to rudder
and propellor mechanism.
(E.A.C. Africa, 1710A/28.)

Situation 1. Algiers. About 25 aircraft attacked the
Report harbour and town during early a.m. 27th Jan. One
53. bomb hit and damaged VILLE DE STRASBOURG forward
and others caused some damage on shore. 4 mines
were dropped, one just outside North Entrance
exploded 20 minutes after dropping, another inside harbour has not
yet been exploded after attempt by LL sweep but portions of type
tail have been recovered. The other two mines fell on land, one
exploded. Beaufighters claim 3 enemy aircraft destroyed and one
probable. 2. P.247 reports sinking schooner employed on
reporting aircraft in position 40.14 N. 14.10 E. at 0300/20.

/3...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation Report 53. Contd. 3. From 8th Nov. to 8th Jan. the following totals were discharged at ports in "Torch" area. Deadweight tonnage 1,303,000 personnel 437,200 and vehicles 42,420. Records from Bone not available before 24 Nov. K.M.1 discharge at Oran not included. (N.C.X.F. 1740A/28, to Admty.)

ABDIEL Minelaying. My 1735/21 which is being passed to you. Following is my intention for ABDIEL's lay. A. 1730/31 Force Q and ABDIEL leave Bone in company. Fighter protection as ordered by you. B. 1945/31 in vicinity Galita, ABDIEL proceed independently to lay line C. Force Q return to Bone unless otherwise ordered. C. ABDIEL pass Galita homeward about 0530/1 off Bone 0730/1. Thence to Mers El Kebir reporting E.T.A. to Algiers P.W.S.S. in passing. D. V.A. Malta is requested to inform N.C.X.F., C.S.12 and ABDIEL by 1400/30 if weather is unfavourable for WELSHMAN laying night 30/31. E. In this case ABDIEL is to proceed from Philippeville to join you off Bone at 1730/30 and you are to carry out purport of para. A. and B. 24 hours early if weather permits, informing me of your intention. F. ABDIEL should then go on to Malta unless circumstances forbid. (N.C.X.F. 1801A/28 to C.S.12 (R) V.A. Malta etc.)

Movements Oran. Arrival PENELOPE, departures WISHART, BRILLIANT. (F.O.i/c Oran, 1959A/28 to Admty., etc.)

Movements Algiers. Algiers arrivals ABDIEL from Gibraltar, departures ARNOLD BENNETT to Oran. (Cdre., Algiers, 2003A/28 to Admty.)

U/B sunk ~~26~~/1 by M.T.Bs. My 2113/21 Jan. and C.C.F. Med. 1300/20 Jan. and 1101/23 Jan. A.U-Boat is wrecked stern first on shoals about one mile east of the Karamanli Mole. Torpedo damage aft is visible. (C. in C. Med., 2006B/28 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 532 28th Jan.. Day 28 Jan. 12 Spitfire bombers escorted by 10 Spitfire fighters attacked warehouses at Sicily dropping 20 x 250 lb bombs and incendiaries scoring hits on buildings in target area. Fighter Spitfires strafed the factory and army huts with cannon and machine gun fire. 3 Spitfire bombers attacking ground targets in Southern Sicily scored hits on railway line at Gela and on barracks off Gela Aerodrome. Night 27/28th Jan. 2 specially equipped Wellingtons carried out anti S/M patrols ahead of friendly naval units. 3 specially equipped Wellingtons on shipping searches in Marettimo Cape Bon area Messina area and north west of Sicily made no sightings. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2012Z/28, 2034Z/28, 2109Z/28.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements.

Departure 27th. NEURALIA for P.B. Convoy for Karachi.
(N.C.S.O. Abadan 0529Z/28.)
Departure POONA towing M.M.S. 154.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 1057Z/28.)

B.M.40.

Departure AGRA with B.M.40.
(S.O.I. Bombay 0620Z/28 to Admty, C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon.)
(1) B.M. 40. (2) 0630Z/28th Jan. (3) E.T.A. R/V with ASTER position (M) 0530Z/30th Jan. (3A- passing Cochin 1930/31st. Jan. (3B-E.T.A. Colombo 0430Z/3rd. (4) 7 knots. (Route)
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0652Z/28)

Dispositions.

A.M. 1120/21. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Pacific:
CHICAGO, COPAHEE and MONTPELIER in South Pacific.
PENSACOLA at Pearl Harbour.
RICHMOND in Alaskan area.
(D.O.D. (F) 1552A/28 to C. in C. E.F.)

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T.A. 33. Your 0201/27. Have you information why T.A. 33 is reduced to 10 knots. (Admty. 0127Z/28 to Connav). E.T.A. 1330 A.W.T./29. (T.A. 33, 1921Z/28 to C.O.A.C., Halifax (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, Chief U.S. N.O. (Navy Dept.) Cdr. U.S. Task Force 24).

STIRLING CASTLE. Following from STIRLING CASTLE 31° 49' N., 058° 11' W. Port Engine No.3 piston rod broken. Anticipate stoppage 18 hours to dismantle unit. Proceeding on starboard engine speed 10 knots course 321°. (Navcom. 0437Z/28 to Admty).

H. X. 224 H.X.224. My 1943/27 SHERBROOKE, LOBELIA sailed St. Johns N.F. 0545Z/28. (F.O.N.F., 0622Z/28 to C. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.14, (R) Connav, Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.T.F.24, C. in C. W.A., Cdre. Londonderry, C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.T.G.24.7).

M.M.S.142. Request pilot and permission enter Londonderry. Minor engine repairs. Straggler from convoy S.C.117. E.T.A.1500 G.M.T./28th Jan. Please advise. Keep continuous watch 600 metres wave. (St. Johns N.F. 0800/28 to M.M.S.142). Note Passed to Admiralty for information by F.O.I.C. Greenock).

U/B Shore watcher reports enemy S/M in 047° 27' N., 054° 23' W., at 1400Z/27. U.S. Aircraft searching area. (C.O.A.C., 0847Z/28 to G.B.7 A. (R) C.T.F.24 Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.T.G. 24.7., F.O.N.F.) My 0847/28th classification considered C.3. (C.O.A.C., 1340Z/28 to G.B.7 A (R) C.T.F.24 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).

Sub attack and sighting summary. A. 1620Z/26 Liberator sights sub on surface course 040 56° 55' N., 40° 06' W. B. 1545Z/26 N.S. MANSFIELD sights sub diving 57° 53' N., 41° 56' W. D. 0250Z/24 SS. DELAWARE SUN sights sub 27° 18' N. 91° 24' W. 1405A/25 Eastern Airlines pilot sights periscope wake course 230 changing to 120 20° 55' N., 71° 15' W. P.M./25 sub sighted 22° 35' N., 74° 20' W. 1331Z/26 V.P. sights sub 33° 39' N., 59° 08' W. 1423Z/26 Airline pilot sights periscope and sub shadow course 165 approx. 26° 10' N., 79° 55' W. 1720Z/26 Y.224 sights periscope makes sound contact 42° 28' N., 70° 30' W. 0930Z/24 S.C.1042 attacks sound contact 21° 35' N., 76° 58' W. (Connaveu, 280901 to Admty).

/Movements...

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America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movements. Arrival 28th U.S.A. M.P. GENERAL THOMAS, JESSUP. (B.R.O. Georgetown, 1330/28 to Admty. S.O.(I) Jamaica, Connav). Boston sailed for St. Johns N.F. 2325Z/27 VANESSA and VIMY. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2025Z/28 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)
Departure CALDWELL towed by OCEAN EAGLE, MILLTOWN for Boston. Arrival MINAS escorting LORD KELVIN from battle ground. LINCOLN from St. Johns. KENTVILLE from Louisburg. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 2101Z/28 to Admty. etc).

| Movements | Ship | Position | Course | Speed |
|--------------|--|-----------------|--------|-------|
| Summary | REGENT | 31½° N. 36° W. | 089° | 11 |
| at 1800 | ALCANTARA) | 13½° N. 49° W. | 278° | 12½ |
| G.M.T./28th. | WOODRUFF) | 42° N. 53° W. | 280° | 18 |
| | T.A.33 | 40½° N. 58½° W. | 092° | 19 |
| | A.T.35 | | | |
| | (D.O.D. (F) 1016Z/28 to Opnav (R) Comnav.) | | | |

ALCANTARA, 9 (1 group missing) F.O.C.W.A.F's 1115/28 am
WOODRUFF. assuming Cominch will divert.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 11520/28 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F.)
Alter course forthwith for new destination
Trinidad. 2000Z/28 estimated P.C. and S. 13° 20' N., 49° 50' W.
258° 12.5.
(Connav, 1721/28 to ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF, (R) S.B.N.O.W.Af. Comsolant, N.O.B. Trinidad, F.O.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Jamaica, C.C.S.F.)
Your 1721/28th (?acknowledge). My P.C. and S. are (?013° 39' N., 049° 12' W., 257° 12¼ knots. E.T.A. 1100Z/31.
(ALCANTARA, 2100Z/28 to Connav, N.O.I.C. Trinidad, (R) Comsolant, N.O.I.C. Kingston, S.B.N.O.W.A., C.C.S.F.)

Task Group This is Cinclant's 271957 for information.
21.4. NELSON, MADDOX and GLENNON hereby constituted as Task Group 21.4 under Commander Madeira. About 5 Feb. escort 4 Merchant Tankers from Aruba to Dakar via Trinidad following route prescribed by Cominch (C. and R). Top off Destroyers at Trinidad. After tankers have been discharged at Dakar escort them to Trinidad and refuel Destroyers there.. Further orders will be given later. My operational control shifts to Admty. at W.At. area boundary.
(Comnav, 1201/28 to Admty).

F.H.33 (1) F.H.33 sailing telegram (2) St. John N.B. 1230/28. (3) E.T.A. Halifax 0430/30. Route. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.B., 1235Z/28 to Admty).

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America & West Indies. - Contd.

H.U.C.118, Departures H.M.Cs. FENNEL, DUNVEGAN, COWIEHAM,
H.O.N.161. TRURO, MAYFLOWER, escorting H.U.C.118 H.M.Cs.
SASKATOON, QUESNEL, DRUMMONDVILLE, escorting
H.O.N. 161.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1301Z/28 to N.S.H.Q. Cominch,
C.G., and R. B.A.D. C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F.,
C.T.F.24).

Overdue Shipping. Overdue Trinidad British ship EMPIRE MARCH.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1424R/28 to Admty. B.A.D.,
S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, S.O.(I)
Capetown for C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Pernambuco,
B.S.N.O. Rio de Janeiro).

EMPIRE BOSWELL Straggler heavy weather damage ex O.N.S.160.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1432Z/28).

Marking of Hospital ships. Your 2225Z/8. We agree that illuminations
confined to stacks of ships are dangerously
inadequate and are therefore most willing to
associate ourselves with representations which
aim at achieving an improvement. F.O., however,
attach considerable importance to actual form of
note to be presented as it is greatly in the interests of U.S.
and ourselves to avoid creating circumstances which might
give the Japanese a pretext for carrying out reprisals. We
agree with this view. F.O. are therefore approaching U.S.
through diplomatic channel.
(M.B. Approved V.C.N.S., 1443A/28 to B.A.D.)

O.N.S.160. Ships present (list of 20).
(SALISBURY 1515Z/28 to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav etc).

S/M estimates and notices, 28th Jan. (Cominch, 1530/28, 1531/28, 1614/28, 1615/28,
1616/28 to Admty).

FAIRWATER. My position 1430Z 049° 30' 040° 14' still hove
to in company with TENACITY about 50 miles west
of FAIRWATER. Force wind 55 to 65 miles per
hour. At extreme economic use I have only 5.5
days water remaining. Am making every effort to relieve
PRIMROSE as weather permits. Weather report.
(THREE RIVERS, 1535Z/28 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax,
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

EMPIRE SYDNEY N.S.H.Q. 1435/27. Cominch (C. and R) has
already approved similar request from Port
Director New York.
(B.A.D., 1627Z/28 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Contribution of R.C.N. to war effort. Personal for 1st S.L. Your 0107/22nd. After reviewing the many factors involved I feel the most effective contribution the R.C.N. could make to the war effort in 1943 would be to take over as many older destroyers of the D to I class as you were able to release.

2. We would probably welcome the loan of perhaps 2 experienced escort group commanders. Apart from this, no undue difficulty expected with manning problem involved. We would like as much (?notice) as possible as to probable dates destroyers might (?become) available.

3. I would further like to review the situation in 6 months time when the probable 1944 situation becomes clearer.

4. I am most grateful for the study given our proposals and fully concur that there will be ample time at the end of the war to (?discuss) adjustments.

(C.N.S. Ottawa, 1637Z/28 to Admty).

LOBELIA. My 0622Z/28. LOBELIA returned with defective anti-submarine requiring 36 hours to complete. Intend to sail her with M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16 to H.X. 224.

(F.O.N.F., 1640Z/28 to Comtask 24 (R) C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.14, N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty. C. in C. W.A., Comtask 24.7 Com.Londonderry).

M.T.Bs. Sailed M.T.Bs. 332, 333, 339, 341, 343, and 335 in accordance with my 1502/26th S.O., M.T.B. 333. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1802Q/28 to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) C.E.S.F., S.O.(I) Kingston, Admty. F.O.N.F., N.O.B. Trinidad, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Comcarib, C.G.S.F., Commandant U.S. N.A.S., Guantanamo).

Your 1502/26 para. One. Last sentence, U.S. Authorities will give the necessary directions.

(B.A.D., 1953Z/28 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. Admty. Cominch).

Convoy sailing telegram addresses. Authority sailing convoy will address sailing telegrams to S.O. in area of destination for action and for information to all interested parties. Example C.U. convoys C.A.F.A.C. sailing telegrams to Admty for action information Connav C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.C.S.F., N.O.B. Trinidad V.A. Gibraltar. O.T. convoys Connav originates to S.N.O.C.A. or F.O.C.W.Af. for action information Connav, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty. N.C.X.F., C.C.S.F., V.A. Gibraltar N.O.B. Trinidad. Connav will pass to 567 optional.

(Connav, 1917/28 to C.C.S.F., C.A.F.A.C., N.O.B. Trinidad, (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, Cinclant,)

/French...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

French Agreement.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 453. We have considered Admiral Glassford's despatch 251600 recommending that formal approval be given to the command understanding reached by himself and Admiral Collinet.

2. We agree to this recommendation and assume that formal approval and notification will be given by C.C.S. (Air Min, T.O.O. 1935Z/28 to Britman, Washington).

Task Unit
24.1.19.

When escort U.B.M. reports for duty in the escort of Trans-Atlantic trade convoys it will resume its Task Unit numerical designator 24.1.19. (?St. Johns N.F., 1945/28 to C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., (R) Vice Opnav, Cominch, Cinclant, N.S.H.Q., Admty. C.T.G.24.6. C.T.G.24.7 T.U. 24.7 T.U. 24.1.3 (via C.T.G.24) Task Group 24.7 (Via C.T.G.24.7).

MONTGOMERY.

Your 1524/26 request MONTGOMERY be sailed direct to St. Johns, N.F. Com. 6 pass to MONTGOMERY. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1950Z/28 to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. MONTGOMERY, F.O.N.F.)

PRESIDENT
POLK.

Arrival San Francisco 27th PRESIDENT POLK (U.S.) Army Transport. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2021Z/28 to Admty).

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. (C). Army D.C.3 sights Sub. 05° 05' S., 36° 35' W., 1939Z/27. Shore watcher sights Sub. 47° 27' N., 54° 23' W. 1400Z/27. Sub. sighted 13° 30' N. 60° 55' W., 1415Z/28. (Cominch, 2049/28 to Admty).

ZWARTE ZEE

Philadelphia departed 1245Z/26 Jan. ZWARTE ZEE for New Orleans 31st. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2216Z/28 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W.At. B.A.D.)

Escort
Vessels.

Lorsa 7027. Ref. Coprod 20. (2100/21 from Air Min. re escort vessels programme) Can it be stated in which months or quarters of 1943 and 1944 the additional Corvettes mentioned in para. 3 are expected to come out. Early reply requested. (B.A.D., 2225Z/28 to Admty).

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Parham Sound Survey. Permission has been granted for U.S. ship BOWDITCH to make survey of approaches to Parham Sound, Antigua. Understand that ship is proceeding immediately.
(S. of S. Colonies, 2230/28 to Leeward Islands (Sir D. Jardin)).

N.Y.713 Ref. Our R4983 (no record) Your W 950 (no record)
1. All sailing particulars and all information available regarding NY 713 were requested in our R.4983.
2. Vessel long overdue and conflicting information has been received here regarding its sailing. After contacting British Admiralty for complete details, please advise us.
(Agwar Washington, 2310Z/28 to Etousa for action).

S.C.118, ARROWHEAD, CHICOUTIMI. P.C. and S. at 2300Z/28 44° 30' N., 61° 27' W. 256° 14 knots CHICOUTIMI in company E.T.A. Halifax 0500Z/29. ARROWHEAD urgent defects condenser leaking through (?I) P link block and (?Tailer) defective: R.D.F. defective. Number one boiler 192 hours number 2 boiler 1104. Fuel Fuel required 110 tons water 35 tons. CHICOUTIMI urgent defects change spring and packing of I (?P) valve rod leaking badly. Fuel required 86 tons water 25.
(ARROWHEAD, 2315Z/28 to C.O.A.C. Halifax (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Capt. (D) Halifax).

Convoy Cycles. A.M.1210/23 to Cominch referred to your 1907/13. The latter was not to Cominch but to B.A.D. headed "Personal from First Sea Lord" and had for that reason not been given to Cominch by B.A.D.
(B.A.D., 2337Z/28 to Admty).

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Wellington arrival U.S. Destroyer TREVER.
(S.O.I. Wellington 0302Z/28 to Admty.)
Arrivals Fremantle 27th. U.S. Seaplane Tender
CHILDS Port Moresby 27th. VENDETTA Brisbane 26th U.S. Light
Minelayer GAMBLE , U.S. Light Minelayer BREESE. Departure
Milne Bay 26th (? Vendetta) for Port Moresby Sydney N.S.W. 26th.
KAPUNDA for Brisbane 27th. U.S. Destroyer GRIDLEY for Noumea
ROCKHAMPTON and WAGGA on escort duty Fremantle 26th. TAMWORTH
for Diego Garcia thence Colombo.
(A.C.N.B. 0741Z/28 to Admty., Abdafloat, C. in C. E.F. N.Z.N.B.
C.O.I.S.)
Arrival Vita 28th U.S.D. MANLEY S.T.D. U.S. Transport HUNTER
LEGGETT.
(D.N.I. Wellington 0951C/28 to Admty.)

TROMP Your 0937Z/27th . Netherlands Cruiser TROMP, VAN
VAN GALEN, GALEN, TJERK HIDDES, will R/V in T 025° 36' S. 099°
TJERK HIDDES. 36' E. para 2 concur. Endurance at 18 knots Neth.
Cr. TROMP 2200 miles. Remainder 2500 miles.
(A.C.N.B. 0421Z/28 to C. in C. E.F. Comdre. R.I.N.
C.S.4. (R) Com. T.F. 51. Cdore. Western Australia.)

HOBART. Your 1826A/16. Anticipated that HOBART will leave
this station about end of June to carry out modern-
isation in U.K. (2) Decision will be con-
firmed about end of May.
(A.C.N.B. 0630Z/28 to Admty. (R) N.L.O. High
Commissioner Australia London.)

Digest Convoy at least nine vessels reported East Buka
Serial Passage my serial 370. para 2 last sighted moving
No. 371 slowly off Banin Way (15 miles southeast Buka Pass-
Jan. 27th. age) noon 26th.
2. One large vessel, two small warships sighted
by air R/C 30 miles southwest Buka Passage afternoon
27th. course 180°. 3. One large destroyer, two cargo vessels,
one large schooner arrived Buka Passage midday and unloaded from
barges during afternoon. 19 aircraft landed this area same after-
noon. Larger schooner and medium merchant ship also anchored off
Kessa late afternoon. 6. 7 B 25's escorted by 10 Lightnings
dropped bombs supply dump Malahang Aerodrome(Lae) during afternoon
scoring hits on runway and small building. Several unidentified
aircraft seen on strip. 5 Bostons bombed stores and buildings
Lae all bombs falling in target area causing large fire inland
from dock area. Salamaua also strafed.
9. Enemy equipment captured Tarakena Area 26th included two
motor driven landing barges and five 25 foot motor launches.
10. Three enemy medium bombers attacked Port Moresby area early
morning 27th dropping bombs on aerodrome destroying one aircraft.
Interception by one Lightning one enemy aircraft possibly
destroyed.
11. Three Hudsons dropped bombs on small craft Dobo (Aru Is.)
morning 27th scoring direct hit one lugger.

War Diary.

28.1.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
Serial No.
371 Jan.
27th. Contd.

12. Small naval auxiliary H.M.A.S. PATRICIA CAM
sunk off Cape Wessel Jan. 22nd by probable one
floatplane. 5 known casualties.
13. Reliably reported Jan. 26th enemy occupying
Kobo Bau and Zaka (Waria River Area).
(H.Q.S.W.P.A., 0809Z/28).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1444A/28, 1448A/28).

War Diary.

29.1.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

CORNCRAKE

No trace of controlled minelayer CORNCRAKE has been found after 5 days' search by ships and aircraft and the ship must now be presumed lost with all hands (see 25 Jan).

At 1121A P.314 and TRIDENT, returning to Lerwick from patrol off the N.W. coast of Norway, were ordered to proceed with despatch to patrol off Fro Havet to attack a main unit.

R.A. 52

Convoy R.A. 52 (11 merchant ships) sailed from Kola Inlet at 1130A today for Iceland and the U.K.

H.X. 223

Convoy H.X. 223 in 60.54 N., 17.07 W. at 1300Z today has 9 stragglers.

Two more mines were detonated off the Humber today.

Foreign Stations.

French
West
African Naval
Command
constituted.

The coast of French West Africa between Cape Bojador (26° 10' N) and the boundary between Sierra Leone and French Guinea (9° 04' N) is to to be an independent French Command under a Flag Officer at Dakar, at present Admiral Collinet, who will be known as French Admiral Commanding at Dakar (Short title Comardakar). Comardakar will operate all Allied naval forces permanently stationed in the French West African Command, under the strategic direction of F.O.C.W.Af. The boundary between the West African Station and the Atlantic portion of the Western Mediterranean Station (late North Atlantic Station) is to be moved north from 20° N., to 26° 10' N, and the southern boundary of S.N.O.C.A's area is to be shifted south from 28° 40' N., to 26° 10' N. The north limit of the French West African Naval Command, the northern boundary of the West African Station, the southern boundary of the Atlantic portion of the Western Mediterranean station, and the southern boundary of S.N.O.C.A's area now become coincident.

1050

29.1.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

"Torch" Area.

Maintenance
convoys.

It is intended that K.M.F. convoys shall cease with K.M.F.10 and K.M.S. convoys with K.M.S.12. Maintenance convoys are to run to Gibraltar on a 16 day cycle after K.M.S.12.

North Atlantic.

ALVAIZERE.

The Portuguese trawler ALVAIZERE was intercepted by H.M. trawlers north of Lisbon this morning and sent to Gibraltar under armed guard.

Mediterranean.

Convoy T.E.14.
POZARICA
torpedoed.

BICESTER, escorting convoy T.E.14 reported at 1954A today that auxiliary A/A ship POZARICA had been torpedoed aft by aircraft in 37.04 N. 4.36 E, about 30 miles northwest of Bougie. The minesweeper CADMUS took her in tow for Bougie where POZARICA anchored off a.m./30, her draught being too great to permit her to enter. (N.C.X.F. reported her grounded in the harbour on 1st February). One enemy aircraft crashed after close range fire from ZANZIBAR, and NASTURTIUM.

AVONVALE.

At 2110A BICESTER reported that the destroyer AVONVALE's bows had been blown off by aircraft torpedo. PENTSTEMON took her in tow and she arrived at Bougie a.m./30. All ships of the convoy reached their destination safely.

Bad weather prevented the attempted sweep of M.T.Bs. to Cani Rocks last night.

/Tripoli...

War Diary.

29.1.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Tripoli (L). The harbour has been swept by M.Ls. with negative results. Six L.C.Ts entered p.m./28. The convoy is being unloaded outside the harbour; 600 tons of cargo were unloaded on 26 and 27 Jan. on ramps built to eastward of Karamanli Mole.

P.45 reports several successes against tugs and small merchant ships and other vessels during patrol inshore off the Tunisian coast between 36.00 N. 35.20 N. from 17 to 24 Jan.

RORQUAL bombarded a railway bridge in 38.41 N. 17.34 E. today. A coastal battery retaliated and its third round hit RORQUAL's forward periscope as she was diving, rendering it unworkable. (See 31 Jan).

Air Operations.

6 Messerschmitts and 5 fighter bombers attacked Bone Aerodrome at 1040 today and caused damage to Swordfish aircraft and naval casualties. There was an air raid on Algiers last night. Bombs fell in the dock area, but caused no damage to the installations and only slight civilian damage, DEWDALE (L.S.G.) was slightly damaged by bombs on the waterline and SS. HARMATTAN was damaged by a near-miss.

22 B.17s of the 12th U.S. A.F. bombed shipping and docks in Bizerta this morning and report hits on one large and 2 medium merchant ships. Later 5 B.26s report attacking 8 merchant ships escorted by 4 destroyers and several small vessels 50 miles N.E. of Bizerta and obtaining 2 hits with bombs on one of the larger ships. Hits on a second vessel of similar size started fires.

America & West Indies.

S.C.117

Six ships in S.C.117 have put back to St. Johns N.F.

Comcarib gives reasons today why O.T./T.O. convoys will call at Trinidad, despite the danger from U-boats.

War Diary.

29.1.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

SS. SAMUEL GOMPERS (Noumea to Newcastle N.S.W.)
is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk
today in 24.21 S. 166.12 E.

1053

29.1.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Territorial
waters.
Use of by
Submarines
to attack
certain
Enemy Ships.

S.M.Z. 45.

(1) Under certain conditions certain specified enemy ships taking refugees in or trading with Spanish ports may be attacked in territorial waters provided

(a) Care is taken to avoid damage to neutral shipping or persons and property ashore.

(b) Attack is not made in harbour or its immediate approaches.

(2) Submarines are to make every endeavour not to be observed inside territorial waters.

(3) Great importance is attached to avoiding unnecessary infringement of territorial waters and, if a successful attack is made, S/M should not remain longer in vicinity than is necessary to observe result of attack. No further ships should afterwards be attacked within territorial waters without instructions from Admiralty.

(4) Submarines will invariably be informed of ships to whom these instructions apply.

(5) Cancel S.M.Z. 40, T.O.O. 1849/26th November 1942. (F.O.S., 1759A/29).

S.M.Z. 46. S.M.Z. 45, T.O.O. 1759/29 applied to following 7 ships SCHARLACHBERGER, BALDUR, NORDFELS, LIVADIA, MAX ALBRECHT, NORD ATLANTIC, BESSEL.

(2) All previous lists of these ships are cancelled.

(F.O.S., 1801A/29 to Capt.(S) Home, Comsubron 50).

SHERBROOKE
C.4. group.Your 2125/27. This will be done.
(C. in C. W.A., 1834A/29 to F.O.N.F.)Movements.

TUNA

Clyde arrival TUNA escorted by CUTTY SARK.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0638A/29).DAFFODIL,
PRINCESS
IRIS.

S.O.A.S.C. 1006A/23 and C. in C. W.A. 1459A/23.

Cancel my 1855/27 not to Cdre. Londonderry.

Intend to sail DAFFODIL and PRINCESS IRIS escorted by SKATE from Needles 1430/29 for Greenock SKATE parting company in 55° N. and proceeding to Londonderry. Group will enter a

Channel Port if sea is too rough.

(2) Routed standard convoy route (speed down channel 8 knots made good) thence 10 knots. E.T.A. Clyde and Londonderry 0800/1.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1016A/29, 1155A/29, 1735A/29).

My 1016A/29 sailed. SKATES R.D.F. is out of action.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1507A/29).

P.314,
TRIDENT,
P.224.

My 1556/28th. S/Ms in paras. (A) (B) and (C) will be altering course at about 1300/29th to patrol off Fro Havet.

(F.O.S., 1136A/29 to Admty).

My 1632/29th to P.224. Estimated position P.224 at 1800/29 064° 27' 002° 50' E.

(F.O.S. 1727A/29 1914A/29 to S/Ms N. of 51° N).

/REGINA...

War Diary.

29.1.1943.

Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

REGINA Estimate P.C.S. of REGINA at 1200A/29, 048° 20' N. 014° 01' W. 180° 12 knots.
(F.O.S., 1147A/29 to 0.19).

Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic. Operating in Northern Waters: ANSON, SHEFFIELD, BERMUDA, GLASGOW, KENT, 10 destroyers.
Area Iceland (C): NORFOLK 1 destroyer.
Area Scapa: KING GEORGE V, HOWE, MALAYA, CUMBERLAND, JAMAICA, KENYA, SUSSEX, 8 destroyers.
Operational Area: NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FURIOUS, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, SIRIUS, 13 destroyers.
(D.O.D. (H) 1150A/29 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

BULOLO E.T.A. BULOLO and screen position F 1200/30th.
E.T.A. BULOLO, CUMBRAE, 1400/31st WOLVERINE
Bar L.V. 0900/31st, BADSWORTH Lough Foyle 1300/31.
Request BULOLO may be berthed alongside to facilitate off loading.
(BULOLO, 1307A/29).

DZIK F.O.(S) 2129/27th Jan. Request you will sail DZIK (P.S.) from Lerwick at 1600/1st Feb. routed through (A) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles.
(B) 061° 20' 001° 01' E.
(C) 061° 05' 002° 45' E. to patrol in zone K. 104.
(2) S/M to proceed on surface at C.L's discretion until within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast then dive by day.
(3) Repeat back position in para. (1).
(Capt. (S) 9, 1457A/29 to S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, (R) H.Q.C.C., F.O.(S), A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F., Capt. (S) 3).

Position of S/Ms at 0800A/30 and movements for following 24 hours. A. P.216. 0.15 SOKOL and P.53 in North Norwegian Waters East of 15° E.
B. TRIDENT and P.314 off Fro Havet.
C. JUNON off Bredsund.
D. P.56 to Holy Loch.
E. DZIK see 1457A/29.
F. O.19 48° 32' N., 13° 50' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 13° 50' W. 50° 10' N. 12° 40' W. and 50° 10' N. 09° 01' W.
G. U.S.S. GURNARD 48° 51' N., 21° 54' W. probably on surface speed 11 knots through 47° 58' N., 26° 01' W. thence to U.S.A. as ordered by Cominch.
H. U.S.S. HERRING in Zone K. 5050. J. U.S.S. SHAD off Bilbao.
K.L. P.224 My 1556/28 para. B and my 1136/29. P.224 at 1400/29 was in 64° 28' N., 01° 38' E. thence proceeding through approx. 64° 26' N., 02° 50' E. and 62° 01' N. 01° 00' E. to Lerwick probably on surface.
(F.O.S., 1619A/29).

1055

29.1.1943.

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

JANUS Report forthwith (A) Time of passing Dunnet Head.
(B) S. of A. (C) E.T.A. destination.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1648A/29 to JANUS).
Your 1648A/29. (A) 1845A/29th (B) 18 knots
(C) 1000A/30th.
(JANUS, 2144A/29).

LIMBOURNE C. in C. W.A's 1509/28th. From position (F)
proceed 270° Longships 4 and after daylight
Q.Z.S. 389, 347, 390, and 278, to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1851A/29 to LIMBOURNE).

Operations.

Coastal Patrols not required tonight Friday WINDSOR
patrols. and HAMBLEDON with F.S. No. 24.
(C. in C. Nore, 0946A/29 to Capt. (D) 16 Capt. (D)
21 N.O.I.Cs. Humber, Yarmouth, Harwich,
S.E.E.C.C.D.)

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 1800 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, 1134A/29) Cancelled F.O.I.C. Portland 1645A/29

R.M.L. 548 sails Blyth to Patrol to eastward of swept
channels returning daylight. Three M/S sail Peterhead 0501/20
to 32 buoy to sweep northward at 0730/30.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1501A/29).

S/M P. 314 TRIDENT, P. 224 proceed forthwith with
Patrol off despatch to patrol vicinity 064° 35' 009° 44' E.
Fro Havet, 064° 45' N., 009° 27' E. 064° 55' 009° 55' E.
P. 314, respectively. Object cruiser and above but
TRIDENT, U-boat should be attacked one salvo being kept
P. 224. for main object.
(F.O.(S), 1121A/29 to Submarines operating north
of lat. 51° N. (R) C. in C. H.F. Admty. H.Q.C.C.,
A.C.O.S.)

Your 1121A/29th. My position 1400A 064° 28' N., 001° 38'
E. One engine temporarily out of action. E.T.A. patrol area
1700A/30th with 3000 gallons oil fuel remaining. Weather report
3856 7632.

(P. 224, 1457A/29 to F.O.S. (R) Capt. (S) 9, C. in C. H.F.,
A.C.O.S.)

Your 1457. Cancel previous instructions. Return to
Lerwick via route Orange. Bombing restrictions follow.

(F.O.(S) 1632A/29 to P. 224, (R) C. in C. H.F., Admty).

/Operation...

War Diary.

29.1.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

- Operation "Valuable". (1) CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, GOATHLAND, BLEASDALE, TYNEDALE, to patrol as Force A southward of Beachy Head passing E.A.5 1900/29 and 0600/30. Force B at Newhaven M.G.Bs. 616, S.O., 613, 611 M.T.Bs. 243, 85, 89. My 1000/20 not to all addressees refers.
2. At St. Helens UNST, LORD WAKEFIELD, CHASSEUR 15, Yarmouth Roads I.O.W. ASIE.
3. Tug GOOLE X towing Merchant ship escort M.L. 142 293 leaves Dover 1800/29 arriving New Haven 0400/30 Inshore route.
4. P.W.286 escort SLAZAK leaves Needles I.O.W. 1715/29th Jan. W.P. 286 escort WENSLEYDALE arrives Needles I.O.W. 0900/30.
5. Portland patrol weather permitting M.L. 247 R.M.L. 523 on 050° 20' N., between 001° 30' W. ? and 002° 05' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1317A/29 to N.O.I.C. Portland N.O.I.C. Newhaven, Capt. D. or S.O. Destroyer Flotilla one, E.D.O. (E) (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C., Dover, H.Q. No. 16 Group. Tangmere Thorny Island Extended Defence Officer (W) Force A. Portsmouth night movements 29/30 Jan.
5. 5 destroyers patrolling S. of Beachy Head. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1647A/29 to Admty F.O.I.C. Portland. C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, N.O.I.Cs. Dartmouth, Newhaven, H.Q.B.C., H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., 10,11,16 19 Groups, Tangmere, Thorney Island).

- Operation "Regulation". Your 1936/28. Would like to take advantage of this movement to Eastern Fleet to patrol blockade runner area.
- Blockade Runner Area. 2. Proposed programme. JAMAICA to sail 1st February to be in patrol area 4th to 8th Feb. and from 15th to 19th February refuelling Gib. between the periods and finally returning Scapa.
- Proposed Patrols. 3. SUSSEX to sail from Clyde to be in patrol area from 19th February until 24th Feb. thence to Gibraltar to refuel for onward passage.
4. KENYA to sail from Clyde to be in patrol area from 25th February to 1st March thence to Gibraltar to fuel for onward passage.
5. Dates quoted for SUSSEX and KENYA are dependent on satisfactory progress at Scapa but seem probable. Further signal will be made.
6. Based on present information patrol area would be between lat. 43° & 46° N., and longitudes 18 & 35° W. (C. in C. H.F., 1431A/29 1232A/7 Feb. to Admty).

- Operation V.P. Q. Carry out V.P. V.P. - Q.
1. Patrol Q. 2. 619 S.O. 627. 3. 1400A/30. 4. Two 5. Protection sufficient. 6. No 7. 0800A/1 Feb. 60 miles from point of exit. (A.C.O.S., 1515A/29 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick, N.O.I.C. Wick, N.O.I.C. Sumburgh, (R) Admty. C.C.O. F.O.C. (S) A.O.C. No. 18 Group, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth).

Cruiser Patrol My 1431/29th should have been prefixed Hush Most Secret. (C. in C. H.F., 1712A/29).

1057

29.1.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

ACTIVITY
(V.H.F.
Trials).

Your 1756/21. Intend to proceed for V.H.F. trials Feb. 1st. Trials will be carried out in the vicinity of the Isle of Man and it is expected that, weather permitting, these will be completed on Feb. 6th.
(ACTIVITY, 1840A/29 to S.S.E.)

Allied Air Operations.

Unsuitability
of 18 Group
aircraft
for their
duties.

Your 1101A/13. This requirement is appreciated and similar representations have been made by N.C.X.F. regarding day R/C of enemy shipping in the Sicilian Channel. The problem is a difficult one if the enemy can concentrate large numbers of single seater fighters to deal with shadows, but it is being actively considered.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1707A/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Air Activity.

East Coast
on 28th
Jan.

Interference from Walton and Bawdsey C H L was experienced yesterday between 1500 & 1505 to 1605 & 1559 respectively. At 1515 2 enemy aircraft made brief landfall at Harwich. Further interference was experienced from Bawdsey 1928 to 2011, Walton 1907 to 1958, and Dunwich 1920 to 1955. Between 1920 and 2000 12 to 15 enemy aircraft operated in Thames Estuary. 4 made landfall in Orfordness area.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1155A/29).

Shetlands

At 1528 today an unidentified aircraft believed to be a Ju. 88 was seen by Military flying west to east across Sullom Voe Shetlands. Height 300 feet. First R.D/F plots 30 miles east of

Shetlands. Fighters went up but did not intercept. No guns opened up, and no hostile action taken by the unidentified aircraft.

(A.C.O.S., 1801/29).

Mining.

Operation
"Tincture".

Your 1849A/28. Operation cannot be carried out owing to weather conditions.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1001A/29 to Admty).

RESOLUTE
(sunk 28 Jan).

Details as required by C.A.F.O. 1968/40. My 1743 /28th Master thinks barge struck mine.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1512A/29).

1059

War Diary.

29.1.1943.

Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.- Contd.CORNCRAKE
lost.

LONDONDERRY's.1240/25. Search for CORNCRAKE was carried out by LONDONDERRY from p.m./25th until p.m./28th assisted by REGINA on 26th and 27. Search by aircraft has been carried out in daylight hours from a.m./26th until p.m./29th. No trace has been found and it must now be presumed that CORNCRAKE is lost with all hands.
(C. in C. W.A., 2229A/29).

Shipping & Convoys.H.X. 223.
THYSVILLE,
NAPANEE.

Your 0931Z/28. THYSVILLE should complete loading ballast p.m./30th January.
(2) Intend to retain NAPANEE as escort to U.K. C.T.G.24.6. (?5) provide 2nd escort and will confirm by signal.
(A.C.I.C., 0015A/29 to C. in C. Western Approaches
(R) Admty. C. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3).

A.C.I.C. 0015A/29th. NAPANEE sound gear inoperative dome defective or carried away docking required. Ship should be released promptly to effect repairs and be ready to sail 6th Feb. 9 Stragglers H.X. 223. 1300Z/29th P.C. and S. 060° 54' 017° 07' 132° 8.5. Hold S.P. 02459 (21) weather report 57774386 Gulf point destination changed to Clyde because of water in cargo
(C. Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.3., 1225Z/29 to A.I.G. 303,
(R) A.C.I.C. NAPANEE) S.P. 02459 - Western Approaches Code "Out".
H.X. No. 223. Destination of H.M.S. DIANTHUS is Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A., 1358Z/29 to C.T.U. 24.1.3).

THYSVILLE arrived ex H.X.223. Taking extra ballast. Request owners be informed all well. Admiralty pass to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.

(N.C.S.O. Reykjavik 1256A/29 and 0059A/30).

My 0015/29th not to N.O.I.C. Liverpool. THYSVILLE will not be ready to sail until 31 Jan. Intend to sail her escorted by H.M.C.S. NAPANEE to Mersey. U.S. Destroyer BABBITT will give additional escort for 2 days.

(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1721A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 2055A/22. CITY OF LYONS and DEIDO put back to St. Johns N.F. KOLLSBJORG cancelled.

(D.T.D., 1919A/29).

Inform Cdre. DEIDO returned St. Johns.

(C. in C. W.A., 2214Z/29 to escorts H.X.223).

O.N.S.163

After joining at Icomp DUANE has been directed to continue with O.N.S.163 detaching at Westomp to Boston.
(C.T.G.24.6., 0135Z/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

P.S.29
S.P.29.

P.S.29 and S.P. 29 cancelled owing to weather.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0805A/29).

War Diary.

29.1.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

W.S. 26

Arrived MIAOULES.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0850A/29).
J.5 (SS. ANTENOR) returned from W.S. 26.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1013/29).
ANTENOR returned Clyde. ARGUS inform Commodore.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1028A/29).

TIDEWATER.
Confidential
Books.

TIDEWATER arriving in W.N. 89. Master reports that S.P. 02272 (22) copy 8874, C.S.P. 1321(D) copy 2347, and C.S.P. 1321 (E) copy 2207 all entered on register as issued New York 14 Dec. 1942 have not been received. Request investigation may be made.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1002A/29 to N.C.S.O. Lyness)

K.M.S. 8
REGINA.

K.M.S.8. Comply with LANDGUARD 2117/28th not to all addressees (N.T. in W.D.) Convoy has been diverted from U direct to X.
(C. in C. W.A., 1004A/29 to REGINA (R) Admty. H.Q.C.C., F.O.C. Gib. N.C.X.F., Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.8, N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
O.19 in approx. 46.50 N. 13.50 W. course 360° diving by day.
(C. in C. W.A., 1105A/29 to REGINA).

R.A. 52

R.A. 52 sailed Kola Inlet 1130A/29.
(S.B.N.O. Russia, 1200A/29).
My 1200/29. 11 ships including 3 British 7 U.S. and 1 Russian. Some just missed convoy.
4 ships (?expected) coast convoy White Sea delayed by ice.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1450A/29).
Intend to proceed with battle fleet so as to arrive in approx. 073° 45' N. 012° 40' E. at 0830A 1st. Thereafter positions will be adjusted so as to be approx. 120 miles to westward of the convoy and to northward of its route during daylight 2nd Feb. and also 3rd Feb. if fuel permits.
(V A. 2., 1752A/29 to C. in C. H.F., (R) Home Fleet, Operational).
R.A.(?52). Sailed EWERS ISLAND 1000A/29 for Loch Ewe codeword "Skunk". S.O.A. 7 knots as routed in C. in C. H.F. 0200/10.
2. British ships for U.K. DALDORCH 500 k/cs and B.A.M.S. guard. Commodore EMPIRE METEOR medium frequency D/F. Vice-Commodore Master BRIARWOOD.
3. American ships for U.S. EL OCEANO, Rear Commodore, Master WINDRUSH, EL ALMIRANTE, QAWAY CITY, BEAUREGARD, DYNASTIC, GREY-LOCH. Russian ship USSURI for U.S.
5. Ocean escort (?) ONSLAUGHT, S.O., OFFA, MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS (?BULLDOG) FORESTER, ICARUS, PIORUN, HARRIER, SEAGULL, RHODODENDRON, OXLIP, HYDERABAD, HONEYSUCKLE, LADY MADELENE, NORTHERN GEM, NORTHERN WAVE.
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 1845A/29 to Admty).

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.- Contd.

O.N.S.J. C.T.U. 24.6 will in future make his departure
convoy signal for O.N.S.J. convoy in following form
departure (A) Date and time of departure.
signal. (B) Speed (C) Convoy Cdre. (D) List of ships
with nationalities (E) Latest S.Ps. held by
Merchant Ships (F) Destinations (G) Escort
and latest S.Ps. (H) Estimated 1 Comp position and
date.
(C.in C. W.A., 1613A/29 to W.A. General Message
529 N).

Proposals for My 1133/13.
convoy (1) Proposals for Convoy sailings have been
sailings. revised to meet following requirements.
(A) Mid-ocean cycle to be closed.
(B) K.M.F. Convoys to cease with K.M.F.10.
(C) K.M.S. Convoys to cease with K.M.S.12.
(D) Maintenance Convoys to Gibraltar on 16 day cycle after
K.M.S.12.
(2) Following is proposed programme of sailings
(A) Mid-ocean Convoys 9 day cycle starting after O.N.164, O.N.S.
165, S.C.120, H.X.227. 8 Day cycle starting after O.N.174 ,
O.N.S.175, S.C.125, H.X.232.
(B) U.C.1 (1) Feb. 13 then 20 day cycle.
(C) O.S.43 Feb. 14 then 20 day cycle.
(3) Following are requirements for putting this programme into
force with minimum escorts desirable.
(A) Turn round of K.M.S. and maintenance convoy escorts at
Gibraltar not to exceed 2 days.
(B) 8 Additional escorts to be allocated to me for K.M.S.
Convoys. 4 of these would be released mid-March remainder early
April. 16th M.S.F. is proposed.
(4) (A) Closing of mid-ocean cycle as proposed depends on 2C.
Groups being released for mid-ocean escort after K.M.F.10.
(B) Maintenance convoys would be escorted by the other 2 C groups
and the 17 R.C.N. corvettes released from Mediterranean
(C) 4 corvettes will be available for K.X.9 but no advance
O.S. can be run.
(5) Request very early consideration in order that revised
organisation and convoy sailings may be promulgated.
(C. in C. W.A., 1653A/29 to Admty). *Reply: VONS. 2131A/30, p. 1097*

U.C. and I have again considered the question of the
C.U. convoys. minimum size of surface escort acceptable for
Surface U.C. C.U. convoys in the light of prevailing
Escort circumstances and recent events. The following
Strength. factors are given special account.
(A) The vital importance of these convoys and the
length of route in any case exceeding 4,000
miles and entailing some 21 days at sea.
(B) The very large number of U-boats operating in the Atlantic
and the consequent increased numbers in each pack which the
enemy is now able to lay on to any single convoy. It is estimated
that this may well be any number up to 20 - 25.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

U.C. and
C.U. convoys.
Surface
Escort
Strength.
Contd.

(C) The unavoidable fact that, in the event of the escort carrier being unable to fly off Aircraft owing to weather conditions, enemy action or any other reason, these convoys will have to depend for their protection for about a week of their passage on surface escort only. This period would be even longer unless and until an adequate number of VLR/ A/C are made available in D.W.I. and West Africa. It is not

known if action has been taken to ensure VLR aircraft cover in the former area.

2. In view of the above I am of the opinion that the working strength of the surface escort should consist of not less than four destroyers and seven sloops, two of the former acting as special escort for the carrier when flying is in progress. (C. in C. W.A., 1656A/29 to Admty).

S.C.117

My 1853A/24. Following ships have put back to St. Johns N.F. ROBERT E.HOPKINS, L.V. STANFORD, IMPERIAL MONARCH, DAGHILD, BOLTON HALL, TILEMACHOS (D.T.D., 1708A/29).

Inform Commodore following ships returned St. Johns N.F. (as 1708A/29). Amended destination BEACON to Loch Ewe. (C. in C. W.A., 2041A/29 to escorts).

A.T.35
ANDES
(T.A.35).

Convoy A.T.35 comprising ANDES is due Tail of The Bank on 3 Feb. with 3,847 personnel on board:-
2. Vessel will sail as convoy T.A.35 on 14 Feb. Approx. 2000 personnel will embark at Tail of the Bank on 13 Feb. and 14 Feb. (D.S.T., 2322A/29).

D.F.2
(LEINSTER).

Convoy D.F.2 comprising LEINSTER will sail Clyde 3 Feb.
2. Vessel will embark to full capacity at the Tail of the Bank on 2 Feb. 3 Feb. (D.S.T., 2323A/29).

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic

REGENT At 0600/29th alter course to position (K) 029° 01' N. 031° 56' W thence 090°. Further instructions follow.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0143A/29 to REGENT (R) F.O.(S) Capt.(S) 8)
Cancel my 1618/27th. My 0143/29th estimate you at (K) 2300/29th. From (K) proceed on surface at discretion through (L) 29° 01, 19° 59' at 0900 1st (M) 35° 58' 05° 57' at 1330 4th thence Gibraltar speed of advance 11.
(V.A. Gibraltar 0950A/29 to REGENT, (R) F.O.(S), Capt. (S) 8)
Cancel para 2 of my 1155/27 (Bombing restrictions).
TCAO 16 (A) Total (B) REGENT (C) 0600/29 31.30, 34.03, 2300/29 29.01, 31.56, 0900/1 29.01 19.59, 1330/4 35.58 05.57.
(D) 11.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 0952/29 to R.A.F. Gib. S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) H.Q.C.C., F.O.(S))

Situation My 1214/28th. Amend p.c. & s. to read (E) 043° 10' 015° 57' 149° 13.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 0148A/29 for Area X)
W.D. Note: - No item specified in 1214/28.

ANJOU German controlled ANJOU left Valencia 27th Jan. for Marseilles.
(S.O.I. Gib. 0455A/29 to S.O.I. Malta, S.O.I.X.F.)

BARWIND Your 2335A/27 to N.C.X.F. (not to F.O.C. West Africa) and A.M. 2043A/25. Approved to delay sailing BARWIND for ten days.
(D.B.D.0720A/29 to F.O. Gib. (R) F.O.C.W.A., N.C.X.F.)

LOCH OSKAIG, NORTHERN FOAM. NORTHERN FOAM met off Tagus. Weather report.
(LOCH OSKAIG 0815/29 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) NORTHERN FOAM)

T.F. 38 Request you arrive off end of swept channel near buoy No.7 position 033° 58' N. 007° 57' W. at 0830A/2nd where you will be met by local escort.
(S.N.O. Casablanca 0940Z/29 to C.T.F.38 (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Gib. E.O.I.C. Oran, Admty., Cominch, C.T.F. 34, C.T.U. 26.7.3.)

HERANGER G.U.F.4 F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1458A/28/. Due to slow speed request HERANGER be not included in G.U.F.4.
(S.N.O.C.A.1023/29 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.C. Oranetc) / (Part 1 of 1501/28 re sailing of ships to join G.U.F.4)
Your 1501/28. HERANGER is too slow for inclusion in G.U.F. 4.
(N.C.X.F.1530A/29 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) S.N.O.C.A. F.O.I.C. Oran, Admty. Connv)

/QUIBERON...

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War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

QUIBERON, My 0956/29th (N.T. in W.D.) A.M. 1655/28th.
 QUALITY, Request you will sail QUIBERON, QUALITY to join
 W.S.26. W.S.26 as soon as possible.
 (N.C.X.F.1116A/29 to V.A. Gib. (R) S.O. Force "H",
 Admty., QUALITY, R.A.W.A.F., QUIBERON.)

On QUIBERON and QUALITY R/V with convoy at 1130/30th approx.
 ADRIAS, RELENTLESS, QUADRANT are to part company and proceed to
 Casablanca to fuel adjusting speed so as to arrive before dark
 30th.

2. S.N.O. Casablanca is requested to sail ADRIAS, RELENTLESS,
 QUADRANT on completion fuelling so as to R/V with W.S.26 during
 daylight.

(V.A. Gibraltar 1732A/29 to S.N.O. Casablanca, K.M.F.8, W.S.26,
 (R) Admty. N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.A.F., QUIBERON, (? QUALITY))

W.S.26 From a position 36.38 N. 10.32 W. steer direct to
 K.M.F.8 Strait. 2. Intend sailing WAYLAND and

(?LEOPOLDVILLE) escorted by RACEHORSE, REDOUBT,
 QUICKMATCH, at 0001A 30th to R/V convoy W.S.26 in position,
 (R) 36.17 N. 08.23 W at 1600/30th.

3. Convoy W.S.26 is to be detached when R/V has been made and
 proceed to position (H) in accordance with Admiralty's 1904A/15th.
 (F.O. Gibraltar 1124A/29 as amended 1024A/30 to EGRET, ships
 escorting W.S.26 and escorts of K.M.F.8 (R) N.C.X.F., Admty,
 R.A.W.Af., S.N.O. Casablanca.)

ESSO, N.C.X.F. 1035 (or 1039) A/28. ESSO GETTYSBURG
 GETTYSBURG. escorted by ERNE and SCARBOROUGH R/V with G.U.F.4
 escorted by C.T.F.34 position 038° 18' N. 019°

10' W at 1330A/3rd S. of A. 13.5 knots. V.A. Gib. pass my 1805/
 27th and Admty.1843A/26th to ERNE and SCARBOROUGH.

(S.N.O. Casablanca 1125Z/29 to N.C.X.F., ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, (R)
 F.O.I.C. Gib., C.T.F. 34, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic
 Fleet, Admty. F.O.I.C., Oran.)

ERNE, SCARBOROUGH left 1300 G.M.T. 29th. Tanker ESSO GETTYSBURG
 left 1400 in company with escort vessels.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1205C/29 to F.O.I.C. Gib., (R) Admty.)
 1400/29th Jan. ESSO GETTYSBURG U.S. Aruba 9th Feb. knots (A)
 14½ (B) 15, days 18 (21) (22) one ship Pad (372) H/F transmitter
 sailed under escort. Admiralty pass to / S.O.I. Kingston and
 Connav.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1535/29 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Gib.,
 S.O. Kingston, (Jamaica), Connav.)

/ Passing action being taken by W.R.

S.N.O. Casablanca 1125Z/29th. ESSO GETTYSBURG, ERNE, and
 SCARBOROUGH P.C. & S. at 2000/29th 036° 38' N. 025° 30' W. 093°
 12 survivors.(?knots intended) Request further instructions.
 (3 corrupt groups)
 (ERNE 1625Z/29 to V.A. Gibraltar.)

/Your ...

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ESSO, GETTYSBURG. Contd. Your 1625/29th ESSO GETTYSBURG is to return to Ponta Delgada. (2) ERNE and SCARBOROUGH are to patrol vicinity San Miguel Island. (3) ESSO GETTYSBURG is to sail to join G.U.F.4 in accordance with S.N.O. Casablanca 1125/29th escorted by ERNE and SCARBOROUGH for whom further orders will follow.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2225A/29 to ERNE (R) N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca, Admty.)

U.G.S.4. Inform Cdre. and ships named destination tanker ESSOLOR is Casablanca.
(N.C.X.F. 1147A/29 to C.T.F.38 (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.i/c Oran, Cred. Algiers, Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.4, F.O.i/c Gibraltar, Admty., Connav.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001A/29th. SCARBOROUGH, ERNE one tanker approx. 37.30 24.16 096° 12 (see amendment) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR expected sail from Ponta Delgada 29th towards vicinity 38.45 26.32.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1314A/29 to A.I.G. 64.)
My 1314/29th amend para. 1 to read ERNE, SCARBOROUGH 1 tanker (e) position 2100A/29th 036° 38' 025° 30' (? 078° or 093° or 095°) 12.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2004A/29 to Area Y.)
My 1314A/29th. Para (1) (F.O.) altering course at 2359/29th to return to Ponta Del Gada, whence tanker enters and escort patrols vicinity.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2242A/29 to Area Y.)
Situation 2002A/29th. ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH 3 merchant ships 22.39 21.19 052° 7½. (2) S/M REGENT 29.28 32.19 to 29.01 31.56 at 2300/29th thence 090° on the surface, 11. (4) Portuguese Destroyer LIMA search vicinity 34.47 31.30.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1420A/29 to A.I.G. 65.) W.D. Note - Para 3 cancelled by 2225A/29.

TORBAY P.339. Arrival 0950. TORBAY, 1330 P.339.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1424A/29 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S. Capt. S.3, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.1, Capt. S.10.)

M.K.S.7. M.K.S.7 intend sailing to join (Ships). Request pendant numbers. Admty. is requested to signal destinations.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1430A/29, to Cmdre. Algiers. (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., C. in C.W.A., Connav.)

DESTINY, NIMBLE. Your 1120/27. Consider DESTINY is not powerful enough. (2) Propose NIMBLE tows ARIGUANI to U.K. and DESTINY remains at Gibraltar until NIMBLE returns.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1615A/29 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.) Approved (N.C.X.F. 1400A/30.)

/Force...

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War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Force H. My 1203/29th (N.T. in W.D.) E.T.A. 0200A/30th Jan. (S.O. Force "H", 1617A/29 to F.O.i/c Gibraltar.)

Enemy A/C. Enemy aircraft sighted. (1) At 1230A/29 three patrol vessels in position 37° to 37° 20' N. 05° to 05° 20' E. course 270° at high speed. (2) At 1215A/29 23 ships course 090° unspecified speed position probably 36° 40' to 37° N. 03° 20' to 03° 40' E. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1753A/29 to N.C.X.F. (R) C.O.S. Alexandria.)

Tankers. Your 1652/26 and 1501/28. BUNKER HILL, SEAKAY, SHELDON CLARK, are all required at Aruba to load. My 1908/20 refers. (D.T.D. 1933A/29 to V.A.Gibraltar 869, (R) N.C.X.F. S.N.O. Casablanca.)

Casablanca movements. Warships U.S.S. OSPREY with P.C.473-475 arrived C.S.S. BISCAYNE departed for Port Lyautey. P.C. 480 zero and French CHAUSSEUR II escorting French ALSACE departed. (Comseafrom W.T.F. 2002Z/29 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gib. Cominch.)

Gibraltar Movements. Arrivals, A.M. PUCKERIDGE from Mers El Kebir. 1505 H.M. Tug DESTINY Ex. T.E. 14 Departures. 1100 CALPE PUCKERIDGE to Westward 2000. ADVENTURE, VANOC, VENOMOUS, thence Mers El Kebir. Q.B. 99 and 206, Q.B.A. 27, Q.B.B. 318. 1845 Motor Launches? 175, 173 escorting S.S. EMPIRE MOON to Melilla and back. (F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 2231A/29 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.)

QUALITY U/B. Submarine on surface and observed to submerge in 036° 05' N. 004° 03' W. Have attacked with depth charge. Negative result. Am continuing on passage. (QUALITY 2345/29 to F.O.i/c Gibraltar. (R) N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H.)

LOCH OSKAIG. Your 1229A/26th para 5, ship not met, weather report. (LOCH OSKAIG, 2359A/29 to V.A. Gib.)

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War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Dakar
meeting,
supplies.To C.C.S. and British Chiefs of Staff London and
Joint Chiefs of Staff for action, Cominch and
Opnav for information. Admiralty please pass
to British Chiefs of Staff.

Colonel Howze and Lieutenant Commander Walgtrom
reached Dakar yesterday and have been in
conference at my request with Vice Admirals Pegram and Collinet
and others vitally interested here to explain the North Africa
Area Petroleum Officer set-up as it affects French West Africa
and to be made acquainted with view of those concerned at Dakar
and in the West African strategic area before proceeding to join
Eisenhower. As a result of this conference it was assumed that
Admiral Pegram who will use Freetown as main convoy assembly
point will continue to order fuel at Freetown as before and that
Dakar on the other hand within Pegram's Command will order fuel
oil through its own Area Petroleum Officer. Accordingly it is
requested that an Assistance Area Petroleum Officer Dakar be
appointed and that he arrive Dakar with least possible delay.
The question of coal supply was also discussed in view of fact
that French ships for employment West Africa coastal traffic
largely use this fuel thus it is equally important there be
appointed to Dakar at once the equivalent for coal of the
Assistant Area Petroleum Officer. The above recommendations are
in line with Joint recommendations submitted in my economics
report. Refer my 252000 in four parts.
(Radio Washington, 0802/29 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrived CATTERICK.
(Com. i/c. Durban, 0858Z/29.)
Departure 28th U.S. Aircraft Tender THRUSH.
(R.O. Para, 0941/29.)

Arrivals 29th Jan. CAPE SABLE, DOROTHY LUCKENBACH.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 1407Z/29.)

Arrival French Warship ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ.

(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1800Z/29 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Departure 28th Jan. Brazilian Minelayers CABEDELLO and
CAMAQUA. Arrivals 29th U.S. Destroyer ELLIS, U.S. corvette
SURPRISE, U.S. Sub. Chaser P.C.488 and 492, Brazilian Minelayer
CARAVELAS.

(R.O. Pernambuco, 1845Z/29 to Admty.)

Simonstown arrivals 29th CHITRAL and BALUCHISTAN.

(C. in C. S.A., 2017C/29.)

HOLCOMBE.

HOLCOMBE's 1246Z/28. Anticipate HOLCOMBE will
be detached to refuel at Casablanca arrive 31st.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1001Z/29 to S.N.O. Casablanca,
F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., HOLCOMBE,
FATHFINDER, ILLUSTRIOUS.)

HILARY.

A.M. 1145/25, Connav 2026/25. Is it your
intention that HILARY should proceed Lagos direct.
Ship holds route for Freetown and has passengers
and important stores for this port.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1121/29 to Admty., (R) Connav.)

/HILARY ...

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War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

HILARY. HILARY due Lagos 6th Feb. is urgently required
(Contd.) in U.K. for operational purposes. She has cargo
for Lagos and Takoradi and 204 passengers for
both places and Freetown. Ship will require
coal bunkers at Freetown.

2. F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to arrange all possible priority
in discharging and bunkering.

3. She is then to be sailed for U.K. independently but is not
to carry Service passengers from Lagos and Freetown for U.K.
Escort should be given if practicable.
(D. of P. Approved V.C.N.S., 2119A/29 to F.O.C.W.Af., V.A.
Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F.)
Not understood, see D.S.T.O.W.A., 1611/31.

KELT. Your 1746/28. Expect KELT ready for towing
1st week March. Vide your 1234/28th Dec.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1130Z/29 to R.A.W.Af., (R)
C. in C. S.A., Admty., Cmde. in C. Simonstown.)

Situation. LADY ESTHER, PRUDENT and EMPIRE LIGHTER in
vicinity of Rame Head (corrupt group).
GENISTA, ST. ZENO off Saldanha Bay to Capetown 10.
FRITILLARY (?35°) 20' S. 21° 00' E. to Capetown
11.
CERES 034° 30' S. 023° 40' E. to Simonstown 18. E.T.A.
1400(?Z)/(? 21st).
ROCKROSE, LADY ROSEMARY with C.N.3, 032° 00' S. 017° 30' E., to
the North 8.
(C. in C. S.A., 1151C/29 to A.I.G. 125.)
Situation at 2001/29th.
COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S., 04° 09' S. 10° 00' E. to
Pointe Noire, 12½.
S/M P.614, 02° 34' S. 08° 20' E. through 04° 00' S. 10° 00' E.
at 1300/30 thence Pointe Noire, 7½.
M.L.285 escorting 03° 52' 05° 09' E. to Lagos, 9.
ST. WISTAN escorting BARDELL westbound 18°, 13° 39' W. 120°, 6.
BELLWORT, DRANGEY, PICT escorting S.T.54, 12 to Freetown to
07° 39', 14° 21', 8.
Allied Naval Unit 06° 00' 19° 17' 186°, 15.
F. Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES 008° 11' 023° 04', 220°, 20.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1331Z/29 to A.I.G.150.)
Situation 2001/29.
DESPATCH 011° 49', 018° 00' to 10° 37', 18° 00' thence 123°, 20.
PETUNIA, ARMERIA escorting off Cape Verde to arrive Dakar
2230/29.
CORINTHIAN escorting off Cape Verde to Bathurst 12½.
PANDANGO, 2 motor launches escorting about 12° 20', 17° 40'
to Freetown 8.
CYCLAMEN, 2 motor launches off Port Ellen Etienne to Bathurst 11.
BRIDGEWATER escorting 010° 39', 028° 12', 278°, 11½.
2 French Fleet Units escorted by U.S. Destroyer MOFFETT, U.S.
Destroyer SOMERS, BUTLER, BRISTOL off Dakar to westward.
(R.A.W.Af., 1415Z/29 to Ships in Area 'P' of S.A. Station
south of 8° N.)

/DUNKERY ...

War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.DUNKERY,
KANA,
MACGREGOR
LAIRD.

My 1301Z/29. DUNKERY remaining Port Etienne with KANA and MACGREGOR LAIRD. CYCLAMEN and M.L. returning Bathurst. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1244Z/29 to CYCLAMEN, (R) DUNKERY, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)
A.M. 1350/26.

(1) KANA and MACGREGOR LAIRD have been prevented by bad weather from completing discharge of cargo at Port Etienne. Intend ships to remain (? there) and to Gibraltar with tanker JENNY.

(2) Tanker JENNY and escort arrive 021° 01' N. 017° 30' W. at 1400/4th Feb. Request escort onward may be provided to 3 ships from as far South as possible. S. of A. 8½ knots.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 1301Z/29 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., Gibraltar, CYCLAMEN, ROCHESTER, S.N.O. Casablanca, Comardamp.

Your 1244Z/29. Motor launches expect to commence refuelling a.m. 30th. Petrol in short supply. Will sail on completion.

(CYCLAMEN, 1855Z/29 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

Your 1931Z/29th acknowledged. Am leaving for Bathurst day 30th.

(CYCLAMEN, 2150Z/29 to R.A.W.Af.)

RANGITIKI.

S(?S). RANGITIKI sailed 28th New York via Magellan and Panama requires in tons 1750 fuel, 1,600 water at Panama. On board on sailing 2320 fuel, 1576 water. TGN 26¾ feet. E.T.A. Punta Arenas 12th Feb.

(S.T.O. Capetown, 1421Z/29 to Admty. for D.S.T., B.A.D., etc.)

Motor
Launch
296.

Intend H.M. Motor Launch 296 to arrive Bissao p.m. on 1st Feb. with Diplomatic mail. Request Portuguese Authorities be notified.

(R.A.W.Af., 1527Z/29 to B.C. Bitau, (R) N.A. Lisbon, Admty.)

SS. MONTE
NARANCO.

Following from D.N.I. My 1939A/28. Stowaways may be Flieger - Unteroffizier Werner Grotzky (Corporal German Air Force) 25/26 years old and Maschinener - Gefreiter Albert Meinert (Stoker 1st Class) 27/28 years old.

(Admty., 1552A/29 to F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F., B.A.D.)

HAI LEE.

Arrival Pointe Noire 1400Z/29th COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting HAI LEE.

(B.N.L.O.W.Af., 1605/29 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

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War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- A/S Patrol. Anti-submarine patrol is to be maintained to screen ships at Port Etienne. If ships are not already anchored in Cansaldo Bay they should do so.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1857Z/29 to DUNKERY, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Admty., Comar Dakar.)
- RANCHI, Sailed (A) RANCHI escort. (B) BLACKMOOR to
BLACKMOOR. Sierra Leone by route R.9.
2. Shift to Group S.L at 0500C/30.
3. Speed of advance 13.5 knots, E.T.A. Capetown 0700C/1st Feb.
(Cdre. i/c. Durban, 1904C/29 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., N.L. Officers East London, Port Elizabeth, Capetown.)
- S.T. 54. Sailing BELLWORT, DRANGEY, PICT escorting convoy S.T.54 at 1830Z/29.
2. Convoy consists of BELNOR, EMPIRE ARUN, HOGGAR (French).
3. Route A. 007° 39' N. 014° 21' W. B. 004° 01' N. 010° 01' W. C. 003° 26' N. 007° 10' W. D. 004° 04' N. 002° 01' W. thence Takoradi. Estimated S. of A. 8½ knots, E.T.A. Takoradi a.m. 3rd Feb.
(R.A.W.Af., 1909Z/29 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty., BELLWORT, Comar Dakar.)
Departure 29th BELLWORT, DRANGEY, PICT with S.T.54.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 2039Z/29 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)
- CERES. Sailed CERES to Simonstown routed through (G) 030° 35' S. 031° 12' E. (H) 031° 22' S. 030° 43' E. (J) 033° 40' S. 028° 15' E. (K) 034° 21' S. 025° 45' E. (L) 034° 58' S. 019° 48' E.
2. S. of A. 18 knots. E.T.A. 1700C/30th.
3. Shift W/T organisation to Group S.L at 0400C/29th.
(?N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1929C/29 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., N.L.O. East London, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, C. in C. S.A., S.A. Patrol, N.L.O. Capetown.)
- Convoy. Gibraltar Convoy number 2. (List, 8 ships).
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2040Z/29 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Connav, S.B.N.O. Casablanca, N.C.X.F.)
- French West Africa Command. It has been agreed that the coast of French West Africa between C. Bojador (26° 10' N.) and the boundary between Sierra Leone and French Guinea (9° 04' N.) shall, under the strategic command of F.O.C.W.Af., become an independent French Command under a F.O. at Dakar. This F.O. at

/present ...

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War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

French present Admiral Collinet, will be known as the
West Africa French Admiral Commanding at Dakar, (short title
Command. F.A.C.D.) (W.D. Note. - Comar, Dakar, preferred,
(Contd.) see 1451/31.)
(b) F.A.C.D. is in operational command of all
Allied Naval forces permanently stationed in the
French West African Naval Command, but will
operate them under the strategic direction of F.O.C.W.Af.
(c) Bathurst is included in the French West African Naval
Command but no change will be made there as regards purely
local command or administration.
(d) The boundary between the W. African Station and the Atlantic
portion of the W. Mediterranean Station (late N. Atlantic
Station) is to be shifted north from 20° N. to 26° 10' N. The
southern boundary of S.N.O.C.A.'s area is to be shifted south
from 28° 40' N. to 26° 10' N. The north limit of the French
West African Naval Command, the northern boundary of the W.
African Station, the southern boundary of the Atlantic portion
of the W. Mediterranean Station and the southern boundary of
S.N.O.C.A.'s area now become coincident. These changes are to
take place forthwith.
(e) Changes in the organisation for issue of "Q" messages and
in the limit of intelligence areas necessitated by the above
changes will, if necessary, be promulgated separately.
(f) A British Naval Liaison Officer is resident at Dakar but
until further notice all communication with Dakar should be
made through F.O.C.W.Af. with passing instructions in the text.
(Admty., 2216A/29 to "A" Message Home and Abroad 143A, Cominch,
Opanav, Comnav.)
Para. F. amended, see Admty. 1918A/6/2.

RICHELIEU,
MONTCALM,
and escort
for U.S.A.

RICHELIEU and MONTCALM escorted by U.S. MOFFETT,
SOMERS, BUTLER and BRISTOL sails 1800/30th.
Mean course 265° until 1900/31st. Subsequent
route will be signalled. S. of A. 14 knots
until 0700/31 then 12.5 until 1900/31.
(Comar Dakar, 2251Z/29, 1126Z/30 to F.O.W.Af.,
(R) Admty., Cominch, Comsolantfor, N.C.X.F.,
N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia.)

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War Diary.

29.1.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs 82, 77, 61 returned from operation.
(V.A. Malta, 0735A/29.)
M.T.Bs 307, 313 returned from operation.
(V.A. Malta, 0900/29.)

DALTONHALL, My 1801/16th Jan. Increased Military require-
supplies to ments to Tripoli necessitate allocation of one
Tripoli. additional vessel. Only suitable vessel avail-
able in area is DALTONHALL which proposed
allocating.

(2) This request has been made necessary for
interim period opening up Tripoli and (corrupt group) Benghazi.
Information asked in your 0221/21st has not been lost sight of
and will be sent as soon as possible. Agreed Murrant and
G.H.Q. M.E.
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 1011/29 to Admty. for D. of S.T.)

Enemy mine. Enemy mine fell in Moorish Quarter, Algiers,
during air raid a.m. 27th and failed to explode.
2. Damaged mechanism recovered by French Army
now held by French Navy, so fact that a mine has been recovered
is widely known.
3. Mine was G type and need for utmost secrecy is being impressed
on Adm. Mompau, but possibility exists of facts in para. 1 and
2 becoming known to enemy.
(N.C.X.F., 1046A/29 to Admty.)

K.M.F.8. My 2231/28th. Amend all times to read 7 hours
later. E.T.A. Algiers 1330A/1st. S.O. Force H
is requested to provide local escort of Force H
destroyers at Oran.
(N.C.X.F., 1101A/29 to EGRET, (R) Escort K.M.F.8,
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, etc.)

SALWEEN, E. Africa Command message 79739 T.O.O. 1615/26th
explosives Jan. addressed Mid East indicates 3½ tons T.N.T.
in transport. loaded SALWEEN at Mombasa for Suez. Request
your confirmation and reasons for this quantity
of highly dangerous explosive being loaded in
troopship contrary to Sea Transport Regulations, Appendix T.152,
Article 3. D.S.T.O. Kilindini pass to E. Africa Command.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1123B/29 to D.S.T.O. Kilindini.)

T.E. 14. Sailed URLANA, kite balloon, FACTO ZENA, kite
balloon, MORAY COAST for Bone. ALPERB, kite
balloon, SALVENTUR, EMPIRE DACE, EGRET, kite
balloon for Philippeville. OCEAN TRADER, EMPIRE GNOME for
Bougie. BACHAQUERO for Philippeville.
2. Algiers section arrived, 10 ships.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1251A/29 to S.O.I.S., etc.)

/TURBULENT ...

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War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- TURBULENT. Be in position 268° Focal Point B 28 (?) miles by daylight tomorrow 30th and remain in this vicinity till after dark 30th.
(Capt. S.8, 1408A/29 to TURBULENT, (R) S/M P.211.)
- P.211. Be in position 173° Focal Point A, 9 miles by 0600/31st and remain until dark 31st. (? Tanker) 085° 18 miles sector 3.
(Capt. S.8, 1422A/29 to P.211.)
- E-Boats. P.C. and S. of 4 E-Boats 34.50 N. 11.00 E., 200°, 7 knots.
(A/C ASK/F, 1432A/29 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
- M.K.S.7(?) Tact. Have the following ships for (?M.K.3.0) (? M.K.S.7 intended) INVENTOR 10 knots, BLENHEIM 8 knots, ARTEMUS WARD 12 knots, ANJA 8½ knots, STAD HARLEM 9 knots, ANKA destined Gibraltar for G.U.S.
(F.O. Oran, 1606A/29 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cdre. Algiers, Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- Sinking of U.301. We congratulate P.212 on the destruction of a German U-Boat on 21st Jan. 1943.
(D.A/S.W., Approved 1st S.L., 1819A/29 to P.212, (R) N.C.X.F., etc.)
- POZARICA, AVON VALE, torpedoes. Following received by Iceland. Addressed Bougie W/T. I am being shadowed by one aircraft 300° 4' Allbruces 37.02 N. 4.29 E.
(POZARICA, 1833/29.)
POZARICA torpedoes aft by A/C torpedo in 037° 04' N. 004° 36' E. NASTURTIUM will try and tow her to Bougie.
(BICESTER, 1954A/29 to N.C.X.F., (R) N.O.I.C. Bougie.)
One trawler, one motor boat minesweeper being sent.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 2030A/29 to PENTSTEMON, NASTURTIUM, BICESTER, (R) N.C.X.F.)
Your 20(?01)A/29 (N.T. in W.D.) EMPIRE GNOME has been sent.
(BICESTER, 2056A/29 to N.C.X.F., (R) N.O.I.C. Bougie.)
Have POZARICA in tow. My P.C. and S. 037° 05' N. 004° 41' E. 154°, 4, proceeding to Bougie.
(CADMUS, 2109A/29 to N.C.X.F.)
Your 2047A/29th (N.T. in W.D.) PENTSTEMON has since reported AVON VALE's bow blown off by A/C torpedo. PENTSTEMON has been ordered to keep you and N.O.I.C. Bougie informed of progress of towing.
(BICESTER, 2110A/29 to N.C.X.F., (R) N.O.I.C. Bougie.)

/When ...

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War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.POZARICA,
AVON VALE,
torpedoed.
(Contd.)

When all merchant ships have entered harbour, proceed to assistance of POZARICA. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 2216A/29 to RYSA, MULL, (R) INCHCOLM, Minesweepers 171 and 92, N.C.X.F., EMPIRE GNOME, PENTSTEMON, NASTURTIUM.) AVON VALE in tow of PENTSTEMON position 037° 01' N. 004° 44½' E. course 125° at 2200A/29th. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 2327A/29 to RYSA, MULL, (R) INCHCOLM, Motor M/S 171 and 92, CADMUS.)

E.A.C.
Report.

Part 3 my A.345. At 1432 hours 18 B.25s escorted by 11 P.38s attacked the Marshalling Yards at Sfax. Hits observed at intervals entire length of RR Yard, direct hits reported on RR cars and on barracks in adjacent military camp. 15 B.26s escorted by 11 P.38s attacked Sfax Harbour at 1450 hours. Large column of smoke observed coming from warehouse area, also many near misses around numerous small vessels in harbour. 3 escorted B.26s took off to attack shipping between Tunisia and Sicily but owing poor visibility no ships were sighted. (E.A.C. Africa, 1843A/30)(? 29 intended. Recd. 0407A/30.) A.345, 29th Jan. Op. Summ. No.79 1800 hours Jan. 27th to 1800 hours Jan. 28th. Day 28th. Bone - (Tingley) Harbour base patrolled no enemy activity. 1 608 Squadron on anti-sub. sweep sighted a fully surfaced U-Boat 4 miles distant which submerged. 3 depth charges dropped 45 seconds after submarine submerged across track of U-Boat but no results seen. Baiting tactics adopted and 1 hour later similar U-Boat sighted on surface from 1½ miles distant. 3 100 lb. anti-sub. bombs dropped in stick from 500 feet, no damage to U-Boat observed. F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 27 B.17 escorted by 18 P.38 attacked the Sfax docks at 1422 hours. (E.A.C. Africa, 1857A/29.)

Movements,
Oran.

Departures M.L? 471, QUIBERON, QUALITY. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1959A/29 to Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O. Gibraltar.)

Situation
Report
No. 330.

Tripoli (L). 6 L.C.T entered harbour p.m. 28th Jan. Harbour swept by M.Ls with negative results. Unloading of convoy outside harbour proceeding. 600 tons of cargo was unloaded from L.C.T.26 and 27th Jan. on ramps built to east of Karamanli Mole.

2. Harbour entrance was blocked by 8 ships (which includes a sheerlegs and a pile-driver). N. TROCCHINNO, SAN GIOVANNI, BATTISTA and GALILEO identified as blockships. My 2056/26th Jan. para. 2, last sentence, 4 and 54 lighters now counted but some will need repairs. Many cement blocks left on wharves and small floating crane already serviceable. Many small craft left intact.

3. Considerable petrol stowage undamaged. Furnace oil fuel stocks nil, but stowage for 10,000 tons will be available in one month.

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War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation Report No. 330. (Contd.)

4. Wreck of submarine visible to east of harbour (my 2006/28th Jan. refers). See also 1916/2/2.

5. Submarines. PAPANICOLIS reports - at 1000/17th Jan. boarded Caique ST. STEPHANO 3 miles east of Cape Malea after 4 hour chase. Prize crew put on board and Caique has reached Alexandria. At 1430/8th Jan. destroyed a Caique carrying oil North of Candia after 3 hour chase. 2 Prisoners taken.

P.45 during patrol inshore off Tunisian Coast between 36.00 N. 35.20 N. reports 1 at 1555/17th Jan. gunned, large tug which was beached. (2) At 1638/20th Jan. torpedoed and sank 500 ton armed steamer towing small vessel. (3) At 1016/21st Jan. gunned and sank 200 ton schooner and destroyed a similar one with demolition charges. (4) At 1650/22nd Jan. scored hits with gun on small merchant vessel but fire from shore batteries forced him to withdraw. At 1445/24th Jan. sank 50 ton Ketch with demolition charges. Shore batteries retaliated.

7. Levant. Recrudescence of U-Boat activity, 3 schooners with military cargoes, by ramming and gunfire North of Tripoli (S) night of 25th/26th Jan. My 2056/26th Jan. par. 10 refers.

8. Convoy M.E.16 (4 empty ships) escorted by 6 "Hunts" on passage Malta to Alexandria. C.S.15 in CLEOPATRA with 3 "Fleets" due Alexandria 30th Jan.

9. My 2028/30th Nov. to Admty. only. 2 Greek ratings, survivors from TRITON, are now at Alexandria. Para. 5 of my 2135/11th Dec. is confirmed. These ratings were not amongst those at Piraeus.
(C. in C. Med., 2035B/29 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. MS.7113. Section 1. A.I. 536, 29th Jan. Part 2 enemy air activity. Night 28th/29th Jan. Nil. Day 29th Jan. 0958 hours, 9 Me.109s approached Malta at great height. 7 Spitfires were airborne but enemy avoided combat and returned to Sicily. 12 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2121Z/29.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrivals. L.C.T.7 from Gibraltar, DIDO, LAFOREY, LOOKOUT from Bone. French ships LA SETOISE, LA SERVANNAISE from the West. CADMUS, SPEEDWELL, PENTSTEMON from T.E.14.

Departure POZARICA, AVON VALE, ZETLAND, EMPIRE GNOME, BACHAQUERO with T.E.14. CADMUS, SPEEDWELL, PENTSTEMON to overtake T.E.14. M.L.238, M.L.280 for Oran and Gibraltar. H.D. M.D.A.S. 1136, 1233, 1144 for Bougie. SIRIUS, ABDIEL, LIGHTNING, LOYAL for Bone. LAFOREY, LOOKOUT for Mers-el-Kebir. French ships GOELAND and ANGELE PERE escorting 2 French merchant vessels to Oran.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2121A/29 to Admty.)

Movements, Tobruk. Arrived BELVOIR, CROOME, HURSLEY, TETCOTT, AMBER, REDWOOD, M.L. No.351. Sailed CROOME, HURSLEY.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2123B/29 to Admty.)

/Movements...

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29.1.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Depatures TEPCOTT, BELVOIR. Arrival F.S. LA
Tripoli. MOQUEUSE.
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya), 2148B/29 to Admty.,
(R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

Genoa R/C. P.R.U. Genoa 28th Jan. One cruiser probably
Condottieri "C" class arrived Ansaldo yard.
Two submarines, one of which in dock. Work on
conversion of ROMA continuing. Ship now
protected by torpedo boom.
Hull of AUGUSTA moved to Molo Vecchio and work appears stopped.
Some progress made on conversion of Regolo class cruiser.
Merchant shipping shows considerable increase in numbers and
tonnage.
Since 21st December 1942 of 11 merchant vessels over 200 feet,
and decrease of one tanker.
Hospital ship VIRGINO has arrived.
(D.D.I.C., 2152A/29 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Movements, Arrival KINGSTON CRYSTAL, M.L.1051, GLOXINIA,
Benghazi. SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN SEA.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2212B/29 to Admty.)

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War Diary.

29.1.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

Coastal Craft engine overhaul. Please read my letter No. 403/C 7864 of 6th. Jan. 1943 in conjunction with my 0922/12/12/42. Coastal craft engine overhaul. (F.O. Ceylon 0241Z/29 to , Admty.)

MARIPOSA. My 0439/23. In view of B.A.D. 2245/25 to P.S.T.O. M.E. and 2219/27 to D.S.T. as MARIPOSA is not now embarking Polish families ship will be required at Bombay and not Karachi to embark R.N. and R.A.F. personnel and the 550 American civilians ex Persian Gulf. (S.S.T.O.I. 0429C/29 to P.S.T.O. M.E. (R) D.S.T., B.A.D. C. in C. E.F., D.S.T.O.P.G.)

S.S. BRITISH LOYALTY. Remains of 4 unidentified crew of BRITISH LOYALTY have been recovered from wrecked engine room and buried with service honours at sea 10 miles east of Grida light today. My 1920C/3 June 1942 refers (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0825Z/29 to Admty. R.N.O. Bombay, (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Troop movements and Polish personnel. My 0929/29th part 1 cancel my 0325/22. Following is a revised and up to date programme of troops and Polish movements. (A) Karachi to Bombay NEVASA with approx 200 Polish service personnel sailing 2nd. Feb. (B) Karachi to Suez NEURALIA with Jewish families children 950 adults 250 sailing about 4th Feb. (C) Bombay to Durban CITY OF PARIS, CITY OF LONDON, to sail 5th Feb. with service mercantile and Polish personnel. (D) Karachi to Beira and Durban DEVONSHIRE with service personnel and Polish families. Karachi to Mombasa EASTERN PRINCE with Polish families both ships to sail 6th Feb. (E) B.P. 68 NEVASA VARSOVA with service personnel 2nd ship will only proceed to Karachi sailing 11th Feb. (F) B.A. 38 one personnel ship TALMA with approx. 1400 troops sailing 19th. Feb. (G) Karachi to Addu Atoll Bombay one personnel ship SANTHIA to embark 450 troops at Karachi and sailing 24th Feb. and calling at Bombay to embark 550 troops and sailing 27th Feb. for Addu Atoll via Colombo if required. (P.S.T.O. India (Bombay) 0929Z/29 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, D. of S.T. "Armindia" N.C.S.O. Bombay, N.O.I.C. Hormuz, Cdore. Aden.)

M.F.V's to Kilindini. A.M. 2158/26th. This has been found to be impracticable but is being made to achieve transfer by towing. (C. in C. E.F. 1017Z/29 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.S., N.O.I.C. Durban.)

War Diary.

29.1.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

B.M. 38. Colombo portion B.M. 38 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 1030Z/29.)
29th. DEVONSHIRE (? departure)
(F.O. East Africa and Zanzibar 1301Z/29.)

CITY OF MARSEILLES,
GENERAL MICHIELS. Ref. grounding of CITY OF MARSEILLES off Batticaloa
In opinion of fleet salvage officer the attempt
to salve cargo and vessel can only be successfully
carried out if GENERAL MICHIELS can be made avail-
able from Bombay immediately.
Endeavours are being made to remove cargo in
smaller vessels but general conditions especially lack of derricks
are such that ship could not be lightened sufficiently by this
method in time to save her from breaking up. GENERAL MICHIELS
is only ship in area which could do this job.
(C. in C. Ceylon 1204Z/29 to D. of S.T. (R) F.O. Ceylon S.T.O.
Colombe C. in C. E.F. P.S.T.O. India.)

Weekly statement of U/B Dispositions. I possible by aircraft sighting 026° 30' S. 109°
E. 26th. Jan.
(C. in C. E.F. 1238Z/29.)

M.L's for Eastern Fleet. Further to your 1211/7th Jan. it is requested that
M.L. 829, 30.31 and 32 be also allocated to East-
ern Fleet.
(C. in C. E.F. 1528Z/29 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
S.A. ASTURIAS.)

India Air Rept. (A) Jan. 28th. 20 Mohawks offensive R/C Akyab
Island, 1 ship seen 20 miles W. of Akyab proceed-
ing to Akyab. 4 Hurricanes offensive R/C Donbaik
Akyab Island- Gunned small craft. 3 Hudsons
Arakan coast R/C damaged coastal shipping attached Kyaukryu A/D.
(B) Night 28/29 Jan. 9 Wellingtons attacked enemy positions
Akyab Island.
(A.H.Q. India 1545/29 to Air Min.)

KOSCIUSZKO, EL MADINA. Your 0904Z/26. Request information on KOSCIUSZKO
and EL MADINA stating why each is dangerously
smoking, whether due coal, method of firing or some
other cause. If due coal stating where bunkered and by whom.
No organisation for investigation as yet exists in S. Africa or
India but it is under consideration to set one up.
(D.T.D. 1835A/29 to C. in C. E.F. 83 D.S.T.O. P.G. P.S.T.O.I.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.FAIRWATER
disabled
24/1
(O.N.S.160)My 1830/28. Very slight improvement in weather
am remaining with FAIRWATER, until 1100Z/29.
Cannot remain beyond this time. FAIRWATER
riding out heavy weather splendidly. Weather
report.(PRIMROSE 0030Z/29 to F.O.N.F. (R) Comtask 24.,
C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.12.
THREE RIVERS.)Your 1654Z/28. FAIRWATER position at 1200Z/29 048° 33' 038°
04' drifting 125° two knots. THREE RIVERS and TENACITY not in
immediate vicinity. Weather report.(PRIMROSE, 1730Z/29 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.M.O. E.T.U. 24.1.14.
THREE RIVERS, C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.T.F.24.)Position at 2230Z/29th. 049° 30' 041° 30' 260° 5. TENACITY
is proceeding to FAIRWATER. Due to heavy weather ships have
become separated. Regret I must return due to provisions
shortage. Weather report.(THREE RIVERS, 2350Z/29 to F.O.C.N.F. Force. (R) ARIGUANI,
C.O. Atlantic Coast. (Halifax), PRIMROSE.)U.S.
Shipping
Programme.Immediately following telegram contains summary of
report which C.P.R.B. are sending to Combined
Chiefs of Staff. (Information on possibility of
accelerating and expanding U.S. programme of
destroyer escorts and corvettes)
(Washington, 0318Z/29 to Air Min.)

HUNTER.

New Orleans departed 27 for Norfolk (Va) to
complete HUNTER.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0506Z/29 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)GEORGES
LEYGUES.This is Glassfurd dispatch 1810/28. The French
Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES sailed 1800/28 from Dakar
to operate for about two weeks in S.A. in anti-
raider patrol under initial direction of F.O.C.W.Af.
(Radio Washington, 0615/29 to Admty.)Dakar
Mission.Following is Glassfurd's 1410/28. Economic
Advisors this Mission namely Colonel Spofford and
Livingston Short departed Dakar for Algiers today.
Rouenthul will leave for U.S.A. tomorrow.
(Radio Washington, 0751Z/29 to Admty.)

COLUMBIA.

Arrival H.M. Canadian ship COLUMBIA.
(N.O.I.C. St John's N.B. 0919Z/29.)

DESIRADE.

Your 2258/28. DESIRADE agree embarkation additional
numbers provided within life-saving capacity.
(D.T.D. 1047A/29 to N.C.S.O. New York, (R) B.A.D.)

/Movements...

1080

29.1.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

| Movements summary at 1800 G.M.T. 29th Jan. | Ship | Position | Course | Speed. |
|--|-----------|-------------------|--------|----------|
| | REGENT | 29° N. 32° W. | 149° | 11 kts. |
| | ALCANTARA | 12½° N. 55° W. | 257° | 12½ kts. |
| | WOODRUFF | | | |
| | A.T.35 | 40½° N. 48° W. | 072° | 19 kts. |

(D.O.D. (F) 1101Z/29 to Opnav. (R) Comnav.)

PLYMOUTH BELLE. St. Vincent reports British Schooner PLYMOUTH BELLE which sailed for Barbados 27th found at sea dismasted with one dead man on board and towed to Petit Nevis, Grenadines. No trace remainder crew further details awaited.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1217R/29 to Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)

C.S.FLIGHT sunk 11th Jan. My 1152/16.* Trinidad reports schooner sunk in approx. 012° 25' N. 063° 00' W.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1218R/29 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)
* Schooner attacked and sunk off Curacao.

ROCKINGHAM. My P.C. and S. at 1200Z/29. 061° 36' N. 031° 50' W. 249° 15 knots to K. Weather report.
(ROCKINGHAM, 1220Z/29 to KALE (R) C.T.U. 24.1.15.
C.O. At. C., Admty., A.I.G.301 (except Connav.))

M.K.S. and G.U.S. Convoys. About 20 ships in each of the next four M.K.S. convoys are required to proceed direct to U.S. to load. There would be a considerable saving of ship time if these ships could be included in G.U.S. convoys and so avoid the necessity of having to return to U.K. in ballast and subsequently join an O.N. Convoy. 2. Request maximum number of ships which could be accepted in future G.U.S. convoys.
(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S., 1246A/29 to Cominch, (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar, B.A.D.)

EMPIRE SYDNEY. Your 1435/27. Concur.
(D.T.D., 1521A/29 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) B.A.D., B.R.L.O. New York, B.R.L.O. Christobal.)

Sub. estimates 29th and notices. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1545/29, 1546/29, 1615/29, 1616/29, 1617/29 to Admty.)

L.23. My 1540/1st Dec. Can E.T.A. now be communicated.
(B.A.R.M., 1552Z/29 to Admty., (R) F.O.S., N.S.H.Q. S.B.N.O. W.A.T. S.7, L.23.)

War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- A.T.36. A.T.36 EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Army intend to embark 3rd Feb. completing P.M. same day. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1610Z/29 to Admty., (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax, B.A.D., Cominch.)
- A.F.D. My 1721/24th. Departure of A.F.D. XXIV from New Orleans delayed since ERISKY cannot leave Halifax before 31st Jan. and ZWARTE ZEE is broken down at Norfolk (Virginia). Estimate therefore earliest dock can sail is 9th Feb. 2. Boiler tubes for MORRIS DANCE are being despatched and should arrive in time for repairs to be carried out and ship to meet dock in Trinidad area. Further signal will be made when tubes are actually shipped. 3. Opportunity is being taken to dock TAMARISK as well as MILFORD and AMARANTHUS and to make good as many defects as possible in all escorts whilst waiting at New Orleans. (B.A.D. 1621Z/29 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) ALCANTARA, N.O.I.C. Kingston, S.B.N.O. W. At., MILFORD, Admty., N.O.I.C. Trinidad (Port of Spain). N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax (N.S.))
- Survivors of ORFOR torpedoed. Ref. reports of torpedoing of ORFOR British Reports that all complements safe except Master Ernest, based on belief that 21 survivors at Guadaloupe additional to 21 at St. Lucia whereas both 21 same. Still missing 22 including Master. Although U.S. reports from Guadaloupe affirmed ship seen to sink this not confirmed by any survivor. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1624R/29, to Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.B.N.O. W. At., B.A.D., St. Lucia, S.B.N.O. Trinidad.
- LINCOLN, PROVIDER. At 1500Z/29 sailed LINCOLN escorting PROVIDER to New York E.T.A. 2000Z/1st Feb. LINCOLN parts company Ambrose L.V. and proceeds to Charleston S.C. through X. 39° 50' N. 73° 03' W. Y. 35° 06' 75° 03', Z. 33° 02' 77° 15' thence via Q.J.A. 658 speed 15 knots E.T.A. 1400Z/3rd Feb. Wireless watch on 4410 kc/s reading B.O. routines as listed in S. one/42 section A.C. when South of 035° N. and 355 kc/s in Charleston area. Your 1626/10th Jan. refers. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1746Z/29 to B.A.M.R. (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa Comtask 24 C.E.F. Commandant 6th U.S. Naval District Charleston C. in C. U.S. Fleet C.C. N.F., N.O.I.C. Halifax, 2101Z/29)
- T.M.1. U/B tactics. B.A.D.'s 1851Z/17. U-Boats do not appear to have employed any new tactics or weapons while operating against T.M.1. They achieved their success by concentrating a sufficient number of U-Boats to saturate the defence. (D.A./S.W. 1820A/29 to B.A.D. (R) F.O.i/c Gibraltar.)

/GURNARD...

War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.- Contd.

GURNARD. Submarine notice. GURNARD passes point N. 047° 58' N. 026° 02' W. 1900/30th Jan. Remainder of dates February all times Z. Unescorted on surface diving as necessary advancing 300 miles daily. Thence through points O. 045° 11' 034° 26' 0144/L P. 039° 36' 043° 52' 2048/2. Q. 038° 18' 050° 21' 2151/3. R. 037° 34' 057° 41' 0159/5. S. 038° 03' 066° 26' 1101/6. From last named point commences daily advance 175 miles running submerged speed 2 knots in daylight to T. 038° 54' 069° 59' 1059/7. U. 040° 32' 071° 04' 0529/8. Thence on surface via Narragansett swept channel passing point Judith 0939/8 and entering New London 3 hours later. Area limits 76 miles ahead and behind estimated positions also 15 miles either side of track. Submarine directed report if limits exceeded.
(Com. S/Ms. Atlantic Fleet, 1834Z/29 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) Admty., GURNARD, Consubron 50, Comnav, F.O.S.)

SHERBROOKE Your 2125/27. This will be done.
C.4. Group. (C. in C. W.A., 1834A/29 to F.O.N.F.)

MONTGOMERY. When ready about 31st sail MONTGOMERY direct to St. Johns N.F. Advise time of departure route S. of A.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2015/29 to Commandant 6th U.S. N.D. Charleston. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. Halifax Admty. C. i/c Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) Comtask 24. C.E.S.F.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. C. Army plane sights two subs. 06° 45' N. 55° 30' W. 1315Z/29. Para D. P.C. - 496 attacks sound contact 39° 52' N. 72° 54' W. 1855Z/3. U.S. BABBITT attacks sound contact 64° 09' N. 24° 10' W. 2100Z/28.
(Cominch 2038/29 to Admty.)

Vessels dispersed from O.N.161. Request you take necessary action for South Atlantic Vessels dispersed from O.N.161. Avoid G.U.S.3.
(Connav. 2100/29 to Admty.)

Shipping Casualties. Connav Serial 27, 28, 29 Convoy U.G.S.4. Stragglers torpedoed 27th Jan. CITY OF FLINT sunk 34° 47' N. 31° 30' W. JULIA WARD HOWE sunk 35° 12' N. 30° 29' W. CHARLES C. PINCKNEY not confirmed sunk 36° 37' N. 30° (?55)' W. JAMES WILSON aground 16° 16' S. 167° 55' E. 26th Jan. BENJAMIN SMITH reported torpedoed sunk 23rd Jan. approx. 04° N. 06° W. BRONNOY returned Norfolk after collision. VILLE DE TAMATAVE lost marine casualties 24. 24th Jan. approx. 47° N. 42° W. LEWIS CASS serial 26 broken in two. (Connav. 2109/29 to Comnav (R) S.O. (I) Kingston N.S.H.Q. Ottawa C.E.S.F. C.G.S.F. Cdr. Panama S.F. C.C.S.F. N.O.B. Bermuda.)

/Bermuda...

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War Diary.

29.1.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

Bermuda
Movements.

Bermuda arrivals U.S.S. OWL U.S.S. DYNAMIC.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 2149Q/29.)

Proposed
R.D.F.
Maintenance
organisation.

Your 113/28. (N.T. in W.D.). The possibility of using R.D.F. officer Trinidad in emergency is appreciated but does not affect my 1923/22. (S.B.N.O.W. At. 2213Z/29 to S.B.N.O. Curacao. (R) Admty., B.A.D. N.O.i/c. Trinidad.)

POLYANTHUS
refit.

Your 1226/27. POLYANTHUS can be taken in hand for refit by Messrs. Dowson's South Shields in mid February. (D.O.D. (H). 2332A/29 to F.O.N.F.)

ARCOLA,
TAIGETE.

Navy Department request information as to present status and future plans for Italian tankers ARCOLA and TAIGETE. (B.A.D. 2249Z/29 to Admty.)

A.C.Vs.

U.S. Army Air Corps. have requested assignment of 5 to 7 A.C.Vs. for ferrying fighters in flying away condition to various parts of the world including about 250 to North Africa. The A.C.Vs. to belong to U.S. Army Air Corps. 2. Navy Department state Army Corps have a big political pull and requires our assistance in turning down this request. We can give this assistance on grounds that A.C.Vs. are immediately required for convoy escort and are already badly behind schedule. 3. Meanwhile it occurs to us that we may be able to assist U.S. Army by employing trailer fencer stalker and tracker to ferry army fighters to Casablanca or U.K. in a way similar to that employed with H.M.S. VIENNA. 4. Would you have any objection to routing these A.C.Vs. by U.G.F. convoy to Casablanca and then homeward in M.K.F. convoy? By so doing we could assist U.S. Army Air Corps and A.C.Vs. would have a safer passage in fast troop convoys at the expense of a slightly longer voyage. It is observed that these 4 A.C.Vs. will have no operational aircraft of their own. (B.A.D. 2253Z/29 to Admty.) Reply: Admty 0301A/6/2.)

War Diary.29.1.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Movements.Arrival Port Moresby 27th. A.S. SWAN.
Departure Milne Bay 28th. WHYALLA for Cairns.
(A.C.N.B. 0346Z/29)Departure Wellington 2056Z/28 U.S.S. FOMALHAUT for Noumea route
direct E.T.A. daylight 2nd. Feb. Arrival Wellington 0142Z/29
U.S.S. ZANE. Departure Suva 28th. U.S.S. BUCHANAN escorting
GEORGE CLYMER to Espiritu Santo MONOWAI for Wellington E.T.A. 1st.
Feb.

(D.N.I. Wellington 0422Z/29 to Admty.)

Digest

serial

No. 372

Jan. 28th.

Approx. 30 bombers landed Buka Passage aerodrome
27th and still there afternoon 28th.

2. Liberator bombed village near Finschaffien
morning 28/1. At noon strafed small vessel and
launch in open bay and later bombed cleared area
Cape Gloucester where photos show runway unservic-
eable. 3. Afternoon Liberator bombed and strafed small cargo
vessel Wide Bay. 5. 2 Fortresses bombed Iowak settlement vicin-
ity runway mid morning demolishing 2 buildings. Saw 1 3,000 ton
merchant vessel off wharf and 1 probable gunboat apparently patrol-
ling harbour entrance. 8. Merauke raided noon 27th. by 1 float
plane. 2 bombs dropped causing no damage. 10. Morning
Liberator sighted and unsuccessfully bombed large transport inner
harbour Ambon also saw 2 large transports at Ambon wharf and
probable destroyer entering bay. Intercepted by 5 fighters of
which 1 shot down. 11. Same time 1 Beaufighter set floatplane
on fire Dobo. 12. At noon Liberator reported 3 small merchant
vessels approx. 1,000 tons each 5° 10' S. 132° 50' E. course N.
Enemy bomber also encountered in vicinity possibly covering convoy
(G.H.Q. S.W. P.A. 0902Z/29)

PETER H.
BURNETT
torpedoed
22nd Jan.N.C.S.O. Newcastle's 0701Z/20th. PETER H. BURNETT
Torpedoed in position (7032°) 54' S. 159° 32' E.
at 1101Z/22. Vessel being towed to Sydney.
(A.C.N.B. 2136Z/29 to Admty., Connav. Navy Office,
Wellington, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Cdr. Western Sea Front)
Arrival Wellington H.M.T. MAURETANIA.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 2230Z/29.)U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C. 1335A/29, 1346A/29.)

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War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

R.A.52.

V.A.2 in ANSON left Akureyri at 0645 today with the Battle Fleet to arrive in 73° 45' N. 12° 40' E. at 0830A/1st to provide cover for Convoy R.A. 52; and Force R (KENT, BERMUDA and GLASGOW) sailed from the Kola Inlet at 1430A.

3 enemy cruisers and 2 destroyers were reported by Russian air R/C in Altenfiord at 1030 today; and a visual R/C showed TIRPITZ still in Lofjord at 1320.

The S/Ms SOKOL, O.15, P.216, and P.53 are in North Norwegian waters East of 20° E., with TRIDENT and P.314 on patrol off Fro Havet and JUNON off Bredsund.

Aircraft
for North
Russia.

It is intended to send two Hampden A/C Squadrons and, subject to Russian concurrence, a R/C Force of Catalina and P.R. A/C to North Russia to act against enemy surface forces operating against J.W. and R.A. Convoys during the period April to September.

Operation
"Gondola".

During the period 3rd to 13th February Coastal Command intend to conduct an air attack on the largest scale possible upon some of the 45 U-Boats now operating in the North Atlantic and believed to be likely to be then returning to their Biscay bases from 22° W.

Four Wellingtons out of 8 detailed attacked Emden today and report that bombs are believed to have burst near the submarine sheds and on the western docks; 2 aircraft are missing.

"Torch" Area.

Supplies
for "Torch"
Area.

N.C.X.F. makes certain recommendations in connection with convoys for "Torch" Area. He points out that whilst 65% of shipments come from the U.K. and only 35% from U.S.A., the proportion of supplies originating in the two countries is roughly reversed. It would obviously be more economical in shipping, in time and handling if the proportion of direct shipment from U.S.A. approximated to the proportion of supplies originating there.

1086

War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

A Catalina on patrol reports having attacked and damaged a U-Boat with 4 depth charges in 12° 08' N. 20° 30' W. (220 miles S.W. of Bathurst) at 1354Z today. Wreckage was reported and on 31st January CORINTHIAN was ordered to search. The wreckage was not confirmed; search proved negative.

RICHELIEU,
MONTCALM.

The French battleship RICHELIEU and cruiser MONTCALM, escorted by 4 U.S. destroyers, sailed from Dakar this evening for reconditioning in U.S.A.

Mediterranean.Convoy
T.E.14.
SAMPHIRE
sunk.

BICESTER escorting Convoy T.E.14 reports that the corvette SAMPHIRE was sunk by a submarine at 0018 today in 37° 07' N. 5° 32' E., about 30 miles north-east of Bougie. ZETLAND searched for the submarine and picked up survivors. BICESTER asked N.C.X.F. for fighter protection as early as possible.

A submarine shelled a coast watch outpost close to Cape Andrea (Cyprus) today.

Air
operations.

There was an air attack on Algiers last night but no damage is reported and Beaufighters report 3 enemy aircraft shot down. Last night 15 Wellingtons attacked the docks at Bizerta. The attack was concentrated into a period of 14 minutes and successful results are reported. One E-Boat was gunned and brought to a stop. Halifaxes last night attacked the railway ferry terminus at Messina starting fires at or near the nearby fuel tanks. Beauforts from Malta laid mines last night between Sfax and Sousse. At 0100 today a Wellington attacked and hit with torpedo a 2/3000 ton merchant ship in 38° 55' N. 17° 04' E., steering 350°. Five intruder Mosquitoes patrolled aerodromes in East Sicily and the toe of Italy, to cover shipping strike and also the bombing of Catania and Messina by Middle East aircraft. Three Mosquitoes patrolled the area Cape Bon - Marittimo, to cover minelaying by 5 Beauforts off Ras Kabodia.

/Eleven ...

War Diary.

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.
(Contd.)

Eleven out of 15 U.S. Liberators attacked the train ferry terminus at Messina today, obtaining 3 hits on a vessel at the quay, near misses on another vessel leaving harbour, and their bombs fell among a number of ships outside the harbour, on quays and in the town. Five Liberators later made a further attack. (A.S.O.S. 802, but see 31st January.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Japanese
S/M
destroyed.

H.M.N.Z. Trawlers KIWI and MOA last night attacked and destroyed a Japanese 'I' class submarine with troops on board off Guadalcanal. The enemy vessel was sighted on the surface and was engaged with gunfire. KIWI rammed and drove the U-Boat ashore, where it became a burnt out wreck. One Japanese officer was captured. KIWI was damaged and both ships had casualties.

Six Fortresses attacked shipping at Rabaul before dawn today and hit with a 500 lb. bomb an unidentified vessel, causing explosions. Some bombs dropped along the waterfront started fire. At noon a Liberator bombed and probably hit a 2,500 ton merchant ship in the open bay.

War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

31st A.M. 1449/21st October, 1942. As the 31st
M.L. M.L. Flotilla are now required for final
Flotilla. equipping for foreign service, they will no
longer be available for service in the Plymouth
Command.
(D.D.O.D.C. 1143A/30 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Biscay With the return of GUNNEL and GURNARD to the U.S.A.
S/M there are now only four submarines available for
Patrol. the interception of raiders and blockade runners
in the Bay of Biscay. Thus only two submarines
can be kept continuously on patrol. In view of
the importance of this patrol in the next few months it is for
consideration whether REGENT and SEVERN should not be employed
to reinforce the U.S. submarines. REGENT is due shortly at
Gibraltar after long refit in U.S.A. and is at present earmarked
to convert for store carrying duties, but as stated in Admiralty's
1257 or 27th December this is not now a requirement. SEVERN on
completion of working up in Clyde about mid March is due to
join Eastern Fleet but must in any case call at Gibraltar en
route to embark sparegear. It is for consideration whether these
two submarines should not be based at Gibraltar for this short
period operating under control of F.O.(S) or C. in C. Plymouth
when on patrol.
(F.O.S., 1734/40 to Admty.)

MIAOULES. My 1209A/30. After investigation on board
consider that, owing to present relations between
British and Greek ratings and unsatisfactory
leadership of Liaison Officer, ship should remain Londonderry
until Liaison Officer and all British personnel are relieved.
If approved intend to discharge British personnel forthwith and
arrange with Captain for improved living conditions.
(Cdre., Londonderry, 1853/30 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

Seidisfiord My 1216/3. Number one indicator loop
and Seidisfiord has been repaired by OPHIR. Loop
Reykjavik still has an intermittent fault which could not
Loops. be located and shows only in rough weather for
very short periods. OPHIR has returned to
Reykjavik and commenced repairs to number one and
three loops.
(A.C.I.C., 2158A/30 to Admty.)

Movements.

MONTROSE. Intend to sail from Akureyri at 1100/30 route
east of Faroe Isles. S.O.A. 18 knots. E.T.A
0830/1.
(MONTROSE, 0931A/30 to A.C.O.S.)
MONTROSE'S 0931/30. Sailed.
(A.C.I.C., 1452A/30 to A.C.O.S.)

War Diary.

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

- P.56. Scapa departure 0800 P.56 escorted by BRYONY.
(A.C.O.S. 0940/30).
- DZIK. Sailed DZIK escorted by ANCHUSA in accordance
with S.3's 1553A/28.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0948A/30.)
- CUMBERLAND Proceed to Clyde so as to arrive a.m. 3rd February.
2. Route via (?Minch)es.
(C. in C.H.F. 1104A/30 to CUMBERLAND.)
- Coastal WESTERN ISLES' 1004/29. Commodore WESTERN ISLES
Craft is requested to sail M.Ls. 555, 557, 561, 564 and
for 566 on conclusion of training to Milford Haven for
Gibraltar. completion of equipping for foreign service.
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to retain
boats preparatory to their proceeding to
Gibraltar.
(D.D.O.D.C., 1137A/30 to WESTERN ISLES.)
C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail M.L. 560 to Brazon
Island Fowey for completion of equipping for foreign service.
On completion F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail boat to
Milford Haven to await sailing instructions to proceed to
Gibraltar.
(D.D.O.D.C., 1139A/30.)
Request you will arrange for boats of the 22nd. M.L.Flottilla,
19th M.G.B Flottilla and 32nd M.T.B. Flottilla to assemble at
Milford Haven as soon as they are ready in all respects to start
passage to Gibraltar.
(D.D.O.D.C., 1142A/30 to R.A.C.F.)
Request following boats may be sailed to Milford Haven when
ready in all respects for passage to Gibraltar. M.T.Bs. 633
634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 656. M.G.Bs. 641, 648
inclusive. M.Ls. 232, 258, 218, 240, 449, 460, 468, 494.
A.M. 1142A/30 refers.
(R.A.C.F., 1709A/30 to F.O.'s I.C.)
- GRAPH Your 1048/23. Proposed dates are 8th and 9th with
Trials. 10th as spare day if required. Vessel will proceed
to Loch Goil p.m. 7th to permit an early start to
be made on 8th.
(Capt. S.3. 1231A/30 to C. A/S E.E.)
- ILLUSTRIOUS. First destination of ILLUSTRIOUS is Clyde.
2. ILLUSTRIOUS will then come under the orders of
C. in C. H.F. 3. This ship will be taken in hand
at Birkenhead about 20th February. 4. C. in C. H.F. is requested
to sail her to arrive at Liverpool as required by F.O.I/C.
Liverpool.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1303A/30.)

/FURIOUS...

War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- FURIOUS. First destination of FURIOUS is Clyde. 2. FURIOUS will then come under the orders of C. in C.H.F., who is requested to issue further orders.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1416A/30.)
- RENOWN. First destination of RENOWN is Clyde. 2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail RENOWN to Rosyth as convenient where she will be berthed pending her being taken in hand about 20th February.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1422A/30 to RENOWN.)
- U.S. Destroyer Division 14. U.S. Destroyer Division 14 will leave New York 30th January, E.T.A. Londonderry 7th February. 2. Names of vessels as follows: MADISON (leader) LANSDALE, HILARY P. JONES, CHARLES F. HUGHES. 3. Division will be based on Londonderry and will be operated by C. in C.W.A. 4. Ships will form part of escort of U.C.I.
(D.O.D.H. 1455A/30 to C. in C.W.A.)
Following from Des Div. 14 T.O.O. 1545/29. Des. Div. 14 will depart New York 0800Q/30th January for Londonderry to arrive 7th February. 2. Will pass Point Z Swept Channel at 1200 Q. 3. S.O.A. 16 knots. 4. Route through A. 41° N. 50° W. B. 47° N. 20° W. C. 53° N. 16° W. D. 55° N. 10° W.
(D.O.D.H. 1821A/30 to C. in C.W.A.)
- DAFFODIL, PRINCESS IRIS, SKATE. C in C. Portsmouth's 1016/29. Intend sailing at 0900/31.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1514A/30.)
- MIAOULES. Commodore Londonderry's 1851/29. Request MIAOULES be sailed independently for Freetown when ready, calling either at Casablanca or Ponta Del Gada for Fuel.
(A.C.N.S. F. 1548A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)
- S/M Positions and Movements. Positions of Submarines at 0800A/31 and movements for following 24 hours. A. SOKOL, O.15, SEADOG (P.216), and ULTOR (P.53) in North Norwegian waters East of 20° E. B. TRIDENT and TACTICIAN (P.314) off Fro Havet. C. JUNON off Bredsund. D. DZIK escorted by ANCHUSA Northern end of Little Minch proceeding West of Orkneys, speed 10 knots, E.T.A. Lerwick 1200/1st. E. USURPER (P.56) escorted by BRYONY Southern end of Little Minch, speed 7 knots, E.T.A. Holy Loch 1000/1st. F.O.19 50° 10' N. 12° 21' W. dived by day through 50° 10' N. 09° 00' W. to R/V dawn 2nd in 360° Round Island Scillies 7 miles. G. HERRING in zone K.505. H. SHAD off Bilbao.
(F.O.S., 1659A/30.)

/The...

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30.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M Positions and Movements. Contd. The following movements are to take place
1. TRIDENT and TACTICIAN (P.314) to Holy Loch on completion of present patrol, thence to Mediterranean after rest and leave. 2. SICKLE (P.224) to remain Lerwick until about 11th February, thence to Chatham Kent via east coast to fit R.D.F. 3. JUNON and DZIK to arrive Lerwick from patrol 11th February, thence to Dundee. 4. ULLSWATER (P.31) to arrive Scapa 8th February to relieve SIMOON, (P.225) thence SIMOON to Lerwick to stand off. 5. TUNA, SEANYMPH (P.223) SIMOON (P.225), TRUCULENT (P.315), SPORTSMAN (P.229) to leave Lerwick 15th February for patrol. 6. Anticipate ULTOR (P.53), SOKOL, O.15 arriving Lerwick about 8th February from patrol, thence SEADOG and ULTOR to Holy Loch and Mediterranean and O.15 and SOKOL to Dundee. 7. It is expected that submarines in para 5. will return Lerwick about 9th March.
(F.O.S. 1719A/30, and 1306A/31.)
My 1659/30. Add para (J) SICKLE (P.224) arrives Lerwick 0900A/31 from N.E.
(F.O.S. 1937A/30, to Admty.)

P.224. Request Muckle Flugga Beacon at 2115 and 2215.
E.T.A. 0900A/31.
(P.224, 1749A/30 to A.C.O.S.)

A.F.D.20. A.M. 2029/21 and my 1152/29. Intend sailing A.F.D. X.X. towed by EMPIRE HENCHMAN, EMPIRE LARCH, and ABEILLE IV pass gate at about 1100/2nd Feb. for Kames Bay Rothesay. (2) Routed by standard route. Q.Z.S. 300 will be used unless Q.Z.S. 301 is ordered by N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. Expected S.O.A. 6 knots in fine weather. (3) Escort will be provided by SLAZAK and Trawlers ELLESMERE, NOTRE-DAME DE FRANCE to vicinity Milford Haven. Available M/Ls. will act additional escort as far as Longships. 2 Oropesa Trawlers will sweep ahead of dock to vicinity of the Lizard. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange for relief escort to take over in vicinity of Milford Haven. Trawlers will proceed to Milford Haven and Polish Des. SLAZAK will remain as additional escort to vicinity of Holyhead and proceed thence to Liverpool to refit.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1827A/30.)

Operations

Operation V.P. - Q. My 1515/29 cancelled owing to weather.
(A.C.O.S. 1207A/30 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

Operation "Valuable". (1) GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, BLEASDALE, GOATHLAND, WENSLEYDALE to form Force A. and patrol southwards of Beachy Head passing E.A.5, outward 1900, inward 0600. Night patrol 30th/31st reference my 1000/20th Force B. at Newhaven M.G.Bs. 616 S.O, 613, 83, M.T.Bs. 89, 85, 242. (2) UNST, LORD WAKEFIELD, Chaser 15 at Saint Helens. ASIE at Yarmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1237A/30.)

/E-Boat...

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War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.E-Boat
operations
on night
24/25.Your 1718/25, para. 6, second sentence.
Investigation indicates that aircraft traffic was
exercise and was not connected with E-Boat
activity.
(D.N.I., 1616A/30 to C. in C. Nore.)Allied Air Activity.Bomber
Command
operations.On night 29th/30th. 69 A/C attacked Lorient.
(H.Q.B.C. 1415A/30.)Four
M/Vs
attacked.4 enemy merchant vessels position 58° 20' N. 05°
50' (?E) course 140°, 8 knots. Have attacked
enemy merchant vessels with torpedoes and estimate
no hits.
(A/C 455 Sqdn. Duty L. 1425/30.)M.A.C.
Ships.
Instruction
of
Masters.A.M. 2227/28. Cancel paras. 2 and 3 and substitute
Masters of M.A.Cs. will have received preliminary
instruction and made a visit to the Tactical
School before visiting the N.A.S. The object of
the visit to the N.A.S. is to obtain a practical
insight into the operation and capabilities of the
aircraft; their equipment and weapons; the
organisation and administration of the air units; contact with
the units allocated to their ships if possible, and air experience
if desired. The first master is expected to be available about
15th February. The organisation for the provision and
administration of the air units is under discussion and will be
referred to you shortly.
(D.N.A.D., 1537A/30 to R.A.N.A.S.)A/C
for
North
Russia.It is intended to send two Hampdens Squadrons to
North Russia to act as a torpedo striking-force
against enemy surface-forces operating against
J.W. and R.A. convoys during the period April to
September. The Russians have concurred in
principle. 2. It is also proposed, subject to
Russian concurrence, to operate from North Russia a
reconnaissance force consisting of Catalina and P.R. aircraft.
3. An advance-party of 12 officers, 12 N.C.O's, and 110 airmen,
with personal baggage only, will require passage in the escorts
of J.W.53. Request you will inform Admiralty when and where this
party should report for embarkation. 4. The main party of
approx. 20 officers, 33 N.C.Os., and 382 airmen, with personal
baggage only, will be required to take passage in the escorts of
J.W.54.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1722A/30 to C. in C.H.F.)Operation
"Gondola".Information 1. There are some 45 U-Boats now
operating in the North Atlantic between latitude

/55°...

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War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Operation "Gondola". Continued. 55° and 60° N. and longitude 27° and 33° W. A large part of this force has been out from their bases since early January 1943. It is anticipated that they will be returning to their bases approximately during the ten days commencing 3 February 1943. Intention 2. To lay on the largest scale air attack possible to destroy these U-Boats whilst on passage between 22° W. and their bases. Method of execution, 3. The operation will continue over the period of peak U-Boat traffic lasting about 10 days. The broad plan during this time is to sweep two areas as densely as possible. Modification of this plan may follow upon further developments of the situation. The two areas are as follows. (1) The outer area is defined by 45° 30' N. 15° 00' W. 50° 00' N. 15° 00' W., 50° 00' N. 22° 00' W., 45° 30' N. 22° 00' W. Liberators should sweep by day and Leigh-Light Catalinas by night. (2) The inner area consists of two overlapping areas, one appropriate for flooding tactics by night, the other for similar tactics on the following day. These two areas are as follows: (A) Night 48° 30' N. 10° 00' W. 48° 30' N. 08° 00' W., 45° 00' N. 08° 00' W., 45° 00' N. 10° 00' W. (B) Day 48° 30' N. 09° 00' W., 48° 30' N. 07° 00' W. 45° 00' N. 07° 00' W., 00' N. 09° 00' W. Sunderlands, Halifaxes, Wellingtons, and Whitleys should sweep by day and Sunderlands, Wellingtons, and Leigh-Light Wellingtons by night. (4) The gap between the outer and inner represents approx. 3 days diving by U-boats and is also a transit area for our own forces. Sweeping in the inner night area should therefore begin 3 days following the institution of operations in the outer area. Special instructions. (5) In order to achieve the air effort required, the A.O.C. 19 Group is, from the time of receipt of these instructions, to limit all flying to the very minimum daily. Message ends. (H.Q.C.C. 1841/30 to 19 Group.)

Mining.

Operations Q.V.2 and Q.V.3. Amendments to Nore 0528A/14 of 12th December 1942. 1. para. 4 cancel Q.V.3. and substitute Q.V.3 053° 21' 30" N. 001° 42' 00" E. 2. Cancel para. 6 and 6A. 3. Para. 7. Q.V.3. cancel 2nd sentence and substitute return to East Dudgeon buoy passing through 053° 21' 30" N. 001° 18' 00"E. 4. Para. 7, add note Q.V.3 will be carried out before Q.V.2. (C. in C. Nore, 1048A/30 to PLOVER, BLYTH, EASTBOURNE.)

Search off Iona. Sailed GUNNER to Ardrossan, S.O.A. 9 knots. E.T.A. Ardrossan 1000/31. Request SIR GALAHAD be sailed to take her place. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1126A/30 to Cdr. M/S. Ardrossan.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Large Tanker. My position 1200Z/30, 059° 20' N. 012° 04' W. uncertain. In company S.S. HEL. One other ship apparently large tanker seen to South West but

/unable...

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War Diary.

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Large Tanker. Contd. unable to intercept. No other ship to be seen.
(NORTHERN SKY, 1305Z/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

Altenfiord. See Shipping.

TIRPITZ. Two reports dated 28th January both graded B.O. have now been received that TIRPITZ was in Trondheim Fiord and expected to leave soon, according to one report probably 31st January, direction unknown. (D.D.I.C., 1755A/30 to C. in C. H.F. V.A.2. C.S.10, S.O. Force "R").

Visual R/C Lofjord, 1320/30, shows TIRPITZ in usual position. (D.D.I.C., 2355A/30 to A.I.G. 47, S/Ms on Patrol.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Intercept at 0122 G.M.T. from V.P.O. begins:-
X X X/C H Sub. sighted (unread) Ends.
(Wick Radio, 0224/30 to Lyness.)
It is estimated that you may encounter homeward bound U/B today.
(D.D.I.C. 0942A/30 to O.19, EMPIRE ROACH, EMPIRE TITAN, EMPIRE CHUB.)

Am investigating suspicious object - possible conning tower in 46° 30' N. 11° 50' W. at 1335.
(A/C N.O.I. U.S.A.S. Duty A. 1342/30 to 19 Group.)
There may be a group of U-boats within 200 miles of 052° 30' 022° 31', also 3 bound for Bay of Biscay within 150 miles of 049° 32', 029° 28', and 3 westbound within 100 miles of 046° 59' 020° 33'.
(F.O.S. 1504A/30 to GURNARD.)

Navigational.

Workington. Port of Workington will be open to ships not exceeding 14 feet draught as from February 2nd. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1529A/30.)

Casualties and Defects.

NAPANEE. Your 1225/29. Repairs to NAPANEE defective domes have been completed.
(A.C.I.C. 0140A/30 to C.T.U. 24.1.3.)

Distress signals. A/C reported pyrotechnic distress signals in 054° 55' N. 009° 40' W. at 0621A/30. Detach two ships to sweep through this area.
(C. in C. W.A. 1011A/30 to PELICAN.)

/My...

War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.Distress
Signals.
Contd.

My 1011/30. 2 Ansons will co-operate from 1200A.
(C. in C. W.A. 1138A/30 to PELICAN.)
If nothing has been found proceed Londonderry.
(C. in C.W.A. 1837A/30 to WORTHING, LYME REGIS,
(R) PELICAN.)

PUFFIN.

Admty's 1756/26 and C. in C. Nore's 1006/27.
S.O. Corvettes Harwich - intend sailing PUFFIN
at 1600 tomorrow by swept channels to join F.N.32
Convoy 1745 Vicinity 3 C. Buoy proceeding as
additional escort to Tyne. Two M.Ls. from Lowestoft will
accompany, acting as additional escort to convoy to Humber as
usual.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1050A/30 and 1517A/30.)

O.N.S.C.163.

C.B. 22507 square 61 returned to Clyde through
heavy weather damage.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1343/30.)

JED.

JED being drydocked in Hvalfiord for rudder
defects.
(A.C.I.C. 1549A/30.)

CULEBRA.

A.C.I.C. 1927/28. Request Rescue Tug HORSIA
to proceed to Reykjavik to tow S.S. CULEBRA to
port in U.K. to be nominated in later message.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs, 1652A/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

EMPIRE
PIBROCH.

2200G.M.T/30, R 22 S, fire in number 4 hatch.
Fans stopped and hatch sealed up.
(Burnham 2000G.M.T./30 to Admty.)

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War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- P.S. 30, P.S.30 and S.P.30 cancelled.
S.P. 30. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0855A/30.)
- R.A. 52. V.A.2 1752/29.
On arrival longitude Bear Island intend to pass
50 miles south of convoy track and thereafter
remain to southward or ahead of convoy and comply
with C. in C. H.F.'s 0916/14. Four.*
(2) E.T.A. Seidisfjord boom noon 4th February.
(S.O. Force R, 1012A/30 to H.F. Ops.)
* As decyphered.
Russian air R/C Altenfiord at 1030/30 reported 3 cruisers
and 2 destroyers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1113A/30 to H.F.)
Kola Inlet departure Force R at 1430A/30.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 71400A/30 to H.F.)
V.A.2's 1752/29. Sailed 0645/30.
(A.C.I.C., 1459A/30 to C. in C. H.F.)
- S.C.117. S.C.117 P.C.S. 1100Z, 056° 32', 022° 00', 090°,
HARMONIC, 7½. 20 ships present. 12 ships known arrived
LACKENBY, St. Johns Newfoundland.
MOUNT MYCALE, Nothing heard of following ships since gale of
M.M.S. 141. January 20th:- HARMONIC, LACKENBY, MOUNT MYCALE
 and M.M.S.141.
 (C.T.U. 24.1.17, 1110Z/30 to C. in C. W.A.)
- W.P.M.287. Cancelled owing to weather.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1121A/30.)
- P.W.D.286. My 1601/29. Postponed owing to weather.
 (N.C.S.O. Plymouth, 1137/30.)
- S.C.117, Regret DAUPHIN did not comply with your 0905Z/29
DAUPHIN. as directed by me. Received first upon sighting
 him this morning. Sound dome carried away given
 as reason for non compliance. Unable to contact
with sound for him as yet. Convoy and escort widely scattered
over 100 miles.
 (C.T.U. 24.1.3, 1140Z/30 to C. in C. W.A.)
 Your 1140/30. Replacement for DAUPHIN not now required.
 (C. in C. W.A., 1733Z/30 to C.T.U. 24.1.3.)
- O.N.164. My 1101A/28. Delete JONQUIL.
 (Cdre. Londonderry, 1158A/30.)
- H.X.224. My 1858A/28. Amend "Chop" to 2200Z/30.
 (D.T.D., 1302A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)
 Sailed LONDONDERRY and CLARE to meet H.X.224.
 (Cdre. Londonderry, 2026A/30.)

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30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- R.U. 59. My 2031/26. Cancel reference GULFPOINT.
H.X.223. (D. of Stores, 1420A/30 to A.C.O.S.)
GULFPOINT. Inform GULFPOINT that she is to proceed to Loch Ewe for Invergordon where her cargo can be treated.
(C. in C. W.A., 2121Z/30 to QUADRILLE.)
- Your 2124Z/30. GULFPOINT not present and has not been informed by (?) U.S.
(C.T.U. 24.1.3, 2350Z/30 to C. in C. W.A.)
- U.C.1. U.S. Destroyer Division 14 will leave New York 30th January. E.T.A. Londonderry 7th February. Ships will form part of escort of U.C.1.
(D.O.D.H., 1455A/30.)
- M.K.S.6. My 0957/30 and PELICAN's 1135/30. Detail one minesweeper to escort MAROGOT and BARON KINNAIRD to Aultbea.
(C. in C. W.A., 1516A/30 to PELICAN.)
- Destination of BRAMHAM is Londonderry for onward routeing to North Shields.
(C. in C. W.A., 1552A/30 to SPEY.)
- H.X.223. Following ships ex H.X.223 have arrived Reykjavik: FORT SAINT FRANCIS, FORT LA MAUNE.
(A.C.I.C., 1610A/30 to C.T.U. 24.1.3.)
- Your 1600Z/30. (i) Cancel my 1246/29.
(ii) Loch Ewe ships are to be retained until position Q and escorted by one corvette to 057° N. thence independent.
(iii) FORT LONGUEUIL reported in 060° 18' N. 016° 32' W. at 1300Z/30 is short of bunker and has been ordered to proceed northabout to Loch Ewe by Admiralty.
(C. in C. W.A., 1907Z/30 to Escorts H.X.223.)
- Proposed Your 1653A/29 is concurred in in general.
Convoy 2. Your para. 3(A). A.M. 2000/30 to N.C.X.F.
Sailings. refers.
3. Para. 3(B). The 16th M.S.F. is being placed at your disposal.
(V.C.N.S., 2131A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

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War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.Convoy
Schedules.

It is considered that whole question of convoys programme across the Atlantic should be fully studied in conjunction with U.S. Authorities and C.S.A.B. as problems raised by U.S. War Departments

to General Eisenhower are quite outside the scope of this headquarters.

2. The outstanding fact of present situation is that whilst 65% of shipment comes from U.K. and only 35% from U.S.A., the proportion of supplies originating in the two countries is roughly reversed. All oil and petrol comes from America. All supplies for U.S. troops, civil population and French rearmament come from U.S.A. whilst a proportion of supplies for British Forces in theatre also originates in U.S.A.

3. It would obviously be more economical in shipping, in time and handling if the proportion of direct shipment from U.S.A. approx. to the proportion of supplies originating there.

4. It is essential however that supplies from U.S.A. for British Forces should be in complete shiploads otherwise delay and confusion in discharge will result.

5. One solution would be to run convoys in following schedules.

(a) U.G.S. convoys from New York to N. Africa every 11 days, each convoy with Casablanca Oran and Algiers sections totalling about 40 ships.

(b) Combined K.M.S. and S.L. convoys from U.K. to N. and W. Africa every 22 days, each convoy with a Gib., W. African and Algerian section. Latter section about 20 ships.

(c) T.M. fast convoys from Trinidad to Casablanca and Med. ports 24 days, each convoy containing about 10 tankers.

(d) U.G.F. convoys from New York to N. Africa every 44 days. Each convoy with an Oran and Casablanca section and possibly an Algerian section. Convoy also to include fast tankers.

(e) Combined K.M.F. and W.S. convoys from U.K. to Algeria every 30 days dependent on troops to be transported.

(f) O.G. convoys from U.K. to Gib. and Spanish ports every 30 days for very slow ships.

6. Timing of above schedules must naturally depend on escort situation and port capacities but one possible solution would be

(a) U.G.S. and K.M.S. convoys to join Med. section in Straits of Gib. (b) G.U.S. and K.M.S. convoys to sail about 16 days after arrival Algiers thus allowing time to load exports.

(c) T.M. convoys to turn round in Med. in three days.

(d) U.G.F. convoys to arrive three to four days before next U.G.S. convoy.

7. It would not be possible to start new programme till early April owing to K.M. build up.

8. General Eisenhower has sent message No. 6630 of 21st. Jan. and No. 8021 of 30th. Jan. on similar lines to Agwar and Troopers. (N.C.X.F. 0926A/30 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., D.N.C.X.F.)

8021 cipher 30th Jan. Signed Eisenhower.

para 1. In furtherance of our 6630 the following is offered as a schedule indicating what I had in mind.

1. U.G.S. convoys from New York to N. Africa every 11 days, each convoy with Casablanca Oran and Algiers sections totalling about 40 ships.

2. Combined K.M.S. and S.L. convoys from U.K. to N. and W. Africa every 22 days, each convoy with a Gib., W. Africa and Algerian section. Latter section about 20 ships.

3. T.M. Fast convoys from Trinidad to Casablanca and Med. ports 24 days.

4. U.G.F. convoys from New York to N. Africa every 44 days.

/Each...

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30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area - Contd.

Convoy Schedules. Each convoy with an Oran and Casablanca section and possible an Algerian Section. Convoy also to include fast tankers.

5. Combined K.M.F. and W.S. convoys from U.K. to Algeria every 30 days dependent on troops to be transported.

6. Combined O.G. and K.X. convoys from U.K. to Gib. Spanish and N. African ports every 30 days for very slow ships.

Para 2. Timing of above schedules must be conditioned by escort situation and port capacities but one possible solution would be:

1. U.G.S. and K.M.S. to join Med. section in Straits of Gib.
2. G.U.S. and M.K.S. convoys to sail about 16 days after arrival Algiers thus allowing time to load exports.
3. T.M. convoys to turn round in Med in 3 days.
4. U.G.F. convoys to arrive 3 or 4 days before next U.G.S. convoy.

Para 3. It is essential that supplies from U.S.A. for British forces should be in complete shiploads otherwise delay and confusion in discharge will result.

Para.4. As stated in my 6630 matter must be considered in its world wide implications with special reference to Naval escort position.

Para.5. Not possible to start new schedules till early April owing to K.M. build up.

Para.6. The scheme proposed has been charted and is workable on the basis that the total bottoms arriving monthly remains as at present.

Para.7. N.C.X.F. concurs in this telegram and has advised Admty. on similar lines.
(Freedom, Algiers No T.O.O./30 to Agwar. Recd. 1700/30)

K.M.S.8 My 1906/27th para. C not to Escorts of convoy K.M.S. 8. Request you will arrange to detach 4 ships of 27th Escort Group to fuel at Gib. and 3 at Algiers, sailing ships to overtake on completion.
(N.C.X.F. 1123A/30 to F.O.I.C. Gib., Cdre. Algiers, (R) Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.8, Air H.Q. Gib., H.Q. E.A.C.)

K.M.S.8. Request you will sail MEDIE II, JAMAIQUE, to Algiers, RHEA to Oran all in K.M.S.8. French BOUDEUSE to be included in escort.
(N.C.X.F. 1510A/30 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. I/C Algiers, Admty., Connnav.)

French Naval Re-Armament. My 2336/27 and Admty. 1319/23 para B. Assuming policy proposed in my 2336/27 para 3 is approved estimate approx. 230 Oerlikon units will be required from British sources to meet requirements of French convoy escorts and small merchant ships to be rearmmed in Africa.

2. Total is made up as follows:- (Details). 3. First instalment of 70 being sent to Gib. in accordance with A.T.1640/20 will be allocated half to warships half to D.E.M.S. priority being given to vessels in the Mediterranean.

4. Request balance of total requirements with ammunition on scale of 3000 rounds per gun may be sent to Gib. as they become available for allocation and onward shipment as required.
(N.C.X.F.1855A/30 to Admty. etc.)

/Convoy ...

War Diary.

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area Contd.

Convoy
Cycles.

It will be necessary to close the Atlantic convoy cycle in order to bring in the increasing number of ships coming to the U.K. This will commence early in Feb. when the cycle will first be reduced to nine days and later to eight days. This will make the escort situation even more strained than it is now.

2. In order to make the new arrangement practicable escorts of K.M.S. convoys must in future turn round at Gib. and the lay-over must be limited to a maximum of two days.

3. Request you will arrange.

(D.O.D. (H) Approved V.C.N.S. 2000A/30 to (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A.)

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War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Movements.

Sailed 2355/29th WAYLAND, LEOPOLDVILLE escorted by RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH. QUIBERON, QUALITY sailed 0515/30th Q.L.A.152.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0520A/30 to Escorts K.M.F.8, W.S.26, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca Area, F.O.C.W.Af.)

K.M.F.8,
W.S. 26.

My 1124A/29 para. 3 for (N) read (H).
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1024A/30 to EGRET, Escorts of Convoys K.M.F.8 and W.S.26, (R) N.C.X.F., Admty., F.O.C.W.A.F., S.N.O. Casablanca Area.)
(Amendment made.)

Situation
2005A/30th.

SCARBOROUGH, ERNE patrolling vicinity 24.
2. REGENT 29.(?01), 27.38, 90 on the surface
11 knots.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1116A/30 to Area 'Y'.)
(? ABDIEL) searching 34.47, 31.30.

2. 2 Merchant ships, LA GRANDIERE 28.22, 12.13 southbound coastwise, 8.

3. 3 Merchant ships ROCHESTER 24.32, 18.47, 52, 7½.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1123A/30 to Area 'Z'.)

Fleet Unit, PUCKERIDGE, ILEX, CALPE, HOLCOMBE, 33.20, 09.23 through 34.08, 08.50 and 35.48, 06.58 at 0800/31 thence N.W. returning by reverse route to arrive 35.30 07.01 at 1200/31. Through 34.40 08.01 at 1600/31 thence 317° (as amended 1410A/30, 1826A/30.)

(2) PENN, PANTHER, PATHFINDER 32.48 09.25 to Casablanca leaving a.m. 31st to R/V para. (1) in 34.40 08.01 at 1600/31st whence PUCKERIDGE, ILEX, CALPE, HOLCOMBE proceed to Gibraltar.

(3) 2 Fleet Units, WISHART, ANTELOPE, BOREAS, WIVERN, VERITY, BRILLIANT sailing 0530/31st to R/V para. (1) in 35.30 07.01 at 1200/31st.

(4) U.G.S.4, T.F.38, 36.48 15.01, 118°, 7.3.

(5) LORD HOTHAM, IMPERIALIST, LADY DENISON PENDER working cable vicinity 32.26 16.05.

(6) ST. NECTAN leaves vicinity 32.26 16.05 p.m. 30th to Gibraltar. My 1130A/30th, para. 7 amend to read LOCH OSKAIG, 3 merchant ships, 3 trawlers off Cape Espichel coastwise to St. Mary's thence direct Gibraltar, 9. (As amended 2350A/30.)

(8) K.M.F.8, EGRET, 36.05 07.31 eastbound, 11.

(9) W.S.26, QUIBERON, 35.30 08.37 through 35.59, 09.02 and 33.03 10.57 thence 202°, 12¼.

(10) ADRIAS, QUADRANT, RELENTLESS, 34.54 08.32 to Casablanca, 25, rejoining W.S.26, 31st.

(12) K.M.S.8, LANDGUARD, 44.34 15.32 154°, 5¼.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1130A/30 to Area 'X'.)

MONTE
NARANCO.

Your 1930/21/1 to F.O.C.W.A (1939/28 intended.
Intercepting MONTE NARANCO.)

C.C.S.O. urgently requests armed guard should not be invited to look for Contraband in question

/thus ...

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30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

MONTE NARANCO. (Contd.) thus revealing object of diversion. Guard should be instructed to confine themselves to ensuring no cases or documents are disposed of. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1201A/30 to Admty.) Admty. 1939/28 being passed to S.N.O.C.A. Request you will co-ordinate air search arrangements with S.N.O.C.A. Admiralty is requested to repeat further signals on this subject to S.N.O.C.A. (N.C.X.F., 1211/30 to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) S.N.O.C.A., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

ALVAIZERE intercepted. Portuguese trawler ALVAIZERE intercepted by H.M. Trawlers North of Lisbon a.m. 29th Jan. and being sent to Gibraltar under armed guard. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1202A/30 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.)

E.T.10. E.T.10 arrived 0420/30 plus NOVELIST and RECORDER less INVENTOR and VANJA (19 ships in all). (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1204A/30 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, Admty., Connav.)

Movements. Left 30th 1345 G.M.T. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE and cable ship MIRROR. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1205/30 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

G.U.F.4. Following is a repetition of my 1335Z/30 in U.S. system, action to C.T.F.34, N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, information to C.T.U. 26.7.1, Admty., Cominch, Cinclant, F.O.I.C. Oran, C.T.U. 26.7.2, C.T.U. 26.7.3, C.T.F.38, C.E.S.F., ERNE, from S.N.O.C.A. (Begins). Intend sail G.U.F.4 escorted by C.T.F.34 plus TJO DD(?) from Task Force 38 plus French TERRIBLE and FANTASQUE 0800A/1 to R/V with Mediterranean section in accordance my 1805/27, route according to Admty. 1843/26. R/V with ESSO GETTYSBURG and ERNE and SCARBOROUGH accordance my 291125. Casablanca section consists of (list). Mediterranean section consists of (list). S. of A. 13.5. First "Chop" 10° W. 2400Z/1, second "Chop" 20° W. 1600Z/3, third "Chop" 40° W. 1500Z/6 escorts shift from Gib. Fox to NSS Fox 1600Z/3. (Ends). (S.N.O.C.A., 1341Z/30 to V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., etc.)

NIMBLE, ARIGUANI. Your 1615/29 (proposal that NIMBLE tows ARIGUANI to U.K.) approved. (N.C.X.F., 1400A/30 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

/PATHFINDER ...

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30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

PATHFINDER, Expect to enter Casablanca harbour at 0830A/31st
PENN, with PENN and PANTHER in company. Each ship
PANTHER. requires about 400 tons of fuel. Propose
sailing 1230A/31st.
(PATHFINDER, 1442A/30 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R)
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

BARFOIL, BARFOIL requests serious boiler defect be made
LULWORTH, good in Lisbon. I estimate time required with
K.M.S.8. assistance 36 hours. Intend sending LULWORTH
with her to remain as onward escort to Gibraltar
as BARFOIL unsafe for proceeding alone. LULWORTH
can reach Gibraltar without refuelling if
necessary.
K.M.S.8 P.C. and S. 1415A/30 044° 27' N. 015° 40' W. 153°, 6¼.
(? Commodore) intends to detach Lisbon section 1900A/1st E.T.A.
Tagus 1300A/2nd. Weather report.
(LANDGUARD, 1501A/30 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F., C. in
C. W.A.)
Your 1501A/30th approved. Lisbon is being informed.
LULWORTH is to rejoin convoy as soon as BARFOIL arrives in
Lisbon. BARFOIL is to proceed to Gibraltar on completion of
repairs.
(2) LANDGUARD pass to BARFOIL.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2215A/30 to LANDGUARD, (R) N.C.X.F.,
C. in C. W.A., LULWORTH, BARFOIL.)

ESSO F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1652/26.
HARRISBURG. On completion discharge aircraft ESSO HARRISBURG
should be sailed in G.U.F.4 destination Aruba.
2. Request Connav will inform W.S.A.
(D.T.D., 1517A/30 to S.N.O. Casablanca Area, (R)
N.C.X.F., Connav.)

ILEX. E.T.A. Casablanca 0930Z/31st. 400 tons oil
fuel required.
(ILEX, 1621Z/30 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) N.C.X.F.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
See also South Atlantic, 1100A/30.

CITY OF Following is a repetition of my 1708/29th passed
FLINT, to you at request of C.S.F.W.T.F. (Begins):
JULIA WARD Address N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca, from F.O.I.C.
HOWE, Gib.? Port. Destroyer LIMA left Ponta Delgada
survivors. January 26th for position 34.47 N. 31.31 W. to
pick up survivors.
(2) Report received Lisbon with T.O.O. 1705/28th
states Port. Destroyer LIMA has rescued 62 survivors from CITY
OF FLINT and 32 from JULIA WARD HOWE, both American and sunk in
position previously indicated. Port. Destroyer LIMA is still
searching for 2 other lifeboats. (3) American N.A. Lisbon
has informed Washington. (Ends).
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1719A/30 to C.T.F.38.)

/K.M.F.7 ...

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30.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

K.M.F.7,
lack of
air escort.

Your 1911/27. Every effort was made but weather restricted flying during this period.
2. 9th Jan. - No flying due to weather.
10th Jan. - Two Sunderlands failed to meet due to weather.
11th Jan. - Flying very restricted due to weather.
12th Jan. - One Liberator provided escort for short period, another failed to meet.
13th Jan. - Out of Coastal Command area.
3. Homing procedure is not carried out in this area unless specially ordered.
(D.O.D.(H), Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 1723A/30 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar.)

BISCAYNE.

Warships: U.S.S. BISCAYNE arrived Port Lyautey. (Comseafon. W.T.F., 1918Z/30 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib., Cominch.)

Movements.

Arrivals p.m. 29th RHYL, STORNOWAY, WEYBURN, VETCH, COLVOLVULUS, WILTON, Tug EMINENT with Convoy E.T.10. 0300/30th QUIBERON, QUALITY from Mers-el-Kebir. 1730 M.L.174, M.L.176 escorting SS. FIDRA from Almeria. 1910 VANOC from Mers-el-Kebir. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2130/30 to Admty., etc.)

K.M.F.8.

E.T.A. at Europa Point 0330A/31st, 991 Pilot 1707A/30th. TEST will proceed Gibraltar with ARGUS and LETITIA. (3) QUIBERON and QUALITY not met. (EGRET, 2206A/30 to F.O.C. Gib., (R) N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

C.M. 38 My 1122/26th. Date of sailing C.M. 38 has been advanced to Monday 1st Feb.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 0907C/30 to P.S.T.O. India,
(R) C. in C. E.F., D.S.T.O. Durban, D. of S.T.)

Movements. Arrival Pointe Noire 0600Z/30 F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES.
(B.N.L.O. West Africa, 0915/30 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi).

ATLANTIS ATLANTIS sailed 0930Z/29. Fuel taken 600 total on board 1430 tons. Passengers embarked one Free French officer. B. Cot case for on-carriage Lebanon and one naval rating non-cot.
(D.S.T.O.W.A., 1037Z/30 to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) D. of S.T., F.O.C.W.A.F.)

ILLUSTRIOUS, ILEX. Owing to fuel shortage ILEX was detached 1330/28th to proceed Casablanca economical speed E.T.A. p.m./31st Jan. She has been instructed to proceed Gibraltar after fuelling.
(ILLUSTRIOUS, 1100A/30 to F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Capt. (D) 13).

BERGENSFJORD, ORBITA. Your 2150/29th. BERGENSFJORD and ORBITA are to be sailed Freetown in company escorted by (?CORINTHIAN) ARMERIA and CYCLAMEN. Report E.T.D. (F.O.W.A., 1121Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) D. of S.T., S.S.T.O. Freetown (S.L.))

RICHELIEU, MONTCALM etc. My 2251/29th (sailing of RICHELIEU escorted by U.S. Destroyers) Add French Cruiser MONTCALM. (Comar, Dakar, 1126Z/30 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. Cominch, Comsolant for N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Bathurst) (Amendment made).
My 2251/29th and my 1126/30th. Subsequently
S. of A. 12½ knots. Convoy sailed 1800/30th as follows through following position A. 013° 55' N. 24° 42' W. B. 021° 40' N. 038° 00' W. C. 028° 20' 050° 00' D. 035° 10' 063° 00'
2. From D French Cruiser MONTCALM and U.S. Destroyer SOMERS proceed to Philadelphia, E.T.A. a.m./10th Feb. Remainder direct 171 New York, E.T.A. a.m./11th Feb.
3. With all despatch codeword "Cardinal" Admiral Longaud Flag in French Cruiser MONTCALM working party S.O. of escort Comdesdiv 18, Trinidad, U.S. destroyer MOFFETT. one or two destroyers might require fuel Bermuda Lane 8th Feb. (Comar, Dakar, 2232Z/30 to F.O.W.A. (R) Admty etc).

/Dispositions...

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30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Dispositions. VIVIANA escorting PRUDENT INTEGRITY towing crane lighter about 212° Bluff 101 miles to Durban.
ROCKROSE, LADY ROSEMARY with C.N.3 029° 20' S. 016° 10' E. to the North 8 knots.

STANDERTON, VEREENIGING, TURFONTEIN with C.A.8 034° 55' S. 019° 25' E. to Durban 7 knots.

CARTHAGE, CHESHIRE escorting MORMACMOON and EXCHANGE 035° 05' S. 020° 20' E. to 036° S. 023° E. 13½ knots.

VALIANT, HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT with C.F.11 032° 50' S. 017° 20' E. to the North 13½.

RANCHI, BLACKMOOR 034° 25' S. 026° 25' E. to Capetown 13½ knots. Convoy D.C.3 off East London to Capetown 8½ knots.

JASMINE, NIGELLA with D.N.13 about 029° 40' S. 032° 40' E. to the East 7 knots.

(C. in C. S.A., 1142C/30 to Area Q).

Simonstown M.Ls. 380, 382, 829, Harbour Defence M.L. 1150

DAUNTLESS, ROCKWOOD, F.S. COMMANDANTE DUBOC, CHITRAL BAND,

LE TIGRE, PHILOMEL, BARCROSS, P.552 KHETI.

Capetown VALIANT, INCONSTANT, EXPRESS, HOTSPUR, FORTUNE,

FRITILLARY, THYME, GENISTA, CHESHIRE, CARTHAGE, M.Ls. 830, 383,

381, NORTHERN DAWN, CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN DUKE, LADY ELSA

WELLARD, ST. ZENO, HERTFORDSHIRE, COVENTRY CITY, STELLA POLARIS.

Saldanha Bay. MANCHESTER CITY, M.L. FERNMOOR, SPINDTHRIFT,

BARBRAKE.

Walvis Bay. NORTHERN ISLES.

Port Elizabeth. STORMWRACK, M.L. SPHENE, NORWICH CITY.

East London. COLOMBIA, SARKA, SATSA, CECIEMAPLESON, (corrupt

group) ST. LOMAN.

Durban EREBUS, RESOURCE, ALBATROSS, NAPIER, FREESIA, BIRMINGHAM,

CALTENCH, EMILE BAUDOT, MEAD, ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR,

BOLD, SONDRRA, CORSICA.

Durban to Simonstown. RANCHI, CERES, BLACKMOOR.

Durban to Kilindini QUILLIAM. Cape area. ROCKROSE (corrupt

group).

Durban area JASMINE, ARUM.

East London to Durban, THE BELLE, Tugs PRUDENT and INTEGRITY.

(C. in C. S.A., 1202C/30 to C. in C. E.F., etc).

Position at 2000Z/30th DRANGEY, PICT, BELLWORT escorting

convoy T.54 06.07 12.30 130 9.

ST. WISTAN escorting BARDELL 06.30 11.35 120 6. S/M P.614

04.17 S.10.45 E. to Pointe Noire 7.

DUNCTON and 2 M.Ls. off Ivory coast. Allied naval equator 20.00

225 15.

French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol between St. Pauls

Rocks and 08.30 23 00 20.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1413Z/30 to A.I.G.150).

Dakar Area: CYCLAMEN, PETUNIA, ARMERIA, CORINTHIAN,

Freetown DESPATCH, HYDRANGEA, P.615, CARNATIC.

Freetown Area: BRIDGEWATER, BURDOCK, BELLWORT.

Trinidad Area: ALCANTARA, AMARANTHUS, MILFORD, WOODRUFF, TAMARISK

Takoradi. CROCUS. Pointe Noire Area: P.614. Pointe Noire.

COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, COMMANDANT DROGOU (F.S.)

Ships detached as previously reported.

(F.O.W.A., 1641Z/30 to Admtly etc).

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

- A.F.D. 24 B.A.D. (?1621)/29th. In view of further delay to A.F.D. 24 suggest ALCANTARA and WOODRUFF should be used for anti blockade runner patrol as required by Cominch.
(F.O.W.A., 1147Z/30 to Admty (R) B.A.D. etc).
F.O.C.W.Af.'s 1147/30th. Concur subject to ALCANTARA and WOODRUFF getting sufficient time in harbour for minor defects.
2. Request you will issue the necessary instructions.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 2246A/30 to Cominch (R) F.O.C.W.A. etc).
- CITY OF NEWCASTLE (overdue). My 1517/26th, ship reported arriving Capetown 25th.
(A.S.O.(I) Pernambuco, 1221Z/30 to Admty (R) C.in C. S.A., Connav, F.O.C.W.Africa, N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Kingston).
- CAPE DECISION U.S. Ship CAPE DECISION has been diverted to Dakar at request of U.S. Authorities. Ship has been ordered to pass through position 014° 26' N. 017° 33' W. E.T.A. Dakar p.m./2nd Feb. Ship does not hold Q.L.A. 145.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1247Z/30 to B.N.L.O. Dakar (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., Connav).
- BRITISH DESTINY. Shell Company Lagos have been informed (Tanker message) BRITISH DESTINY due Matadi 10th Feb. On completion of discharge there, it is suggested vessel loads (?20)00 tons surplus, 100 Octane Spirit for Lagos or Takoradi provided deviation of passage West Indies not more than one day's steaming. Request instructions as to whether this ship would normally proceed West Indies independently or to Takoradi for onward convoy.
(R.N.O. Lagos, 1302Z/30 to R.A.W.A.F., (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Admty., B.N.L.O. W.Af.)
Reply: F.O.C.W.A., 1148Z/1.
- MATAROA. Admty. 1536/26 to C. in C. S.A.
MATAROA routed and sailed via Punta Arenas. Master stated that ship is not covered by insurance for Magellan Passage.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1342Z/30 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)
- ARMERIA, PETUNIA, BERGENSFJORD. Your 1305/29th. Arrived ARMERIA, PETUNIA escorting BERGENSFJORD 0001/30th. Sailed for Bathurst 1300/30th.
(N.O.I.C. Dakar, 1406Z/30 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) N.C.X.F., Admty. D. of S.T., N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

/Have ...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.ARMERIA,
PETUNIA,
BERGENSFJORD.
(Contd.)

Have detached BERGENSFJORD with ARMERIA in position of Gambia Fairway buoy at 1800Z. Am proceeding in accordance with F.O.C.W.Af. 1533Z/30th. Have only 85 tons fuel remaining.
(PETUNIA, 1810Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Communi-
cations with
French in W.
Africa.

My 1231/11/1.

Following communication arrangements agreed to by Comar Dakar, to be brought into force as soon as possible.

C. Fixed services. Freetown-Bathurst-Dakar.
Dakar-Casablanca-Algiers.

D. Sloops and above to be provided with British liaison staffs and S.Ps.

- E. 1. Dakar to join group FT working simultaneous H/F L/F transmission.
2. Following stations to join B.A.M.S. organisation as 500 k/cs stations. Dakar, Port Etienne, Conakry, Abidjan, Cotonou.
3. French warships to conform to British W/T organisation, merchant ships to B.A.M.S. organisation.
4. Dakar to be provided with British communication personnel.
F. S.P.02383 (18) and (20) now issued to sloops and above.
(I) 1. British S.Ps to be used for operational messages between Dakar and Allied shore authorities. Messages, which should be addressed to Comar Dakar, will be handled by British cypher staff.
2. French warships to employ Anglo-French cypher until liaison staffs are provided when British S.Ps will be used.
3. French administrative messages to be made in French cypher recyphered with a secure subtractor table. No reference to be made in such messages to messages made in British S.Ps.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1451Z/30 to Admty., N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

U/B damaged
by Catalina.

Catalina on patrol reports sighting U-Boat in 012° 08' N. 020° 30' W. at 1354Z/30th.
Catalina attacked with 4 depth charges and reports that U-Boat damaged.

(F.O.W.A., 1509Z/30 to Admty., Comar Dakar.)

Further details.

(F.O.W.A., 1407Z/1/2, q.v.)

My 1509Z/30th is passed to PETUNIA.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1635Z/30 to Comar Dakar, (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, PETUNIA, Admty.)

CORINTHIAN,
PETUNIA.

(?My) 1509Z/30th, R.A. West Africa. (N.T. in W.D.)
Request you sail CORINTHIAN from Bathurst and PETUNIA from Dakar to R/V in 013° N. 020° W. at 0830Z/31st Jan.

N.O.I.C. Bathurst report details of air search.

(R.A.W.A., 1533Z/30 to Comar Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, S.2, (R) Admty., CORINTHIAN, BURDOCK, PETUNIA.)

Your 1533Z/30th. CORINTHIAN sailed 1900Z/30th. Cannot make R/V until 1200Z/31st. Details of air search will be signalled as soon as available.

(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1905/30 to F.O.C.W.Af., Comar Dakar, Admty., BURDOCK, PETUNIA.)

/Dakar ...

1109

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Dakar, Your 1851/21 to Admty. only. Oil fuel and fuel lubricants are being sent to Dakar in U.S. fast supplies. tankers, of which Glassfurd will have particulars. leaving Aruba about 5th Feb. Expected similar arrangements will be made to maintain supplies. Collier GLENBED with 5981 tons Natal coal was ordered to Dakar to discharge for Naval and Ministry of War Transport use, but detention of this vessel and discharge of part cargo at Pointe Noire may necessitate other arrangements. M.W.T.R. has been instructed on handling arrangements. Further supplies under consideration.

2. Your 1235/28 which has been repeated to Washington. Concur it is preferable that all Naval fuel requirements should be put forward through you and we have this point very much in mind. (Head of M. Branch I, Approved 4th S.L., 1534A/30 to B.N.L.O. Dakar, (R) B.A.D., etc.)

CHESHIRE. Capetown departure 1033Z/30th CHESHIRE for Montevideo routed (A) 035° S. 020° E. (B) 036° S. 023° E. (C) 043° S. 023° E. (H) 045° S. 020° E. (F) 045° S. 029° W. (G) 042° S. 040° W., S. of A. 13.5 knots, shift to W/T organisation S at 0900Z/8th Feb. and to F at 0400Z/11th. E.T.A. Montevideo 0900Z/13th. (C. in C. S.A., 1549C/30 to Admty., etc.)

CARNATIC, Intend to sail CARNATIC at 1800Z/31st escorting JAMES TURNER. JAMES TURNER to position (B) 002° 40' S. 013° 17' W. where JAMES TURNER detaches a.m. 3rd Feb. to proceed to Ascension. From position (B) CARNATIC proceed Pointe Noire to refuel.

E.T.A. p.m./8th.

2. After refuelling B.N.L.O. W.Africa is to sail CARNATIC to Simonstown.

3. N.O.I.C. Ascension is requested to arrange air cover to JAMES TURNER. (F.O.C.W.A., 1631Z/30 to C. in C. S.A., B.N.L.O.W.A., etc.)

C.F.11. Sailing telegram.
(2) 1349Z/30th.
(4) 13 knots.

(5) A. 030° S. 016° 10' E. B. 025° S. 013° 30' E. C., 018° S. 011° E. D. 005° 30' S. 011° E. thence as routed by F.O.C.W.A.F.
(6) VALIANT, HOTSPUR, INCONSTANT, FORTUNE, EXPRESS.
(10) ESPERANCE BAY, BRITANNIC, ORION.
(12) Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 1711C/30 to Admty., etc.)

CARTHAGE. Departure 1200C/30th CARTHAGE for anti-blockade runner patrol in area M.3.
(B) Routed through (a) 035° 00' S. 020° 00' E.
(b) 036° S. 023° E.
(C. in C. S.A., 1717C/30 to Admty., etc.)

/JOUETT ...

1110

30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- JOUETT Arrival 29th Jan. U.S. Dest. JOUETT.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1755Z/30 to Admty. (R)
B.N. Staff Officer Rio de Janeiro S.O.(I)
Freetown).
- F.O.C. My 1545/18. I returned to Freetown Friday 29th
Return. Jan.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1823/30 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)
- CORINTHIAN, Arrival A.M./30th Jan. CORINTHIAN escorting
ORBITA. SS. (ORBITA?).
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1830/30, to F.O.C.W.Af.
(R) S.S.T.O. Gibraltar, S.S.T.O. Freetown).
- Trinidad, Bunker requirements on arrival at Trinidad for
bunkers. ships in F.T. convoys have always, since the
inception of these convoys, been sent as a separate
signal to S.O.(I) Kingston. Admty. 1914/27 to
F.O.C.W.Af. refers.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1838Z/30 to Admty. (R)
F.O.C.W.Af. B.A.D. S.L.N.O. Trinidad).
- Movements Departure 30th Jan. BURDOCK, BREDON, PORTSDOWN,
M.Ls. 290, 277, 271.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1921Z/30 to Admty. N.O.I.C.
Bathurst).
- CARNARVON My 2240/27 to CARNARVON CASTLE and N.O.I.C.
CASTLE, Falkland Islands only. CARNARVON CASTLE is to
Argentine break W/T silence after leaving South Shetlands
claims to in order to report briefly what evidence
S. Shetlands. has been found of Argentine pretended claims to
the Islands and what action has been taken to
assert British Sovereignty. Report is required
in order that H.M.G. may prepare strong protest
for early use if necessary when Argentine Governments becomes
aware of CARNARVON CASTLE's activities.
We do not know how many days are allotted to the various
Islands and cannot, easily, estimate date when CARNARVON CASTLE
is likely to reach Laurie. N.O.I.C. Falklands is therefore
requested to report if possible approx. timetable bearing in
mind the instructions in A.T.2240/27. CARNARVON CASTLE is not
to break W/T silence for this purpose.
(Hd. of M. Branch (1) Approved A.C.N.S. (F), 1945A/30 to
CARNARVON CASTLE, N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, (R) C. in C.
S.A., F.O.C. West Africa, N.A. Buenos Aires).
Your 1945/30. Owing to your 2240/27th itinerary CARNARVON
CASTLE is not now known. Original itinerary was secret and left
to discretion of C.Os.; owing to lack of knowledge of ice and
weather conditions no time could be fixed.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 2327Z/30 to Admty. CARNARVON CASTLE,
(R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af. B.N.A. Buenos Aires).

1111

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

PETUNIA
U/B.

Attacked doubtful echo in 013° 30' N. 017° 01' W. at 1900Z, 5 charges pattern setting 100 feet, 3 failed to explode, echo sounding 13 fathoms. These may detonate later.
(?PETUNIA, 2030Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) CORINTHIAN).

PETUNIA,
escort duty.

PETUNIA proceed to Bathurst forthwith to refuel and then to Dakar to reinforce escort of F.S. JULES VERNE proceeding to Port Etienne escorted by F.S. GAZELE. N.O.I.C. Bathurst report E.T.A. Dakar.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 2217Z/30 to PETUNIA, N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) CORINTHIAN, Admty. Com. Dakar).

OUED FEZ,
ARCTURUS.

F.O.W.Af. 1325/29th. OUED FEZ is to be detached with ARCTURUS to arrive Dakar a.m. on 2nd Feb. Pass to Commodore.
(F.O.W.A., 2223Z/30 to BURDOCK, French Sloop D'IBERVILLE, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty. Com. Dakar).

1112

30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

Enemy Reports. P.C. and S. of enemy, one small vessel 38.50 N., 17.08 E. 240° 5, 0004A, one small vessel 39.14 N. 17.19 E. 350° 5.
(From A/C CYD/R, 0027A/30 to A.H.Q. Malta)
P.C. and S. one unknown 38° 55' N. 17° 03' E.

090° 7 knots.
(A/C CXF/N, 0231A/30 to A.H.Q. Malta).
Three enemy transports in 35.27 N., 11.10 E. course

180° speed 10 knots.
(A/C ASK/K, 0832A/30).
Three enemy transport barges and five small craft anchored in 34° 44' N., 10° 47' E.
(A/C ASK/K, 0846A/30).

SAMPHIRE sunk. SAMPHIRE sunk by submarine in 037° 07' N., 005° 32' E. at 0018. ZETLAND searching for submarine and picking up survivors. Request fighter protection as early as possible.
(BICESTER, 0051A/30 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.S.12, LIGHTNING, N.O.I.C. Bougie).

AVON VALE, POZARICA (torpedoed by A/C, 29th January). Situation 0730A/30th. Arrived AVON VALE bow blown off and CADMUS and PENTSTEMON with wounded. POZARICA in tow of EMPIRE GNOME with local escort 5 miles off harbour. POZARICA draught too great to enter and anchor off. NASTURTIUM ordered to proceed to original destination 0730A/30th. CADMUS proceeding 0800A/30th. PENTSTEMON delayed until 0900A/30 approx.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 0742A/30 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.S. Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, BICESTER, ZETLAND).
Proceeding in accordance with instructions E.T.A. Bone 2000A/30th. Have 21 bags of mail for Bone.
(PENTSTEMON 0930A/30 to N.C.X.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Bone and Bougie, BICESTER).

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Arrived 0635/30th Jan. G.M.T.
(N.C.S.O. Suez, 0901/30 to Admty).

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 29th Jan. Greek ship SAKTOURIS, Departure 29th Jan. PAKENHAM Greek Destroyer BASILISSA OLGA, PETARD, FALK.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0912B/30 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

AETOS 29th Jan. Departure Greek Destroyer AETOS.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 1011B/30 to Admty).

1113

30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

M.K.S.7 Intend sailing FORT SIMPSON, OCEAN VENGEANCE, LAMBROOK, CALUMET, OCEAN MESSENGER, NORTON, AGWIDALE, OCEAN WANDERER, OCEAN VICEROY, SOBO, 400 iron ore, ARGOS HILL, 3000 iron ore, STANHILL, DORELIAN, FORT CONFIDENCE, CLAN MAOBEAN, EMPIRE DRIVER, LORIGA, NAIRUNG, 500 coal, RICH.H. LEE, ST. ESSYLT, EMPIRE ROWAN, 2000 iron ore, CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH, 1200 iron ore, EMPIRE CENTAUR, 1000 iron ore, ALCINOUS, 1000 iron ore, SOUTHGATE, INVENTOR, BLENHEIM, ARTEMUS WARD, STAAD HAARLEM, 1500 slag for Belfast, and VANJA tanker for Gibraltar. (Cdre. Algiers, 1049A/30 to Admty, etc).

Axis Shipping. Arrival 30th GRETE, Marseilles in ballast. Arrival 29th BARTOLO SEGUNTO, Iron ore in transit, CAROMTE, ENRIQUE ILLUECA, Sete in ballast. Departure 29th, CONAM, Sete oranges. ST. LUCIEN will sail tonight 30th Sete, Oranges. Castellon Departure 28th JOSE ILLUECA Sete, oranges. (Valencia ?T.H.I. 1100/30 to Admty).

P.42 Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 1101A/30 to Admty etc).

Bi-Weekly Opsum No. 95 Part 3. 29th January. Bad weather again restricted operations forward area Tripolitania. Total 18 Kittyhawks carrying 500 lb. bombs made 4 offensive R/Cs for Coastal barges between Pisida and Zuara. Of these 4 Kittyhawks bombed 1 barge (?near) wharf in Pisida Harbour. No hits claimed on barge but violent explosion caused among stores on wharf. Remaining Kittyhawks found no targets. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 0941Z/30).

DARICA, TUZLA. Following is repetition of my 1153. C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. H.M. Ambassador Angora from N.A. Angora. Following from Admiral Kelly. Marshal being sick saw General Asim Gunduz and Minister of Communications to ask permission to retain DARICA and TUZLA for our use for an indefinite time. In view of urgency of needs Marshal will be advised to agree and we consider better to make no official application. They will just make no enquiries about delivery for the present.

2. These 2 vessels are destined for Minister of National Defence who will thus have 8 and Minister of Communications 4 instead of 6 each.
3. I beg 1 at least of these vessels may be sent earliest moment you can spare her.
4. This arrangement entails indefinite postponement of laying Iskanderun boom defence for protection British ships.

T.O.O. 1153 Jan. 30th (Ends).
(N.A. Ankara. 1159C/30 to Admty).

/TIGRIS...

1114

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- TIGRIS You may extend your patrol between 040° and 038° keeping E. of 019°. Leave patrol withdrawing 1st Feb. and return by reverse of outward route to R/V with sweepers at end of searched channel. (Capt. S.10., 1222A/30 to TIGRIS, (R) Subs on patrol).
- P.46 Leave patrol after dark 31st, and return Malta through 035° 33' 012° 07' 036° 01' 012° 37' thence to usual R/V at 0830/2nd. UNA leaves 30th to operate in Gulf Hammamet routed North of you. (Capt. S.10., 1237A/30 to P.46).
- Malta No.4 My 1201/1. No. 4 dock was pumped out on 22nd dock, damage, state of KINGSTON. January after the caisson had been temporarily repaired and placed in the outer stop to enable repairs to be effected to masonry of caisson grove. There is very extensive masonry damage on both sides of the dock and two points where considerable leakage is occurring. Investigations are in hand to determine best method of reducing these leaks which aggregate about 1500 tons per hour. The dock bottom is a shambles of dock blocks, masonry and mud. KINGSTON is lying flat on her port side at an angle of 15° to line of the dock with a minimum of 18" between her side and dock floor. She was hit over the gear room by a large calibre bomb and almost broken in two. She is very extensively damaged internally and externally and is a constructive total loss. It is intended to cut the ship in two and endeavour to make fore and after parts buoyant enough to right them in dock and subsequently float them out and beach them. As many fittings etc. as possible will be recovered for further use but it is unlikely that the armament, main engines and majority of equipment will be of any further use. It is expected that the propellers and shafts can be recovered and made serviceable. Request immediate despatch by air mail of copies of hydrostatic curves, stability curves and summary of weight calculations to enable suitable flooding or ballasting of ship in her present position to be investigated with a view to floating her upright when dock is flooded. Written report follows. (A/S Malta, 1309A/30 to Admty).
- WELSHMAN Sailed WELSHMAN. minelaying. (V.A. Malta, 1501A/30 to C. in C. Med. etc).
- UNA Sailed UNA. (V.A. Malta, 1509A/30 to Admty. etc).

/Genoa.

1115

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Genoa
balloons.

Air/Int/683 30 Jan. Supplementary to our Air/Int/678 of 29 Jan., 521 squadron sortie dated 28 Jan. 43, time 1500 hours, shows balloons flying at Genoa, not present on any previous cover. (R.A.F. Medmenham, 1510A/30 to Air Min. etc).

E.A.C.
Report.

A.362 30th Jan. Opl. Summary. No. 80 1800/28 Jan. to 1800 hours 29 Jan. (Part 1, E.A.C., Africa, 1530A/30, non-naval, Part 2, E.A.C. Africa, 1610A/30 non-naval). Part 3 My A.362. F. 12th U.S. Air Force 22 B.17s escorted by 11 P.38s attacked Docks and shipping at Bizerta. Bomb hits reported on fuelling jetties warehouses and phosphate dump. Bomb bursts observed on a large M/V and also on 2 medium sized M/Vs. Intense accurate heavy flak encountered over target. 6 B.26s escorted by 12 P.38s attacked shipping between Tunisia and Sicily. A convoy consisting of 2 Cargo Liners 6 Freighters 4 Destroyers and several small vessels was sighted. 2 Direct hits reported amidships on 350/400 feet vessel, the superstructure of which was blown off. Hits on second vessel of similar size started fires from which smoke arose to a height of 100 feet. During bombing a formation of approx. 16 E/A attacked. Bombers and Fighters claimed several successes against this attack. (E.A.C., Africa, 1630A/30).

CASABIANCA

Intend sailing French S/M CASABIANCA 1930 31st routed through (A) 037° 00' N., 003° 00' E. at 2100/31st. (B) 038° 00' N., 003° 00' E. at 0200/1st February. thence course 42° to patrol in an area North of 041° 55' N., between longitude 005° 00' E. and 009° 30' E.

(2) Cdre. Algiers is requested to detail an M. launch to escort CASABIANCA as far as position (A). (Capt. S.8., 1556A/30 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty. V.A. Gib. Cdre. Algiers).

French
Personnel
for Harbour
Defence.

My 1537/9, 0059/17 and your 0104/8. It is becoming evident that in order eventually to release our technical Harbour Defence Personnel and Local Craft for further operations, we ought to start now training French Personnel so that they can ultimately take over defence of their own Ports in North Africa. This agrees with policy of allied C. in C. for all French armed forces. 2. As stated in my 1537/9, it is not proposed in the immediate future to let the close defence of Harbour entrances in this Area pass out of British or U.S. hands, but there are certain items such as Minesweeping, net defence, H.D.M.Ls. and Indicator Loops on which a start could be made in training French now. 3. Decision is therefore requested whether information and instructional Booms on all or any of the following may be released to the French (details).

1116

30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.French
Personnel
for Harbour
Defence.
Contd.4. Training Programme visualised would be:-
(i) Initial technical training.
(ii) Incorporation of French Units with British
Flotillas and Shore Parties.
(iii) Gradual assumption by French of complete
responsibility for items in succession.5. Request information whether there is any
prospect of M.M.S., H.D.M.Ls. or Boom Vessels
being available for delivery to the French this year so that if
para. 3 is approved a practical proposition can be put before
the French.(N.C.X.F., 1619A/30 to Admty). *Reply: Admty 0019/14/2.*

Air R/C.

P.R.U. 30th Jan. visuals. 1215, Messina, 3
cruisers present. 1300, Taranto, 2 Battleships,
1430 Palermo, 3 destroyers, 5 Merchant ships 5 -
6,000 tons, 1 tanker 8,000 tons, 3 escort vessels
present in harbour.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1630A/30 to C. in C. Med).Movements,
Port Said.30th Jan. arrivals PAKENHAM, (?FLAMINGO) FALK,
PETARD, Departure BURRA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1646B/30 to Admty. etc).

DOLFIJN

Intend sailing DOLFIJN at 1730/1st Feb. routed
through 038° 17' 004° 04' and 039° 02' 007°
30' for working up patrol in area bounded by
lat. 038° 40' and 041° 45' and by long. 007° 30'
and 009° 10'.2. All positions north and east.
(Capt. S.8., 1748A/30 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cmdre.
Algiers, F.O.I.S., V.A. Malta, 8th S.F. Capt.
(S) 10)SCYTHIA,
TASAJERA,
Oran dock.Structural repairs to No. 1 dock Oran will not be
completed until about end February. SCYTHIA
will be docked on completion of dock. TASAJERA
will be docked No. 1 dock Oran as soon as dock can
be operated by temporary compressed air system
early February. Dock repairs can proceed
concurrently.
(N.C.X.F., 1751A/30 to Admty).NUBIAN,
PALADIN.Sailed NUBIAN, PALADIN.
(V.A. Malta, 1804A/30 to C. in C. Med., Admty.
N.C.X.F.)

Oilers

On completion of loading sail Oilers ARGO and
BRITISH SOLDIER to Port Said to discharge. Sail
Oiler BADARPUR to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 1807B/30 to N.O.I.C. Palestine
Ports, (R) S.N.O. Levant Area. etc).

/On...

1117

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Oilers. On completion of discharge sail Oiler MACOMA for
Contd. Haifa to load full cargo furnace oil thence Port
Said to load 2,000 tons Admiralty diesel oil,
adjust cargo and boiler clean, thence Alexandria
to discharge.
(C. in C. Med., 1809B/30 to R.A. Alexandria (R)
A.S.L., S.N.O.L.A. etc).

ARETHUSA Intend following programme for ARETHUSA.

| Arrive | Place | Leave. |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | Alexandria | 7th Feb. |
| 8th Feb. | Suez | 8th Feb. |
| 11th Feb. | Aden | 12th Feb. |
| 15th Feb. | Kilindini | 16th Feb. |
| 20th Feb. | Durban | 22nd Feb. |
| 24th Feb. | Capetown | 26th Feb. |

Thence as ordered by C. in C. S.A. to arrive U.K. about 18th
March.

(2) Armament Y Turret in local control. A Turret available in
emergency only without ammunition supply arrangements. B turret
out of action. After H/A armament and all close range weapons
fully efficient. No low power for night action control.

(3) No VCVF available.

(4) Maximum speed limited to about 20 knots in normal weather to
avoid straining temporary patch.

(5) Reduced total oil fuel capacity 950 tons. Desirable for
stability and trim to limit expenditure to 650 tons. Furnace
and 140 tons diesel. Endurance limits are

| Speed | Desirable | Maximum |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| 15 knots. | 2900 miles | 3480 miles |
| 20 knots. | 2020 miles | 2440 miles |
| 22 knots. | 1720 miles | 2040 miles |

(C. in C. Med., 1850B/30 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.W.A. Admty. etc).

Malta 2000A/29 to 2000A/30. Naval WELSHMAN sailed
Intelligence at 1500 hrs. to operate in the Sicilian channel
summary. during the night.

3. Strikes. Night 29/30 Jan. Wellington
attacked at 0001 hrs. in position 38° 55' N.
17° 04' E. one northbound medium M/V scoring

on (?) 5 Mosquitoes intruded over Sicily and southern Italy.
(Govr. Malta, 1910Z/30).

Movements. Arrived and sailed BACHAQUERO, SPEEDWELL, CADMUS.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1945A/30 to Admty. (R)
N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
Arrival ADVENTURE, VENOMOUS, LAFOREY, LOOKOUT
M.L. ? 280 238.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1959A/30 to Admty. N.C.X.F.,
F.O.I.C. Gib).

Departure ? French LA MOQUEUSE; arrival L.C.T. 154, 129.
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya) 2015B/30 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
Med. R.A. Alexandria).

Bone. Arrival BICESTER, ZETLAND, LIGHTNING, LOYAL, with
T.E.14. NASTURTIUM, PENTSTEMON. Departure LIGHTNING, LOYAL.
(S.O.I.S., 2046A/30 to Admty. N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Gib.).

/Sailed...

1118

30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements. Sailed BELVOIR, TETCOTT, M.Ls. 348, 351, 359, 349,
Contd. AMBER.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2137B/30 to Admty).
Arrival WOLBOROUGH. Departure KINGSTON CRYSTAL,
M.L. 899 add to arrival for 29th Jan. IMHOFF and
HAILSTORM.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2231B/30 to Admty).
Algiers arrivals S/M P.35 from patrol. Departures.
H.D.M.L. 1238 to Bougie. French Escort vessel LA SETOISE to
Tenez. CLACTON, BUDE, escorting KING SALVOR to Bougie.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2253A/30 to Admty).

Malta Air Report. AI. 551 30th Jan. C.S.R. Part 1 Offensive.
Night 29/30 Jan. 1 special equipment Wellington
and 3 torpedo carrying Wellingtons were despatched
to attack convoy sighted by Baltimore 1635 hrs.
(See part 3). At 0100 hrs. 1 Wellington sighted
1 M/V 2/3000 tons 38° 55' N., 17° 04' E. course 350° speed 5
knots and attacked with 1 torpedo scoring direct hit which
caused flash and red glow lasting several minutes. 5 Intruder
Mosquitoes patrolled aerodromes in East Sicily and toe of
Italy to cover our shipping strike and also to cover bombing
of Catania and Messina by Middle East aircraft. To cover
minelaying by 5 Beauforts off Ras Kaboddia 3 Intruder Mosquitoes
patrolled area Cape Bon - Marittimo.
Part 2. Enemy Air Activity.
Day 30th. 0912 hours 12 enemy Fighters approached Island at
great height. 8 Spitfires were airborne but enemy having height
advantage avoided combat and returned. 1330 hours 20 enemy
Fighters approached at great height but were intercepted 20
miles from Sicily by 7 Spitfires on offensive sweep. Enemy
aircraft turned back at speed. 2 Spitfires were airborne as
escort to departing friendly Naval Unit. 2 Mc. 202s attacked
Baltimore on shipping R/C South of Sfax. 1 Mc. 202 was probably
destroyed by Baltimores return fire.
Part 3. Reconnaissance. Day 29th Jan. 4 Baltimores shipping
R/C 1st Zuara-Sousse, 2nd North of Sicily and 3rd Sousse-Zuara,
no significant sightings. 4th North of Sicily visual 1635
hours 180° point Stilo 2 miles 1 medium 1 small M/V course 020°
6 knots.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 2056Z/30).

Enemy Reports. P.C. and S. of 4 destroyers 38.21 N. 12.30 E.
100° 20 knots.
(A/C GHA/V, 2120A/30 to A.H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S. of 1 M/V and 2 destroyers 39.11 N.
13.49 E. 315° speed not known.
(A/C GHA/O, 2305A/30 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

/Situation...

1119

30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation (1) Bone. 6 Messerschmitts 5 Fighter Bombers report No. 54. attacked aerodrome at 1040/29th, one Swordfish destroyed 3 damaged. 2 Naval Ratings killed and 3 wounded. Bad weather prevented M.T.B. attempting sweep to Cani Rocks night 28th/29th.

(2) T.E.14. POZARICA torpedoed aft at 1910/29th in 37.04 N. 04.36 E. Ship now anchored outside entrance of Bougie and reported aground drawing 42 feet aft. Hurricane claims one enemy aircraft shot down at 1900/29th. 150 Ratings from POZARICA and 12 seriously injured landed at Bougie. At about 2200/29th AVON VALE's bow blown off by aircraft torpedo in 37.01 N. 04.44 E. arrived Bougie in tow a.m./30th Jan. One Officer and 40 Ratings reported missing. SAMPHIRE sunk by U-boat at 0018/30th in 37.07 N. 05. 32 E. Three Officers and one Rating rescued. High speed launch and aircraft searching for survivors 30th Jan. All ships of convoy reached destination safely.

(3) Algiers air raid night 28/29th seven bombs fell in dock area but did no damage to installations. Slight civilian damage. DEWDALE slightly damaged by bombs waterline. HARMATTAN damaged by near miss. Beaufighters claim one enemy aircraft destroyed. During air attack night 29/30 Beaufighter claim 3 enemy aircraft shot down. 2 German airmen picked up in Bay. No damage report.

4. 12th Air Force. 22 B.17 bombed shipping in Bizerta a.m./29th January and claim hits on one large and 2 medium size merchant ships. Later 5 B.26 report. 8 merchant ships escorted by 4 destroyers 50 miles N.E. Bizerta?. 2 sure? hits with bombs claimed on one of the larger ships.
(N.C.X.F., 2206A/30 to Admty).

RORQUAL Leave patrol after dark 1st Feb. and proceed P.43 through 037° 30' 016° 47' 036° 30' 016° 37' P.51. 035° 20' 015° 26' 035° 20' 014° 14'. to R/V with sweeper at end of searched channel 0830/3rd. P.43 and P.51 leaving Malta 31st Jan. to operate off East Coast of Calabria and South Messina. They are routed to westward of you. You are not to attack S/M on your homeward route unless definitely established as hostile. (Capt. S.10., 2335A/30 to RORQUAL (R) Subs on patrol).

K.M.F.8 N.C.X.Fs. 1717/30 Jan. (N.T. in W.R.) Proceed with LOOKOUT at 0530A/31st to join K.M.F.8 in 036° 07' N., 003° 45' W. at 1200A/31st and reinforce escort to Algiers.

2. K.M.F.8 routed through positions 57, 70 and 109. (S.O. Force H. 2343A/30 to Capt. (D) 19 (R) LOOKOUT, N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, Escorts of convoy K.M.F.8, Capt. (D) 6, F.O. Oran, Cdre. Algiers).

1120

War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Movements
Summary
No. 35.Amendment movements summary number 35 para 3
JUMNA (? replaced by) ASTER para. 7 delete,
ship did not sail.
(F.O.I.C. Ceylon, 0516Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

MELISKIRK

Understand MELISKIRK is navigational casualty.
Request early information regarding possibility
of salvage of cargo in order that immediate
reprovisioning of Fleet Air Arm Stores can be
made by Admty. as necessary.
(R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean 0740Z/30 to C. in C. S.A.,
(R) C. in C. E.F., Admty.)

P.B.23

Convoy P.B.23 Bombay portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0818Z/30 to Admty.)
Arrival BOMBAY and BENGAL with P.B.23.
(S.O.I. Bombay 0839Z/30 to Admty. etc.)India Air
Report.Jan. 30th Intelligence summary No. 321.
(a) P.R.U. Jan 29 2 Hudsons offensive recco,
attacked small craft area N.W. of Taungup.
(b) Jan. 28 Hurricanes (number not yet reported)
attacked small craft E. of Kalachaung.
Jan 27. 4 Hurricanes damaged small craft
Pranchaung Panzinmaw.
(A.H.Q. India 1112Z/30 to Air Ministry.)Polish
Refugees
embarked in
NEURALIA.Transport NEURALIA 27th Jan. Embarked Polish
Refugees 139 men, 547 women, 134 children.
Requires 1000 tons coal 1100 tons water.
(D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf 1253Z/30 to S.T.O. Karachi,
(R) D. of S.T., P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. M.E.

WORCESTERSHIRE

E.T.A. 0130Z/3. My position 013° 10' N, 065° 40'E
weather report.
(WORCESTERSHIRE 1400Z/30 to F.O. Ceylon (R) C. in C.
E.F.)MURO MARU
Japanese
Hospital
Ship.MURO MARU (description) ✓ A.F.O. will be issued
promulgating acceptance of vessel as Hospital Ship.
(Admty. 2213A/30 to C. in C. E.F.)
✓ Jap. Government intimate that this vessel is to
be employed as hospital ship.

1121

30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/B. Following received: Addressed Admiral Portsmouth from Niton Radio. Intercepted at 0043/30 from VPO begins TTT sub sighted 13° 06' N. 61° 05' W. at 1840/29 G.M.T.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0043/30.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0652/30.)
As former, but time given as 1840 G.C.T./29.
(Port Patrick, 0222/30.)

D.E.M.S. My 1954/16 and your 1704/17 para. (D).
reserves. Details of buildings required to accommodate existing D.E.M.S. reserve, plus additional quantities of depth charges, star-shell and other ammunition to be held at Curacao, and to allow a small margin for expansion, are as follows. (Details).
4. Confirm facilities for maintenance and overhaul of depth charge pistols can be arranged.
(Admty., 0054A/30 to S.B.N.O. Curacao, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

Convoy Your 1446/2 and A.M. 1628/14th Oct. As the
escort escort situation is fluid and likely to remain
situation. so for the next few months it is considered
unwise to make definite allocations of individual
ships at present.
2. LAGAN has been allocated temporarily to C.2 and JED to C.3
group but it is not intended to loan these vessels to the R.C.N.
until the situation is more stable.
(D.O.D.(H), Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 0055A/30 to N.S.H.Q., (R)
C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

FAIRWATER, Left FAIRWATER at 0100Z/30. TENACITY proceeding
PRIMROSE. towards FAIRWATER and will (? contact) merchant
ship direct. My course 266° proceeding St.
Johns. Weather report.
(PRIMROSE, 0400Z/30 to F.O.N.F., (R) Comtask 24,
N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., THREE RIVERS.)

EMPRESS OF Your 1640/26. L.S.A. for 5495 persons available
SCOTLAND. on EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND in efficient condition
on leaving U.K.
Crew for voyage ex U.K. 465.
(D. of S.T., 0429A/30 to N.S.H.Q., (R) B.A.D.,
N.C.S.O. New York for Sparks, New York.)

Destroyer Comdesdiv 14's 1545/29 informs as follows:
Division 14. Destroyer Division 14 will depart New York
0800Q/30th for Londonderry, to arrive Feb. 7th.
Will pass Point Z swept channel at 1200Q. S. of
A. 16 knots through points:

/A. ...

1122

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Destroyer Division 14. (Contd.)
A. 41° 00' N. 50° 00' W. B. 47° 00' N. 29° 00' W.
C. 53° 00' N. 16° 00' W. D. 55° N. 10° W.
(Comnav, 0856/30 to Admty.)

Movements. Departure 30th U.S.A. Army Transport EL LIBERTADOR Aruba 30th.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 0924QR/30 to Admty., (R) S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Arrival 29th U.S. Naval Tanker PECOS. (Aruba, 1135/30 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
Arrival 30th U.S.A. Transport STATE OF VIRGINIA. (B.R.O. Georgetown, 1740/30 to Admty., Connav, S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

| Movements | Ship | Position | Course | Speed |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------|-------|
| Summary at 1800 G.M.T. 30th Jan. | REGENT | 29° N. 28° W. | 090° | 11 |
| | A.T. 35 | 43° N. 39° W. | 072° | 19 |
| | BRIDGEWATER | 11½° N. 32½° W. | 278° | 11½ |
| | 11 L.C.I.(L)s | 28½° N. 46½° W. | 110° | 11 |
| | (D.O.D.(F), 1102Z/30 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.) | | | |

U.S.S. R. 16. Jan. 30th U.S. Submarine Notice.
U.S.S. R.16 exercising on surface in area 10° 50' to 11° 00' N. 61° 40' to 61° 50' W. with P.C.493 and P.C.627. Departs area 1900Z/30 course 180° to Boca de Navios. Arrives Trinidad 2100Z/30.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1222/30 to Admty.)

EVGENIA CHANDRI. (Greek) At Halifax has small consignment of vitally important cargo. Request this be considered when allotting position in convoy.
(D.T.D., 1418A/30 to P.D. New York.)

Submarine Estimates Jan. 30th and notices. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1450/30, 1451/30, 1513/30, 1514/30, 1515/30 to Admty.)

Dispositions. OCEAN EAGLE towing CALDWELL screened by MILLTOWN 043° 14', 066° 02', 256°, 7. MISCON 044° 32', 063° 00' coastwise to Louisburg 12 knots.
Swedish relief ships MONGABARRA, FENRIS, FORMOSA, BARDALAND under safe conduct 043° 30', 066° 40', 180°, 12 knots. Swedish relief ships AKKA, YARRAWONGA under safe conduct vicinity 041° 10', 066° 40', 000°, 12 en route St. John N.B.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1530Z/30, 2027Z/31.)

/Tanker ...

1123

30.1.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Tanker Sail tanker convoy O.T.1 about 5th Feb. to
Convoy Trinidad. Thence to Dakar via - (A) 13° 38',
O.T. 1. 60° 10'. (B) 14° 02', 53° 30'. (C) 14° 12',
43° 30'. (D) 13° 57', 32° 20'. (E) 13° 20',
22° 30'. "Chop" 1000/13.
(Cominch C and R, 1535/30 to C.A.F.A.C., (R)
Cinclant, C.C.S.F., N.O.B. Trinidad, Comsolant, Admiral
Glassfurd Dakar, U.S.R.O. Aruba, F.O.C.W.Af., Admty., N.S.H.Q.)
Amended Connav 2023/?2nd Feb.

L.C.I.(L) 242. Following received (begins). S.N.O. Bermuda
from L.C.I.(L) 177. L.C.I.(L) 242 has been
ordered to return to Harbour to Bermuda with
fractured propeller shaft. She is unescorted,
position 288° H 70 miles 1000Z/29. (Ends.)

(2) My 2252/26 refers.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1552Z/30 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., V.A. Gibraltar,
B.A.D., N.C.X.F., S.O.I. Jamaica).

U/B attack Following received from Aruba "Spanish SS.
on M/V REMEHIOS reported in Aruba sighting submarine
11th Jan. shelling unidentified sinking ship January 11th
in 19.55 N. 30.07 W. One survivors picked up but
died at sea later. No further details available".
Plot indicates possible ALGORAB or BARON INCHCAPE.
(Cominch C. & R., 1800/30 to Admty.)

North The following are proposed revised sailing dates
Atlantic for the trans-North Atlantic convoys to meet the
Convoy closing of the cycle and the re-institution of
Cycle and O.S. - S.L. convoys.
O.S./S.L. (A) Mid-ocean convoys 9 day cycle starting after
Convoys. O.N.164, O.N.S.165, S.C.120, H.X.227. 8 day
cycle starting after O.N.174, O.N.S.175, S.C.125,
H.X.232.
(B) O.S.43 Feb. 14th, then 20 day cycle.
2. Request very early consideration in order that revised
organisation and convoy sailings may be promulgated.
(D.T.D., Approved by V.C.N.S., 1818A/30 to Connav, (R) C. in C.
W.A., B.A.D., Comtask 24, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., A.C.I.C.)
Cancelled, see 2250/2.

WEST POINT. Arrangements for WEST POINT to load army
personnel and cargo at San Francisco for Suez
and sail via Melbourne.
Admty. pass to C. in C. E.F. for Info.
(Radio Washington, 1839Z/30 to Admty.)

Persian Re use of by United Nations and capacities of
Gulf Port Bandar Shahpur, Khoroamshahr, Tenuma, Ahwaz,
facilities. Bushire.
(J.S.M. Washington, 1947Z/30.)

/LOBELIA ...

1124

War Diary.30.1.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

LOBELIA. My 1742/29. LOBELIA delayed by defect. Hope to effect repair to enable ship to sail by 1430/31 to overtake S.C.118. If repair not successful ship may be delayed 3 or 4 days.
(C.C.N.F., 2035Z/30 to Comtask 24, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., Cdre. Londonderry, Cdr. Task Group No. 24.7, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C. Western L.E.T.U. 24.18.7.)

H.X.225. Sailing telegrams.
(Port Director New York, 2046A/30, 2128/30.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. C. P.B.Y. sights sub. 11° 40' N. 64° 25' W. 0300Z/30. Plane Radar contact 13° 30' N. 61° 19' W. 0215Z/30.
Para. D. Shore observers sight periscope and wake 13° 10' N. 61° 17' W. 1430Z/39, course north-east. P.B.Y. sights submerging sub. 13° 06' N. 61° 05' W. 1840Z/29, course 220.
(Cominch, 2107Z/30 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

F.H. 33, MARIPOSA. Arrived F.H.33 less MARIPOSA.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 2148Z/30 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., Connav, N.C.S.O. St. John N.B., N.C.S.O. Montreal.)

A.T. 26 (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND). Convoy A.T.36 consisting of EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND will be ready to leave Halifax N.S. for Clyde p.m. 4th Feb. carrying military personnel.
2. C.O.A.C. is requested to sail ship to pass through 56° 15' N. 09° 00' W. at 0800Z/11 Feb. and that estimated S. of A. may be signalled.
3. Ship will be sailed independently and maximum air protection both A/A and A/S should be arranged.
4. Fighter protection codeword "Deuce".
(D.O.D.(H), 2250A/30 to C.O.A.C., Connav, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C. H.F., H.Q.F.C.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departures Brisbane 29th U.S. Light Minelayers BREEZE and GAMBLE escorting ESSO BALBOA Sydney 29th. U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY for Brisbane.
(A.C.N.B., 1002Z/30 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B.)

/Arrival ...

1125

30.1.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.
(Contd.)

Arrival 29th Townsville A.S.I.S. POYANG.
Newcastle U.S. store ship GOLDGRAB. Departure
29th Brisbane U.S. Transport ROCHAMBEAU due
Melbourne 1st Feb. 30th Newcastle U.S. store
ship GOLDGRAB for Sydney (N.S.W.)
(A.C.N.B., 1116Z/30 to Admty., Connav.)

SOLACE.

Departure Auckland U.S. Hospital Ship SOLACE.
E.T.A. Espiritu Santo 1900/3.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1722Z/30 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1336A/30, 1337A/30.)

1126

War Diary.

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

The arrangements which the Admiralty are making to provide destroyers with sufficient endurance for U.C./C.U. Convoys are detailed in a message today.

Home Commands.

Bad
Weather.

Bad weather has disorganised coastal convoys and the sailing of small craft. A force of 6 destroyers sailed from Plymouth in the early hours, to escort ILLUSTRIOUS: two of them SARDONYX and SCIMITOR returned to Plymouth with weather damage and the remainder proceeded to Falmouth for shelter. BLOODHOUND was driven ashore at Portland during the height of the gale.

M.M.S.
141
broken
down.

M.M.S.141 with Merchant Service crew on board, in Convoy S.C.117, was reported at 1335Z broken down in 58.13 N. 11.12 W. (about 310 miles West of Lewis) Rescue tug BUSTLER from the Clyde and corvette TRILLIUM from H.X.223 were sent to her assistance and the vessel was taken in tow by BUSTLER 1041/1 February and arrived at Greenock at 1530/3/2.

S/Ms
renamed.

The following submarines have been given names:-
P.31 = Ullswater P.225 = Simoon
P.53 = Ultor P.229 = Sportsman
P.216 = Seadog P.314 = Tactician
P.223 = Seanymph P.315 = Truculent
P.224 = Sickle.

ULTOR was ordered today to proceed to patrol off Andfiord which is used by U-Boats proceeding to and from northern patrols.

In view of the urgent need for reinforcing trans-Atlantic escort groups the Admiralty propose to ask the Canadian authorities to release 12 of their corvettes now employed as local escorts on replacement by A/S trawlers; C. in C.H.F. agreed (1 February) to release a proportion of the trawler groups operating with the north Russia convoys.

The Russians claim that their S/Ms sank a NARVIK class destroyer off Sylte Fjord 70° 35' N. 30° 10'E. (North Norway,) on 23rd January and between 17th and 29th January 3 motor vessels totalling 36,000

/tons...

1127

31.1.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands - Contd.

tons off North Norway, and that their torpedo bombers have sunk 4 large motor vessels.

92 out of 148 aircraft bombed Hamburg last night. The raid is reported to have been successful.

Mediterranean.

Minelaying.

WELSHMAN carried out a successful minelaying operation in the Sicilian Channel last night and returned to Malta this morning and sailed again for Alexandria at 1700A.

ABDIEL sailed from Philippeville at 2030A for a minelaying operation off Galita escorted by Force Q (AURORA SIRIUS and 4 destroyers) from Bone, but was unable to lay mines on account of being shadowed by aircraft and contact with E. boats. E.boats were engaged in minelaying off Bone on the night 29/30 and 30/31. On the second occasion 4 M.T.Bs engaged them in gun action, causing them to jettison their mines. The M.T.Bs, who suffered no damage, chased the enemy 15 miles.

M.T.Bs. 260, 264, 307 and 313 sailed from Malta at 1727A/31 for an operation off Kuriat but were prevented by the weather from carrying it out. (See 1 February.)

RORQUAL is returning 24 hours early from patrol on account of damage to her periscope from enemy gunfire.

S.S. SOPHIE ran aground this morning in 32.28 N.20.27E (30 miles N.E. of Benghazi) and is considered a total loss.

The French Military attache in Madrid has been ordered by "Local Authorities of the French Navy" to inform B.N.A.Madrid that families of Military personnel in Tunisia are to be repatriated to Marseilles because of bombing. Only women and children are concerned, and repatriation will be by hospital ship.

1128

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Zuara was found unoccupied and was occupied by our troops today.

Explosions took place in the hold of the cased petrol carrier PAHANG at 0505 today and it is thought the ship will be a total loss.

Air Operations.

Last night one of 3 Wellingtons sent to attack shipping in the Pantelleria area attacked with torpedoes a merchant ship escorted by a destroyer in 36.33 N. 12.47 E., steering 225° and obtained one hit on the destroyer which was left stationary and listing heavily.

Ten Wellingtons from Blida bombed the docks at Bizerta last night, many of the bombs falling alongside the docks.

At 1035 Malta Beaufighters attacked a 3000 ton merchant ship escorted by a destroyer and 3 A.A. ships stationary in 140° Hammamet 2 miles and near missed and gunned the merchantman: two Beaufighters were shot down and 2 slightly damaged. Three schooners 10 miles north of Sousse were also shot up and one left stationary. Wellingtons sent to attack enemy shipping between Naples and Sicily were unable to carry out any attacks.

Sixteen B.24s today bombed the ferry terminus at Messina obtaining hits and near misses on the target and hits on railway track and sidings. A merchant vessel at quay and another leaving harbour are reported hit and other bombs fell amongst a group of vessels outside the harbour. (Note A.S.O.S. 802 states that this attack occurred on 30th Jan.)

26 or 27 B.17s of the 12th U.S.A.F. escorted by 31 P.38s today attacked the docks and shipping at Ferryville and caused several large fires in the Dock area. Direct hits were seen on a vessel at the most northerly Dock, and several other vessels tied up at the docks are believed to have been damaged. A 1000 lb bomb is stated to have hit between a dock and a ship, probably causing a large hole in the vessel's side.

America and West Indies.

The escort carrier HUNTER arrived at Norfolk Va. today.

War Diary.

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

S.S. AMERICAN BUILDER, reported a periscope at 1205 today in 31.10 S. 108.35 E. and made S.O.S. about 1700Z in 30° 28' S. 108° 39' E. The ship was, however, sighted in the early morning of 1st Feb., and S.O.S. was cancelled.

1130

31.1.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

MIAOULIS. Your 1853/30. Approved.
2. Relief Liaison personnel are being sent arriving on Tuesday.
3. Cancel Admty. 1548/30.

(A.C.N.S.F., 1321A/31 to Cdre. Londonderry.)
My 1853/30, your 1548/30.

In view of present comparative inefficiency of Greek crew and fact that ship has had two unsatisfactory Liaison officers in short period I consider it is essential ship returns Scapa for further period of short work-up before being considered as satisfactory fighting unit. New Liaison officer must be experienced. R.A.(D) H.F. concurs.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 2003/31 to Admty.)

Exchanges of Destroyers. In order to provide destroyers with sufficient endurance for U.C./C.U. convoys, the following exchanges are intended:

- A. 3 "P" class destroyers from N.C.X.F. to C. in C. W.A.
 - B. 1 "Hunt" class from C. in C. W.A. to N.C.X.F.
 - C. 1 "Hunt" class from A.C.O.S. to N.C.X.F.
 - D. 1 "Town" class from R.A.(M) to A.C.O.S.
2. "P" class will be required after short refit to sail with U.C.2 about 5th March.
2. Ships in B and C are to be ready to sail with K.M.F.9, from Clyde on February 7th.
(V.C.N.S., 1351A/31.)

Roseneath Base. Have taken over U.S. base 2 today in accordance with the terms of A.L.M/052289/42 of 23rd December 1942.
(Cdre. Roseneath, 1600/31 to Admty.)

PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER. On arrival in U.K. PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER are allocated to C. in C. W.A. and will be administered by Captain (D) Liverpool.
(D.O.D.H., 1656A/31.)

Movements.

Destroyers to R/V ILLUSTRIOUS, FURIOUS, RENOWN. My 1721/28. Sailed SARDONYX, SCIMITAR, ESCAPADE, TANATSIDE, LAUDERDALE, MELBREAK routed through (F) 180° Bishop Rock 7. (G) 49° 15' N. 12° 10' W. to R/V 46° 00' N. 17° 00' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0353A/31 to Admty.)

My 0353/31. SARDONYX and SCIMITAR returned Plymouth with weather damage. TANATSIDE (S.O.), ESCAPADE, LAUDERDALE, MELBREAK proceeded Falmouth for shelter.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1359A/31 to Admty.)

A.M. 1749/27. Owing to weather Plymouth destroyers are unable to make R/V as arranged.

1131

War Diary.31.1.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

Destroyers
to R/V
ILLUSTRIOUS,
FURIOUS,
RENOWN.
(Contd.)

2. The six destroyers of Gibraltar escort force are to remain in company proceeding to Plymouth for fuel when relieved.

3. ILLUSTRIOUS is to signal R/V for Plymouth destroyers as far north as possible.

4. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail his destroyers accordingly to relieve and continue as escorts to Clyde.

(D.O.D.F., 1654A/31.)

R/V ordered in A.M. 1749/27 is cancelled.

2. TANATSIDE is to leave Falmouth at 0900A/1st with ESCARADE, LAUDERDALE, and MELBREAK and to proceed as previously ordered to pass through position (G) 049° 15' N. 012° 10' W. and subsequently to R/V as ordered by ILLUSTRIOUS.

3. Documents have been landed from MELBREAK.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 2159A/31 to TANATSIDE.)

P.224.

Arrived P.224.

(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 0901A/31.)

A.F.D.20.

C. in C. Plymouth 1827/30. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail STAR OF INDIA to Milford Haven when ready. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is

requested to sail STAR OF INDIA as necessary to take over escort of A.F.D.20.

(C. in C. W.A., 1020A/31.)

C. in C. Plymouth's 1827/30. Unless enemy minelaying is suspected it is not intended to sweep Floating Dock through W.A. Command. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail 3 M.Ls due Tobermory 7th Feb. to act as additional escort and maintain a strict lookout for floating mines ahead of dock. M.Ls should proceed as necessary to arrive Tobermory in accordance with A.M. 1607/29.

(C. in C. W.A., 1215A/31 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

UREDD.

Intend to sail UREDD escorted by BRESSAY for Lunna Voe at 1000A/1st. Route A. 091° Bardhead 2 miles.

B. 089° Grif Skerry 3 miles, thence West of Out Skerries to Lunna, E.T.A. 1400A/1st. Thence

BRESSAY to Baltasound, E.T.A. 1800A/1st.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1039A/31.)

O.19.

After dark tonight report your P.C.S. and weather.

(F.O.S., 1307A/31 to O.19.)

Your 1307A/31st. Estimated P.C.S. at 2000A/31st, 050° 10', 011° 20', 090°, 9. Weather 3762 8354.

(O.19, 2031A/31 to F.O.S.)

/ S/M ...

1132

War Diary.

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

S/M Positions. Positions of submarines at 0800A/1st and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) SEADOG (P.216), ULTOR (P.53), SOKOL and O.15 in north Norwegian waters east of 20° E.
(B) JUNON off Bredsund.
(C) DZIK escorted by ANCHUSA vicinity 10 miles north of Fair Island expected time of arrival Lerwick 1200/1st. At 1600/1st DZIK sails unescorted probably on the surface through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, 61° 20' N. 01° 02' E. and 62° 05' N. 02° 45' E. to patrol in zone K.104.
(D) USURPER (P.56) escorted by BRYONY vicinity Arran due Holy Loch 1000/1st.
(E) U.S.S. BARB and BLACKFISH escorted by SHIKARI leave Roseneath 1100/1st due 180° Wolf Rock 10 miles at 1915/2nd.
(F) O.19 50° 10' N., 09° 15' W. dived by day through 50° 10' N. 09° 00' W. to R/V in 360° Round Island Scillies 7 miles at dawn 2nd for escort to Falmouth.
(G) HERRING in zone K. 104.
(H) SHAD off Bilbao.
(J) TRIDENT and TACTICIAN (P.314) off Fro Havet.
(K) UREDD escorted by BRESSAY leaves Lerwick, 1000/1st due Lunna Voe 1400/1st.
(F.O.S., 1614A/1, and 1222A/1st).
My 1614A/31 para. (A) delete ULTOR (P.53). Para. (J) delete TACTICIAN (P.314) and amend to read TRIDENT 64° 20' N. 6° 10' E. probably on the surface through 64° 01' N., 03° 35' E. thence to Lerwick. Add new paras. (L) TACTICIAN (P.314) approaching 63° 14' N. 6° 46' E. from north-eastward.
(M) ULTOR (P.53) off Andfiord.
(F.O.S., 2127A/31).

Operations.

Blockade C. in C. H.F. 1431A/29.
Runner Concur that JAMAICA, KENYA and SUSSEX should be
Patrol. utilised for blockade operations.
2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to conduct the operations and to arrange direct with C. in C. H.F. the dates cruisers are to sail.
3. The Admiralty will give C. in C. Plymouth, daily during the operation, all available information concerning the positions and movements of U-boats in order to facilitate the choice of an area in which the cruisers may wait for information on which to intercept.
(V.C.N.S. 0806A/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation "Valuable". 1. Tonight the following destroyers to form Force A reference my 1000/20th Jan. CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, BLEASDALE, GOATHLAND, TYNE DALE to patrol Southward of Beachy Head passing E.A.5 outward 1900 and inward 0600.

/Force...

1133

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Valuable".
Contd. Force B at Newhaven M.G.Bs. 616 (S.O.) 611, 613, M.T.Bs. 242, 243, 89.
2. KINGSTON TURQUOISE, FILLA, CHASER 14 at St. Helens. KINGSTON TOPAZE at Yarmouth Road, (I.O.W.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1335A/31).

Amend my 1335/31st para. 1. Force A remaining in harbour at 2 hours notice, except BLEASDALE at immediate notice in Cowes Roads.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1832A/31).

1 destroyer and 8 M/Vs claimed sunk by Russians. Russians claim; one S/M presumed to have sunk 10,000 ton Motor Vessel off Lakse Fjord 17th Jan. and 14,000 ton Motor Vessel off Nordkin 22nd January. Second S/M presumes to have sunk Narvik class Destroyer off Sylte Fjord 23rd January. Third S/M presumes to have sunk 12,000 tons (?Motor) Vessel off Sylte Fjord 29th January. (B) Torpedo bomber claims 29th January one 8 or 9,000 ton Motor Vessel sunk off Vadso, 3 Motor Vessels of which one of 10 to 12,000 tons and another of 6,000 tons sunk off Berlegabesag. 3 Liegedens lost.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1515A/31 to Admty).

Fro Havet S/M Patrol. 1. TRIDENT withdrawn forthwith through 064° 01', 003° 35' E. thence Lerwick on route Orange.
2. TACTICIAN (P.314) proceed forthwith dive by day to patrol vicinity 063° 14', 006° 46' E.
(F.O.S., 1958A/31).

Patrol off Andfiord ULTOR. (1) ULTOR (P.53) proceed forthwith diving by day to patrol vicinity of 069° 26', 016° 19' E.
(2) U-boats proceeding to and from northern patrols use Andfiord.
(3) Primary object is U-boats, but cruisers and above should be attacked if opportunity presents.
(F.O.S., 1959A/31).

Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Command operations. At 1100/30, 3 A/C bombed Berlin; and during day 30th 4 A/C bombed the docks at Emden.
(H.Q.B.C., 1215A/31).
On night 30/31 86 A/C attacked Hamburg and 11 A/C laid mines.
(H.Q.B.C., 1500A/31).

Toulon R/C. Your 1925/26. N.C.X.F. requests one further P.R.U. of Toulon from U.K. after which it is hoped to undertake it from North Africa.
(D.O.D.F., 1220A/31 to Coastal Command.)

/Trondheim...

31.1.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity. - Contd.Trondheim
R/C.Reconnaissance Trondheim today unsuccessful
owing to weather.
(D.D.I.C., 1700A/31).Operation
"Gondola".Your 1840A/30 and 1841A/30, in which I was not
included in the address, concur in orders for
operation "Gondola" except that I should like
the southern latitude of the outer area brought
down to 44° N.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1909A/31 to H.Q.C.C.)Mining.Clearance of
Q.Z.X.887.LYDD is to take over duties of S.O. of ships
of 4th M.S.F. carrying out clearance of Q.Z.X.
887 at noon, 1st February.
(M/S 4 1224A/31 to ELGIN, LYDD).

15th M/S F.

Your 1424/28. Arrived.
(A.C.I.C., 1812A/31 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).Enemy Intelligence.HIPPER,
FRIEDRICH
ASKINS.166 Reference to action in Barents Sea December
31st Russians report (A) Cruiser HIPPER
received three hits and being repaired in Boben
Fjord. (B) Destroyer sunk was FRIEDRICH ASKINS *
Z.16
(Ad. Miles, 1014C/31 to Admty). *Eckoldt, page 793.4 Enemy
M/Vs.Position of four enemy M/Vs. 58° 55' N. 5° 30' E.
Course 180° speed 5 knots.
(A/C N7G Duty Z, 1045/31 to 18 Group).Navigational.

Wick

Wick Harbour opened at 0825/31.
(R.N.O. Wick, 0835A/31).Casualties & Defects.

SCIMITAR

Asdic Dome fractured. Returning harbour.
E.T.A. 1300.
(SCIMITAR, 0950A/31 to C. in C. Plymouth).

PUFFIN

My 1050/30. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1027A/31).

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War Diary.31.1.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

- GARLAND My letter 9th January 1943. In view of defects detailed therein, repairs required, and defects subsequently suffered, I trust dock facilities are available. My E.T.A. 1200Z/1st. My P.C.S. at 1115Z/31 056° 06' 012° 55', 095° 15 knots. (GARLAND, 1115Z/31 to Capt. D. Greenock).
- M.M.S.141 058° 19', 011° 23', (three corrupt groups). (M.M.S. 141 1320 G.M.T./31 to A.C.O.S.) Detail one corvette to stand by M.M.S.141 in distress in 058° 10' N., 011° 27' W., at 1301/31. Tug is being sent. (C. in C. W.A., 1542Z/31 to SPENCER).
My 1542/31. Sail rescue Tug BUSTLER forthwith to assist M.M.S. 141. (C. in C. W.A., 1657A/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Request you sail BUSTLER with despatch. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1657A/31 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown). Plane reported M.M.S.141 in distress 058° 13', 011° 12' at 1335Z/31st. Requires towing. TRILLIUM proceeded 1515Z/31 to assist. (C.T.U. 24.1.3., 1700Z/31 to C. in C. W.A.) Sailed BUSTLER. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1747A/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Tug from Clyde and a corvette from H.X.223 are being sent to your assistance in 58° 10' N. 11° 27' W. If not met report your P.C.S. (C. in C. W.A., 2210Z/31 to M.M.S. 141).
- SLEIPNER Impellers of both extractor-pumps defective. Proceeding to Humber to request dockyard assistance. E.T.A. Humber Lightship with present speed 1730. (SLEIPNER, 1329A/31 to N.O.I.C. Humber). CRANEFLY, is proceeding to you with all despatch. (WHADDON, 1711A/31 to SLEIPNER). Humber arrival at 1845 SLEIPNER for repairs at Immingham. (F.O. Humber, 1916A/31).
- VARDEFJELL VARDEFJELL has been moved from Inganess Bay and is now moored at Y buoy Kirkwall. Masters of Tugs DANUBE VI and DUNDAS declined to undertake tow without additional Tug. Request that immediate action may be taken in order that salvage craft and escort may be released for other duties. (C.S.V.O. Lyness, 1640/31 to D.S.T.)
- FORT ST. FRANCIS
FORT LA MAUNE. Repairs to FORT ST. FRANCIS and FORT LA MAUNE ex H.X.223 consequent on heavy weather damage are in hand by Fleet Salvage Officer. Estimate time to complete seven days and one day respectively. (A.C.I.C., 2101A/31 to Admty).

31.1.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- M.K.S.6 Swansea ships arrived less HOPECROWN.
(N.C.S.O. Swansea, 0301/31).
Barry Roads portion M.K.S.6 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Barry, 0325/31).
My 0301A/31. HOPECROWN arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Swansea, 0800A/31).
M.K.S.6. Following ships arrived Clyde ERIDAN, EMPIRE
WORDSWORTH, FORT STIKINE, HAVILDAR, SAMUEL CHASE, MARRAKECH.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1758A/31).
- R.A.52 My 1845A/29. Ocean escort. Add VIZALMA, BEAGLE,
and ONSLOW.
(S.N.O. Murmansk, 0745A/31 to Admty).
My 0200/10 para. 4. Request you will sail Hunts
to arrive Seidisfjord a.m./4th Feb.
(C. in C. H.F., 1217A/31 to R.A.D. H.F.)
Russian visual air R/C of Alten Fjord 1130C/31 observed
one cruiser, two light cruisers, one destroyer.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1500A/31 to H.F. Ops.)
- O.N.S. J. 163 SCHENCK and LEARY arrived 0840Z/31 from O.N.S.J 163.
C.T.U. 24.6.5 dissolved.
(C.T.G. 24.6., 0821Z/31).
- P.S.31. P.S. 31 and S.P.31 cancelled on account of
S.P. 31. weather.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0904A/31).
- C.W.153 My 1904/28 Dec. 1942. Convoy C.W.153 postponed
24 hours.
(C. in C. Nore, 1002A/31 to A.I.G.45).
- F.N.32 F.N.32 cancelled owing to weather.
(C. in C. Nore, 1014A/31).
- P.W.286, My 1222/30. Owing to weather.
W.P. 287, (1) P.W. 286 and W.P. 287 are cancelled.
P.W.287 (2) P.W.287 from Portsmouth is postponed 24 hours
P.W.D.287, and will sail p.m./1st February escorted by
W.P. 288. Group D Trawlers.
2. N.O.I.C. Dartmouth is requested to sail P.W.D.
287 according to Schedule on 1st February.
3. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven and Cardiff are
requested to sail W.P. 288 on 1st February
escorted by Group E trawlers to Needles.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1047A/31).

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War Diary.31.1.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

K.M.S.9. Request you sail WHITEHALL to arrive Barry Roads p.m. 2nd to escort Bristol channel portion K.M.S.9 to Clyde vice CHARLESTOWN, defective. (C. in C.W.A. 1203A/31 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Convoy K.M.S. 9 consisting of ships for destinations shown will leave Clyde on 6th February. For Gibraltar - SS. EMPIRE TIDE, SS. WELLINGTON COURT, SS. ARY LENSEN, SS. PRINCE DE LIEGE, SS. CLEARPOOL, SS. OCEAN COAST, SS. AGATHA. For Oran - U.S. LUTHER MARTIN, U.S. LEWIS MORRIS, U.S. ETHAW ALLEN U.S. WINFIELD SCOTT, U.S. CARTER BRAXTON, U.S. JOHN HATHORN, U.S. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN, SS. FORT GIBRALTAR, SS. FORT RUPERT, SS. FORT RELIANCE, SS. MANCHESTER COMMERCE. SS. EMPIRE SHEARWATER. U.S. CHARLES CARROL, SS. ALEXANDRA ANDRE. For Algiers - SS. BRITISH FORTITUDE, SS. HADLEIGH, SS. TRADER, SS. EMPIRE GUINEVERE, SS. EMPIRE CARPENTER, U.S. LEWIS LUCKENBACH, U.S. NASHABA, SS. CEFN-Y-BRYN, SS. FORT NORMAN, SS. FANAD HEAD, SS. MANCHESTER CITIZEN, SS. OCEAN STRANGER, SS. FORT ELLICE, SS. ANGLO AFRICAN, SS. BELGIAN SEAMAN, SS. TITUS, SS. RONAN, SS. PROMESTHEUS, SS. FOREST, SS. STANCLEEVE, SS. EMPIRE HEYWOOD SS. EMPIRE FLAMINGO, SS. OCEAN ATHLETE. For Bougie - SS. FORT PITT, SS. LIBERIAN, SS. COCHRANE. For Philippeville - SS. FORT LAC LA ROUGE, SS. NURJEHAN, U.S. ROBERT MORRIS, SS. OCEAN SEAMAN, SS. NORELG. For Bone - U.S. ALCOA PILOT, U.S. JOHN CARVER, U.S. THOMAS HEYWARD, SS. TURKISTAN, SS. INDIAN PRINCE, SS. MAHOUT, SS. BENEDICT, SS. OCEAN VICTORY, SS. CONAKRIAN, SS. GENERTON. 2. EMPIRE TIDE, WELLINGTON COURT and CLEARPOOL carry aircraft in addition to coal. 3. EMPIRE TIDE will operate as a Cam ship. 4. Speed of slowest ship 9 knots. 5. Escort will be provided by 37 E.G. 6. C.O. of escort is S.O. of 37 E.G. in BLACK SWAN. (D.O.D. H. 1219A/31, 1320A/3/2.)

C. in C.W.A. 1203A/31. Intend to sail WHITEHALL 1800A/1, speed 15 knots, E.T.A. Barry Roads 1100A/2. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1810A/31.)

A.M. 1219/31. Route as follows. R/V at 1200Z/7 in position V 270°. Oversay 6 miles. Through W. 55.25 N. 12.00 W. X. 50.01 N. 16.35 W. Y. 39.30 N. 16.02 W. Z. 36.05 N. 09.59 W.

2. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered A. to E., with instructions that ships if straggling are to keep 30 miles to starboard of route given. 3. Speed estimated at 7½ knots, is to be adjusted to pass through position Z at 2000Z/16.

4. Fighter Protection codeword "Peacock". (D.O.D. H. 1937A/31.)

TJALDUR Intend sailing at 1400/2 TJALDUR KRANJI for
KRANJI. Lerwick with troops escorted by FORFEIT routed my
1535/19. S.O.A. nine knots, E.T.A. Lerwick
1400/3rd.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1222/31.)

A/S In view of the urgent need for reinforcing
Trawlers Trans-Atlantic escort groups, it is desired to
for Local approach the Canadian authorities to release 12
Convoy of their corvettes now employed as local escorts
Escorts. on replacement by A/S trawlers. 2. After reviewing
the commitments for A/S and A/S M/S trawlers, it
is considered that the most suitable source from

/which...

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War Diary.31.1.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- A/S
Trawlers
for Local
Convoy
Escorts. which these 12 could be provided is the trawler groups operating with the North Russian convoys. 3. C. in C. H.F. is requested to report if he is prepared to release all, or a portion of, these trawlers. 4. The remarks of C. in C. W.A. are also requested.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1400A/31 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)
- R.U.59. Your 1130/31. You are to escort NORFOLK and GULF POINT to entrance to Loch Ewe where pilot will meet you. EMPIRE BAFFIN and BOSKOOP are to be escorted to North Channel, thence EMPIRE POINT independently to Clyde and BOSKOOP independently to Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A. 1431A/31 to QUADRILLE.)
- THYSVILLE. My 1721/29 and C. in C.W.A. 1346/29. Loading of Ballast in THYSVILLE has been delayed by bad weather. Ship will not be ready to sail until first February.
(A.C.I.C. 1641A/31.)
- S.C. 117. Your 1202/31. GENTIAN, HEATHER and DIANTHUS may be detached at dawn tomorrow, SWALE destination Londonderry. ORCHIS to Clyde. Loch Ewe Ships are to proceed independently from 8° W.
(C. in C.W.A. 1711A/31 to Escorts S.C.117.)
- St.George's
Channel. Commodores of convoys and Masters of ships should be warned that in the event of their being routed to or from U.K. via St. George's Channel particular attention should be paid to A.M.S.I.
294/42 and 302/42 and that paravanes should be prepared for running before entering the area referred to.
(D.T.D. 1716A/31.)
- QNLJ.165. My 1630A/31. VILETA returned Belfast defective. Regret no other escort available for O.N.U.J. 165.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 1722A/31 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).
- P.S.1
S.P.1. P.S.1 and S.P.1 as in my 1800/30. Less ENERGIE (weather permitting)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1825/31.)
- F.S. 26. Humber departure at 1934 FERNIE to join F.S.26 in place of SLEIPNER.
(F.O. Humber, 2007A/31)

1139

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

K.M.F.9. The following ships will be ready to leave the U.K. from the undermentioned ports for destinations as stated on 7th February.

2. From Clyde, for Oran - S.S. TAWALI, SS. WINDSOR CASTLE. For Algiers SS. NEA HELLAS. From Liverpool, for Oran - SS. MONARCH OF BERMUDA, For Algiers SS. JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT.

3. Speed of slowest ship 14 knots but speed must be adjusted to suit endurance of destroyer escort. 4. Admiralty will promulgate route South of Ireland. 5. Escort will be provided by MALCOLM and MIAOULES and two destroyers referred to in para. 3 of A.M. 1351/31. 6. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange sailing of convoy and escorts as necessary to allow destroyers to fuel at Milford Haven and to R/V as requisite. 7. Fighter protection codeword "Damson".
(D.O.D.H. 2246A/31.)

Ships for Bristol Channel. Ocean escorts from convoys routed South of Ireland which are detailed to escort Bristol Channel Ships may leave them to proceed independently on reaching Scarweather light vessel and then proceed to Base.
(C. in C. W.A. 2303A/31.)

War Diary.

31.1.1943
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

"Torch" Area.

Escorts
Casablanca
Area.

Following is a repetition of my 1139/29 (No trace in W.R.) (begins) S.N.O.C.A's 1450/27. (No trace in W.R.) Consider that the extension of S.N.O.C.A's southern boundary and increased local traffic with Dakar will place heavy strain on local escorts. Would be grateful if it could be arranged to provide S.N.O.C.A. with additional escorts for all convoys until French are capable of assisting. Something of seaworthy trawler type would be suitable.

(N.C.X.F. 0310A/31, to Cinclant, (R) S.N.O.C.A.)

I am unable to assign S.N.O.C.A. at this time 4 to 8 large escort vessels requested his 1903Z/28 (N.T. in W.D.) as I am now working in no margin whatever of escort vessels allowing no spares for breakdowns or overhauls. The insertion of an additional U.G.S. convoy, the detail of 4 modern destroyers to U.K. for tanker convoy, initiation Gulf-Morocco tanker convoys, and landing craft convoys, have increased my difficulties to supply escorts. P.G. Mindiv 21 was left temporarily in Morocco until the 25 small frontier vessels arrived. It was expected to use this Mindiv to return ALMAACK to U.S. but her return now seems indefinite. The two sweepers returning with G.U.S. 4 are urgently needed this side. AUK is being left in Morocco for the time being. Have no trawlers assigned Atlantic Fleet suitable for anti-submarine escort so I am referring that part your 0310A/31 to Cominch. (Cinclant, 2210Z/31, to N.C.X.F. (R) Cominch, S.N.O.C.A.)

Future
Convoys.

1. "Torch" convoys from U.K. are expected to be maintained as far as British tonnage is concerned on their present level up to and including K.M.S. 12 although there may be some reduction in K.M.S. 11 and K.M.S.12. Thereafter it is hoped that we shall be on maintenance basis with a consequential reduction but this reduction is as yet unknown.

2. The return of approx. 60 ships to U.K. in future M.K.S. convoys will, therefore, be unnecessary and we are consequently discussing with Admty. the possibility of routing such surplus tonnage either direct to the U.S.A. or to W. Africa.

3. We will advise you the result of these discussions but meantime please consult local Navy Authorities as we are anxious to make immediate arrangements for the despatch of 4 suitable tramp steamers ex K.M.S.6, 7, or K.X. 8 direct to Takoradi to load manganese ore to U.K. We are also anxious if practicable to despatch in addition CLAN MACBRAYNE, MARY SLESSOR and LYCAON to Takoradi to load on liner berth to U.K. If this is a practicable proposition please arrange with Navy Authorities for vessels to be despatched accordingly advising us names of tramps concerned. If it is not possible for you to despatch the 3 liners referred to above we should be glad if you would suggest alternative vessels. Loading instructions will be sent direct to Takoradi, but meantime vessels should be instructed on sailing to apply to M.W.T.R. at destination.

(M.W.T., 2133A/31 to M.W.T.R. Algiers (R) V.A.Gib. for M.W.T.R.)

1141

War Diary.31.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

HOLCOMBE Expect me at 0901A 31st Jan. Require 260 oil fuel.
(HOLCOMBE 0002A/31 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) F.O. Gibraltar)

QUADRANT, E.T.A. 0700A/31st with RELENTLESS and ADRIAS? RELENTLESS, Acknowledge. ADRIAS. (QUADRANT 0350A/31 to S.N.O. Casablanca) W.S.26 C.O. QUADRANT submits that as QUILIERON (?QUIBERON) and QUALITY have now joined W.S.26 (?Greek ship) ADRIAS should return to Gibraltar from Casablanca assuming estimated time of departure for QUADRANT and RELENTLESS 2100A/31st.
(S.N.O. Casablanca 1300Z/31 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar etc.) S.N.O. Casablanca's 1300/31st Jan. ADRIAS is to continue with convoy to Freetown as arranged.
(D.O.D.F. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 2310A/31 to QUADRANT, QUIBERON, WAYLAND, (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) QUADRANT, RELENTLESS sail when refuelled at approx. 2130A/31 Jan. to rejoin escort W.S.26. C.T.U.26.7.1. provide escort through minefield.
(S.N.O.C.A.1508Z/31 to QUADRANT, RELENTLESS, (R)V.A. Gib. N.C.X.F. F.O.C.W.A., C.T.U.26.7.1., C.T.U. 26.7.3., C.T.U.26.7.2.) Following is a repetition of my 1520Z/31 (begins). Action ADRIAS repeated V.A. Gib. Flag Officer Admty. C.T.U.26.7.1, 26.7.2, 26.7.3 from S.N.O. Casablanca Area. My 311300. ADRIAS sail 0730/1st Feb. for Gibraltar C.T.U.26.7.3 detail one S.O. to escort through minefield. (Ends)
(S.N.O. Casablanca area 1522/31 to V.A. Gib., Flag Officer, Admty.) Cancelled by 1031Z/1 q.v.

ARGOS, Arrival ARGUS, TEST, LETITIA ex K.M.F.8. TEST, (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0440A/31 to Admty. N.C.X.F., LETITIA. C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Situation Area "Y" SCARBOROUGH, ERNE (?JONQUIL) off Ponta 1956A/31st. Delgada.
2. REGENT 29.01 22.42 through 29.01 20.01 thence 059° on surface 11 knots.
(V.A. Gib. 1204A/31 1730A/31)

DANIEL HUGER, Your 1650/30. These two ships arrived Gibraltar JOHN G. in E.T.9 (X) 2115/26. My 0925/27 (not to C. in C. WHITTIER. W.A.) refers.
F.O.I.C. Gib. 1219A/31 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

W.S.26 Following is a repetition of para. No.3 of my 1124A/29th. (Begins) Convoy W.S.26 is to be detached when R/V has been made and proceed to position (N) in accordance with Admty's 1904A/15. (ends). My 1024A/30th refers.
(V.A. Gib. 1236A/31 to EGRET, Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.8, Ships escorting W.S.26, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F. N.O.I.C. W. Af., S.N.O. Casablanca Area.)

/W.S.26 ...

1142

War Diary.31.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic - Contd.

- W.S.26 W.S.26 NK alter course forthwith for new position P.29 10° N 17° 20' W thence pass between Gomera Island and Palma to (Q) 23° N 19° W and rejoin route at N.
(D.O.D.(F) approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1811A/31 to Escorts of W.S.26, F.O.I.C. Gib. F.O.C. W.Af. N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A., QUIBERON, QUALITY.)
- Tunisia N.A. Madrid 1300/31 (See Mediterranean)
Evacuees.
- Situation Area X 2006A/31st.
Report. U.G.S.4 T.F.38 35.34 12.05 through 33.50 08.04 thence 113° 7.1.
(2) U.S. M/Sweeper RAVEN U.S. M/Sweeper OSPREY sailing Casablanca 1800A/31 to relieve 2 destroyers U.G.S.4 in 34.54 10.23 at 0900/1st thence destroyers to R/V G.U.F.4 in 34.50 08.08 at 1700A/1st.
(3) REGENT 29.01 22.42 through 29.01 20.01 thence 59° on surface ll
(4) G.U.F.4 T.F.34 sails Casablanca 0800A/1st to R/V Oran section in 34.50 08.08 at 1700A/1st thence 298° 13½.
(5) G.U.F.4 (Oran Section) VENOMOUS passes Europa Point 0400A/1st through 35.46 06.18 to R/V G.U.F.4 at 1700A/1st 13 knots.
(6) 3 Fleet units 9 destroyers 35.32 08.58 through 36.28 10.01 thence 331° 17.
(7) LORD HOTHAM, IMPERIALIST, LADY DENISON PENDER 32.26 16.05 leaving position during 1st thence 080° 8.
(8) SAINT NECTAN approx. 32.57 14.35 067° 10.
(9) LOCH OSKAIG 3 trawlers 2 Merchant ships 36.27 06.55 to Gibraltar 9.
(10) W.S.26 QUIBERON 031° 44' 011° 34' through 028° 01' 013° 20' thence 215° 12½.
(11) K.M.S.8 LANDGUARD 041.43 013.40 154° 6¼. 2 Merchant ships detach to Lisbon 1900A/1st.
(12) LULWORTH, BARFOIL, 042.07 013.15 to Lisbon 6.
(13) Gibraltar convoy number 1 ROCHESTER 026.26 016.10 through 028.10 013° 41 thence 032° 7½.
(14) 1 Tug 2 Ferry Steamers 44.46 16.01 through 42.01 16.01 thence 159° 6¼.
(15) RHYL and 6 escorts 35.37 06.54 to R/V U.G.S.4 1300A/1st in 34.40 09.59 and escort Med section through 35.55 06.01 thence through Straits 9.
(16) G.U.F.4 Gibraltar section VANOC sails 0100/1st to R/V G.U.F.4 Oran section in 35.46 06.18 at 0800/1st.
(17) CALPE, PUCKERIDGE 35.17 07.03 to Gibraltar 15.
(18) Spanish Training Ship GALATEA leaving Ferrol 1st for Las Palmas.
(19) 3 Portuguese S/m exercising off Setubal.
(F.O. Gib. 1302A/31 to S. & A. N.A.)

/Ex-German ...

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Ex-German ships, Seville. My 1130/29th Jan. Departure 31st 2 ex-German ships RIA DE VIGO and RIA DE PONTEVEDRA for Cadiz.
 Ex-German ship RIA DE MUROS expected to leave Ayamonte shortly.
 (Seville, 1430C/31 to B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar, Admty. (for D. of N.I.))

K.M.S.8 K.M.S.8 intended sailings to join for Algiers EMPIRE LORENZO, SAN AMADO (T) MEDEE II, JAMAIQUE, for Oran, RHEA.
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1442A/31 to Escorts of K.M.S.8 for Cdre. (R) Connav, F.O. Oran, Cdre. Algiers, N.C.X.F., Admty).

HOLCOMBE, ILEX. My 1430/31. Intend sail DANIEL BOONE and W.C. (?CLAYBORNE) stragglers from U.G.S. 4 escorted by HOLCOMBE and ILEX departing Casablanca 1800A/31 to Gibraltar, routing coastal, speed 10 knots, E.T.A.1500A/1.
 (S.N.O.C.A., 1733Z/31 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F., Admty. Cominch, F.O.I.C. Oran, ILEX, HOLCOMBE, C.T.F.38).

MONTE NARANCO, interception. Your 1201/30th to Admty. suggests search of MONTE NARANCO for contraband by armed guard would reveal object of diversion.
 2. My 1939/28 did not intend armed guard should try to search ship for contraband but to "Look out for" certain cases marked Bagley e.g. they might be located when searching for stowaways or if being opened ostensibly as ship's provisions.
 3. It might be a wise precaution for armed guard to seal store and provision rooms and allow access to them and to holds only under supervision.
 (D.E.W.D. approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 1758A/31 to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C.W.Af. S.N.O.C.A., N.C.X.F.)

ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH. Alter course forthwith to pass between Gran Canaria and Tenerife thence direct to P.
 (D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1813A/31 to ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH, (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A.)

ADRIAS, attack on U/B. Following message received from ADRIAS (quote) C.A.F.O. 834/41. (A) ADRIAS (B) 2355/27. (C) 46° 06' N. 16° 21' W. (D) 15 (one pattern of 5, one pattern of 10) (E) 0105/28.
 (S.N.O.C.A., 1911Z/31 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., Cominch).

War Diary.

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

RAVEN, OSPREY. My 1500Z/30. U.S. M/S RAVEN and U.S. M/S OSPREY sailed 1722A/31. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 1917Z/31 to C.T.F.38 (R) Ships in Company Med Fleet, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar N.C.X.F., C.T.F.34, C.T.U. 26.7.1).

Movements, Casablanca. Warship arrivals Casablanca. PENN, PATHFINDER, PANTHER, ILEX, HOLCOMBE from escort of the ILLUSTRIOUS. QUADRANT, RELENTLESS, ADRIAS from W.S.26. Departures PENN, PATHFINDER, PANTHER to rejoin ILLUSTRIOUS, ILEX, HOLCOMBE, to Gibraltar with U.G.S.4 stragglers QUADRANT, RELENTLESS to rejoin W.S.26. U.S.S. RAVEN, OSPREY to meet U.G.S.4. (C.S.F., W.N.T.F., 2035Z/31 to Admty).

IMPERIALIST, ST. NECTAN. IMPERIALIST rejoined 1000A/31st ST. NECTAN proceeding Gibraltar E.T.A.1800A/2nd. Wind S.W.5 Sea moderate heavy body swell No cloud fine and clear. P.C. and S. (033° or 026°) 08' N. 013° 51' W. 068°10 $\frac{1}{2}$. (ST. NECTAN, 2100A/31 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

GRETE German controlled GRETE sailed from Valencia for Marseilles night of 30th. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 2155A/31 to S.O.(I) Malta, S.O.I. X.F.)

CALPE, PUCKERIDGE. Following is a repetition of message received from RENOWN (Begins) P.C. and S. of Fleet unit at 1900A/31st 034° 25' N. 008° 00' W. 320° 17 knots. (Ends) CALPE, PUCKERIDGE, E.T.A. 0830A/1st. (CALPE, 2200A/31 to N.O.I.C. Gib).

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31.1.1943.

Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- CERES. Simonstown arrival 1835C/30th.
(C. in C. S.A. 0221C/31 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. N.O.I.C. Durban.)
- RANGITIKI (For New York.) Ref. my 1421Z/29. Vessel full to passenger certificate limitation, but has following accommodation available- 299 first and second, 2000 third.
(S.T.O. Capetown 0745Z/31 to Admty B.A.D. etc.)
- INDRAPOERA EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Ref. my 1421Z/29 and 1600Z/29. Vessels full to passenger certificate limitation, but have following accommodation available respectively INDRA- POERA, 237 first, 789 third; EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, 145 first, 870 third. Last vessel has 149 bags of mail.
(S.T.O. Capetown 0755Z/31 to Admty. etc.)
- S.S. ORION. H.M.T. ORION sailed 30th Jan. E.T.A. Freetown 11th Feb. Requirements. Passengers on board.
(S.T.O. 0830Z/31 0840Z/31 0845Z/31 to Admty. etc.)
- HAI LEE, escort. Departures from Pointe Noire (?18)00Z/30th F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting S.S. HAI LEE to Congo River.
(B.N.L.O. W. Africa 0845/31 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)
- P. 614. Arrival Pointe Noire 0700Z/31.
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 0905Z/31 to ? F.O.C.W.A.)
- MATAROA H.M.T. MATAROA sailed 30th Jan. E.T.A. Punta Arenas 15th Feb. Requirements.
(S.T.O. Capetown 0910Z/31 to Admty. etc.)
- D.N.13. My 0813/30 (N.T. in W.D.) D.N. 13, DELPHINULA did not sail.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0920C/31 to C. in C. S.A.)
- S.G.- G.S. Convoys. Ref. A.M. 1824A/15th Jan. para 4 and my 2057/19th Jan. It is recommend that convoys between Freetown and Gib. (S.G. - G.S.) should be run at regular intervals as soon as necessary escort can be made available.
2. Northbound convoys from Freetown would consist of (a) Ships bound for U.K. which could not be included in M.K.S.
(b) Ships for U.K. which arrive at Freetown after the S.L. has been detailed. (c) Ships for U.S. and Canadian ports - for inclusion in G.U.S.

/(a) ...

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War Diary.

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.

S.G. (d) Ships from W. African ports (and Dakar) for
 G.S. Casablanca and Gib.
 Convoys. In the case of ships referred to in (a) and (b)
 delays of up to 19 days would be materially reduced.
 With regard to (c) and (d) regular opportunities
 for (?through) escort- at present seldom available - would be
 provided. 3. Southbound convoys from Gib. would consist of ships
 bound to African ports from U.K. and U.S. ports and also from Gib.
 and Casablanca. These ships to come to Gib. in K.M. and U.G.
 convoys. 4. It is suggested that S.G's should sail from
 Freetown 12 days after S.L's, if this would fit in with M.K. and
 G.U. sailings. 5. Escort arrangements. A "Nucleus" escort
 group to accompany convoy through this passage from Freetown to
 Gib. and (?vice versa). A Supplementary escort group to accomp-
 any convoy from Freetown to about 023° N. where they would be
 relieved by a similar escort provided by V.A. Gib. himself.
 6. To provide the necessary escorts an addition of 4 destroyers
 and 8 corvettes to those which are at present available or which
 are due to join my command shortly would be required.
 7. Should these additional escorts become available it would
 also be possible to organise escort groups in this area.
 Although the advantage of using groups is fully appreciated scar-
 ity of forces and numerous small and varied commitments have un-
 fortunately never permitted this.
 (F.O.W.A. 0955Z/31 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., etc.)

BRIDGEWATER. My P.C. and S. at 0900Z/31st 010° 24' N. 034° 19'
 W. 162° 11½. Parted company with RHIXENOR in 011°
 24' N. 034° 43' W. From 1900Z/30th wireless watch
 kept on Washington broadcast and Rugby G.B. At 2200Z/2nd Feb.
 will shift to group F.T. Weather report.
 (BRIDGEWATER, 1028Z/31 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Capt. (D) Freetown.)

U/B Wreck Wreckage of U/B reported in position X, 012° 08'
 COTINTHIAN. N., 020° 30' W. Arrive position X about 1600Z/31
 From X search Y 013° 01' N., 020° 50' W., thence
 to Bathurst.
 (F.O.C.W.A. 1040Z/31 to CORINTHIAN, (R) Admty. Comardakar; N.O.I.
 C. Bathurst.)
 W.D. Note. Position where a Catalina reported damaging a U/B
 on 30/1.

ARMERIA. Arrival 2000Z/30th. ARMERIA escorting BERGENSF-
 JORD.
 (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1050/31 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R)
 S.S.T.O. Gib., S.S.T.O. Freetown, Comar Dakar.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.

31.1.1943
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Situation at 2001Z/31st. French battleship RICHELIEU, French cruiser MONT-CALM and 4 U.S. destroyers 14.14 23.10 to 13.55 24.42 thence 301° 12.5. Aux. Anti S/M trawler BREDON PORTSDOWN French despatch vessel CALAIS 4 motor launches escorting 10.43 17.10 353°7. CORINTHIAN about 13.01 20.50 to Bathurst, 12.5. BRIDGEWATER about 08.50 34.01 165°13. French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol between St. Paul's Rock and 08.30 23.02. French sloop M/S GAZELLE, French S/M Parent ship JULES VERNE, H.M.S. PETUNIA leave Dakar 0001 first for Port Etienne. DUNKERY on patrol off Port Etienne. FANDANGO 2 motor launches escorting about 09.01 15.30 to Freetown 7.5. (R.A.W.A. 1121Z/31 to Area P.)

Argentine expedition. My 1120/28th. Announced officially that transport PAMPA with Air Ministry Conf. Orders for Meteorological Station leaving for S. Orkneys 1st. February. (C. in C. S.A. 1153C/31 to CARNARVON CASTLE (R) Admty.)

HIGHLAND PRINCESS, RANGITIKI, MATAROA, ESPERANCE BAY. D. of S.T. 1730/14th Dec. Following transports en route to New York each with 100 Germans prisoners of war for transhipment to Canada.

| Ship | Date | Next Port of Call | E.T.A. | Naval Guard on Board. |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| HIGHLAND PRINCESS | 21st Jan. | Chesapeake Bay | 21st Feb. | 5 Officers 48 Ratings |
| RANGITIKI | 28th Jan. | Punta Arenas | 12th Feb. | 5 Officers 50 Ratings. |
| MATAROA. | 30th Jan. | Punta Arenas | 15th Feb. | 5 Officers 48 Ratings. |
| ESPERANCE BAY. | 30th Jan. | Freetown | 11th Feb. | 5 Officers 48 Ratings. |

Tamatave persnl of naval guard will require on-carriage to U.K. as soon as they can be spared. 3. Request B.M.W.T.R. be informed (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1155C/31 to B.A.D. (R) D.S.T. etc.)

Dispositions. VIVIANA, INDIAN STAR, escorting tugs PRUDENT, INTEGRITY towing crane lighter off Port Shepstone to Durban. (? ROCKROSE) LADY ROSEMARY 029° 00' S. 015° 50' E. to Capetown 10 knots. STANDERTON, VEREENIGING, TURFONTEIN with C.A. 8 034° 25' S. 022° 40' E. to Durban 7. Convoy D.C. 3, 034° 20' S. 024° 15' E. to Capetown 8½. CHESHIRE, 039° 15' S. 023° 00' E. 180° 13½ knots. CARTHAGE, 038° 50' S. 024° 50' E. to patrol in area M. 3 B. VALIANT, HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT, with C.F. 11, 028° 15' S. 015° 15' E. to the North, 13. RANCHI, BLACKMOOR, 035° 05' S. 019° 02' E. to Capetown 13½ E.T.A. 0400Z/1st. JASMINE, NIGELLA, with (group missing) N.13 032° 30' S. 035° 15' E. to the E. 7. SPHENE 031° 25' S. 030° 15' E. to Durban 8 E.T.A. 0700Z/1st. (C. in C. S.A. 1204C/31 to Area Q.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Movements. Arrival 31st Jan. M/L 285. Departure MERCATOR, COPINSAY.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 1335Z/31st. to Admty.)

Comar, Title Dakar Naval District (short title Comar
Dakar, Dakar) referred to in My 1721/25 is French term
title. and is understood by French Navy. Adml. Collinet
was most anxious should not be changed.
would prefer this title to that in Admty. message
143A of 29th Jan. unless there are overriding objections.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1451Z/31 to Admty.) W.R. Note: Message corrected
by 0840/3 from Freetown C.C.O.

M.L's. C. in.C. S.A. 1248C/23 (M.L's 380, 381, 382, 383,
unsuitable for S. African waters.) An appreciable
additional local patrol commitment has arisen at
Port Etienne. If M. L's in S. African Waters are no longer
required I should welcome them in my command.
(? F.O.C.W.A. 1501Z/31st. to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C.
E.F.)

HILARY. Admty. 2119/29 to F.O.C.W.Af. regarding HILARY
not clearly understood. 2. Request confirmation
that if vessel is escorted to U.K. she will be
available for service and civilian personnel to total capacity.
3. Accommodation urgently required to relieve present large
accumulation.
(D.S.T.W.A. 1611Z/31 to Admty. for D.S.T. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

DUNKERY,
M.L's. Motor launches have only obtained sufficient fuel
to reach St. Louis. Will sail them A.M. 1st Feb.
to arrive St. Louis A.M. 2nd Feb. approx. S.T.O.
estimates KANA and MACGREGOR LAIRD will be ready
to sail A.M. 3rd Feb. if weather conditions prevail.
(Dunkery 1615Z/31 to R.A. West Africa (R)
Comar, Dakar.)

DUNCTON
Takoradi. Your 1504Z/31st. (N.T. in W.R.) Attempts to
tow barges off beach unsuccessful. Heavier gear
is required. Am returning to Takoradi E.T.A.
0900Z/1st.
(DUNCTON 1702Z/31 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi. (R) R.A.
West Africa.)

BREDON. E.T.A. outer channel float 1200Z/1st. TECONDEROGA
in company. Awaiting further instructions.
Ref. F.O.C. W. Africa's 1134Z/31st. (N.T. in W.R.)
(BREDON 1705/31 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) E.D.O.,
F.O.C. W. Af.)

THEODORE
SEDGWICK,
"Q"
Report. Position at 1630 G.M.T. 37.18 S. 25.56 E. pursued
by suspicious vessel.
(THEODORE SEDGWICK, No. T.O.O. to Slangkop Recd.
1813/31)

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

P. 614. Departure from Pointe Noire 1700Z/31st. P. 614
route in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1156 24th.
E.T.A. position F 0300 10th Feb. E.T.A.
Simonstown 0700Z/11th. S. of A. 8.5 knots, keeping Q W/T.
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 1815/31 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

FELIX Your 1221/27. Request report nature of major
ROUSSEL. repairs required.
(D. of S.T. 1930A/31 to F.S.T.O. Capetown.)

CYCLAMEN. E.T.A. 0700Z/1st.
(CYCLAMEN 2015Z/31 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R)
F.O.C.W.Af.)

HOGGAR. Request you will sail French ship HOGGAR for
Marshall to embark 41st Engineer Battalion U.S.
with vehicles and stores for Oran.
Ship is to be sailed for Gib. for onward passage when embarkation
is complete. F.O.W. Africa pass to B.N.L.O. Dakar.
(N.C.X.F., 2230A/31 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) S.N.O.C.A. etc.)
Reply: F.O.C.W.A. 1115Z/1.

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31.1.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. My 2305A. P.C. and S. of one medium M/V and 2 destroyers 39° 05' N. 14° 08' E. 8 knots.
(A/C G.H.A. O., 0135A/31 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of M/V and one Destroyer 36° 33' N. 11° 47' E. 225° 8.
(A/C G.H.A./G., 0337A/31, to A.H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of 1 M/V (not exceeding 10,000 tons) 1 Destroyer 36° 35' N. 11° 32' E. 240° 8 knots.
(A/C G.H.A./M. 0401A/31 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
Position 1 M/V, 1 destroyer 36° 33' N. 10° 42' E. Course 190° Speed 8 knots.
(A/C, G.J.K./N. 0413A/31 to A.H.Q. Malta.)
One M/V, two destroyers, two aeroplanes position 36° 26' N. 24° 46' E. course 330° speed 10 knots.
(A/C A.N.O./W., 1405B/31 to Air H.Q. Malta, No. 201 Gr. Hq.)
Position course and speed of 12 W.P.B. one medium merchant ship, 2 E.S.U. 4 aeroplanes 340° 12 knots L.B.T.W. 3050.
(Undecipherable, ? L.B.T.J. 3050 = 36° 30' N., 24° 50' E.)
(A/C A.N.O./R., 1410B/31, to 201 Group.)
Following read:- One medium M/V, two cruisers and three M.T.Bs. in 37° 45' N. 11° 35' E. C.080° 8 knots.
(A/C C.Y.S./U., 1900Z/31).

Movements, Arrived WELSHMAN, NUBIAN, PALADIN.
Malta. (V.A. Malta, 0822A/31 to Admty., C. in C. Med. N.C. X.F.) (WELSHMAN returned from minelaying D.O.R. 1262.)

RORQUAL. Your 2335A/30th. Am returning 24 hours early on account of damage to periscope by enemy gunfire. 2 torpedoes remain.
(RORQUAL, 0906A/31 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) S/Ms on patrol.)
Your 0906/31st acknowledged. Usual R/V 0830 2nd. P.46 arrives at same time. Cancel movement of P.43 in my 2335/30th.
(Capt. S.10, 2304A/31 to RORQUAL. (R) S/Ms. on patrol.)

Movements, Arrivals 30th Jan. CLEOPATRA, JERVIS, JAVELIN,
Alexandria. KELVIN, ERICA, SOUTHERN MAID, PROTEA French Sloop
COMMANDANT DOMINE. Departures 30th Jan. Greek
Destroyer PANTHER, Greek SAKTOURIS.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0934/31 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

G.U.F. 4. G.U.F.4 sailed U.S. ANNE ARUNDEL, ANCON,
SANTA PAULA, CHRISTOBAL, SHAWNEE, BORINQUEN,
EVANGELIN, J.W. MACANDREW escorted by VENOMOUS,
HAYDON, SUMMERSIDE, BADDECK, ALBERNI, LUNENBURG,
PORT ARTHUR. First 2 letters of W/T call sigh Z.U.
(F.O. Oran, 1015A/31 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty etc.)

M.T.Bs. 4 M.T.Bs. leave Malta at 1700/31st to operate in daylight from wreck to east Kuriat Island and return Malta not later than the night 3rd/4th Feb.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1050A/31 to C.in C.Med. No.201 Group, H.Q.R.A.F. P.E.(?M.E.) 247 Wing (R) N.C.X.F. Admty., HQ.E.A.C.)
/ADRIAS...

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War Diary.

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

ADRIAS
MIAOULES. Your 1151/25. (asking where delay is expected).
Anywhere west of line joining Cape Bon and
Marittimo.
(C. in C. Med. 1049B/31 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)

MARIPOSA. Your 0503/25th Jan, My 1743/23rd Jan, 1001/29th
Jan. In view of C. in C. E.F.'s 0840/16th Jan
stating that ocean escort will not be provided for
MARIPOSA, request confirmation that the number of personnel in
my 1001/29th Jan may be embarked.
(P.S.T.O., M.E., 1105B/31 to Admty.) Confirmed (D.S.T. 0439B/3.)

Convoy. Convoy P.A.21 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 1115Z/31 to Admty.)

Bi-weekly A.682. Part 1. Night 29/30th Jan. 6 Halifaxes
Opsum No. bombed railway train ferry terminus Messina Harbour.
96. 1 large, several smaller fires with black smoke
started just south of target possibly at commercial
oil tanks. 6 Wellingtons bombed Augusta causing
an explosion and a small fire. 31st Jan. 2 formations
totalling 20 B.24s despatched to make afternoon and dusk attacks
respectively on ferry terminus by Messina. 4 aircraft returning
owing to technical troubles. First formation returned owing to
technical troubles. First formation 11 B.24s scored many hits
and near misses on terminus, several hits on track to south.
3 hits claimed on vessel at Quay near terminus, hits and near
misses on stern of merchant vessel leaving harbour 9 bombs fell
among group of ships outside harbour. Other bombs burst on Quay
and in town silencing 1 D.A. gun. 5 B.24s bombing at dusk
scored hits and near misses on terminus and hits on railway
sidings, latter followed by black smoke.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1126Z/31.)

Tunisia French Military Attache here has been ordered by
Evacuees. "Local Authorities of French Navy" to inform me as
follows:- Families of Military Personnel in
Tunisia are to be repatriated to Marseilles
because of bombing. Only Women and Children concerned. Transport
to be by Hospital Ships. He asks for urgent assurance that
these Ships will not be molested. Request instructions
F.O.I/C Gibraltar please pass N.C.X.F.
(N.A. Madrid, 1300/31 to Admty., (R) F.O.I/C Gibraltar,
V.A. Malta, N.C.X.F.) Replies: Admty., 2240A/2/2 and N.C.X.F.
1727A/2/2.

E.A.C 31 Jan. A.361 Opsum 81, 1800 hrs. 29 Jan. 1800
Report. hrs. 30 Jan. A. Operations night 29/30. Blida.
8 Wellingtons of 142 Sqdn. and 7 of 150 Sqdn.
attacked docks at Bizerta. Weather en route and
over target was excellent with no cloud and moonlight. Attack
was concentrated into a period of 14 minutes and all crews report
successful results. With 2 exceptions bombs were seen to burst
along dockside and in town. 1 aircraft dropped his load along

/the...

War Diary.

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

E.A.C. Report. Contd. the railway line by the Power Station on Sebra Bay and another bombed the docks at Poety Bay, all crews report little or no flak. On Wellington returning from the target saw 3 E-Boats, A/C came down to 300 feet and attacked the last boat with front and beam guns. E-Boats was seen to fall out of line and come to a stop. F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 27 B.17s escorted by 31 P.38s attacked the docks and shipping at Ferryville. Numerous bursts observed in dock area causing several large fires. Direct hits seen on a vessel at the most northerly dock. Several other vessels tied up at docks believed damaged. 1,000 pound bomb stated to have hit between a dock and a ship probably causing a large hole in side of vessel. Intense accurate heavy flak on target.
(E.A.C. Africa, 1530A/31.)

Air R/C. P.R.U. 31st Jan. visuals. 1055 Trapani, 6 Destroyers. 115, Palermo, 7 Destroyers. 1205, Castellamare, 2 Cruisers. 1315, Messina, 3 Cruisers.
(V.A. Malta, 1535A/31 to C. in C. Med etc.)
P.R.U. Jan 31st. My 1535/31st. Cruisers at Castellamare are the two damaged ships previously reported.
(V.A. Malta, 1807A/31 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

P.211. You were probably sighted Capri at 1230A today.
(Capt. S.8. 1556A/31 to P.211.)

Genoa R/C. A.T. 2152/29. Later interpretation reports (1) Total of four submarines present, two of which are in dock. (2) Work has apparently commenced on installation of forward lift in ROMA. (3) Work is still progressing on AUGUSTUS.
(D.D.I.C., 1603A/31 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

TARTAR, ASHANTI. TARTAR, ASHANTI will provide escort from position 109 for Oran section - joining there about 2115A.
(S.O. Force H., 1632A/31 to Capt. (D) 19, (R) TARTAR.)

P.51 P.43. Sailed P.51 P.43.
(V.A. Malta, 1645A/31 to Admty., etc.)

WELSHMAN. Sailed.
(V.A. Malta, 1700A/31 to Admty., etc.)

M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs. 260, 264, 307, 313 sailed for Operation.
(V.A. Malta, 1727A/31 to Admty., etc.)
M.T.Bs. will be operating continuously in Kuriat area from tonight 31st until 0100/4th. They will not attack S/Ms.
(Capt. S.10, 1737/31 to P.46, UNA.)

War Diary.

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, Haifa. Arrival 31st Jan. French Auxiliary Patrol Vessel REINE DES FLOTS, Greek Destroyer AETOS. (N.O.I.C. Haifa ?, 1849B/31 to Admty., C. in C.Med.)

Movements, Oran. Departures VENOMOUS, HAYDON, SUMMERSIDE, BADDECK, PORT ARTHUR, ALBERNI, LUNENBURG, FOULA, M.L.238, M.L.280. (N.O.I/c Oran, 1959A/31 to Admty., etc.)

Tripoli. Situation report No.331 - Tripoli (L). 30 feet entrance now cleared with depth of 15 feet enabling salvage vessel to enter harbour. Over 1100 tons of cargo discharged 30th Jan. Five berths available outside Harbour, six to nine berths for large ships expected inside when Harbour is opened. (C. in C. Med., 2001B/31 to Admty.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers departure. ROTHESAY, FELIXSTOWE, to Bone. Sub. P.54 to Gibraltar. (Cdre. Algiers, 2004A/31 to Admty. etc.)

Force Q. Operation. Bone departures BICESTER, ZETLAND, AURORA, SIRIUS, LIGHTNING, LOYAL. (S.O.I.S., 2008A/31 to Admty., etc.)

ENCHANTRESS U/B. We consider that your attack on 13th December, 1942, probably destroyed a U-Boat, and we congratulate ENCHANTRESS on this success. (D.A./S.W., Approved 1st S.L. 2013A/31, to ENCHANTRESS)

CADMUS U/B. We consider that your attack on 4th December, 1942, probably destroyed a U-Boat and we congratulate CADMUS on this success. (D.A./S.W. Approved 1st S.L., 2014A/31 to CADMUS.)

ABDIEL. (Minelaying). Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 2030A/31 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.561 31 Jan. 1943 C.S.R. Malta. Part 1. Offensive night 30th/31st Jan. 4 special equipment Wellingtons 2 of which carried torpedoes and 3 torpedo carrying Beauforts were despatched to search for and attack enemy shipping between Naples and Sicily. At 0254 hours. 1 Wellington sighted 1 M/V 3/5000(?tons) and 2 D/Rs 39° 00' N. 14° 42' E. course 150° 8 knots, but was unable to attack owing to low cloud and bad visibility. 4 special equipment Wellingtons 3 of which (?carried) torpedoes were despatched to locate and attack enemy shipping in the Pantelleria Area. 1 Wellington sighted 0221 hours 1 medium

/M/V...

War Diary.

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta M/V and 1 D/R 36° 33' N. 12° 47' E. course 225°
Air 8 knots and aimed its torpedo at M/V but escorting
Report. D/R crossed track of torpedo was hit on starboard
side and was left stationary and listing heavily.
Day 31st January. 8 Beaufighters 4 of which
carried bombs escorted by 4 Spitfires were despatched to attack
enemy shipping off the East Coast of Tunisia at 1030 hours.
Beaufighters found 3 Schooners in position 360°. Sousse 10 miles
course 270° speed 5 knots and attacked with cannon and machine
guns causing 1 Schooner to stop. At 1035 hrs. Beaufighters
found 1 M/V 3000 tons 1 D/R and 3 Flak Ships stationary in
position 140°. Hammamet 2 miles and attacked with 8 x 250 lb.
bombs scoring several near misses. Much smoke was seen on M/V
and a gun on the stern was silenced. Intense heavy and light
A.A. was encountered from the ships and its escort and 2
Beaufighters are missing. Part 2. Enemy Air Activity.
Day 31st Jan. 12 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned
back before reaching Malta. 2 Spitfires were airborne to
protect incoming Naval Unit.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2038/31.)

OCEAN Troopers 98481 of Jan. 31st (N.T. in W.R.)
ATHLETE. Request confirmation that OCEAN ATHLETE returned
from K.M.S. 8.
(N.C.X.F. 2202A/31 to Admty.) Confirmed returned
Clyde (D.T.D. 1829A/2.)

Movements, Departure T.L.C. 13 T.L.C. 17 M.L. 1051 M.L.
Benghazi. 1159 tug ST. MONANCE. Arrived and left M.L.
No. 354. CROOME.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2202B/31 to Admty.)

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War Diary.31.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

B.M.39

Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 0650Z/31 to Admty.)Movement
Summary No.38
Jan. 31st.

1. WORCESTERSHIRE left Aden 24th escorting convoy to Victoria Ras Al Hadd then Colombo due 3rd Feb.
2. DEVONSHIRE left Kilindini 28th (corrupt group) due Aden 2nd Feb.
3. RANPURA left Aden 26th due Kilindini 31st Jan.
4. NEPAL left Durban 27th due Kilindini 31st Jan.
5. NORMAN escorting (VSIS) HONG SIANG left Durban 23rd due Kilindini 31st.
6. TAMWORTH escorting one tanker left Fremantle 26th due Diego Garcia 8th Feb. thence Colombo.
7. ATHENE left Durban 22nd due Fremantle 3rd Feb.
8. QUILLIAM left Durban 30th due Kilindini 3rd Feb.
9. S/M O.21 left East London 24th due Diego Suarez 1st Feb. thence Addu Atoll and Colombo.
10. MAGNOLIA left Durban 27th due Diego Suarez 6th Feb. thence Colombo calling Seychelles and Addu Atoll.
11. KHYBER left Durban 24th due 31st thence Addu Atoll and Colombo.
12. BIRMINGHAM leaves Durban 1st Feb. escorting convoy C.M.38 routed through East of Madagascar and Seychelles to Bombay.
13. Following Y messages are cancelled 185 Y of Jan. 22nd 183 Y of Jan. 14th 181 Y of Jan. 11th 180 Y of Jan 10th.
(C. in C. E.F. 0747Z/31) Amended 1635Z/1/2.

Dispositions.

Eastern Fleet weekly disposition signal No.21
 (A) Battleships WARSPITE, REVENGE, RESOLUTION, at Kilindini all to sea 3rd Feb.
 (C) 8 inch cruiser DEVONSHIRE to (?Aden)
 (D) 7.5 inch and 6 inch cruisers. HAWKINS at Bombay. FROBISHER at Kilindini. BIRMINGHAM leaves Durban 1st Feb. escorting convoy northbound. GAMBIA leaves Kilindini 2nd Feb. for Addu Atoll. MAURITIUS at Kilindini to sea 3rd Feb. CAPETOWN in Persian Gulf. DURBAN and CARADOC refitting at Bombay. CERES and DAUNTLESS refitting at Simonstown.
 (E) Heavy units will be carrying out operations in Indian Ocean during February.
 (C. in C. E.F. 0927Z/31)

India Air
Report.

Intelligence Summary of 322 Jan. 31st.
 Jan 30th Akyab Island 2 Hurricanes Recco observed submarine position 7° N. 79° 45' E. No attack made 1 Catalina searched for submarine no result.
 (A.H.Q. India 1121Z/31 to Air Min.) Amended 0510/1.

EMPIRE BUILDER
S.O.S.

(Adml. Mombasa 1848Z/31 to B.M.S.5A)
 See Australia and New Zealand.

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

MADISON. Merco. Balboa 30 Jan. 22 hours U.S.A.T. MADISON San Jose Guatemala. Punta Arenas, and return Balboa 2nd Feb. (?from South). (R.O. Cristobal, 0130/31).

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 30th. Arrivals MANSFIELD ex Iceland. Departures ANEMONE, ABELIA, CAMPANULA, VIMY, BEVERLEY, MIGNONETTE, VANESSA to S.C.118 (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 0140Z/31 to Admty).
Arrivals 30th H.M. Motor Minesweepers 102,103, 105, 106, 107 arrivals 31st ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 0922Q/31).
Arrival 30th. U.S. transport PUMPER.
(N.C.S.O. Curacao, 0935QR/31st Jan).
Arrival 31st U.S. S/M CH S.C. 532.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 1703/31 to Admty).
Following is recoded version of my 1702Z/27 (received undecypherable in W.R.) (Begins:-) San Francisco arrival 25 BLOEMFONTEIN (Du). Departure Jan. 23 TJISADANE (Du). Noumea, Jan. 24 PERIDA (U.S.) Suva and Noumea, Jan. 25 MORMACSEA (U.S.) Auckland. (All U.S. army transports) Port Hueneme Jan. 23 BRASTAGIG (Dut). ESPIRITO SANTO (U.S. army transport) (Ends).
(Ottawa C.C.O. 1725Z/31 to Admty. C.C.O.)
San Francisco 28 U.S. Army Transport POELAU LAUT (Dutch) for Espirito Santo.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2007Z/31 to Admty).
San Francisco 29th U.S. Army Transport PENNANT for Auckland.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2017Z/31 to Admty).
San Francisco 27th ROBERT G. HARPER (U.S.) for Bora Bora.
Port Hueneme 23rd MORMACTEUN (U.S.) for Espirito Santo. Both U.S. A.T.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2041Z/31st Jan. to Admty. D.N.I. Wellington, A.C.N.B.)

U/B Following received from Niton Radio. Intercepted 0242 G.M.T. 500 k/cs de NAU, Radio Trinidad, CK, II urgent, War warning sub. sighted 10° 03' N. 61° 08' W. at 2122 G.M.T. 30.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0342/31 to Admty).

STALKER This is re-encypherment of C.W.S.F. 2302/30.
"STALKER departed San Francisco for Balboa. S. of A. 14.5. 1507Z/30 (Route).
(Cominch, 0800/31 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1507Z/31).

U.C./C.U. Convoys. U.C./C.U. convoys. C.A.F.A.C. showed me message from Cominch ordering C.U. convoy into Trinidad for victualling and fuelling when en route to U.K. Understood this is not Admiralty intention. No necessity for this delay as far as Curacao concerned. Submit large convoys in and out of Trinidad create great danger point. Same order applies to fast Gibraltar.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1017QR/31 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A., N.O.I.C. Trinidad, B.A.D.)

/Movements...

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31.1.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

| Movements | Ship | Position | Course | Speed |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|
| Summary | A.T.35 | 43° N. 29° W. | 090° | 19 |
| at 1800 | BRIDGEWATER | 10° N. 34½° W. | 170° | 15 |
| G.M.T./31st. | 9 L.C.I.(L)s | 27° N. 42° W. | 090° | 10 |
| | French | About 4° N. 27° W. | Patrol | |
| | Cruiser | | | |
| | GEORGES LEYGUES.) | | | |

(D.O.D. (F) 1031Z/31 to Opanav (R) Comnaveu).

Convoy Cycles. Your 2337/28. Please pass my 1907/13 to Cominch. (1st S.L. 1222A/31 to B.A.D.)

ALCANTARA Ref. B.A.D's 2039/20 para. 2 and F.O.C.W.A.F's 1337/21 para. 3. If ALCANTARA is required to embark 100 tons of coal it is suggested that this operation be carried out at Kingston Jamaica. Sufficient bags are not available in Trinidad and there is considerable risk in attempting to place ship alongside. In any case to do so would interfere with coaling of merchant ships and consequent delay to convoys. Some empty bags can be supplied from here if required. If approved and subject to A.M. 2246/30 ship can be sailed about Feb. 4th. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1232Q/31 to S.B.N.O. W.A., (R) Admty. B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Jamaica, F.O.C.W.Af. ALCANTARA.) Reply: 1122Q/1 February).

R.C.N. contribution to war effort. Personal from 1st S.L. Your 1637Z/28. This question on the lines you propose will now be taken up on a higher level. (Sec. to First S.L., 1240A/31 to C.N.S. Ottawa).

Escort Vessels, trials and working up. First two ships of each new class of escort vessel should come to U.K. for Trials and working up. 2. As they become ready for sea request you will arrange for BAYNTUN and COCKBURN, BENTINCK and BYARD to be given a few days shake down, then to be attached as additional escorts to suitable North Atlantic convoys. 3. Destination of B.D.Es. and D.Es. in U.K. is Clyde for first of class trials, then to Tobermory. (Admty. 1402A/31 to B.A.D. (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, C.A/S.E.E. Cdre. WESTERN ISLES, Cdre. Londonderry, S.B.N.O.W.At. Com. i/c Bermuda, SOMERS ISLES.

NORSEMAN Departure 1800Z/31 SS. NORSEMAN 012° N. 061° W. to repair cable 1000Z/1st Feb. MARION. (B.R.O. St. Lucia, 1413Q/31 to Admty).

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War Diary.31.1.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

PRIMROSE Estimated P.C. and S. at 1500/31 047° 58' 043° 50' 268° 6.5 knots. Weather report.
(PRIMROSE, 1503Z/31 to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.T.F.24, C. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.12).

S/M Estimates (Cominch, 1533/31 1534/31, 1606/31, 1607/31, 31st Jan. 1608/31 to Admty).
U.S S/M
Notices.

FAIRWATER. Approx. position 047° 25' N., 036° 20' W.
Took FAIRWATER in tow at 1300 on 40 fathom cable and towing rope attempting to hold vessel's head to wind. At 1715 towing rope and cable parted. Standing by until the weather moderates. Wind N.W. Force 11, Sea 8. Consider chance of making U.K. better than St. Johns N.F.
Request our secret wireless call signs for Feb. and those of MAYFLOWER.
(TENACITY 1800 G.M.T./31 to F.O.N.F. (R) MAYFLOWER).
TENACITY's 1800/31 repeated to you. Request immediate instructions as escort to U.K. cannot be provided from this command.
(F.O.N.F., 2121Z/31 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) TENACITY, MAYFLOWER, C. in C. W.A.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. C. Nats. Plane sights sub. on surface 10° 03' N., 61° 08' W. 2122Z/30 course E. PBY Radar contact area 11° 40' N. 64° 25' W. 0700Z/30. Plane Sono - Buoy contact 11° 49' N. 64° 26' W. 1510Z/30.
Para. D. U.S.S. McCORMICK attacks sound contact. Contact 22° 32' N., 72° 28' W. 0030Z/23. Two training planes sights sub 30° 22' N. 79° 48' W. 1644Z/31. Cast G.R.1213 sights conning tower 34° 53' N. 75° 33' W. 1834Z/31.
(Cominch, 1952/31 to Admty for O.I.C.)

WITCH, LOBELIA. My 2035/20 (N.T. in W.R.) WITCH, LOBELIA sailed St. Johns N.F. 1930/31 to join S.C.118. (HESPERUS, 1955/31 to C.T. 24 (R) C.T.G.24.7 C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16 Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Cdre. Londonderry)

ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF. F.O.C.W.Af. has suggested Admty. has approved operations of ALCANTARA and WOODRUFF by Comsolant on blockade runner patrol until required for escort A.F.D. 24 Trinidad to Freetown, about March 1st. After sufficient time for voyage repairs C.C.S.F. directs these ships reporting Cinclant for this temporary duty. Will advise later exact date required return Trinidad for escort A.F.D. To B.A.D. by hand (Cominch, 1955/31 to C.C.S.F. Cinclant, (R) F.O.C.W.Af. ALCANTARA WOODRUFF, Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. Comsolant, S.B.N.O. Trinidad, N.O.B. Trinidad).

/Shipping...

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War Diary.

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Shipping
Casualties.

C.J. BARKDULL overdue Casablanca since 30 Dec. from New York presumed lost. EMPIRE MARCH overdue Bahia since 9 Jan. (Connav, 2030/31 to Comnav).

Landing
Craft.

My 1955/1 L.C.I. (L) sailed unescorted from Bermuda Jan. 26th for Gibraltar L.S.T's sailed New York for Bermuda Jan. 27th but numerous breakdowns occurred at least 5 returning New York. L.S.T. convoy delayed indefinitely. Further information when new convoy organised. B.A.D. informed. (Cominch, 2128/31 to Admty. (R) Cinclant, C.E.S.F., N.C.X.F., B.A.D., Comnav, C. in C. A.F., Commandant N.O.B. Oran).

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
serial No.
374 Jan.
30th.

Large transport arrived Buka Passage from N.W. shortly after noon.
2. Six Fortresses attacking shipping Rabaul before dawn scored 500 pound hit unidentified vessel followed by explosions. Other results unobserved due searchlight glare. Some bombs dropped along waterfront starting fires. Saw hospital ship fifty miles North West Rabaul.
3. At noon Liberator bombed and probably hit 2500 ton merchant vessel open bay also strafed personnel on deck. Vessel camouflaged with palm leaves. Ship not seen by afternoon Recco. Liberator.
4. Catalina unsuccessfully bombed submarine 7° S. 148° 50' E. course S. early morning. Submarine replied with A.A. before submerging.
5. Fortress sighted one warship possibly large destroyer anchored in Wewak Harbour after dawn.
9. Photos 28th show many hundreds cases stores on beach at Kaukenau (4° 42' S. 136° 37' E) and new wharf at Atoeke (14 miles East Kaukenau) also new wide much used track to East.
10. Floatplane unsuccessfully bombed small convoy at noon 11° 15' S., 135° 27' E. Beaufighter intercepted and possibly damaged floatplane.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0735Z/31).

Movements

Arrivals 30th Townsville hired transport KATOOMBA.
31st Thursday Island hired transport TAROONA.
Brisbane U.S. transports THOMAS JEFFERSON, HERMITAGE, JOSEPH T. DICKMAN U.S. cargo ship ARCTURUS. U.S. transport MAETSUYCKER departed Darwin 30th due Onslow 3rd Feb. Hired transport DUNTROON arrived Cairns 30th Departs 31st due Townsville 31st U.S. transport MAUI departed Townsville 30th due Brisbane 1st Feb.
(A.C.N.B., 1123Z/31 to Admty. Connav).

/Arrivals...

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War Diary.

31.1.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.
Contd.

Arrivals. Brisbane 29th KAPUNDA 30th U.S. (D)
BAGLEY Port Moresby 30th BALLARAT Cairns 30th
WHYALLA Milne Bay 30th GLENELF Townsville 30th
VENDETTA.

Departures Darwin 29th WARREGO and INVERELL for
(?New Castle) Cairns 30th LA TROBE for Port Moresby Brisbane
30th KAPUNDA for Sydney. Sydney 30th MORESBY on escort duty
Fremantle 30th Netherlands destroyers TJERK HIDDDES for escort
duty Thursday Is. 30th SWAN ON escort Duty.
(A.C.N.B. 1348Z/31 to Admty. Abdafloat, C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B.,
C.O.I.S.)

AMERICAN
BUILDER,
S.O.S.

31° 10' S. 108° 35' E. sighted periscope.
(AMERICAN BUILDER, 1205/31 to Perth W/T.
C. in C. E.F., 1329Z/31 to S. & A. E.I. Station.
(R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.*
Ref. A.M. A.F. position 030° 28' S. 108° 39' V E.
(Adml. Mombasa, 1848Z/31 to B.A.M.S.5 A).
S O S received from ship in my 1329/31 in 030°
28' S. 108° 39' E. at about 1700Z/31.
(C. in C. E.F., 1849Z/31 to S. and As. E.I. Stn.
(R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)
*W.R. Note - Received via Colombo W/T.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1353A/31, 1435A/31).