

16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U.C.1

Three ships of the Liverpool section of U.C.1 arrived at Belfast today, having lost the convoy.

It is reported that 60 U.S.A. aircraft bombed St. Nazaire this forenoon. Hits or near misses are reported on 2 flak ships. Six Fortresses and 3 fighters are missing, and 2 Liberators on return collided in the air.

North Atlantic.

JAMAICA arrived at Gibraltar this afternoon from patrol in the blockade area of the North Atlantic.

Mediterranean.

At 1032, UNRIVALLED (P.45) sank a 1,000 ton 4 masted vessel at anchor in 38.18 N. 16.26 E.

At 1315, UNRIVALLED claimed one hit on a 6,000 ton M/V escorted by 2 destroyers.

Air  
Operations.

Wellingtons, Beauforts and Albacores from Malta were despatched last night to attack shipping southwest of Marittimo. A torpedo Wellington set one tanker of 4/5,000 tons completely ablaze in 37.00 N. 12.00 E. Other Wellingtons near missed with 250 lb. bombs two destroyers and a 5,000 ton merchant ship in 33.03 N. 12.08 E. A Beaufort obtained a possible torpedo hit on a 3,000 ton merchant ship in 37.27 N. 12.07 E. Twelve Wellingtons attacked Bizerta docks last night. No results are reported.

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SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

H.X.226

The asdic gear of the corvettes escorting Convoy H.X.226 has been badly damaged by ice. C. in C. W.A. today asked C.T.G.24.6 to sail destroyers to reinforce the escort if possible. MANSFIELD lost touch with the convoy in heavy ice at 0420 yesterday in 51.06 N. 51.03 W. and is returning to St. Johns N.F. with defects.

The Tanker EMPIRE NORSE (Clyde to New York) reported at 1422 that her rudder was disabled and she required two tugs. Her position at 1300 G.M.T. was 52.40 N. 39.00 W. No tug is available at St. Johns N.F.

Australia & New Zealand.

D.S. JAVA reported firing at a periscope at 0230 G.M.T. in 32.40 S. 112.35 E.

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.V.A.A.H.F.  
INDOMITABLE.

Signals and correspondence for V.A.A. H.F. should be sent to INDOMITABLE for tomorrow. (V.A.A. H.F. 1125A/16 to Admty).

Cruiser for  
New York.

Request you will hold available one 6" cruiser who may be required to transport important passengers to New York leaving Clyde about 20th Feb. (D.O.D. H., 1140A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

Two M.T.Bs.  
for Shetlands.Request you will bring two M.T.Bs. of the 12th M.T.B. Flotilla into service as soon as practicable.  
2. These boats will be manned by Royal Norwegian Naval personnel now serving in A.C.O.S. Command and will be attached to the 30th M.T.B. Flotilla. (D.D.O.D.C., 1931A/16 to HORNET).Movements.

CUMBERLAND

My P.C.S. at 0830A/16, 058° 30' N. 005° 50' W. 330° 16 knots. (CUMBERLAND, 0840A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

SHEFFIELD

C. in C. H.F. 1149A/15. Intend to sail at 1900A 16th routed through 060° 43' N. 011° 02' W, thence Q.Z.L. 51. E.T.A. destination 1200A/18. (SHEFFIELD, 1024A/16 to C. in C. H.F.) Scapa departure SHEFFIELD. (A.C.O.S., 1855A/16 to A.C.I.C.)

STUBBORN

Intend to sail JAN VAN GELDER escorting STUBBORN 1100A/18 for Clyde in accordance with trial programme. E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0830A/19. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1132A/16).

ARIGUANI

F.O.C. Gibraltar's 1558/14 and Admty. 1526/15. Onward route from (J) through (K) 180° Fastnet 10. (L) 051° 43' N. 007° 29' 30" W. (M) 051° 58' N. 006° 15' W. Thence by Q.Z.S. 301, 184, 219 to Milford Haven. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1222A/16 to SAMSONIA, NORTHERN GIFT).

OFFA,  
PIORUN.

Akureyri arrival OFFA, PIORUN at 1130/16. (A.C.I.C., 1412A/16).

/S/M...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

S/M My 1712/15 para. (E). Add "moving after dark  
Movements. 16th to patrol off Vigo".  
(F.O.S., 1442A/16 to Admty).  
Sheerness for Chatham, arrival SICKLE escorted by  
KINGSTON OLIVINE.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1608A/16).

Intend sailing FIR at 1200/17 to R/V UMBRA in 180° Lizard  
Head 10 miles at 1500/17, thence escorting submarine to  
Plymouth.

(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1644A/16).

Positions of submarines at 0800A/17 and movements for  
following 24 hours.

- (A) UREDD in Lofoten area.
- (B) TRUCULENT 65° 48' N. 05° 10' E. through 69° 00' N. 09°  
56' E. and 71° 10' N, 16° 10' E, speed 10 knots.
- (C) SEANYMPH 65° 21' N. 03° 40' E. through 69° 01' N. 08° 52'  
E. and 70° 50' N. 14° 03' E, speed 9 knots.
- (D) SPORTSMAN 65° 15' N. 04° 26' E. through 69° 02' N. 09°  
57' E. and 71° 02' N. 15° 48' E. speed 9 knots.
- (E) SIMOON 64° 32' N. 02° 33' E. through 69° 00' N. 08° 53' E.  
and 70° 50' N. 14° 03' E. speed 9 knots. Submarines in (B)  
to (E) are proceeding probably on the surface.
- (F) UNRULY escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 54° 11' N. 05° 08' W,  
due 360° Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 2000/18.
- (G) L.23, 55° 09' N. 18° 54' W. dived by day until crossing  
22° W, thence on surface routed through 54° 30' N. 26° 10' W.  
and 52° 40' N. 35° 00' W.
- (H) UMBRA due 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0800/17 from  
westward, thence probably on surface to R/V in 180° Lizard Head  
10 miles at 1500/17 with trawler FIR for escort to Plymouth.
- (J) BARB off Vigo.
- (K) BLACKFISH off Bilbao.
- (L) O.9 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH exercising in Tay Sanctuary  
north of 56° 24' N. from 1100/17 to 1600/17.  
(F.O.S., 1652A/16).

S.55, Your 1840/15 and C. in C. Rosyth 2008/15.  
S.56. Propose - (1) Sailing U.S.S.R. Submarine S.55  
and S.56 from Rosyth p.m./26th February escorted  
to vicinity of Muckle Flugga thence independently  
by separate routes approximately 120 miles from  
Norwegian coast to position X. 071° 30' N. 015° 00' E. and  
Y 071° 10' N. 015° 01' E. thence as ordered by S.B.N.O. North  
Russia.  
(2) Instructing S.55 and S.56 not to cross latitude 068° 00' N.  
until after 1200A/2nd March in order to keep clear of other  
operations.  
(B) C. in C. H.F. concurs.  
(F.O.S., 1618A/16 to Admty).

/Six...

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

Six Drifters for Greenock. Greenock's 1046/14. The following six steam drifters are to be sailed to Greenock to arrive not later than 26th Feb. They are expected to be returned to their bases by March 21st.  
GIRL LIZZIE at Scapa. GOWAN at Dundee.  
HOLLYDALE at Dundee. ACORN at Rosyth.

One S.D. to be named by F.O.I.C. N. Ireland.  
One S.D. to be named by N.O.I.C. Methil.  
(D.S.V.P., 1932A/16)

BOADICEA Sailed BOADICEA for Seidisfjord, E.T.A. 1200A/18.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1958A/16).

HOWE Arrived Akureyri at 1735/16. HOWE.  
(A.C.I.C., 2051A/16)

QUADRANT, See Shipping.  
REDOUBT.

Operations.

North Norway S/M Patrols. SIMOON (P.225) sailed from Lerwick 0004A/16 unescorted and on the surface until within 60 miles of Norwegian coast by route "Pink" to position 070° 50' N. 014° 03' E, thence to patrol in vicinity of 070° 49' N. 021° 19' E.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0115A/16).

Coastal Patrols. Patrols tonight.

1. GLAISDALE, FYLLA, immediate notice Yarmouth.
2. CHASSEURS 13 (S.O.) 14, LORD WAKEFIELD immediate notice St. Helens.
3. M.G.B. 613 (S.O.) 608 M.T.B. 89, 242 immediate notice Newhaven.
4. Two M.G.Bs. immediate notice Portland.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1340A/16 and 1625 A/16).  
Rescue M.L. 548 patrolling seaward channel off Blyth.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1547A/16).

S/M Patrol off Vigo. (A) My 0821/16. Proceed forthwith dive by day to patrol vicinity 042° 30', 009° 15'.  
(B) Should you require for any reason to proceed outside bombing restricted area given in para.2 of my 1521/16 you are to request extension by immediate signal to F.O.S., & C. in C. Plymouth.  
(F.O.S., 1522A/16 to BARB).

/Operation...

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Operation "Regulation". Proceed to Clyde so as to arrive Clyde boom 0730A/21 Feb.  
 (2) Route via Minches.  
 (3) Carry out operation "Regulation". D day is 21st Feb.  
 (4) Route from Clyde in accordance with C. in C. Plymouth's 1319/14.  
 (C. in C. H.F., 1641A/16 to SUSSEX).  
 Your 1641/16. Intend to sail Scapa passing Hoxa Gate 1000/20th.  
 (SUSSEX 2103A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation KK. Postponed indefinitely.  
 KK. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1642A/16).

Exercises.

Depth-charge Release Drill. A.M. 1718A/9. SKATE is detailed and will be sailed 22nd to join AZALEA.  
 AZALEA Trials. (Cdre, Londonderry, 1139A/16).

Allied Air Activity.

P.R.U. flights. P.R.Us. Trondheim and Oslo - Horten in operation.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1123A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

A/C for North Russia. A.M. 1722/30 para. 3. This party has been embarked in CUMBERLAND.  
 (D.O.D. H., 1134A/16 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Bomber Command operations. On day 15th 11 A/C escorted by Fighters, attacked a Merchant Vessel in Dock at Dunkirk. No direct hits have been reported. Photographs were taken.  
 (H.Q.B.C., 1215/16).

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy A/C shot down. F.O.I.C. Harwich 2241/15. Object possibly A/C. A/C falling in flames observed also from Tongue Sand Fort and ARISTOCRAT at about 2042. Bearings and distances agree only very generally.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1143A/16).

Thames Estuary. Enemy activity over the Estuary early on night 15/16 confined chiefly to the Black Deep, Kentish Knock Area. At 2038 QUEEN EAGLE at 47 position (Near B.6A Buoy) engaged unidentified very low flying aircraft on easterly course and at 2120 engaged unidentified low flying aircraft on southerly course which immediately dropped correct recognition signals. No evidence of minelaying.  
 ( X.D.O. Sheerness, 1613A/16).

/Shetlands...

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

Shetlands. At 1626/16 a hostile A/C was plotted by R.D.F. 20 miles E. of Deerness course E, 2,000, climbing to 5,000 feet. It is presumed to have approached Orkney very low. At 1640 another hostile A/C was plotted over Sullom Voe at 2000 feet course N. then E. over Yell. It was visibly identified as Ju.88 and fired on by shore A.A. defences without effect. (A.C.O.S., 1858/16 to Admty).

Mining.

15th M/S F. C. in C. H.F., 2326/13. FRASERBURGH, BOOTLE, and PETERHEAD arrived Hvalfjord. (A.C.I.C., 0120A/16).

Humber Trial Your 1536/15. Concur.  
Field. (C. in C. Nore, 1020A/16 to Admty).

Dover Area. Routine sweeping 12/13. One Red Mine swept in 51° 14' 39" N. 01° 25' 19" E. (V.A. Dover, 1052A/16).

Q.V.2 My 1010/13. Following is alternative programme. (Details). (PLOVER, 1100A/16 to C. in C. Nore). If weather permits carry out Q.V.2 tomorrow using programme given in PLOVER 1100/16. (C. in C. Nore, 1454A/16 to PLOVER, STONEHAVEN)

Removal of Loops. Admty. Letter M.A.S.W. 3569/42 dated 12th Feb. 1942 para. 2. I have no objection to the removal of these loops as the security of the Fleet will not thereby be prejudiced. (C. in C. H.F., 2251A/16 to Admty. (R) A.C.O.S., OSPREY).

Casualties & Defects.

SAMUEL L. Rudder disabled cannot manoeuvre.  
FULLER. (SAMUEL L. FULLER, 0300 G.M.T./16).

BRYONY. C.in C. H.F's 0028/16. Request you sail BRYONY to Liverpool on completion of repairs. (C. in C. W.A., 1014A/16 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

BLACKPOOL BLACKPOOL taken in hand N. Woolwich for defects to diesel generators. Completion date 7 days after receipt of replace pistons. (F.O.I.C. London, 1231A/16).

/CHARLESTON...

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

- CHARLESTON My 1127/13 and 1213/15. Anticipate completion date of repairs 18th Feb.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1251A/16).
- MARNE Proceed at best speed to relieve ERNE escorting MARNE in tow of Tug EMINENT to Loch Ewe.  
P.C.S. at 1200A/16 053° 31' N. 011° 24' W. 033° 2½ knots.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1252A/16 to GERANIUM)  
C. in C. W.A.'s 1252A/16. Sailed GERANIUM.  
(Cdre. Londonderry 2020A/16).
- UPSTART,  
LECURIE. Fire occurred today affecting UPSTART and LECURIE. Damage believed not serious but some delay in completion dates is probable.  
(P.S.O. Barrow, 1445A/16).
- ESCAPADE Joint between main bulkhead stop-valve and main steam-pipe starboard side blowing badly. Leak more serious since leaving convoy to fuel Moville Request dockyard assistance. E.T.A. Moville 1600.  
(ESCAPADE. 1531A/16 to Cdre. Londonderry).
- M.M.S.178 Your 1046A/13. M.M.S. 178 delayed at Portsmouth due to Hull defect.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1544A/16 to Cdre. Sheerness).
- WELLS My 1938/10. WELLS has defect and will be delayed.  
(R.A.M., 1735/16 to R.A.D.)
- BRYONY Your 1014/16. Intend sailing BRYONY for Liverpool at 0800 tomorrow. Routed West of Skye, Sound of Mull and Islay and searched Channels. S.O.A. 12 knots. E.T.A. Light vessel 1400A/18.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1943A/16).  
Cancel my 1943/16. BRYONY proceeding as escort to C. in C. W.A. 2135/16, then to Liverpool.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 2341A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)
- ONSLAUGHT. ONSLAUGHT has incurred structural weather damage. Temporary repairs which will make ship operationally efficient are in hand. She will sail for Akureyri p.m./18th.  
(C.S.1 2050N/16 to C. in C. H.F.)



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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.53 N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1637/15. In view of delay BRYONY is no longer required as escort. (C. in C. H.F., 0028/16).  
My 2221/15. Sailed at 0220/16 (HALCYON). (R.A.D., H.F., 0225A/16 to JASON).  
Scapa departures. 0807 DASHER escorted by IMPULSIVE, BLANKNEY, LEDBURY. E.T.A. 1000/18. (A.C.O.S., 0916/16 to A.C.I.C.)  
C. in C. W.A. 1209/14. After fuelling at Seidisfjord endeavour to join convoy in position (C) 66° 48' N. 10° 11' W. (11) Operation orders for you have been forwarded to Seidisfjord in BELFAST.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1203A/16 to CAMELLIA, BLUEBELL)  
F.E. para. 8 (B) add.  
After fuelling Seidisfjord the Hunts of local escort are to return Scapa proceeding west of Iceland north Rona mine barrier. HALYCON comply with R.A.D. H.F., 2225/14.  
(2) R.A.D. H.F., is requested subsequently to sail the Hunts from Scapa to arrive Seidisfjord, fuel, and comply with F.E. para. 10 (D).  
(C. in C. H.F., 1207A/16 to HALCYON, PYTCHLEY).  
F.E. Amendment number 2.  
Amendment number 1 was C. in C. H.F. 1451/12. Para. 3 (A) as amended by amendment number 1. Delete VIVACIOUS, HAZARD, SHARPSHOOTER. Add HALCYON (TAPLOW) for J.W.53 only.  
Para. 3 (B), delete BRYONY.  
Para. 3 (C) (1) As amended by amendment 1. For BRYONY read CAMELLIA.  
Para. 3 (D) delete ULSTER QUEEN.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1519A/16 to A.I.G.47).  
J.W.53. Dalgleish informs me certain ships of convoy are to be diverted to White Sea Ports. Request confirmation that this is to be done.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1554A/16 to Admty).  
It is reported by SAMUEL ASHE that CITY OF OMAHA joined J.W.53 at Sea. If this is correct can LORD MIDDLETON transfer spare convoy order and Outcon to CITY OF OMAHA.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1604A/16 to C.in C. H.F.)  
S.B.N.O. North Russia 1851/14 giving summary of local procedure just introduced by Russian Authorities. S.B.N.O. North Russia requests early signal stating number of bags of ordinary mail and number of packages and weight of stores in escorts of J.W.53. Failing this information S.B.N.O. may have to return mail and stores to U.K. Request you will supply information to S.B.N.O. and report to Admiral Miles. Official mail forwarded from Admty. to Scapa was accompanied by visaed way-bills.  
(Head of M. 1807A/16 to A.C.O.S.)  
Your 1716/13. Stores and equipment are in PIETER DE HOOGH, OCEAN FREEDOM, TOBRUK, EMPIRE FORTUNE, EMPIRE SCOTT, EMPIRE GALLIARD.  
(D.T.D., 1919A/16 to N.O.I.C. Murmansk).  
Convoy J.W.53 of 25 merchant ships and 10 escort vessels position at 1815/16 59° 18' N. 05° 23' W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2047A/16 to H.F. Operational).  
One Catalina will provide A/S escort from first light tomorrow.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2138A/16 to DASHER).

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

P.W. 294

P.W. 294 Postponed owing to weather.  
(N.C.S.O. Plymouth, 0655A/16).Convoy  
U.C.1.

The following escort oilers included in convoy will be available for fuelling at sea and are carrying depth-charges as indicated.  
SAN AMBROSIO 50. SAN ADOLPHO Nil. ATHEL PRINCESS 20. KAIA KNUDSEN Nil. VINGA Nil.  
Additional depth-charges are carried by CYMBULA 50, ECLIPSE 36.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0747Z/16 to WESTON).

Clyde, Belfast, and Milford sections of convoy when joined are to proceed at reduced speed on route as ordered.

2. Detach two escorts to relieve MOLDE and escort Liverpool section to overtake main convoy.

(C. in C. W.A., 0947A/16 to WESTON, EXE, TOTLAND).

My 0747/16 para. one. Add SANTONGE Nil.

(C. in C. W.A., 1710Z/16 to WESTON).

O.S.43.  
AMBERTON.

Inform Commodore AMBERTON returning.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1058A/16 to Escorts O.S.43).  
Sailed ROTHER to overtake O.S.43.  
(Cdre. Londonderry 1510A/16).

K.M.S.10

A.M.1948/10, para. 6.  
Request TYNEDALE be sailed to Gibraltar as part way escort to K.M.S.10 which leaves Clyde on 26th Feb.  
(D.O.D. H., 1101A/16 to C. in C. Plymouth).

H.X. 226

Asdic gear of corvettes escorting H.X.226 has been badly damaged by ice. Request you will sail destroyers to reinforce escort if possible.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1103Z/16 to C.T.G.24.6).

Your 1103Z/16. Am sailing BIBB (S.O.) (H/F D/F) and SCHENCK as soon as emergency repairs are completed about 0800 and 2200Z 17 respectively. Request that they may be detached in time to escort O.N.S.J. 169. A.C.I.C. has this.

(C.T.G. 24.6., 2030Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.S. and  
S.L. convoy  
escorts.

Request early reply to my 1824/9.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1117A/16 to F.O.G.)

TJALDUR

Intend sailing at 1400/17 SS. TJALDUR kite balloon (troops) escorted by FORFEIT for Aberdeen. E.T.A. 1400/18 routed by my 1125/14th January.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1135A/16 to A.C.O.S.)

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- F.S.40 Sailings from Humber cancelled by stress of weather.  
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1223A/16).
- Spanish Vessels. P.C.S. of two 5,000 ton Spanish Vessels 44.50 N. 07.00 W. 360° 5 knots.  
(A/C 1415/16 to 19 Group).  
P.C.S. of two 5,000 ton Spanish Vessels KTSANDIESO and LOFEZ 43° 40' N. 06° 45' W. 080° 8 knots.  
(A/C 1450/16 to 19 Group).  
P.C.S. of 2,000 tons Spanish Vessel 43° 44' N. 05° 110° 8 knots.  
(A/C 1510/16 to 19 Group).
- K.X.9. K.X.9 sailed, routed in accordance with Admty. 1658/11 Feb. 25 merchant ships. Commodore in EMPIRE GAZELLE. Speed 7 knots. E.T.A. 25th Feb. Escorts WISHART, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE, LADY HOGARTH, MAN O' WAR. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1501A/16 to Admiral, Gibraltar).  
K.X.9 sailed 1507A/16. 26 ships. PENDEEN and COXWOLD did not sail. 25 kites. Names, Pendants, Destinations, speeds. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1544A/16).  
My 1544A/16. FLAMINIAN returned from K.X.9. Making water in fore peak.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1918A/16).
- T.A.35 (ANDES). A.M.1926/10. Amend route to read R/V at 0900Z/17 in A. 270° Oversay 6 miles. B. 55° N. 14° W. C. 45° N. 20° W. D. 42° N. 27° W. E. 41° N. 42° W. F. 41° N. 56° W. thence to Halifax.  
(D.O.D. H., 1510A/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).  
My 1510/16. Add S.O.A. 19 knots. "Chop" 1200Z/21.  
2 F.O.N.F. pass to C.T.F.24.  
(D.O.D. H., 2128A/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- M.K.S.7 M.K.S.7 consisting of SAINT ESSYLT, CEPHEE, CROIX, EMPIRE ROWAN, DORELIAN escorted by LEITH and SANDWICH. E.T.A. position (a) 0100A/17th. Loch Ewe section consisting of BELGIUM FREIGHTER, FORT CHIPEWYAN, escorted by ROCHESTER, E.T.A. Barra Head 0500A/17 and Loch Ewe 1800A/17. Remaining ships dispersed but some may be contacted before arrival at R/V.  
(ROCHESTER, 1520A/16 to A.I.G.185).  
Your 1520A/16. Loch Ewe ships can proceed independently from 057° N. Clyde ships from 006° W.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1931A/16 to ROCHESTER).

/White...

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16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

White Sea  
approaches.

S.B.N.O. Archangel reports Merchant Ship in 066°  
43' N. 041° 23' E. at 2000C/15. Russianstaff say  
ships were off Ponoï at 1245C today.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1725C/16 to STARWORT).

D.S. 37

Sailed LEINSTER in accordance with my 1744A/15.  
E.T.A. Reykjavik 1000A/19.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2334A/16).

W.S. 27.  
MALAYA,  
QUADRANT,  
REDOUBT,  
W.S. 28.

W.S. 27 Ocean escort to Freetown will be  
provided by MALAYA. C. in C. H.F. is requested  
to sail her as arranged with C. in C. W.A.  
2. On completion of this duty, F.O.C.W.Af. is  
requested to sail her for Gibraltar, escorted by  
QUADRANT and REDOUBT.

3. MALAYA is to be sailed from Gibraltar to  
U.K. with convenient M.K.F. convoy.

4. After escorting MALAYA to Gibraltar, QUADRANT and REDOUBT  
are to be sailed to R/V W.S. 28 off Casablanca and join escort  
to Freetown and the Cape thereafter joining Eastern Fleet.  
(A.C.N.S. F., 2351A/16).

War Diary.16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence, My 1811/9. 1. No further reports of German Raider "J". or Japanese raiders. 2. Raider 'J' believed sunk on 27th. Sept. 1942 by S.S. STEPHEN HOPKINS will be omitted from future raider signals.

3. No further reports of blockade runners but sailings and arrivals likely in Biscay in near future.  
( D.D.I.C. 1750A/16 to A.I.G. 15 etc.)  
See also Admty. 1559Z/16, America and West Indies.

North Atlantic.

JAMAICA. E.T.A. Gib. 1201A/16th. Request Northern-most entrance inward 1245A/16th.  
( JAMAICA 0347A/16 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. H.F.)  
Arrived JAMAICA.  
( F.O.I.C. Gib. 1312A/16 to Admty.)

PETUNIA. My 1643/15. Sailed PETUNIA Q.L.A. 159.  
( F.O.C. Gib. 0430/16 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) S.N.O.C.A. N.C.X.F. Admty.)

K.M.S.9. Gib., section arrived (4 Ships).  
( F.O.C. Gib. 0609A/16 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

ARIGUANI, SAMSONIA, NIMBLE. Following is a repetition of A.M. 1527/15th. (begins). F.O. Gib. (R) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, C. in C. W.A., N.C.X.F. C. in C. Plymouth SAMSONIA, NIMBLE from Admty. Your 1558/14th Feb., A.M. 1722/12th Feb. If weather allows SAMSONIA is to take over tow from NIMBLE. Later to return to Gib. SAMSONIA to tow ARIGUANI to Milford Haven. (2) If this is impracticable SAMSONIA is to return to Milford Haven, in company with NIMBLE and ARIGUANI. (3) You are requested to reroute SAMSONIA to affect R/V. (4) F.O. Gib. pass to NIMBLE, C. in C. Plymouth pass to SAMSONIA. T.O.O. 1527/15th (Ends).  
( F.O. Gib. 0901A/16 to ARIGUANI.)

G.U.S. 4. Intend to sail - all destinations New York.  
( List, 15 ships.)  
( F.O.C. Gib. 1011A/16 to S.N.O.C.A. F.O.C. Oran (R) Admty., etc.)

War Diary.

16.2.1945.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

ALVAIAZERE. Admty. 1216/15. Portuguese ALVAIAZERE ship seized.  
( C.C.S.O. Gib. 1037/16 to M.E.W. )

ST. NECTAN Blowing N.N.E. Gale.  
LADY DENISON (2) Both ends of cable now buoyed but strong  
PENDER. possibility buoys being carried in existing  
weather conditions.  
(3) Have instructed LADY DENISON PENDER anchor  
close Funchal Breakwater for safety and fuel  
consideration.

(4) LADY DENISON PENDER's prudent limit of endurance on job  
is 20th.

(ST. NECTAN, 1051A/16 to F.O.C. Gibraltar).

Cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER put back owing to weather  
and to conserving fuel.

Escort intends fetching her when weather moderates.

She will have to leave cable ground not later than 22nd Feb.  
for bunkering.

(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1157/16 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty).

L.C.I.(L)s. My 1208/14th L.C.I.(L) 102 defective returned  
in tow L.C.I.(L) 176.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1058A/16 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.  
etc).

My 1058/16 and 1208/14. Intend to sail L.C.I.(L)s 102  
and 176 at 1630/16 routed as in my 1208/14.

2. Codeword "Scru" one (sic).

(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1213A/16 to N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Oran,  
Admty. Com. Algiers).

EMPRESS OF Cancel my 1138/13, intend sailing EMPRESS OF  
RUSSIA. RUSSIA in M.K.S.8.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1151A/16 to N.C.X.F., (R)  
Admty. Cdre. Algiers).  
Your 1151/16. Request your reason for wishing to  
sail her in M.K.S.8 instead of M.K.F.9.  
(N.C.X.F., 2112A/16 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R)  
Admty. Com. Algiers).

Dispositions. Situation 2002A/16th. S.R.1 PENTSTEMON 23.16  
17.09 through 24.01 17.01 thence 041° 6½.  
2. U.G.S.5 T.F.T.33.56 37.14 127° 7½.  
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1204A/16 to A.I.G.65).

C.G.11 C.G.11 sailed at 1256Z/16th Feb. convoy consisting  
of (List) escorted by U.S. Destroyer BENSON U.S.  
M/S RAVEN U.S. M/S OSPREY R/V with Savouchi  
section consisting ANNISTON CITY and ITTERSUM  
escorted by U.S. destroyer GLEAVES. All other  
information my 1400/12.  
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1430Z/16 to N.C.X.F. (R)  
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. A.H.Q. Gibraltar,  
F.O. Oran, C.T.U. 26.7.2).

/Spanish...

War Diary.16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

Spanish Exercises. Following received by Lands End Radio intercept 2126/15, ( Translation by O.I.C.)  
 Navigational warning. Naval Commandant Santander announces that on Tuesday 16th Feb. gunnery exercises will take place at Cabo Mayor between 1100 and 1300 hours, and the area within a right-angled triangle formed by the parallel of Cabo Mayor, the meridian 3° 57' W. of Greenwich, and a line running in a direction 305° true from Cabo Mayor will be dangerous to shipping.  
 ( Plymouth C.C.O. 1500/16 to Admty.)

U.G.F.5 N.O.I.C. Gib. is requested to sail ANTELOPE, VERITY VENOMOUS and three ships of 12th M/S Flotilla to R/V with escorts of convoy U.G.F.5. in 034° 08' N. 010° 15' W. at 1700A/18th and escort Med. Section to Oran.  
 2. Onward passage from R/V through position (A) 035° 45' N. 006° 40' W. through Q.K.A. 86 to (B) position 57, thence (C) 82, (D) 109 to Oran, S. of A. 13½. E.T.A. 0530A/20th. Stragglers route as convoy. 3. Gib. section detaches in position 57 at 1100A 19th. with local escorts. 4. Destination tanker COLINA and ESSO PHILADELPHIA is at Gib.  
 ( N.C.X.F. 1701A/16 to Escorts of Convoy U.G.F.5. (R) S.O. Force 'H' Capt.(S) 8. Admty., S.N.O. Casablanca. N.O.I.C. Oran. Capt. F., Connav, A.H.Q. Gib. H.Q.E.A.C.)

AMERICAN PRESS. Your 15352/3. Request latest information AMERICAN PRESS ex U.G.S.4.  
 (D.T.D. 1809A/16 to S.N.O.C.A.)  
 Reply 1738/17.)

NYASSA, Portuguese ship NYASSA 13 knots now due St. Vincent to be intercepted. from Rio de Janeiro will call next at Funchal. Consul at Funchal will report to you departure for Lisbon. Desirable to intercept between Funchal and Lisbon and send in to Gib. for examination.  
 (D.E.W.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 1918A/16 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Movements. Arrivals - 0810 VERITY ex K.M.F.9. 1146. VENOMOUS ex K.M.S.9. 1837 LORD HOTHAM from escorting LADY DENISON PENDER. 1915 BLACK SWAN, CARNATION, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, CAMPION, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, BALSAM, ex K.M.S.9. Departures - 2350/15 ATHERSTONE VELOX to join K.M.S.9. 0500/16 NASTURIUM, CONVULVULUS, PRESTCOTT, CAMROSE, ALGOMA, KITCHENER, to R/V and escort K.M.S.9 WIVERN to join K.M.S.9. 1047 HUSSAR, SPEEDWELL and 1615 ALBACORE CADMUS M/S Sweep. 1655 L.C.I. (L) 102 and 176 for Oran. 1715 HAARLEM escorting S.S. SOUTHGATE to Mellila and back. 1715 FARNDALE to Mers el Kebir.  
 ( F.O.C. Gib. 2355A/16 to Admty. etc.)

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16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Troopships for North America. Request to signal within 48 hours after sailing to B.A.D., C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. B.M.W.T. New York (R) D.of S.T. information in respect of troopships leaving your port for North American port en route to U.K.  
(D.S.T. 0310A/16 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. West Africa, P.S.T.O.X.F. B.N.A. Buenos Aires, A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B.)

Convoy D.C.8. Sailing telegram. (ii) 0500Z/16th. (iv) 8½ knots. (v) Coastal, reference 61 to 68, Saldanha Bay, R.E.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0544Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

Light Point, Indienne. Your 1708A/11. No light is exhibited from Pointe Indienne. Furthermore L warning is contained in Q.L.A. 132 that vessels should not confuse the structure erected on Pointe Indienne with the lighthouse at Pointe Noire.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 0921Z/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

Movements. Arrival 16th Feb. DRANGEY.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 0942Z/16 to Admty.)  
Departure 15th U.S. Destroyer OSMOND INGRAM.  
Departure 16th U.S. Seaplane Tender HUMBOLDT.  
(R.O.Para 0943/16 to Admty.)

Arrivals 15th Feb. CORINTHIAN, ADRIAS.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 0950Z/16 to Admty.)

GEORGES LEYGUES. Sailed French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES for Bathurst and patrol in accordance with F.O.C.W.Af's 1900/14th to Bathurst only. E.T.A. 1430Z/15th.  
2. Please pass F.O.W.Af's 2317/14th and 2302/14th to GEORGES LEYGUES on arrival.  
(Comar, Dakar 1001Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. F.O.C.W.Af.)

Convoy O.T.1. My information is that convoy O.T.1. consisting of CERRY VALLEARIS, (?CHERRY VALLEY), ESSO NORFOLK, AMERICAN SUN, and ESSO WASHINGTON escorted by U.S. NELSON, U.S.S. MADDOX and GLENNON will arrive Dakar a.m. 18th Feb.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1010Z/16 to Comar, Dakar (R) Admty. Connav.)

Shipping Diversion. To allow for possible diversion request all north-bound shipping from Cape Ports be issued with instructions for entry into Freetown.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1030Z/16 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty.)

/Dispositions...



War Diary.16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. WAYLAND, CANTON, CILICIA, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES (F.S.) QUIBERON, QUALITY, QUICKMATCH, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, with W.S.26 012° 00' S. 010° 45' E. to 018° 38' S. 010° 42'E. 12½.

THYME escorting NESTOR 019° 50' S. 005° 30' E. to St. Helena 10¼.

BLACKMOOR, NORTHERN DAWN with N.C.1, 029° 20' S. 016° 00' E. to Saldanha Bay 7.

ROCKROSE, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY with C.N.8 032° 00' S. 017° 00' E. to Walvis Bay 8½.

Convoy D.C.8 031° 55' S. 029° 55' E. to Capetown 8½.

NORWICH CITY 030° 55' S. 033° 05' E. to Durban 10.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1117C/16 to A.I.G. 125.)  
Situation at 2000Z/16th.

BRIDGEWATER, FANDANGO, INKPEN with R.S.1 21.20 17.23 188° 8½.

PENTSTEMON, LORD NUFFIELD, VETCH with S.R.1 about 23.32 17.08 to 24.01 17.01 thence 041° 6¾.

Fleet Unit Capt. (D) 2\* in HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, RANCI, REDOUBT, INCONSTANT, QUADRANT with convoy C.F.11, 15.44 19.30 to 18.00 23.40 thence 331° 12.

U.S.Destroyer NELSON, U.S. (D) MADDOX and GLENNON with O.T.1 about 13.24 23.58 to 13.20 22.30 thence Dakar 13½.

French S/M AMAZONE on surface 19.24 36.26 297° Delgada 7.

Greek ADRIAS 10.16 16.38 W. 312° 21.

DESPATCH 14.09 18.58 286° 19.

F.S.GEORGES LEYGUES 15.35 20.00 303° 19.

French Cruiser GLOIRE 10.24 21.30 283° 18.

BURDOCK about 25.27 17.02 to Port Etienne 12½.

HYDRANGEA escorting 12.56 17.30 359° 12.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1205/16 to A.I.G. 149.)  
\* as received.

Situation report area P.W.1 PICT off Freetown to Marshall

9. COPINSAY escorting off Marshall to Freetown. CYCLAMEN, CROCUS escorting 05.12, 09.49. M/L Nos. 305, 279 escorting 04.36, 09.22, 301. 10 M.L. No. 271 escorting 04.43 09.28 to Cape Palmas. 7.5 M.L. No. 263 about 03.50 02.30 to Takoradi 10. F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting 02.32 02.07 261. 11. ST. WINSTAN escorting off Accra to Lagos 4.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1417Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

ALCANTARA. Your 1527/15th February. ALCANTARA and WOODRUFF should remain on patrol to Eastward of 45° W. until after 23rd Feb. thereafter joining A.F.D. XXIV as convenient.  
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1122A/16 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

QUEEN ANNE sunk, U/B attacked by ST. ZENO, tenth Feb. B/S QUEEN ANNE leading ship in Starboard with (wing?) column in Convoy, course 112° was torpedoed at 2320Z/10 in position 12 miles 252° from Cape Agulhas. Escorts H.M. Trawler ST. ZENO, stationed one mile on QUEEN ANNE'S Starboard Beam and H.M. Trawler LE TIGRE in similar position on Port Wing Column.

War Diary.16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

QUEEN ANNE  
sunk, U/B  
attacked by  
ST. ZENO,  
tenth Feb.  
(Contd.)

2. ST. ZENO immediately altered to 045° and at 2325Z sighted U-Boat 10° on Port Bow on surface distant 111 yards heading 112° ST ZENO fired Star Shell and 4 rounds of 4 inch shell, one of which appeared to burst on C/T. U-Boat crashed dived.  
3. ST. ZENO altered 10° to Starboard with intent to ram, speed 10 knots, and at 2329Z Pattern of 7 Depth Charges was dropped, 10 to 100 ft. Sweep continued until 0010Z/11 without obtaining contact

or resighting U-Boat. R.D.F. was not used.

4. As a U-Boat surfaced at 0430Z to interrogate survivors it is not probable Trawlers attack had caused much if any damage but possibility exists that there may have been two U-Boats, (C. in C.S.A. 1156C/16 to Admty.)

Convoy  
C.N.8.

Sailing telegram. (ii) 1230Z/16th, from 033° 13' S. 017° 36' E. (iii) Group A.X. 027° 25' S. 014° 45' E. Group B.Y. 026° 00' S. 014° 05' E. Group C.Z. 24° 00' S. 013° 45' E. (iv) 8½ knots. (v) Coastal instructions passing through - W. 030° 00' S. 016° 50' E. and Dispersal Point. (vi) ROCK ROSE, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 1203Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

GLOIRE

Departure 15th Feb. French cruiser GLOIRE on patrol.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1251Z/16 to Admty. (R) Com.Dakar.)

Shipping.

Cancel A.M. 1537/17th January and 1301/22nd January neither to B.A.D. and A.M. 1540/17th January and 1200/22nd January.  
(D.T.D. 1324A/16 to C. in C.S.A. Connnav, (R) F.O.C.W.Af. B.A.D.)

Movements,  
Pernambuco.

Departure 15th Feb. U.S. Patrol Vessel CARNELIAN (not on 11th as reported in my 1920Z/11th) U.S. Sub. Chaser P.C. 489 and 576.  
Arrival 15th U.S. Aircraft Carrier SANTEE U.S. Cruiser SAVANNAH U.S. Destroyer EBERLE, U.S. Destroyer LIVERMORE Brazilian Light Cruiser BAHIA Brazilian minelayers CARIOCA, CARAVELAS and sub. chaser C.S.1 (one.) U.S. Destroyer KEARNEY sailed 6th and Brazilian Depot ship DELMONTE arrived 2nd.  
(R.O.Pernambuco 1431Z/16 to Admty.)

CARNATIC.

Simonstown arrival 16th Feb.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1433C/16 to Admty. etc.)

EGERO.

Request destination EGERO.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos? 1515Z/16 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Admty)  
Reply: 0205Z/17.

16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- T.B.5. Your 2030/14. Convoy T.B.5. Request time of leaving Trinidad.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1722C/16 to N.S.H.Q. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)
- Movements. Bermuda arrivals U.S.S.? SENTINEL and MERAK.  
Departure U.S.S. MACOMB.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 1739Q/16 to Admty.)
- 32 M.L. Flotilla. 32nd M.L. Flotilla consisting of M.Ls 558, 559, 562, 563, 568, 569, 57 and 575 is allocated to West Africa.  
Request you will report where this Flotilla will be based in order that spare gear, etc. may be despatched.  
(D.D.O.D. (C) 1801A/16 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C.in C.S.A. etc.)
- BUTTERMERE , F.O.C.W.Af. is short of A/S vessels due to  
WASTWATER. temporary additional commitments and casualties.  
2. A/S Whalers, SOUTHERN GEM and SOUTHERN PRIDE now refitting U.K. will not arrive back at Freetown before early May.  
3. A/S Whalers BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER are expected to arrive Freetown and February en route Capetown. S.B.N.O. Trinidad's 1502/3 refers.  
4. They are to operate temporarily under F.O.C.W.Af. until return of SOUTHERN GEM and SOUTHERN PRIDE.  
(D.A.S.W. 1822A/16 to C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.W.A.)
- R.T.2. Serial No. 9 following ships sailed Pernambuco 1100Z/12th in convoy R.T.2 for Trinidad 23rd.  
EMPIRE PIBROCH, BEACONSFIELD, UMVEMA (3 British)  
STAR OF EGYPT (Egyptian.)  
(S.O.(I) Recife 1823Z/16 to Admty. etc.)
- Convoy D.C.8. Following ships will join convoy off Port in reference position J.S. WEST CHESWALD, THEODORE FOSTER. Both for destination Z.M. Following ship will join off S.V. OPAVI. For next port on route only.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1845/16 to Admty.)
- STRIX D.C.8. My 1845/16th. Tanker STRIX may join you from seaward at 1200Z/17th Feb. off J.S. Destination Z.M. Request you will station her on in-shore side.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1919G.M.T/16 to STRIX, 1940 G.M.T./16 to Cmdre of D.C.8 Admty.)
- B.T.4. Serial number 10, following ships joined B.T.4. off Recife (Pernambuco) 1800Z southward: CLAN CAMERON for Trinidad ITANAGE Brazilian for Para.  
(A.S.O (I) Recife 1907Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- Convoy C.F.11. (i) N.K. and N.X. Convoy C.F.11 from C., 018° 01' N. 019° 40' W. at about 0700Z/17th proceeding by new route.  
S. 026° 01' N. 016° 00' W. T. 029° 00' N. 012° 01' W. U. 034° 00' N. 012° 00' W. V. 038° 30' N. 013° 15' W. W. 048° 45' N. 013° 15' W. X. 050° 20' N. 011° 10' W. thence by Q.Z.L. 18 and as ordered by C. in C.W.A., estimated speed made good 12 knots.
- (ii) VALIANT escorted by Capt. (D) 2 in HOTSPUR, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT is to part company in position X to proceed to Plymouth as ordered by C. in C.Plymouth.
- (iii) ESPE ANCE BAY is to be detached in position C to proceed New York through new position Y, 027° N. 031° W. to position E, omitting D.
- (iv) REDOUBT is to be detached a.m. 22nd Feb. to proceed Casablanca to fuel and comply with my 1545/11th. Q.K.A. 3 refers.
- (v) QUADRANT is to be detached at prudent limit of endurance to proceed Gibraltar, Q.K.A. 87 refers. QUADRANT will then join W.S.27 as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
- (vi) Remaining destroyers are to be fuelled at sea at discretion of VALIANT. Alternatively they can be detached to fuel at Casablanca.
- (vii) Wireless watch is to be maintained as ordered in my 1301/13th
- (viii) Amend stragglers route (details.)
- (ix) VALIANT pass to Commodore.
- (x) My 1301/13th and A.M. 2326/15th refer.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 2221Z/16 to VALIANT (R) Admty. etc.)

BLACKMOOR,  
MARIETTA E.

Your 0950C/16th (N.T. in W.D.)  
My estimated P.C. and S. at 0800C/17th 030° 35' S. 016° 09' E. 149° 8 knots. MARIETTA E. in convoy.  
Weather report.  
(BLACKMOOR 2327C/16 to C. in C.S.A. ROCKROSE,  
(R) N.C.S.O. Capetown.)

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War Diary.16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Tripoli From Prime Minister to L.G.A. Middle East.  
Unloading. Please convey my congratulations to Tripoli party on discharging nearly 2,700 tons on Feb. 14th. Pray continue to send me daily reports. (Air Min., 0100Z/16 to Mideast.)

For Prime Minister from L.G.A.  
Congratulations appreciated by all concerned at Tripoli. In spite of heavy swell discharged 2774 tons on 15th Feb. Nothing possible at Benghazi. Salvage work at Tripoli still suspended on account of weather. Valuable German salvage tug sunk by us in Tobruk has been successfully refloated and will shortly be of considerable help. (Mideast, T.O.O. Nil to Air Min.)

Enemy Units. Following read by Alexandria W/T. P.C. and S. of one M/V and 2 destroyers 37.40 N. 11.50 E. 240°, 8 knots. Have attacked enemy with torpedoes.

(A/C FDM/C, 0200/16.)  
Aircraft sighted at 0245 3 merchant ships and 6 destroyers 20 miles north of Pantellaria course 190, speed 10. (Capt. S.10, 0355/16 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

UNA, M/Vs 24 hours late. 10th Feb. sank 4000 ton north-bound merchant ship near Cape Stilo. P.M./15th sunk. torpedoed similar vessel beached south of Alice. One torpedo remains. Weather report. (UNA, 0505A/16 to Capt. S.10, (R) P.45.)

Your 0505 acknowledged. A very nice double. Expect you 0830/19th. TROOPER and UNA are released from submarine attack ban nights of 17th 18th. (Capt. S.10, 1047A/16 to UNA, (R) TROOPER, P.45 (UNRIVALLED).)

Black Sea. (1) Naval. (A) Night of 1st/2nd Russian cruisers shelled coast in the neighbourhood of Novorossisk, many ammunition dumps and points destroyed.

(B) Enemy submarines reported off coast South Anapa and West Furthi. (2) Air. (3) Land. (4) Due to information from captured enemy documents interrogation of prisoners Russians convinced Germans will resort to use of gas in near future.

(N.L.O. Black Sea, 0845C/16.)

DEPTFORD DEPTFORD is to be sailed as additional escort  
M.K.S.8. to M.K.S.8 to U.K.  
2. She is to call at Gibraltar for fuel and to embark fresh water ballast, rejoining convoy on completion.  
(N.C.X.F., 1033A/16 to Com. Algiers, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, DEPTFORD, WEYBURN, Admty.)

/M.K.S.8 ...

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War Diary.16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.DEPTFORD,  
M.K.S.8.  
(Contd.)M.K.S.8. Intend to sail (excluding Oran and Gibraltar sections). List of ships.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1044A/16 to Admty., etc.)Swedish  
Relief  
Ships.

Your 1831/15th Feb., not to Admty.  
Safe conduct for 4 Swedish relief ships (as in Admty. 2038/23rd Jan. to C. in C. Med. only) has been granted to Piraeus only by standard route. From intercepted signal it appears BARDALAND destination has been altered Smyrna and that of FENRIS to Salonika by Italian authorities, via (? Adalia).  
2. Request immediate confirmation and route as ships are now South of Crete.  
(C. in C. Med., 1033B/16 to N.A. Ankara, (R) Admty., etc.)  
Reply: B.N.A. Ankara, 1027C/17.

Bi-Weekly  
Opsum No.  
100, Part 3.

15th Feb. 21 B.24s despatched in 2 formations to make dusk attack on shipping in Naples harbour.  
5 aircraft returned early owing to technical troubles. Another unable to reach objective bombed bridge S.E. of Naples. No hits.  
Remaining 15 found low cloud over harbour which mainly obscured results but 1 hit claimed on each of 2 merchant vessels at Massaniello Mole. 5 other bombs burst on land but damage unknown.  
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1039Z/16.)

Employment  
of French  
S/Ms.

Your 2122/12 (see South Atlantic).  
Concur that French submarines could be profitably employed in Mediterranean. Adm. Michelier has been asked to nominate up to six which he considers most operationally fit.  
(2) Proposed employment would be in Genoa - Corsica area under operational control of S.8. Submarines to be based at Oran where French base facilities exist. To start and finish patrols at Algiers, proceeding between Oran and Algiers escorted on surface.  
(3) Request up to six Liaison Officers and class B communication parties may be earmarked, first three parties being sent to Algiers as soon as possible.  
(N.C.X.F., 1053A/16 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.A., F.O.S., S.8.)

SIBYL,  
TRIBUNE.

(1) P.217 (SIBYL) leave patrol p.m. today Tuesday through 040° 01', 012° 51' to pass 038° 32', 010° 50' at 2100/17th thence course 264°. (2) TRIBUNE leave patrol p.m./17th and follow above route 24 hours later.  
(Capt. S.8, 1132A/16 to P.217 (SIBYL), TRIBUNE, (R) 8th S.F., Capt. S.10.)

/Cositrep ...

War Diary.16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositrep  
No. 691. 15th Feb. B.24s bombing shipping in Naples at dusk claim hits on two merchant vessels at quay. Other damage obscured by low clouds. (C. in C. M.E., 1225B/16.)

Situation Report  
No. 63. (1) Bougie. POZARICA (damaged by A/C torpedo 29th Jan.) capsized at 2227/13th after collapse of engine room bulkhead. No lives lost. Harbour entrance is clear.  
(2) D.S. DOLFIJN reported torpedoing and sinking of Italian U-Boat of GEMMA class in position 180° Cape Spartivento 10 miles at 1101/9th. (W.D. Note - Formers said 8th.)  
(3) One U-Boat was probably sunk in 035° 43' N. 001° 10' W. a.m. on 13th Feb. after 18 hours of attacks by WOODSTOCK, WESTRAY, HUNDA and A/C of U.S. Army 12th Fighter Command.  
(4) An Italian float plane Can.501 was found on water by RUSKHOLM in vicinity of Cape Tukush at 1830/15th. Five Germans taken and A/C towed to Philippeville. (N.C.X.F., 1231A/16 to Admty.)

A/S Trawlers. Your 1229/8/1 (see "Torch" Area).  
2. A.M. 1745/21/1, para. 4. Only 4 of these trawlers are now coming to U.K. in near future. Intended reinforcements for your Command have thereby been upset.  
3. Reinforcements for your Command have now been arranged as follows:-  
(a) 4 A/S trawlers temporarily. A.M. 1746/4 refers. They should sail from U.K. mid-March.  
(b) 4 A/S trawlers temporarily. A.M. 1527/7 refers. First trawler should sail from U.K. end March.  
(c) The 27th Trawler Group, consisting of A/S M/S Trawlers COVERLEY, HORNPIPE, MINUET, SALTARELO and TARANTELLA. These will be in hand mid-February for fitting out and will then require a short work up. They should sail from U.K. mid-April.  
(d) It is intended that a further 4 A/S M/S Trawlers will be sailed from U.K. mid-May.  
(D.M.S., 1246A/16 to N.C.X.F.)

ALBARO  
(Italian) My 1147C/15. ALBARO has taken clearance papers. May sail for Piraeus p.m. Feb. 16th in which case vessel should enter Aegean 7-10 hours G.M.T. Feb. 17th.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1314C/16 to C. in C. Med., S.O.I. Med., (R) S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

Algiers Depot. A gunmounting repair depot has been established at Algiers employing French labour under British supervision. (Details and requirements).  
(N.C.X.F., 1315A/16 to Admty.)  
Reply: Admty. 0207A/19.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

ARETHUSA. Departure.  
(Cdre. Aden, 1439Z/16 to Admty., etc.)

Enemy Units, (1) Sighted at 1040/16th 1 tanker, 1 merchant  
P. 45. ship, 2 destroyers off Cape Stilo southbound  
less than 10 knots.  
(Capt. S.10, 1441A/16 to P.45 (UNRIVALLED).)

T.C.A.O. The form of signal given in T.C.A.O.11 para. 6  
signals. is to cease forthwith. Originally authorities  
are to signal the required information in any  
convenient form, the wording being varied as  
much as possible each day.  
(N.C.X.F., 1455A/16 to A.I.G.3, 284.K., (R)  
C. in C. W.A., Admty., R.A.W.A., N.O.I.C. Malta,  
C. in C. M.F., Cominch.)

60 ships Gibraltar has at present 14 American ships left  
for G.U.S.4. from previous U.G. convoys or ships diverted from  
M.K. convoys. If ships at Gibraltar as well as  
ships from U.G.S.4 are to return in G.U.S.4  
total convoy will equal 60 ships. Request your  
concurrence that this number can be accepted. Alternative is  
confirmed holding at Gibraltar of from 10 to 15 American vessels  
for periods of 25 days at a time.  
(N.C.X.F., 1605A/16 to Cominch, (R) Admty., S.N.O.C.A., F.O.C.  
Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran.)  
Maximum of 60 acceptable.  
(Cominch, 2126/16.)

Movements, 16th Feb. Port Said arrivals H.H.M.S. PANTHER,  
Port Said. AETOS, POOLE, ROMNEY, R.F.A. BARDAPUR.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1611B/16 to Admty., etc.)

12th U.S. Air To: Eaker and Brereton. From: Doolittle.  
Force Report. Signed: Eisenhower.  
Operations. Feb. 15th.  
21 B.17s unescorted attacked docks and shipping  
at Palermo, Sicily. 54 tons of bombs dropped from  
23,000 ft. 1 large ship hit and left burning. Bursts hit on  
oil tank causing fire. Many bursts on dry dock. Fire reported  
in N.W. corner of harbour. Columns of black smoke from target  
area and hangar. Moderate light and heavy flak encountered. 6  
enemy aircraft attacked escort of P.38s. 1 Me.109 destroyed and  
1 F.W.190 damaged. 10 B.25s made a second attack on Kairouan  
airdrome dropping 594 fragmentation bombs from 9000 ft. Target  
area well covered. 3 aircraft seen burning on ground one very  
large fire started. 3 large columns of smoke seen for 20 miles.  
After leaving target 15 to 20 Me.109s and F.W.190s attacked  
bombers and escort of P.38s. Bombers destroyed 2 Me.109 and  
2 F.W.190 and probably destroyed 3 Me.109. Fighters shot down  
2 Me109. 1 B.25 shot down by enemy fighter. 6 Me.109 attacked  
by formation of Spitfires and P.39s. 3 enemy fighters destroyed.



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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.12th U.S.  
Air Force  
Report.  
(Contd.)

1 probably destroyed and 1 damaged. 1 Spitfire shot down. 12 Spitfires flying cover for ground forces were attacked by 6 enemy aircraft. 1 F.W. 190 destroyed and 4 enemy aircraft badly damaged. 2 P.39s acted as messenger for advanced ground forces. 1 P.39 was missing. Air support command carried out many missions.  
(Allied Air Force Algiers, 1612Z/16 to Etousa.)

SAMPHIRE.

A.F.O. 2700/40. Not intended to hold Board of Enquiry into loss of SAMPHIRE as considered no useful purpose would be served.  
(N.C.X.F., 1615A/16 to Admty.)

Special  
Slow Convoy,  
Gib. - U.K.

Your 1546A/13. Have following for inclusion.  
(List).  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1650A/16 to N.C.X.F., (R)  
S.N.O.C.A., Cdre. Algiers, Admty.)

K.M.F.9.

NEA HELLAS and JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT arrived.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1727A/16 to Admty.)

G.U.S.4.

Cancel my 1803/13. Mediterranean section of G.U.S.4 is to join convoy M.K.S.8.  
2. G.U.S.4. O section is to be detached from M.K.S.8 in 35.49 N. 06.13 W. at 1130A/22nd to R/V with main body G.U.S.4 in 34.20 N. 09.18 W. at 1100A/23rd. Onward route as in Admty. 1935/12th.  
3. N.O.I.C. Oran is requested to sail KUMAON and KATHIAWAR to join M.K.S.8.  
4. F.O. Gibraltar is requested to sail 2 escorts to join M.K.S.8 off Gibraltar.  
5. Escort of G.U.S.4 O from leaving M.K.S.8 to R/V with ZETLAND, PORT ARTHUR, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR and escorts in para. 4. Escort to return to Gibraltar on completion.  
(N.C.X.F., 1733A/16 to F.O.I.C. and N.O.I.C. French North Africa, A.O.C. E.A.C., 328 Group Wing, A.O.C. W.A.C., (R) Capt. F., Connav, Cominch, Capt. S.8, S.O. Force H.)  
Amended by 1843A/17, q.v.

*No*  
U/B sunk by  
URSULA, 11th  
November.

We consider that URSULA's attack on a U-Boat on 11th Nov. 1942, probably sank a U-Boat. We congratulate URSULA on this success. N.C.X.F. pass to Capt. S.8 and URSULA.  
(D.A/S.W. Approved 1st S.L., 1828A/16 to URSULA.)

French  
Personnel  
for Harbour  
Defence.

Your 1253/15 (N.T. in W.D.) Your 1619/30th Jan. and my 0019A/14 have now been passed to Cominch and B.A.D. Washington.  
(Hd. of M., 1914A/16 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Naval. Our M.T.Bs operating last night in the  
Intelligence Sicilian narrows claimed hit with torpedo on one  
Summary medium M/V.  
2000A/15 to Air. (3) Strikes. Wellingtons and Beauforts and  
2000A/16. Albacores were despatched to locate and attack  
enemy shipping S.W. of Marittimo. Torpedo  
Wellington set one tanker 4/5000 tons completely  
ablaze in position 37° 00' N. 12° 00' E. Other  
Wellingtons scored near misses with 250 lb. bombs on two D/Rs  
and one M/V 5000 tons 37° 03' N. 12° 08' E. Beaufort scored  
possible torpedo hit on M/V 3000 tons 37° 27' N. 12° 07' E.  
(Commandeth Malta, 1925Z/16.)

Movements, Algiers arrivals HOLCOMBE, OAKLEY, EASTON,  
Algiers. PUCKERIDGE, KRAKOWIAK with 164, 135, 170.  
Departures GREGORY to Philippeville. L.C.I.(L)s  
6, 163, 7, 244 to Jijelli.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2003A/16 to Admty., N.C.X.F.,  
F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Situation Tripoli (L). Salvage operations resumed.  
Report Single line of Italian A/T net in position across  
No. 341. harbour entrance.  
2. Malta. 5 M.T.Bs operated south of Marittimo  
night of 15th/16th Feb. and attacked strongly  
escorted enemy convoy in conjunction with aircraft.  
1 definite torpedo hit on M/V. M.T.Bs saw one M/V estimated  
5000 tons hit by torpedo from Wellington and seen to sink.  
Beauforts claim one torpedo hit on M/V in addition. All M.T.Bs  
returned safely. M.T.B.77 slightly damaged and First Lieut.  
killed. No other damage or casualties.  
(C. in C. Med., 2036B/16 as amended 0956B/17 to Admty.)  
*German account - G.D. 503*

Personnel Your 1531/11 Feb. (N.T. in W.D.) Following is  
Ships. proposed use of personnel ships sailing ex Suez  
during March subject operational requirements.  
(A) TALMA ex Suez about 23rd March with Army 570  
for Basra, 1040 for Bombay ex Red Sea Ports.  
(B) TAKLIWA ex Suez about 15th March with R.A.F.250, Greek  
refugees 500, for Dar-es-Salaam.  
(C) Returning vessels of W.S.26 as follows:-  
MALOJA with service details about 4300 for Durban U.K. ex Suez.  
ARUNDEL CASTLE with R.A.F.250, Army 550 ex Suez, Italian P.O.W.  
600 ex Berbera all for Kilindini, Army 1100 ex Suez for Durban.  
HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN with Army 250 ex Suez for Durban, Italian  
evacuees 1000 ex Massawa for Durban, 450 ex Berbera for Kilindini,  
100 ex Berbera for Dar-es-Salaam.  
ORDUNA with F. French 700 ex Port Sudan for Jibuti, 1040 ex  
Jibuti for Madagascar, Army 1200 ex Suez for Durban.  
2. Greek refugees, Italian evacuees and Italian P.O.W. cannot  
travel in same ship.  
3. Presume TAKLIWA and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN will be allowed  
proceed unescorted.  
4. Request early advice whether escorts will be available for  
remainder.

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Personnel Ships. (Contd.) 5. Agreed G.H.Q. M.E.F. (P.S.T.O.M.E., 2037B/16 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., etc.)

Movements, Benghazi. Sailed M.T.Bs 313, 309, 267, GLOXINIA eastward, SOUTHERN SEA. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2102B/16 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

Malta Air Report. Part 2. Enemy air activity nil. Day 16th Feb. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2121Z/16.)

A.S.V. B.24 Aircraft for North Africa. To: Andrews for action, Eisenhower for information. From: Marshall. Understood here that both 1st and 2nd Anti-Submarine Squadrons now based in U.K. have completed training and are now operationally engaged. Our records indicate that present combined airplane strength of both squadrons is 15 A.S.V. equipped B.24. Assuming that training is completed desire Andrews dispatch 1 A/S Squadron to N.W. African Air Command as follows - (arrangements). Believed here that most effective use of 1st and 2nd A/S squadrons can be obtained by basing both in N.W. Africa provided they can be accommodated there. Eisenhower's views are desired. 4 A.S.V. equipped B.24s for those units will be ready to depart U.S. approx. Feb. 24th. These aircraft will be despatched to U.K. for assignment to remaining A/S squadrons unless otherwise advised. (Agwar, Washington, 2201Z/16 to Etousa and Algiers.) Reply: 1758Z/19.

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements Arrival 0414Z/16th D.S.O.21.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0416Z/16 to Admty.)  
Colombo arrivals 16th Feb. (0920/2) VERBENA.

Departures (0130Z) LISMORE.  
(F.O. Ceylon 1036Z/16 to Admty. etc.)  
Sailed BIRMINGHAM arrived BRITTANY, WOLLONGONG.  
(Dep. C. in C. E.F. 1122Z/16 to Admty.)

Persia- Personal for Gen. Quinan with 31 Armd. Div.  
Iraq from Gen. Wilson. I depart for Mideast tomorrow  
Command. 17th Feb. on which date Command P.A.I.C. will  
devolve upon you pending appointment permanent  
successor. C.G.S. will keep you informed of any  
matters for decision during your absence from  
Baghdad.  
(C. in C. Persia-Iraq 1100C/16 to Basloc (R) W.O.)

EMILE EMILE BAUDOT arrived safely. Your 0855/16 refers.  
BAUDOT. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 1416Z/16 to C. in C. E.F.  
(R) Admty. F.O.E.A., Comfc, Durban, Air H.Q.  
246 Wing.

ARETHUSA (1) Programme of ARETHUSA delayed a total of 8  
days on arrival at Kilindini.  
(2) C. in C. Med 1850B/30 Jan. refers.  
(Cdre. Aden 1449Z/16 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C.  
S.A., F.O.W.Af., F.O.I.C. Simonstown, (R)  
ARETHUSA.)

ARETHUSA 1330Z/16th CAP TOURANE escorted by ARETHUSA,  
CAP TOURANE Kilindini 24th Feb. knots (A) 9 (B) 10 days  
KAROA 21, coal. 1520Z/16 KAROA Suez 21st Feb. knots 13½,  
days 11, coal, coastal (22) (23) Ind.6.  
Section 2. A. 012° 03' 047° 08'  
B. 012° 36' 051° 08' C. 012° 20' 051° 30'  
D. 010° 35' 052° 02' E. Equator 047° 10'  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 1621Z/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.  
etc.)  
1. In order to save daylight and economise  
ARETHUSA's fuel, route has been altered from 5° N.  
to pass through position on Equator in 44° 20' E.  
thence Kilindini.  
2. N.C.S.O. Aden 1621Z/16 refers.  
(Cdre. Aden 1651Z/16 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. (R)  
F.O.E.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

St. Johns Naval Base. My 1257/5 (1527/5 intended) para 4 last sentence.  
1. Suggest decisions on following lines (A) Any future developments at St. Johns will be for Admiralty account as hitherto.  
(B) Neither Minister nor Deputy Minister were available in Ottawa during our recent visit.  
(Further remarks.)  
(B.A.D. 0025Z/16 to Admty.)

Movements. U.S. S/M Chaser 655 arrived and left 15th on patrol.  
(R.O. Santa Marta 0845/16 to Admty.)  
Bermuda arrivals 15th Feb. U.S.S. MACOMB, NICHOLSON, URAGUAY, Departure U.S.S. NICHOLSON.  
(S.B.N.O..W.At. 0949Q/16 to Admty.)  
Arrived Kingston 15th Feb. P.C. 626. Departures T.Z.(USAT) U.S.S. HOGAN.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica 160906 to Admty.)  
Arrival 15th U.S. Transport EL LIBERTADOR and STATE OF VIRGINIA.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao 1010QR/16 to Admty.)  
Departures ANNAPOLIS, COBALT, NANAIMO, MONCTON, LACHINE, escorting H.S.C.F. 120, NIPIGON for Argentina.  
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 1301Z/16 to Admty.)  
Departure 16th U.S. M/S Y.M.S. 33 for Trinidad.  
(Harbour Master Barbados 1415/16 to Admty.)  
Departure VEGREVILLE for St. Johns Newfoundland.  
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 2102Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

Movements	Ship.	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	F.S/M ARCHIMEDE	26½° N. 51½° W.	296°	12½
1800 G.M.T.	F.S/M AMAZONE	19½° N. 36½° W.	296°	7
16th Feb.	ALCANTARA)	Equator 28° W.	000°	12½
	WOODRUFF )			
	F.S.GLOIRE	12° N. 28½° W.	283°	18
	(D.O.D.(F) 1012Z/16 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)			

T.A.35. (ANDES.) Your 1926/10 para. 5. No sailing report of ANDES received.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1355Z/16 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C., B.A.D., F.O.I.C. Greenock, D. of S.T.)  
Request sailing time, speed, and "Chop" T.A.35.  
(Cominch C. and R. 1637/16 to Admty.)

Limits of numbers of Ships in U.G.F./G.U.F. and U.G.S./G.U.S. convoys. Present limits of 20 ships in U.G.F. and G.U.F. convoys and 45 ships in U.G.S. and G.U.S. convoys are hereby increased by three ships each under following conditions.  
A. Addition in each case requested by U.S. Army.  
B. Ships are carrying military equipment for French or commodities for civilian population N.W.Africa or en route to U.S. preparatory to such employment.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Limits of numbers of Ships in U.G.F/G.U.F. and U.G.S/G.U.S. convoys. C. Ships are otherwise qualified for inclusion in these convoys. This is Cominch 271802 Dec. to Cinclant for action C.E.S.F. Com. 3 P.D. New York. Admty. S.N.O.C.A. N.C.X.F. C. in C.A.F. for info. (Cominch 1405/16 to Comnav and V.A.Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

Macri. Macri amendment No. 38. Section 1, insert new para. 13 as follows. (Cominch C. and R. 1425/16.)

MANSFIELD H.X.226. My P.C. and S. 055° 33' N. 045° 07' W. 200° 12 knots. Have failed to regain contact with H.X. 226 after losing touch in heavy ice at 0420/15th in 051° 06' N. 051° 03' W. Now returning to St. Johns N.F. with salt contaminated feed water due to defective evaporator. Weather report. (MANSFIELD 1513Z/16 to C.T.F. 24. (R) C.T.U. 24.1.13 Comnav, Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.OAO C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.)

Submarine estimated Feb. 16th. U.S. Submarine notices. (Cominch 1534/16, 1555/16, 1556/16, 1557/16, 1651/16 to Admty.)

Raider "J". Report (graded B.O) has been received that Raider 23 (Raider 'J') was sunk in the South Atlantic on 27th Oct. 1942. 2. Intercepted correspondence indicates that a survivor from Raider 23 had returned to Germany by 9th Nov. 1942. Comment: Confusion over month of sinking is possible and confirmation has been requested. Above tends to confirm that Raider 'J' was sunk by S.S. STEPHEN HOPKINS on 27th Sept. Description of ship in company with Raider 'J' at that time resembles TANNENFELS which arrived Bordeaux by 6th Nov. (D.D.I.C. 1559Z/16 to Cominch (R) Comnav.)

B.Y.M.S. My 1506/10. Ships will now be ready to sail on 22nd Feb. (B.A.M.R. 1606Z/16 to Admty. (R) Cominch, S.B.N.O. W.At. F.O.C.W.A.)

A/S Trawlers as escorts for Ocean Convoys. Your 1700/15. Request arrangements be made for first six large A/S trawlers to arrive Halifax by 1st April. These trawlers will be used for escort of local convoys. 2. Six corvettes returning from "Torch" will then be allocated to Mid-Ocean Groups. 3. Question of further exchanges will be discussed with R.N. representatives at Washington conference. (C.N.S. of Canada 1616Z/16 to Admty. for 1st S.L.)

/Transport...

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America & West Indies - Contd.

- Transport of U.S. Army personnel. Your 1545/11. U.S. Army regret that since making request contained in my 2221/8 they have been informed that local arrangements have been made for Air Transport Command personnel in HAI LEE and for engineers in HOGGAR. They have therefore directed local military authorities to make other arrangements for transfer of medical personnel as convenient.
- JAMES PARKER. 2. Movement of JAMES PARKER therefore stands as in my 1935/11 Jan. and after discharge of their personnel ship is required to return to U.S.A. as soon as possible.
3. U.S. Army have ordered Commanding General U.S. Forces, West Africa, to make all arrangements for future coastwise movements locally.  
(B.A.D. 1721Z/16 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)
- S.R.1. Your 2353/15 (N.T. in W.D.)  
R.S.1. S.R.Convoys are from Sierra Leone to Gibraltar. S.R.1. sailed tenth February, 1943. (List.)  
R.S.Convoys are from Gibraltar to Sierra Leone. R.S.1. sailed eleventh February, 1943. (List.)  
(D.T.D 1818Z/16 to Connav.)
- ST. LAURENT. My 1851/10. ST. LAURENT further delayed. Now unable to arrive Londonderry prior to 27th Feb. (C.O.A.C. 1850Z/16 to F.O.N.F. C. in C.W.A. N.O.I.C. Londonderry. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- L.S.T. 414. Following is a repetition of my 1341Z/14 (begins) Admty. (R) B.A.D. From N.S.H.Q. Norfolk arrived 2001/12, L.S.T. 414. 1341Z/14. (Ends.)  
(Ottawa C.C.O. 1910Z/16 to Admty. C.C.O., B.A.D.)
- L.S.T.418. Baltimore departed for Norfolk Virginia, 1400/15 L.S.T. 418.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1916Z/16 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. C.Plane sights sub. 48° 23' N. 52° 48' W. 1745/16. Brazilian minelayer CARIACA attacks sound contact 10° 11' S. 35° 20' W. 0125/16.  
D. P.C. 489 attacks sound contact 06° 50' S. 34° 31' W. 0310/16. STATE OF VIRGINIA sights periscope and wake 12° 08' N. 69° 04' W. 2245/15.  
(Cominch 1925/16 to Admty.)
- U/Bs attacked. Your 1059B/22 July. 19 attacks reported in week ending 2400Z/14. It is presumed you have details of R.A.F. attack Feb. 9th South of Iceland. No others promising.  
(Cominch 2036/16 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. B.A.D. C.N.J.S.M. Comnaveu.)

/SAMUEL...

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War Diary.16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

SAMUEL L. FULLER. SAMUEL L. FULLER not with convoy, last seen 1600 Z/15th 40° 52' N. 66° 36' W. then reported in steering gear trouble. (TRAIL 2115Z/16 to C.O.A.C. (R) C.E.S.F. N.S.H.Q. C.T.24.)

G.U.S.4. G.U.S.5. Your 1605A/16 (see Med.) Maximum of 60 ships acceptable in G.U.S.4 and 5. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 2126/16 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

A.S.V.B.24 Aircraft for N.Africa. Agwar Washington 2201Z/16 to Etousa and Algiers. See Mediterranean.

L.S.T. 368. New York arrived 14th Feb. L.S.T. 368 from Norfolk (Vir.) (N.S.H.Q. 2250Z/16 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

Sailing of L.S.Ts. in S.C.convoys. Important that L.S.Ts. for U.K. should be sailed as soon as ready in S.C. convoys and number of ships included in these convoys may be increased up to 65 in order to avoid merchant ships being excluded. (D.T.D. 2255A/16 to B.A.D. (R) Connnav, B.R.L.O. New York.)

A/C Recognition. Convoy U.C.1. Your 1910/10. Orders are that British - U.S. recognition procedure will be used, but due to distribution difficulties with two star cartridges some aircraft may only use single letter procedure. 2. Cominch has advised Cinclant and N.O.B. Bermuda to inform S.O. of escort of air coverage to be expected. (B.A.D. 2329Z/16 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A. C. in C.W.A.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals Wellington 2310Z/15 U.S.S. BREESE, U.S.S. SHELDRAKE, U.S.S. AMERICAN LEGION, U.S.S. HUNTER LIGGETT, U.S.S. GEORGE CLYMER, departure Nandi 0500Z/15 U.S.S. ANTARES for Auckland E.T.A. 0600Z/20. Departure Nandi 15th Feb. U.S.S. TALAMANCA for Espiritu Santo. Departure Espiritu Santo 14th Feb. U.S.S. KOPARA for Auckland E.T.A. 1800Z/20 route Selwyn Strait (Q) 2155 South 17555 East (R) 3510 South 17555 East S.O.A. 10.8 knots. Arrival Espiritu Santo 0502Z/15 U.S.S. TAURUS. (D.N.I. Wellington 0021Z/16 to Admty.)

/Arrivals...



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16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals Fremantle 14th, ADELAIDE Sydney (N.S.W.)  
(Contd.) 15th TOWNSVILLE, U.S. Destroyers HELM, BAGLEY.  
Departures Melbourne 15th ATHENE for Noumea,  
Fremantle 14th TJERK HIDDES, HEEMSKERCK for escort  
duties. Sydney (N.S.W.) 15th U.S. Destroyer HOVEY for Espiritu  
Santo, Thursday Island 15th KALGOURLIE for Darwin.  
(N.B. Melbourne 0444Z/16 to Admty. etc.)  
Arrival 15th Feb. Townsville R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK. R.A.A.F.  
Store ship WANAKA. 16th Sydney R.A.F.A. KRUMBA. U.S. transport  
(?BOSPHORUS) depart Brisbane 15th due Townsville 19th.  
(A.C.N.B. 1141Z/16 to Admty., Connav.)  
U.S. ship MONTICELLO escorted by TJERK HIDDES arrived  
Fremantle.  
(Cmdre. Western Australia 2155Z/16 to A.C.N.B.)

WARRAMUNGA, Departure Wellington WARRAMUNGA escorting NOERDAM  
NOERDAM. to Brisbane, E.T.A. 2230Z/20 Feb.  
O. 36.22 S. 170.31 E. P. 32.17 S. 164.55 E.  
Q. 28.40 S. 160. 17 E. R. 27.28 S. 155.13 E.  
S.O.A. 14 knots. Secret position Z. 28.58 S.  
160.00 E. Y. 36.36 30 S. 170.00 E.  
(D.N.I. Wellington 0545Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy O.W.4. Intend KANIMBLA to leave Fremantle 17th escorting  
convoy of following 4 special ships all bound  
Persian Gulf:- ROBIN TUXFORD, ROBIN SHERWOOD,  
SANTA ISOBEL, POMELAU ROEBIAH.  
2. Convoy to be called O.W.4. 3. Route  
C. 031° 21' S. 100° 36' E. D. 011° 35' S.  
080° 43' E. E. 005° 00' S. 074° 30' E.  
4. Unless otherwise ordered by you can disperse in position E;  
ships proceeding independently on diverse route.  
(A.C.N.B. 0706Z/16 to C. in C.E.F. (R) Dep. C. in C.E.F.  
KANIMBLA, Cmdre. W.Australia, Admty. Cmdre. S.W.Pacific.  
Compsowestpac Unit.)

Digest. Serial 9. Nine Liberators bombed shipping and land  
No. 390. Feb. installations Ambon during morning causing many  
15th. fires town area, and scoring two direct hits on  
8,000 ton merchant vessel. Four other medium mer-  
chant vessels observed and attacked Ambon Bay with-  
out visible results.

10. Two Medium Merchant Vessels one small Merchant Ship sighted  
Pilli Harbour early same morning.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0715Z/16.)

JAVA, Following from D.S.JAVA Call sign B.Z.4 SA fired  
U/B. 3 rounds at (corrupt group) periscope 2 hours 30  
minutes G.M.T. 032° 40' S. 112° 35' E.  
(Perth Radio 1330Z/16 to Admty.)

/Guadalcanal...

War Diary.

16.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Guadalcanal  
operations,  
U.S. report.

The Navy Dept. announced on 16th Feb. that in a week of sea and air fighting in the Solomons area, beginning on Jan 29, 15 Japanese ships were sunk or damaged and 60 or 61 Japanese aeroplanes were destroyed at a cost to the Americans of the heavy cruiser CHICAGO, a destroyer, three M.T.Bs, and 22 aircraft. Loss of life in the CHICAGO, the report said, was "not large." Captain R.A.Davis, captain of the ship, was among those saved. The Japanese losses included two destroyers sunk and 28 or 29 Zero fighters, 12 torpedo aeroplanes, and 20 other aircraft destroyed: four destroyers and seven Zero fighters probably destroyed: and six destroyers, a corvette, and two cargo ships damaged. The American aeroplanes lost were six fighters, four torpedo aircraft, two bombers, and 10 machines of other types. Almost all the losses on both sides were suffered in air attacks on surface vessels.

The official statement made no mention of any fighting between surface craft, except for an attack on enemy destroyers near Guadalcanal by M.T.Bs on Feb. 1. The Japanese had large concentrations of warships in the battle area, but avoided a decisive naval action.

(The Times, Seventeenth February, 1943.)

W.D.Note: Details of losses referred to in this statement are entered in Casualties folder.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1323A/16, 1327A/16.)

Submarines Attacked.

Cominch 2036/16. See America & West Indies.

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

The captain of Russian SS. VANZETTI reports that at 1545/5th Jan. in 74.12 $\frac{1}{2}$  N. 17.54 E. he avoided two torpedoes which were fired at him by a submarine with casing awash. The ship fired 6 rounds, of which it is claimed that 2 hit the enemy S/M which the captain of SS. VANZETTI considers was either sunk or badly damaged. The captain suspects there is a German observation post on Bear Island.

Heavy air  
attack on  
Lorient.

360 out of 377 aircraft attacked Lorient last night, finding perfect weather over the target. Fires broke out afresh in the already extensively burnt out Keroman and dock areas, and many incendiaries were spread effectively over the town. Two exceptionally large explosions, one near the centre of the town, are reported. Two aircraft are missing.

*E/R Boats off  
Calais.*

Two Naval Albacores bombed a force of some 9 E/R boats; one vessel is claimed destroyed and a second probably destroyed in 20° Calais 11 miles at 2020.

Air raid  
on Swansea.

Swansea was attacked last night by 10-15 aircraft. It is reported that fighters destroyed 3 and probably 2 more and damaged one. Some damage was caused to the railway and to civilian property, and civilian casualties were rather heavy. The port of Swansea was closed from 0014A to 1242 today on account of suspected enemy mining. The port was closed again tonight until completion of morning sweep tomorrow.

U/B probably  
destroyed.

20 Wellingtons of Bomber Command laid mines last night off Biscay ports. One aircraft off Point Aven (Lorient) saw a submarine ahead, in the act of crash diving in 47.42 N. 03.35 W. As the aircraft was making its run-up there was a large explosion which shook the aircraft badly, and the rear gunner saw the tail of a submarine come to the surface and then sink. It is considered by H.Q.B.C. that the submarine struck a mine and was probably destroyed.

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic.

Two more mines were exploded during searching sweep in the Straits of Gibraltar today. Sweeping was discontinued at 1700 on account of the weather.

South Atlantic.

U.S. DEER LODGE (New York to Suez via Cape) was torpedoed and sunk by a German S/M at 0555 G.M.T. today in 33.46 S. 26.57 E., about 60 miles south of Port Elizabeth. Ship made SSSS and S O S for I.D. JENSEN in 34.51 S. 26.37 E.

SS. LLANASHE was sunk at approx. 0050Z/17 in 34° S. 28° 30' E. by a U-Boat of large type, 300 ft. long. 8 survivors were landed at Durban by RACEHORSE on 25th February; 2 were possibly taken prisoner; 2 were landed at Capetown by Dutch TARAKAN on 1st March.

SS. BARON DUNMORE reported on arrival at Freetown having sighted a suspicious vessel with German appearance in 25.57 N. 34.13 W., course 320°, 14 knots, at 1750/17. F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES was informed and proceeded in the direction of the ship.

Mediterranean.U.205  
sunk.

PALADIN, which left Tripoli (L) on 15th Feb. with JERVIS, KELVIN and COUNDOURIOTIS, escorting 3 empty merchant ships, at 1040 today in 32° 54' 8" N. 22° 11' 4" E. (about 40 miles north-west of Derna) attacked a U-Boat which surfaced. A Bisley escorting the convoy attacked the U-Boat with depth charges and the crew abandoned ship.

/PALADIN ...

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.U.205 sunk.  
(Contd.)

PALADIN boarded, and GLOXINIA, which was in the neighbourhood with another convoy took her in tow, but the U-Boat sank at 1714 today in 32.56 N. 22.01 E. Five officers and 36 ratings were taken prisoners. Four ratings were killed and 4 seriously injured in PALADIN, by a pom-pom accident.

Italian S/M  
ASTERIA  
sunk.

WHEATLAND and EASTON sank the Italian S/M ASTERIA in 37.14 N. 04.27 E. (about 40 miles N.W. of Bougie) about 0950 today, after a 6½ hours' hunt. The S/M surfaced and was abandoned before sinking, and the C.O. and 46 other prisoners were taken.

ROCKWOOD.

ROCKWOOD, destroyer, arrived at Aden today to join the Mediterranean Station, in 5th Destroyer Flotilla.

French S/Ms.

Admiral Michelier has nominated the following French submarines to operate in the Western Mediterranean: VESTALE, SULTANE, ARETHUSE and minelayer PERLE.

Operation  
M.H. 6.

A convoy of 15 ships escorted by DERWENT (S.O.), 5 Hunts, 2 Fleet destroyers, 2 corvettes and one trawler left Alexandria this morning for Malta and Tripoli (L) (7 store ships, 1 personnel ship, 1 tanker for Tripoli (L); 4 store ships, 2 tankers for Malta).

Air  
Operations.

Wellingtons mined and bombed Heraklion harbour last night.

M/Vs sunk  
by SPLENDID.

S/M SPLENDID (P.228) <sup>a</sup> sunk 2 westbound merchant ships escorted by 2 destroyers and a sloop in a position 10° Cape St. Ito 3 miles at 1903.

S.N.O.  
Cyrenaica.

Acting Commander J.D. Campbell was today appointed S.N.O. Cyrenaica, in addition to his duty as N.O.I.C. Benghazi. He will be responsible under C. in C. Med. (C. in C. Levant from 20th Feb.) for control of operations in the area south of 33.30 N. between 19° E. and 25° 09' E.

From today the eastern limit of responsibility of S.N.O. Inshore Squadron, Eastern Mediterranean will be 19° E.

17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Cocos Is.

C. in C. E.F. is informed that V.-A. Helfrich has suggested that Cocos Is. should be used as a flying boat fuelling base for the Australia - Ceylon service. C. in C. E.F. strongly deprecates use of the Cocos Islands for any purpose which will draw the enemy's attention to them. They are now left almost undisturbed to fulfil their most important function of cable station and D/F station, but if the Japanese have any indication that Cocos is of value to us they are almost certain to attack and seize the islands.

America and West Indies.

It is reported that Convoy O.N.S.165 was attacked by 2 U-Boats at 2130Z today about 50° 14' N. 41° 05' W. 500 miles E.N.E. of St. Johns and that one U-Boat was damaged.

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.GLASGOW  
for New  
York.Your 1140/16. GLASGOW detailed.  
(C. in C.H.F. 1034A/17 to Admty.)M.T.Bs.  
for Shetland.Your 1931A/16. M.T.Bs. 327 and 328 have been  
selected.  
(HORNET 1105/17 to Admty.)

UGANDA.

To join West Africa Command. See Operations.

12th M.L.  
Flotilla.As from 22nd February M.Ls 188, 226, 228 and 231  
will be withdrawn from the 15th M.L. Flotilla and  
will form the 12th M.L. Flotilla to be based at  
Peterhead.  
(D.D.O.D.C. 1731A/17 to A.C.O.S.)Movements.ECLIPSE,  
FURY,  
INTREPID,  
ORKAN.Seidis Fjord. Arrival 2350/16, ECLIPSE, FURY,  
INTREPID, and ORKAN.  
(A.C.I.C. 0525A/17.)S/M  
Movements.My 1652/16. Cancel para. (F).  
(F.O.S. 1003A/17.)Your 1824/16. Request you sail TRESPASSER for  
Holy Loch a.m. 25th Feb.  
(F.O.S. 1204A/17 to C. in C.Plymouth.)After dark tonight report your position, course anticipated S.O.A.  
and weather by immediate signal to F.O.(S) and C. in C.W.A.  
(F.O.S. 1242A/17 to L.23.)Positions of submarines at 0800/18 and movements for  
following 24 hours. (A) TRUCULENT 69° 30' N. 11° 30' E.  
(B) SEANYMPH 68° 35' N. 08° 10' E. (C) SPORTSMAN 68° 35' N. 09°  
10' E. (D) SIMOON 68° 02' N. 07° 20' E. (E) Submarines in (A)  
to (D) proceeding to patrol positions off Alten Fjord. Speeds  
(A) 10 knots (B) to (D) 9 knots.  
(F) UREDD in Lofoten Area. (G) BARB off Vigo. (H) BLACKFISH off  
Bilbao. (J) L.23 54° 50' N. 22° 10' W. on surface through 54° 30'  
N. 26° 10' W. and 52° 40' N. 35° 00' W. S.O.A. 215 miles per 24  
hours. (K) STUBBORN escorted by JAN VAN GELDER sails Liverpool  
1100/18 for Clyde, E.T.A. Cumraes 0700/19.  
(F.O.S. 1442A/17.)You will be required to escort Soviet Submarine S.54 to Nore  
for onward routing to Portsmouth sailing from Firth of Forth p.m.  
18th. On arrival at Sheerness you and submarine are to act as  
directed by C. in C.Nore.2. You are to be S.O. 3. Route by searched Channel, S.O.A. at  
least 10 knots weather permitting.

(C. in C.Rosyth 1615A/17 to WOLSEY.)

/My...

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M My 1821/15. Intend sailing P.556 escorted by  
Movements. KINGSTON TURQUOISE from Needles at 1330/19 by  
(Contd.) standard convoy route to Plymouth. E.T.A. 0730/20.  
2. If deep dive is successful vessel will pass  
Portland Bill at 1830 speed 7.5 knots. If defect  
develops during dive P.556 and escort will return  
Portsmouth.  
(Capt. S.5 1837A/17.)

Arrived P. 35 escorted by FIR.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 1853A/17.)  
Your 1242A/17. My position 1915Z/17, 055° 14', 016° 04',  
course 271° S.O.A. to 022° W. 95 miles per day, thence 200  
miles per day.  
(L.23 2130Z/17 to F.O.S.)  
F.O.C.Gibraltar 2239/15. Onward route diving by day on  
route "Red" to R/V in position (X) 135° Bishop Rock 15 miles  
p.m. 25th as ordered by Capt. (S) 3 for escort to Holy Loch.  
(F.O.S. 2211A/17 to TAKU.)

OXFORDSHIRE. Intend to sail Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE, from  
Breaksea 1000A/19 to Gibraltar. Route.  
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 1609A/17.)

ADVENTURE, Admiralty's 1423A/9 para. three. Intend to sail  
ABDIEL. ADVENTURE and ABDIEL individually on February  
21st.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1647A/17.)

A.M. 1423/9. Route through Q.Z.L.18 to T. 50° N. 14° W.  
U. 39° 30' N. 14° 20' W. V. 37° 01' N. 10° 02' W. thence to  
Gibraltar.  
(D.O.D.H. 2031A/17 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

North Operating in Northern Waters: HOWE, BELFAST,  
Atlantic BERWICK, CUMBERLAND, KENT, SCYLLA, SHEFFIELD 13  
dispositions. Destroyers.  
Area Scapa: KING GEORGE V, ANSON, MALAYA, FURIOUS,  
BERMUDA, GLASGOW, NORFOLK, SUSSEX 3 Destroyers.  
Area Clyde: ILLUSTRIOUS. Area Rosyth: RENOWN. Area Milford:  
ADVENTURE. Area Gibraltar: NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA,  
JAMAICA, PENELOPE, SIRIUS. 7 Destroyers.  
(D.O.D.H. 1940Z/17 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

Small A.M. 1924/10. Route for trawlers and coastal  
Craft to forces.  
Gibraltar. 1. By Q.Z.L. 18 to P. 50.01 N. 13.40 W. Q. 44.58  
N. 13.41 W. R. 40.05 N. 13.30 W. S. 36.30 N.  
10.02 W. thence to Gibraltar.  
2. This may be regarded as a normal fixed route for small craft  
to Gibraltar.  
(D.O.D.H., 2035A/17 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

KING GEORGE V. Intend proceed Scapa practice areas in KING GEORGE  
NORFOLK. V with NORFOLK, METEOR, FORESTER and ICARUS in  
company to Akureyri.  
2. Route through position North and West X. 058°  
59' 004° 01' Y. 63° 48' 05° 52' Z. 66° 22' 13° 20' and thence

/to...



War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

KING GEORGE V. to Akureyri. Time of passing position X 1215A/18.  
 NORFOLK (Contd.) S.O.A. 15 knots.  
 3. E.T.A. Hrisey Island 1100A/20.  
 4. C. in C.Rosyth and N.O.I.C. Iceland are requested to provide A/S air escort to limit of endurance. (C. in C.H.F. 222A/17 to A.I.G. 47.)

Operations.

Operation "Regulation" UGANDA. 1. UGANDA is to join West Africa Command, and is expected to complete working up 1st March.  
 2. She should call at Clyde to embark stores and personnel and may then carry out Operation "Regulation" en route to her new command.  
 3. C. in C.H.F. is requested to sail her to Clyde and F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail her as required by C. in C.Plymouth (D.O.D.H. 1640A/17.)

E-Boats off East Coast. D/F Positions. (Harwich W/T 2334/17) (Nore, 2339/17, 2347A/17, 2350A/17, 0001/18, 0002A/18, 0012/18.) (KITTIWAKE 2350A/17.) (GARTH 0051A/18.) (MONTROSE 0052A/18.) Reinforce patrol 7. (Nore 2353/17 to GARTH.)  
 Fleet South. (Nore W/T 2355/17 to MONTROSE, WINDSOR, BLENCATHRA) M.G.Bs. proceed from Great Yarmouth to A buoy S.O. M.G.B. 313. (C. in C.Nore 0019A/18 to SEECD. South.)

Allied Air Activity.

Escort for DASHER. My 2138/16. Delayed weather. (C. in C.Rosyth 0729A/17 to DASHER.)

U-Boat claimed sunk. Ref. H.Q. No. One Group S.AI 552 of the 17th Feb. T. of O. 0855A. to H.Q.Bomber Command. Interrogation of crew of aircraft confirms sinking of a U-Boat. Night was extremely clear, bright moonlight, calm sea. Aircraft had made accurate pinpoint from Point Aven and was proceeding on run-in at 500 feet to lay vegetables. Suddenly saw submarine ahead position 47° 42' N. 03° 35' W. who was in act of crash-diving. When the aircraft passed overhead there was a big explosion which shook aircraft badly. Rear gunner observed tail of submarine come to surface and then sink. Aircraft ran on and completed her lay. (Naval Staff Officer, Hemswell 1202A/17 to N.S.O. H.Q.B.C.) See also correction in H.Q.B.C. 1540A/18.

Bomber Command operations. On night 16/17, 360 A/C bombed Lorient. (H.Q.B.C. 1615A/17.)

/Naval...

War Diary.

17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Naval  
Air  
Stations  
A/A  
Defences.

Request a meeting may be arranged to discuss the A/A Defence of Naval Air Stations and that the Agenda may include the following points.  
(R.A.N.A.S. 1657A/17 to Admty.)

Murmansk  
Balloon  
Barrage.

Only comments obtainable from Russians on balloons in Murmansk area as follows  
(a) Balloons may be flown anywhere within radius four miles from centre of Murmansk town.  
(b) Never fly at more than 10,000 feet. 2.  
Following has been observed.  
(a) Only one balloon flies at present (b) maximum height about 3,000 to 4,000 feet. (c) apparently always taken down at night.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2021A/17 to 18 Group.)

Crew of  
A/C.

Proceed forthwith with all despatch to search for crew of Stirling aircraft in estimated 177°. Start Point 25 miles at 2100. If nothing sighted by 0600/18 return to harbour.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 2221A/17 to GOATHLAND.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Swansea  
bombed.

Air Raid on Swansea 2200/16. Bomb Safety Officer reports possibility of 2 unexploded bombs in Swansea Docks Area.  
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1152A/17 to Admty.)  
Swansea was attacked night 16th/17th by 10 to 15 aircraft. Reported Three Aircraft destroyed, two probable, one damaged, all by our fighters. Some minelaying possible. Damage by bombs chiefly to Railway Sidings and Civilian Property. Two Naval Ratings wounded.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1241A/17 to Admty.)

Q.V.2.

Mining.  
Departure PLOVER, BLYTH, and EASTBOURNE escorted by BLENCATHRA in accordance with your 1454/16.  
(F.O.Humber 0921A/17 to C. in C.Nore.)  
Operation Q.V.2 completed.  
(PLOVER 1740A/17.)  
My 0921/17. PLOVER, BLYTH and EASTBOURNE returned at 2125/17.  
(F.O.Humber 2149A/17.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Force in  
Alten Fjord.  
LUTZOW.

Russian visual R/C of Alta Fjord 1115A/17 observes 3 cruisers, 3 destroyers, one tanker, one aircraft carrier.  
2. More detailed description of aircraft carrier (Probably catapult - ship) and interpretation of photographs taken will be signalled if and when available.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1425A/17 to H.F.)

/S...

War Diary.

17.2.1943.

Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Force in S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1425A/17.  
 Alten Fjord. Admiralty appreciation is that LUTZOW and two  
 LUTZOW. destroyers are the only fleet units at present  
 (Contd.) in Alten Fjord. A fleet tanker, one or two ex-  
 Norwegian coastal-defence ships converted to A/S  
 ships, an aircraft catapult-ship, and some M-class  
 minesweepers may also be present.  
 (D.D.I.C. 1725A/17 to A.I.G. 47.)

My 1425/17. Tanker now identified by Russians as heavy cruiser.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2132A/17 to H.F.)

St. Nazaire. U.S.B.C. Photographs of St. Nazaire taken at  
 1055/16 show shipping in parts of port cloud  
 obscured at 1330 hrs. On same date (interpretation  
 report No. 4543) unchanged since 8/2, Tankers T.2.,  
 T.21., and T.23 being still present.  
 (R.A.F. Medmenham 2000A/17 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat See Allied Air Activity.  
 claimed Following from Soviet Naval Staff.  
 sunk. Captain of S.S. VANZETTI reports that at 1545/5th  
 January in 74.12 $\frac{1}{2}$  N. 17.54 E. he encountered S/M  
 with casing awash. Enemy fired two torpedoes  
 which were avoided. Ship fired six shots, claiming one hit on  
 top of conning tower and one under gun before the conning tower.  
 2. Captain considers that if the S/M was not sunk it was certainly  
 badly damaged.  
 3. He also suspects that there is a German observation post on  
 Bear Island because S/M came from that direction and he passed  
 the Island about noon about 12 miles away.  
 (Ad. Miles 1653C/17 to Admty.)

Navigational.

Swansea. Port of Swansea closed until further notice suspected  
 enemy mining.  
 (N.O.I.C. Swansea 0014A/17 to Admty.)  
 Port re-opened, and will closed again p.m. today  
 till completion of a.m. sweep tomorrow.  
 (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1241A/17.)

Casualties & Defects.

HYDRA. My 1518A/16. Delayed with defects.  
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0017A/17.)

Unknown Following from GEZA (or ZZA) S.O.S. 41.00 N.  
 ship. 0943 W. at 0445.  
 (Port Patrick 0511/17 to Admty.)

/EMPIRE...

War Diary.

17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

?EMPIRE  
GRIFFIN.

188° 3rd grade S.O.S. GEZA (?EMPIRE GRIFFIN).  
(Port Patrick Radio 0535/17 to Greenock.)

MARNE.

E.T.A. 1000A/18. If weather is bad request Tug may assist entering harbour.  
(MARNE 1941A/17 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N. 166.

Revised position received in BABBITT 2000/16.  
R/V amended accordingly for 1300Z/17 in 057° 43' N. 021° 51' W.  
(?C. in C.W.A. 0108Z/17 to Escorts O.N.166.)

W.S.27 Q (B).  
ORMONDE.

ORMONDE Code Number P.11 will now be included in convoy W.S.27 Q (B).  
2. Vessel will embark to full capacity in Glasgow on 27/2 and a.m. 28/2.  
(D.S.T. 0226A/17.)  
Your 0226/17. Vessel cannot be ready before middle of March.  
(D.S.T.O. Glasgow 1022/17 to D.S.T.)

T.A.35.

Sailed ANDES in accordance with my 1504/12.  
48 hours late.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0310A/17.)

D.S.37.

Your 1744/15. Sailed SHIKARI, SARDONYX.  
(Cmdre. Londonderry 0550A/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Changes of  
Destination.

All changes of destinations for ships in ocean convoys bound for U.K. will be signalled to escorts by C. in C.W.A.  
2. Escorts are to pass these altered destinations to Commodore and ships concerned as soon as practicable and are to inform C. in C.W.A. of any ships concerned which are not in company.  
(C. in C.W.A. 0924Z/17.)

J.W.53.

F.E. para. 6 (H) last sentence. For A.M. day plus 2 read A.M. day plus 3 (ii) For 5 destroyers read 3 destroyers.  
(C. in C.H.F. 1019A/17 to H.F.)  
My 1554/16 has been repeated to S.B.N.O. Archangel.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1518A/17 to Admty.)

DIANELLA'S 1459/17. DIANELLA with LORD MIDDLETON proceed on reciprocal of outgoing convoy track.  
2. If J.W. 53 B is met MATCHLESS take over the escort of LORD MIDDLETON. DIANELLA escort J.W.53 B.  
3. If J.W. 53 B not met destination of DIANELLA, LORD MIDDLETON Stornoway, Loch Ewe, or Scapa at discretion.  
(C. in C.H.F. 1826A/17 to DIANELLA, MUSKETEER.)

/Your...

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.J.W.53.  
(Contd.)

Your 1554/16. Confirm that up to six ships may be diverted to White Sea if considered conditions warrant this. A.M. 2226/26 Jan. refers.

2. Request names of ships selected be advised to enable diversion instructions to be signalled.
3. M.O.W.T. and Harriman Mission concur.
4. N.O.I.C. Murmansk pass to Dalgliesh and Frankel. (D.T.D. 2000A/17 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

EMPIRE CHARMIAN. Your 1510/13. EMPIRE CHARMIAN is being fitted out to Admiralty requirements by D. of S.T.

2. Ship is due to complete on 4th March. No delay in completion can be allowed and thus no alterations to the Provisional Staff requirements can be accepted. The ship will be a Landing Ship Carrier (L.S.C.)
3. Ship is being fitted to carry as many L.C.M. (3) as possible at present estimated to be 18.
4. Accommodation is being fitted for 200 Naval personnel and 100 Military. (V.C.N.S. 1121A/17 to S.O.A.S.C.)

U.C.1

Your 1617/16 and my 1641/16. Numbers 21 and 72 have returned to Port. Number 94 did not sail. Report on next occasion of breaking W/T silence if CUSTODIAN (14) and ECLIPSE (22) are in company. (C. in C.W.A. 1130A/17 to WESTON.)

SEMBILANGAN, FORT WEDDERBURNE, CLAVELLA arrived Belfast 16th February. Master of each ship states that they lost the convoy and assumed that the convoy was proceeding north about as they had not been informed to the contrary, and were told at the Convoy Conference that they were to be careful not to pass more than 5 miles outside Chicken Rock. When new R/V was received they were too far north to be able to make it and therefore proceeded in to Belfast Lough. They did not appreciate the fact that the Commodore's first noon R/V indicated that the convoy was routed South about. (N.C.S.O. Belfast. 1310A/17 to Admty.)

K.X.9.  
FLAMINIAN.

Inform Commodore FLAMINIAN returned Harbour. (C. in C.W.A. 1134A/17 to Escorts K.X.9.)

Your 1838/14. It is important that all authorities concerned are kept fully informed of the movements of these troopships.

2. Request you will in future repeat all such messages to the authorities in the U.S. and Canada.
3. A.M. 1926A/10 para. 5 refers. (D.O.D.(H) 1323A/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Stores for  
North  
Russia.

Your 1029/4. Not practicable to unload any stores in J.W. 53, since ships are loaded considerable time before sailing date.

Essential maximum reserves for Polyarno and Archangel be built up while opportunities of shipment are most favourable. Request you will reconsider whether build-up of stocks contemplated in my 2136/17th September can proceed, observing that arrangements are now being planned for loading J.W.54. and failure to ship by this opportunity means that no large supplies can reach you before late May, when position may have deteriorated considerably. (D. of V. 1332A/17 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

/MUSSOVIET...

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

MUSSOVIET. Kola Inlet arrival 1230A/17 MUSSOVIET.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1529A/17 to A.C.I.C.)

W.S.27 A.M. 2336/15 and 2338/15.  
and 1. Combined convoy will R/V in position P. 270°  
K.M.F. 10A. Oversay 6 miles at 0900Z/24 thence through  
position Q. 55.02 11.31 R. 49.58 13.40  
S. 40.05 13.41 T. 36.02 10.00.  
2. K.M.F. 10A will then proceed as ordered by N.C.XF  
3. S.O.A. should be adjusted so as to pass through position T  
at 0900Z/1st.  
4. W.S.27 is to part company at position T and proceed through  
position U. 30.03 11.02 V. 27.59 13.30 W. 24.00 17.05  
X. 18.55 17.57 Y. 12.01 18.03 Z. 09.04 16.06 thence to  
Freetown.  
5. Stragglers route:- (dd) 52.00 13.58 (ee) 50.02 14.55  
(ff) 45.18 14.53 (gg) 39.10 14.32 (hh) 36.02 10.00 (jj) 30.03  
11.02 (kk) 27.59 13.30 (ll) 25.01 17.30 (mm) 19.30 18.59  
(nn) 12.57 19.03 (oo) 09.04 16.06.  
6. Ships of K.M.F. 10 A should be supplied with stragglers  
route as far as position (hh) and proceed from that position to  
Gibraltar.  
(D.O.D.H. 1615A/17.)  
Admiralty 2336/15, 2338/15.  
A/S escort (A) From Liverpool RAIDER. (B) From Clyde EGRET,  
S.O. QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL. (C) To join from Londonderry at  
Oversay R/V FISHGUARD, TEST, CLARE, ERNE, WOLVERINE.  
3. WHITEHALL is to escort STRATHMORE from Liverpool February  
24th to overtake convoy.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1751A/17.)

O.S.43. A.M. 1559A/9 and 1655A/11, C. in C.W.A. 2046A/15.  
In view of poor endurance of type 1 HUNT intend to  
sail LIDDESDALE, BROCKLESBY, and QUANTOCK at  
0800/18 direct to Gibraltar routed through position  
(A) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles (B) 049° 04' N. 010° 51' W.  
(C) 045° 01' N. 010° 30' W. (D) 043° 02' N. 010° 31' W. and  
thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A., speed 18 knots.  
2. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail these destroyers to  
R/V with O.S.43 as far North as possible.  
3. Intend sailing TANATSIDE and WENSLEYDALE at 0900/18 to R/V  
with O.S. 43 in approx. 049° 59' N. 014° 30' W. and escort to  
prudent limit of endurance, then return to Plymouth.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 1625A/17 and 1839A/17.)

H.X.226. BIBB departed at 1545Z/17 to reinforce escorts of  
H.X. 226.  
(C.T.G. 24-6 1627Z/17.)

Escort My 1227/1st. 1. Cancel paras 2 and 4.  
Programme. 2. Further orders will be given U.C. Convoy.  
3. Revised programme for "Torch" convoys is as  
follows:-

/Convoy...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Escort Programme. (Contd.)	Convoy	Sailing U.K.	Group.
	K.M.F.10A	Feb. 23rd.	44
	K.M.S.10	26th.	C.1 plus Minesweeper
	K.M.F.10B	March 1st	C.4.
	K.M.S.11	14th	C.2 plus Minesweepers.
	K.M.F.11	15th	40
	K.M.S.12	26th	44 plus R.C.N. Corvettes.

(C. in C.W.A. 1655Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

M.K.S.7. Clyde portion arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1804A/17.)

R.U.62 My 1951/11. E.T.D. now 18th February, weather.  
(N.C.S.O. Iceland 1952A/17 to Admty.)

O.N.168. My 2005/5. The same ruling is to be applied to  
O.N.S.169. O.N.168 and O.N.S. 169.  
(D.T.D. 1955A/17.)

W.S.27. C. in C.Plymouth's 1921/15 and C. in C.H.F. 1641/16.  
1. SUSSEX is required on ocean escort for W.S.27 from Freetown to the Cape.  
2. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to arrange for her to proceed direct from Operation "Regulation" to Freetown arriving there not later than 8th March.  
(D.O.D.H. 1955A/17.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation 2002A/17th.

- ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG patrolling off Madeira.  
 2. BOREAS, VANOC, 1 M/V 031° 02', 014° 41' through 31.19 14.31 thence 055°, 12½.  
 3. U.G.F.5, T.F.36, 035° 08', 015° 23' through 34.08 10.15 at 1700/18th thence 097°, 12½.  
 4. S.R.1 PENTSTEMON 025° 22', 015° 40' through 26.19 14.47 thence 039° 6½.  
 5. R.S.1X, DUNKERY 033° 52', 008° 33' through 32.49 09.45 and 31.22 10.18 thence 173°, 8½.  
 6. PETUNIA 031° 21', 012° 57' through 28.31 17.25 thence 201°, 12.  
 7. NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, NIMBLE towing one merchant ship 37.44 10.45 through 38.01 11.01 thence 330°, 3.  
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1022A/17 to A.I.G.55.)  
 Situation 2001A/17th.  
 3. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR, working cable vicinity 036° 56', 008° 30', KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE (? holds) incorrect recognition signals.  
 4. TAKU 036° 02', 006° 28' through 036° 37', 007° 24' at 0130/18th and 036° 51', 009° 13' at 1930/18th thence 338° diving by day 2½ surfacing by night 10.  
 5. S/M (corrupt group) on patrol vicinity of 042° 30', 009° 15'.  
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1116A/17 to A.I.G. 63.)

C.G.11.

Convoy C.G.11 plus REDWING expected to arrive south of Tarifa 1800 today. Imperative local escort vessels take over there.  
 (U.S.S. GLEAVES, 1155Z/17 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Com. N.W. African Sea Frontier, C.T.F.(?18).)

A/C S O S.

S O S received timed 0525/17th from aircraft G.E.Z.Z.A. in 038° 24' N. (? 010°) 10' W.  
 2. Portuguese Grumman aircraft left at 1000 to search the area.  
 (N.A. Lisbon, 1201/17 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

AMARAPOORA.

Your 1445/16th. AMARAPOORA should be routed through Q.K.A.87.  
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1250/17 to N.C.S.O. Newport (Mon.), (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Parachute Report.

Altar (or Portimao) lighthouse report parachute on balloon-hydro object fallen into sea 3 miles away at sunrise. Independent report from Carvoeiro fishermen gives distance off shore as 6 miles so there may be 2 parachutes.

Wind northerly force 3 to 4. Fishing vessel searching the area.  
 (R.O. Portimao, 1252/17 to B.N.A. Lisbon, (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

See 1754/18.

/AJAX ...



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- AJAX. B.A.M.R. Washington's 1825/15th Jan. (AJAX to be taken at Navy Yard New York.)  
AJAX will arrive about March 6th.  
(F.O.C. Gib., 1307A/17 to B.A.M.R. Washington,  
(R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)
- U.G.F.5. By D/F on 7640 k/cs at 0833Z/17 U-Boat in your  
U/B. immediate vicinity probably reported you.  
(D.D.I.C., 1316A/17 to Escorts of U.G.F.5, (R)  
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A., N.C.X.F., C. in  
C.W.A., Cominch.)
- Your 1701A/16th. U.G.F.5 position 1200Z 036° 45' N. 020° W.  
course 105°. 10 hours late at R/V.  
(C.T.36, 1600Z/17 to N.C.X.F.)
- Movements. Arrivals 2100 U.S.S. BENSON, NICHOLSON, REDWING,  
GLEAVES, RAVEN, OSPREY escorting C.G.11.  
2000 ARCTIC RANGER from Oran.  
Departures 1500 VENOMOUS joining SPEEDWELL,  
ALBACORE, CADMUS, HUSSAR from patrol to R/V U.G.F.5 and act as  
escort to Oran Section.  
2229 U.S.S. BENSON, NICHOLSON, GLEAVES, RAVEN, OSPREY for  
Casablanca.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1335A/17 to Admty., N.C.X.F., Cominch.)
- TAKU. My 2239/15. Sailed TAKU.  
Only such Q messages affecting passage to port  
of destination and Portsmouth carried.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1410A/17 to F.O.S.)
- NORDFELS. German NORDFELS left Bilbao for Bordeaux  
16th Feb.  
(F.O.(S), 1443A/17 to S/Ms operating S. of 51°  
N., (R) C. in C. Plymouth.)
- KAULDI,  
NORDFELS. German KAULDI arrived 17th to load iron ore.  
German NORDFELS reloaded iron ore but still up  
river.  
(Consul Bilbao, 1705/17 to Admty., (R) M.E.W.,  
B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.) W.R. Note:  
C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.W.A., F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.
- AMERICAN  
PRESS. Your 1804/16 (1809/16 intended). AMERICAN PRESS  
sailed accordance my 1614/30.  
(S.N.O.C.A., 1738Z/17 to Admty.)  
Reply: Admty., 1425A/19.

/JAMAICA ...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

JAMAICA, Intend sailing JAMAICA at 0400/18th through  
 Operation (M) 036° 01' N. 012° 01' W. (N) 041° 30' N.  
 "Regulation". 020° 01' W. (O) 043° 30' N. 020° 01' W. S. of  
 A. 18 knots.  
 2. Thence to carry out operation "Regulation"  
 passing through following positions at time  
 indicated.  
 (O) 0600/20th. (P) 043° 30' N. 032° 30' W. 1700/21st.  
 (Q) 045° 01' N. 033° 01' W. 2300/21st. (R) 045° 01' N. 032°  
 01' W. 0145/22nd. (S) 044° 01' N. 031° 01' W. 0630/22nd.  
 S. of A. 16 knots.  
 3. From (S) towards (T) 044° 01' N. 023° 01' W.  
 4. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to signal onward route.  
 5. Communications.  
 6. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C. (Passing action being taken  
 by W.R.)  
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1827A/17 to Admty., C. in C. H.F., C. in C.  
 Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., N.C.X.F., A.C.O.S., H.Q.C.C., (R)  
 JAMAICA.)

ESSO Your 1835/11. ESSO MONTPELIER reports short of  
 MONTPELIER. stores and water unavailable Curacao, propose  
 ship proceeds to New York to store thence  
 Curacao.  
 (C.S. Gibraltar, 1933A/17 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.  
 Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A., N.C.X.F.)  
 Destination New York.  
 (D.T.D., 1113A/18.)  
 Your 1011/16, (re G.U.S.4). Why is ESSO MONTPELIER not  
 included?  
 (D.T.D., 2006A/17 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) S.N.O.C.A., N.C.X.F.  
 Connav.)  
 Reply: 1821A/19.

Mines, During searching sweep north of Ridge today  
 Gibraltar. Wednesday two mines were exploded in following  
 positions:  
 (A) 35° 56'45" N. 05° 53'12" E. (B) 35° 58'06"  
 N. 05° 53'42" W.  
 (2) Sweeping discontinued at 1700/17 due to bad weather.  
 (3) Minesweepers proceed on escort duty 1830/17.  
 My 1145/17 (N.T. in W.R.) refers.  
 (F.O.C. Gib., 1938A/17, 2243A/17 to Admty., N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A.)

Gibraltar Last important opportunity for freight to North  
 Freight Africa was in FINTRA sailed 18th Jan. Coaster  
 Congestion. allocated by P.S.T.O. in his 1836/9 cannot be  
 expected to sail from Gib. before end of Feb.  
 Shipment of naval stores and other service  
 cargo urgently needed will have been delayed for  
 six weeks and congestion caused at Gib. where  
 facilities are inadequate to deal with consider-  
 able quantity accumulated. Considered essential

/that ...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Gibraltar  
Freight  
Congestion.  
(Contd.)

that small coaster should be allocated permanently to run between Gib. and North Africa. Present indications are that a vessel of about 1000 tons could be filled every 2 to 3 weeks  
D.S.T.O. Agrees.  
(C.S. Gib., 2120A/17 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.C. Gib., P.S.T.O., Admty.)

ST. LUCIEN.

German controlled French ST. LUCIEN left Valencia for Marseilles 16th.  
(S.O.I. Gibraltar, 2144A/17 to S.O.I.X.F., S.O.I. Malta.)

U.C. 1.

Your 1109A/7 and C. in C. W.A's 1357/17. Request present route of Convoy U.C.1.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2146A/17 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

ATHERSTONE,  
VELOX.

Following is a repetition of my 1726/15th (previously received undecypherable) (begins): Arrived ATHERSTONE, VELOX. T.O.O. 1726/15th (ends).  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2255A/17 to Admty., etc.)

HUSSAR,  
ESPIEGLE,  
CIRCE.

My 1145/17th (N.T. in W.R.)  
HUSSAR returning with engine defect.  
(2) ESPIEGLE and CIRCE tomorrow Thursday to R/V convoy and act as additional escort.  
(3) Codeword Oran position (? portion) "Dabchick".  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2356A/17 to N.C.X.F., Admty., (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, S.N.O. Casablanca, CADMUS, U.S. Cruiser PHILADELPHIA.)

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- D.N.17. Convoy D.N.17 dispersed in 033° 15' S. 038° 15' E. at 1700 G.M.T./15th Feb.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0052C/17 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty.)
- EGERO. Your 1515/16th. EGERO is to proceed Takoradi. N.O.I.C. Takoradi report amount of oil fuel that can be taken, my 1304/15th refers.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 0205Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty.)
- DEER LODGE, "S" Report. Intercept de ZSC (Slangkop Radio). Stop S O S SS. DEER LODGE, we are abandoning ship, midnight position 34.51 S. 26.37 E. T.O.R. 0129. (Ends).  
(Valentia Radio, 0256/17 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
- EGERO. Your 1304/15th (re amount of fuel left in EGERO). 200 tons.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 0840Z/17th to R.A.W.A.)
- Dispositions. WAYLAND, CANTON, CILICIA, QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH, (corrupt group), RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES with W.S.26 018° 00' S. 010° 43' E. to 018° 38' S. 010° 42' E. thence 029° 59' S. 015° 41' E., 12½ knots.  
THYME escorting NESTOR 018° 30' S. 001° 30' E. to St. Helena, 10½ knots.  
FRITILLARY, CAPE WARWICK with N.C.2 off Walvis Bay to Cape 8 knots.  
COVENTRY CITY, MAINE with C.N.8, 028° 55' S. 015° 40' E. to Walvis Bay 8 knots.  
BLACKMOOR, ROCKROSE, NORTHERN DAWN with N.C.1, 032° 30' S. 017° 10' E. to Saldanha Bay 8 knots.  
BALUCHISTAN with C.A.13A, 034° 55' S. 019° 30' E. to Durban 8 knots.  
ST. ZENO, LE TIGRE with C.A.13B, 034° 55' S. 019° 30' E. to 037° 12' S. 025° 00' E., 9 knots.  
Convoy D.C.8, 034° 00' S. (? 26°) 50' E. to Capetown 8½.  
NIGELLA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR with D.N.18, 031° 10' S. (?033°) 50' E. to 033° 00' S. 036° 00' E., 8.  
CATTERICK 029° 15' S. 032° 45' E. to Durban 15.  
JASMINE 028° (?45') S. 034° 05' E. to Durban 12.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1121C/17 to Areas Q and J.)  
BRIDGEWATER, INKPEN, 2 motor launches with R.S.1, 19.11 N. 17.43 to 17.01, 18.00 W. thence 175°, 10½.  
FANDANGO, 2 M.L. escorting 19.30, 17.34, 180°, 7½.  
Convoy C.F.11, 20.17, 18.41 023°, 12.  
ADRIAS patrol East of Cape Verde Is.  
F. S/M AMAZONE 20.39, 39.02, 296°, 7.  
F.C. GEORGES LEYGUES 19.45, 26.51, 303°, 19.

/DESPATCH ...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. DESPATCH about 15.01, 22.01 to St. Vincent, 20.  
(Contd.) F.C. GLOIRE 12.00 N. 28.37 to 13.00, 33.01 thence  
084°, 18.  
U.S.A. Destroyers NELSON, MADDOX, CLENNON with  
convoy O.T., 13° 40', 21° 01' to Dakar, 13.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1332/17 to A.I.G. 149.)

QUEEN MARY, D. of S.T's 2006/15 para. 4 and 0630/26th Jan.  
AQUITANIA, para. 3.  
ILE DE Request following information may be signalled.  
FRANCE. (A) Forecast of approx. dates of arrival of QUEEN  
MARY and AQUITANIA at Capetown and of ILE DE  
FRANCE at Durban.  
(B) Estimate by Masters and O.C. Troops of  
minimum numbers of guards required compatible with safety.  
(C) Confirmation that a reasonable number of passengers can be  
accommodated in addition of Ps.O.W. and guard in first two ships  
mentioned as some accommodation is urgently required.  
(D) Number of rifles, tommy guns and ammunition now on board.  
(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1127/17 to A.C.N.B., (R) D.S.T., etc.)  
Reply: From D.O.D.(F), 1546A/19.

CINCINNATI, Departure 16th U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI, U.S.  
JOUETT. Destroyer JOUETT.  
(R.O. Bahia, 1200Z/17 to Admty.)

N.C.2. FRITILLARY and CAPE WARWICK sailed 1200Z/17th  
escorting convoy N.C.2 to Saldanha Bay. E.T.A.  
0500Z/21st.  
2. FRITILLARY requires destination instructions  
for herself and CAPE WARWICK.  
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1216Z/17 to C. in C. S.A.,  
(R) Admty., etc.)

Gibraltar - Can a reply now be given to my 1725/11?  
Freetown (N.C.X.F., 1229A/17 to Admty., F.O.C.W.Af.,  
Convoys. S.N.O.C.A., Gibraltar.)

TJITJALENGKA. My 1543/15 (re Naval Hospital Ship TJITJALENGKA  
required by C. in C. E.F.) Information received  
from G.O.C.W.A. that Army can meet immediate  
hospital requirements in Freetown. Further  
signal will be made re sailing of Hospital Ship.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1259Z/17 to Admty., (R) D.S.T.)

REDOUBT, Cancel my 1201Z/14th.  
PETUNIA. (F.O.C.W.A., 1301Z/17 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada  
for Brit. Consul.)

/CARNARVON ...

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.- Contd.CARNARVON  
CASTLE.

A.M. 1240A/11th Feb. and C. in C. S.A. 2143C/13th  
(? 2133/13, route for CARNARVON CASTLE).  
Propose CARNARVON CASTLE carries out blockade  
runner patrol after passing position (S)  
arriving Freetown about 20th March.  
Can delay be accepted?  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1426Z/17 to Admty., (R) CARNARVON  
CASTLE, C. in C. S.A., Comsolantfor.)  
Concur. (D.O.D.(F), 1611A/18.)

ALCANTARA,  
WOODRUFF,  
A.F.D.24.

A.M. 1122A/16th. Request that ALCANTARA and  
WOODRUFF remain on patrol east of 45.00 W. until  
after 23rd Feb. then join A.F.D.24 as convenient.  
Cominch 1248/16 states that A.F.D.24 will not  
arrive Trinidad before about 8th? March. In view  
of above modify my 1315/1st as follows. Patrol in  
area bounded by 17.00 N. 28.00 W. 12.00 N. 28.00 W., 12.00 N.  
35? .00 W., 17.00 N. 35? .00 W. until 24th Feb. then proceed  
Trinidad sweeping en route in approx. 11° N. Arrive Boca de  
Navios (12?)00Z/2nd March. Cominch notify British addressee(s?).  
(Comsolant, 1503/17 to ALCANTARA (R) Cominch, Admty., Cinclant,  
C.C.S.F., C.G.S.F., N.O.B. Trinidad, F.O.C.W.A., Cdr. N.W.S.F.,  
N.C.S.O. Saldanha Bay, R.A.S.A.D., Capt. (D) 12, T.U.23.1.3,  
T.U. 23.1.4.)

A/A Defences,  
W. Africa,

Following from Chiefs of Staff. Revised Defence  
Plan for West Africa.  
1. Approved scale of operational A/A defences -  
Nil.  
2. Do you agree to training scale 24 H.A.A., 32  
L.A.A. to be retained at locations selected by  
you?  
(W.O., 1520A/17 to G.O.C. in C. West Africa.)  
Reply: 1606/18.

BALUCHISTAN,  
C.A. 13A.

Simonstown departure 1253C/17th BALUCHISTAN  
escorting convoy C.A.13A, E.T.A. Durban a.m.  
21st Feb.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1739C/17 to Admty., Cdre. i/c  
Durban, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

SANGARA,  
salvage,  
Accra.

Admty. and M.W.T.R. attach great importance to  
salvage of SANGARA now at Accra. (Corrupt group)  
have to be abandoned unless she can be beached  
Lagos harbour. Owner has agreed to refloat at  
short intervals to avoid siltage. Marine state  
they will not accept responsibility. In view  
of importance of matter, grateful if any further suggestion can  
be made. Proposed position for beaching 6° 25'45" N. 3° 23'52"  
E. Admty. chart 2812. N.O.I. inform Salvage.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 2014Z/17 to Governor Nigeria, (R) Admty., R.N.O.  
Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I. Accra.)  
Reply: Gov. Nigeria, 1945/18.

/Movements ...

War Diary.

17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements,  
Pernambuco.

Departure 16th Feb. Brazilian Sub. Chaser C.S.1.  
Departure 17th Brazilian Light Cruiser BAHIA.  
(R.O. Pernambuco, 2020Z/17 to Admty., (R)  
B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, S.O.(I) Freetown.)

MONTE  
NARANCO.

Spanish MONTE NARANCO. Your 151608. Not detected  
by vessels or planes of this force. Plot  
indicates her now out of range of any vessels  
of this force unless intercepted by ALCANTARA.  
(Comsolant, 2030/17 to Cominch, (R) Admty.,  
ALCANTARA.)

MASTERFUL,  
BENALDER.

A.M. 1923/8th Dec.  
Intend MASTERFUL to tow BENALDER to Capetown.  
BENALDER reported ready for towing from Takoradi  
early March.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 2051Z/17 to Admty.)

MALAKAL  
(ex German  
LIKOMBA)  
Prize Court  
proceedings.

Your 1435/13. Attention is called to Admty.  
1828/17th Jan. 1942 and other signals relating  
to Operation "Postmaster" and in particular, to  
C. in C. S.A's 0335/22nd Jan. 1942 and Admty.  
0018/29th Jan. 1942.  
2. Affidavit should be drawn to conform in all  
respects with that used in case of DUCHESSA  
D'AOSTA.  
(Head of M., 2210A/17 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R)  
Governor, Sierra Leone.)

CATTERICK.

Your 2201C/17th (N.T. in W.D.) E.T.A. 0600.  
(CATTERICK, 2300Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Durban, (R)  
NIGELLA.)

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.French  
Naval  
Aircraft.Your 1435/10. Following for Adml. Michelier  
from Rear Adm. Amanrich.1. Hoped Admty. can release 20 Walrus  
amphibian aircraft forming a squadron of 12 with  
8 immediate reserve.

2. Aircraft could arrive in Casablanca by sea

in 6 weeks.

3. Squadron must be confined to operations in Morocco.

4. 3 Officers and 12 men (including 2 pilots) 3 fitters  
and 3 radio mechanics would be received for 6 weeks training  
in England if you agree.

5. I await your early instructions.

(Appd. by V.C.N.S. Intd. R.P. A.C.N.S. (A) 0007A/17 to N.C.X.F.)

Tunis -  
Marseilles  
Repatriations.

Personal from 1st S.L.

Your 2000/15. Following War Cabinet decision,  
Foreign Secretary is sending a telegram to  
Macmillan asking him to find out Eisenhower's  
reaction to proposed repatriation arrangements.  
(1st S.L., 0030A/17 to N.C.X.F.)

K.M.11

Your 52517 (M.O.4) 13 Feb. From G.3 signed  
Eisenhower. Owing to time required to turn  
round ships arriving Bone in preceding convoy  
impossible accept K.M.11 at proposed 11 day  
interval. Present convoy cycle must therefore  
be adhered to.(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, T.O.O. Nil to W.O. Recd.  
0150/17).

UNRIVALLED

Torpedoes expended. Returning by reverse of  
outward route arriving at R/V 0830A.(UNRIVALLED (P.45) 0430A/17 to Capt. (S) 10,  
(R) Submarines on Patrol). See 1045/17.Tripoli  
discharges.

L.G.A./10604. For Prime Minister from L.G.A.

Tripoli discharge 3476 tons on 16th Feb.

(Mideast, 0850Z/17 to Air Min).

Following from Prime Minister to L.G.A. Tripoli.

Your L.G.A./10604. Bravo.

(Air Min. 2217Z/17 to Mideast).

Movements,  
Alexandria.

Arrival 16 Feb. CROOME. Departures 16 Feb.

AMBER, SOUTHERN MAID, SEKSERN, M.L. 348, Tug  
EMPIRE.(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0911B/17 to Admty. C. in C.  
Med).

/M.K.S....



War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

M.K.S. 8

Add to my 1044/16, Oran Section (list).  
Request destinations.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 0948A/17 to Admty. Connav (R)  
F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F.)  
M.K.S. 8 sailing destinations.  
(D.T.D.1913A/17 to Cdre. Algiers)  
(Amended 1816A/19).

Swedish  
Relief  
Ships.

Your 1033/16th Feb. and Admty. 1653/16th Feb.  
Swedish legation confirm that both ships will  
proceed position 036° 06' N. 029° 36' E. to  
Antalia to pick up Turkish pilots and thence by  
Turkish territorial waters as per Admty. 1653/16  
Feb.

(2) C. in C. Med. please pass to Admty. and other addressees  
as in Admty. 1653/16 Feb.  
(B.N.A. Ankara, 1027C/17 to C. in C. Med., Admty).

M.K.F.9

My 1225/15th. Delete EASTON.  
(2) S.O. Force H is requested to detail one  
destroyer as escort to M.K.F. 9 from Oran to  
Gibraltar.  
(N.C.X.F., 1039A/17 to A.I.G. 260).

S/M  
Operations,  
publicity.

Your 1829/12 (Sit. Rep. No. 62) Communique has  
been issued of all successes excluding that of  
TURBULENT at 0649/5 which is being deferred for  
a later communique. All successes reported in  
C. in C. Med's 1955/15 have also been  
included in Communique. Names of C.Os. concerned  
have been given but not names of submarines.  
(D.O.D., 1039A/17 to N.C.X.F.)

French  
Warships,  
Toulon.

Gibraltar pass to N.C.X.F.  
Very reliable source graded B informed Military  
Attache Germans are now commissioning 5 French  
Warships at Toulon, personnel entirely German.  
Other grade C. confirms but mentions no Number.  
(N.A. Madrid, 1043/17 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C.

Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Malta).

N.I.D. Comment. Number of French warships at present being  
commissioned at Toulon is probably correct, but previous  
reports have indicated they would be manned by Italian personnel.

UNRIVALLED,  
UNA.

P.45's (UNRIVALLED) 0430/17th acknowledged. UNA  
arrives R/V same time.  
P.45 through 035° 22' 015° 20' 035° 22' 014° 18'.  
UNA amend route to pass through 035° 17' 015° 30'

035° 17' 014° 18'.

Do not attack S/M night of 18/19 unless definitely established  
as hostile.

(Capt. S.10., 1045A/17 to P.45 (UNRIVALLED), UNA).

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

U/B Following read from A/C using call sign 1BDC. P.C. and S. of one enemy S/M at 1045. 32° 50' N. 24° 45' E. 180° 6. (Alex. W/T, 1100B/17).

ALBARO My 1314C/16. ALBARO still here. Clearance (Italian). renewed and sailing orders awaited. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1100C/17 to C. in C. Med., S.O.(I) Med., (R) S.1., S.10., D.N.I.) My 1100C/17. Vessel reported to be sailing 17 hours G.M.T. tonight. B.2. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1830C/17 to C. in C. Med. S.O.(I) Med., S.1., S.10 D.N.I.) My 1100C/17. Expected enter Aegean 1000/1300 G.M.T.18th. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 2035C/17 to C. in C. and S.O.(I) Med., (R) S.1. S.10 D.N.I.)

OZARDA, OZARDA now returning from Tripoli (Libya) C.G.CURTIS. reported to be holed in collision, vessel therefore cannot be included in convoy X.T.4 sailing Feb. 28th. 2. To replace above vessel have taken up U.S. CHARLES GORDON CURTIS and ordered her Alexandria immediately to load. 3. Murrant and Robinson agree in view of fact no other ship suitable for this urgent operational requirement. 4. Request your immediate approval. (P.S.T.O. M.E., 1130B/17 to Admty for D. of S.T. (R) B.A.D. for B.M.S.M.) Concur.(B.M.S.M. 1857/18).

SAHIB, Leave patrol to pass 000° Ustica 10 miles at SPLENDID, 0200/19 thence through 038° 29' 011° 40' position TIGRIS. G. to pass H at 0130/20th thence Malta as ordered by Capt. (S) 10. 2. P.228 keep clear of this route. 3. TIGRIS will probably be met between G and H. Northbound. (Capt. S.8., 1232/17 to P.212 (SAHIB) (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta Capt. (S) 10, P.228 (SPLENDID) Submarines on Patrol).

Bi-weekly 2 Torpedo Marauders shipping R/C machine gunned Opsum No. a Schooner in Aegean Sea damage unknown. 100, Part 4, (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1236/17). 16 Feb.

SIBYL, My 1132/16th P.217 (SIBYL) pass 038° 32' 010° TRIBUNE 50' at 2100/17th 038° 00' 004° 15' at 2300/19th thence on the surface at your discretion to R/V escort Algiers (?in) 036° 58' 003° 02' (?at) 0715/20th. 2. TRIBUNE follow same route 24 hours later to R/V in position 036° 59' 003° 12' at 0715/21st. (Capt. S.8., 1258A/17 to P.217 (SIBYL) TRIBUNE, (R) N.C.X.F., Cdre. Algiers. 8th S.F.)

War Diary.

17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

ROCKWOOD

Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1307Z/17 to Admty etc).

UNBROKEN,  
UNRUFFLED.

Cover the approaches to Sousse as much as possible during your patrol.  
(Capt. S.10., 1335A/17 to P.42 (UNBROKEN) (R) P.46 (UNRUFFLED)).

Naval Air Stations, Egypt, proposal to close down PHOENIX (Fayid).

Your 1651/22nd Dec. 1622/21st Jan and 0025/20th Nov. 1942, not to all addressees.  
Considered that reduction in strength of Naval Air Service in Eastern Med. does not justify retention of both GREBE (R.N. Air Station Dekheila) and PHOENIX (R.N. Aircraft Repair Yard, Fayid) for maintenance of its aircraft.  
2. With about 100 personnel transferred from PHOENIX, the workshops at GREBE can maintain all naval aircraft now operating in Eastern Med.

with R.A.F. Assistance for engine overhauls which has been arranged locally. Therefore proposed that R.N.A.R.Y. Fayid, should close down for repair of F.A.A. Aircraft about 1st June, 1943, to retain two hangars as a storage and survey unit.

3. Propose remainder of establishment be offered on temporary loan to R.A.F.
4. By 1st June, 1943, Majority of aircraft now under repair will have been completed. All unserviceable aircraft outstanding on 1st June will either be transferred to GREBE for completion or written off if uneconomical to repair.
5. Similarly, outstanding useful repairable components will be transferred to R.A.F. repair units for repair, balance will be written off.
6. Closing down of Fayid should result in following Naval and R.A.F. loan personnel becoming available for draft. Officers 30 including 10 technical officers. F.A.A. 450 including 300 supply ratings. General service 200 including about 90 seamen.
7. Relying on these numbers depends, however, on desire and ability of R.A.F. to man the establishment by date proposed.
8. Request early indication of T.L. policy so that question of transfer can be taken up with the R.A.F.  
(C. in C. Med, 1435B/17 to Admty).

S.N.O.  
Cyrenaica.

(1) Acting Commander J.D. Campbell D.S.O., D.S.C. is appointed S.N.O. Cyrenaica (S.N.O.C.) in addition to duty of N.O.I.C. Benghazi with effect from today 17th Feb.

(2) S.N.O.C. will be responsible under C. in C. Med. for Control Operations in area south of latitude 033° 30' N. between longitude 019° E. and 025° 09' E.

(3) From same date eastern limit of responsibility of S.N.O. Inshore Sq. E. Med. will be longitude 019° E.

(4) Western desert ports remain under administration of R.A.Alex.

(5) M.W.M.47 is being amended accordingly.

(C. in C. Med., 1403B/17 to S. and A. Med. Stn. (R) P.S.T.O. M.E., G.H.Q.M.E., H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., A.I.G.72, A.I.G.69, Air H.Q., Egypt).

/TIGRIS...

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.TIGRIS,  
SAHIB,  
SPLENDID.Onward route (?passing) position G at 0230/20th  
thence through 038° 59' 011° 25' to patrol off  
Naples. Gulf Salerno coastal route may prove  
profitable.2. P.212 (SAHIB) may be encountered between G  
and H southbound.3. P.228 (SPLENDID) is on patrol between 038° N. and 039°  
N. 011° 40' E. and 013° 20' E.4. P.228 (SPLENDID) P.212 (SAHIB) and TIGRIS are not attacking  
S/M between 0001/19 and 2000/20 unless identified as  
hostile.

5. Capt. (S) 10 pass to TIGRIS.

(Capt. S.8., 1434A/17 to TIGRIS, (R), P.228 (SPLENDID), P.212  
(SAHIB) Capt. (S) 10).E.A.C.  
Report.A.604. Op. Sum. No. 98 1800 hours 15 Feb.  
to 1800 hours 16 Feb.A. Operations. Night 15/16. 12 Wellingtons  
attacked Bizerta docks. All crews report having  
dropped their bombs in harbour or town area.Day 16th. Convoy and harbour patrols flown from Maison Blanche.  
A Hudson aircraft on A/S sweep sighted periscope of U-boat,  
but it submerged before aircraft could attack. Another  
Hudson sighted from 3,000 feet 5 miles distant fully surfaced  
U-boat which commenced to dive just prior to attack. Hudson  
dropped 3 X 250 lb. D/Cs from 50 feet across track of U-boat.  
Result not known.

(E.A.C. Africa, 1500A/17).

ROYAL  
ULSTERMAN,  
ROYAL,  
SCOTSMAN.  
defects.Your 2124/10. ROYAL ULSTERMAN was in hand  
for refit for 6 weeks 15th Sept. 1942 and  
ROYAL SCOTSMAN for 14 weeks ending 28th June 1942.  
Request nature of defects which are considered  
urgent may be signalled.2. Only one small fast troop carrier exists and  
cannot be spared from present service but it is  
suggested that sufficient L.C.I.(L) should bedetailed from the 17 now allocated to you to provide the  
carrying capacity you require.(D. of P. Approved by V.C.N.S. 1504A/17 to N.C.X.F. (R)  
S.O.A.S.C.) Reply: 1414/24.

O.S.43

My 1655/11. Following ships sailed in O.S.43  
for North African destinations as shown:-  
Gibraltar SS. CLEARPOOL, Oran SS. FORT RUPERT,  
Algiers SS. TRADER, SS. ALEXANDRE AUDRE.Philippeville SS. FORT LAC LA ROUGE, Philippeville and Bone  
SS. EMPIRE SNIPE. Bone SS. OCEAN VICTORY.

2. CLEARPOOL carries aircraft in addition to coal.

3. Following did not sail. SS. FORT NORMAN, SIBERIAN, DOMBY  
GENERTON.

(D.O.D. (H) 1551A/17 1540A/18 to N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

/Naples...

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Naples At dusk Feb. 15, 9 Liberators, 376th Group, bombed by departed to attack shipping Naples Harbour. U.S. Aircraft. 5 reached target and dropped 25 American 1,000 pound bombs from 22,000 feet. Enemy aircraft attacking formation made observation of results impossible although 5 bombs known to have hit land. 4 aircraft forced to return early due mechanical failures, 1 of which bombed bridge near Salerno, unobserved results. 2. 12 Liberators of 93rd Bomb Group departed to follow 376th Group over Naples shipping. 2 returned early due mechanical failures, 10 dropped 50 American 1,000 pound bombs. Direct hits on 2 M/Vs moored alongside Massiniello Mole. (Cairo, 1610Z/17 to Etousa).

OSIRIS Cancel my 1850/12th Feb. OSIRIS is allocated to NEBOJSCA. Eastern Fleet in place of NEBOJSCA. Your 1415/15 refers.  
2. Request probable date OSIRIS can be sailed. (D.O.D. (F) 1625A/17 to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.S.)

Movements 17th Feb. Port Said arrivals. SOUTHERN MAID Port Said. M/L 348. Departures SPETSAI, H.H.M.S. PANTHER AETOS, M/L 348. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1632B/17 to Admty etc).

MIAOULES, Capt. Greek Ship MIAOULES would be grateful for ADRIAS. information regarding intending programme of Greek Ship ADRIAS which ship was originally under his orders. (S.O. Force H. 1711A/17 to Admty) Reply: Admty. 1235A/18. (South Atlantic).

M.K.F.9 Sailing Telegram. (2) and (3) 1800A/17. (4) 14 knots to Gibraltar, thence 13 knots. (5) and (8) as in N.C.X.F's 1741A/12. (6) HOLCOMBE (S.O.) OAKLEY, PUCKERIDGE, KRAKOWIAK to Gibraltar. (Cdre. Algiers, 1712A/17 1716A/17 to Admty etc).

M.Ls. M.L. 565 is allocated to complete 3rd M.L. Flotilla.  
2. M.Ls. 567 and 577 are allocated to complete 29th M.L. Flotilla.  
3. M.Ls. 578 and 580 are allocated to complete 9th M.L. Flotilla.  
4. These five M.Ls. are completing between March and May and will be sailed from U.K. to Gibraltar as soon as ready. (D.D.O.D. (C) 1816A/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Malta etc).

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

G.U.S.4 My 1733/16th. Cancel para. 3. Para. 4 delete KUMAON and KATHIAWAR, substitute VELOX and WIVERN. Cdre. Algiers is requested to sail VELOX and WIVERN with Algiers Section of M.K.S.8 (N.C.X.F., 1843A/17 to A.I.G. 260 etc).

TROOPER One fleet (as received. Could be Merchant Ship) leaves Malta tonight southbound warned of your route. Do not cross 014° 30' before 0400. (Capt. S.10., 1847A/17 to TROOPER).

French S/MS for Western Med. My 1053/16 to certain addressees only Admiral Michelier has nominated following French S/MS to operate in eastern Med. VESTALE, SULTANE, ARETHUSE, and minelayer PERLE. (2) Request you will include them when ready in convoy to Gibraltar or sail them with surface escort for onward passage to Oran. (N.C.X.F., 1853A/17 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty etc).

Movements Bone. Bone departures BICESTER, ZETLAND, LUNENBURG, WEYBURN, BADDECK, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, PORT ARTHUR, JAUNTY, M.M.S.7, 9. (F.O.I.S. 1932A/17 to N.C.X.F., Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q.)

Air attacks on Spezia. My 1602/6. I note from newspaper information that another air attack has been made on Spezia. This information is of importance to me even if only received after the attack has taken place. Request I may be kept informed. (N.C.X.F., 1941A/17 to Admty).

Malta Air Report. A.I.564. C.S.R. Night 16/17 Feb. Offensive operation were hampered by bad weather. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1945Z/17).

Movements Oran. Arrival: ATHERSTONE, FARNDALE. Departure: EMPIRE DACE, MISOA, STURGEON, STORNAWAY. (N.O.I.C. Oran, 2002A/17 to Admty etc).

Movements Algiers. Arrivals. Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND. Departures OAKLEY, HOLCOMBE, PUCKERIDGE, KRAKOWIAK with M.K.F.9, L.C.T.164, 170, 160, 135 to Oran. (Cdre. Algiers, 2011A/17 to Admty etc).

/Situation...

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation report No. 342. Tripoli (Libya) 3500 tons discharged 16th Feb. First ship has berthed alongside Spanish quay.

2. Convoy of three empty merchant ships left Tripoli (L) 15 Feb. escorted by JERVIS, KELVIN, PALADIN and COUNDOURIOTIS. At 1040/17 Feb. in 32° 54' 8" N. 22° 11' 4" E. PALADIN attacked U-boat which surfaced, anti submarine aircraft attacked with depth charges and crew abandoned her. PALADIN boarded and GLOXINIA, who was in the vicinity with another convoy, took her in tow. Five officers and 36 ratings taken prisoners.\* Regret four ratings were killed and four ratings were seriously injured in PALADIN due to pom-pom accident.

3. U-boat sank at 1714/17 Feb. in 32.56 N. 22.01 E. U-boat buoyed and lies just outside five fathom line. U-boat was German.

4. Red. Sea. ARETHUSA has left Aden for refit in U.K. (C. in C. Med., 2055/17 amended 2055B/19 to Admty). Addition to Sit. Rep. 342 see 1014B/18.

\*Air version of attack, see H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1022/18. Ref. my situation report 342. Name of U-boat was U.205. (C. in C. Med., 2121B/17 to Admty. N.C.X.F. R.A.(D) Med C.S.15)

W.R. Note. Remainder of this telegram concerns D.N.I. who will arrange further circulation and comment as necessary.

Movements Tobruk. Arrived M.T.Bs. 309 313, 267, sailed M.T.Bs. 309, 313, 267, FALK. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 2104B/17 to Admty).

JAVELIN Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2228A/17 to Admty etc).

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 1 small M/V and one destroyer 38.20 N. 12.20 E. 100° 10 knots. (A/C GKA/Z 2238A/17 to A.H.Q. Malta). P.C. and S. of 1 M/V and 1 destroyer 38.20 N. 12.25 E. 090° 10 knots. (A/C GKA/X, 2245A/17 to Air H.Q. Malta). Your objective is one enemy M/V and one destroyer in 38.20 N. 12.25 E. at 2245 steering 090° speed 10 knots. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2359A/17 to A/C GKA/M and GKA/U) W.D. Note M/V was sunk see 18 Feb.

M.K.S.3 M.K.S.8 sailed as in my 1759A/15 Feb. less FINTRA plus JEANNE SCHAFFINO for Jijelli N.O.I.C. Bougie pass to O/C troops Jijelli, (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 2243A/17 to N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S. F.O.C. Oran etc).

War Diary.

17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

D.14 C. in C. Med. 2045 B/17th and N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1157/17th Part 3. (Two corrupt groups) (? and ½\*) hours early. Intend proceed from 8 miles North of Rock to Home. E.T.A. Great Pass Beacon 1800. Will detach PALADIN at Home. (Capt. D.14 2315B/17 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria (R) C. in C. Med. BEAUFORT, PALADIN, A.I.G.72). W.R. Note-\*as received ? 11½ hours intended. No trace of reference quoted.

French  
Naval  
Mission in  
U.K.

Admty. 1716/2. last para. Foreign Office agree that a Naval Mission may now be accepted in U.K. should Giraud again express a desire to send one. We should hope to have the names submitted to us in usual way. (Hd. of M. (1) 2350A/17 to N.C.X.F.) Reply. N.C.X.F. 2323/19.



War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Arrival TULIP.  
( N.O.I.C. Madras. 0107Z/17 to Admty. etc.)  
Arrival 0230 SONAVATI. 0545Z BENGAL, MADRAS  
with P.B. 26. Departure 0500Z MARGUERITE, MARYBOROUGH with  
B.P. 68 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
( S.O.I. Bombay 1042Z/17 to Admty etc.)  
BRITTANY sailed 17th.  
( F.O.E. Africa and Zanzibar 1222Z/ 17 to Admty.)

B.P.68 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Sailing telegram. 2. 0530Z/17th Feb.  
3. E.T.A. position (c) 1000Z/19th.  
3a. Crossing 062°. 1300Z/20th. 3b. E.T.A.  
West of Farallones 0400Z/22nd. 4. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots. 6. (? H.M.I.S.  
DALHOUSIE), H.M.S. MARGUERITE.  
( N.C.S.O. Bombay 0350Z/17 0352Z/17 to Admty.)

Cocos Is. use as Flying Boat fuelling base.  
1. Am informed V.A. Helfrich now in Australia has suggested Cocos Is. be used as Flying Boat Fueling Base for Australia Ceylon - Australia service.  
2. Col. Steele, U.S. Army who is in charge of 2 Pan-American Clippers flying to Australia, about which I had no information, has been asking Colonel Arnold, U.S. Navy, Perth to obtain complete information on Cocos with particular reference to condition for A/C. 3. I must strongly deprecate use of Cocos for any purpose which will draw enemy's attention to these islands. They are now left almost undisturbed to fulfil their most important function of cable station and D/F station. If Japanese have any indication that Cocos is of value to us they are almost certain to attack and seize islands.  
( C. in C. E.F. 0501Z/17 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Ceylon, F.O.I.C. Ceylon.)

Liaison with French. You are to communicate direct with Lt. Col. Watson Military Liaison Branch Islands Area 'H' on all matters concerning Liaison with the French. My 0937/7 refers. 2. G.O.C. in C. E.A. concurs that the number of French Officers and men employed on liaison duties should be kept to a minimum.  
( C. in C. E.F. 0618Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez (R) G.O.C. E.A. Command. Admty.)

Bogus operation. Para. 7. of my 0837/16 not to F.O.C.R.I.N. or Admty. Details of programme for 27th and 28th Feb. 2. A Force is (? proceeding direct) to arrive Addu Atoll at 0130Z/27 to fuel departing again about 1330Z/27. Transmit following dummies majority of which are assumed to be handed to you on arrival of the Force and which should bear T.O.O.'s of the dates shown. (Details.)  
(4. Attention is called to para 4 and 5 of my 0837/16th.)  
5. F.O. Ceylon is requested to pass up to 4 Basegram Dummy

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Bogus messages for ships of Force to Addu Atoll before operation. 27th Feb. made up as in my 0837/16th para. (ii) (b). (Contd.) 6. Dep. C. in C.E.F. is requested to initiate a number of dummy messages to be passed similarly to Addu Atoll Basegram.

7. After Force supposedly leaves Addu on 27th Feb. and when above dummies have been cleared, no further action is required. (C. in C.E.F. 0753Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll (R) Dep. C. in C.E.F. F.O.I.C. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., Admty.)

Force A. (Corrupt Group) Force 'A' arrived and left. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles. 1215Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

TJITJALENGKA. Request that Naval Hospital Ship TJITJALENGKA mentioned in D. of S.T.'s 1700/13 may be sailed onward, as convenient to Kilindini. (C. in C.E.F. 1425Z/17 to C. in C.S.At. (R) Cmdre i/c Durban, D. of S.T.)

Ceylon Ref. summary number 37.  
Movement 1. Arrived CLIVE Bombay 12th Feb.  
Summary 38, 2. SONAVATI returning Bombay from Karachi engine  
17th Feb. trouble.

Summary number 38.  
1. FALMOUTH and TAMWORTH escorting A.3 left Addu Atoll 14th Feb. TAMWORTH due Colombo 19th Feb. FALMOUTH proceeds Trincomalee due 21st Feb.  
2. SHOREHAM escorting B.M. 42 leaves Bombay 19th Feb. SCOUT escorting SPENKING left Colombo 17th Feb. due Bombay 20th Feb.  
4. JUMNA and KHYBER escorting A.H.1 left Addu Atoll 13th Feb. KHYBER due Bombay 20th Feb. JUMNA due Abadan 25th Feb.  
5. MARGUERITE and MARYBOROUGH escorting B.P.68½ leave Bombay 17th Feb. due Khor Kuwait 22nd Feb.  
6. TULIP escorting J.C.7 left Colombo 13th Feb. arrived Madras 17th Feb.  
7. VERBENA escorting M.B.25 sailed Colombo 17th Feb. due Bombay 22nd Feb.  
8. LISMORE left Colombo 16th Feb. escort 2 M/S, due Addu Atoll 18th Feb.  
9. BARBOUR leaves Colombo 18th Feb. due Trincomalee 21st Feb.  
10. GERALDTON escorting A.P.19 left Aden 14th Feb. due Khor Kuwait 21st Feb.  
11. BOMBAY and PANGKOR leave Bandar Abbas 18th Feb. escorting P.B. 27 due Bombay 24th Feb.  
12. LAUNCESTON and IPSWICH escorting P.A.24 due Aden 19th Feb.  
13. KONKAN escorting J.C.7 left Madras 16th Feb. due Calcutta 20th Feb.  
(F.O.Ceylon 1453Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

MARIPOSA. Departure 17th MARIPOSA (U.S.A.) Bombay via Massawa 18th.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1515Z/17 to Admty.)

/DILWARA...

War Diary.

17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

DILWARA.

Your 1115/5 S.S. DILWARA is allocated to C.O. Training and will be sailed to Bombay.

2. As few alterations as possible are to be made to her existing equipment, she will remain under the Red Ensign, and be returned to Trade on arrival of LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE.  
(D. of P. Approved by V.C.N.S. 1728A/17 to F.O.C.R.I.N.  
N.A.C.O.(I) P.S.T.O. India, C. in C.E.F.)

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War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

EMPIRE NORSE, distress. Following received from EMPIRE NORSE. (Begins) Rudder disabled. Request 2 tugs position at 1300 G.M.T. 16th 052° 40' N. 039° 00' W. T.O.O. 1422/16th. Later, proceeding 160°, 2 knots course dependent on wind. T.O.O. 1736/16th. (Ends).  
(C.O.A.C., 0045Z/17 to G.B.7A, (R) C.T.F.24, Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C.)  
C.O.A.C's 0045Z/17. Regret no rescue tug available St. Johns. (F.O.N.F., 1210Z/17 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Cominch, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24.)

SARNIA. SARNIA 100° 60 miles from Louisburg. No ice. No BACCA (sic) course 280° speed 10. Request instructions.  
(SARNIA, 0100Z/17 to C.T.24, (R) N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B., C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

NORSEMAN. 0505/17 NORSEMAN, British, repairing cable in 17° 53' N. 76° 04' W. Knots 9, days 23 (22) (23) Ind 6 H/F continuous watch QJE 120.  
(B.R.O. Kingston, 0503/17 to Admty.)

U.S. Dispositions. Changes my 1242/10.  
Atlantic - TEXAS, OMAHA at Norfolk.  
SANTA FE at Philadelphia. ALABAMA at Casco Bay.  
BROOKLYN at New York. RANGER, CINCINNATI, TUSCALOOSA at sea. AUGUSTA at Newport.  
SANTEE, SAVANNAH at Recife.  
Pacific - MISSISSIPPI, MASSACHUSETTS, TRENTON, PORTLAND, MINNEAPOLIS at sea. CORE at San Diego. VICTORIOUS at Balboa.  
DENVER in South Pacific. LONG ISLAND at Pearl Harbour.  
DETROIT at Seattle.  
(Connaveu, 0909/17 to Admty.)

Movements. Departure 17th U.S. Transport EL LIBERTADOR.  
Aruba 17th STATE OF VIRGINIA for Trinidad 19th.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 0936QR/17 to Admty.)  
U.S. seaplane tender CLEMSON left for unidentified

U.S. port 16th definitely.  
(Cartagena, Col., 1019/17 to Admty.)  
Arrival 17th U.S. Armed Yacht CAPTAIN J.F. TAYLOR.  
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 1140/17 to Admty.)  
San Francisco Feb. 14th CAPE FLATTERY (U.S.A.T.) for Brisbane.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2058Z/17 to Admty.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.

17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	F. S/M )	29° N. 57° W.	296°	12½
1800 G.M.T.	ARCHIMEDE )			
17th Feb.	F. S/M )	20½° N. 39° W.	296°	7
	AMAZONE )			
	F.S. GLOIRE	13½° N. 30½° W.	084°	18
	F.S. GEORGES )	19½° N. 26½° W.	302°	20
	LEYGUES )			
	CARNARVON )	40° S. 56° W.	000°	14
	CASTLE )			
	ALCANTARA )	05° N. 28° W.	305°	12½
	WOODRUFF )			
	(D.O.D.(F), 1017Z/17 to Opnav, (R) Commaveu.)			

PAN ROYAL collision sunk 9th February. PAN ROYAL in convoy U.G.S.5 sunk in collision Feb. 9th. All S.Ps and C.Bs went down with ship. (B.R.L.O. Bermuda, 1115Q/17 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.)

GODERICH, SAMUEL L. FULLER. Departure GODERICH to assist SAMUEL L. FULLER in distress. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1301Z/17 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., Connav, B.A.D., C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F.)

S/M Estimates 17th, U.S. S/M Notices. (Cominch, 1525/17, 1526/17, 1555/17, 1556/17, 1557/17 to Admty.)

A.T. 37 (ANDES) Army intend to embark 27th Feb. completing p.m. that day. (N.S.H.Q., 1545Z/17 to Admty., (R) C.O.A.C., B.A.D., Connav.)

U/Bs Convoy O.N.165. U-Boats by D/F at 1535Z/17 in vicinity 049° 00' N. 043° 30' W. within 75 miles 137 68 kilocycles per second probable sighting report. (N.S.H.Q., 1555Z/17 to Ships escorting O.N.165, C.O.A.C., (group missed), F.O.N.F., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., U.S.C.N.O.)

My 1555/17 transmission at 1441, 1519, 1611 and 1634 on series 8 indicate U-Boats near position in your 1036/17 (N.T. in W.D.) all (? contact) reports.

(N.S.H.Q., 1757Z/17 to S.E. O.N.165, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., (R) Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., Opnav.)

1 or more U-Boats are in contact with you at least 2 in vicinity 049° 00' N. 044° 00' W. and possibly several others moving to intercept from the West.

(N.S.H.Q., 2207Z/17 to Ships escorting O.N.165, C.O.A.C., C.O. R.N.A.S. Kingston Jamaica, Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., U.S.C.N.O., Connav.)

/H. H. ROGERS ...

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.H.H. ROGERS  
place in  
Convoy  
S.C. 116.

Your 1421/15 para. one, complied with. Understood that office of Port Director New York has no record of request from Master of H.H. ROGERS.

2. Further stated that any protest or request would be given consideration especially if supported by Commodore.  
(B.A.D., 1721Z/17 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

H.X. Convoys,  
number of  
ships.

H.X.227. To allow for increased number of presenters size of this and future H.X. convoys may be increased to 65 ships.  
(D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 1727A/17 to B.A.D., (R) Connav, B.R.L.O. New York, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

Ships  
carrying  
L.C.M.(3)s  
from U.S.  
routeing  
and convoy  
arrange-  
ments.

The following six ships are loading L.C.M.(3) in U.S.A. ports and it is urgent that they should arrive Suez before 1st May. SIR JAMES CLARK ROSS at Norfolk, MARITT II, CAPE ST. ELIAS and TABIAN at New York and WILLIAM HARPER and ROBERT BACON at New Orleans.

2. It is requested that you will consult Connav as to most expeditious routeing and convoy arrangements that can be made for these ships consistent with reasonable safety.

convoy should,  
if bunkers and situation permit, break off near  
Cape St. Roque.

3. It is suggested that those sailed in T.B.

4. In cases where earliest sailing date entails undue wait for convoy request you will enquire if special arrangements could be made such as adjustment of convoy sailing date by one or two days or special escort.  
(D.T.D., 1732A/17 to B.A.D.)

Allocation  
of H.D.M.Ls.

A.M. 1814/29/8/42 para. 1 (d). Last 10 boats to complete are allocated to Australia or New Zealand as shipping opportunities permit. These boats will be manned by either Australian or New Zealand N.B. depending on destination.  
(D.D.O.D.(C), 1932A/17 to B.A.D., (R) A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

Movements,  
Bermuda.

Arrivals U.S.S. TILLMAN, DORAN, SALAMONIE.  
Departures U.S.S. OWL, GEORGE WASHINGTON.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 2209Q/17 to Admty.)

Washops 5.

B.A.D. 2105Z/17.  
See Australia.

/Sub. ...

War Diary.

17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

ALGERINE  
Minesweepers.

N.S.H.Q.'s 2022/4, 1519/5 and Admty. 1307/6. Naval Staff have decided that 28 ALGERINE Class Minesweepers building in Canada will be employed on escort duties only. They will not be fitted with Oropesa or LL minesweeping gear and it is not therefore intended to fit them with type "C" S.A. gear.

2. 28 sets of type "C" S.A. gear for these vessels are now on order with Admiralty. Information is requested as to whether these sets can be used by Admiralty. If they can it is desired to cancel the order.

3. For information it is intended to place orders in Canada for Towud (towed) type A MK. IV S.A. gear which will be held in reserve in case acoustic mines are laid in Canadian waters. (N.S.H.Q., 1930Z/17 to Admty., (R) C.C.C.S.)

War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.D. B.24 sights sub on surface course 190°, 11°  
(?35') N. 61° 35' W., 1640Z/16.  
(Cominch, 2110/17 to Admty.)Convoy  
Cycles and  
Sailing  
Dates.Although it is not desired to anticipate convoy  
plans to be tabled at conference it would be of  
assistance if Admiralty proposals for convoy  
cycles and sailing dates on D basis could be  
given to us.West Africa 0955/31st Jan. Former is not a practicable  
proposition from New York angle.2. At present latest suggestions known in Navy  
Department are N.C.X.F. 0926/30th Jan. and F.O.  
3. Congestion at New York is an important factor also planning  
coastal convoy cannot be done except in conjunction with ocean  
convoy sailings and arrivals.4. We have not seen reply Cominch 2124/10.  
(B.A.D., 2207Z/17 to Admty.)

ACHILLES.

N.Z.N.B. 0858/17. ACHILLES is due Balboa about  
6th March.  
(B.A.D., 2213Z/17 to C.O.A.C., (R) N.S.H.Q.,  
S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty., N.Z.N.B.)Adm.  
Glassfurd,  
Appreciation.Personal for 1st S.L.  
Your 0029/14th. Adm. King has asked me to  
inform you that your complimentary remarks  
concerning Adm. Glassfurd's work at Dakar are  
greatly appreciated and your commendatory despatch  
will be made part of Adm. Glassfurd's official  
record.  
(B.A.D., 2227Z/17 to Admty.)Australia and New Zealand.STARR KING  
torpedoed  
9th Feb.Your 1848A/14 (sent by W.R. as result of missing  
originator.) Following is repetition of my  
0511Z/10th addressed Admty., C. in C. E.F., N.Z.  
N.B. (Begins). (?STARR) KING, 7176 tons,  
torpedoed in 034° 15' S. 154° 20' E. at 1915Z/9th  
Feb. Vessel still afloat. (Ends).  
(A.C.N.B., 0001Z/17 to Admty.)

/WHANGPU ...



War Diary.17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

WHANGPU.

Ref. WHANGPU advise: (ownership and management).  
Now determined that WHANGPU arrived Fremantle  
1st March 1942 and utilized as a Humnydarion (as  
received) ship for Royal Netherlands Navy only  
from 20th April 1942.  
(A.C.N.B., 0233Z/17 to Admty.)

Movements.

U.S.S. CHANDELEUR arrived Apia 2221Z/14 and  
departed 0029Z/16.

Departures Vila 15th U.S.S. CHENPEGO and U.S.S.  
O'BANNON.

Departure Auckland 1800Z/16 U.S.S. DELPHINUS for Tongatabu, E.T.A.  
0500Z/21.

Departure Nandi 0001Z/16 U.S.S. TRYON for Auckland E.T.A.  
0400Z/19.

Departure Noumea 1830Z/16 H.M.N.Z.S. GALE for Espiritu Santo  
thence Tulagi.

(D.N.I. Wellington, 0401Z/17 to Admty.)

Arrival Darwin 16th VENDETTA. Castlemaine Sydney N.S.W.

ROCKHAMPTON. Departure Sydney 16th WAGGA on escort duty.

(A.C.N.B., 0601Z/17 to Admty., etc.)

Sailed 17th U.S.S. GOLD STAR for Fremantle (corrupt group)  
for Abadan.

(N.C.S.O. Sydney, 2331Z/17 to Admty.)

Digest

Serial

No. 391

Feb. 16th.

One Liberator successfully attacked small well  
camouflaged merchant vessel Stettin Bay area  
morning and afternoon 15th. Photos reveal  
vessel hit beached and burning.

(2) 3000 ton merchant vessel sighted among  
Islands off Wabsex (as received) 25 miles S.S.W.  
Ubili (as received) stationary forenoon 16th.

(4) Aircraft attacked Salamaua Peninsula destroying several  
fishing craft and heavily strafing area.

(6) Submarine reported Lae Harbour afternoon 16th.

(8) Photos Ambon 15th reveal 12 vessels totalling 9000 tons  
including one of 4000 tons remainder small craft.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0636Z/17 to Admty., etc.)

Allocation  
of H.D.M.Ls.

(D.D.O.D.(C), 1932A/17 to B.A.D.)

See America and West Indies.

Washops 5.

(? Wash)ops 5.

On Feb. 14th, 11 destroyers and ten merchant  
ships were sighted in Buin Faisi area.

(B.A.D., 2105Z/17 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., (R)  
F.L.O. Delhi, Concentric Colombo, Chief of Staff  
Kilindini.)

War Diary.

17.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1346A/17, 1350A/17.)

War Diary.

18.2.1943.

Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E-boats operated to the eastward of Lowestoft last night and minelaying is suspected. GARTH reinforcing the patrol left one E-boat blazing with many dead on board and picked up 7 prisoners: C. in C. Nore considers the boat blew up later and was destroyed.

The channel was searched today. No mines were swept, but at 1436A a heavy underwater explosion took place in 52° 29.4' N. 2° 5' E. about 6 cables from the nearest ship. S.A. gear was not operating

H.M.  
convoys.

C. in C. W.A. proposes to abolish H.M. convoys (Holyhead to Milford Haven) as from 1st March. A message today gives details of the arrangements he proposes in lieu.

Barry Roads.

To facilitate quick turn round of shipping C. in C. W.A. proposes that Barry Roads be used as assembly anchorage for ocean convoys in lieu of Milford Haven.

Two unidentified units were reported at 2245/18 in 56.43 N. 02.03 W. and 56.49 N. 02.00 W. respectively, (about 20 miles South of Aberdeen) proceeding northward, WOLSEY was ordered to investigate. At 1515/18 an aircraft had reported a submarine in 56.51 N. 01.17 W.

U/B off  
Cardigan I.

See 19th February.

8 out of 12 aircraft laid mines in Biscay ports last night.

North Atlantic.

JAMAICA sailed from Gibraltar early this morning to resume blockade runner patrol.

War Diary.

18.2.1943.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

M.V.  
MONTE NARANCO  
intercepted.

DESPATCH intercepted Spanish M.V. MONTE NARANCO at 1345Z today in 14.42 N. 23.01 W. (about 300 miles West of Dakar) and sent her to Bathurst escorted by Greek destroyer ADRIAS who put an armed guard on board. MONTE NARANCO is suspected of carrying two ex GRAF SPEE stowaways, and contraband.

Cominch reports that Brazilian M.V. BRASILOIDE was torpedoed and sunk in the area 12.34 S. 37.55 W. about 0100Z today.

Convoy  
O.T.1

Convoy O.T.1. (the first fast tanker convoy from Gulf/Caribbean) arrived at Dakar at 1700Z today.

Mediterranean.

Air  
Operations.

A Wellington from Malta attacked a 3,500 ton merchant vessel escorted by a destroyer in 38.26 N. 12.54 E. (off Trapani) in the early hours of this morning and sank the merchant ship.

Enemy T.B. aircraft attacked Convoy K.M.S.9 and the ferry service, both eastbound, between 0400 and 0600 today. No casualties resulted. There was a small air raid on the Algiers area early this morning, no military damage was caused. About 11 enemy aircraft bombed the Benghazi area last night, no naval damage was caused, but 4 military personnel were killed at Cathedral Mole.

Submarines.

At 1130, SAHIB shelled in 38.09 N. 14.38 E. 2 150 ton schooners which were left derelict and abandoned.

At 1720, THUNDERBOLT off Pola scored hits on a small naval auxiliary.

18.2.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

O.N.S.165

FAME reports this morning that Convoy O.N.S.165 is completely scattered in approx. 50.15 N. 41.20 W. Wind S.W. force 12. One ship has been seen damaged and many others are assumed to be damaged and will require assistance. 2 U-boats are known to be in the neighbourhood and at 1320 C. in C. U.S. Fleet informed. FAME that numerous recent D/Fs indicated that 4 U-boats are in his vicinity with possibly 6 in the area 50 N. 48 W. moving south to intercept.

Australia & New Zealand.

Convoy "Pamphlet" (QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, ILE DE FRANCE, NIEUW AMSTERDAM and QUEEN OF BERMUDA) escorted by GAMBIA, DEVONSHIRE, TROMP, HEEMSKERCK, VAN GALEN and TJERK HIDDES arrived at Fremantle at 0243Z/18.

War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.S/M  
movements.Position SPORTSMAN at 0001A/18, 064° 34', 003° 30'. Bombing restrictions in para. 2 and 3 of my 1317/15 extended 36 hours.  
(Capt. S.9, 0305A/18.)

Reply to my 1242/17 not received.

- (2) P.C.S. of convoy O.N.166 at 0800/18.
- (3) P.C.S. of 1 corvette at 1400Z/17.
- (4) Adjust speed to pass a convoy.
- (5) Estimate your position and speed at 0800/18, 054° 52' N. 022° 00' W., 7 knots.

(F.O.S., 0313A/18 to L.23.)

My 1442/17, paras. (A) to (D) probably delayed by weather and up to about 240 miles astern of programme.

(F.O.S., 0339A/18 to Admt.)

My 1442/17 para. J. Cancel and substitute.

- (J) L.23, 55° 10', 19° 25', dived by day to 22° W., thence on surface through 54° 30', 26° 10', 52° 40', 35° 01'. S.O.A. 95 miles per day. diving by day, thence 200 miles by day.

(F.O.S., 0906/18.)

My 1046/11. Intend to sail P.64 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 1030A tomorrow northabout to Clyde. E.T.A. Cumbræes 0830A/20.

(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1027A/18.)

- (1) Estimate your position at 0800/19th will be 054° 58' N, 021° 10'. S.O.A. 200 miles per day.

- (2) Proceed on surface from dawn 19th.

- (3) Estimate you will pass through position (D) at 2100A/21.

(F.O.S., 1119A/18 to L.23.)

My 1200. Russian Sub. S.54 escorted by WOLSEY due to pass Flamborough Head southward a.m./19th.

(C. in C. Nore, 1202A/18.)

P.238, JAN VAN GELDER 054° 19', 005° 03' to Clyde, 9½.

(Capt. S.3, 1429A/18 to P.238.)

My 1027/18. Amend E.T.A. to read 0730/20.

(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1659/18.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/19 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) TRUCULENT 69° 58' N. 12° 26' E.

(B) SEA NYMPH 69° 01' N. 08° 52' E.

(C) SIMOON 68° 30' N. 08° 01' E.

(D) SPORTSMAN 67° 20' N. 07° 18' E.

The positions of the above submarine are very vague owing to the weather. They are proceeding probably on the surface to the North-eastward to patrol off Alten Fiord.

- (E) L.23, 54° 55' N. 21° 10' W. Probably on surface through 54° 30' N. 26° 10' W. and 52° 40' N. 35° 01' W. Daily advance 200 miles.

- (F) S.54 escorted by WOLSEY vicinity Flamborough Head for Sheerness.

- (G) P.556 escorted by KINGSTON TURQUOISE leaves Portsmouth 1330/19. Subject to satisfactory deep-dive proceeds to Plymouth, E.T.A. 0730/20th.

- (H) BARB off Vigo.

- (J) BLACKFISH off Bilbao.

- (K) UREDD in Lofoten area.

(F.O.S., 1719A/18 and 1806A/18.)

/My ...

War Diary.

18.2.1943.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- S/M  
movements.  
(Contd.)
- My 1822A/18. WOLSEY has been sent to hunt with consequent delay in sailing S.54.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1829A/18 to Admt.)  
My 1829/18. Intend sailing S.54 escorted by WOLSEY from Leith at 0800 tomorrow in accordance with my 1615/17.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1918/18 to C. in C. Nore.)  
My 1719/18 add paragraph (L).  
VANDAL (P.64) escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves Barrow 1030A/19 for Clyde. E.T.A. Cumbræes 0830A/20.  
(F.O.S., 1919A/18 to Admt.)  
My 1719/18. Add para. (M).  
P.511 with convoy C.W.157 Sheerness for Portsmouth.  
(F.O.S., 2221A/18.)  
My 1719/18. Amend para. (F) to read S.54 escorted by WOLSEY leaves Leith 0800A/19 for Sheerness.  
(F.O.S., 2336A/18 to Admt.)
- AMARAPOORA. My 1445/16. Sailed E.T.A. Gibraltar 1000/25.  
(N.C.S.O. Newport, Mon., 0605A/18.)
- KING GEORGE V, C. in C. H.F's 2222A/17. Sailed 0904.  
NORFOLK. (A.C.O.S., 0954/18 to A.I.G. 47.)
- VIVACIOUS,  
BITER. VIVACIOUS proceed passing inshore 0600A/19 to R/V off Eyebroughy Buoy Firth of Forth with escort carrier BITER at 1800/19.  
(2) When met provide escort to Clyde.  
(3) On arrival enter Clyde and complete with fuel then return to Scapa.  
(R.A.D.H.F., 1145A/18 to VIVACIOUS.)
- INDOMITABLE,  
BRADFORD,  
SABRE. Intend sailing INDOMITABLE escorted by BRADFORD and SABRE for trials and to Clyde 1330A/20.  
(ii) S.O.A. from Bar Light Vessel 17 knots.  
(iii) Route.  
(iv) E.T.A. Clyde Light Vessel 0800A/21.  
(v) Commence working-up for full power trials in Firth of Clyde at 0800A/21 to complete 1200A/21.  
(vi) E.T.A. Clyde boom 1430A/21.  
(viii) BRADFORD and SABRE will be detached to Clyde when full power trials commence.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1552A/18.)
- SUSSEX. E.T.A. 0630/21. Request gate at 0730. S. of A. 19 knots.  
(SUSSEX, 1815A/18 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- DIANELLA. Proceed passing Switha as convenient a.m. tomorrow to Londonderry. Route via Minches.  
(V.A.2, 2030A/18 to DIANELLA.)

War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

East Coast. Unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in 52° 22' N. 1° 57' E., moving S.W. (Nore, 0115A/18 to S.E.E.C. South.)  
One E-Boat sunk and E-Boats bear 109/1 approx. from G. (C. in C. Nore, 0130A/18.)  
one E-Boat damaged by GARTH and MONTROSE. Enemy's position by D/F is 136 No.4 Buoy 3/2. (Nore, 0142A/18.)  
E-Boats bearing 105/1 approx. from G by D/F. (Nore, 0152A/18.)

E-Boats minelaying, each carrying 6 mines. No information yet as to whether mines had been laid before boats were flushed in position 000° 3C Buoy 1½ miles.

(GARTH, 0310A/18 to C. in C. Nore.)

Your 0303/18. Remain on patrol 7. Fighter protection arranged at daylight.

(Nore, 0315A/18 to GARTH, MONTROSE.)

Both M.G.B. units proceed to Z.52 to act under (Spare group 82) of GARTH at daylight for search of Battle area.

(Nore, 0317/18 to GARTH.)

E-Boats bears 100/1 approx. from G by D/F.

(C. in C. Nore, 0319A/18 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

Preliminary report of E-Boat activity last night.

1. F.N. Convoy passed 4 buoy about 1900. No F.S.Convoy.
2. Southern group of at least 3 E-Boats came in south of C/F patrols several miles east of 3B Buoy at 2330. When detected by KITTIWAKE on patrol 7 at 2352 on 115° Southwold 14, this group made off E.N.E.
3. Northern group of at least 4 E-Boats appear from R.D.F. plot to have crossed War Channel shortly before midnight, roughly midway between 3C and 4 Buoys, remaining there until about 0045. These boats also came south of C/F patrols. On E-Boats recrossing the channel at 0050 GARTH, reinforcing patrol 7, heavily engaged several close north of 3C buoy at close range. It is considered that two boats received damage and that one of those is the boat that GARTH stopped and set on fire. Seven prisoners most wounded were picked up, and E-Boat was left blazing with many dead on board. The flash of an explosion in this position was subsequently sighted and a search at daylight showed a large oil patch and a rubber dinghy. Consider this boat was definitely destroyed. E-Boats later returned to look for missing boat being finally chased away by BEEHIVE M.G.Bs at 0700 two miles N.E. of Z.10. Fighters from 12 Group sent out at daylight did not locate them.
4. MONTROSE on patrol 6 when close to GARTH also engaged E-Boats at 0050. Results could not be seen in poor visibility.
5. Weather conditions were not good for M.G.Bs early, but improved about midnight. Visibility and hydrophone conditions were poor throughout.
6. Although C/Fs were moved about considerably no contact was obtained except by BEEHIVE's M.G.Bs at 0700. Had one most important signal been received by the unit addressed it is probable that a contact would have resulted. This failure is being investigated.
7. (Limited distribution only).
8. Minelaying is strongly suspected but area cannot yet be defined. Sweeping is in progress.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1436A/18 to Admty.)

/Coastal ...



War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Coastal                      Return to harbour.  
Patrols.                      (C. in C. Plymouth, 0417A/18 to GOATHLAND, M.L.  
   118, M.L.304.)  
   Patrol tonight.  
   2. GLAISDALE and ESKDALE on completion of  
darkness W/T trials are to carry out anti E-Boat patrol in  
company on 050° 20' N. between 001° 20' W. and 002° 05' W.  
Ships are to part company in time carry out dawn W/T trials  
and return to harbour on completion.  
3. M.G.Bs 611 (S.O.), 613 and M.T.Bs 89, 85 are to carry out  
anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy routes between  
longitudes of C.2 and C.3 Buoy.  
Chasers 15 (S.O.), 10 and ASIE at St. Helens, and FYLLA at  
Yarmouth (I.o.W.).  
   (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1122A/18.)  
   Duty tomorrow.

Patrol A MENDIP. B COTTESMORE. On arrival in harbour GARTH  
will remain as duty destroyer until noon.  
   (Capt. D.21, 1402A/18 to C. in C. Nore.)  
   Patrol tonight.

2. M.G.B. 8 (S.O.), 6, and 10.  
3. Patrol 10 miles 069° and 249° of 142° Start 12'.  
4. Object. To intercept E-Boats attacking convoys.  
5. Information.  
6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth at 1800 today and proceed to  
patrol. Leave patrol at daylight/19 and return to harbour.  
Speed to and from patrol is not to exceed 20 knots. Q.Z.X.  
834 is not to be entered unless chasing enemy.  
7. Codeword "Evidence".  
   (C. in C. Plymouth, 1423A/18 and 1553A/18.)  
   M.G.Bs 611, 612, 613 and M.T.Bs 89, 85 will carry out  
anti E-Boats patrol 10 miles south of convoy route between  
longitude of C.2 and C.3 buoy. Leave Newhaven at 2200/18.  
   (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1501A/18 to CATTISTOCK.)  
   2 destroyers on patrol south of Needles from darkness  
18th to dawn 19th.  
2 M.G.Bs and 2 M.T.Bs patrolling 15 miles south of Beachy Head.  
   (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1533A/18.)  
   M.Ls 143 and 140 near Rye Buoy.  
M.G.Bs 110, 108 and 114 at number 4 buoy.  
   (V.A. Dover, 1709A/18.)

E-Boats off                      Attempted interception.  
Gris Nez.                      See Allied Air Activity.

North                              Owing to delay by weather estimate submarines  
Norway                              will not reach patrol positions off Soroy until  
   a.m. 21st.  
   (F.O.S., 1242A/18 to H.F. Ops., S.B.N.O. North  
   Russia.)

/North ...

War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

North Sea. M.T.B. operations last night.  
M.T.B. operations. 1. M.T.Bs 83, 93, 224 were ordered to sweep 30 miles to southward of 52° 40' N. 04° 32' E. to attack shipping of trawler size and above. Weather in eastern part of North Sea was found unsuitable and boats returned.

2. M.T.Bs 621, 617, 624 of 31st Flotilla ordered to sweep on Dutch coast between 53° 40' N. 06° 00' E. and 53° 28' N. 04° 50' E. to attack shipping carried out their orders in spite of a westerly wind force 6 to 7, and short steep sea. Enemy patrol in 53° 35' N. 05° 15' E. was sighted but evaded. No shipping was found.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1752A/18 to Admty.)

Operation "Haulabout". It has been decided that Operation "Haulabout" shall be magnified and accelerated by the provision of more towing craft. C. in C. Nore is requested to conduct the operation in a similar manner to Operation "Consular".

2. C. in C. Nore is requested to send a representative at the very earliest possible opportunity to visit D.M.S. in order that a plan may be drawn up in consultation.  
(A.C.N.S.H., 1942A/18 to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth.)

Units off Montrose. WOLSEY. Indications are that 2 unidentified units were in 056° 43' N. 002° 03' W. and 056° 49' N. 002° 00' W. respectively at 2245, proceeding northward. Investigate forthwith.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2319A/18 to WOLSEY.)

Allied Air Activity.

One E-Boat sunk.  
One E-Boat damaged.

At 1920 yesterday R.D.F. detected four small vessels of E-Boat size three miles south of Gris Nez proceeding north at 26 knots. Anticipating that they were likely to lay mines in the gap between Q.Z.X.788 and Q.Z.X.797 three M.G.Bs were despatched to number 4 buoy and Albacore aircraft of 841 squadron under Swingate Ground Control took off from Manston. The enemy however turned N.E. and the plot faded at 2004 off the western end of the Outer Ruytingen. At 2020 one Albacore attacked with bombs in 020° Calais 11 miles identifying the target as nine E/R boats proceeding at high speed. Bombs were dropped from 800 feet and crew claim one vessel destroyed and one probably destroyed, a heavy explosion and sheet of flame being seen. A second Albacore attacked from fifty feet at 2040 in 035° Calais 16 miles seeing seven E/R boats but observing no results. Both aircraft experienced intense light flak, one sustaining damage but no casualties. Three other Albacores failed to make contact. It is considered that these vessels may have been minelaying in Northern edge of Outer Ruytingen.  
(V.A. Dover, 1037A/18 to Admty.)

/Bomber ...

War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Bomber Command operations. On day 17th 3 A/C bombed Emden; and on night 17th/18th 12 A/C laid mines. (H.Q.B.C., 1540A/18.)

Mining.

B.S. 87. B.S.87 is to be carried out on 20th Feb. weather permitting.  
2. Initial position 053° 41'30" N. 001° 22'00" E. Line to be 090° two miles.  
5. EASTBOURNE and BLYTH to act as in Q.528 operation.  
6. N.O.I.C. Humber is requested to detail 2 M.Ls to accompany PLOVER. To remain 1½ miles clear of centre of line as arranged PLOVER for 6 hours after laying, to observe any explosion that may occur.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1642A/18 to PLOVER.)

Iceland 15th M/S.F. sweeps. Intend 15th M/S.F. carry out following programme of searching sweeps off west coast of Iceland.  
1. Q.Z.S. 396.  
2. From end of Q.Z.S.396 through Reykjanes passage and thence south-eastward to 100 fathom line.  
3. From end of Q.Z.S.396 to north-westward passing 4 miles off Headlands to Goltur thence through Straumnes passage to a position 060° 15 miles from Hornbjarg light.  
4. Percentage swept will be dependent on weather and number of sweepers available and will be reported on completion.  
(A.C.I.C., 1804A/18.)

Lyme Bay. My 1752A/14. Datum line of dans laid and one lap swept. One mine German type Z or R cut and sunk in 50° 18'06" N. 03° 07'48" W. As this position is 6 cables inside area declared cleared in ELGIN's 1931A/16th Jan., intend to re-sweep this area before extending clearance southward.  
(M/S.4., 1853A/18 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

R.A.M. R.A.(M) arrived in PORT QUEBEC with AGAMEMNON and WELLS.  
(TRELAWNEY, 2310/18.)

East Coast sweep. Channel searched for 4½ cables each side of centre line between Nos. 3 and 4 buoys. No mines swept. At 1436A heavy underwater explosion took place in 52° 29.4' N. 2° 5' E., about 12 cables from nearest ship. S.A. gear not operating.  
(M/S.9, 2319A/18 to C. in C. Nore.)

War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.HIPPER,  
SCHEER.

Photographic R/C of Wilhelmshaven 1530/18 shows HIPPER has arrived. SCHEER still in dry dock. (D.D.I.C., 2140A/18 to A.I.G.47, A.I.G.21, S/MS on Patrol.)

U-Boats.U-Boats  
reported.

Following report from Coastguard. Submarine sighted on surface between 0845 and 0905 today six miles west of Cardigan Island steering west. Air patrols established and hunting craft despatched.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1023A/18.)

Your 1023A/18. Request you investigate and express opinion on reliability of report.

(C. in C. W.A., 1159A/18 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Your 1159A/18. Reported by 2 coastguards not in touch with each other, considered reliable by R.N.O. Fishguard. Air reports Nil. Assessed C.3.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1311A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

Am over enemy S/M in 44.52 N. 05.02 W.

(A/C, 1437/18 to 19 Group.)

Submarine reported by aircraft in 056° 51' N. 001° 17' W. at 1515/18.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1822A/18.)

Navigational.Jan Mayen.  
Ice.

Following from Jan Mayen. Ice stem East and South (? old) Station north coast drifting northward this morning in the vicinity.

(A.C.I.C., 0348A/18.)

Swansea.

Port of Swansea is now open in all respects. (N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1256A/18.)

Casualties and Defects.

MARNE.

Arrived GERANIUM escorting MARNE in tow of EMINENT.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1043A/18.)

LORD  
MIDDLETON.

Scapa arrival 1349 LORD MIDDLETON with defects, and DIANELLA.

(A.C.O.S., 1456/18.)

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War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

J.W.53. Your 1826A/17. In view of weather am making  
 J.W.53B. for Scapa.  
 (DIANELLA, 0050A/18 to C. in C. H.F.)  
 Following is repetition of SCYLLA's 1609/17  
 to R.N.O. Seidisfjord. Begins.  
 Am remaining at sea till weather moderates. Ends.  
 (A.C.I.C., 0109A/18 to R.N.O. Seidisfjord.)  
 Seidisfjord arrival 2000/17 MILNE and departed 2120/17.  
 Departed 1200/17 FURY, INTREPID, ECLIPSE, ORKAN. SCYLLA  
 remaining at sea vicinity Seidisfjord till weather moderates.  
 (A.C.I.C., 0522A/18.)  
 Your 2000/17. Weather continues unusually mild and three  
 groups of four ships each have recently taken respectively  
 9, 8 and 5 days to clear White Sea ice.  
 2. Consider every likelihood quicker ships ex (?J).(?W).53  
 getting into White Sea undamaged by ice, but conditions change  
 so rapidly that I adhere to views given in my 1601/16th Jan.  
 3. Assuming risk of immobilisation or of damage getting out  
 acceptable Admiralty is requested to inform merchant vessels of  
 diversion and I will make arrangements for onward escort which  
 will be passed to SCYLLA. My 1735/9 Feb. para. 3 also refers.  
 (See Special File).  
 4. Diversion has advantage relieving acute berthing congestion  
 in Kola Inlet between (? arrival of) J.W.53 and departure  
 R.A.53.  
 5. Presumably Dalgleish is requested to nominate (? certain)  
 ships for diversion.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0956A/18 to Admty.)  
 Will be about 24 hours late on previous E.T.A. due to  
 bad weather.  
 (BOADICEA, 1100A/18 to N.O.I.C. Seidisfjord.)  
 E.T.A. Hrisey Island 0800N/19.  
 (ONSLAUGHT, 1138A/18 to A.C.I.C.)  
 K.I.G.M. Part 1, para. 2 (D). For position K read position  
 KX. Admiralty is requested to issue as an A.G.M. AZ in due  
 course.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1551A/18 to H.F.)  
 JASON, BERGAMOT, MIDDLETON, PYTCHLEY, MEYNELL, HALCYON,  
 POPPY 064° 00', 007° 30' to northward.  
 J.W.53B. MATCHLESS, MUSKETEER 063° 13', 006° 40' to overtake  
 J.W. 53.  
 (A.C.O.S., 1610/18.)  
 Hvalfjord departure ONSLAUGHT at 1645. E.T.A. Akureyri  
 0955/19.  
 (A.C.I.C., 1651A/18 to C. in C. H.F.)  
 Cannot enter Seidisfjord, wind gale force. Have sent  
 SCYLLA, DASHER, and 5 destroyers to Akureyri to oil. Will send  
 remaining destroyers when in touch. Will enter Seidisfjord  
 with cruisers when weather moderates.  
 (C.S.10, 2125Z/18 to C. in C. H.F., (R) HOWE, A.C.I.C.)  
 C.S.10 2125A/18. E.T.A. Heey Island 0745Z tomorrow.  
 Request anchor berth. DASHER cannot anchor in more than 20  
 fathoms.  
 (SCYLLA, 2351A/18 to HOWE.)

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18.2.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

O.S.43. My 1625A/17, para. one. Sailed.  
LIDDESDALE, (C. in C. Plymouth, 0822A/18.)  
BROCKLESBY, Your 1845/15. It is hoped to arrange for fuel  
QUANTOCK. to be supplied at Dakar or Casablanca. If above  
can be arranged ships should break off in rotation  
to fuel at either or both of these ports.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1023A/18 to PELICAN.)  
My 1625/17. LIDDESDALE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK  
E.T.A. position (D) at 2000A/19th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1307A/18 to Admty.)

H.M. Intend as from 1st March:  
Convoys. (i) to abolish H.M. Convoy. All ships to Bristol  
Channel from U.K. ports north of Milford Haven  
to be routed direct except for category one ships  
which should continue to be routed to Belfast  
for inclusion in B.B. Convoy.  
(ii) to abolish (? Fleet) groups. All ships sailing northwards  
from Bristol Channel except those joining Ocean Convoy and  
ships of category one to be sailed independently. Ships routed  
to Clyde or Loch Ewe for special convoy to be sailed whenever  
possible with Bristol Channel portion of Ocean Convoy breaking  
off as required. Failing this to be sailed under special  
escort.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1007A/18 to Admty.)

Ocean To facilitate quick turn round of shipping it  
Convoys. is proposed Barry Roads be used as assembly  
Use of anchorage for ocean convoys in lieu of Milford  
Barry Roads. Haven requisite N.C.S.O. staff being transferred  
from Milford Haven to Barry and suitable boarding  
craft being provided.  
N.O.I.C. Cardiff and N.O.I.C. Milford Haven are  
requested to signal their remarks.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1009/18.)  
Your 1009A/18. Concur in principle.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1830A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

H.X.226. SCHENCK departed at 1100Z/18 to reinforce  
escort of H.X.226.  
(C.T.G.24.6, 1127Z/18.)  
H.X.226 altered destination not communicated to Commodore.  
THORSHOVDI to Loch Ewe for Scapa.  
(D.T.D., 2345A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

T.A. 36. Intend sailing EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND passing Clyde  
Boom 0300A/20 routed in accordance with A.M.  
2334A/15. S.O.A. 19 knots. "Chop" date 24th Feb.  
E.T.A. New York 1200Z/28.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1544A/18.)

War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.W.S.27 and  
K.M.F.10A.A.M. 1615/17. Sailing Bar Light vessels 1230Z/23.  
Cdre.'s R/V noon G.M.T./24th 055° 32', 007° 38' W.  
Noon G.M.T./25th 052° 46', 012° 29' W.  
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1605A/18 to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)

O.N.169.

Escort for O.N.169. HIGHLANDER S.O., VIMY,  
BEVERLEY, ANEMONE, ABELIA, PENNYWORT, HIGHLANDER  
fitted H/F D/F.  
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1631A/18.)

U.R. 63.

My position 117° 250 miles from position AA  
course 303° speed 3 knots. All ships in company.  
(STAFNES, 1700A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

R.U. 63.

Following is a repetition of my 1431A/18. Begins.  
A.C.I.C's 1921/17. Sailed NORTHERN SPRAY routed  
as in C. in C. W.A. 1607A/3rd Jan.  
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 1713A/18 to A.C.I.C.)U.C.  
Convoy  
Sailing  
Telegrams.Sailing telegrams for U.C. convoys will be sent  
in following standard form:-

- (A) Time of R/V off Tuskar Rock.
  - (B) "Chop" time.
  - (C) Escorts escorting oilers and rescue ship,  
if any.
  - (D) Number of ships.
  - (E) Names of ships of Commodores and vice-commodores.
  - (F) Outcon issued.
  - (G) First 2 letters of W/T call sign.
  - (H) Latest Q.J. message held.
- Further signal will then be made giving list of ships and  
destinations.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1713Z/18.)

U.C.1.

SEMBILANGAN, FORT WEDDERBURNE, and CLAVELLA lost  
touch with Liverpool section shortly after sailing,  
despite full instructions to the contrary, they  
assumed the convoy was routed northabout and  
eventually proceeded to Belfast, missing the convoy.  
2. It is considered that their negligent action should be fully  
investigated with a view to disciplinary action.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1845A/18 to Admty.)Routes  
off Bear  
Island.Your 1653/17, para. 3.  
In view of this, Russians should be asked to  
route their ships so as to remain unseen from  
the land when passing Bear Island.  
(D.O.D.H., 1850A/18 to Ad. Miles.)

/Ships ...

War Diary.

18.2.1943.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Ships  
entering  
Clyde and  
Mersey in  
error.

To identify quickly ships which enter the Clyde and Mersey in error and to expedite notice to the dock authorities of the times at which ships expect to berth it is proposed to issue the following instructions to convoy assembly ports and to certain other ports abroad from which ships are sailed independently to U.K. Your remarks are requested. Detailed instructions. (D.T.D., 2100A/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

O.N.166.

U.S. Destroyer BABBITT escorting ELCOSTON returned from O.N.166 at 2235Z/18th. (C.T.G. 24.6, 2258Z/18.)



War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.

Blockade Runner Patrols. If unable to verify the identity of merchant vessels encountered, ships engaged in blockade runner patrol are to adopt the following procedure:

2. Signal direct to Admiralty in Naval Code or Cypher with emergency priority the word Regulation, the nationality and name of ship spelled out, and position, adding T.O.O. Example: Regulation Portuguese JUANITA 30° N. 40° 1901/19.
3. Ship's position will be verified from Admiralty records and Admiralty will reply with ship's name and one word chosen from True, False or Investigate. Example: JUANITA false 1929/19. This means ship concerned cannot be JUANITA.
4. Cominch, if he concurs, is requested to pass these or similar instructions to MARBLEHEAD, CINCINNATI, MILWAUKEE and attendant destroyers.  
(D.O.D.(F) 2330A/18 to JAMAICA, SUSSEX, ALCANTARA, DESPATCH, GEORGES LEYGUES, Cominch (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.A. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.Plymouth C. in C.W.A.)

North Atlantic.

JAMAICA operation "Regulation." My 1827/17th sailed JAMAICA .  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0445A/18 to Admty. etc.)  
See also 2330A/18.

Convoy C.G.11. C.G.11 arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0820A/18 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) N.C.X.F. Admty, F.O.C. Oran.)

Dispositions. Situation report for area X.B. at 2003A/18th.  
TAKU 036° 58' 009° 15' 338° dived by day 2½ surface by night 10.

- JAMAICA 035° 59' 011° 10' through 36. 01 12.01 thence 311 18.
3. ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG on patrol off Madeira leaves p.m. 19th with LADY DENISON-PENDER for Casablanca 8.
4. R.S.1 X, DUNKERY, 030° 57' 010° 12' through 30.29 10.10 to Agadir leave p.m. 19th 242° 8½.
5. S.R.1. PENTSTEMON 026° 09' 014° 57' through 26.19 14.47 thence 039° 5¼.
6. PETUNIA 028° 32' 017° 23' through 28.31 17.25 and 28.01 17.40 thence 180° 12.
7. NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM tug towing one M.V. 038° 45' 011° 34' (?268°) 3. (See amendment.)
8. C.F.11, fleet unit, 024° 40' 016° 39' through 26.01 16.02 thence 050° 12.
9. U.G.F. 5, T.F. 36, 035° 24' 016° 55' 103° 12½. (see amendment).
10. 3 fleet minesweepers (corrupt group) 034° 24' 011° 47' 283° 12 to R/V U.G.F.5.
11. 2 destroyers LIDDESDALE 049° 15' 009° 22' through 049° 04' 010° 51' and 045° 01' 010° 30' to 43 (?25) 10.05 thence (?180°) 18.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1038/18.)

/My...

War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. My 1030/18th (?1038/18 intended). Para. 7 amend (Contd.) position and course to read 37.58 11.35 341°. Add new para (12) Tug NIMBLE 37.37 11.02 to Gibraltar 9. Para (9) amend to read 34.50 12.40 through 34.08 10.15 thence Casablanca 12. CIRCE one destroyer 3 M/S R/V daylight to escort Oran section through Straits of Gibraltar.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1943A/18 to A.I.G. 55.)  
Situation at 2002A/18th.

U.S. S/M BARB on patrol in vicinity of 42.30 09.15.  
BOREAS, VANOC 1 merchant ship 33.42 10.05 through (?Q) K.A. 87 to Gibraltar 12½.  
4. H.M.S. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE (holding incorrect recognition signals) MIRROR working cable in the vicinity of 36.56 08.30.  
6.MK.F9, KRAKOWIAK sails 0600/19th through Q.K.A. 87 and 35.50 07.01 thence 290° 13.  
7. LIDDESDALE 2 destroyers 49.15 09.22 through 49.04 10.51 and 45.01 10.30 to 43.02 10.05 thence 180° 18.  
9. HAARLEM sails a.m. 19th to relieve KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE escorting MIRROR.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1115A/18.)

REGENT. Admiralty's 2240/13th (date ready for patrol) Feb. 24th.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1146A/18 to Admty. etc.)

Convoys for "Torch" Area. Your 0926/30th Jan. and 1725/11th Feb. F.O.C. Gibraltar 1516/4th Feb. A.M. 2347/3rd Feb. Re-adjustment of North Atlantic convoy system is to be discussed at Washington on 1st March. 2. Following are our proposals for convoys to "Torch" area.

- (A) Combined O.S/K.M.S. and W.S/K.M.F. convoys to be started as soon as "Torch" build-up is complete.\*
- (B) U.G.S. and U.G.F. convoys to synchronise with arrival of K.M.S. and K.M.F. convoys at Gibraltar.
- (C) H.F/O.G.convoys to be re-started on 30 day cycle.
- (D) O.T/T.O.convoys as at present arranged.

3. We have no exact information of volume of U.S. shipping in U.G.S and U.G.F. convoys and it may be that 20 and 30 day cycles respectively are not sufficient in which case adjustment may be necessary. M.K.S/O.S. cycle could be shortened to 15 days if we could find an additional group, but this is unlikely since we must increase the number of groups for N.Atlantic mid-ocean escorts to enable cycle to be closed to compete with increased volume of shipping.

4. O.S. and W.S.convoys will be given through escort to Freetown and it will be necessary for local escorts to R/V with K.M. portion of convoy at Gibraltar Splitting Point (short title (GISP). Similarly M.K. portion of convoys would be escorted to join northbound convoys at Convoy Meeting Point (short title COMP.) GISP and COMP would be about 1 days run from Gibraltar.

\*Former on 20 day cycle, latter on 30 day cycle.

War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoys for "Torch" Area. (Contd.)

5. It will probably be impracticable to arrange R/V of U.G and M.K. convoys at GISP and it is proposed first arrival should wait at Gibraltar and join remainder in the Straits.

6. It is appreciated that 20 day cycle will allow more than 16 days turnround at Algiers, but it is hoped necessity of assembling convoys at Gibraltar can be avoided in view of acute water shortage.

7. Detailed proposals will be worked out when result of Washington Conference is known, it would however be of assistance if you would signal what additional local escorts if any would be required to operate the above cycles.

(D.T.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (UT.) 1256A/18 to N.C.X.F. (R)  
F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.C.Gibraltar, B.A.D.)  
Reply: C. in C.Med. 1647A/24.

U-Boats. Estimated positions 0800/19th.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1339A/18 to N.C.X.F.)

DUNKERY R.S.1.X E.T.A. Agadir Roads 2030Z/18th. Permission is requested to anchor ship in roads until EMPIRE ROACH completes discharging. (no alteration?) (to aft?) and weather conditions bad.  
(DUNKERY 1400Z/18 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)  
Cdmt. Agadir.)

G.U.S.4. Intend sail G.U.S.4 as follows.  
From Casablanca at 0600Z/22 Feb. (list.)  
Escorted by T.F. 38, PLUNKETT, GLEAVES, MAYO, BENSON, RAVEN, and OSPREY to R/V in accordance N.C.X.F. 1657A/16 with Mediterranean Section consisting of (list.) Route in accordance Admty. 1935A/13, S.O.A. 8 knots. Destination all ships New York except THORSHOLM, ESSO BAYONNE, ESSO MONTPELIER, NORLYS, which is Curacao. First "Chop" 10° W. 1700Z/23, second "Chop" 40° W. 1400Z/4. Escort shift from Gib. to U.S.S. FOX 20° W. 2300Z/26.  
(Convoy Commr. Comeastseafront 1419Z/18 to N.C.X.F. Admty. Connv.)

INAKE. Swiss chartered Spanish INAKE leaves Genoa for Gibraltar 22nd.  
(D.E.W.D. 1521A/18 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)  
N.C.X.F.)

K.X.9. A.M. 1526/8. Following ships did not sail in K.X.9. S.S. FLAMINIAN, S.S. CASTILLIAN, S.S. COXWOLD.  
(D.O.D.(H) 1538A/18 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F.)

LIDDESDALE  
BROCKLESBY  
QUANTOCK. C. in C.Plymouth 1625/17th.  
Onward route from (d).  
(e) 37.01 N. 10.01 W. (f) 35.50 N. (?08).20 W.  
(g) 35.50 06.15 thence through Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar.

War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.LIDDESDALE,  
BROCKLESBY,  
QUANTOCK.

2. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C. (Passing action being taken by W/R.)  
(Adm. Gibraltar 1540A/18 to C. in C.Plymouth, LIDDESDALE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. F.O.(S) H.Q.C.C. N.C.X.F.)

Parachute  
Report.

Search abandoned after 3 (corrupt group).  
Object sighted was almost certainly meteorological balloon as Port Authority reports one found inland near Lagos at daylight.  
(R.O.Portimao 1754/18 to B.N.A.Lisbon, (R) Admty. for D. of N.I. S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)  
W.D.Note: Refers to 1252/17.

Movements  
Casablanca.

U.S.S. BENSON, GLEAVES, OSPREY, RAVEN arrived Casablanca Feb. 18th.  
(Commorseafron 1857Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

DEWDALE.

Your 1831/13 Jan. DEWDALE, last para. request you arrange shipment of gear as convenient preferably Liverpool and report particulars of shipment so that gear can be traced here. Please confirm estimated completion date for temporary repairs.  
(S. of C. 1919A/19 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

ST. NECTAN.  
LADY DENISON-  
PENDER.

Your 1647A/18 (N.T. in W.D.)  
LADY DENISON-PENDER has cabled London requesting return to Gibraltar for buoys and ropes. Weather conditions render completion operation impossible without refuelling.  
2. LADY DENISON-PENDER entered Funchal for water p.m. today and signalled probable sailing a.m. 20th. Am now out of communication with LADY DENISON-PENDER.  
2. N.E.gale continues, slightly moderating.  
Request weather forecast for area.  
(ST. NECTAN 2124A/18 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

War Diary.18.2.1945.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

CAMBRIA, N.O.B.R. 10's 1621/17.  
Brit. Cable ship CAMBRIA sailed 1000/17 expects  
return Rio 20th given reference positions:  
H. Rio. J. 25.14 S. 39.52 W. K. Victoria. War call  
M.V. 4. V.U. Holds recoding tables 22 and 23 and ind. 6.  
(N.O.B., Rio, 0650/18, to Cominch C, and R. (R) Comsolant, Admty.)

Movements. Arrivals 18th Feb. CROCUS, CYCLAMEN.  
S.O. (I) Freetown, 1121Z/18 to Admty.)  
Departure 18th Feb. ORFSAY.  
( S.O.(I) Freetown 1127Z/18 to Admty.)  
Arrived Recife 1600Z/17th Feb.  
( WASTWATER 1130Z/18 to Admty.)

French Admty.'s 1203/17 ( Requesting repetition of 0846/  
Requirements 16/2 received undecypherable.) Following is a  
in N. Africa. repetition of my 0846Z/16 Feb. ( Begins.)  
" Admty. (R) Resmin, N.C.X.F. From F.O.C. West  
Africa, N.C.X.F.'s 1052/7. Policy in para 2  
appears contrary to proposals set out in Secretary of State's  
Telegram 162 of 5th Feb. to Resident Minister. Please also  
see Resident Minister's 1554/15 to Petroleum Division". (Ends.)  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1120Z/18 to Admty. Milwestaf, N.C.X.F.)

ADRIAS. Your 1711/17 Feb. to Admty. only.  
ADRIAS is remaining in Freetown Area for a short  
period to complete work up. F.O.C.W.Af. has  
instructions to sail her for Gib. thereafter.  
( D.O.D. (F) 1235A/18 to S.O. Force H. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.  
F.O.I.C. Gib.)

O.S.-S.L. Your 1824/9th. ( see North Atlantic.) Fuel  
Escorts, should now be available Dakar but confirmation  
fuel. from Comar, Dakar still awaited. Fuel is avail-  
able at Bathurst.  
( F.O.C.W.A. 1241Z/18 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty.  
N.O.I.C. Londonderry, F.O.I.C. Gib., N.C.X.F.,  
N.O.I.C. Liverpool, Capt. (D) Liverpool.)

MONTE MONTE NARANCO boarded. ADRIAS complying with  
NARANCO your 1725Z/17th. Oil fuel remaining DESPATCH  
intercepted, 640 tons, ADRIAS 45%. Intend to execute your  
ADRIAS, 1358/15th. E.T.A. St. Vincent 0900Z/19th.  
DESPATCH. Present P.C. and S. 014° 42' N. 023° 01' W.  
320° 19. Weather report.  
(DESPATCH 1425Z/18 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc)  
W.D. Note. MONTE NARANCO (Spanish), Buenos  
Aires to Las Palmas, to be searched for 2  
ex GRAF SPEE stowaways and contraband.  
MONTE NARANCO intercepted by DESPATCH 014° 42'  
023° 01' W. at 1345Z/18.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1740A/18 to Cominch (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.

18.2.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. Situation at 2003/18th.  
BRIDGEWATER (?INKPEN) with R.S.1., 015° 11' 018° 00' 180° 10½.  
FANDANGO 4 M.Ls. escorting about (?017°) 22' 017° 35' (?246°) 7½.  
Convoy C.F.11 024° 17' 016° 48' through 026° 01' 016° 00' thence 050° 12.  
F.S. GLOIRE (?013°) 18' 030° 19' (?084°) 18.  
F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES 023° 47' 033° 40' to 026° 31' (?038°) 20' thence 083° 19.  
ORFSAÏ escorting 008° 52' 014° 07' 304° 8¾.  
F.S. QUERCY (?GOFFIEUS) off Konakri to North 12½.  
DESPATCH in Cape Verde Is. Area.  
ADRIAS about 015° 08' 022° 44' 014° 8.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1550Z/18).

A.A. Your 53398 (M.O.7) 17 Feb. (1520/17)  
defences, 10 H.A.A. and 18 L.A.A. will fill my requirements  
W. Africa. for training. 4 H.A.A. should be mobile. Also  
have scale of 14 dual purpose 4.5s of which 12  
received. Presume these will now be retained  
for C.A. work only and will be additional to  
A.A. training scale stated above, please confirm.  
(G.O.C. in C. W.A., 1606ZA/18 to W.O.)

DESPATCH My 1253Z/15. Now anticipate DESPATCH will arrive  
St. Vincent a.m./19th Feb.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1608Z/18 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent for  
B.C. (R) N.A. Lisbon, Admty. DESPATCH).

CARNARVON Your 1426/17th Feb. Concur. Delay can be  
CASTLE. accepted.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1611A/18 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R)  
CARNARVON CASTLE, C. in C. S.A., Comsolantfor).

DEER LODGE, Request brief signal after interrogation of  
(S Report Master as to whether DEER LODGE followed  
17 Feb). original route or cut corners.  
(D.T.D., 1808A/18 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Comnaveu)

O.T.1 Arrived convoy O.T.1.  
(Comar Dakar, 1923Z/18 to F.O.W.A. (R) Admty.  
Cominch, Comsolant, N.C.X.F.)  
O.T.1 arrived Dakar 1700Z/18 Connav pass to  
Cominch, C. and R. Cinclant.  
(C.T.G. 21.4 2020Z/18 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.  
etc).

/SANGARA...

War Diary.

18.2.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

SANGARA,  
salvage,  
Accra.

Pass following to N.L.O. Accra. Your 2014/17th. In view of condition of this vessel, absence of suitable beaching position silting with present Dredging Fleet inadequate to deal with existent natural silting lack of mooring equipment and tidal conditions, regret it is not

possible to agree this ship being beached Lagos.

2. I agree that efforts should be made to tow ship Bonny River for temporary repairs.

3. Marine will render all assistance possible and if necessary will supply Officer to give tug Master benefit of his local knowledge in entering river.

4. Owners proposal to shift ship to other berth when required is noted but there are no berths suitable for a vessel of this draft and condition.

5. Nigerian Govt. cannot accept responsibility for this ship at any stage.

(Govr. Nigeria, 1945/18 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Governor Gold Coast).

War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one M/V one destroyer 38.26 N.  
12.54 E. 090° 10 knots.  
(A/C G.K.A/U 0015A/18 to Air H.Q.Malta.)

Have attacked enemy, hits observed.

(A/C G.K.A/U 0055A/18.)

One M/V down by stern.

(A/C G.K.A/X 0105A/17 - ?18 intended.)

One merchant vessel sunk.

(A/C G.K.A/X 0120A/17 - ?18 intended.)

For details See 2031/18.

My 2238. Enemy has altered course to 360° speed 10 knots.

(A/C G.K.A/Z 0115A/18 to A.H.Q.)

ROCKWOOD.

Departure.

(Cmdre. Aden, 0843Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

M.K.F.9.

Sailed MONARCH OF BERMUDA, 7 mails, WINDSOR  
CASTLE, MONARCH OF BERMUDA has 125 personnel to  
be disembarked at Gibraltar.

(Commandant N.O.B. Oran Area 0911A/18 to N.C.X.F.)

(R) Admty. Cmdre Algiers. Connav, F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements,  
Alexandria.

Departures 17th Feb. DERWENT, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY,  
HURWORTH, CROOME (?PRIMULA) KLO, PETARD, ISIS,  
Greek SAKTOURIS, Greek KANARIS.

(S.O.(I) Alexandria 0914/18 to Admty. etc.)

ALBARO.  
CELENO.

My 2035/17, last sentence: Now anticipate ALBARO  
will enter Aegean from Dardanelles between 1130  
and 13 hours G.M.T.

My 1147/15 last sentence: CELENO is expected to  
enter Straits today when ALBARO comes out.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul 0941C/18 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

Ref. ALBARO's sailing for Piraeus: conversant seaman off German  
tanker OSSAG just interrogated reports OSSAG's course on ?last  
voyage to Dardanelles in October was:-

(A) ?By shore of Phleva. (B) Zea Channel. (C) Doro Channel.

(D) Thence direct course for Tenedos and Helles. Vessel did not  
zig-zag, but weather was rough.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1142C/18 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

My 0941C/18. ALBARO arrived Cannakale 9?35 G.M.T. Feb. 18th.

From R.O. mutilated and not clear whether Tanker has anchored.

(S.O.I. Istanbul 1516C/18 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

My 1516C/18. ALBARO entered Aegean 11 G.M.T. Feb. 18th,  
course west, North of Lemnos: no escort observed. Speed 8. Full  
(?Coal) 2,512 tons fuel (?and) gas oil.

(S.O.I. Istanbul 1602C/18 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

Oran,  
Water.

Your 1943/16th, not to N.C.X.F. Water Oran sufficient  
only for normal demands. Ships are now given  
minimum quantity required for return voyage. Water  
handling facilities extremely inadequate.

(Commandant N.O.B. Oran 0956/18 to Admty. (R) V.A.  
Gibraltar, N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Oran, B.N.L.O. Oran  
B.A.O.Oran.)

/Addition...



War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Addition to Situation Report No. 342. (2055/17.) Operation M.H.6 Convoy of 15 ships escorted by DERWENT (S.O.) five Hunts, two Fleets, two Corvettes, and one F/S trawler left Alexandria a.m. 17th Feb. for Malta and Tripoli (L).  
2. Seven storeships, one personnel ship and a tanker for Tripoli.  
3. Four storeships, one black and one white oil tanker for Malta.  
4. (?DERWENT) remains at short notice to cover convoy from 19th Feb. (C. in C.Med. 1014B/18 to Admty.)

Sinking of U.205. Bi-weekly Opsum No. 101 part 1. Night 16/17 Feb. 5 Wellingtons laid 10 mines in approaches to Heraklion Harbour. 3 Wellingtons provided diversion bombing of harbour, results unobserved, 1 Bomber Wellington destroyed landing on return, another mining Wellington missing. 17 Feb. 1 Bisley attacked with depth charges submarine forced to surface off Derna by destroyer. Results of depth charges unobserved, (but) machine gun attack forced crew of submarine to take refuge on hull, Bisley broke off attack on further attack by destroyers which captured submarine. Vessel ?taken in tow but subsequently sank. (A.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1022/18.)

SAHIB. Capt. (S) 8's 1232/17th. Onward route through J.K. and 036° 01' 014° 05' to R/V at end of channel 0830A/18. (Capt. (S) 10 1033A/18 to P.212 (SAHIB) (R) TIGRIS.)

Tripoli, Benghazi, discharges. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Tonnage discharge 17th Feb. Tripoli 3,300 tons. Benghazi 1,850 tons. One deep water quay now working with ship alongside at Tripoli. (Mideast 1040S/18 to Air Min.)

M.T.Bs. 2 M.T.Bs. will be operating South of Marritimo tonight 18th/19th returning either to Malta or to Bone. C. in C.Med pass to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. (V.A.Malta 1134A/18 to C. in C.Med. etc.) Cancel my 1134/18th. (V.A.Malta 1410A/18.)

Operation M.W.20. Situation report. 0900 Thursday Feb. 18th total cargo discharged 20,000 tons. Anticipated that all cargo except coal will be out by a.m. Friday 19th. All white oils were discharged by 2200/17. (V.A.Malta 1137A/18 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. N.C.X.F.)

/SARACEN...

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

SARACEN.

Leave patrol so as to pass 041° 23' 005° 58' at 0800/20th 039° 47' 004° 28' at 0400/21st and R/V escort with all despatch in 036° 58' 003° 00' at 0715/22nd.

(Capt. S.8. 1158A/18 to SARACEN (R) N.C.X.F. 8th S.F. Cmdre. Algiers.)

Convoys  
for "Torch"  
Area.

Admty. proposals (D.T.D. 1256A/18 to N.C.X.F.)  
See North Atlantic.  
Reply: C., in C.Med., 1647A/24.

Situation  
Report No.  
64.

1. Italian U-Boat ASTERIA sunk by WHEATLAND and EASTON in 37.14 N. 04.27 E. about 0950/17 after a 6½ hour hunt. ASTERIA surfaced and was abandoned before sinking. 47 prisoners including C.O. were taken.

2. Between 0400/18 and 0600/18 T/B aircraft attacked convoy K.M.S.9 and the ferry service, both eastbound. No casualties were sustained by our forces. During the same period a small raid was made on Algiers area, two bombs falling on town and three near Maison Blanche aerodrome. No Military damage.  
(N.C.X.F. 1458A/18 to Admty.)

E.A.C. Report. A.620 Opsum No. 99 1800 hours 16 Feb. to 1800 hrs. 17 Feb.

A. Operations. Day 17th. 1 Swordfish sighted large oilstreak and bubbles were rising. 1 D/C was dropped. Position for this is where trawler WHEATLAND sank U-Boat taking 47 prisoners.  
(E.A.C. Africa 1516A/18.)

TROOPER,  
TIGRIS.

Arrived TROOPER, Departure TIGRIS.  
(V.A. Malta 1633A/18 to Admty. etc.)

M.K.S.8.

Sailing destinations. Cmdre. Algiers 0948/17. (list)  
(D.T.D. 1750A/18 to F.O.I.C. Oran.)

PALADIN,  
sinking  
of U.205.

We congratulate PALADIN on the destruction of a German U-Boat on 17th Feb.  
2. C. in C.Med. is requested to convey our congratulations to the aircraft concerned for her part in this success.  
(D.A.S.W. 1806A/18 to PALADIN, C. in C.Med.)

Movements,  
Palestine.

Arrivals 18th Feb. Greek destroyers PANTHER, AETOS, SPETSAI, M.L. 348 ISLAY. Departures 18th Feb. Greek destroyers PANTHER, AETOS, SPETSAI, CUMBRAE ISLAY.  
(N.O.I.C. Palestian Ports 1821B/18 to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

/A.S.V...

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

A.S.V. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 476  
B.24 (repeated Eisenhower No. 1812.)  
Aircraft 1. We have been shown General Marshall's signal  
for N. R.5931 to General Andrews (22012/16) ref. USFOR  
Africa. 7239 of 13th Feb. We had already considered  
AGWAR R/5807 of 12th Feb. and had informed Andrews  
of our views. Text of our message to Andrews is  
given in our immediately following telegram.  
2. We confirm that training of first and second A/S Squadrons  
is not complete and therefore transfer to Casablanca area would  
be premature.  
3. At present there are only 14 aircraft in the two squadrons  
and we are most doubtful whether despatch of 12 of these on  
completion of training would result in the best distribution of  
available forces. We therefore suggest that as whole question of  
control and distribution of Air Forces allocated to protection  
of shipping in North Atlantic will be discussed at forthcoming  
conference at Washington on 1st March, a decision as to locations  
of these Squadrons should be deferred until results of the  
conference are known.  
4. Please inform Combined Chiefs of Staff and request their  
concurrence.  
(Air Min. 1345Z/18 to Britman, Washington (R) Eisenhower.)

STURGEON. Arrived Algiers.  
(Cmdre. Algiers 1851A/18 to Admty. etc.)

C.G.CURTIS. Ref. P.S.T.O. Middle East's 1130/17 (Re U.S.  
CHARLES GORDON CURTIS to replace OZARDA reported  
holed in collision.) W.S.A. concur.  
(B.M.S.M. 1857/18 to M.W.T. (R) P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Movements Bone arrival ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN,  
Bone. LAMERTON, WHEATLAND.  
(F.O.I.S. 1918A/18 to N.C.X.F. Admty. F.O.I.C.  
Gibraltar.)

Tonnage Your 0221/21. Military requirements exclusive of  
for N. bulk petrol to Tripoli now being increased from  
Africa 3,000 tons to 4,000 tons per day.  
Ports. 2. Based on 33 day turnround and allowing 15%  
margin against loss as recommended by C. in C.  
additional shipping required amounts to 39,000 tons.  
3. Immediate requirement is for two additional vessels in convoy  
sailing from Alexandria 10th March. Only suitable vessels in area  
are STIRLINGVILLE which propose allocating and CITY OF KEELUNG  
already allocated to Malta but which propose to replace by GLANCUS.  
4. Request immediate concurrence to (A) allocation of STIRLINGVILLE  
(B) retention of GLANCUS.  
5. Further signal will be made reference additional vessels  
required.  
6. Agreed M.W.T.M.E. G.H.Q.M.E.  
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 2011B/18 to Admty. for D.S.T.)

/K.M.F....

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K.M.F.10B. Intended to include in K.M.F.10B leaving U.K.  
K.M.F.11. 1st March refrigerated troopships MORETON BAY  
and TAMAROA.

2. After disembarkation in North Africa it is  
desired they should proceed to New York.

3. Request arrangements for them to join up with G.U.F.6.,  
and probable date for sailing in that convoy.

4. A similar position will probably arise in respect of  
RANGITATA - leaving U.K. in K.M.F.11 on 15th March.

(D.O.D.(H) 2012A/18 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.Gib. S.N.O.C.A.)  
Reply: 1226A/22.

Malta A.I. 579 C.S.R. Malta. Part 1. Offensive.  
Air Night 17/18th Feb. Successful attack made on  
Report. shipping North of Trapani. 2 special equipment  
Wellingtons on R/C in this area sighted 2142  
hours 1 M/V 3/4000 tons and 1 D/R 38° 20' N. 12°  
25' E. course 090° speed 10 knots. 2 torpedo carrying Wellingtons  
despatched to attack and torpedo from 1 Wellington scored hit on  
stern of M/V which then sank. 4 torpedo carrying Beauforts on  
armed search for shipping in Marittimo area encountered bad weather  
and made no sightings.  
(A.H.Q. Malta. 2031Z/18.)

Movements, Arrived MISORA ALGOMA. VELOX, WIVERN, CAMROSE,  
Algiers. ATHERSTONE, PRESCOTT, CONVULVULUS, NASTURTIUM,  
KITCHENER, departures LOYAL, EASTON, ATHERSTONE,  
ALGOMA, PRESCOTT, CAMROSE, CONVULVULUS,  
NASTURTIUM, FELIXSTOWE, MISORA, WHEATLAND,  
LAMERTON, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN,  
KITCHENER. Also Hospital Ship MAFIA.  
(Cmdre. Algiers 2041A/18 to Admty. etc.)

JAVELIN. Feb. 18th, arrived and departed. M.L. 459 arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli 2151B/18 to Admty.)

Petrol in The amount of bulk petrol arriving in theatre in  
excess of convoy U.G.S.5 far exceeds bulk storage available  
storage. and it is feared that some white tankers will not  
be discharged in time to (? return) with G.U.S.5  
(?Assuming) that convoy O.T.2 sails as scheduled  
on February 20th it will arrive while U.G.S.5 is (?still in) area  
and for reason stated will be unable to discharge petrol. Request  
therefore that no white be included in Convoy C.J.2 to North  
Africa theatre.  
(N.C.X.F. 2151A/18, 0550A/19 to Cominch (R) Admty. etc.)

JAVELIN. Feb. 18th arrival JAVELIN (2 corrupt groups)  
departure JAVELIN.  
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli 2151B/18 to Admty.)

Movements 18th Feb. Port Said arrivals PARTHIAN, PINDOS,  
Port Said. BELVOIR.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 2205B/18 to Admty. etc.)

Movements Arrived GLOXINIA, SOUTHERN SEA, AMBER, SEKSERN, FALK,  
Tobruk. sailed GRIBB. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2230B/18 to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoys. Sailing telegram.  
P.A. 25 (2). 0430Z/18th. (4) 8½ knots, P.A. 9 knots.  
P.B. 27. (Routes.) (6) P.A. CESSNOCK, P.B., PANGKOR,  
BOMBAY.  
( N.C.S.O. Hormuz 0500Z/18, 0505Z/18,)

Movements. Colombo departures 18th Feb. 0200Z LORD GREY.  
0200Z EARL KITCHENER 1100Z BARBOUR.  
Arrivals 0930Z TAMWORTH.  
( F.O. Ceylon 1205Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

Departures 1213Z/18th Dutch S/M O.21.  
( N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1220Z/18 to Admty.)  
Departure 1245Z/18th Feb. LISMORE escorting H.T. WINGSANG.  
( N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1258Z/18 to Admty.)

MARIPOSA. Arrivals 18th.  
( N.C.S.O. Massawa 1432Z/18 to Admty, C. in C. E.F.)

UNICORN. Request reply to my 1735 10th Jan. ( 0035/ intend-  
ed. Request when UNICORN will join E.F. and what  
Squadron she will carry.)  
( C. in C. E.F., 1450Z/18 to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements. San Francisco 15 WEST POINT for Wellington  
ABSAROKA for Honolulu. (both U.S. Army transports)  
(N.S.H.Q. 0021Z/18 to Admty).  
Departure 18th U.S.S. Sub. Chaser 522, Trinidad  
19th.  
(B.R.O. Goergetown, 0907/18 to Admty).  
Arrival 18th U.S. Aircraft Rescue Boat C 18366 from St.  
Lucia.  
(Harbour Master Barbados 1501/18 to Admty).

U/B S/M attacking 06° 32' S. 27° 47' W. at 1215-G.E.T/  
18 2247/18.  
(Connav, No T.O.O. Recd. 0050/19 to Admty).  
This is Comsolant 1906/18 action Cominch C.T.U.  
23.1.3. B.24 at 9500 (?feet) fired upon by sub.  
1215Z/18 06° 32' S. 27° 47'.  
(Cominch, 2248Z/18 to Admty. (R) C.C.S.F.)

S/M Estimates (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0730/18, 1549/18, 1550/18,  
Feb. 18th. 1615/18 (amended 0150/19) 1616/18 1617/18)  
U.S. S/M  
Notice.

O.N.S.165, Radio activity your area indicate from 2 to 4  
U/Bs. submarines your vicinity gathering for attack.  
Transmissions on series 22 now 4600 k/c per sec.  
Last at 0243Z/18th.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0325/18 to Admty (R) M.O.E.  
T.U., 24.1.4., C.T.24).

O.N.S.165. Convoy complete, scattered in approx. 50° 15' N.  
41° 20' W. Wind S.W. force 12.1 ship seen and many others assumed to be  
damaged and will require assistance.

2 U-boats known to be in the vicinity. Weather report.  
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4 0952Z/18 to Connav (R) C.T.F.24,  
C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C., Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.,  
F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.U. 24.18.4 LEAMINGTON, WILLIAMSBURG,  
M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4)  
Numerous recent D/Fs indicate 4 U-boats your vicinity  
with possibly 6 area 50° N. 48' W moving south to intercept.  
S(eries) 22.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1320/18 to S.O. U.S. E.T.U. 24.1.4,  
Admty).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary 1800	F.S. ARCHIMEDE	31½° N. 62½° W.	296°	12½
G.M.T./18th	F.S. AMAZONE	22° N. 42° W.	296°	7
Feb.	F.S. GEORGES			
	LEYGUES	23½° N. 33½° W.	303°	20
	ALCANTARA)			
	WOODRUFF )	08° N. 32° W.	305°	12
	(D.O.D. (F) 1030Z/18 to Opnav (R) Comnaveu).			

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- T.A. 35 (ANDES). From new position G. 46° 00' N. 19° 25' W. steer for new H. 44° N. 32° W. then to E. (D.O.D. (H) 1111A/18 to T.A.35 (R) C. in C. W.A. Connav, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.T.F. 24, H.Q.C.C.) Convoy T.A.35 comprising ANDES sailed from U.K. on 17 Feb. for Halifax.
2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by W.O. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and Milstaff, Washington. (D. of S.T., 1523A/18 to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C.)
- ROXBOROUGH Charleston arrived 2050Z/16 ROXBOROUGH. C.O.A.C. informed. (N.S.H.Q., 1305Z/18 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., F.O.N.F.)
- U.G.S.5 A Escorts. U.G.S.5 A composed of 25 vessels escorted by C.T.F.37 in GHERARDI with JEFFERS, MURPHY, SIMPSON, BROOME, BAINBRIDGE in 37° 05' 74° 45' at 1900Z/18 speed 9 amended "Chop" times 40 W. 1900Z/26 10 W. 1945Z/7 March allow 24 hours between "Chops" for fuelling routed as my 1714Z/11. (Cominch C. and R. 1325/18 to Admty. (R) Cdr. N.W. Af. S.F. Admty. N.S.H.Q., Cinclant, V.A. Gibraltar, N.O.B. Bermuda, N.C.X.F.) U.G. S.5 A sailing telegram. Flag, name, speed, cargo, passengers, mail and destination. Cominch (C. and R) pass to other addressees. (R.O. Norfolk, Virginia 1321/18 and amended 1404/20 1721/18 to Cominch C. and R. (R) C.T.F.37 etc).
- H.J. 35
1. H.J. 35 Sailing Telegram Part 1.
  2. Halifax 1400Z/18.
  3. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 2000Z/21.
  4. 7.5 knots to Louisburg thence 9 knots.
6. MILLTOWN. (N.C.S.O. 1333Z/18 to Admty).
- O.T. 2 This in Cinclant's 1928/17. Detach one destroyer, when convoy (T.2 is clear of Anegada Passage and beyond sight of land, and direct her proceed to Guantanamo. (Comnaveu, 1814/16 to Admty).
- WITHERINGTON My 2200/13. WITHERINGTON expects to be ready for sea p.m./18th. (B.A.R.M. 1458Z/18 to F.O.N.F. (R) Cominch, C.O.A.C., WITHERINGTON, Admty. N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.W.Af).

/B.Y.M.S...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

B.Y.M.S.15 and 16. B.Y.M.S.15 and 16 departed Boston 18th at 1200Q en route St. Johns N.F. via coastal to Lurcher light vessel thence to St. Johns N.F. Speed 10 knots.  
(Com. Northern Group E.S.F. 1514/18 to C.E.S.F.)

Portuguese Shipping route instructions. Following from N.A. Lisbon:-  
"Portuguese Consul at St. Johns N.F. communicated that all Portuguese ships at present in that port have received instructions to proceed due south for 3 days before steering direct to Lisbon.

Portuguese M. of M. enquire is this a temporary measure due to special emergency or a permanent instruction applicable to all Portuguese ships in Newfoundland waters. If temporary measure Portuguese intend to hold up their ships until they can return by normal route. If permanent measure intended M. of M. point out that this large deviation from their course renders their ships liable to be sunk by U-boats for being off their course and obeying British routing instructions. M. of M. state that ships never repeat never obey German instructions as to routing across the Atlantic".  
Request early observations.  
(Head of M.I. 1524A/18 to N.S.H.Q., (R) F.O.N.F.) Reply:1950/19.

S.C.121 H.X.228 numbers. Your 1946/16 (Delay report) indicates considerable number of ships held for S.C.121. Request early estimate of total number ready to sail in S.C.121 and proceeding beyond Westomp. Same information required regarding HX.228.  
(D.T.D., 1552A/18 to B.R.L.O. New York (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.) Reply: 2121/9.

U.C/C.U. Convoys, carriage of depth charges. Your 0100/13 concurred in Navy Department. Your 1832/14 U.S. Authorities concerned have been instructed in following sense.  
"U.C./C.U. convoy tankers carry full allowance spare depth charges for escorts. Maximum convenient to be carried in escort fuellers and balance in other ships. British recommend transfer charges at sea using flotation gear details of which will be available on arrival

U.C.1 at Curacao 6th March. Minimum pool to be established at Curacao 600 charges, 35% heavy with accessories by 12th March. Own pool established by British at this port".  
(B.A.D., 1621Z/18 to Admt. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Dispositions. Section East. S.C. (?120) W, L.E.T.U. 24.18.3  
044° 07' 055° 38' 076° 7 altering to 029° in 051° 01' W.  
VEGREVILLE escorting BRITISH HONOUR 043° 34'  
054° 02' 062° 8 altering to 009° in 046° 11' N.  
My 1635/18th and 2101/18th amend SARNIA escorting P.554

/position...



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Dispositions position at 0230Z/19th 046° (727') N. 054° 21' W.  
 Contd. thence 046° 09' N. 053° 53' W. 046° 14' 053°  
 53' W. 046° 14' 053° 00' 046° 29' 052° 32' thence  
 St. Johns N.F. speed 10.  
 J.H.37 vicinity 047° 33' (7052°) 28' 194° 7.5.  
 Alter to 228° in 046° 43' N. to 249° in 046° 32' N. to 284°  
 in 046° 27' N. and to 225° in 046° 43' N.  
 T.U. 24.12.1 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4 vicinity 048° 10' 050° 01'  
 074° to join O.N.165 in 049° 06' 044° 42'.  
 (C.O.A.C., 1635Z/18\*2101Z/18 to C.B.7 A) Amended 0202Z/19.

T.O.1 Sail T.O.1 when ready to Trinidad.  
 (Cominch C and R. 1657Z/18 to F.O.C. W.Af.)

A.S.V. B.24 C.O.S. (W) 476, replying to Agwar, Washington.  
 Aircraft for 2201Z/16.  
 N. Africa. (Air Min. 1845Z/18 to Britman, Washington (R)  
 Eisenhower). See Mediterranean.

Sub. attack A. Surface craft attack two subs. Area 50° 14' N.  
 and sighting 41° 05' W. about 2130Z/17.  
 summary. C. C.G.C. 83352 attacks sound contact 11° 01' N.  
 60° 56' W. 0420Z/17.  
 D. O.S. 2 N Plane sights periscope course 120 11°  
 33' N. 62° 34' W. 1325Z/18. S.C. 1015 makes  
 sound contact 30° 35' N. 74° 37' W. 1910Z/18.  
 (Cominch, 2116/18 to Admty).

Ocean convoys. In view of urgent necessity of sailing full  
 numbers. authorised numbers in each ocean convoy in  
 order to compete with the numbers of ships  
 now presenting, request you will stress importance  
 of having reasonable number of spare ships  
 immediately ready to substitute last minute non-  
 sailers. This may entail temporary suspension  
 of New York's 24 hour rule.  
 (D.T.D. 2125A/18 to B.A.D. (R) B.R.L.O. New York).

Loading Programme 1943 loading timben, newsprint and pulp  
 programme, is under consideration. To enable this to be  
 timber, loaded at or near sources of supply your  
 newsprint, concurrence is requested for up to 12 ships  
 pulp. monthly to enter St. Lawrence River and in  
 addition up to 10 monthly to proceed to ports  
 in Gulf of St. Lawrence south of Gaspe and on  
 west coast of Newfoundland.  
 (D.T.D., 2128A/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) B.A.D.  
 C.O.A.C., Connav).

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U.S. Transport. San Francisco Feb. 15th. ABSAROLA for Honolulu and WEST POINT for Wellington. Both U.S. Army Transport. (N.S.H.Q. 2142Z/18 to Admty).

Movements Bermuda arrivals U.S.S. COLE, EFFECTIVE, CHICKADEE, MARINO, S.C.679 and 24 L.C.I.(L) (SDJ) (all U.S.) Departure U.S.S. DORAN, (S.B.N.O.W.A., 2209/18 to Admty).

Limits on Passenger numbers. Your 1605/6. Canadian Government prepared to agree to proposals subject to agreement of U.S. Authorities. B.A.D. 2029/11 refers. (N.S.H.Q., 2211Z/18 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)

B.Y.M.S. Cdr. N.W. Sea Frontier sail B.Y.M.S.10, 17, 18 21, 25 when ready about Feb. 22nd to San Francisco. Cdr. W.S.F. route onward to Panama arranging for Logistic requirements en route. Cdr. Panama S.F. sail onward to Trinidad for further routing by N.O.B. Trinidad to Freetown via Belem and Recife. Action addressees advise times of departure routes speeds of advance. Vessels have radius of 1700 to 1800 miles at 9 knots using 30 gallons per hour. Can carry 1200 gallons additional fuel, as deck cargo, if sailed on favourable weather report. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2214/18 to Cdr. N.W. S.F. Cdr. Western S.F. Cdr. Panama S.F. (R) Admty. etc).

H.X. convoys, Admty. 1727/17. Cominch has represented that number of U.S. Naval authorities should have been ships. consulted before this signal was made. He professes to be greatly perturbed about the ever-increasing size of convoys. Probable that this question would never have been raised had concurrence been sought beforehand as a matter of routine giving brief explanation of necessity for increasing numbers. (B.A.D., 2227Z/18 to Admty).

ROANOKE Cristobal Feb. 16th U.S. Army Transport ROANOKE New Orleans February 22nd. (N.S.H.Q., 2232Z/18 to Admty).

Movements Departure 18th U.S.E.D. COMSTOCK, Trinidad 20th. U.S.A.T. BRIGADIER GENERAL H.F. RETHERS Paramaribo 19th. (B.R.O. Georgetown, 2400/18 to Admty etc).

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Convoy "Pamphlet". Convoy "Pamphlet" escorted by GAMBIA DEVONSHIRE Neth. Cr. TROMP. Neth. Lt. Cr. HEEMSKERCK, VAN GALEN, TJERK HIDDES, arrived at Fremantle. (Cdre. Western Aus. 0243Z/18 to Admty. (R) A.C.N.B. Comsouwestpac Unit, C. in C. E.F., F.O.I.C. Ceylon).

Movements Arrivals Auckland 1757Z/17 U.S.S. ROAMER 2300Z/17 ATREUS, ALSEY.

Departures Wellington 0345Z/18 U.S.S. BREESE U.S.S. AMERICAN LEGION, U.S.S. HUNTER, LIGGETT for Noumea direct route speed 13.9 knots. E.T.A. 2100Z/21 U.S.S. GEORGE CLYMER also departed in company to 30° S. 169° 25' E. when parts company and proceeds Espirito Santo at 15 knots E.T.A. 2100Z/22.

(D.N.I. Wellington 0423Z/18 to Admty).

Arrivals Fremantle 16th TJERK HIDDES Cairns 17th STUART Port Moresby 17th WHYALLA, SWAN ECHUCA indicated departure Fremantle 16th KANIMBLA escort duty Townsville 17th BALLARAT for Port Moresby Sydney New South Wales 17th AUSTRALIA U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY U.S. Destroyer HENLEY for Melbourne, ARUNISA for Townsville.

(A.C.N.B., 1201Z/18 to Admty).

Dutch Naval store ship SOEDOE arrived Thursday Island 16th Feb. departed 17th due Merauke 19th. U.S. store ship GOLD STAR departed Sydney 17th due Fremantle 27th. R.A.F.A. KURUMBA departed Sydney 17th due Townsville 23rd.

(A.C.N.B., 1747Z/18 to Admty. Connnav)

Digest One merchant vessel one small escort vessel  
Serial reported by air R/C forenoon 17th 6° 55' S.  
No. 392 154° 40' E. proceeding towards Shortlands.  
Feb. 17th. (2) Single Liberator unsuccessfully attacked one enemy barge with possible S/M approx. 40 miles E. Gasmata same morning.

(4) Liberator bombed and sank schooner off Cape

Gloucester noon 17th.

(5) S/M again reported sighted Lae Harbour dusk 17th.

(6) Five Beaufighters strafed barges Labu and made sweep coastal area to Kumusi during forenoon.

(9) Our M.T.Bs. intercepted 6 to 8 enemy barges night 15th mouth Eia River (Hercules Bay) destroying 3.

(10) One Liberator bombed Babo morning 17th results not observed. Two medium bombers on runway. One small cargo vessel sighted entering harbour.

(11) Same aircraft sighted one light cruiser or destroyer with two 4,000 ton merchant ships 20 miles South of Tak Fak heading north early afternoon. Also sighted small schooner Argoeni Bay (S.W. coast Dutch New Guinea).

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0648Z/18).

/ILE...

War Diary.18.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

ILE DE FRANCE, D.S.T. 0630A/26th Jan. para. 3, anticipated itinerary.  
 QUEEN MARY,  
 AQUITANIA.

(A) ILE DE FRANCE depart Fremantle March 14th to arrive Durban March 24th, allowing 2 days for embarkation, E.T.A. Capetown March 28th.

QUEEN MARY to depart Fremantle March 18th E.T.A. Capetown March 28th.

(B) AQUITANIA to depart Fremantle March 23rd E.T.A. Capetown April 2nd.

(2) All ships will be fitted out at Sydney for trading prisoners of war and will arrive fully stored with frozen and dry provisions. ILE DE FRANCE will be disembarking at Durban approx. 100 R.A.N. personnel for Kilindini and 60 civilian passengers also 200 tons service cargo.

(A.C.N.B., 0747Z/18 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., Deputy Chief Pretoria).

QUEEN OF  
 BERMUDA.

Requires boiler repairs. E.T.D. Fremantle p.m./22nd.

2. Request destination and route.

3. Ship last docked June 1942. Speed now only 17½ knots. No other known underwater defects.

(A.C.N.B., 1313Z/18 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F., Cdre. W. Australia).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C., 1401A/18, 1402A/18).

19.2.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

## Weather.

Convoy S.D.37 was hove to this morning in 60.04 N. 15.57 W. (150 miles south of Iceland (C)), one ship only being in company. Both SARDONYX and SHIKARI have lost their asdic domes, and at 1545A the latter reported her after funnel carried away.

SHEFFIELD in 63.25 N. 15.05 W. (120 miles south-east of Seidisfjord) reported at 1125A that half the roof of A turret was washed overboard and her A/S cabinet flooded.

SCYLLA, DASHER and 5 destroyers, unable to enter Akureyri, are hove to off Grimsey Island.

Panamanian SS. EL COSTON reported this morning that she was ashore off Reykjavik.

Convoy C.E.155 was postponed 24 hours on account of fog.

K.X.9.  
WISHART  
attacks  
U/B.

WISHART reports that COLUMBINE one of the escorts of Convoy K.X.9 attacked a U-Boat on the surface at 2140A today and reports that the attack was possibly successful. The position is indecipherable but the 2000A position of the convoy was estimated to be 46.54 N. 13.15 W. (about 240 miles S.W. of Cape Clear).

U/B in  
Cardiff Bay.

A U-Boat was sighted on the surface about 6 miles west of Cardigan Island between 0845 and 0905 yesterday. Four H.M. trawlers were sent out to hunt, and one of them, H.M.T. BERN reported at 0400A today that she had forced the U-Boat to the surface with repeated depth charge attacks and engaged it with gunfire. The U-Boat again submerged and BERN dropped a full pattern across it and believes she damaged the enemy badly. At 0555A the U-Boat was again forced to the surface, then dived again, leaving heavy oil patches. C. in C. W.A. ordered HAVELOCK and other vessels to proceed to co-operate with the trawlers. In all, 16 ships are hunting the U-Boat. Aircraft will assist from about midnight tonight: the weather prevented earlier assistance.

A Leigh light Wellington aircraft attacked a U-Boat at 0200A today in 47.03 N. 05.49 W. (90 miles S.W. of Ushant) with depth charges and estimates one hit.

There was some E-Boat activity last night east of Lowestoft and an Albacore and Beaufighters carried out attacks and claim hits. The object of the E-Boats is not known.

War Diary.

19.2.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

180 out of 194 heavy bombers attacked Wilhelms-  
haven last night in excellent visibility in  
moonlight. Good results are reported.

The Admiralty today informed C. in C. W.A., C. in  
C. Plymouth and F.O.I.C. Gibraltar that the  
energetic and effective air cover provided for  
K.M.F.9, K.M.S.9 and M.K.S.7 prevented a serious  
threat developing and largely accounted for their  
safe passage.

74 out of 89 aircraft laid mines successfully  
last night off Biscay ports and Frisian Islands  
to Elbe.

One ground mine was detonated off Lowestoft  
today.

Foreign Stations.

The Admiralty today suggested that the Pacific  
and Indian Oceans ships of 15 knots and over  
should, if the Masters so desire be sailed in  
pairs for mutual support against surface raiders,  
provided that their speeds do not differ by more  
than one knot and that neither ship is delayed  
sailing by more than 36 hours.

North Atlantic.

Enemy aircraft which fired the correct  
recognition signals dropped two bombs near  
ARIGUANI in tow of NORTHERN GIFT for U.K.  
(position indecipherable) at 1350A today.

/A.S.V. ...

War Diary.

19.2.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - Contd.

A.S.V.  
Aircraft  
Casablanca.

At a meeting today, Combined Chiefs of Staff, Washington, did not agree to the War Cabinet suggestion that the proposal to transfer long range A.S.V. aircraft to the Casablanca Area from U.K. should be deferred until results of the conference on March 1st are available. They feel that the urgent requirement for these aircraft should be met by transferring a squadron from U.K. as early as practicable. Adm. King took the extreme view that the submarine menace is such that counter-measures cannot await completion of training to ideal standards.

German SS. NORDFELS left Bilbao at 1900 for France.

South Atlantic.

DESPATCH arrived at St. Vincent, C. Verde Is. today to fuel, and left again for patrol.

Mediterranean.

P.R.U. today shows that one of the three LITTORIO battleships has left Spezia since 5th February.

U/B  
probably  
sunk.

At 1325, A/S aircraft escorting Operation M.H.6 (Alexandria - Malta convoy) sighted a U-Boat in 32.53 N. 20.58 E. ISIS attacked at 1726 in 32.57 N. 20.54 E., and two minutes later depth charges brought the U-Boat to the surface. It submerged immediately and contact was lost. ISIS and HURSLEY continued to hunt and were joined by HYACINTH, SEAHAM and PROTEA from Benghazi. At 0100/20 HURSLEY reported a large patch of light diesel oil in 32.56 N. 20.52 E., and at 0950/20

/HYACINTH ...

War Diary.

19.2.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

U/B  
probably  
sunk.  
(Contd.)

HYACINTH reported diesel and lubricating oil gushing up in 32.53 N. 20.54 E. C. in C. Levant considers the U-Boat probably sunk.

Tripoli  
Raid.

About 6 enemy aircraft bombed Tripoli last night and damaged the balloon squadron administrative buildings. The harbour was undamaged, but bombs within 150 yards of Navy House demolished a medical headquarters.

L.C.Ts.  
Tunisia.

Pisida and Ben Gardane, occupied by our land forces this week, have been surveyed and found of no use for L.C.Ts. Zuara, however, is possible.

ST. ALBERT.

SS. SAINT ALBERT (German, ex-French) collided with the sea wall at the entrance to Valencia last night and sank.

East Indies.

Heavy escort commitments have delayed the destroyer reinforcements for the Eastern Fleet. The situation is explained in an Admiralty message to C. in C. E.F. today.

America and West Indies.

SS. WILLIAM A. GRAHAM reported that she was engaging a submarine at 0425 today in 31.13 N. 80.58 W. (about 100 miles south of Charleston Va.)



19.2.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Early today 12 Fortress aircraft attacked shipping off Buin. A 9000 ton cargo vessel was hit and left burning furiously. A 7000 ton cargo vessel was hit and was smoking heavily when left. One direct hit and a near miss 10 ft. from the hull were obtained on an 8000 ton vessel, and a possible hit and near misses on a 3000 ton vessel.

A single R/C enemy aircraft, reported as possibly from a submarine, flew over Sydney and Port Kembla after dark last night.

War Diary.

19.2.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M.M.S. F.O.I.C. Harwich is requested to sail two motor minesweepers to Lowestoft as soon as convenient. Commodore Sheerness is requested to sail 2 motor minesweepers to Harwich as soon as convenient. Vessels will operate temporarily from the Bases to which they are sailed period about 14 days. Accounts are not to be transferred. (C. in C. Nore, 1750A/19).

Fitting A.C.Vs. for Arctic. Your 1326/15. Decided that in view of difficulties of fitting Diesel driven ships, the first four steam driven ships commencing with BATTLER should be fitted for Arctic Service. My 1502/3 refers. It is not intended that DASHER which is Diesel driven should be Arcticised and she will not normally be employed on Arctic convoys. It was necessary to employ her on this operation as no steam driven A.C.V. was available. The time available before she was required for operation was insufficient to carry out the more extensive work involved in Arcticising a Diesel ship. (Controller, 1920A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)

Movements.

S.54 S/M S.54 escorted by WOLSEY sailed passing Inchkeith 0840/19th. Details of S.Ps held. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0921A/19 to C. in C. Nore (R) C. in C. Portsmouth, Capt. (S) 5, F.O.(S), Admty) Amendment my 1200A and 1202/19. WOLSEY and S.54 are now E.T.A. Tyne about 0030/20. (C. in C. Nore, 1620A/19).

OXFORDSHIRE My 1609A/17. Delayed 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 0951A/19).

SUSSEX A.M.1213/13 (see shipping) Request confirmation that SUSSEX will call at Gibraltar in view of A.M. 1935/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1018/19 to Admty).

L.23 Estimated noon position 054° 50' N. 022° 00' W. 265° 8½. (C. in C. W.A., 1050A/19 to BRANDON). It is estimated there are large numbers U-boats in the vicinity of your route between longitude 025°-030°. (2) Proceed diving by day during 20th Feb. (3) Estimate you will now pass position D at 1200/22 shift wireless watch at that time. (F.O.S., 1657A/19 to L.23 (R) Cominch C. and R. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Cdre. Commanding N.F. C. in C. W.A. Admty. A.O.C. in C. (C.C.))

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.VANDAL  
(P.64).

My 1659/18 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1456/18.  
Sailed codeword "Empire".  
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1134A/19).  
P.64 escorted by F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE on passage  
Barrow to Clyde tonight.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1546A/19 to CUTTY SARK, PRINCESS  
IRIS, REIGHTON WYKE, (R) LA CAPRICIEUSE).

Flag of  
F.O.(S)

The Flag of Admiral (Submarines) is to be struck  
in DOLPHIN and hoisted in TITANIA at 1230/23.  
It is to be struck in TITANIA and hoisted in  
BONAVENTURE at 1000/24 and struck in BONAVENTURE  
and re hoisted in DOLPHIN at 1200/25.  
(F.O.S. 1244A/19).

P.556

S.5's 1837A/17 to C. in C. Portsmouth. Sailed  
Needles 1310/19.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1340A/19).  
Am proceeding Plymouth.  
(P.556 1810A/19 to C. in C. Portsmouth (R)  
C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C.  
Dartmouth Capt. (S) 5, Capt. (S) 3)

BRANDON

By observation P.C. and S. at 1400Z/19 053° 43'  
N. 020° 56' W. 075° 14 knots.  
(BRANDON, 1350Z/19).

INDOMITABLE.

Your 1552/18 WHITEHALL is to act as additional  
escort proceed Clyde on completion.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1459A/19 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)  
My 1552A/18. Para. 1 Add WHITEHALL (S.O. of  
Escort).  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1706A/19).

ST. ORAN

Your 1447/11 request information as to present  
position H.M. Cable Ship ST. ORAN.  
(D.A/S.W., 1510A/19 to N.O.I.C. Oban).  
Your 1510 ship is at Ardrossan. N.O.I.C.  
Ardrossan's 1512A/18 refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1623A/19 to Admty).

P.556

KINGSTON TURQUOISE pass to P.556. Adjust speed  
to arrive Plymouth not before 0930A/20.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1553/19 to KINGSTON TURQUOISE)

ABDIEL

Intend to sail ABDIEL at 1300/21 Feb. routed  
in accordance with Admty. 2031A/17 Feb. S. of A.  
22 knots to arrive Gibraltar 24 Feb.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1711A/19 to Admty.  
(R) C. in C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C.  
Plymouth, N.C.X.F., ABDIEL, ADVENTURE).

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

Positions of S/MS at 0800A/20th and Movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) TRUCULENT (P.315) 71° 12' N. 21° 40' E.  
 (B) SEANYMPH (P.223) 70° 53' N. 16° 10' E.  
 (C) SIMOON (P.225) 70° 52' N. 14° 28' E.  
 (D) SPORTSMAN (P.229) 70° 01' N. 12° 40' E.  
 The positions of the above S/MS are very approx. owing to bad weather. They are proceeding probably on the surface to patrol off Altenfiord.  
 (E) UREDD in Lofoten Area.  
 (F) VANDAL (P.64) escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE due Cumbræ 0730/20 from southward.  
 (G) U.S.S.R. S.54 escorted by WOLSEY approx. off Cromer for Sheerness.  
 (H) U.S.S. BARB off Vigo.  
 (J) U.S.S. BLACKFISH off Bilbao.  
 (K) O.9 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leaves Dundee 1200/20 due vicinity Duncansby Head 1100/21.  
 (L) L.23 54° 22' N. 26° 35' W. dived by day during 20th thence on surface through 52° 40' W.  
 (F.O.(S) 1716A/19, 1926A/19).

BITER Sailed BITER escorted by VIVACIOUS E.T.A. off Holy Island Clyde 1330A/21.  
 A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange Scapa Light group two 0530 - 0630/20 and Group four 0600 - 0700/20.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth 1800A/19).

ADVENTURE Intend sailing ADVENTURE at 1530/21 routed in accordance with A.M. 2031A/17 S. of A. 17 knots to arrive Gibraltar 26 Feb.  
 (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1857A/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., ADVENTURE, ABDIEL).

P.511 Propose to sail P.511 with convoy P.W.298 on 22nd Feb. for Plymouth. If approved request special escort may be detailed.  
 (Capt. (S) 5, 1915A/19 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

UNIVERSAL (P.57). Intend sailing (P.57) UNIVERSAL at 1130/20 escorted by H.M. AGNES NUTTEN to carry out Gun and Sea Trials in Tyne approach Channel and proceed to Blyth on completion. Request Blyth Sanctuary 1200 to 1700.  
 (N.O.I.C. Tyne, 2212/19 to N.O.I.C. Blyth, C. in C. Rosyth).

/ONSLAUGHT...

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.ONSLAUGHTArrival. My 1651 ?18th at Orkneys Feb. 19th.  
(A.C.I.C. 2229A/19).U.S.S.R.  
S/Ms S.55  
S.56.

Your 1618/16 approved except that S/Ms should be sailed onward from Lerwick at 24 hour intervals at the request of Admiral Kharlamov.

2. Para. 3 (a) of A.M.1840/15 is cancelled. Onward route from 15° E. will be ordered by Admty. after consultation with Soviet Naval Mission.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 2330A/19 to F.O.(S), (R) C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, S.B.N.O. North Russia).

ALLIGATOR,  
EMPIRE ACE.

Following is correct version my 1618/19\*begins Intend to sail tugs ALLIGATOR and EMPIRE ACE 1600A/20 to Gibraltar for onward routing to Kilindini and Capetown respectively.

Ballycottin thence (route), to Gibraltar S. of A.7 knots. EMPIRE ACE 3000 miles.

ALLIGATOR 10 days and 7 knots. Communications. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2357A/19).

\*Previous version of 1618/19 has not been circulated.

Operations.Coastal  
patrols.Patrol tonight Friday Nos. 3 MACKAY 4 QUORN 5 MENDIP 6 COTTESMORE 7, GUILLEMOT close escort F.S. No. 42 HOLDERNESS additional escort WHITSHED, EGLINTON.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0946A/19).

Patrol tonight 19th.

2. Forces employed M.T.Bs. 204 (S.O.) 202, 236, M.G.Bs. 8, 6, 10.
3. Patrol between positions (A) 040° Sept. Iles Light 7 miles and (B) 286° Iles Light 12 miles.
4. Object to intercept enemy on coastal passage.
5. Information P.556 escort KINGSTON TURQUOISE sailed Needles 1330/19 E.T.A. Plymouth 0730/20 GLAISDALE escorting PRINCE LEOPOLD sailed Portsmouth 1900/19 speed 18 knots to Wolf Rock thence GLAISDALE to Plymouth E.T.A. 0830/20. 4 T.L.Cs. escort M.L 347 (S.O.) sailed Dartmouth 2030/19 E.T.A. Needles 0630/20 CLEVELAND sailed Plymouth at 1800/19 approx. to Eastward. Enemy. Coastal shipping with armed escort may pass patrol line W. of Eastbound E-boats may be in Cherbourg, torpedo boats in Le Havre.
6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth 1830 today and proceed position B at speed not exceeding 20 knots. Leave patrol as required to be within 20 miles own coast by 1st light 7 codeword "Arena".
8. Communications.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1344A/19 to M.T.B. 204, 202, 236, M.G.Bs. 8, 6 10, (R) N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, Admty).  
LOCH BLAIR patrolling between 28 and 30 buoy till daylight.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1710A/19).  
Dover dispositions for night of 19/20 Feb. M.Ls. 140 and 143 patrolling between C 1 and D buoys. M.G.Bs. 41 S.2 and S.3 at No.4 buoy.  
(V.A. Dover, 1712A/19 to Admty. C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, N.O.I.C. Newhaven).

/S/Ms...

19.2.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

S/Ms off  
Altenfiord.

Before leaving harbour Russian S/M K.21 was ordered to transfer from Zone 2 to Zone 3 by noon 18th and to report this movement. She has not reported and Russians have requested British S/Ms be (?ordered) to (?westward) of Zones 2 and 2 A until limit of endurance of K.21 which is approx. 7th March. I have replied regretting this cannot be done. 2. F.O.(S) is requested to inform submarines concerned. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1155A/19).

From information received from Russian source it is possible that Russian K.21 who has not answered her recalling may still be operating in zone 2. S/Ms are not to be attacked in this area unless positively identified as hostile.

(F.O.S., 1627A/19, 1023A/20 to S/Ms operating north of lat. 51° N. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Your 1627/19. Area (?concerned) is zone 2.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2122A/19 to F.O.S.)

Allied Air Operations.

Cover for  
K.M.F.9,  
K.M.S.9,  
M.K.S.7.

The energetic and effective air cover provided for K.M.F.9, K.M.S.9 and M.K.S.7 prevented a serious threat developing and largely accounted for their safe passage.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 1221A/19 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, A.O.C. in C. C.C., (R) N.C.X.F.)

Bomber  
Command  
report.

Covering period 1200 /18 to 1200/19.

Night 18/19 Feb. Wilhelmshaven.

A force of 194 Heavies was despatched. Weather over the target turned out to be good with no cloud and excellent visibility in the moonlight. 180 A/C claim to have attacked and good results

have been reported. P.E.F. Markers were in the main, well positioned, and fires were started, which, especially in the dock area, were visible up to about 100 miles from the target. Flak defences were moderate and below the usual standard and the few S/Ls operating, were ineffective in the moonlight. Only two crews have reported seeing enemy night fighters. A Lancaster of 5 Group claims to have destroyed a Ju.88.

Minelaying. 89 A/C were despatched. 74 laid mines successfully in their allotted areas. 4 A/C are missing from Wilhelmshaven, 2 from minelaying. For details see Summary of Ops. No. 553. (H.Q.B.C., 1230A/19.)

E-boats  
attacked.

E-boat activity last night Thursday. At 2200 returning 16 Group A/C reported E-boats in Q.J.P.B. 3349 and Q.J.P.B. 3223 steering to westward. At 0020 Albacore of 841 Squadron on Roadstead patrol B attacked and shadowed E-boats

approx. Q.J.P.B. 4015 steering East. 3 Beaufighters from 12 group also attacked. Hits are claimed. Object of E-boats cannot be determined but it is not thought they reached Z Line. (C. in C. Nore, 1254A/19.)

19.2.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Operations.

Murmansk  
bombed.

Persistent raids by small groups and single planes 0005 to 0630/19th. Superficial blast damage to 3 British, 1 American ship. Seaworthiness not impaired. 2 American ratings slightly injured. Some damage to cargo mostly food and sheds, including shed containing Potassium Chloride in dock area.  
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 1046A/19 to Admty).

Mining.

Off  
Lowestoft.

My 2319/18. SPINA must have been at about 6 Cables as she was considerably shaken. She reports as follows: No plume: Disturbance on surface Mud on surface.  
(M.S.9 1102A/19 to C. in C. Nore).  
LL Sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine at 1525 in 069° 3C buoy 3 miles.  
(F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth 1625A/19, 1925A/19)  
(Capt. M/S Yarmouth 1520A/20).

B.S.87

Your 1642/18th following is proposed programme.  
0600 Leave Immingham 0800 Humber L.V.  
0915 Depart H.3 buoy. 1145 commence laying  
1205 complete laying. 1500 H.3 buoy. 1600 Humber L.V. 1700 Boom.  
(PLOVER, 1125A/19 to C. in C. Nore, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Humber).  
Your 1642/18 to PLOVER M.Ls. 337 and 451 detailed.  
(F.O. Humber, 2158/19 to C. in C. Nore).

"Tincture".

Request you will carry out operation "Tincture" as soon as convenient reporting completion to Admty.  
(D.M.S., 1142A/19 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.)

Biscay ports.  
Frisian Is.  
to Elbe.

See H.Q.B.C., 1230A/19.  
(Allied Air Operations)

Enemy Intelligence.

2 minesweepers

2 enemy minesweepers in 45.50 N. 1° 50' W. course 090° speed 10 knots.  
(A/C QK7/T 0345/19).

/CHICA...

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

CHICA 1 - Information has been received that Germans have  
CHICA 2. bought 2 Spanish Fishing vessels called CHICA  
1 and CHICA 2. Both boats are fitted with special  
wireless equipment and operate in Great Sole Bank  
Area to report on Allied shipping and aircraft  
movements.

(2) If vessels are met they should be examined and if found  
to be carrying wireless apparatus of any unusual type, should be  
sent in or detained pending instructions.

(C. in C. W.A., 2237A/19 to W. Approaches General Message 550 N.)

U-boats.

U/B  
attacked.

Following has been received from A/C QK7B.  
An over enemy S/M in 47° 03' N. 5° 49' W. Enemy  
S/M was sighted on surface. When first sighted  
was on course 065° speed 10 knots.  
(Plymouth W/T, 0150/19)  
A/C QK7B reports:- My 0150. Have attacked enemy  
with depth charges and estimate one hit.  
(Plymouth, 0200A/19).

U/B  
attacked in  
Cardigan Bay.

S/M forced to surface by repeated depth charges.  
Attack engaged with gunfire - again submerged  
and full? dropped across it. Believe now  
badly damaged still attacking moving slowly N.W.  
(BERN 0400A/19).

Proceed at full speed to hunt U/B in approx. 52°  
10' N. 05° 15' W. Trawlers co-operating. Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0543A/19 to HAVELOCK (R) F.O.I.C. Milford  
Haven, Admty. Commodore Londonderry).  
Lost contact 0450 estimate position (000°?) 13 miles S.C.3.  
S/M again forced to surface at acute angle then crashed?  
200 yards?. Heavy oil patches observed. No doubt badly damaged.  
Still sweeping.

(BERN 0555A/19)

Request you will sail PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE, and SWEETBRIAR  
as soon as possible to Hunt U-boats in approx. 052° 10' N. 005°  
15' W. Trawlers and HAVELOCK will be co-operating.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0659A/19 to Capt. (D) Liverpool (R)  
N.O.I.C. Liverpool, HAVELOCK, Admty. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven,  
BERN)

CAPE PORTLAND and MAZURKA now with me believe S/M is  
lying (damaged?) in area 52° (08'?) N. 52° 12' N. 05° 28' W.  
05° 35' W. Propose sweep this area at 0800.

(BERN 0800A/19 to Milford Haven (R) CAPE PORTLAND.)

Sailed H.M.T. TANGO, GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE, FOXTROT, and  
VISENDA E.T.A. Milford Haven 0900A/20 Admty. 1924Z/10 refers.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 0947A/19 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven (R)  
C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool, Admty. Immediate  
to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceed at full speed to hunt a U-boat in 052° 10' N.  
005° 30' W.

(C. in C. W.A., 1002A/19 to TANGO, (R) HAVELOCK,  
SWEETBRIAR, Admty. N.O.I.C. Belfast, N.O.I.C. Milford  
Haven, GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE, FOXTROT, VISENDA, BERN)



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War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.

U/B My P.C. and S. at 1000A 054° 03' 005° 15' 180°  
 attacked in 31 knots.  
 Cardigan (HAVELOCK, 1002A/19 to C. in C. W.A)  
 Bay. Contd. Situation at 0800/19 U-boat believed to be in  
 area 52° 12' N. 52° 08' N. 05° 28' W. 05°  
 35' W. probably damaged having surfaced twice as  
 result of depth charge attacks. BERN  
 conducting sweep with CAPE PORTLAND and MAZURKA. HUDDERSFIELD  
 TOWN, STELLA CARINA and 1 M.L. All in vicinity proceeding to  
 assist. YORK CITY patrolling Tuskar Gap. HAVELOCK off  
 Loch Foyle ordered to proceed at full speed. Five trawlers  
 S.O. TANGO leaving Belfast 0930, three Corvettes S.O. SWEETBRIAR  
 leaving Liverpool 0930 proceeding to position. A/C are co-  
 operating.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1023A/19 to HAVELOCK, SWEETBRIAR, TANGO  
 BERN, STELLA CARINA (R) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C.  
 N.I. N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 19 Group, Cdre. Londonderry  
 Admty. Capt. D. Liverpool. Immediate Rush to ships)  
 My 1036A/18 (not to all addressees) delete PIMPERNEL and  
 SAXIFRAGE. Sailed PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE and SWEETBRIAR in  
 accordance with C. in C. W.A. 0659A/19. My 0926A/19 amended  
 by my 1001A/19 codeword "Heavy" also refers.  
 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1158A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)  
 HUDDERSFIELD TOWN proceed to establish A/S patrol with  
 YORK CITY at entrance of Cap of Tuskar Rock.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1205A/19 to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, (R)  
 BERN, YORK CITY, HAVELOCK, SWEETBRIAR, TANGO F.O.I.C.  
 Milford Haven Admty).  
 On arrival take charge of ships referred to in my 1023/19  
 and conduct search.  
 HUDDERSFIELD TOWN has been detached to join YORK CITY off Tuska  
 Rock vide my 1205/19.  
 Consider U-boat may make for Q.Z.L.18. Maximum speed submerged  
 is not likely to exceed 2½ knots as her batteries are probably  
 low.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1227A/19 to HAVELOCK, (R) SWEETBRIAR, TANGO,  
 BERN, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, Admty).  
 Proceed at best speed to hunt U-boat in 52° 10' N. 05° 30'  
 W. reporting E.T.A. to HAVELOCK.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1614A/19 to P.C. 74 (R) HAVELOCK, SWEETBRIAR  
 TANGO, BERN, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, Admty).  
 C. in C. W.A. 1533A/19th not to all addressees. Night  
 intentions. Based on C. in C. W.A., 1227A/19th patrols as  
 follows. HAVELOCK, SWEETBRIAR, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE and P.C. 74  
 patrol in line abreast between The Smalls and Tuskar Rock.  
 TANGO, PIRQUETTE, GAVOTTE South of Bardsey Is. 255° to Irish Coast  
 VISENDA, FOXTROT, STELLA CARINA in vicinity of 052° 10' N. 005°  
 30' W. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, YORK CITY, patrol in vicinity of  
 Tuska Gap. BERN patrol entrance to Q.Z.L. 18. MAZURKA, CAPE  
 PORTLAND between S. of The Smalls and Skokholm. Skokholm Light  
 has been asked for. If visibility permits HAVELOCK and one  
 Corvette will probably proceed down Q.Z.L. 18, during the night.  
 Ships are taking up patrol on receipt of this signal. Ships  
 acknowledge.  
 (HAVELOCK 1819A/19 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C.  
 Milford Haven, ships mentioned).  
 Owing to weather expect only one searchlight WELLINGTON  
 fitted A.S.V. about midnight. Hasten reply to my 1533/19 not to  
 all addressees.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1938A/19 to HAVELOCK, (R) BERN, F.O.I.C.  
 Milford Haven, SWEETBRIAR, TANGO Admty. 19 Group)

/All...

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.U/B  
attacked in  
Cardigan  
Bay. Contd.

All future messages concerned with your operation will be addressed codeword "Rival" W/T call sign "Baker" "Able" "Easy".

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2153A/19 to PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE P.C.74, SWEETBRIAR, TANGO, GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE, FOXTROT, VISENDA, STELLA CARINA, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, YORK CITY, MAZURKA, CAPE PORTLAND, BERN (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.I.C. N.I.M.)

COLUMBINE  
(K.X.9).

U-boat sighted on surface and attacked by COLUMBINE in 318° 03' 013° 15' possible successful.

(WISHART, 2140A/19 to Admty).

Navigational.Closing  
of ports;  
reporting  
to Admty.

Following is repetition of A.M. 1759/18 Nov. 1941 which remains in force.

Begins: It is essential that news of closure of a port through enemy action or through weather or through other unforeseen causes should reach Admty. immediately. It is equally essential that news of subsequent re-opening should reach Admty.

immediately. Information of closing and opening is to be passed without delay by telephone to Admty. Trade Division extension 1240, being confirmed by signal.

The telephone message is to state time of the occurrence, cause and any forecast possible at the time of speaking.

Forecasts of re-opening are also to be telephoned, but need not necessarily be confirmed by signal. Ends.

(D.T.D., 1942A/19 to A.I.G.12).

Casualties & Defects.

P.G.D.43

P.G.D. 43 distress 000° class 3.

(A.C.O.S., 0053/19 Port Patrick Radio, 0945/19 etc Intercept at 0946 G.M.T. on 500 k/cs. Bearing 348° approx. de P.G.D.43. Begins SOS side split to tween deck filling with water ends.

Not broadcast should this be done.

(Wick, 1049 B.S.T./19 to I.O.R. R.A.F. Wick, A.D.M. Lyness).

BURWELL

Sailed BURWELL E.T.A. 1100/19 with engine defects. (WESTERN ISLES, 0104/19 to Cdre. Londonderry).

EL COSTON

Following has been received from HPWY\*S O S Drifting on rocks at Reykjavik.

(Burnham Radio, 0912/19 Port Patrick Radio, 0914 G.M.T./19) \*EL COSTON (Pan).

/BRYONY...

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.- Contd.

BRYONY Arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0943A/19)

SARDONYX, SHIKARI (S.D. 37). Hove to (corrupt group) 0400 in 060° 04' N. 015° 57' W. \*(U) SS. LEINSTER only in company. Both SARDONYX and SHIKARI have lost domes. Weather report 3652 0669. (SARDONYX 1045A/19 to C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.) \*As received. After funnel carried away. Will require assistance if weather gets worse. My position 060° 47' N. 016° 15' W. (SHIKARI, 1545A/19 to A.C.I.C. (R) SARDONYX). Your 1545/19 return to your Port of departure. (A.C.I.C., 1747A/19 to SHIKARI (R) SARDONYX, C. in C. W.A., Capt. (D) Londonderry).

Unknown Ship. Received at 1015 G.M.T. on 500 k/cs de GNE begins: Intercepted at 1010 G.M.T. from unknown station begins: (unread) Beach have anchors out aft. If wind moderates we will be O.K. please send tug UNCAS. North side of THERNYL (Signals QRI) Ends. (Wick, 1118/19 to I.O.R., R.A.F. Wick, A.D.M. Lyness).

SHEFFIELD My position 63° 25' N. 015° 05' W. hove to on course 255° speed 3 knots. Half of A turret roof washed overboard A/S cabinet flooded. Weather report 3822 8469 wind force 12. (SHEFFIELD, 1125A/19 to C.S.10 (R) C. in C. H.F.)

NAMSOS My 1946/23 Jan. Temporary repairs to NAMSOS may be completed in time for ship to sail in R.U.63 convoy. (A.C.I.C., 1328A/19).

M.M.S.178 Ex P.W.296. Arrived with defects. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1609A/19).

EMPIRE BARD See Shipping.

P.8 P.8. in collision sustained damage. Temporary repairs estimated at ten days. Survey arranged for 1000/20. (D.S.T.O. Glasgow, 1805/19 to D. of S.T.)

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.SS. GLEN  
CREE.

Request you will sail ADHERENT forthwith to Orrisdale Head I.O.M. to tow SS. GLEN CREE off the shore 150 fathoms of towing cable and tow throwing gun will be required. Ship is to arrive not later than 1100/20. On arrival ADHERENT is to act as ordered by Salvage Officer. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2303A/19 to N.O.I.C. Campbelltown (R) F.O.I.C. Liverpool, N.O.I.C. Isle of Man, C. in C. W.A., Admty. ADHERENT).

Shipping & Convoys.Convoy  
J.W.53.

Expect SCYLLA, DASHER and (?5) destroyers for fuel a.m. today Friday. (A.C.I.C. 0031A/19 to S.T.O. Akureyri). Am hove to with DASHER and 5 destroyers in company my position 074° Grimsey Island 24 course 70°

speed 4 knots.

(SCYLLA, 0447Z/19 to A.C.I.C. (R) C. in C. H.F., C.S.10, HOWE). My position 066° 53' N. 015° 42' W. 030° 5 knots. INTREPID, FURY, ECLIPSE, ORKAN, DASHER, IMPULSIVE in company. Intend proceeding Akureyri to fuel as soon as weather permits. ECLIPSE has 40% fuel remaining.

(SCYLLA, 1301A/19 to A.C.I.C. (R) C. in C. H.F., F.O. 10th C.S., Capt. D.3rd, D.F., Capt. D. 8th D.F.) Estimate position 2203 tonight Friday.

All following positions are N. and W. unless otherwise indicated.

ONSLAUGHT due Akureyri. SCYLLA, DASHER 5 destroyers hove to off Grimsey Island to Akureyri.

BELFAST, CUMBERLAND, SHEFFIELD, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA, and destroyers off Seidisfjord.

Fleet Unit NORFOLK 3 destroyers 65.47 11.30 to N.W.

J.W.53 H.M.S. JASON, BERGAMOT, MIDDLETON, PYTCHLEY, MEYNELL, HALCYON, POPPY, LORD AUSTIN, 65.28 08.50 to N.

J.W.53 B. MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, 64.20 07.40 to North.

(A.C.I.C., 1443A/19).

2000 situation. All following positions are North and West. unless otherwise indicated.

DIANELLA 058° 45' 004° 33' to Minches. LYME REGIS, DUNBAR, ARDROSSAN 060° 00' 010° 00' to Hvalfjord.

(A.C.O.S., 1544/19).

A.M.\*1919A/16. Para. 1. Add EXPLORER.

Para. 2. These details are in Mast 391 and 392 also in War Office signals.

(D.T.D., 1658A/19). \* re shipment of stores and equipments.

Signal 174, our signal 172. Decision is in accordance with out signal 155 except for tankers. When latter signal sent we did not know (?Russian) tankers were being included in convoy. 2. Russians have made special request that these tankers should proceed Molotovsk. They assure us they can deal with both Alkilates and Octane there.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Convoy  
J.W.53.  
Contd.

3. Damage derived (?during) Jan. 26th result of ice has been negligible and propellers are well under water.
4. We have agreed send cargo ships and tankers to Molotvsk with following provisoes which have been agreed to by local officials and which Faymonville and Miles are requested to make known to Krutikov.
  - A. That tankers and American cargo ships be met at ice edge by all ice breakers and berthed immediately on arrival.
  - B. That sufficient (?total) cargo be made available to give draft satisfactory to us.
  - C. That no other ships will replace the above at berths until these ships have completed discharging and loading.
  - D. That icebreakers be prepared to escort these vessels upon completion of ballasting tankers and loading cargo vessels, endeavouring to complete both tankers and one cargo vessel to form first out bound group.
5. PETROVSKI and KOMILES will discharge Ekonomia. If TBILISI's draft permits she will discharge Ekonomia otherwise Molotovnex.
6. MOSSOVIET and ANDREMARTI probably discharging in berth at Murmansk so as not repeat not to occupy icebreakers time.

Former now at anchor here.

(Dalgleish, 2104A/19 to Admty).

SHEFFIELD's 1125A/19 to C. in C. H.F. and F.O.C. 10th C.S. only intend to sail GLASGOW to Seidisfjord (Iceland) to relieve SHEFFIELD as soon as weather moderates.

(F.O. 2nd i/c H.F., 2213A/19 to H.F. operational).

Seidisfjord arrivals at 2015/18 FAULKNER, INGLEFIELD, OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT, OB DURATE, ORWELL, MILNE.  
Departures at 1745/19 CAMELLIA, BLUEBELL.

(A.C.I.C., 2256A/19 and 1313A/20).

O.N.167  
L.23

By D/F on 4,540 k/cs at 2113Z/18 U-boat estimated to be in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C., 0100A/19 to Escorts of O.N.167, L.23.

(R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.(S), H.Q.C.C., Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.T.G.24.7).

K.M.S.10

Convoy K.M.S.10 consisting of 60 ships (names) for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Bougie, Philippeville, Bone, Lisbon and uncertain will leave U.K. on 26th Feb. from Clyde.

3. All ships have a speed of 9 knots.
4. A/S Escort will be provided by Escort Group C.1. consisting of ST. CROIX, BURWELL, NAPANEE, BATTLEFORD, KENOGAMI, SHEDIAC, four ships of 16th M/S F. FORT YORK, PARRSBORO, QUALICUM and WEDGEPORT will sail as additional escort.
5. S.O. escort by S.O. of C.1. Group in ST. CROIX.
7. Admty. will promulgate route.
8. F.O.I.C. Greenock arrange conference and to sail ships as requisite.
9. C. in C. W.A., detail escorts and arrange sailing ships as requisite.
10. Fighter protection codeword "Leveret".  
(D.O.D. (H), 0105A/19).

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Shipping & Convoys.

- K.M.S.10  
Contd. A.M. 0105/19 not to TYNEDALE Convoy K.M.S.10 R/V at 0800Z/27 in G. 270° Oversay 6 miles thence through position H.55.01 11.02 J. 49.58 13.30 K. 40.00 13.32 L. 36.05 09.59 thence as ordered by N.C.X.F.  
2. Stragglers route. Details.  
3. Speed estimated at 8 knots is to be adjusted to pass through position L at 2000Z/6.  
(D.O.D. (H) 1820A/19 and 2130A/22).
- BARON  
NAPIER.  
(K.X.9). My 1544A/16. BARON NAPIER returned from convoy K.X. 9 Boiler defects.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0956A/19).
- TJALDUR,  
KRANJI. Intend sailing at 1300/20th SS. TJALDUR, KRANJI for Lerwick with troops escorted by FORFEIT. Routed my 1535/19 Jan. S. of A. 9 knots K.T.A. Lerwick, 1300/21 request fighter protection.  
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1010/19 to C. in C. Rosyth, (R) Admty. A.C.O.S., N.O.I.C. Lerwick, N.C.S.O. Lerwick).
- S.C.119 (1) If convoy is unable to reach Bar L.V. by 1100 A/22nd ships for Mersey Ports capable of arriving by that time are to be detached as necessary with instructions to report their E.T.A. (2) 1 (One) escort is to be detailed for Loch Ewe section and remain in company to destination.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1145A/19 to Escorts of S.C.119).
- O.S.43 My 1023/18th\*not to B.N.L.O. Dakar. Fuel is available at Dakar. F.O.I.C. W.Af. pass to B.N.L.O. Dakar.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1202A/19 to PELICAN)  
\*re-fuelling at Dakar or Casablanca.
- North  
Atlantic  
and North  
Russia  
Convoy escorts. A.M. 1400/31 Jan. not to F.O.I.C. N.I. or C.N.S. Canada. C.N.S. Canada has agreed to accept six A/S trawlers. A further six later will be the subject of discussion.  
2. This will necessitate the trawler escort with North Russian convoys being reduced to two per convoy. C. in C. H.F. 1927/1 and 1654/2 and C. in C. W.A. 2238/1 not to F.O.I.C. N.I. or C.N.S. Canada refer.  
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to select six ocean escort trawlers from the 28 now based at Belfast and to report names by signal to Admty.  
4. Trawlers are required to arrive Halifax by 1st April and C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for the necessary fitting out and for a short work up.  
5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to report whether he intends sailing these trawlers as additional escorts to convoy or by themselves.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1332A/19 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., (R) F.O.I.C. N.I., C.N.S. Canada).

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19.2.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- C.E.155 My 1537A/18. \* Convoy C.E.155 postponed 24 hours due to fog.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1454A/19)  
\*Sailing of C.E.155 and escort to Humber.
- O.N., O.N.S. Pass to F.O.I.Cs. and N.C.S.Os.  
convoys - As a general guide the following minimum speed  
speeds, requirements for ships under 2500 g.r.t. for  
tonnages. inclusion in O.N. O.N.S. convoys have been  
agreed with M.O.W.T.
1. Until 14th April - (a) for vessels of 2,000 to 2,499 g.r.t. one knot in excess of nominal  
convoy speed: (b) no vessel below 2,000 g.r.t. to be included.
  2. From 15th April - (a) for vessels of 1,400 to 2,499 g.r.t.  $\frac{1}{2}$  knot. in excess of nominal convoy speed.  
(b) no vessel below 1,400 to be included.
  3. For K.M.S. and O.S. convoys para. 2 is operative forthwith.
  4. Speed to be taken as Master's declared speed.
  5. Exceptions to the above to be referred to the Admty. for consultation with M.W.T.  
(D.T.D., 1606A/19 to A.I.G.21)
- HALKANES, Icelandic Trawlers HALKANES and KARL SEFNI not  
KARL yet arrived.  
SEFNI. (N.C.S.O. Thurso 1655A/19).
- EMPIRE BARD. Kola Inlet arrival S.B.N.O. Archangel 1521/13  
EMPIRE BARD with damaged rudder and steering gear.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1739A/19 to Admty).
- S.D.37 SHIKARI reports that her after funnel has been carried away in 060° 47' N. 016° 15' W. at 1545A.  
As she has also lost her dome I have ordered her to return to her port of departure. Request another destroyer may be provided for S.D.37.  
(A.C.I.C., 1756A/19 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. H.F.; Capt. D. Londonderry, SHIKARI, SARDONYX).
- O.N. - H.X., It is understood that it is required to start  
O.N.S.- S.C. O.N. - H.X. convoys on seven day cycle and  
convoys. O.N.S. - S.C. convoys on nine day cycle.
2. For this scheme eleven groups are required, and it has been assumed that C.3 group will be ready to rejoin Mid-ocean escort on March 11th after training period, and that C.1. and C.4, groups will be available on April 6th and 13th respectively on completion of duties assigned in my 1655/17.
  3. System proposed is that six groups should escort fast convoys both ways and five groups escort slow convoys both ways.
  4. Timing of system is as follows. O.N. sail Liverpool day 0. H.X. sail New York day 13. H.X. arrive Liverpool day 29. O.N. sail Liverpool day 42. O.N.S. sail Liverpool day 0. S.C. sail New York day 15. S.C. arrive Liverpool day 34. O.N.S. sail Liverpool day 45.

19.2.1943.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N. - H.X., 5. It is for consideration whether O.N. and  
 O.N.S. - S.C. O.N.S. convoys should be renamed and numbered  
 convoys. consecutively to each type of convoy on starting  
 Contd. the new system, since fast and slow convoys will  
 no longer necessarily sail alternately. As a  
 matter of convenience, O.N. convoys have been  
 called F.1. etc. O.N.S. convoys S.1. etc.
6. To put new cycles into operation as soon as possible,  
 following sailing dates are proposed.  
 (A) O.N.172 March 13th, F.1 March 21st F.2 March 29th then  
 seven day cycle.  
 (B) H.X. 229 March 10th then 8 day cycle. H.X. 233 April 11th  
 then seven day cycle.  
 (C) O.N.S. 173 March 14th then nine day cycle.  
 (D) S.C.123 March 15th S.C. 124 March 20th then nine day cycle.
7. Escort assignments are as follows.  
 (A) B.3 O.N.S. 167, H.X 228, B.5. O.N. 168, S.C.122.  
 B.4. O.N.S. 169, H.X. 229, C.3. Sail direct to Newfoundland for  
 S.C.123.  
 (B) Fast convoys B.2., O.N.170, H.X.230. Then in the order,  
 B.7. A.3., B.5, C.1, C.4.  
 (C) Slow convoys B.1. O.N.S. 171, S.C. 124, Then in the order  
 B.6, B.3, B.4, C.3,
8. When in full operation this programme would be eleven to  
 fourteen days in U.K. for all groups for boiler cleaning and  
 training and six days in Newfoundland.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1905A/19 to Admiralty).

M/Vs in  
 North  
 Russia.

Signal 175. Ocean-going ships of group 3 arrived  
 after 6 days passage. All these vessels can  
 proceed without repairs here. JEFFERSON MYERS  
 Propellor will need to be dealt with in due course  
 2. Will report on EMPIRE BARD later.  
 (Dalgleish, 2109A/19 to Admty).

Barry roads  
 as assembly  
 anchorage.

C. in C. W.A. 1009/18 the following observations  
 are put forward for consideration.

1. The use of Barry Roads as an assembly  
 anchorage would permit ships from Bristol Channel  
 Ports to be sailed at least 24 hours later than  
 at present. Whether this will conduce to the  
 increased use of tonnage over a period needs investigation.

2. R/Vs with Liverpool Section should be suitable arranged  
 between N.C.S.O. Mersey and N.C.S.O.B.C. Ports to allow latest  
 sailings possible from the latter ports.

3. Barry Roads is equally liable to enemy minelaying as  
 Milford Haven, but with the entry into Milford Haven being  
 dispensed with the dual risk would be avoided.

4. The possible use of Milford Haven as an operational port  
 calls for an alternative convoy assembly port, and an adequate  
 alternative organisation which could be readily brought into  
 force.

5. The defence of ships in Barry Roads against all forms of  
 attack will need investigation.

6. The A.N.D. arrangements approaching completion at Milford  
 Haven are intended for the equipment of all outward bound  
 ships of 7,000 tons and over from Bristol Channel ports on each  
 voyage.



War Diary.

19.2.1943.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Barry roads  
as assembly  
anchorage.  
Contd.

7. Congestion might arise at Barry Roads from the assembly of more than one convoy at a time combined with the simultaneous arrival from a homeward bound convoy of ships for discharge at Bristol Channel ports (conditions which do not apply to Milford Haven)

8. I strongly recommend that before any decision is arrived at, a meeting be held at Barry. F.O.I.C. Cardiff, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, N.C.S.O.'s concerned and Admty. Trade Division to be represented. Conference to include discussion of unified control in Bristol Channel.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2359/19).

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

M.K.F.9. Owing to defects KRAKOWIAK is unable to sail  
BALSAM. with M.K.F.9. 2. Intend sailing BALSAM  
in place of KRAKOWIAK.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 0235A/19 to N.C.X.F. Admty.)  
W.D.Note: But see 2220A/19, from which it  
appears KRAKOWIAK did sail.

Convoy Your 2221Z/16th and Admty. 1210A/17th. Request  
C.F.11. verification latitude point V 38° 30'.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 0815A/19 to F.O.C.W.A. (R)  
Admty.)

BARWIND, BARWIND has had to enter Agadir with propeller  
DUNKERY. defect. Will signal immediately (?to) indicate  
delay.  
(DUNKERY 0831Z/19 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)  
Proceeding from Agadir at 1200Z/19. BARWIND in  
company.  
(DUNKERY 1115Z/19 to V.A.Gibraltar.)

M.K.F.9. Sailed 0715 CAMPION, VIOLET, MALLOW, MYOSOTIS,  
CARNATION, BALSAM escorting convoy M.K.F.9.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 0908A/19 to Admty. etc.)

Gibraltar A.C.H.Q.Algiers now advise supply of petroleum  
Oil supplies products to Gibraltar cannot (repeat cannot)  
for N.Africa. be assured until shipping position further  
examined and supplies should continue as in  
past until further advice. Request instructions  
when next bid is required for 100 Octane and  
M.T.spirits.  
Please advise Air Ministry and Admiralty.  
(Govr. Gib. 1000A/19 to W.O.)

NYASA My 1918/16 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. NYASA is one  
(Portuguese of the ships referred to in Arfar 132 of 6th Oct.  
interception). 2. Special points are:  
(A) Vessel possibly shipped unknown quantity of  
Monazite sand. (description.)  
(B) Immigration Doctor Artur de Almeida Coimbra and Purser  
Soares de Andrade believed carrying Axis mail.  
(C) If films from South America found report details.  
(D) Following Portuguese passengers suspected. Joao Vitorina  
Holbeche and Maria Amalia Rodrigues Costa as smugglers or  
couriers. Silvestre Vieira de Carvalho as platinum smuggler.  
3. Report currency and valuables carried by Portuguese  
passenger Antonio Da Silva.  
4. Report results and do not release ship until instructed.  
(D.E.W.D. 1131A/19 to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- Dispositions. Situation at 2002A/19th.  
TAKU 39.17 10.27 338° diving by day 2½ surfacing by night 10. (see 2301A/19.)
2. M.K.F. 9, CAMPION 36.13 08.20 through 37.01 11.01 and 39.58 11.01 thence 312° 13.
  3. R.S.1 (X) DUNKERY left vicinity Agadir a.m. 19th through 29.26 11.28 and 28.20 13.03 thence 221° 8½.
  4. LIDDESDALE 2 destroyers 43.02 10.05 through 37.01 10.01 thence 132° 18.
  5. S.R.1 PENTSTEMON 27.48 13.28 through 28.03 13.14 thence 36° 5¼.
  6. C.F.11 Fleet Unit HOTSPUR 28,10 13.04 through 29.01 12.01 thence 00.12
  7. JAMAICA 40.18. 18.12 through 41.30 20.01 and 43.30 20.01 thence 270° 18.
  8. ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG, LADY DENISON-PENDER expected sailing from vicinity of Madeira a.m. 20th to Gibraltar 9 knots.
  9. NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, SAMSONIA towing 1 merchant ship (E) 39.05 12.05 through 40.01 12.30 thence 00° 3.
  10. U.C.1. WESTON 42.32 13.14 185° 10.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1132A/19.)  
My 1132/19th.\* Amend course to read through 040° 08' 010° 54' at 0200A/20th, thence to 042° 59' 011° 48'.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 2301A/19.)  
\*W.D.Note. No para. mentioned, but presumably (1) intended TAKU.
- Situation 2001A/19th.
2. U.G.S. 5 C.T.F. 35 (E) 29.26 17.10 through 28.59 24.02 thence 074° 8½.
  3. Portuguese Naval Tanker SAMBRAZ 30.10 29.40 243° 11.  
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1215A/19.)
- Situation 1958A/19th.
2. French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES 26.55 34.42 through 27.19 31.01 thence 135° 20.  
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1251A/19.)

MIRROR. My 1847/12. On completion of operation given in your 2037/6th and 2038/9th intend MIRROR escorted by ARCTIC RANGER proceed direct to carry out operation given in your 1833/29th Jan. (F.O.C.Gib. 1138A/19 to Admt. N.C.X.F.)

CORRIENTES German CORRIENTES now berthed alongside old breakwater about 250 metres from Southern end, bow North.  
(Las Palmas 1145/19 to Admt. (R) S.O.I. Gib. B.N.A. Madrid.)  
My 1145/19. Onward "berthed" insert "Inner Harbour".  
(Las Palmas, 1200/20.)

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- O.S.43. My 1843/9 1117/16 and 1023/18.  
Request you will signal PELICAN concerning possibility of fuelling at Casablanca as escorts anti-sub policy may depend on this.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1154A/19 to F.O.Gibraltar (R) Admty. R.A.W.A.F. PELICAN.)  
C. in C.W.A. 1154/19th. Fuelling at Casablanca can be arranged but ship must not arrive or sail during dark hours.  
(V.A.Gibraltar 1721A/19 to PELICAN (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.O.I.C. West Africa.)
- LADY DENISON-PENDER. My 1533/29th Jan.  
1. LADY DENISON PENDER reports unable to complete operation due to adverse weather.  
2. Escorted by ST. NECTAN and LOCH OSKAIG she intends to leave Funchal a.m./20 routed direct to Gibraltar, S.O.A. 8½ knots.  
3. Intend to sail LADY DENISON PENDER to continue operation on completion of fuelling etc.  
(F.O.Gib. 1244A/19 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. S.N.O.C.A. F.O.C.W.A.)
- U-Boats. Estimated positions 0800/19th.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1352A/19 to N.C.X.F.)
- AMERICAN PRESS. Your 1738Z/17. No trace of your 1614/30 in Admty. Request repetition.  
2. Did AMERICAN PRESS arrive ahead of Convoy, position not clear.  
(D.T.D. 1425A/19 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F.)  
Reply: 1415Z/20.
- A/C attack on ARIGUANI after correct recognition signals. Following received corrupt from NORTHERN GIFT addressed F.O.C. Gib. (Begins) - F.O.C. Gib. from NORTHERN GIFT. Enemy aircraft dropped two bombs, near ARIGUANI (several corrupt groups) 012° 12' W. Aircraft fired correct recognition signals.  
T.O.O. 1350A/19. (Ends.)  
(F.O.Gib. 1720A/19 to Admty. C. in C.Plymouth.)
- Air R/C. P.R.U. Feb. 19th visuals.  
1500 Naples 2 cruisers. Photographs. 1510 Taranto 2 battleships 2 cruisers. Photographs. 1545 Messina 3 destroyers. Photographs.  
(A.S.Gibraltar 1730A/19 to C. in C.Med. N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S.Bone, Cmdre Algiers S.O.Force I S.O. Force Q DERWENT (R) Admty. V.A.Gibraltar S.O.Force H.)
- G.U.S.4 My 1011/16 Add ESSO MONTPELIER (T) request pendant numbers.  
(F.O.C.Gib. 1731A/19 to S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. Connnav.)

/Your...

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- G.U.S.4.  
(Contd.) Your 2006/17. ESSO MONTPELIER is now included in G.U.S.4.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1821A/19 to Admty. S.N.O.C.A. N.C.X.F. Connav.)
- M.K.S.8. My 2013/15 delete GERYBRYN, RHESUS, AURISTA, FERNEBANK, INCOMATI. Add EMPRESS OF RUSSIA 12½ knots. Remainder unknown.  
Following are convoy details - Request pendant numbers and destinations. Agreed M.W.T.R. and D.S.T.O.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1731A/19 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc. ) Reply: Admty. 1727/20.
- M.K.S.8. Your 2013/15. Sailing destinations. A.M. 1913/17 refers.  
(D.T.D. 1913A/19 to F.O.C.Gib. (R) N.C.X.F.)
- R.S.1.(Y) Intend to sail - for Freetown - SALVIKING (for Ceylon); for Casablanca - CHATEAU LATOUR, DJEBEL AURES, SIDI BEL ABBES; for Dakar - JANINE.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1732A/19 to S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.C.Freetown (R) N.C.X.F. Connav, Admty.)  
W.D.Note Sailed 21/2.
- TAKU. Your 2239/15. In order to give wider berth to K.X.9 request position C may be amended to 44.59 N. 12.26 W.  
(D.O.D.(H) 1826A/19 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.(S) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth S.3 S.8.)  
A.M. 19th not to F.O.S. and TAKU. Alter course at 0200/20th and steer for new position C. 044° 59' N. 012° 26' W. omitting position C given in my 2239/15th and sailing orders.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 2221A/19 to TAKU (R) N.O.I.C. Liverpool, C. in C. W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, Capt. S.3. Capt. S.8 Admty. F.O.S.)
- NIMBLE. Arrival Tug NIMBLE.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1941A/19 to Admty. etc.)
- Movements. Arrivals 0100 - OAKLEY, CALPE, PUCKERIDGE, HOLCOMBE, O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK with M.K.F.9.  
Departures 0200 OAKLEY, CALPE, PUCKERIDGE, HOLCOMBE for Mers El Kebir 0942 KATHIAWAR, KUMAON for Oran.  
1500 ARCTIC RANGER relieving KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE as escort to Cable Ship MIRROR.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 2005A/19 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)  
Arrival VANOC, BOREAS escorting S.S. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 2030A/19 to Admty.)

/U/B...

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B

S/B on surface sighted 32.22 N. 16.32 W.  
between 1300 1330 steering west.  
(N.A.Lisbon 2015/19 to D.N.I.)

U.G.F.5.

Task Force 36 arriving with U.G.F.5 R.A.F.  
Pinnace departed for Gibraltar.  
(S.N.O.C.A. 2120Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

M.K.F.9.  
KRAKOWIAK.

KRAKOWIAK sailed 1920A/19th to overtake through  
position A. 036° 45' N. 009° 10' W.  
B. 038° 11' N. (?007°) 01' W. thence direct  
to Q:S.O.A. 20 knots.

T.C.A.O. 16 (A) submerged (B) TAKU (C) 0200/20 - 40.08 10.54  
0430/21 - 42.59 11.48 (D) 10 knots.

2. All times zone minus 1. Positions N. and W.

3. Cancel my 2237/15 at 0200/20.

(F.O.Gibraltar 2253A/19 to R.A.F.Gibraltar H.Q.C.C. (R) Admty.  
F.O.S.)

BRIDGEWATER.

Passing through 033° 10' N. 020° 56' E. 244°  
10 knots altering to 154° at 0030.  
(BRIDGEWATER 2315B/19 to HURSLEY, ISIS, (R) 247  
Wing.)

# SECRET

N.A.

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.)

2330/19th February

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

Date 20.2.43

From: Madrid

Recd. 0925

TELEGRAM

Addressed: Foreign Office.  
IMPORTANT

*Spanish Shipping Service to Allies.*

Sir S. Hoare.  
No. 341. 19th February 1943.

*Spanish Shipping Service to Allies.*

Under the arrangements I have been able to make with the Spanish authorities and shipping interests during the past year or so, a not inconsiderable amount of assistance in the United Nations' interests is being received from Spanish ships including: (a) transport of miscellaneous full cargoes of wine, cement and general cargo from the Peninsula to British West and French Equatorial Africa, (b) transport of full cargoes of potash and general cargo from Barcelona and other ports inaccessible to British ships, to the south of Spain and Portugal for sailing on to Britain, (c) the charter of Spanish ships for full cargoes of Red Cross supplies from Lisbon to Marseilles for our prisoners of war, (d) the placing at British disposal by Spanish shipping companies (especially Aznar) of regular monthly quantities of 100/250 tons of free space from the Argentine to Lisbon for our Red Cross prisoners of war service, (e) the placing at the disposal of the island of Trinidad by Ybarra liners of 50 tons of refrigerated space from the Argentine on each voyage, (f) the transport to the United States from Spain of full cargoes of pyrites, strontium, manufactured cork, fluospar, olives and general cargo. Endeavours are being made to increase the present rate of 4 shillings per mensem (sic).

Examples (a) and (f) of course refer to outward cargoes on voyages undertaken primarily in the Spanish interest for the purpose of bringing to Spain cargoes on the homeward voyage. The other examples are however of a much more disinterested type of assistance involving in most cases the concessions of ships or space which the Spaniards need themselves.

2. Another type of assistance rendered by Spanish shipping has been the rescue of many torpedoed British crews, sometimes under very meritorious circumstances, followed frequently by deviation of the ship concerned, at my request, to ports off the ships routes for the purpose of landing survivors at places whence repatriation was likely to take place more quickly. It has never been possible to induce the companies concerned to accept any compensation for expenses caused by these deviations.

3. Perhaps these aspects could be borne in mind in connexion with our attitude towards Spanish shipping and particularly with regard to the discussions now taking place in London about the Spanish shipping problem.

4. Please communicate the contents of this telegram to Ellis Rees with reference to his personal letter to me on the shipping question.

2330/19

Received from Foreign Office 2347/24th Feb.

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (2)  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (U.T) (2)  
Nav. Sec.  
Sec.  
U.W.R.  
Ops. (3)  
O.D. (5)  
D.N.I. (5)  
O.I.C. (3)  
D.S.D. 9. (2)  
D.E.W.D. (3)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (M)  
D.T.D. (C)  
P.A.S. (S)  
M. (2)  
Ad. Blake (4)  
Ad. Ramsay (4)  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.

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Mr. J. W. Barron  
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Mr. L. A. Common  
Mr. G. P. Christopher  
Mr. W. Graham  
Mr. C. F. Brown  
Mr. F. A. Rawlings  
Mr. F. H. Jenkins  
The Minister  
Sir C. Hurcomb  
Sir V. Thomson  
Mr. F. A. Griffiths  
Mr. T. G. Jenkins  
Mr. W. G. Hynard  
Sir W. Currie (2)  
Mr. G. Peat  
Mr. J. G. Simon  
Mr. C. C. Fisher

External

War Reg. (Admiralty) (2)  
American Section (8)

LHM.



War Diary19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

OCEAN VESPER. Target broken adrift position approx. 260° 35 miles from Cape St. Francis.  
( OCEAN VESPER, 0100 G.M.T./19 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. Adm. Liverpool.)

GEORGES LEYGUES. My 2330/10/ has not been passed to GEORGES LEYGUES. Request you will do so by safe hand on her return to harbour.  
( D.O.D. (F) 0824A/19 to F.O.C.W.A.)

THYME NESTOR. Serial No. 55.  
Arrival St. Helena 0800Z/19th. Feb.  
( Gen. St. Helena, 0830Z/19 to Admty.)  
Serial No. 55. Departure St. Helena 1700/19th Feb. THYME escorting NESTOR.  
(Gen. St. Helena, 1705Z/19 to Admty.)

MONTE NARANCO ADRIAS. Part company with MONTE NARANCO after dark 19th. Feb. and proceed Bathurst to provide escort HAI LEE to Freetown.  
( F.O.C.W.A. 0911Z/19 to G.S. ADRIAS (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty., Com. Dakar.)  
E.T.A. Bathurst 1200Z/20th. Request pilot.  
( ADRIAS 2021Z/19 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) Admty., F.O.W.A. Comar, Dakar.)

DESPATCH. My 1527/15th.  
DESPATCH will now leave St. Vincent ( Cape Verde Isles.) for patrol p.m. 19th Feb.  
( F.O.W.A. 0915Z/19 to Admty.)  
Departure DESPATCH.  
( N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 1435/19 to Admty., (R)S.O.I. Freetown.)  
Arrival 19th DESPATCH.  
( N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 1608/19 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Freetown.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1959Z/19th. COMMANDANT DROGOU F.S. escorting 07.32 14.20 to Freetown 11. M.L.209 and 244 about 07.18 14.20 to Marshall 10. ST. WISTAN escorting about 06.10 02.50 East to Eastwards. ARMERIA probably off Congo River to Takoradi.  
( F.O.C.W.A. 1153/19 to A.I.G,150)

WAYLAND, QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH, QUALITY, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, CANTON, CILICIA, with W.S. 26,023 50' S. 013° 00' E. to 029° 59' S. 015° 41' E. 12½.  
FRITILLARY, CAPE WARWICK, with N.C.2, 029° 10' S. 016° 05' E. to Cape 7½. ROCKROSE, NORTHERN DAWN, MOOIVLEI 6.N.9 032° 20' S. 017° E. to Walvis Bay 9. Convoy D.C.8 off Cape Point to Capetown. ST. ZENO, LE TIGRE 037° 20' S. 020° 50' E. to Capetown 9.

War Diary19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.

Dispositions. BLACKMOOR 033° 15' S. 017° 36' E. to 028° S. 014° 50' E. 20. BALUCHISTAN with C.A. 13A 033° 40' S. 027° 30' E. to Durban 9. Convoy D.C.9 031° 45' S. 030° 10' E. to Capetown 8. NIGELLA off Durban. STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY with C.N.8 024° S. 014° 40' E. to Walvis Bay 8. (C. in C. S.A. 1157C/19 to A.I.G. 125.)

Situation at 1958Z/19th.

French Cr. GEORGE LEYGUES 26.49 35.25 to 27.19 19.31 01 thence 135°19. DESPATCH about 17.27 26.40 to 19.01 30.59 thence 270° 20. ADRIAS about 17.27 21.58 to Pernambuco 14. French Cr. GLOIRE 14.04 23.03 084°18. ORFSAY escorting 10.51 17.05 to 11.01 17.18 thence 359°8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. French ships QUERCY, GRACIEUSE, about 12.11 17.14 to Dakar 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. FANDANGO 4 M.L's off Cape Verde Is. to Bathurst 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. BRIDGEWATER, INKPEN with R.S.1, 11.58 18.00 to 11.01 18.01 thence to S.E. PETUNIA about 18.48 17.38 180°12.

(R.A.W.A., 1219Z/19)

Bullrush  
Device on  
U/B's.

A.M. 1700/14 and your 1516C/15. Bullrush contraption is believed from recent prisoners to be a collapsible crow's nest. U/B's can dive with this in any position between vertical and horizontal. (D.S.D. 1154A/19 to C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C.E.F etc.)

EMPIRE  
SAM  
DRANGEY.  
KELT.

Report if EMPIRE SAM will undertake towage of KELT under conditions given in D. of S.T. 2141/17 (re gratuities for towage) If not, DRANGEY and EMPIRE SAM must not be delayed further in Lagos area (F.O.W.A. 1209Z/19 to Res. N.O. Lagos, C. in C. S.A M.W.T.R. Lagos, D. of S.T.)

MEMPHIS  
KEARNEY.

Arrival 18th U.S. Cr. MEMPHIS, U.S. Destroyer KEARNEY. (R.O. Bahia 1225Z/19 to Admty.)

CYCLAMEN.

Corvette CYCLAMEN can arrive Boma to dock about 1st. March. Request information if this date acceptable. (F.O.C.W.A. 1244Z/19 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi R.N.O. Lagos V. Consul Matadi, (R) Admty.)

DEER LODGE  
(sunk 17/2)

DEER LODGE (American) torpedoed and sunk in 033° 46' S. 026° 57' E. at 0555 G.M.T. Feb. 17th. 2 torpedoes - German S/M, 2 periscopes (1 with cow top 1 with pencil top). 45 survivors landed Port Elizabeth, 10 picked up by ATLANTIS proceeding Capetown. 1 man killed, 1 man missing, all boats and rafts accounted for, ship did not open fire, S S S S and S O S sent out for I.D. JENSEN. (N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth, 1250C/19 to C. in C.S.A. Admty. etc)

/DEER LODGE ...

722

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.

DEER LODGE DEER LODGE (American) sunk by torpedo 0155 G.M.T.  
(sunk 17/2) 17th Feb. 033° 46' S. 026° 57' E. (casualties)  
(N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth 1617C/19 to Admty.)

W.D. Note:- Difference in time.

QUEEN P.S.T.O. Capetown's 1127/17. QUEEN MARY and  
MARY AQUITANIA are primarily allocated for Prisoners of  
AQUITANIA. War and in view of large number to be carried the  
safety of other passengers would be liable to be  
jeopardized in event of disaster.

2. No objection to embarking to capacity such service personnel  
as can be used to augment guards but suggest no other passengers  
be carried unless of highest priority.

3. Women and children are not to be embarked.  
( D.O.D.(F) 1546A/19 to C. in C.S.A. (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown etc.)

SOUND FISHER Following 4 ships, SOUND FISHER, EMPIRE SEDGE,  
EMPIRE SEDGE EMPIRE STRAIT, EMPIRE NESS, for Takoradi in K.X.9  
EMPIRE STRAIT will be required for special operations on their  
EMPIRE NESS. return to U.K. Requested they may be turned  
round as expeditiously as possible and intended  
homeward routing reported when decided.  
( D.T.D. 1605A/19 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) F.O.C.N.A.etc.)

HILARY Admty. 1851A/2. Intend to include HILARY in con-  
S.R.2. voy S,R,2 leaving Freetown A.M. 24th Feb.  
No other escort available.  
( F.O.C.W.A., 1641Z/19 to Admty.(R) F.O. Gib. etc.)

CARNARVON C. in C. S.A. 2133/13th. From position (S) 010°  
CASTLE. S. 022° W. carry out blockade runner patrol through  
(T) 04 N. 21 W. (U) 08.27 (V) 04.26 (W) 07.28  
thence as ordered by F.O.W.Af. On sailing report  
E.T.A. position (S) and estimated speed made good on patrol.  
( F.O.C.W.A. 1809Z/19 to CARNARVON CASTLE.(R) C. in C. S.A.  
Admty., Comsolant, N.A. Montevideo.)

MATAROA. Admty.'s 1946A/5th. MATAROA unable to reach  
Freetown in time for S.L. 126. She cannot sail  
for Montevideo before 2nd March due Freetown 15th  
speed 13½ knots, bunkers required nil.  
( B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1815Z/19 to F.O.C. W.A. (R) Admty.,  
C. in C. S.A., B.A.D. for C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

HAI LEE My 1208/17th not to Admty. Sailed HAI LEE  
HYDRANGEA. escorted HYDRANGEA 0800/19th for Bathurst.  
( B.N.L.O. Dakar 1852Z/19 to F.O.C. W.Af. (R)  
N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty., Comar Dakar.)

S.L. 127. JANETA and JOHILLA accepted. Your 2127/16th  
refers.  
(N.O. (I) Freetown 1911Z/19 to B.R.L.O. Rio de  
Janeiro, (R) Admty., C. in C.S.A.)

/My...

War Diary.

19.2.1945.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

S.L.127. My 2127Z/16th. LEIGHTON should read speed  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots due Freetown 18th.  
( B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 2101Z/19 to F.O.C. West Africa, (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

EGERO Your 0205/17. EGERO on Completion discharge destination Trinidad. Presume endeavour will be made to join a B.T. convoy. Request confirmation and expected sailing date.  
EMPIRE  
FLINT. 2. Ref. N.O.I.C. Lagos 1225/16. Can you arrange with Consolant for EMPIRE FLINT to join B.T. 5. for escort into Trinidad?  
( D.T.D. 1950A/19 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

Movements. Departure Feb. Brazilian Minelayer CABEDELLO and Survey vessel RIO BRANCO arrival 18th U.S. Corvettes SAUCY and SPRY Sub. Chaser P.C. 493 and 574 and Brazilian survey vessel RIO BRANCO.  
( R.O. Pernambuco, 2001Z/19 to Admty.)

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Algiers  
Gunmounting  
Repair  
Depot.      Your 1315/16. Details of spares and mounting available.  
(Head of Gunnery Branch, 0207A/19 to N.C.X.F.)

ATHLONE  
CASTLE.      ATHLONE CASTLE in U.G.F.5 on completion of disembarkation is to proceed as soon as possible to U.K.  
(D.S.T., 0240A/19 to P.S.T.O.X.F., (R) N.C.X.F., D.S.T.O. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Casablanca, V.A. Gibraltar.)

IPSWICH,  
LAUNCESTON.      Arrivals IPSWICH and LAUNCESTON in company.  
(Cdre. Aden, 0404Z/19 to Admty., etc.)

P.A. 24.      Convoy P.A.24 arrived less PALEHLEH straggler.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0912Z/19 to Admty.)

Movements,  
Alexandria.      Arrivals 18th Feb. TETCOTT, M.T.B.267, 309, PALADIN, JERVIS, KELVIN, BEAUFORT, Greek Destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. Departure 18th Feb. M.L.1046.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0913B/19 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Enemy  
Units.      Following read addressed Air H.Q. Malta from A/C AQB/L. P.C. and S. of one medium vessel, one small vessel and 2 aeroplanes 38.46 N. 16.06 E., course 220°, speed 9 knots.  
(Alexandria, 0925A/19 to Admty.)  
Following received addressed Air H.Q. Malta from A/C AQB/L. P.C. and S. of one medium vessel and one small vessel 38.27 N. 15.42 E., 180°, 9 knots.  
(Malta, 1220A/19 to Admty.)

Bi-Weekly  
Opsum No.  
101, part 2.      Night 17th/18th Feb. 2 Ju.88s approached Tripoli from N.E. 2 Beaufighters up damaged one enemy aircraft while second jettisoned bombs and withdrew. 11 unidentified enemy aircraft attacked Benghazi, bombs falling in harbour and in Berka Area. No damage reported but 4 soldiers? killed, 2 wounded. 2 Beaufighters up, no interceptions. 1 enemy aircraft shot down by A.A. fire.  
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 0943Z/19.)

CELENO  
(Italian)      My 0941C/18th. CELENO entered Dardanelles 2030 G.M.T./18th. Z.B. Unusually late hour of arrival due to out aircraft activity in Aegean.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 0947C/19 to C. in C. Med., S.O.(I) Med., (R) S.1., S.10, D.N.I.)

/My ...

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19.2.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- CELENO (Italian) (Contd.) My 0947C/19th. CELENO arrived Istanbul bound for Black Sea. N.L.O. Black Sea informed. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1607C/19 to S.O.(I) Med., (R) S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)
- M.K.S.8. My 1044/16. Request destinations. (Cdre. Algiers, 1003A/19 to Admty.)
- ALBA JULIA Roumanian. My 1743/10th and my 1656/17th. ALBA JULIA delayed and new expected date of departure from Trieste for Istanbul Feb. 15th. B.3. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1035C/19 to S.O.(I) Med., (R) S.1, S.10, D. of N.I.)
- THUNDERBOLT. Leave patrol after dark tonight and en route to Malta examine carefully vicinity of 038° 40', 016° 34' where salvage operations are believed to be in progress. These are to be destroyed if possible. Thence proceed through 035° 20', 015° 038°, 035° 20', 014° 18' to R/V with sweeper 0830/23rd. No friendly submarine will be encountered. (Capt. S.10, 1055A/19 to THUNDERBOLT.) Amended by 1121A/20, q.v.
- JAVELIN. Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 1058A/19 to Admty., etc.)
- French Warships, Alexandria. Following for Prime Minister from Minister of State, Am keeping up pressure on Godfroy and his squadron by all possible means. There is considerable and growing uneasiness in squadron which we are promoting. Meanwhile, have been trying continuously to get visit from French naval representative from North Africa and am not entirely without hope of this important link materialising even at this late date. (Mideast, 1122Z/19 to Air Min.)
- Enemy M/Vs, SAHIB. Aircraft report 2 merchant ships west of Pantellaria Id. at 0555/19th. These may cross your track. (Capt. S.10, 1149A/19 to P.212(SAHIB).)
- P.45, UNA. Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 1151A/19 to Admty., etc.)

/ROCKWOOD ...

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19.2.1943.

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

ROCKWOOD. To join 5th D.F., administered by F.O.C.(D) Med. Fleet and maintained by WOOLWICH, with accounts in NILE.  
(C. in C. Med., 1211B/19 to F.O.C.(D) Med., B.A.O. NILE.)

Mediterranean and Levant Commands. A.G.M.198A and 248A.  
On change of name of C. in C. Med. to C. in C. Levant and of N.C.X.F. to C. in C. Med. Fleet at 0001/20th Feb., the title of Med. Station orders are to be altered to read "Levant" and the title of "Torch" orders issued by N.C.X.F. to read "Med. (W)".

2. At same time the signification of A.I.G.76 is to be altered to read "Naval and Air Authority east of Alexandria" and A.I.G. 79 to "Ships east of Alexandria".

Basegram signals and letters originated by C. in C. Med. prior to change of title are to be referred to as "C. in C. Levant's". Reference to letter and Admiralty letter A.S.05953, Naval Cdr. X.F. should continue to be in the form "Naval Cdr. X.F's".

4. Existing Mediterranean Station "B" messages remain in force as Levant Station's "B" messages.

(C. in C. Med., 1329B/19 to S. & A. Med. Stn., etc.)

SPLENDID. P.228 patrol vicinity 177° Focal Point A 84 miles during daylight tomorrow Saturday and then return to your patrol area.  
(Capt. S.8, 1414A/19 to P.228 (SPLENDID), (R) TIGRIS, P.212 (SAHIB).)

TIGRIS. Patrol at your discretion by day near Allen Piccolaor 8514 8571 A. By night under present moon conditions a patrol not closer 15 to 20 miles from coast and between bearings 230° and 150° from Capri is recommended.

Ship (? keep) normal wireless watch to Algiers broadcast 135 k/cs at 2300/19th.

(Capt. S.8, 1426A/19 to TIGRIS, (R) Capt. S.10.)

G.U.S. 4.O. My 1733/16th and my 1843/17th and F.O.C. Gibraltar 1120/19th. Escorts to R/V area as follows.  
From Algiers VELOX, WIVERN, ZETLAND, PORT ARTHUR.  
From Oran KUMAON and KATHIAWAR. From Gibraltar one escort as detailed by F.O.C. Gibraltar.  
(N.C.X.F., 1519A/19 to N.O.I.C. Oran, (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, Cdre. Algiers, Connav, S.O. Force H, F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

/E.A.C. ...

19.2.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

E.A.C. Report. U/B attacked. A/C fired on by own M/V. A.625, 19th. Op. Summ. No.100 1800 hours 17th Feb. to 1800 hours 18th Feb. Day 18th. Hudson sighted in moonlight patch the wake of a U-Boat, 3 250-lb D/Cs were dropped from 50 feet and were all seen to explode in position of wake. Attack made from stern to bow of U-Boat. Nothing further seen in darkness. 1 Hudson fired on by own M/V, ceased on recognition, slight damage to A/C, crew safe. (E.A.C. Africa, 1530A/19.)

Tripoli, unloading. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Tripoli discharge 18th Feb. 2912, slight drop due to completion of ships unloading in present convoy. (Mideast, No T.O.O. to Air Min., Recd. 1535/19.)

Movements, Port Said. 11th Feb. Port Said Arrivals SPETSAI, PANTHER (Greek). Departures PINDOS, BELVOIR, M.L.1122, R.F.A. BARDAPUR. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1702/19 to Admty., etc.)

8th Army Command. Operations command of 8th Army will be transferred to Gen. Eisenhower with effect from 20 Feb. Time to be mutually agreed. (W.O., 1730A/19 to C. in C. M.E., Freedom Algiers.) (Circulated at request of 1st S.L.)

Air R/C. P.R.U. Feb. 19th. Visuals. 1500 Naples, 2 cruisers. Photographed. 1510 Taranto, 2 battleships, 2 cruisers. Photographed. 1545 Messina, 3 destroyers. Photographed. (V.A. Malta, 1730A/19 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

A.S.V. B.24 Aircraft for N. Africa. Ref. Your R.5931 Feb. 16th 2201Z. Your A.1457. We have here 2 squadrons, operational, which have total of 14 planes, 2 of which will be unserviceable for next 15 days. I am prepared to send 12 planes and personnel of one or both squadrons about Feb. 25th.

The H.Q. and H.Q. Sqn. 43 A/S Wing was activated provisionally pending permanent activation as mentioned in your A.1457. Sending only 1 Sqn. would leave other Sqn. and H.Q. Sqn. occupying without equipment, the facilities that will be needed by British for replacement of these units. Also H.Q. Sqn. will be most helpful at new station. I accordingly recommend H.Q. and H.Q. Sqn. (Prov.) and 1st and 2nd Sqdns be included in contemplated move.

/In ...



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- A.S.V. B.24 Aircraft for N. Africa. (Contd.) In view of your request on Eisenhower for opinion, and fact that British C.C. of S. have asked their J.S.M. in Washington for deferment until after March 1st Conference, request further confirmation your wishes on above points, prior to expected departure date. Recommend the 4 A.S.V. equipped B.24s for these units be directed to North Africa rather than to U.K. if you direct movement of both squadrons to N.W. African Air Command. (Usfor, 1758Z/19 to Agwar, signed Andrews.)
- M.K.F.9. Your 1741/12, routes for southbound convoys are based on assumption that in all cases M.K. convoys will be routed in accordance with my 1248/8/12.  
2. Where stragglers route is based on convoy route, route should always be given to split point. (D.O.D.H., 1805A/19 to N.C.X.F.)
- M.K.S.8. A.M. 1913A/17. Cancel SCHOHARIE and THOMAS PINCKNEY, these ships are for U.S.A. (D.T.D., 1816A/19 to N.C.X.F.)
- ST. ALBERT. German (ex French) SAINT ALBERT collides sea wall at entrance this port during storm last night 18th and sank. (Valencia, 1827/19 to Admty.)
- Malta Air Report. A.I.587, 19th Feb. Part 1. Offensive. Night 18th/19th Feb. Bad weather restricted offensive operations. 1 Mosquito made intruder patrol in Pantellaria Cape Bon area to cover 5 torpedo carrying Beauforts on search for shipping in that area. No sightings were made. Day 19th Feb. No offensive operations owing to bad weather. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1922Z/19.)
- Movements, Bone. Bone departures ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND. (S.O.I.S., 1952A/19 to N.C.X.F., Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- Information for French Forces. For: Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers. From: Combined Chiefs of Staff. Ref. your No. 60-415 of 1 Second Month (no record). 1. Information may be disclosed by you to French Forces where co-operation is necessary, on any general communication and radar equipment including IFF now in use in your theatre except 50 centimeter or less. Discussion of radar equipment being researched or not yet available for operational use in your theatre and 50 centimeter or less is prohibited.

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19.2.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Information  
for French  
Forces.  
(Contd.)

2. Equipment in your theatre may be released under above conditions where operational necessity exists.

3. Policy as to codes and ciphers and associated equipment will follow later. Discussion or disclosure of electric cipher machines is prohibited.

(War Washington, 2002Z/19 to H.Q. Etousa for action, Algiers for action.)

Movements,  
Algiers.

Arrivals BICESTER, ZETLAND, WEYBURN, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, BADDECK, PORT ARTHUR, LUNENBURG, motor minesweepers 9 and 47. Departures BICESTER ZETLAND, VELOX, WIVERN, WEYBURN, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, PORT ARTHUR, LUNENBURG, DEPTFORD, SIRIUS.

(Cdre. Algiers, 2011A/19 to Admty., etc.)

Algiers arrival S/M UNSHAKEN (P.54).

(Cdre. Algiers, 2016A/19 to Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta.)

Situation  
Report  
No. 343.

Tripoli Libya. One L.C.T. caught fire and beached 18th Feb. No casualties. Pisida and Ben Gardane surveyed and found of no use for L.C.Ts. Zuara possible.

2. Benghazi. Harbour raided by 11 aircraft 17th Feb. No naval damage. Four military personnel

killed at Cathedral Mole.

3. CLEOPATRA arrives Suez 20th Feb. for exercises.

4. ROCKWOOD has joined station.

5. My 2055/17th Feb. para. 2 amend position to read 32° 54.8' N. 22° 11.4' E. (former amended).

6. Next situation report will be number 1.

(C. in C. Med., 2055B/19 to Admty.)

SIBYL,  
URSULA.

Your escort will be trawler RONALDSHAY.

(2) URSULA leaves Algiers 0900/20th escorted by two M.Ls to exercise in area North of 36.52 N. and East of 03.08 E.

(3) If escort not met proceed into harbour unescorted.

(Capt. S.8, 2120A/19 to P.217 (SIBYL), (R) Cdre. Algiers, X.D.O.)

Naples,  
R/C.

My 1730/19th (N.T. in W.D.) Photographs confirm arrival of 6-inch cruiser at Naples since 15th. (V.A. Malta, 2211A/19 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

/Spezia ...

War Diary.

19.2.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Spezia  
R/C.

P.R.U. Spezia 19th Feb.  
Since 5th Feb., 1 LITTORIO class battleship has departed. Other 2 LITTORIOS remain in same position. BOLZANO and the REGOLO class cruiser still present.

Base of forward funnel of BOLZANO now further dismantled. Other naval units present now comprise 5 destroyers, 2 ELAN escort vessels, 8 T/Bs, 10 U-Boats. Merchant shipping shows departure of 3 M/Vs (300/400 feet) and 2 tankers 250/350 feet) and arrival of 2 M/Vs 390 and 300 feet). Total present - liner MARCO POLO, 3 M/Vs 300/400 feet), 1 M/V 250 feet) and 2 tankers.  
(D.D.I.C., 2316A/19 to N.C.X.F., etc.)

French  
Naval  
Mission  
in U.K.

Your 2350/17. Should action be taken to find out General Giraud's wishes or is it proposed that matter should be allowed to rest till he spontaneously raises it?  
(N.C.X.F., 2323A/19 to Admty.)

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War Diary.19.2.1945.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

M.B. 25. Convoy M.B. 25 Cochin portion arrived.  
( N.C.S.O. Cochin 0229Z/19 to Admty.)

B.M. 42. Departure SHOREHAM with B.M. 42.  
( S.O. (I) Bombay 0333Z/19 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N.  
F.O. Ceylon.)  
Sailing telegram.  
( N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0345Z/19 0347Z/19 to Admty.)

MAURETANIA. Arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0814Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Movement summary No. 42. 19th Feb. (1) Main Fleet Units left Seychelles 17th for Kilindini. (2) C.M. 39 escorted by DAUNTLESS left Durban 14th routed through Mozambique Channel E.T. A. Bombay repeat Bombay 2nd March. (3) RANPURA leaving Kilindini 19th escorting Kilindini portion C.M. 39, 2 ships, to join convoy in about 010° S. 21st. Feb. (4) On relief by RANPURA, DAUNTLESS proceed Kilindini. (5) BIRMINGHAM relieved by HAWKINS about 300 miles N. of Madagascar 18th and escorting M.C. 4, to Durban E.T.A. 27th. HAWKINS to Kilindini. (6) LEOPARD left Tamatave 18th for Reunion. (7) ARETHUSA left Aden 16th for Kilindini escorting H (?) CAP TOURAIN. (8) HERO probably leaves Kilindini 19th for Durban direct. Speed 18 knots. (11) Netherland S/M 021 left Addu Atoll 18th for Colombo E.T.A. 21st. (12) WORCESTERSHIRE leaves Colombo 19th for patrol centred on 018° S. 098° E. ( C. in C. E.F. 0832Z/19 E.F. 209 Y, Admty., C. in C. S.A. Station, 21, N.O.I.C. Durban, F.O. Red Sea and Canal Area.)

C. in C.E.F. I intend to proceed to Bombay in MAURITIUS sailing to visit from Colombo at 1415 F.G. 22 Feb. and arriving Bombay in 1130 F.G. 24 Feb. F.O. Ceylon is requested MAURITIUS. to sail MAURITIUS to comply. (C. in C. E.F. 0834Z/19 to F.O. Ceylon F.O.C.R.I.N. F.L.O. Dep. C. in C. Com. R.I.N. Admty.)

Shuttle Service. Ref. A.M. 0317/3 confirmation is requested that Shuttle Service was discontinued as from 15th Feb. on conditions contained in Admty. Message 2045A/14 January. ( D.T.D. 0903A/19 to C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) Cdre. R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon N.O.I.C. Calcutta A.C.N.B..D.E.M.S. Staff Officers Bombay, Calcutta Colombo.)

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War Diary.

19.2.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

KOSCUISKI,  
EL MADINA,  
smoke.

Masters of both vessels mentioned in C. in C. E.F.'s 1212/2 Feb. report smoking due to coal with no possibility of remedy unless supplied with Welsh Coal. Various bunkerers not known.  
( Com. R.I.N. 0958Z/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Movements.

Colombo deoartures 19th Feb. 0130Z.  
( C.O. Ceylon 1128Z/19 to Admty.)

WORCESTERSHIRE

Possible relief, of R.A.N. ratings.

After arrival of QUIBERON and QUICKMATCH at Kilindini about 6th March it may be possible to send 2 R.A.N. destroyers to Australia for relief of 2 R.A.N. Ratings of Eastern Fleet with over 2½ years foreign service. Destroyers would be back as soon as possible. 2. What is the minimum time required in Australia to relieve these 2 crews. 3. Can this relief be done at Fremantle. 4. No refitting will be required.  
( C. in C. E.F. 1132Z/19 to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty., Cdre.D.)

DRAGON.

Your 1307/7. DRAGON was transferred to Polish Government on 15th Jan. 1943. She will be Commissioned about 1st June. It is intended that after working up she will rejoin Eastern Fleet.  
( D.O.D. (F) 1204A/19 to C. in C. E.F.)

FALMOUTH.

Arrival at 0900Z/19th.  
( N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1206Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

ARETHUSA,  
CAP TOURANE.

Your 1009Z/19th (N.T. in W.D.) Confirm. Request permission part company CAPE TOURANE during night 22nd in order to arrive Kilindini at 0400Z/23rd so as to sail again before dark.  
(ARETHUSA, 1401Z/19 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.I.C. E.Af. and Z., ROTHERHAM, Cdre. (D) (? Eastern Theatre).)

Movements.

HAWKINS arrived. HERO, RANPURA sailed.  
(F.O.E.A. & Z., 1442Z/19 to Admty.)

C.M. 39.

(1) C.M.39 Kilindini portion.  
(2) 1445Z/19th Feb.  
(3) 0700Z/21st in 009° 45' 042° 50'.  
(4) Knots 10.  
(6) RANPURA.  
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 1501Z/19 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Bombay, F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F.)

/Suspicious ...

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Cont.Suspicious  
Ship.

From ADABELLE LYKES suspicious ship following my P.C. & S. 04° 30'S. 50° 30' E. 270°. true 14 knots.  
(Burnham Radio 1700 G.M.T./19. to Adml. Mombasa. C. in C. E.F., Admty. C. in C. W.A.)  
Amplify my 1700 G.M.T./19th my P.C. & S. are 04° 42' (?)S 49° 29'E. 240° true 15 knots.  
(ADABELLE LYKES. 1852 G.M.T./19 to Adml. Mombasa, C. in C. E.F. Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

Destroyers  
reinforce-  
ments.

Your 0927/18th Dec. Concur that it is undesirable to withdraw any forces from Australia Area.

2. Heavy escort commitments have delayed your destroyer reinforcements and will necessitate permanent retention of HOTSPUR, FORTUNE, EXPRESS and INCONSTANT in U.K.

3. It is anticipated that QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH, QUALITY, RACEHORSE and RELENTLESS will have joined your Flag by mid/March and according to present intentions QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER by Mid/April. QUADRANT, REDOUBT, RAPID by Mid/May.

4. No objection is now seen to your releasing the N. class destroyers possibly two at a time as soon as destroyers with W.S.26 have arrived on your station. All four should however be back on the station and worked up by early June.

5. Request your proposals.

(Admty. approved 1st S.L. 2240A/19 to C. in C, E.F. (R). Cmdre., D., E.F.)

War Diary.

19.2.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

S/M estimate Feb. 19th. U.S. S/M Notice. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 0150/19 0357/19, 0710/19, 1520/19, 1521/19, 1555/19 amended 1755/19, 1556/19, 1557/19.)

WILLIAM A. GRAHAM, U/B. Intercept 0330 De Wick Radio. Following intercepted at 0312 G.M.T. S S S S WILLIAM A. GRAHAM 31° 13' N. 80° 58 W. remainder unread. Q.S.A.2. (Port Patrick Radio 0327/19 to Navy Charge Greenock.)

Following received S S S S WILLIAM LE GRAHAM 31.13 N. 8.58 W. (?80.59 intended) engaging submarine.

(Burnham Radio 0425/19 to Admty. Adm. Liverpool.)

Following read. Bearing by D/F WILLIAM A. GRAHAM distress 241/3. (Gallonhead Radio 0812/19 G.M.T. to A.C.O.S. Lyness (R) Admty.)

U/B. Intercepted 1010G.M.T. from San Juan, Puerto Rico, Submarine contact 06°55' N. 55° 10' W. at 0825 G.M.T. 19th. (Kingston 0605R/19 to Admty.)

Movements Summary	Ship.	Position	Course	Speed.
1800 G.M.T. 19th Feb.	F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES DESPATCH.	27° N. 35° W. Leaving St. Vincent (C.V.)	083° 291°	20 20
	F.S/M AMAZONE ALCANTARA ) WOODRUFF )	23½° N. 44½° W. 10½° N. 33½° W.	296° 082°	7 12
	T.A.35 (D.O.D.(F) 1000Z/19 to Opanav (R) Connaveu.)	45½° N. 25° W.	273°	19

T.A.35 (ANDES). Alter course forthwith for new position J 46° N. 32° W. then direct to F. (D.O.D.(H) 1046A/19 to T.A.35 (R) Connav, C. in C.W.A. N.S.G.Q. C.O.A.C.)

Re-adjustment of N.Atlantic Convoy System. A. My 1556/14. Following further discussion with M. of W.T., request following amendments be made: Para. 3. Add - It is not expected that this figure will be reached before May. Paras. 6, 7 and 8. Cancel and substitute:-

6. In order to allow for an increased amount of shipping of 10 knots and over it is desirable to arrange the sailing of H.X. and S.C. convoys in the proportion of 3 H.X. to 2 S.C.
  7. To allow for the increased amount of shipping presenting for convoy it is proposed that the following cycles be adopted: H.X/O.N. on a 7-day cycle. S.C/O.N.S. on a 9-day cycle.
  8. In order to allow sufficient lay-over for training it is proposed to allocate 11 mid-ocean groups for the operation of the above cycles. The 3 additional groups will be made available by the release of escorts from "Torch" during March.
- B. Your 2129/15, no objection to the amended signal being passed to Navy Department.  
(D.T.D. Approved 1st S.L. 1110A/19 to B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q.)  
/U.S....

War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

U.S. Movements. Arrivals 18th Feb. U.S.A. Transports MATTAPANI and CHIWAWA.  
(Aruba 1150QR/19 to Admty.)

H.X. Convoys Number of Ships. Sailing of L.S.Ts. in S.C. Convoy. Consider 1727A/17 and 2255A/16 will create undue hazard unless you contemplate reinforcement of escorts. B.A.D. informed.  
(Connav 1558/19 to Admty. C. in C.Lant.)

EL COSTON (pa.) Distress Report. Following from Resolution Island (Begins);- "Intercepted at 0930" "S.O.S. EL COSTON" remainder of message unreadable due to intermittent jamming signal bearing 60. S.O.S. EL COSTON heard again at 0935 but faded out completely.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1700Z/19 to C.T.24 (R) Connav, C.O.A.C F.O.N.F. Admty.)

U/B. Submarine reported 12° 30' N. 70° 40' W. at 1030 G.M.T. 19th.  
(Kingston 1738R/19 to Admty.)

Atlantic Convoys Conference Agenda. Your 2124/10th Feb. Proposed Agenda is quite satisfactory and only additional item proposed is Need for training of operational Escort Groups - which will be raised by our representatives.  
(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (UT.) 1813A/19 to Cominch (R) N.S.H.Q. B.A.D.)

HUNTER, STALKER. Admiralty pass to C. in C.Africa, N.C.X.F. (Passing action being taken by W.R.)  
British A.C.Vs HUNTER and STALKER carrying U.S. Army aircraft to Casablanca expected ready to sail New York by March 5th. Include ships in U.G.F. 6 if ready by scheduled sailing time of that convoy. Ships will not be able to operate aircraft.  
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet 1835/19 to C. in C.Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cmdre. E.S.F. etc.)

Landing Craft Convoy. Admty. pass to N.C.X.F. and C. in C.Africa. (Passing action taken by W.R.) My 2128/31st Jan. Landing craft convoy consisting of 10 British and 6 U.S. L.S.Ts expected ready to sail New York about Feb 23rd for Gibraltar via Bermuda. 24 U.S. L.C.I.(L) will join convoy at Bermuda.  
(Cominch 1836/19 to Admty.)

/Neutral...



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War Diary.19.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Neutral Shipping Routes. Portuguese Ships. Your 1524/18. See Connav's 1852/10th Dec. N.S.H.Q.'s 1649/11th Dec. also refers. No exception to Connav's suggestion having been taken by Admty. N.S.H.Q. instructed N.C.S.Os. to comply. Accordingly all neutrals from Canadian Ports and St. Johns Newfoundland to Europe are routed along course 180° to latitudes 38° 10' N. thence along parallel to 46° 40' W. It has been assumed Admiralty would as far as possible route westbound neutrals on reverse routes.

2. N.S.H.Q. appreciates contention Portuguese Ministry of Marine and had no intention causing embarrassment.

3. Admiralty's view will be appreciated.

4. Request advice whether same considerations apply regarding Eire ships.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1950Z/19 to Admty. (R) F.O.N.F.)

Information for French Forces. Washington 2002Z/19. See Mediterranean.

Shipping Casualties. Connav serial 16.17.18 and 19. BRASILOIDE torpedoed sunk 18th Feb. position 012° 38' N. 037° (?57') W. Request confirmation loss WEST PORTAL serial 5 and any information survivors. (Cominch C. and R. 2056/19 to S.O.(I) Kingston, N.S.H.Q. etc.) Amended Connav 2101/20.

A/V in N.W. Atlantic. Anticipated that an A(?overstroke)V with 2 escorts for its own protection will be available for operation commencing about middle of March. Proposed to operate these vessels on same general lines as those of a support force using Iceland (c) as eastern base for emergency purposes. Instruction in necessary amplification of Atlantic convoy instructions will be issued to all interested commands prior to operation. In view of experimental nature of vessel's employment and contemplated operations largely in Western North Atlantic, Comtask 24 will retain operational control regardless of position relating to "Chops".  
(C.T. 24 2103Z/19 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Cominch, C.O.A.C., C.T. 24.6 C.G.S.F., Comairlantic, Admty. C.T.24.7 N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.)

S.C.121. H.X.228 numbers. Your 1552/18th. Have consulted Spark M.W.T. New York, who after consultation with Ministry, Montreal, advise position of vessels presenting for S.C. 121 as follows:

2. Total of 83 vessels are nominated to proceed East of Westomp not including 6 L.S.T. which will be ready if supplementary repairs are completed and spare parts received in time.

3. Following are anticipated to sail: 29 British ships now ready at New York and further 9 expected in time for inclusion. 19 British managed Allied ships. 13 U.S. Flag Ships. 13 ships expected to join from Halifax in H.S.C.

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

S.C.121.  
H.X. 228  
numbers.  
(Contd.)

4. Not known at present whether any ship may be expected to join from St. Johns N.F.  
5. Information on position of ships for H.X. 228 will be passed as soon as available.  
(B.R.L.O. New York 2121Z/19 to Admty.)

?BAYNTUN. Sail H.M.S. BAYNTUN when ready about Feb. 22nd to New York for special trial. Route onward to Bermuda upon completion trials about March 1st. (Cominch 2134/19 to C.E.S.F. (R) Com. 1st U.S.N.D Boston, Com. U.S. Navy Yard, Boston. Com. 5th U.S.N.D. Hampton Roads, S.B.N.O. W.At. Cinclant, Admty. etc.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. A. BRASILOIDE torpedoed sunk area 12° 34' S. 37° 55' W. about 0100Z/18. B. Sub sighted area 13° 01'S. 38° 31' W. 1230Z/19.  
C. Sub contact 06° 55' N. 55° 10' W. 0825Z/19.  
D. WILLIAM A. GRAHAM sights sub 31° 13' N. 80° 58' W. 0259Z/19. GG-83362 attacks sound contact 32° 22' N. 79° 20' W. 1655Z/19. Sub contact 12° 30' N. 70° 40' W. 1030Z/19. P.G. ST. AUGUSTINE and C.G.621 attack sound contacts 39° 48' N. 73° 47' W. 1815 and 1859Z/19. Sub attacks B-24 06° 32' S. 27° 47' W. 1215Z/18. Sub sighted 14° 40' N. 63° 20' W. on 17th. (Cominch 2138/19 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

B.Y.M.S. Request date of arrival of B.Y.M.S.2, 3, 4 and 30. (N.S.H.Q. 2235Z/19 to Admty.)

Re sailing ships in Pacific and Indian Oceans in pairs. Suggested that in Pacific and Indian Oceans ships of 15 knots and over should if the Masters so desire, be sailed in pairs for mutual support against surface raiders provided that their speeds do not differ by more than one knot and that neither ship is delayed sailing by more than 36 hours. 2. Request your remarks.  
(D.T.D. 2257A/19 to Connav, A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. C. in C.E.F. C. in C.S.A.)

Australia & New Zealand.

ACHILLES. My 1042/22 Jan. (0042/22 intended. Proposed programme for ACHILLES.) E.T.A Bora Bora 0300Z/23 Feb. E.T.D. Bora Bora 1700Z/23 Feb. E.T.A. Balboa 1300Z/7 March.  
(N.Z.N.B. 0239Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

/Departure...

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19.2.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

ACHILLES. Departure Auckland ACHILLES for Bora Bora,  
(Contd.) E.T.A. 0300Z/23. Route S.C.M. 11, thence A.  
28° 35' S. 170° 00' W. B. 22° 35' S. 160° 00' W.  
S.O.A. 23 knots.  
(N.Z.N.B. 1000Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Movements. Departure Aitutaki 2000Z/17 U.S.S. CYGNUS for  
Auckland E.T.A. 0600Z/24. Arrival Auckland  
0301Z/19 U.S.S. TRYON.  
(D.N.I. Wellington 0426Z/19 to Admty. )

LE TRIOMPHANT. Following from F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT (Begins) On  
mission 2330Z/17th. Sydney 0005Z/19 T.O.O.  
2345Z/18 (ends.)  
(Capt. Supt. Sydney 0849Z/19 to F.N.F.L. London,  
(R) High Commissioner Pacific? Tahiti.)

Digest 2. Midday 18th single Liberator unsuccessfully  
serial. bombed cargo vessel escorted by small gunboat  
No. 393 Feb. 57 miles E.S.E. Cape Orford (New Britain)  
18th. course N.  
4. Another Liberator attacked 5,000 ton cargo  
vessel forenoon 18th 40 miles E.N.E. Cape  
Gloucester on Westerly course scoring near misses.  
10. 6 B.25's attacked camouflaged cruiser or armed transport  
Dilli Harbour morning 18th nil hits observed. 5 Zeros inter-  
cepted. 1 destroyer 1 probably destroyed. 1 B.25 shot down.  
11. Morning 18th 9 Beaufighters made coastal sweep from  
Finschhafen to Madang Strafing small craft Alexishafen and  
buildings Madang.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0909Z/19.)

JOSEPH U.S. Ship JOSEPH WHEELER has not arrived at  
WHEELER Fremantle. At Speed given 11.5 knots ship  
overdue. should have arrived 12th Feb.  
(A.N.C.B. 1008Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Movements. Arrivals Fremantle 18th GAMBIA, DEVONSHIRE, Neth.  
Cruiser TROMP, HEEMSKERCK, Neth. Light Cruiser  
VAN GALEN, Exmouth Gulf 16th U.S. Seaplane Tender  
HERON Melbourne 18th AUSTRALIA U.S. Destroyers BAGLEY, HENLEY  
Sydney (N.S.W.) 18th SHEPPERTON, MORESBY Departures Onslow 18th  
WARREGO, INVERELL for Darwin Milne Bay 18th KATOOMBA for Port  
Moresby Brisbane 18th U.S. Destroyer PATTERSON on escort duty  
Port Moresby 18th WHYALLA for Milne Bay.  
(A.C.N.B. 1048Z/19 to Admty.)  
Arrivals 18th Feb. Fall River U.S. Transport BANTAM.  
19th Port Moresby Hospital Ship MANUNDA.  
R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK departed Townsville 18th for Dunk Island.  
R.A.A.F. Store Ship WANAKA departed Townsville 18th due Thursday  
Island 21st.  
U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER departed Onslow 18th, due Darwin 22nd.  
(A.C.N.B. 1137Z/19 to Admty. Connav.)

War Diary.

19.2.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1333A/19 1342A/19.)

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

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

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

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

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

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy J.W.53 was located by R.D.F. in 65° 40' N. 10° 26' W. at 0520A this morning.

KING GEORGE V arrived at Akureyri at 1955 and expects to be joined there by BERWICK at 1400 tomorrow. SCYLLA and DASHER with 6 Destroyers also arrived there at 1145 this morning.

GLASGOW left Scapa at 0920 to replace SHEFFIELD: but C.S.10 considers that, unless Convoy J.W.53 is behind its time, he should not wait for GLASGOW and NORFOLK will now replace SHEFFIELD in Force R. DASHER, LEDBURY, and IMPULSIVE will remain at Akureyri for the present, and PYTCHLEY remains at Seidisfiord for the Denmark Straits patrol if it should be required.

The photographic R/C of Trondheim was not flown today owing to the weather; but HIPPER and SCHEER were photographed in Wilhelmshaven at 1150 this morning.

Peterhead and Fraserburgh were bombed without naval damage at 0230 and 0245 today; and Murmansk was bombed at intervals from 1900C/19th till 0300C today, slight damage being caused in the dock.area.

Wilhelmshaven was attacked between 2000 and 2026 last night by 302 of our A/C.

2 Magnetic Mines were exploded by Sweepers near the South Haisborough Buoy at 1345.

In consequence of the largely increased number of ships now presenting for convoy in New York, Admty. have proposed today that the size of the North Atlantic Convoys should be temporarily increased from the present maximum of 65 ships per convoy to a maximum of 80 ships, the Western Local Escort being increased by 2 additional Canadian Trawlers or Minesweepers and the Mid-Ocean Escort by 2 Destroyers of the Western Support Force. It is proposed that these arrangements should be put into force with Convoy S.C. 121 which is due to sail on 23rd February.

U.S. S/M BLACKFISH, on patrol off Bilbao, has been damaged by depth charge attacks and considers her conning tower would not survive another close attack. She has withdrawn to the corner of her area, to make other minor repairs.

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

## Commands.

The division of the Mediterranean Station into two commands took place at 0001 today (see 11 Feb. (and 7 Feb))

The title of Mediterranean Station Orders is to be altered to read "Levant", and the title of Torch Orders issued by N.C.X.F. to read "Mediterranean (W)". Existing Mediterranean Station "B" messages remain in force as Levant Station "B" messages.

Operational control of the 8th Army was transferred to General Eisenhower today.

A new organisation for the Air Defence Command, Egypt, to come into force on March 1, is described today by C. in C. Middle East. Chiefs of Staff signified their approval on 24th February.

Missing  
LITTORIO.

The Admiralty today asked Air Ministry if a photographic reconnaissance of Genoa could be flown as soon as practicable in order to locate the LITTORIO class battleship missing from Spezia.

Air  
Operations.

Naples and Crotone were bombed by B.24s last night. At Naples, direct hits were scored on 2 ships, and at Crotone many hits on the chemical works.

Tunisia  
Repatriations.

With regard to the proposed repatriation to Marseilles of French women and children in Tunisia, the British Chief of Staff, apart from political reasons, are opposed to this unnecessary addition to their labours.  
(Gen. Eisenhower and Adm. Cunningham concur.)

## S.C.I.

Details of the S.C.I. (Smoke Curtain Installation) apparatus for use by aircraft in the protection of small convoys are given in an Admiralty signal to C. in C. Med. today.

French  
Squadron,  
Alexandria.

Admiral Michelier has decided in concert with General Giraud to send Rear Adm. Misoff, Chief of Staff to Michelier, to Alexandria. Admiral Cunningham considers Misoff an excellent choice from our point of view and probably the best man available.

War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.Dutch  
Staff.  
Colombo.

A Message from C. in C. Eastern Fleet (text not available in War Diary) states that he has been informed by the Acting Netherlands S.O., Colombo, that he has been warned by Admiral Helfrich to be prepared to leave Colombo in the immediate future with the Dutch staff.

Battle  
Squadron.

WARSPITE, RESOLUTION and REVENGE, escorted by six destroyers, arrived at Kilindini this afternoon from the Seychelles.

America and West Indies.Canadian  
Command.

It has been decided to establish a unified naval command of the Canadian Atlantic area. From 0001Z 1st March, the command of C.O.A.C. Halifax is to be extended to include the area at present under control of F.O.N.F., who will continue to be responsible to C.O.A.C. for the duties which he is at present carrying out. The titles of C.O.A.C. and F.O.N.F. are to be continued until further orders. C.C.N.F. is to continue to deal directly with C.T.24 in matters concerning escort of ocean trade convoys.

Convoys.

Admiralty proposals for implementing the proposed new Transatlantic convoy cycle were outlined today. It is proposed that 6 groups should escort fast convoys both ways and 5 groups escort slow convoys both ways. Convoys are to be renamed and numbered consecutively on starting the new system, since fast and slow convoys will no longer necessarily sail alternately. Proposed titles are:- N.U. New York to U.K., Fast. U.N. U.K. to New York, Fast. Y.U. New York to U.K. Slow. U.Y. U.K. to New York Slow.

"S"  
Report.

An unknown ship made an "S" report at 0100 G.C.8 in 17.51 N., 69.38 W. which was intercepted by Barbados Radio.



War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

GLASGOW. A.M. 1140/16. This cruiser will not now be required.  
(D.O.D.H. 1450A/20 to V.A.2.)

Russian Procedure. My 1851/14. Russian Customs Officials entered Meaconing Station this afternoon without reference to me and sealed up transmitter pending receipt of documents giving permission to land it.

2. Tests were reaching final stage and it was hoped to have Meacon in operation for present convoy. Any such hope now effectively killed.

3. It must be known to Russians that such documents never existed (?and) they have never been a requirement for any equipment. Admiralty pass to Air Ministry.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1738A/20 to Admty.)

Movements.

S/M My 1716/19 para. (L). Cancel and substitute  
Movements. L 23, 54° 28' N. 26° 00' W. with main motor trouble. Unable to dive. Proceeding on the surface to 52° 40' N. 35° 00' W.  
(F.O.S. 0823A/20 to Admty.)

P.64 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0828A/20.)  
Your 0500. Proceed diving by day if possible toward 048° 01' 007° 02'.  
(F.O.S. 0903A/20 to BLACKFISH.)

Estimate you may meet H.M.S. L.23 westbound after dark today. Estimated position at 0600Z/20, 054° 30' N. 025° 38' W.  
(C. in C.W.A. 0948A/20 to CHAMBLY.)

My 1716/19. Para. (J). Cancel and substitute.  
(J) BLACKFISH very approximately 44° 10' N. 03° 30' W. proceeding to 48° 01' N. 07° 02' W. may be on surface or dived by day.

(F.O.S. 1028A/20 to Admty.)

My 1716/19. Add new paragraph (M).

(M) UNIVERSAL (P.57) escorted by AGNES NUTTEN leaves Tyne 1130/20th for gun and sea trials in Tyne approach channel. Blyth on completion.

(F.O.S. 1051A/20 to Admty.)

Arrived H.28.

(Cmdre. Londonderry 1100A/20.)

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 2221/19.

1. Estimate you will cross 042° 59' N. in 011° 53' W. at 0530A/21.

2. From new position (C) proceed as in my 2211/17.

(F.O.S. 1103A/20 to TAKU.)

Arrived P.556.

(C. in C.Plymouth 1105A/20.)

C. in C.Rosyth 1615/17. From B 2 buoy proceed Portsmouth anchor B 2 or adjust speed as necessary to pass Sand Head buoy at 1930 today. Route. Acknowledge and pass to S.54.

(C. in C.Nore 1122A/20 to WOLSEY.)

My 1716/19. Add new para. (N) (H) TAKU passes through 42° 59' N. 11° 53' W. at 0530/21 thence dived by day through 45° 01' N. 12° 26' W.

(F.O.S. 1134A/20.)

/My...

74A

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMovements.

S/M My 0903/20. From 048° 01' 007° 02' proceed to  
Movements R/V with escort in position (X) 180° Bishop  
(Contd.) Rock 10 miles.

2. I am reckoning you will be diving by day but  
bombing restrictions in my 0947/20th have been  
arranged in case you have to proceed on surface throughout.

3. Unless imperative do not break W/T silence South of 049° N.

4. On crossing 049° report your E.T.A. at position (X) to C. in  
C.Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, and F.O.(S) by immediate signal.

5. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to detail an escort for  
BLACKFISH from position (X) to Falmouth. Estimated earliest  
time BLACKFISH can arrive (X) is 1200/21 if force to proceed  
throughout on surface, but 1200/22 if diving by day to 049°  
10' N.

(F.O.S. 1203A/20 to BLACKFISH.)  
To avoid U-Boat alter course forthwith for position 052°  
30', 028° 10' thence direct to position D.  
(F.O.S. 1231A/20 to L.19.)  
My 1716/19 para. (L). This submarine (L.23) alters  
course at about 1330/20 to pass through 52° 30' N. 28° 01' W.  
thence to 52° 40' N. 35° 00' W.  
(F.O.S. 1233A/20 to Admty.)  
Intend to sail KING HAAKON 7 from Rothesay at 1400/20  
to Plymouth, E.T.A. 2200/21. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to  
sail P.556 escorted by KING HAAKON 7 to Rothesay as soon as  
possible and to arrange fighter protection.  
(Capt. S.7 1234A/20 to C. in C.Plymouth.)  
My 1716/19 para. (G). After WOLSEY amend to read.  
From Northward proceeding to arrive B 2 Buoy at 1500/20, thence  
proceeding to Portsmouth passing Sandhead Buoy 1930/20.  
(F.O.S. 1451A/20.)  
My 0948/20th. The following has been made to L.23 at  
1231A/20th. Repeats signal.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1505A/20 to CHAMBLY.)  
Cancel my 1231. A. If West of 027° W. proceed through  
position (X) 051° 30', 030° 00' (Y) 048° 30', 033° 00'.  
B. If East of 027° W. proceed through (Z) 052° 02' 026° 30'  
thence (Y).  
C. From (Y) proceed direct to St. Johns N.F. unless otherwise  
ordered by C. in C. U.S. Fleet.  
(F.O.S. 1621A/20 to L.23.)  
On completion of exercises tonight proceed to 180°  
Bishop Rock 10 miles to arrive at 1100/21. BLACKFISH will R/V  
with you in this position for escort to Falmouth.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 1627A/20 to KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL.)  
My 1621/20. After dark tonight report (A) P.C.S.  
(B) Whether alternative route (a) or (b) is being followed.  
(C) Estimated endurance remaining.  
(F.O.S. 1807A/20 to L.23.)  
Positions of Submarines at 0800A/21 and movements for  
following 24 hours.

A. UREDD in Lofoten Area. B. TRUCULENT, SEANYMPH, SPORTSMAN,  
and SIMOON in North Norwegian waters East of 20° E.  
C. O.9 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH vicinity Noss Head due R/V  
35 Buoy 1100/21. Thence escorted by SCALBY WYKE to Rothesay  
speed 8 knots.  
D. TAKU 43° 22' N. 12° 01' W. dived by day through 45° 01' N.  
12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N., 12° 26' W. E. BARB off Vigo.  
F. BLACKFISH position doubtful but proceeding on route 44° 10' N.  
03° 30' W. 48° 00' N. 07° 02' W. and 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles.

/Submarine...

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Submarine is damaged and it is uncertain  
Movements whether she is proceeding on the surface or  
(Contd.) dived by day.  
G. L.23 very approx. position 52° 30' N. 28° 00'  
W. proceeding probably on surface either through  
52° 00' N. 26° 30' W. or 51° 30' N. 30° 01' W. thence through  
48° 30' N. 33° 00' W. for St. Johns.  
H. S.54 escorted by WOLSEY approaching Portsmouth from Eastwards.  
(F.O.S. 1731A/20 to Admty.)  
Your 1707A/20. (A) My P.C.S. at 2130Z/20, 053° 20' N. 027°  
37' W. 218° 8 knots.  
(B) Alternative route (A) is being followed.  
(C) 84 hours.  
(L.23 2200Z/20 to F.O.S.)

OXFORDSHIRE. Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE sailed 1000A/20.  
E.T.A. Gibraltar 1230A/26.  
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 1029A/20.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. My 1106/6, request you will sail ILLUSTRIOUS to  
arrive Bar Light Vessel 1230A/26.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1158/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

INDOMITABLE My 1552A/18 and 1558A/18. Anchored at Bar for  
BRADFORD minor adjustments.  
SABRE. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1901A/20.)  
My 1552A/18. 1558A/18. Delayed. Intend to  
sail 2359A/20 by normal coastal route to Clyde  
Light Vessel speed 17 knots. Thence full power  
trial as original intention.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2126A/20 to R.A.F.N.I.)

ALLIGATOR. My 2357A/19. Sailed Tugs ALLIGATOR and EMPIRE  
EMPIRE ACE. ACE 1930A/20, E.T.A. Gibraltar March 1st.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1938A/20.)

Operations.

Operation Weather permitting carry out Operation Q.U.(2)  
Q.U.2. tonight.  
2. Supporting force one unit 8th M.G.B. Flotilla.  
After operation has been completed M.G.Bs have  
freedom of action, to intercept returning E boats.  
3. Diversionary force available M.T.Bs to carry out an  
offensive patrol between The Hook and Scheveningen timed to  
commence ½ hour before M.Ls reach position for Q.U.(2).  
4. Report boats and E.T.D. convoy route.  
(C. in C. Nore 1034A/20 to BEEHIVE.)  
Your 1034. M.Ls 106 (S.O.) (Type 252), 110, 100, E.T.D.  
54 A Buoy 1830.  
Para. (2). M.G.Bs. 112 (S.O.) 77,74, (Type 252), E.T.D. 54B  
Buoy 1900.  
Para. (3). M.T.Bs. 244, (S.O.) 241, (Type 252), 34, 70, 32, 69,  
E.T.D. No. 3 Buoy 1900.  
(BEEHIVE 1123A/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

/Departures...

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20.2.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Operation Q.U.2. (Contd.) Departures M.Ls. 100, 106, 110 at 1659. M.T.Bs. 244, 70, 241, 34, 32, 69. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1734A/20.) Departure M.G.Bs. 74, 77, 112. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1808/20.)
- Operation "Regulation" SUSSEX. C., in C.H.F. 1641A/16. Sailed 1005. (A.C.O.S. 1042A/20.) Your 1018/19. SUSSEX will not call at Gibraltar. 2. Other arrangements are being made for stores given in A.M. 1213/13. (D.O.D.F. 1056A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- Coastal Patrols. 1. Intend M.L. 123 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 511 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W. 2. Leave Portland at 1815 via Q.Z.S. 382 for patrol-line, adjusting position so as to cover passage of P.W. and W.P. convoys. M.Ls. leave patrol-line at dawn and return to Portland. 3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Code word "Device." (F.O.I.C. Portland 1108A/20.) Following are patrols for tonight. 1. M.G.B. 611 (S.O.), 608 carry out anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy route between longitudes of C.2 and C.3 buoys, returning to Newhaven after convoy has left this command. 2. ALBRIGHTON, LORD WAKEFIELD stand by at Yarmouth. Chasseurs 13 (S.O.) and 10 Fylle at St. Helens. 3. From Portland M.L., 123 (S.O.), R.M.L. 511 Patrolling 50° 20' N. between 1° 30' W. and 2° 05' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1235A/20.) My 1108A/20. "Device" sailed 1821A/20. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1828A/20.)
- S/M Patrol off Vigo. Your 1146/18. Request you sail REGENT for patrol in accordance with F.S.L. one to vicinity of 042° 30' 009° 15' to relieve BARB. (F.O.S. 1514A/20 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- Sweep off Frisian Islands. 3 M.T.Bs. of 31st Flotilla carried out offensive sweep last night between Ameland and Vlieland. No shipping seen. A large aircraft was seen to crash in flames in 53° 46' = 1/2' N. 04° 57' E. at 2225. Two green Very lights were seen in this vicinity immediately after crash. M.T.Bs. searched area but found no trace. (C. in C. Nore 1608A/20 to Admty.)
- Operation "Haulabout." It is now necessary to increase the tempo of "Haulabout" (Reverse "Consular".) 2. C. in C. Nore is requested to conduct this operation. 3. Request you will each allocate the following numbers of Oropesa trawlers previously employed on "Consular".

/Rosyth...

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation Rosyth Command 8 Nore Command 12 Portsmouth  
"Haulabout". Command 4 Plymouth Command 4.  
(Contd.) 6. Towing equipment listed in C.A.F.O. 1240/42  
is to be embarked.  
7. Vessels should be fully stored and should  
embark charts for between Base and Tilbury and between Tilbury  
and Penzance.  
8. Sweeps are to be retained on board.  
9. Vessels should have recently boiler cleaned.  
(D.M.S. 1645A/20 to C. in C. Nore, Rosyth, Portsmouth, Plymouth.)

St. George's Interference experienced by C.D. C.H.L. stations  
Channel. between 2030 and 2200 from vicinity Helwick to  
St. Govans. Detach nearest vessel to investigate  
this area.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2255A/20 to P.C.74.)

Operation Propose operation H.J.A. night of 21st/22nd Feb.  
H.J.A. 2. Object. G.E.E. Survey off Roches Douvres.  
3. Force taking part M.G.Bs. 316 (S.O.), 317,  
and 326.  
4. Route. A.M.Q.Z.S. 284 and 386 to Portland  
Bill, thence through 049° 30' N. 003° 00' W. to Roches Douvres,  
returning to Portland along reverse of outward route.  
5. E.T.D. Needles 1700/21, speed 15 knots.  
6. E.T.A. Portland 0800/22.  
7. In the event of a breakdown operation to be abandoned, craft  
returning to Portland.  
8. Policy with regard to enemy forces evasion expected under  
unusually favourable conditions or on receipt of other orders  
from C. in C. Plymouth.  
9. Force to be north of latitude 050° N. by 0730/22.  
11. I.F.F. state "D" for DUFF.  
12. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to issue latest enemy  
intelligence.  
(Dated) On completion N.O.I.C. Portland is requested to sail  
M.G.B. 316 and 317 to Portsmouth 326 to Dartmouth as soon as  
possible.  
(S.O. Force J 2346/20 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Allied Air Activity.

Trondheim Photographic R/C of Trondheim will not be flown  
R/C. to-day owing to weather.  
(D.D.I.C. 1203A/20 to C. in C.H.F. V.A.2.,  
C.S.1. C.S.10 R.A.D. F.O.S.)

Operation Discontinue operation "Gondola". U/Boat traffic  
"Gondola." in areas, now light, not expected to increase  
again for at least a week.  
(H.Q.C.C. 1400A/20 to 15 and 19 Groups.)

Bomber On day 19th 10 A/C dropped bombs from 8000 feet,  
Command and photographs show many bursts concentrated  
Operations. on the torpedo workshops and naval Barracks at

/Den...

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Bomber  
Command  
Operations.  
(Contd.)

Den Helder.  
On night 19/20, Wilhelmshaven was the target for 338 A/C of which 302 claim to have made attacks. Ground detail was obscured but several good fires are reported particularly towards the end of the attack, which took place between 2000 and 2026 hours.  
(H.Q.B.C. 1540A/20.)

A/C in  
North  
Russia.

Soviet Admiralty have again raised question on role and operational control of Grenadine Force. At beginning of these negotiations it was explained to Russians that role was as stated in your A.X.107 13th Jan. and operational control would be as in Orator. Details of Orator operational control are unknown to 30 Mission but Russians appeared satisfied with this explanation at the time.  
2. Soviet? now claim that they understood that operational control could be exercised by them and so would selection of targets, Question has again been brought to their notice because W/Cmdre. McKern has apparently informed G.O.C. Naval Air Service North Russia that role would be as in your A.X.107 and operational control would be by R.A.F. independently of Russians.  
3. Misunderstanding by Russians may be genuine or it may be attempt to evade any agreement which has been patently unattractive to them.  
4. Soviet Admiralty have now stated that they cannot accept R.A.F. Force in North Russia which is not (not) under Soviet Operational Control and which selected own objectives.  
5. It is almost certain that if selection of targets is left to Russians the Hampdens would not be used exclusively against German Surface Forces.  
6. Consider that Russians most unlikely to relinquish claim to operational control but on question of role they would probably compromise if O.C. Force were allowed discretion to accept Soviet selected and suitable targets during non-convoy periods.  
7. In view of above request you signal full instructions about (a) role of force (b) system of operational control.  
(30 Mission 1842Z/20 to Air Ministry.)

Murmansk  
Balloon  
Barrage.

Your 1319/23rd January. Have recent raids provided any evidence.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2008A/20 to N.O.I.C. Murmansk.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Peterhead  
bombed.

2 enemy A/C flew low over Peterhead at 0230/20.  
3 unexploded bombs reported dropped near centre of town. No casualties. Only slight damage to houses.  
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0450/20.)

/Fraserburgh...

War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

- Fraserburgh bombed. At 0245/20 four H.E. bombs dropped on Fraserburgh. Some casualties. No naval damage. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0950/20.)
- Shetlands. At 0857/20 a hostile A/C was plotted 20 miles E.S.E. of Deerness 1000 feet. Course N. then N. E. then E. and faded out of range at 100 miles. This A/C was first identified as fighter, as dawn patrol was in vicinity. Patrol failed to intercept. (A.C.O.S. 1258/20.)
- Murmansk bombed. Intermittent air raids 1900C/19th to 0300C/20th. Slight damage to buildings in dock area. No British or American damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Murmansk 1831A/20 to Admty.)
- Scapa. At 1740/20 hostile A/C approached from E. to about 12 miles E.S.E. of Flow, then altered course S. and finally E. Height 3,000 to 6,000 ft. Fighters failed to intercept. Photographs most improbable. (A.C.O.S. 2015/20 to Admty.)

Mining.

- Yarmouth Area. L.L.Sweepers detonated 2 red magnetic mines at 1345 in 320° South Haisboro buoy 4 cables and 273° South Haisboro buoy 6 cables. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1453A/20, 1715/22, 1150A/23.)
- Operation B.S.87. Operation B.S.87 completed. (PLOVER 1458A/20 to C. in C. Nore.)
- Lyme Bay. Width of area swept extended to 2.0 miles from northern limit of Q.Z.X. 834. One anti-sweeping device with static cutters encountered in 50° 17' 06" N. 03° 02' 36" W. Intend re-sweeping one lap to cover possible gap and continuing clearance to southward. (M/S 4 1749A/20 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

- GRAF ZEPPELIN. Photographic R/C 19th February. Kiel - GRAF KÖLN. ZEPPELIN in floating dock; KÖLN alongside.
- SEYDLITZ. Bremen - SEYDLITZ alongside, all superstructure removed. (D.D.I.C. 0940A/20.)

/Unknown...

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Unknown ship, Sighted ship in 50° 03' N. 18° 03' W. cargo, 250 ft. 20 tons, rakelcruiser stern, funnels one, Mud Derricks 8, Mast forward, one, bridge F O Z H A W one.  
(A/C 99 Sqdn. 1335/20 to 19 Group.)

HIPPER, Photographs of Wilhelmshaven 1150/20 show  
SCHEER. HIPPER and SCHEER still present.  
(D.D.I.C. 1855A/20 to A.I.G. 47.)

U-Boats.

Search for Two Sunderlands will sweep out area between  
damaged Lizard/Cape Clear and Waterford/Hartland Point  
U-Boat. commencing half an hour before dawn. 12 Ansons  
will commence to sweep to the Northward of this  
area to latitude of Bardsey Island.  
(C. in C.W.A. 0058A/20 to HAVELOCK.)

At daylight trawlers remain on present patrol, fast escorts  
will sweep from The Smalls up the Irish Coast to 052° 38' N.  
across to investigate Cardigan Bay, then back to The Smalls.  
(HAVELOCK 0213A/20 to C. in C.W.A.)

At 1600A/20 HAVELOCK independently PIMPERNEL and  
SAXIFRAGE in company proceed at best speed to Londonderry.  
P.C.74 take charge of the operation and continue search.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1302A/20 to HAVELOCK.)

I have attacked. Contact in 060° Tuskar Rock 25 miles.  
GAVOTTE and PIROUETTE in company.  
(TANGO 1710A/20 to C. in C.W.A.)

In view of contact reported am carrying out sweep towards  
Tuskar Gap.  
(TANGO 1740/20.)

My 1710A/20. Contact reported believed non-sub. But am  
continuing sweep towards Tuskar Gap before resuming patrol.  
(TANGO 1833A/20.)

One Searchlight Wellington will search in area bounded  
by Hartland Point, Fastnet, and 53° N. from 2000A/20 to  
0600A/20.

(C. in C.W.A. 1834A/20 to Codeword "Rival.")

Your 1833A/20. SAXIFRAGE, PIMPERNEL are proceeding North  
through area. Resume your patrol.

(P.C. 74 1935A/20 to TANGO.)\*

Your 2107A/20. P.C.74, SWEETBRIAR patrolling The Smalls to  
Tuskar.

BERNE entrance Q.Z.L. 18. MAZURKA, CAPE PORTLAND 225° St.  
Govan's Head Light Vessel 1703. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, YORK CITY  
Tuskar Capt. TANGO, PIROUETTE, ABEYANCE, Bardsey Island to  
Irish Coast.

VISENDA, FOXTROT in the vicinity 052° 00' N. 005° 30' W.

(P.C. 74 2154A/20 to C. in C.W.A.)

\*Report your night dispositions.(C. in C.W.A.2107A/20 to P.C.74).

U-Boats Following from M.G.B. 83 on anti E-Boat patrol  
reported. in 52° 30' N. 2° 15' E. At 0225/19 H.E. to  
southwest lasting 30 seconds. Bearing moved  
H.E. being picked up again on 070°. This has  
since been classified by records as submarine steaming slowly  
under water. Other two boats in company did not detect this H.E.  
2. There is no other evidence of any U-Boat in this area.  
(C. in C.Nore 1152A/20 to Admty.)

/Indefinite...



War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported (Contd.) Indefinite D/F bearings at 2002Z/19 are considered after analysis possibly to indicate U-Boat in area 25 miles either side of line joining 49° 40' N. 09° 30' W. to 50° 40' N. 06° W. (D.D.I.C. 1155A/20.)

U-Boat attacked. Following received. Am over enemy S/M in 49° 30' N. 21° 56' W. (A/C 142 Sqdn. 1343/20 to 19 Group.) Following read - 134? in 49° 30' N. 21° 56' W. six depth charges straddled. S/M blown out of water. waiting. (A/C 1343/20 to 19 group). Submarine attacked 49° 30' N. 21° 56' W. at 1343 G.C.T/20. (Connav 2213/20 to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

BLACKFISH. Depth-charge crack in conning-tower door-frame and possibly main engine inductor. Both leaking considerably. Do not believe conning tower would survive another close attack. Have withdrawn to N.W. corner of area K.508 to make other minor repairs. (BLACKFISH 0500A/20 to F.O.S.)

L.23. Cannot dive. Main motor out of action. Endeavouring to effect repair. My estimated position 0600Z/20, 054° 30' N. 025° 38' W. (L.23 0605Z/20 to F.O.S.)

BLANKNEY. Following received. From Capt. (D) 3. BLANKNEY sailed for Hvalfjord with urgent A/S defects for which assistance of BLENHEIM is requested. E.T.A. 2230A/19th. (A.C.I.C. 0615A/20 to Admty. DASHER, SCYLLA.) Capt. (D) 3 0925A/19. Partial repairs to BLANKNEY'S A/S defects completed. Essential repairs to steam dynamo still required. Am retaining her until 1100A/21 when BLANKNEY will proceed Akureyri. (C.S.1 1900A/20 to C. in C.H.F.)

Unknown ship. Following received from G.B.O.C. at 0858 G.M.T. Returned Roads wich starboard engine broke down. Consider necessary return docks for repairs using port engine and tugs. GJORTZ HANSEN. (C. in C.Plymouth 1025/20th to Admty.)

M.M.S. 233. Your 1703/16. M.M.S. 233 has developed engine defects on trials. Anticipated date of completion is 1st March depending on delivery of new piston. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1027/20 to Admty.)

/DASHER...

War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

- DASHER. DASHER reports serious split in side plating 3 feet above waterline. Estimate 24 hours in harbour required to repair by welding. I have instructed him to proceed with work on arrival at noon today. (SCYLLA 1058A/20 to C. in C.H.F.)
- SHEFFIELD. SHEFFIELD 1125A/19. SHEFFIELD will require 4 days at Seidis Fjord to make herself seaworthy. She will then proceed Scapa Flow but requires dockyard repairs.  
(C.S.10 1231A/20 to C. in C.H.F.)
- SHEFFIELD's 1125/19. Request repair yard.  
(V.A.2 1442A/20 to Admty.)
- SHEFFIELD's 1125/19. 1 SHEFFIELD can be taken in hand by Messrs. John Brown, Clydebank.  
(D.O.D.H. 1906A/20 to V.A.2.)
- C.S.10 1231/20. When seaworthy proceed to Clyde via Minches complying with Admiralty 1906/20, para 2.  
(V.A.2 2231A/20 to SHEFFIELD.)
- P.8. My 1805/19. Temporary repairs in P.8 will be completed p.m. 23rd. Vessel would be ready to sail from Glasgow on the afternoon tide of 24th.  
(D.S.T.O. Glasgow 1441A/20 to D.S.T.)
- GAVOTTE. GAVOTTE reports Cross Bar and Firebar of centre furnace collapsed, also port hole in after flat leaking seriously. Request instructions.  
(TANGO 1537A/20 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- IMPULSIVE. Has lost his Asdic dome.  
(SCYLLA 1633A/20 to C. in C.H.F.)  
See Shipping.
- HOLLYDALE. Your 0836/20. Steam Drifters HOLLYDALE and GOWAN arrived. HOLLYDALE making water but easily held by pumps. Intend sailing vessels in company at 0730/21 for Buckie. E.T.A. Buckie 1730/21.  
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1908/20 to N.O.I.C. Dundee.)

War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.53 Seidisfiord arrivals at 2329/18 BLANKNEY and  
 J.W.53 B LEDBURY.  
 (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0105A/20 to H.F.)  
 E.T.A. Seidisfiord Gate 0900A/20.  
 (SHEFFIELD 0115A/20)

Arrivals Seidisfiord BELFAST, CUMBERLAND 0600/19, BLUEBELL,  
 CAMELLIA 0830/19, BOADICEA 1340/19, LEDBURY 1000/19.  
 (A.C.I.C.0412A/20 to H.F.)

Proceed to Seidisfiord sheltering Faroes if necessary  
 passing Hoxa at 0900 today. Route Q.Z.S.15 thence east of Faroes.  
 Complete with fuel and act as ordered by C.S.10 in place of  
 SHEFFIELD.

(V.A.2 0630/20 to GLASGOW.)

For information. Following vessels have been located by  
 R.D.F. All following positions are north and west unless  
 otherwise indicated (A) At 0930A/19. 3 possibly 5 vessels in  
 64.02, 06.12 course 310°, 3 knots. Believed to be J.W. 53B.  
 (B) At 0520A/20. One vessel in 65.32, 10.22 course 335°, 8 knots.  
 13 vessels 65.40 10.26 course 360° 6 knots. 2 vessels 65° (?32'  
 09° 32' course 350° 8 knots.  
 (2) My estimated P.C.S. 66° 02', 11° 21' 310° 20 knots.  
 (3) Weather 90821900.

(C. in C. H.F. 0812/20 to H.F. Ops.)

803 Seidisfiord departure at 0630/20 MILNE, FAULKNER,  
 BOADICEA, INGLEFIELD, ORWELL, OPORTUNE, OBEDIENT.

(A.C.I.C.0833A/20)

Scapa departure GLASGOW E.T.A. 0700A/22

(A.C.O.S. 0920/20 to A.C.I.C.)

Join me as quickly as weather permits Akureyri.

(C. in C. H.F. 0935/20 to BERWICK)

My 0920. Amend E.T.A. to 1800A/21 (GLASGOW)

(A.C.O.S. 1158A/20 to A.C.I.C.)

Hvalfiord arrival BLANKNEY at 1130/20.

(A.C.I.C.1202A/20)

A.C.O.S. 0920/20. Unless report indicates convoy is behind  
 time I do not consider I should wait for GLASGOW. Therefore  
 would you consider exchanging NORFOLK for GLASGOW and send  
 NORFOLK to R/V with me. I would signal proposed time and place  
 after receipt of report of convoy's position from returning local  
 escort or next reliable air report.

(C.S.10 1240A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

My estimated P.C.S. 358° Glettinganes Light 22.0 miles, 020°  
 12 knots, at 1300A. I am waiting till weather moderates to enter  
 Seidisfiord.

(NORFOLK 1316A/20 to A.C.I.C. (R) C. in C. H.F., C.S.10)

My 1443A/16. E.T.A. 0600A/23 (HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER).

(R.A.D. H.F. 1330A/20 to A.C.I.C.)

Seidisfiord departure OBDURATE at 0855, arrival SHEFFIELD  
 at 0935.

(A.C.I.C. 1443A/20)

Intend proceeding with INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, FURY, ECLIPSE,  
 ORKAN on completion fuelling at about 2000Z today.  
 (SCYLLA 1543A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Position ...

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.53                      Position at 2000 tonight.    All positions North  
J.W.53 B                    and West unless otherwise indicated.    GLASGOW  
                                 061° 22', 005° 15' to North Westward.  
                                 HAZARD, SHARPSHOOTER 058° 45', 005° 51', to  
North Westward.  
                                 (A.C.O.S.1608A/20)  
                                 IMPULSIVE has lost his asdic dome.    Suggest he dock at  
Hvalfiord and his place be taken by one of Battle Fleet screen.  
                                 (SCYLLA 1633A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)  
                                 Akureyri arrivals SCYLLA, DASHER, ECLIPSE, FURY, IMPULSIVE,  
INTREPID, LEDBURY, and ORKAN at 1145.  
                                 (A.C.I.C.1741A/20 to H.F.)  
                                 NORFOLK replacing SHEFFIELD in Force R.  
(2) PYTCHLEY remains at Seidisfiord available for patrol WHITE  
if required.  
(3) Intend BERWICK proceed with battle fleet.  
                                 (C. in C. H.F. 1806A/20 to V.A.2, C.S.1)  
                                 Sailed BERWICK at 2004 for Akureyri.    E.T.A. 1400/21st.  
                                 (A.C.I.C. 2011A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)  
                                 DASHER will not take part.  
2. Cancel all reference to Force A.  
3. LEDBURY and IMPULSIVE will remain at Akureyri to screen DASHER  
to next destination when ordered.  
                                 (C. in C. H.F. 2357A/20 to DASHER, IMPULSIVE, LEDBURY)  
Akureyri arrivals KING GEORGE V, METEOR, FORESTER, ICARUS in  
company at 1955.  
                                 (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2359A/20)

T.A.36                      Sailed EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND in accordance with my  
1544A/18.  
                                 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0258A/20)

K.M.S.10                    1. SWEETBRIAR is to arrive Barry Roads by 1800A/22  
to escort Bristol Channel portion of K.M.S.10 to  
Clyde A.M. 23rd.  
                                 (C. in C. W.A. 1013A/20)

O.N.170  
IROQUOIS                    A.M.1335/28 Jan.  
                                 (1) N.O.I.C. Newcastle on Tyne is requested to  
sail IROQUOIS for Londonderry 25th Feb.  
                                 (2) IROQUOIS is to sail for St. Johns Newfoundland  
with O.N.170.  
                                 (C. in C. W.A. 1015A/20)

S.C.118.  
Attacked by                Summary of S.C.118. Convoy first sighted 4th Feb.  
U-Boats                    U.187 found by BEVERLY searching along HF/DF  
4th to 8th                   bearing, sunk by VIMY.  
February.                   Night 4/5.    Number of attacks failed to penetrate  
                                 screen.

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

S.C.118                      Day 5th.    HEDGEHOG attack by BEVERLY.    Bombs  
Attacked                      exploded but no evidence.    WEST PORTAL sunk 50  
by U- Boats                      miles North of convoy.  
4th to 8th                      Night 5/6. Comparatively quiet.  
February.                      Day 6th.    Escort 12 including 4 U.S. ships.  
(Contd.)                      Four Liberators who co-operated well.    Several  
   attacks and sightings, some promising.  
   Night 6/7. 7 ships torpedoed, attacks from  
quarter and stern, weather force 6 port quarter dark with rain  
squalls.    Escorts active individually but too many picking up  
survivors.

Day 7th.    Air support from Ireland (R).    Iceland (C) aircraft  
grounded by weather.    One attack by aircraft.  
Night 7/8. One ship torpedoed.    No further attacks.  
Comment: Over 20 U-Boats estimated made contact - several  
damaged and possibly sunk besides U.187.    Convoy illumination  
not used, S.O. Escorts ahead of convoy would have done better  
astern.    Rescue ship TOWARD sunk after good work with HF/DF.  
Type 271 very effective.    Escort handicapped by not having worked  
together previously.

(A.C.N.S.U.T.1150A/20 to B.A.D. Washington)

Investigation of attacks on S.C.118 draw attention to the following points:

(a) In short visibility or at night the position of the S.O. escorts should in majority of cases be astern the convoy although there are occasions when he is better placed ahead.    S.O.s escorts in their report are to give the reasons leading to their particular selection of position.

(b) It is essential that escorts keep the S.O. escort fully informed of any important incident of which he may be ignorant and on every occasion on which they leave their station on the Convoy or deviate from their last instructions.

(c) The necessity for prompt offensive action when Convoy is attacked.    Nothing can be achieved by trusting the U-Boats will run into contact with the escort.

(C. in C. W.A. 2348A/20)

TJALDUR                      Intend to sail at 1600/21 SS.TJALDUR kite balloon  
(trooper) escorted by FORFEIT speed 9 knots for  
Aberdeen.    E.T.A. 1600/22, routed by my 1125/14th  
Jan.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1235A/20 to A.C.O.S.)  
My 1010/19. Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1332/20)

STRATHMORE                      Admiralty 2350/7.    Intend sailing STRATHMORE at  
1300A/21.    Normal route to Liverpool.    E.T.A.  
Bar Light Vessel 1600A/21.  
(N.O.I.C. Barrow 1300/20)

Stores in                      Admty.'s 1332/17.    Probable that Stores in  
North                              J.W.53 can be satisfactorily dealt with.  
Russia.                              2. Only method of storing any further consignments  
   would be in dumps in the open and doubt whether  
   even this can be arranged.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Stores  
in  
North  
Russia  
(Contd.)

3. Reserve of provisions in J.W.52 and J.W.53 viz. 6 months for 800 men plus large reserves M.W.T. Cabin (?Stores) already at Murmansk considered adequate for Kola Inlet, provided it is kept topped up until June in accordance with demands which will be signalled periodically.

4. Requirements at Kola Inlet less than originally estimated as only one or two minesweepers based here instead of Flotilla.

5. Reserves at Archangel are already appreciable vide my 1043/20th Dec. and, on conservative estimate, are equalized to half reserve indicated in my 0833/26 Sept.

6. It was never contemplated when policy was established by Admty. 2136/17 Sept. that whole reserve for North Russia could be handled at Kola Inlet. Series of signals has been made to Admiralty in endeavour to control shipments of even that part of the reserve allocated to Kola Inlet. This was necessary so that local storage, transport and labour difficulties could be gradually overcome. Examples of such signals my 1515/31 Dec. and my 0902/11th Jan. Shipments in J.W.52 and J.W.53 on large scale without notice of intention threatened to overwhelm primitive and limited resources of the place.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1542A/20 to Admty.)

North  
Atlantic  
Convoys.  
Increased  
Size.

Number of ships now presenting for convoy in New York is far in excess of the numbers which can be included if a limit of 65 ships per convoy is adhered to.

Whilst we are most anxious to keep convoys down to a reasonable size it is clear that emergency

measures are necessary in order to deal with the present situation.

We have no precise information as to the extent or duration of the present congestion, but having regard to the increased amount of shipping necessary to augment the U.K. Import Programme and the inclusion of L.S.T.s in convoys, it would be unwise to count on any reduction in the number of ships presenting for convoy in future.

The long term remedy is the closing of the cycle as proposed in my 1110A/19th Feb. but the following measures are proposed as an immediate means of meeting the situation.

(A) Size of convoys to be temporarily increased to 80 ships.

(B) Western Local Escort to be increased by 2 additional trawlers or minesweepers from R.C.N. resources.

(C) Mid-Ocean escort to be increased by two destroyers of Western Support Force which would be detached or relieved at P.L.E. by escorts from U.K. The former would fuel in Iceland (C) or Londonderry as most convenient before returning to St. Johns.

It is understood that ST. LAURENT is proceeding to U.K. shortly and it is suggested she might form one of the additional escorts. If concurred in it is most desirable that the above proposals should be put into force commencing with S.C.121 sailing on 23rd February.

(A.C.N.S.U.T.1635A/20 to Cominch, H.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

[Comments of C. W. Approaches, page 795A]

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

S.D.37  
VIDETTE.

A.C.I.C. 1756/19. Request you will sail VIDETTE when ready direct to Reykjavik to act as escort for S.D.37 in place of SHIKARI. (C. in C.W.A. 1645A/20 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

CITY OF  
BRISTOL.

Intend to sail independently CITY OF BRISTOL at 1700/21, 15 knots for Saldanha Bay for onward routing to Beria. E.T.A. 07° W. at 2100/21. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe. 1710A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Barry Roads  
as assembly  
anchorage.

F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 2359/19 para 8. Propose that a conference should be called by D.T.D. Admiralty at a convenient date. My representative will attend. It will be appreciated if C. in C.Plymouth will also send a representative. (C. in C.W.A. 2029A/20 to Admty.)

W.S.27  
MALAYA.

A.M. 2351/16. On completion of practices a.m. 22nd proceed to arrive Clyde boom 0730A/23.  
2. Route via Minches.  
3. Complete and comply Admiralty's 2351/16.  
4. F.O.C. or S.O.(D) H.F. is requested to provide 3 destroyers as escort, to return to Scapa when released. (V.A.2 2214A/20 to MALAYA.)

Naval  
Hospital  
at  
Archangel.

Your 1654/15. Question of hospital unit for Archangel is being dealt with in strong protest instructions for which are being sent to Ambassador Moscow. (Head of M.I. 2349A/20 to Ad. Miles.)

Atlantic  
Convoy  
Escort  
Destroyers.

BITER and ARCHER will be ready for service by mid March and it is particularly desirable to commence operating these ships in defence of convoys. It is essential four long-legged destroyers for special carrier escort may be made available for this purpose by 15th March. (C. in C.W.A. 2357A/20 to Admty.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- NORDFELS. German 62 left for France 1900/19th.  
(Consul, Bilbao, 1010/20 to Admty., (R) M.E.W.  
B.N.A. Madrid, S.O. (I) Gibraltar.) Passed by  
War Reg. to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth.,  
F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)
- U.G.F.5. Casablanca Section arrived 1515Z/19 as follows  
(list).  
(S.N.O.C.A., 1015Z/20 to Cominch, Admty., C. in C.  
Med. (W).)
- Dispositions. Situation 2001A/20th. C.F. 11 Fleet Unit  
HOTSPUR 31.21 12.01 through 34.01, 12.01 thence  
346° 12. One destroyer part company in 34.01,  
12.01 at approx. 0915/21st to proceed Gibraltar 15.  
(2) ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG, LADY DENISON-PENDER 33.15 14.48 070°  
9. (3) NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, SAMSONIA, towing one  
merchant ship 40.14 12.30 000° 3. (4) S.R.1. PENTSTEMON 029°  
28' 012° 04' 036° 5¼. (5) E.C.1 WESTON 038° 32' 013° 39'  
through 35.01 14.01 thence 258° 10. (6) R.S. 1. (x) DUNKERY  
27.48 13.38 through 26.01 15.23 thence 206° 8½  
(7) M.K.F.9. KRAKOWIAK, 40.21 11.32 through 42.02 13.59 thence  
03° 14 (amended, see 0224/21. (8) U.G.S.5. T.F. 35 029° 08'  
023° 23'. 074° 8½ (9) (?CANTON) leaving St. Vincent (Cape Verde  
Islands) 21st for Lisbon 15 knots. (10) O.S.43 PELICAN 044°  
24' 014° 30' 180° 8. (11) K.X.9. WISHART 044° 07' 013° 10' 160° 7  
(12) TAKU 041° 36' 011° 22' through 42.59 11.48 at 0430/21st  
thence 347° dived by day 2½ surfacing at night 10.  
(F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 1041A/20.)
- NYASSA. My 1918/16. St. Vincent reports NYASSA sailed  
(Portuguese) 1700/18th Feb. for Lisbon direct. Speed may be  
reduced as Master states one boiler being used  
only.  
(D.E.W.D., 1054A/20 to F.O. Gib. (R) C. in C.Med.)  
My 1131/19 Master of NYASSA reported confidentially to  
H.M. Consul St. Vincent his suspicions of first class Brazilian  
passenger Antonio Ville la Marques who has repeatedly contacted  
third class passengers. Suspects he carries precious metals.  
2. Portuguese first class passenger Dr. Rodrigues de Sousa  
Castro reported pro-Axis and considered acting as mail carrier  
for German and Italian Consuls.  
(D.E.W.D., 1257A/20 to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)  
Ref. A.M. 1918 Feb. 16th to F.O.C. Gibraltar, Portuguese  
NYASSA. If intercepted are mails to be removed?  
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 1530/20 to M.E.W.) Reply 1318/21.  
Admty. Message 1918/16 and 1054/19.\* Intend sailing  
REGINA A.M. 21st for Y.1 patrol to intercept.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1645A/20 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)  
\*Portuguese NYASSA to be sent to Gibraltar for examination.)  
Portuguese S.S. NYASSA 8980 G.T. left Cape Verde St. Vincent  
1700/18th for Lisbon. Speed 13 knots, but may be reduced owing  
to boiler defect. 2. If encountered this ship is to be sent in  
to Gibraltar under armed guard.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1652A/20 to S. and A. Areas X.A., X.B.)

/GORRIENTES...



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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

CORRIENTES (German) My 1145/19th, re CORRIENTES, onward "Berth" please insert "Inner Harbour".  
(Las Palmas, 1200/20 to Admty. (R), S.O. (I) Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid.) (Former Amended.)

G.U.S.4. U.S.N. L.O. Gibraltar received instructions from C.S.A. London to arrange that following ships proceed direct U.S.A. if no cargo for U.K. next

G.U.S. If not already please include in G.U.S. 4 WINSTON SALEM, REVERDY JOHNSON, MATHEW P. DEADY. NATHANIEL GREEN, FERNCLIFF, JAMES MONROE, ANDREW HAMILTON, SAHALE, PANAMA CITY.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1205A/20 to C. in C. Med. (W) (R) Comm. Algiers, F.O. i/c Oran, S.N.O.C.A., Admty., Connnav.)

Convoy R.S.I.(Y) Intend to sail convoy Q.R.I.Y. (as received - R.S.I.(Y) intended) at 0900/21 composition as in my 1732/19, escorted by BIRDLIP (S.O.) and BUTSER. (2) Route (T) 35.45 N. 06.23 W. (U) 33.59 N. 07.58 W. (V) 33.35 N. 09.30 W. (W) 28.28 N. 13.25 W. (X) 26.01 N. 15.20 W. S. of A. 8 knots. (3) F.O.C.W.A. is requested to signal onward route from position (X) (4) Codeword "Duncan". (5) F.O.C.W.A. Pass to Comar, Dakar.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1206A/20 to F.O.C.W.A.)

U.G.F.5 Arrivals 0520/20. ESSO PHILADELPHIA, COLINA.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1210A/20 to C. in C. Med. Port Director New York, Admty., (R) Connnav, N.S.H.Q.)

JAMAICA, operation "Regulation". Admiral Gibraltar 1827/17. Omit position P. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1321A/20 to JAMAICA, (R) Admty., Adml. Gibraltar, C. in C. H.F. C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Med.)

Refit of ALBERTO. Admty. 0004/A/13 Jan. Request report on present position. You should, of course refer final proposals to Admiralty for approval before concluding deal.  
(M. Branch I., 1402A/20 to N.A. Lisbon.)

AMERICAN PRESS. Your 1420A/19. (1425A intended). My 1614/30 should be 1430/16 Feb. My 1738/17 should be 1820/17. AMERICAN PRESS preceding Convoy U.G.S.4. arrived Casablanca 1st Feb. Sailed with C.G. - 11 for Gibraltar 16. Feb.  
(S.N.O.C.A. 1415Z/20 to Admty.)

U/B. S/M sighted 33.10 N. 33.42 W. at 1300 G.M.T.  
(U.S.S. MACOMB, 1455Z/20 to V. A. Gibraltar, Cominch, C.G.S.F. C.T.F. 35. C.T.F. 36 Cdr. N.W. Africa Sea Frontier.)

/URSULA...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

URSULA Intend sailing H.M.S. URSULA at 1800/22nd Gibraltar for passage to U.K. routed through A. 038° 05' N. 001° 35' E. at 0800/23rd. B. 135° Cape Palos 5 at 0800/24th. C. 180° Cape De Gata 5 at 0500/25th. D. 180° Cape Calaburras 5 at 0600/26th to arrive 1030/26th unless otherwise ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. (2) URSULA will not pass position D before 0600/26th and will shift normal wireless watch to given broadcast at 0400/24th. (Capt. S. 8 1504A/20 to C. in C. Med. F.O. Gib. (R) STURGEON etc)

A.S.V. J.S.M. 1535Z/20. See America and West Indies.  
Aircraft  
for  
Casablanca.

M.K.F.9. M.K.F.9 sailed 0800/19. Embarked Gibraltar JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT R.N. Officers 21, C.P.Os. two, P. O.s 14, ratings 76, R.N. civilians, 4 firsts, 4 seconds R.A.F. Officers 8, O.Rs. 38, Military O.Rs. 6, Merchant Navy 14. Survivors 37 ex EMPIRE MORDRED, 26 ex BALTONIA, 9 ex MARY SLESSOR, including 2 cadets ex WILLIAM WILBERFORCE. Civilians 7 firsts, 2 seconds, 4 thirds. Following from MONARCH OF BERMUDA for Furness Withy 56 Leadenhall Street, E.C.3. Begins Vincent McClean Assistant Steward killed by falling down lift shaft February 16, buried ashore. Inform relatives. Ends. (D.S.T.O. Gib., 1716A/20 to D. of S.T. London (R) P.S.T.O. X.F.)

M.K.S.8. Your 1731A/19, sailing destinations, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA to Clyde. EMPIRE USK to Barrow. ITTERSUM to Loch Ewe. AMERICAN PRESS if you confirm for U.K. sail to Clyde f.o. (D.T.D., 1727A/20 to F.O.C. Gib.)

ST. ALBERT. Valencia Reports. (Begins) German (ex French) SAINT ALBERT collided with Sea Wall at Entrance this Port during storm last night 18th and sank. T. of O. 1827/19th Feb. (Ends.) (S.O.I. Gib., 1914A/20 to D.N.I. (R) S.O.(I) Algiers, S.O. (I) Malta.)

ST. NECTAN. Left cable ground for Gibraltar 2100A/20th. Course and speed 066° 9 knots, E.T.A. 2130A/23rd. One cable buoy adrift and missing. (ST. NECTAN, 2125A/20 to F.O.Gibraltar.)

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- C.A.13. Convoy C.A.13 Group B dispersed at 0530Z/19.  
(C. in C. S.A. 0046C/20 to C. in C. E.F. (R)  
Admty. etc.)
- CECILE MAPLESON. Departure 0326 G.M.T. 20th CECILE MAPLESON  
for Capetown S of A. 6 knots E.T.A.0600/24th.  
(N.L.O. East London 0553Z/20 to Admty., C. in C.  
S.A., etc.)
- Convoy C.D.5 Sailing telegram.  
(2) 0630 20th Feb.  
(4) 8 knots  
(5) Coastal Ref.Area R.F. Saldanha Bay 1 to 8.  
(6) STANDERTON, SONNIBLOM. and CARNATIC.  
(N.C.S.O., Capetown, 0746Z/20, to Admty. etc.)  
Simonstown departure 1645/20 CARNATIC escorting Convoy C.D.5  
E.T.A. Durban P.M.24, shift to W/T organisation for area J at  
2200C/23.  
(C.C.S.A. 1755C/20 to Admty. Com. Durban, C in C.E.F., F.O.C.  
R.I.N.)
- S.T.56 1. Intend to sail BELLWORT, CYCLAMEN and F.S.  
COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting convoy S.T.56 at  
1815Z/20th.  
Convoy consists of BERGENSFJORD (Commodore) and LEOPOLVILLE  
for Lagos and ORBITA for Takoradi.  
2. Route (a) 007 degs. 38' north 014 degs. 20' west (b) 003  
degs. 24' north 007 degs. 16' west (c) 004 degs. 02' north  
002 degs. 31' west (d) 004 degs. 20' north 002 degs 25' east thence  
Lagos estimated speed made good 12½ knots.  
3. CYCLAMEN escorting ORBITA will be detached to arrive at  
Takoradi p.m. 23rd Feb. N.O.I.C. Takoradi is then to sail  
H.M.S. CYCLAMEN to Boma  
4. E.T.A. remaining ships Fairway buoy Lagos 0800Z/25th. If  
speed indicated by aircraft reports permits, convoy will be  
ordered to proceed. (c) direct to Lagos to arrive 1515Z 24th  
(F.O.C.W.A.1044Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Lagos N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R)  
Admty. BELLWORT, Br. N.L.O. W. Africa.
- Movements. Walvis Bay arrival 20th STELLA POLARIS,  
COVENTRY CITY.  
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1105C/20 to C. in C. S.A.  
Admiralty.)  
Arrived Fr. Aux. Cruiser Fr. Cloop M/S QUERCY, LA GRACIEUSE  
(?0300) 20th.  
(?Comar, Dakar, 1211Z/20. to N.O.I.C. West Africa (R)  
N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty.)  
Departure Feb. 19th RUMBA escorting French Hospital  
HOGGAR.  
(S.O. (I) Sierra Leone, 1302Z/20. to Admty (R) Dakar R.O.  
Monrovia.)  
Arrival 19th Brazilian Light Cruiser BAHIA Minelayer  
CABEDELLO sub chaser GURUPY. Departure 20th U.S. Cruiser  
MEMPHIS. U.S. Destroyer KEARNEY.  
(R.O. Bahia 1820Z/20 to Admty. (R) S.O. (I) Freetown, B.N.S.O.  
Rio de Janeiro.)

/Dispositions.....

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Cont.

Dispositions. WAYLAND, CANTON, CILICIA, QUALITY, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, (?BLACKMOOR) COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 28.30 South 15.10 East to 29.59 South 15.51 East and Capetown 11.3 knots.

QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH 28.55. South 15.15 East to Capetown 20 knots

ROCKROSE, MOOIVLEI with O.N.9 29.20 South 16.00 East to Walvis Bay 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

FRITILLARY, NORTHERN DAWN, CAPE WARWICK with N.C.2, 32.30 South 17.10 East to Saldanha Bay 8 knots.

ST. ZENO, LE TIGER off Cape Point to Capetown.

CARNATIC, STANDERTON, SONNEBLUM with C.D.5 34.55 South 19.30 East to Durban 8.

Convoy D.C.9, 34.15 South 26.00 East to Capetown 9.

CATTERICK with CAPSA 34.00 South 27.00 East to overtake and join D.C.9 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots.

BALUCHISTAN with C.A. 13.A.31.15. South 30.40 East to Durban 9 knots.

JASMINE, SONDRRA, SPHENE, NORWICH CITY with O.N. 19.31 00 South 32.45 East to 33 South 36 East 8 knots.

THYME escorting NESTOR 10.45 South 04.15 West to Takoradi 11 knots (C. in C. S.A. 1142C/20 to Areas Q & J).

Situation at 2002 Z/20th. French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES 24.47.28.12 (119 or 173 or 135 19 DESPATCH 19.00 34.58 to (19?) 01.37 (31?) thence 094 deg. 20.

ORFSA off Bathurst to Dakar 9 ARRAN 3 M/Ls escorting about 12. 32 17.32 to South 7 BRIDGEWATER, INKPEN 08.26.15.08. to Freetown 10. ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF 12.14 30.01 to 15.01 30 thence 251 12.5 MONTE MARANCO to 19.22 21.06 011 deg 6. (F.O.C.W.A. 1216Z/20 to A.I.G.149)

Weekly state Cape area ROCKROSE, FRITILLARY, NORTHERN DAWN, S.A.Station CAPE WARWICK, ZENO, LE TIGER. With W.S. 26 20th Feb. CANTON, CILICIA, RELENTLESS, WAYLAND, QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH, QUALITY, RACEHORSE, BLACKMOOR, COMMANDANT. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S. Capetown to Durban BALUCHISTAN. Durban to Capetown CATTERICK. St. Helena to Takoradi THYME. NORTHERN ISLES, COVENTRY, CITY, STELLA, POLARIS. Saldanha Bay, MANCHESTER CITY, SPINDRIFT, FERMMOOR, LADY ROSEMARY, Capetown CARTHAGE, NORTHERN DUKE, WELLARD M.L. 830. Simonstown CERES, CHITRAL, GENISTA, F.S. COMMANDANTE DUBOC P.552 P.614, HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ELSA, CARNATIC M.L.s 380, 381, 382, 383, 829, 11, 50. Port Elizabeth STORMWRACK, KHETI (A.S. Issuing Ship), PACHECO (A.S. Issuing Ship). East London COLOMBIA, NORTHERN CHIEF, ST. LOMAN, SARKA, SATSA, CECILE MAPLESON. Durban EREBUS, RESOURCE, ALBATROSS, NAPIER, FREESIA, NIGELIA, VIVIANA, ARTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN, STAR, MEAD, INTEGRITY, HILDESAY, PRUDENCE. (C. in C. S.A. 1159C/20 to geelong, C. in C. Eastern Fleet 723, F.O.C. W.A.F. 819, Deputy C. in C. Eastern Fleet, F.O. i/c Gibraltar, F.L.O. Delhi, S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic.)

TJITJALENGKA. D. of S.T.'s 1700/13. TJITJALENGKA sailed 20th. E.T.A. Capetown a.m. 3rd. (D.S.T.O.W.A. 1212/20 to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) D. of S.T. C. in C. E.F.)

EGERO.....

War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.- Cont.

EGERO Admty. 1950A/19th EGERO expected sailing Takoradi 21st P.M. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1222Z/20, to F.O.C. (R) Admty.)

Convoy R.S.1. OCEAN VICEROY is to remain in convoy to Freetown. Pass to Cmdre. (F.O.C.W.A. 1518Z/20 1759Z/20 to BRIDGEWATER, (R) Admty, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, M. of W.T. Freetown)

ALCANTARA WOODRUFF. IMPORTANT. Comply with Comsolant 1503/- 17th Feb. (R.A.W.A. 1516Z/20 to ALCANTARA and 1521Z/20 to Cominet, etc.)  
/- ALCANTARA & WOODRUFF to remain on patrol.

S.H.2. Anticipate total of 16 ships will be ready to sail from Freetown and Dakar in convoy S,H 2. (F.O.C.W.A. 1557/20, to N.C.X.F. F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) S.N.O.C.A. Admty.)

SANGARA (Sabotage Accra). SANGARA arrived off port noon today Saturday. Nigerian Government confirm refusal to enter. Taking stores and will attempt Bonny River or Duala as circumstances permit. Pumps at present holding SANGARA at draught 25 feet. (N.O.I.C. Lagos. 1604Z/20 to F.O.C. West Africa. (R) Admty.)

SPINDRIFT MANCHESTER CITY. Your 1326 / 13th Feb. (/ 1326/12 intended re underwater harbour defences in Indian Ocean). Penultimate paragraph suggests SPINDRIFT will leave for Eastern Fleet with MANCHESTER CITY after completion of C/M Field at Saldanha Bay. SPINDRIFT has been allocated to South Africa vide paragraph 2 of A.L.T.O. 6597/42 of 15th Sept 1942 and will be taken over by S.A.N.F. shortly. (C. in C. S.A. 1723C/20. to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty, F.O.Ceylon. F.O.C.R.I.N. Com.R.I.N.)

DESPATCH Arrival St. Vincent 19th Feb. DESPATCH. (S.O.1. Freetown 1831Z/20 1043Z/21 to Admty. Comar, Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

HILARY. HILARY must reach U.K. by 15th March. Proposal in F.O.C.W.Af. 1641/19th Feb. does not appear to fulfill this requirement. Ship should be sailed independently and carry no passengers. A.M. 2119/29th Jan. not to D.S.T.O.W. Africa refers. (D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1911A/20 to F.O.C.W.Af. D.S.T.O. W.Africa. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O. Gibraltar.)

War Diary.

20.2.1945.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Cont.

S.L.127.

Request accommodation (in?) S.L 127 for ARAWA, knots 14 sailing Montevideo 28th Feb. due Freetown 15th March, will require 400 tons oil fuel. My 2101/19th, request early reply concerning LEIGHTON.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro. 2034Z/20 to F.O.W.A.  
(R) Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

**TIGRIS** Try and be in position 229° focal point F.13 miles by 1600/20th thence proceed course 29° to patrol off Naples.  
(Capt. S.8., 0030A/20 to TIGRIS (R) P.228 (SPLENDID)).

**HYACINTH** My P.C. and S. at 0300/20th will be 032° 54' N. 021° 02' E. 334° 10 knots altering to 244° at 0430.  
(HYACINTH, 0120B/20 to HURSLEY, ISIS (R) 247 Wing Med. Station).  
I am searching round position 032° 53' N. (3 groups missing).  
(HYACINTH, 0720B/20 to 247 Wing).

**TRAVANCORE** Arrival.  
(Cdre. Aden, 0426Z/20 to Admty etc).

**P.R.U. Marseilles 19 Feb.** Since 9 Feb. 9 vessels, over 200 feet arrived, 12 departed. 3 large tankers, liner MASSILIA and other large liners remain at previous berths. Etang de Berre only partly covered. Port de Bouc, 1 merchant ship 330 feet present. (D.D.I.C., 0839A/20 to C. in C. Med etc).

**Libya Discharges.** For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Discharges 19 Feb. Tripoli 3,423 tons, Benghazi 3,031 tons. Record for two ports together. Enemy air attack Tripoli did damage but nothing important. (Mideast, 0845Z(?0846)/20 to Air Min).

**Movements Alexandria.** Arrival 19th Feb. MT.B. 313 departure 19th Feb. Greek Destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0905B/20 to Admty. C. in C. Levant)

**ASTERIA (sunk 18 Feb.) intelligence.** Following for S.O.(I) Algiers. Ref. 1458/18th from N.C.X.F. to Admty. para. 1 (Italian U-boat ASTERIA sunk by WHEATLAND and EASTON 47 prisoners including C.O. taken) Following grade A.2 is forwarded for your information:  
(i) Flotillas to which attached: 12th Flotilla Dec. 1941 3rd Flotilla Jan. 1942 10th Flotilla Feb. April 1942, 7th Flotilla Sept. Dec. 1942.  
(ii) Fired a torpedo at a destroyer in 033° 48' N. 034° 56' E. at 0210/14th July 1942.  
(iii) Attached singly depth charges 50 miles North of Derna 2000/15th June 1942.  
(iv) Was at sea on 2nd Dec. 1942 and 11th Dec. 1942.  
(v) Request names of officers.  
(C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1005B/20 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty).

War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Bi-weekly  
Opsum  
No. 101  
part 3.

Night 18/19 Feb. About 6 unidentified enemy aircraft approached Tripoli 4 of them dropping bombs on land. 3 M.T. destroyed, some damage to balloon squadron administrative buildings. No casualties. 3 Beaufighters 3 Hurricanes up. No interceptions.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1016Z/20).

M.K.S.8

(1) M.K.S.8 (2) and (3) 1900A/19. (4) 6½ knots.  
(5) and (8) As in N.C.X.F. 1733A/12.  
(6) WEYBURN (S.O.) LUNENBURG, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1041A/20 to Admty. Connnav, etc).

M.K.S.8. Your 1003/19 A.M. 1913/17 refers.  
(Admty. 1057A/20 to Cdre. Algiers).

M.K.S.8. (1) LUNENBURG is to be detached on approaching Gibraltar to fuel and rejoin.

(2) PORT ARTHUR is to replace BADDECK as ocean escort to U.K.

(3) My 1519/19th not to all addressees delete PORT ARTHUR.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to detail 1 additional escort for G.U.S.4 Costa Rica section to R/V and return Gibraltar.

(C. in C. Med., 1557A/20 to WIVERN (R) Escorts of convoy  
M.K.S.8 F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Connnav, Admty. Capt. F.

Capt. (S) 8, S.O. Force H).

My 1041/20 M.K.S.8 list, destinations, etc.

(Cdre. Algiers, 1714A/20 to Admty. Connnav).

G.U.F.5

N.O.I.C. Oran is requested to sail G.U.F.5 at 1300A/25th routed through 109, 50, 57 lettered B to C through Q.K.A. 87 thence to D, 034° 39' N. 008° 05' W. S. of A. 14 knots.

Stragglers route as convoy.

(2) Gibraltar Section joining in 57 at 0600A/26th. Casablanca Section in position D at 1730A/26th.

(3) Admiralty is requested to signal onward route.

(4) Escort of Mediterranean Section VENOMOUS, ALBACORE, CADMUS, SPEEDWELL, CIRCE, ESPIEGLE, to return Gibraltar on completion.

(5) Escort of main convoy as ordered by S.N.O. Casablanca.

(6) Fighter protection priority 2 Codeword "Thrapston".

(C. in C. Med. 1056A/20 to N.O.I.C. Oran, S.N.O. Casablanca, Admty. (R) Connnav, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

G.U.F.5. My 1055/20 (1056/20 intended) Cancel para. 4. S.O. Force H is requested to detail earliest opportunity destroyers to escort G.U.F.5 to R/V with Casablanca section, escort then returning to Mers el Kebir.

(C. in C. Med., 1743A/20 to N.O.I.C. Oran, S.O. Force H.

(R) S.N.O. Casablanca, Connnav, Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

Special Slow  
Convoy  
Gib. - U.K.

My 1650A/16. Additions. French escort  
LA BOUDEUSE available.  
(Connob, Oran, Area. 1110A/20 to C. in C. Med).

/SAHIB...



War Diary.

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

SAHIB. Tonight you may be required to attack 2 ships reported anchored off Pantellaria. Further orders follow after P.R.U.  
(Capt. S.10., 1120A/20 to P.212 (SAHIB) (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8).

Cancel my 1556/20 (Not circulated in Admty as this was repetition of Capt. (S) 10s 1120/20) proceed Malta.  
(Capt. S.10., 1704A/20 to SAHIB).

THUNDERBOLT My 1055/19 amend R/V to 0830/24th.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1121A/20 to THUNDERBOLT).

Air R/C. P.R.U. Feb. 20th Visuals. 1010 Taranto 2 battleships 2 cruisers photographs taken.  
(V.A. Malta, 1219A/20 to C. in C. Med., etc).  
P.R.U. Feb. 20th visuals. 1045 Naples 2 cruisers  
7 destroyers. 1145 Messina 2 destroyers.  
2. Photographs taken.  
(VA. Malta, 1341A/20 to C. in C. Med etc).  
P.R.U. Feb. 20th visuals. 1520 Taranto 2 battleships,  
2 cruisers, 1610 Messina 2 destroyers. Photographs taken.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1732A/20 to C. in C. Med etc).

Tunis- Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. (W) 485.  
Marseilles Ref. J.S.M. 738. A repetition of Foreign Office  
Repatriations. telegram No. 135 to Algiers is in my immediately following telegram.

2. Please communicate this to Combined Chiefs of Staff and add that, apart from political reasons, British Chiefs of Staff are opposed to this unnecessary addition to our labours.

(Air. Min. 1230Z/20 to Britman Washington).

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. (W) 485. Ref. my immediately preceding telegram, following is repetition of F.O. Telegram No. 135 to Algiers dated 17th Feb. 1943. (beginning Signal 2000A/ of 15th Feb. from N.C.X.F. to Admty. and Gen. Eisenhower's telegram No. 398 to Washington (proposed repatriation to Marseilles of French women and children in Tunisia).

War Cabinet see some objections to this proposal, e.g. do these French families themselves wish to return to France, and is there not a risk that the Germans might exert, through them, an influence on the morale of French troops in Africa? The scheme involves a complicated and difficult operation, which should only be justified by plain advantage. Please ascertain whether General Eisenhower regards it as important that facilities should be given. (Ends).

(Air Min. 1240Z/20 to Britman Washington) Eisenhower and Cunningham concur. see 2355Z/24.

/Air...

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air Defence Command, Egypt. Your 98112 (M.O.7) 29th Jan.  
1. C. in C. have examined instruction contained therein and recommend.  
A. Air Defence Command, Egypt, to be given more comprehensive title and extended to include Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Levant (including Gyprus)  
B. Existing A.A. and C.D. Branch G.H.Q. to lapse and be re-organised as an A.A. group under Air Defence Commander, Commander (Major General) to be responsible to C. in C. for Army Command, training and administration of A.A. and C.D. units, and to act as A.A. adviser.  
C. Above organisation to be reviewed after three months from date of taking effect.  
2. W.E. A.A. group under consideration and will be considerably less than A.A. group U.K. No addition Maj.-Gen required but net increase beyond our powers one First Grade Staff appt.  
3. Desired operate A.A. group 1st March. Request signal earliest agreement in principle and authority implement recommendations.  
(C. in C. M.E. 1305B/20 to W.O.)

Rear-Adm. Misoff for Alexandria. Have just had a visit from Adm. Michelier who has decided in concert with Gen. Giraud to send Rear Adm. Misoff, Chief of Staff to Michelier to Alexandria. Understand Misoff is to be given a special letter to Godfroy but exact instructions of the former are not yet known.  
2. Misoff is an excellent choice from our point of view and probably the best man available.  
3. Grateful if you would arrange necessary facilities for Misoff Possible that Mr. MacMillan, Resident Minister, will be in same aircraft.  
(C. in C. Med., 1312A/20 to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty.)

P/R Genoa A.M. 2316/19 Feb. Request P.R. Genoa may be flown as soon as practicable in order to locate missing LITTORIO.  
(D.O.D. (F), 1315A/20 to Air Min).

K.M.S.9 Arrived: MISOA, ROBERT MORRIS, SELVIK, and STAR only escorted by FELIXSTOWE, CONVULVULUS and NASTURTIUM.  
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1424A/20 to C. in C. Med)  
Algiers Section K.M.S.9 arrived plus NURJEHAN less HADLEIGH and CEFYN Y BRYN. Also arrived EVVIVA, NA VA, BJORKHAUG from Oran.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1545A/20 to Admty).

ROCKWOOD Hope to reach Suez 0930Z Feb. 21st. Convoy route.  
(ROCKWOOD, 1436Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Suez, (R) S.N.O.L.A.)

War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.8th Army  
Communiques.

Our joint war communique today is last (?mentioning) 8th Army operations which understand will be included as from tomorrow in A.F.H.Q. communique.  
(C. in C. M.E., No T.O.O./20 to W.O. etc).

Movements  
Port Said.

20th Feb. Port Said Arrivals AETOS, COUNDOURIOTIS  
Departures SPETSAI, PANTHER, AETOS, TRANSVAALIA,  
M.L.385.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1706/20 to Admty. etc).

Smokelaying  
aircraft for  
Screening  
Convoys.

Your 1156A/12. No system has been evolved, but it is agreed that method is worth trial for protection of small convoys at dusk and dawn.  
2. Policy to date has been to embark S.C.I. in carriers for special operations only, but Cs. in C. E.F. and Levant have recently been asked to consider extending this policy.  
3. Following aircraft in Mediterranean theatre are fitted for carriage of Smoke Curtain Installations:- (list).  
4. As a guide to performance of smoke curtain aircraft the Swordfish and Albacore equipped with 4 x 250 lb. S.C.I. can lay a curtain about 1700 yds. long, effective to a height of about 500 feet within 2 - 3 minutes of laying.  
5. No stocks of S.C.I. for smoke are held by R.A.F. Units in Mediterranean theatre, 30 x 500 lb. S.C.Is. and 30 x 250 lb. S.C.Is. were despatched to Middle East on 24th Dec. 1942. 180 tons of smoke mixture (F.M.) are on from U.S.A. but it not known when initial supply will arrive.  
6. Three 250 lb. S.C.I. and a small quantity of smoke mixture are held at Gibraltar. A small supply may also be onboard FORMIDABLE.  
7. Instructions on use of this equipment were forwarded under Admiralty Letter A/A.M. 2339/41 of 29th Dec. 1942.  
(D.A.W.T. Approved A.C.N.S. (W) 1714A/20 to C. in C. Med).

TRIBUNE

(1) Your escort will be M.L.338.  
(2) 2 destroyers will be leaving Algiers at 0715 tomorrow to carry out gunnery exercises 10 miles north of harbour.

(3) URSULA leaves harbour at 0930 escorted by M.L. to exercise with destroyer in area north of  $036^{\circ} 52' N.$  and W. of  $003^{\circ} 02' W.$

(4) If escort not met proceed into harbour unescorted.

(Capt. S.8., 1724A/20 to TRIBUNE)

My 1724. No escort is available, enter harbour unescorted pass  $036^{\circ} 59' N.$   $003^{\circ} 12' E.$  at 0715/21st.

(Capt. S.8., 2018A/20 to H.M.S. TRIBUNE (R), LIGHTNING, URSULA, Cdre. Algiers, X.D.O.)

M.K.S.8,  
G.U.S.4.

Following ships have sailed. M.K.S. 8 (list, 5 ships). G.U.S.4 (list, 13 ships).  
(N.O.B. Oran, 1730A/20 to C. in C. Med).

/Air...

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air Raids  
on Italian  
Ports.

Your 1941/17th Feb. Pending outcome of discussions referred to in para. 2 of A.M. 1041/10th Feb. temporary arrangements have been made to keep you informed of raids carried out on Italian Ports.  
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1845A/20 to C. in C. Med).

C.O. for  
NEBOJSCA.

Your 1415/15. Yugoslavs had been pressing us for air passage to Alexandria for Lieut. Cdr. Djordje Djordjevic, whom they have appointed to take command of NEBOJSCA. We had been stalling because (a) we doubted whether a Yugoslav crew was available (b) we hoped to keep Djordjevic for special service.  
2. In view of your (a) and (d) we agree NEBOJSCA should be returned to Yugoslavs and Djordjevic take command since there is not apparently any other acceptable C.O.  
3. Subject to your further views we propose to provide air passage for Djordjevic as soon as available.  
(Head of M.I. (86) Approved A.C.N.S. (F), 1857A/20 to C. in C. Levant (R) F.O.S. S.1)

Movements,  
Bone.

Bone arrival LOYAL, ATHERSTONE, EASTON, KITCHENER, ALGOMA, CAMROSE, PRESCOTT, FILEY BAY.  
(F.O.I.S. 1917A/20 to N.C.X.F. Admty. F.O. Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q.)

Malta Air  
Report.

A.I.599. C.S.R. 20 Feb. Part 1. Offensive Night 19/20 Feb. bad weather restricted operations.  
3 special equipment Wellingtons made armed search in Cape Bon-Tunis area but found no shipping.  
Day 20 Feb. 2 Spitfires on offensive sweep over Southern Sicily strafed a factory at Marzameme. Further offensive operations were prevented by exceptionally bad weather.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1937Z/20).

Movements,  
Oran.

Arrival and departure KATHIAWAR, KUMAON.  
(Comnob Oran, 2003A/20 to Admty. etc).

Movements,  
Algiers.

Arrived. ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND from Bone. BICESTER from Westward, S/M SYBIL, STORNOWAY.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2029A/20 to Admty etc).

Situation  
Report No.  
943  
(?No. 1  
intended).

Tripoli dawn raid 19th Feb. by 6 aircraft. Sticks within 150 yards of Navy house which demolished a medical headquarters.  
2. Operation M.H.6 (My 1014/19 Feb. (N.T. in W.D) refers). At 1325/19 Feb. escorting A/S aircraft sighted submarine in 32° 53' N. 20° 58' E. ISIS and HURSLEY were detached to hunt.

War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation report No. 943 (?no. 1 intended). Contd.

ISIS attacked contact at 1726 in 32° 57' N. 20° 54' E. and 2' later depth charges brought U-boat to the surface. U-boat immediately submerged and contact was lost. ISIS and HURSLEY continued hunt, being joined by HYACINTH, SEAHAM and PROTEA from Benghazi.

3. At 0100 20 Feb. HURSLEY reported a large patch of light diesel type oil, in 32° 56' N. 20° 52' E. At 0950 20 Feb. HYACINTH reported diesel and lubricating oil gushing up in 32° 53' N. 20° 54' E.

4. Consider U-boat probably sunk.

5. Submarines. TROOPER at 1311/14th Feb. in 39° 6' N. 20° 29.5' E. fired 6 torpedoes at large camouflaged M/V escorted by one destroyer, scoring one possible hit.

6. Cdre. (D) pass to S.O. 12th D.F. (C. in C. Levant, 2032B/20 to Admty).

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals. 0515 SIRIUS from Algiers. 0800 ALBACORE, SPEEDWELL ex U.G.F.5. 1630 KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE escorting MIRROR, 2330 HAARLEM ex escort duties to Almeria. Departures 1505. ACUTE, L.C.(I) Ls. 242, 243, 247 99 to Oran. (F.O.Gibraltar 2145A/20 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

Service Personnel. Your 2037/16. Request further details of Service personnel proposed to be embarked in returning vessels of W.S.26 - (a) How many are for U.K. (b) What are the personnel for South Africa. 2. Agreed. (D.S.T., 2259A/20 to P.S.T.O. M.E.) Reply 1259B/21.

Movements Tobruk. Sailed GLOXINIA, AMBER, FALKLAND, SOUTHERN SEA. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2304B/20 to Admty).

UNRUFFLED Move 33 miles 230° at 4 knots by dawn tomorrow 21st. (Capt. S.10., 2305A/20 to P.46 (UNRUFFLED) (R) P.42 (UNBROKEN)).

War Diary.20.2.1945.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Barracuda A/C Squadns. It is difficult to remark on A.M. 2134/18/2 without knowledge of (A) Month when Barracuda stores will be available for shipping. (B) If it is intended to form Barracuda squadrons initially ashore in Eastern Theatre (?). (C) If Barracuda Squadron will be formed previously and come out in carriers.

2. Presume that (C) is the more likely. Unless therefore spares are immediately available for shipping consider it essential for future operations to build up stock in Ceylon area 1st and recommend following priority. First, Colombo - arrangements will be made locally to distribute as necessary between Trincomalee and Colombo. Second, S.I.S. Boniface. Third, R.N.A.S. Coimbatore repair yard. Fourth, Nairobi repair yard. Fifth, Kilindini store depot. Sixth, Durban store depot.

(3) If para. 1 (b) is intended policy, Nairobi and Kilindini should go to top of priority list.

(4) It will probably be easier to stock Boniface at Durban or Kilindini.

(C. in C. E.F. 0542Z/20 to Admty. (R) R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean, Cmdre. N.A.S. Ceylon)

P.A.26 Intention for escort. MARYBOROUGH and (?H.M.S.)  
 P.A.27 P.B.28 ORISSA P.A.26 sailing 0600Z/24 Feb. ocean  
 P.B.28 route number 1 JULNA and (?RAJPUTANA) P.B.29  
 P.B.29 GERALDTON P.A.27 sailing 0230Z/2 March Ocean route  
 Escorts. number 3.  
 (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0543Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz,  
 C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O. Ceylon, Com.  
 R.I.N., Cmdre. i/c Aden, N.O.I.C. Karachi, (R)  
 Connav.)  
 Amended Persian Gulf 0606Z/24.

A.H.1 Bombay portion of A.H.1 arrived.  
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0600Z/20 to Admty.)

A.H.1 Arrivals 1235Z/ SCOUT 0530Z KHYBER with A.H.1  
 C.M.38 1040Z, FROBISHER with C.M.38.  
 (S.O.I. Bombay 1056Z/20 to Admty.)

C.M.38 B Convoy C.M.38 B arrived less PULASKI.  
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay 1108Z/20 to Admty.)

Movements Calcutta 20th Feb. arrival KONKAN.  
 (N.O.I.C. Calcutta 0628Z/20 to Admty.)  
 Arrival EARL KITCHENER and LORD GREY at 0530Z/20th.  
 (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0850A/20 to Admty.)

Arrival PATNA.  
 (N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 0936Z/20 to Admty.)  
 Departure TULIP escorting MOORBY.  
 (N.O.I.C. Madras 0954Z/20 to Admty.)  
 Departure LORD GREY, EARL KITCHENER for Madras at 1100Z/20.  
 (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1114Z/20 to Admty.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.- Contd.

Movements      WARSPITE, RESOLUTION, REVENGE, QUILLIAM, ROTHERAM,<sup>H</sup>  
NIZAM, FOXHOUND, NORMAN and NEPAL arrived.<sup>A</sup>  
(F.O.I.C. East Africa 1452Z/20 to Admty.)

MARIPOSA      Request destination in Australia for MARIPOSA  
estimated time of departure Bombay 25th Feb. for  
San Francisco. Your 0425/12 B.A.D. 2145/9 and  
presumably therefore your 0020/16th Jan. para 4  
all apply none to Naval Board Melbourne.  
2. F.O.C.R.I.N. pass to P.S.T.O. India.  
(C. in C. E.F. 0711Z/20 to D. of S.T. (R) A.C.N.B.,  
B.A.D., P.S.T.O. India, S.S.T.O. Capetown.)

Suspicious      Following received from ADABELLE LYKES.  
Vessel.          Reference my 1700 G.M.T. and my 1852 G.M.T./19th  
suspicious vessel disappeared to North at about  
18 hours 40 mins. G.M.T. in 004° 40' S. 049° 36' E.  
Suspicious vessel sighted about 15 hours 40 mins. G.M.T.  
Suspicious vessel continued to follow although many attempts were  
made to evade him by large alteration of changes in course.  
Returning original route instructions as amended by message from  
Adml. Mombasa 7 hours 15 mins. Z/17th.  
E. 001° 950 miles, subsequent dead reckoning courses to E. 120°  
191°.  
(Burnham Radio 1852 G.M.T./20 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. W.A.,  
Adml. Mombasa, Admty.)

F.S.LEOPARD      Will arrive tomorrow Sunday for fuel. E.T.A. 0500Z.  
(F.S. LEOPARD 2009Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius (R)  
C. in C. E.F.)

Dutch Naval      Personal and private from 1st S.L.  
Staff            1. Your 1846/20\*. I have asked A.C.N.B. for very  
Colombo.        early remarks on your 1016/17 and also passed it  
to B.A.D. Washington.  
(1st S.L. 2046A/20 to C. in C. E.F.)

\* W.D. Note:- No trace of formers in W.D. and in reply to request,  
War Registry state circulation restricted on instructions of  
1st S.L. See also Admty. 2031A/20 (Australia)

U.S.            My 1423A/11th Feb. Following changes in  
Dispositions.    disposition of U.S. Forces in Pacific.  
MISSISSIPPI, MASSACHUSETTS, TRENTON, PORTLAND,  
MINNEAPOLIS at sea. CORE at San Diego.  
VICTORIOUS at Balboa. DENVER in South Pacific.  
LONG ISLAND at Pearl Harbour. DETROIT at Seattle.  
(D.O.D.(F) 2131A/20 to C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary.

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements. Norfolk arrived 17th Feb. A.C.V.15. Norfolk departed 1300/19 L.S.T. 323. (N.S.H.Q., 0247Z/20 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.) Arrival 19th Feb. U.S. Army Transport EL

LIBERTADOR.

(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1006QR/20 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.) Arrival PROVIDER.

(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1102Q/20 to S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) Admty., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

(1) Departure 20th U.S. Transports MATTAPANI and CHIWAWA to sea.

(2) Arrival 19th U.S. Transport ENGLEMAN.

(B.R.L.O. Aruba, 1132QR/20 to Admty.)

Boston sailed for St. Johns Newfoundland 1815/18 B.Y.M.S. 15 and 16.

(N.S.H.Q., 1159Z/20 to Admty.)

Arrival p.m. 19th armed yacht S.C.655.

(R.O. Barranquilla, 1459/20 to Admty.)

Bermuda departures U.S.S. SENTINEL and MARAK MORINO.

(S.B.N.O.W.At., 1809Q/20 to Admty.)

Amended 0919Q/21.

U.S.A.T. COLORADO arrived Charleston 19th.

(N.S.H.Q., 2032Z/20 to Admty.)

Ocean Your 2125/18.  
Convoys, Not only is this already being done but H.X.227  
number was sailed from New York with ships in excess of  
of ships. complement to break off at Halifax or continue  
with Convoy as requisite to ensure full number  
allowed east of M.O.M.P.  
(B.A.D., 0315Z/20 to Admty., (R) B.R.L.O. New York)

S/M Estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0503/20, 0540/20, 1452/20,  
20th Feb., 1453/20, 1540/20, 1541/20, 1542/20, 1640/20,  
U.S. S/M 2027/20.)  
Notice.

Movements Summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T. 20th Feb.	F. S/M ) AMAZONE )	24½° N. 47½° W.	296°	7½
	ALCANTARA ) WOODRUFF )	11° N. 29½° W.	349°	12
	DESPATCH	19° N. 31° W.	270°	20
	F.S. GEORGES ) LEYGUES )	24½° N. 28° W.	134°	20
	L. 23	54° N. 28° W.	252°	4
	T.A. 35	45½° N. 35½° W.	254°	19
	(D.O.D.(F), 0950Z/20 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)			

/H.X. ...



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20.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

H.X. Your 2227/18. This misunderstanding is  
Convoys, regretted. A.M. 1727/17 was made as a result  
number of of urgent representations by the M. of W.T.  
ships. regarding serious hold up of shipping in New  
York about which we had no previous information.  
2. It was assumed that Cominch would be better  
informed than Admiralty regarding numbers of  
ships presenting for convoy in U.S. ports and obvious  
undesirability of a hold up. We should not have been obliged  
to take emergency action had we had earlier information of  
impending congestion.  
3. A.M. 1727/17 was only a suggestion, pointing out we had no  
objection to the limit being raised to 65 in order to temporarily  
ease the situation and any other suggestion by Cominch would  
have been welcomed.  
4. Matter is now under active discussion and further signal  
will be made as soon as proposals to meet the emergency have  
been worked out.  
(D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 1252A/20 to B.A.D.)  
See also 0315Z/20.

ATTACKER, C.N.R. from S.N.R.  
STALKER. Reference Briny 2450 para. 2. (6 Tarpon ready  
by March 1st.)  
Intend sending three aircraft and one crew in  
ATTACKER three aircraft and two crew in STALKER.  
(B.A.C., 1314Z/20 to M.A.P.)  
Received from M.A.P. 2055.

Canadian It has been decided to establish a unified naval  
Atlantic command of the Candian Atlantic Area.  
Area, 2. As (? from) 0001Z/1st March the command of  
unified C.O.A.C. Halifax is to be extended to include the  
naval area at present under the control of F.O.N.F.  
Command. 3. F.O.N.F. is to continue to be responsible for  
approval to C.O.A.C. Halifax for the duties which  
he is at present carrying out.  
4. The titles of C.O.A.C. Halifax and F.O.N.F. are  
to be continued until further orders.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1449Z/20 to C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., (R) Admty., C. in C.  
W.A., Cominch, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.), C.T.24, Naval  
Member Canadian Joint Staff Washington.)

A.S.V. J.S.M.745, 20th Feb.  
Aircraft for Your C.C.S.(W) 476 and 477 were discussed at  
Casablanca. yesterday's C.C.S. Meeting. U.S. Joint Chiefs  
would not agree that decision on location of  
these squadrons should be deferred until results  
of March 1st Conference are available. They took  
line that if Eisenhower wanted them he should have them and that  
Eisenhower's views on air matters were presumably based on  
Tedder's advice. King took extreme view that submarine menace  
was such that counter measures could not await completion of  
training to ideal standards.

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20.2.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.A.S.V.  
Aircraft for  
Casablanca.  
(Contd.)

2. We were finally asked to inform you that U.A. Chiefs of Staff felt that there was an urgent requirement in Casablanca area for long range A.S.V. aircraft and that it should be met by transferring a squadron from U.K. as early as practicable.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 1535Z/20 to War Cabinet Offices, London.)

AVORIO  
(Italian)  
surrendered  
8th Feb. sunk  
9th Feb.

Propose releasing (? story) of U-Boat sinking by REGINA if you have no objection.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1559Z/20 to Admty., (R) Canadian Joint Staff Washington, Opnav.)

O.N.166,  
U/Bs.

D/F bearings on 6675 k/cs at 1219Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity may have reported you.  
(D.D.I.C., 1605A/20 to Escorts O.N.166, (R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch, A.C.I.C., N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

A.M. 1605A/20. Up to 2102Z four further transmission on Series 7 from your general vicinity but it is not certain that you are being shadowed.  
(D.D.I.C., 2240A/20 to Escorts O.N.166, (R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch, A.C.I.C., N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

H.M.S.  
QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

My 2242/8 and your 1748/20/1 official completion date ex trials 8th May but expect 22nd May probable as fitting of additional armour will necessitate air testing compartments. Will report items of outstanding work soon as possible but is difficult to forecast due to fluctuating labour load in Navy Yard.  
(B.A.M.R., 1608Z/20 to Admty.)

Neutral  
shipping  
routeing.

My 1950/19 (re route of Neutrals from Canadian ports and St. Johns Newfoundland to Europe).  
N.S.H.Q.'s 1702/14th Dec. also refers.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1643Z/20 to Admty., (R) F.O.N.F.)

VISCOUNT.

Proceeding independently having reached prudent limit of endurance. P.C. and S. 1500Z/20 048° 41' N. 048° 00' W. (X) 248° 12 knots. E.T.A. 0830/21. Weather report.  
(VISCOUNT, 1645Z/20 to C.C.N.F., (R) FAME, C.T.F.24.)

SEATRIN NEW  
ORLEANS.

SEATRIN NEW ORLEANS aground a.m. 19th Feb. on Conch Reef approx. position 24° 56' N. 80° 25' W.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1651Z/20 to Admty.)

/HUNTER ...

War Diary.

20.2.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

HUNTER,  
STALKER.

Your 0033Z/12, paras. 1 and 2. Concur, but it is essential that these ships should arrive Gibraltar in time to sail with convoy which may leave Gibraltar on 22nd March.

2. Para. 3. In view of the danger of carrying bulk petrol in these valuable ships the provisions of A.M. 1716A/29 should be adhered to.  
(D.N.A.O., 1720A/20 to B.A.D., (R) C. in C. Med., HUNTER, STALKER)

ALCANTARA,  
WOODRUFF,  
A.F.D. 24.

F.O.C.W.Af. 1645Z/17 and Comsolant 1503/17. Assume conflicting orders to ALCANTARA and WOODRUFF will be clarified. A.F.D.24 now not expected to arrive Trinidad before 13th March. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1831/20 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (R) Admty., ALCANTARA, B.A.D., Comsolant, F.O.C.W.Af.)

Re classification types Convoy escort vessels.

A.M. 0004/4.

U.S.N.As. concur desirability of classifying escort vessel (D) but suggest they be listed as follows:-

Classification	Description letter.	Type of Vessels
(A) Fleet Destroyer	D	Fleet Destroyer.
(B) Long range	L	Sloop, Cutter, twin-screw corvette, converted old destroyer.
(C) Medium range	M	Single screw corvette, unconverted old destroyer, Fleet A/S minesweeper.
(D) Short range	S	HUNT class destroyer, medium A/S minesweeper, etc.
(E) Coastal	C	P.Cs, small A/S minesweeper, etc.

(2) If this proposal is adopted it might be well to sub-divide Fleet destroyers into those over and under 35 hundred miles endurance.

(B.A.D., 1845Z/20 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C.W.A., C. in C. H.F.)

WOLFE.

It is expected that WOLFE will be ready to sail from Norfolk about 14th March. Your 2140/11 Jan. intend to sail her in first possible H.X. convoy. (B.A.M.R., 1906Z/20 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.At., F.O.S., C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Port of London.)

/Atlantic ...

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War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Atlantic  
Convoys,  
Cycles,  
Titles.

My 1556/14th and 1110/19th following are detailed proposals for implementing the proposed new trans-Atlantic cycle.

2. On the assumption that C.3 Group will be ready to join mid-ocean escort on March 11th after training period and C.1 and C.4 Groups will be available on April 6th and 13th respectively, it is proposed that six groups should escort fast convoys both ways and five groups escort slow convoys both ways.

3. It is proposed that convoys should be renamed and numbered consecutively on starting the new system since fast and slow convoys will no longer necessarily sail alternatively.

Proposed titles are -

N.U. New York - U.K. - Fast.

U.N. U.K. - New York - Fast.

Y.U. New York - U.K. - Slow.

U.Y. U.K. - New York - Slow.

4. Timing of system is as follows:

U.N. sail Liverpool day 0.

N.U. sail New York day 13.

N.U. arrive Liverpool day 29.

U.N. sail Liverpool day 42.

U.Y. sail Liverpool day 0.

Y.U. sail New York day 15.

Y.U. arrive Liverpool day 34.

U.Y. sail Liverpool day 45.

5. To put new cycles into operation as soon as possible following sailing dates are proposed.

(A) O.N.172 March 13th. U.N.1 March 21st. U.N.2 March 29th then seven day cycle.

(B) H.X.229 March 10th then 8 day cycle. N.U.1 April 11th then seven day cycle.

(C) U.Y.1 March 14th then nine day cycle.

(D) S.C.123 March 15th. Y.U.1 March 20th then nine day cycle.

6. Escort assignments proposed are:

(A) B.3 - O.N.S.167, H.X.228. B.5 - O.N.168, S.C.122. B.4 - O.N.S.169, H.X.229. C.3 sail direct to Newfoundland for S.C.123.

(B) Fast convoys B.2 - O.N.170, H.X.230. Then in the order B.7, A.3, B.5, C.1, C.4.

(C) Slow convoys B.1 - O.N.S.171, Y.U.1. Then in the order B.6, B.3, B.4, C.3.

7. When in full operation this programme would give eleven to fourteen days in U.K. for all groups for boiler cleaning and training and six days in Newfoundland.

(D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 1913A/20 to B.A.D., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)

See also C.O.A.C., 1321Z/23.

ARCHIMEDE.

Arrival Bermuda 1300Z/19th French S/M ARCHIMEDE.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1915/20 to 10 Command West Africa, Adm. Afrique, Comar Dakar, Admty.)

/EGLANTINE ...

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20.2.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.- Contd.

- EGLANTINE. My P.C. and S. 1900Z/20 49° 06' N. 46° 46' W., 228°, 15 altering in 47° 25' N. 49° 25' W. to St. Johns N.F., E.T.A. 1200Z/21. My 1515Z/20th asdic now working.  
(EGLANTINE, 1927Z/20 to C.C.N.F., (R) C.T.24, FAME.)
- 19th M.T.B. Flotilla. N.O.I.C. Trinidad's 1502/26th Jan. Ref. 19th M.T.B. Flotilla. M.T.B. 335 originally consigned to Nassau has broken china and other damage. Under circumstances intend to substitute M.T.B. 339 to Nassau for 335. W/T generator in 333 should be substituted for that in 339. All spares aboard 335 should be loaded aboard 339. 339 is in good condition, engine having done less than 22 hours. R.A.F. Delegation pass to 111 O.T.U. Nassau. C.G.S.F. pass to S.O. 19th M.T.B. Flotilla. N.O.I.C. Trinidad pass to Naval Operating Base.  
(B.A.D., 1945Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad, (R) Admty., S.B.N.O. W.At., Com. Gulf S.F., R.A.F. Delegation, N.O.B. Trinidad.)
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. C. U.S.S. MACOMB sights submarine 33° 10' N. 33° 42' W. 1300Z/20.  
D. Cap plane sights submarine 40° 50' N. 72° 22' W. 1932Z/20.  
(Cominch, 2029/20 to Admty.)
- Overdue Shipping. Connav Serial 20. Request information of following overdue ships: NORTIND, EMPIRE MARCH, CORDELIA, MOUNT MYCALE, LACKENBY. Correct BRASILOIDE serial 19 to 18th Feb. position 012° 38' S. 037° (?57') W. (amended).  
(Connav, 2101/20 to Comnav, (R) S.O.(I) Kingston, N.S.H.Q., C.C.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.P.S.F., U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda.)
- "S" Report. Intercept received from Barbados Radio (begins): From NRWE\* SSSS submarine sighted 17° 51' N. 69° 38' W. at 0100 G.C.T. (ends).  
(Kingston, 2115R/20 to Admty.)  
\* NRWE = LOTUS, but no LOTUS in Lloyd's.
- THREE RIVERS, KENORA. THREE RIVERS and KENORA E.T.A. St. Johns 1000/21. Weather report.  
(THREE RIVERS, 2212Z/20 to F.O.N.F., (R) D. St. Johns, N.F.)
- GODERICH. E.T.A. 1200Z/21.  
(GODERICH, 2238Z/20 to C.O.A.C., (R) N.S.H.Q., Connav.)

War Diary.20.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Auckland U.S.S. ANFARES.  
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0117Z/20 to Admty.)  
Arrival Townsville 19th ARUNTA, Milne Bay 19th  
WHYALLA, Port Moresby 19th KATOOMBA, Exmouth  
Gulf 18th U.S. Seaplane Tender PRESTON for Fremantle.  
(A.C.N.B., 1139Z/20 to Admty.)  
Arrivals 20th Feb. Vila U.S.S. TALAMANCA, JOHN PENN,  
GANESVOTRT. Auckland U.S.S. KOPARA.  
(D.N.I. Wellington, 2110Z/20 to Admty.)

Digest Serial No. 394, Feb. 19th. Four Catalinas bombed Kahili aerodrome during early hours 19th hitting runway dispersal bays dump area. Same time 12 Fortresses attacked shipping off Buin. 9000 ton cargo vessel hit from 6,000 feet simultaneously with Skip bombing hit from 200 feet. 7000 ton cargo ship hit twice by Skip bombing from 200 feet first ship left burning furiously second vessel smoking heavily. One direct hit and near hit ten feet from hull 8000 ton vessel, possible hit and near hits 3000 ton vessel. Some bombs Kahili and Ballale strips also seaplane anchorage. Intense heavy and light A.A. encountered.

(2) Large destroyer arrived Buka Passage afternoon and later departed to North-west with small cargo vessel. Aerodrome quiet.

(3) One light cruiser, one destroyer, 16000 ton cargo vessel surrounded by oil slick sighted stationary off Gasmata early afternoon also three barges. Same vessels sighted later and attacked by R/C Liberator. Results unobserved due interception 12 Zeros one medium bomber. 3 Zeros destroyed. 3 Zeros one bomber seen Gasmata runway. Catalina shadowed ships until after midnight.

(4) Forenoon R/C Liberator unsuccessfully bombed small transport with troops on deck off Cape Gloucester heading for land. 7 Zeros approached but only one attacked and was probably shot down.

(5) Photos 18th show small probable reporting ship Alexishafen where runway probably serviceable.

(7) Patrols active East of (corrupt group)\* small Dutch vessel unsuccessfully bombed by single float-plane off Merauke morning 18th.

(9) Photos reveal vessel attacked Dilli 18th Feb. refer Digest 383 para. 10 was 7000 ton transport, 43 landing barges also visible.

(10) Possible submarine sighted morning 19th off Albany.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 0809Z/20.)

\* correction to follow.

DEVONSHIRE,  
MONTICELLO.

DEVONSHIRE departs Fremantle 0415Z/20 escorting U.S. Ship MONTICELLO to Colombo. Route -  
(G) 029° 05' S. 101° 30' E. (H) 013° 30' S. 087° 10' E. (J) Equator 078° 45' E. (K) 005° 20' N. 078° 10' E., S. of A. 16 knots, E.T.A. 0130Z/1st March. "Chop" 0001Z/21st.

/Local ...

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20.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

DEVONSHIRE,  
MONTICELLO.  
(Contd.)

Local A/S escort Netherlands Cruiser TROMP  
until 1230Z/21st.

(2) DEVONSHIRE shifts from bell\* and MONTICELLO  
from bakir\* to group NU at 0100Z/23rd.

(Cdre. W. Australia, 0816Z/20 to A.C.N.B., (R)  
C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, Comsowestpac Unit,  
Admty., DEVONSHIRE.)

\* being verified.

Convoy  
"Pamphlet".

ADELAIDE, HEEMSKERCK, TJERK HIDDES escorting  
"Pamphlet" departed Fremantle 0930Z/20th for  
Melbourne in accordance with your 0035/13 and  
my 1405/20. E.T.A. Port Phillip 2200Z/24.

VAN GALEN local escort until p.m./21st.

(Cdre. W. Australia, 1321Z/20 to A.C.N.B., (R)  
D.N.O. Victoria, N.O.I.C. Sydney (N.S.W.), D.N.O.  
S. Australia, C.T.F.44, Comsowestpac Unit, Admty.)

Dutch Naval  
Staff.

Personal and private from 1st S.L.

1. My 0229 and 0230/20th (N.T. in W.D.) A further  
signal from C. in C. E.F. states that he has  
been informed by Acting Netherlands S.O. Colombo  
that he has been warned by Admiral Helfrich to

be prepared to leave Colombo in the immediate future with the  
Dutch Staff.

2. Request very early remarks from A.C.N.B.  
(1st Sea Lord, 2031A/20 to A.C.N.B., B.A.D.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C., 1425A/20, 1500A/20.)

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy J.W.53 is estimated to be about 200 miles N.E. of Seidisfjord at 0800 today. The Russian KOMILES and the American JAMES BOWIE are returning to the U.K. with heavy weather damage. SCYLLA with INTREPID, FURY, ECLIPSE and ORKAN left Akureyri at 0001 this morning to join the Convoy Escort; NORFOLK, PYPCHLEY and MIDDLETON arrived at Seidisfjord at 0955; and S.O. Force R in BELFAST with CUMBERLAND and NORFOLK left Seidisfjord at 1630 to cover the Convoy.

TANATSIDE and WENSLEYDALE have been ordered to search for the German-owned Spanish Trawlers CHICHA 1 and CHICHA 2 believed to be operating off Great Sole Bank and to bring them in for examination if intercepted. These trawlers were sighted by A/C at 2346 today in 49° 04' N. 11° 10' W.

2 M.G.Bs of the 8th Flotilla, acting in support of the M.Ls engaged in Operation Q.U.2, were fired on last night while S.W. of Ijmuiden by 2 M class Minesweepers. They did not return the fire, and suffered no damage or casualty.

Murmansk was intermittently bombed from 2000 to 2300C yesterday without British or American damage.

Harwich, Lowestoft, and Yarmouth were all closed for a few hours this morning owing to fog.

C. in C. W.A. considers, with reference to the proposed increase in the size of Convoy from New York, that the ideal maximum number of ships in these convoys is 40 and that, if they consist of more than 60 M/Vs, serious risk to their safety is bound to occur.

O.N.S.167  
2 ships  
torpedoed.

The American ROSARIO, 4659 tons, and the Panamanian Tanker H.H. ROGERS, 8807 tons, both in Convoy O.N.167, were torpedoed about 2040Z today in 50.13 N. 24.48 W. (about 550 miles West of Cape Clear).



War Diary.

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Convoy R.S.1(Y) sailed at 0830 from Gibraltar with ships for Casablanca, Dakar and Freetown escorted by BUTSER and BIRDLIP.

Mediterranean.

Air  
Operations.

Malta aircraft attacked enemy shipping in bad weather off Trapani last night. At 1835/20, 1 Beaufort aimed a torpedo at a tanker in 38.39 N. 12.21 E., but was unable to observe the result owing to evasive action from intense and accurate flak. At 0340/21, 1 Albacore and 4 Beauforts found 2 M/Vs (8000 and 5000 tons) escorted by 5 destroyers, 1 mile S. of Marittimo and attacked the larger M/V with torpedoes. Bad visibility prevented any hits being seen, but smoke was rising from the convoy after attack. At 0350, off Favignana Island, 3 Albacores found 1 M/V of 3000 tons and a destroyer, and scored a torpedo hit on the stern of the M/V, which was left stationary and out of control.

At 2015A, aircraft attacked with torpedoes an enemy force of one medium vessel and 2 destroyers in 37.48 N. 11.50 E., and estimated one hit. 10 Wellingtons and 1 Halifax bombed Palermo last night and started 6 fires.

10 enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk last night without damage.

Five B.25s escorted by 17 P.38s attacked a convoy of several large vessels 30 miles south of Sicily. 1 vessel was hit and set on fire. 2 small escort vessels were hit and believed sunk, and 1 cruiser is claimed to have been hit and damaged.

At 1915, 6 Malta Beauforts attacked and sank a 10,000 ton tanker (which had been damaged on the night of 20th/21st Feb.) in 37.15 N. 11.52 E. In an attack on Melos Harbour (Crete) by Marauders, one medium M/V was blown up and a smaller ship set on fire. A third vessel was straddled by bombs.

9 enemy aircraft attacked Tripoli (Syria) today but caused no damage.

/ S/Ms. ...

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

S/Ms.

At 0815A, P.46 (UNRUFFLED) torpedoed and probably sank a medium sized merchant ship in the Gulf of Hammamet. A later report (1656A/3/3) gave the time as 0841 and the position 36.56 N. 11.23 E.

U/Bs.

HYACINTH and PROTEA are hunting a U-Boat in 33.05 N. 21.43 E. (N.W. of Derna). This is the third U-Boat found in this area since Feb. 17th.

French Sqdn.,  
Alexandria.

The Prime Minister in a message to Minister of State today said he relies on him to see the Godfroy business through to the end. If cutting the pay does not suffice we shall have to go on to cutting supplies.

East Indies.

Trincomalee.

To improve unloading facilities for merchant ships at Trincomalee, where there is no deep water quay for direct discharge and only a small length of quayage for lighters, C. in C. E.F. proposes to use the hull of the damaged SS. SAGAING as seaward end of deep water jetty.

Japanese  
M/V sunk.

During a patrol in the Penang area which ended today, the Dutch S/M O.24 sank by gunfire a deeply laden 3-4000 ton vessel northbound off what is described as Ba Seylon Island, or East Seylon Island.

America and West Indies.

Attacks on  
O.N. 166.

At 0038Z, a U-Boat was sighted ahead of Convoy O.N.166 in 51.25 N. 27.26 W., and was attacked by SPENCER, U.S. Destroyer.

U.225 sunk

Cutter

/Another ...

785

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.Attacks on  
O.N. 166.  
(Contd.)

Another U-Boat contact obtained on the starboard flank shortly before midnight in 51.32 N. 27.35 W. was being hunted by CAMPBELL. C.T.U. 24.1.3 believed 2 other U-Boats were present.

At 1600 G.M.T., LECHISTAN, (Polish) (later signalled as a straggler from O.N.166) reported an unknown ship torpedoed in 49.26 N. 29.08 W.

At 1937A, Admiralty notified escorts of the convoy that W/T activity indicated it was being shadowed by at least 3 U-Boats.

At 2014Z, a U-Boat was sighted astern in 48.48 N. 29.53 W., and was attacked by SPENCER.

Aircraft had previously reported 2 U-Boats on the surface in the same locality.

At 2030Z a contact was obtained by R.D.F. on the starboard flank in 48.30 N. 29.57 W. and was hunted by ROSTHERN, corvette. Voluminous D/F bearings during the day were considered by C.T.U. 24.1.3 to indicate at least 10 U-Boats nearby, but the Admiralty appreciation at 1413A was that between three and seven U-Boats were in the vicinity.

At 2130Z, EMPIRE TRADER was torpedoed in 48.25 N. 30.10 W. but remained afloat.

STIGSTAD, Norwegian, was reported torpedoed and sunk (no time given) in 49.26 N. 29.08 W.

U/B  
attacked.

A Liberator aircraft in 48.00 N. 29.15 W. straddled a U-Boat with 6 depth charges. An extra explosion was heard and felt in the aircraft and 2 very large patches of oil appeared 50 minutes after the attack.

Tanker  
Disguise.

Admiralty are asking the views of Navy Dept., Washington on disguising tankers to look like cargo carrying merchant ships. They consider that these vessels, being distinctive, are singled out for attack because of their special value, and that the small trouble and expense necessary to disguise them as tramps would appear well worth while.

786

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.PRINCESS  
IRIS,  
DAFFODIL.

In view of the difficulty experienced during bad weather by inclusion in convoy with small slow ships, and the urgency of transferring craft between various ports in the U.K. request when special escort cannot be provided PRINCESS IRIS and DAFFODIL may be sailed independently with fighter protection. A.A. armament in these ships has recently been much increased.  
(S.O.A.S.C., 1204A/21 to C.C.O.)

Biscay  
operations  
against  
enemy  
shipping.

S.M.Z.49.

1. The control of all operations against enemy shipping in Bay of Biscay is centralised under C. in C. Plymouth. F.O.S. however will operate S/Ms until conditions in para. (2) below are brought into force.  
2. At appropriate time after receipt of information that there is an enemy ship either in or approaching this area S/Ms on patrol will be informed they are under orders of C. in C. Plymouth and that all signals are to be addressed to him and repeated F.O.S. S/Ms on passage may be given similar orders.  
3. Henceforth authorities responsible for sailing of S/Ms will include in their sailing orders a warning that S/Ms may be required to act in accordance with the above instruction.  
(F.O.S., 1721A/21 to S/Ms.)

Movements.INDOMITABLE,  
SABRE.

My 1552A/18 and 2126A/20. C. in C. W.A. 1459A/19 and 1050A/20. Sailed less BRADFORD defective.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0020A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)  
INDOMITABLE arrived Clyde.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1408A/21.)

S/M  
Movements.

Your 2200/20. If endurance only 84 hours at 8 knots you have insufficient fuel to reach St. Johns N.F. If this endurance confirmed return forthwith to U.K. at economical speed through positions B and A. Report intention.  
(F.O.S., 0206A/21 to L.23.)  
P.C.S. L.23 at 2130Z/20 053° 20' N. 027° 37' W., 218°, 8 knots.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0207A/21 to CHAMBLY.)  
Your 0206A/21. Am proceeding through X and Y to St. Johns N.F. Starboard main motor sound locators out of action. Port main motor now repaired. Endurance in my 2200Z/20 was owing to inability to charge main batteries to supply main engine circulators. Fuel remaining sufficient to more than reach St. Johns N.F.  
(L.23, 0435Z/21 to F.O.S.)

/My ...

787

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M My 1731/20 para. (D). After dived by day cancel and substitute to patrol in 44° 01' N. 12° 02' W. (F.O.S., 1129A/21.)  
 Movements. F.O.S. 1228/5. Intend to sail P.511 escorted by (Contd.) KINGSTON TOPAZ for Plymouth from Needles at 1830/22 by standard convoy route. E.T.A. Rame

Head 1200/23.  
 2. Vessels will keep 10 miles astern of P.W.298 so as to pass Dart buoy at 0730/23rd Feb. and then increase speed to 9½ knots. (Capt. S.5, 1221A/21.)  
 Cancel previous instruction. After passing through 051° 30', 030° 01' proceed direct to St. Johns, N.F. unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. U.S. Fleet. (F.O.S., 1257A/21 to L.23.)  
 At 1600/23 intend to sail P.555 escorted by COWSLIP, E.T.A. 0800/24. Route Sound of Mull and Islay. (WESTERN ISLES, 1501A/21 to Capt. S.7.)  
 Positions of submarines at 0800A/22 and movements for following 24 hours.  
 (A) TRUCULENT, SEA NYMPH, SIMOON, and SPORTSMAN in North Norwegian waters East of 15° E.  
 (B) UREDD in Lofoten area.  
 (C) O.9 escorted by SCALBY WYKE 57° 14' N. 06° 56' W. due Rothesay 0900/23, speed 8 knots.  
 (D) TAKU on patrol vicinity 44° 01' N. 12° 02' W.  
 (E) BARB off Vigo.  
 (F) BLACKFISH probably approaching Bishop Rock from southward thence escorted by KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL to Falmouth. (F.O.S., 1723A/21 to Admty.)  
 Intend sailing P.556 escorted by KING HAAKON VII at 0930/22 to Rothesay. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1805A/21.)

BITER. My 1145/18.  
 Request you will sail VIVACIOUS as soon as completed with fuel to R/V MALAYA proceeding from Scapa to Clyde.  
 2. On meeting MALAYA, VIVACIOUS to relieve LA COMBATTANTE. LA COMBATTANTE to return Scapa. (R.A.D.H.F., 1137A/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
 Sailed VIVACIOUS to comply with R.A.(D) H.F. 1137A/21. S.O.A. 17 knots. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1844A/21 to MALAYA.)  
 My 1137/21. Cancel para. 2.  
 (2) VIVACIOUS is to continue to Scapa. LA COMBATTANTE remain as escort and return to Scapa with remainder on being released. (R.A.D.H.F., 2355A/21 to VIVACIOUS.)

Coastal Owing to coastal forces not being ready to sail  
 Craft for in accordance with A.M. 1924/10, request you will:  
 Gibraltar. (a) Retain two trawlers at Milford sailing the remaining six trawlers to Gibraltar when ready.  
 (b) Sail two trawlers and F.S. PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE

/to ...

War Diary.

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Coastal  
Craft for  
Gibraltar.  
(Contd.)

to Gibraltar as escort for all coastal force craft referred to in A.M. 1924/10 which may be available leaving Milford 4th March.  
2. F.S. PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE and trawlers retained can be used for Irish Sea escort work while awaiting passage.  
(D.O.D.H., 1323A/21 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

ABDIEL.

My 1711A/19. Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1359A/21.)

ADVENTURE.

My 1857A/19. Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1531A/21.)

KENYA.

KENYA is required to sail from Plymouth on 12th March after embarking personnel and stores.  
2. Rear Admiral H.B. Rawlings, C.B., O.B.E. and Secretary will embark at Plymouth with personal baggage for passage to Freetown.  
3. Request you sail KENYA for Plymouth as convenient to comply.  
(A.C.N.S.F., 1733A/21 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Operation  
"Regulation".

Clyde arrival SUSSEX.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0728A/21 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Intend sailing SUSSEX for operation "Regulation" passing Clyde boom 0700A/22 to comply with C. in C. Plymouth 1921A/15. S.O.A. 17 knots.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1158A/21.)  
Cancel my 1921/15.

Request SUSSEX may be sailed to arrive in position (E) 045° 46' N. 027° 40' W. at 200/24, passing through position (D) 054° 59' N. 016° 01' W.

(2) On arrival at (E) proceed position (F) 044° 30' N. 022° 07' W. to arrive 1200/25.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1811A/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
V.A. Gibraltar 1827/17 and my 1913/15.

After reaching position T return towards position S and thence through position V and W as in my 1327/14.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1821A/21 to JAMAICA.)

My 1158A/21. Amend as follows for 0700A/22 read 2359A/21, for C. in C. Plymouth 1921A/15 read C. in C. Plymouth 1811A/21.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2116A/21 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Sailing SUSSEX in accordance with my 1158A/21 amended by my 2116A/21.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2358A/21 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Coastal ...

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

- Coastal Patrols. My 1108A/20. "Device" returned at 0906A/21. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0912/21.)
1. Intend M.G.Bs 55 (S.O.) and 56 to patrol tonight on lat.  $50^{\circ} 20' N.$  between  $01^{\circ} 30' W.$  and  $02^{\circ} 05' W.$
  2. Leave Weymouth at 1845 via Q.Z.S.381 for patrol line. Leave patrol line at dawn and return to base.
  3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1051A/21.)  
Patrol 5 WHITSHED. Patrol 6 MACKAY. Patrol 7 WIDGEON. Patrol 3 BLENCATHRA. Patrol 4 GARTH. (C. in C. Nore, 1600A/21.)  
M.Ls 137 and 293 near Rye Buoy.  
M.T.B.s 35, 221 and 24 from Dover and M.G.Bs 110, 114 and 108 from Ramsgate at 1710 patrolling at No. 4 buoy. (V.A. Dover, 1704A/21.)  
My 1051A/21. "Device" sailed 1850A/21. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1852A/21.)
- Operation H.J.A. Your 2346/20. Approved. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1017A/21 to S.O. Force J.)
- S/M Patrol off Cape Finisterre. (TAKU.) (1) Carry out diving patrol in vicinity of  $044^{\circ} 01'$ ,  $012^{\circ} 02'$ . (2) You will probably remain on patrol about one week. (F.O.S., 1131A/21 to TAKU.)  
My 1131/21. Patrol within circle 20 miles radius of your patrol position. (F.O.S., 1427A/21 to TAKU.)
- Operation Q.U. 2. Last night. 1. Q.U.2 successfully carried out by 51st M.L. Flotilla.  
2. M.G.Bs of 8th Flotilla acting in support of M.Ls were fired on by 2 M class M/S S.W. of Ijmuiden. No damage or casualties. Fire was not returned by M.G.Bs. Nothing further to report.  
3. M.T.Bs of 4th and 21st Flotillas on patrol 8 miles North of Hook decided correctly that M class M/S reported by M.G.Bs were not a suitable torpedo target. No shipping seen. Fog down at 0500. Slight collision occurred between M.T.Bs 32 and 69 on starting up from patrol. (C. in C. Nore, 1538A/21.)
- Operation "Haulabout". A.M. 1645/20. Oropesa trawlers are to be provided for operation, 4 from Harwich, 4 from Lowestoft, and 4 from Great Yarmouth. Vessels are to be sailed to Tilbury as soon as practicable. (C. in C. Nore, 1712A/21.)

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War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

"Delirium". Exercise "Delirium" and subsequent combined exercises are cancelled. Instructions have been received to employ the L.S.I. in carrying landing craft to Overseas Assault Force.  
(S.O. Force J, 2303A/21.)

Allied Air Activity.

Anti-  
Shipping  
Air Patrol.

Request arrangements may be made for V.L.R. A/C from Gibraltar if necessary to carry out a continuous search between latitudes 42° and 44° N. and longitudes 21° 20' W. and 24° 30' W. from first light until dark/25th Feb.

2. Primary duty to be location and shadowing of enemy merchant shipping. Secondary duty reporting and keeping down of any enemy submarines in the area if it can be done without prejudice to primary duty.

3. Aircraft to be briefed that procedure in A.F.O.S.2 Art.165 para. G is to be carried out.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1931A/21 to Admty., (R) H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk  
bombed.

Some air raids 2000 to 2300C/20. Slight damage to cargo on quay in fish port. No British or American damage or casualties.  
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 1451A/21 to Admty.)

Mining.

Thames  
Estuary.

Approach channels have not been swept owing to fog.  
(X.D.O. Sheerness, 0735A/21.)

Operation  
"Tincture".

Your 1142A/19. Operation completed. Nothing to report.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0909A/21 to Admty.)

Ayr.

Following from R.N.O. Ayr begins:  
SS. DENESIDE reports sighting one drifting mine S.W. by W. of Ayr South Pier Head at 1500 today 1618/21/2. Ends.  
M/S SIR LANCELOT and OHM sailed to destroy this mine if found.  
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 1640/21.)



War Diary.

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

CHICHA 1, Two German-owned Spanish trawlers CHICHA 1 and  
CHICHA 2. CHICHA 2 reported operating off the Great Sole  
Bank for the purpose of reporting allied shipping.  
Description. If met these vessels are to be  
boarded and brought in for examination.  
Search of Great Sole Bank is to be carried out on return passage.  
My 1749/17 refers.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1437A/21 to TANATSIDE, (R) WENSLEYDALE.)  
Positions of 2 merchant vessels 30 tons, 49° 03' N. 11°  
05' W. at anchor.  
(A/C LZ7P, 2333/21 to 19 Group.)  
CHICHA 1 and CHICHA 2 in 49.04 N. 11.10 W. course 025°,  
speed 5 knots.  
(A/C LZ7T, 2346/21 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats.

Search for damaged U/B. Have raised light oil in 052° 02' N. (?005°) 58'  
(Operation "Rival".) information. Request  
(SWEETBRIAR, 0030A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 0030A/21. Known wrecks in vicinity.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0329A/21 to SWEETBRIAR.)  
P.C.74 and SWEETBRIAR proceeding to sweep from  
The Smalls to Helwick and back.  
(P.C.74, 0945A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Operation "Rival" is abandoned. Ships return to Milford  
Haven.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1056A/21 to "Rival".)

U-Boats reported. D/F bearings at 0120Z indicate U-Boat may be in  
vicinity of convoy.  
(D.D.I.C., 0256A/21 to Escorts O.S.43.)  
Cancel my 1155A/20. Further investigation has  
established that this D/F must have been wholly  
unreliable.  
(D.D.I.C., 1105A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Inconclusive D/F bearings at 1752Z indicate that either  
convoy M.K.F.9 or O.S.43 may possibly have been reported by a  
U-Boat.  
(D.D.I.C., 1947A/21 to Escorts.)  
By D/F at 1751Z, U-Boat estimated to be in vicinity of  
convoy, and may possibly have reported it.  
(D.D.I.C., 2324A/21 to Escorts O.N.167, ESCAPADE, ROSELYS.)

U-Boats attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 48° 08' N. 29° 15' W. Only  
periscope sighted.  
(A/C 545 Sqdn., 2018A/21 to 15 Group.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate  
4 hits.  
(A/C 545 Sqdn. Duty T, 2019A/21 to 15 Group.)  
My 2018. One other U-Boat was in company.  
(A/C 545 Sqdn., 2030A/21 to 15 Group.)

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Harwich. Port of Harwich closed owing to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0725A/21.)  
Port now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1105A/21.)

Port closed owing to weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1130A/21.)  
Port now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1436A/21.)

Lowestoft. Port of Lowestoft closed owing to fog.  
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 0817A/21.)  
My 0817/21. Port now open.  
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1121A/21.)

Yarmouth. Port closed owing to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0855A/21.)  
Port is now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1005A/21.)

Casualties and Defects.

HOLLYDALE. My 1908/20. Sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 0809/21 to R.N.O. Buckie.)  
Buckie arrivals 1700/21 HOLLYDALE, GOWAN and  
GIRL ENA. E.T.D. for Inverness 1000/22.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1741/21.)

MUSKETEER. Request diver to examine damaged ice-guard on  
arrival Akureyri 1500A today.  
(MUSKETEER, 0945A/21 to A.C.I.C.)

SHIKARI. Arrived SHIKARI.  
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1015A/21.)

DASHER. SCYLLA's 1058/20. Request early report whether  
split in side plating of DASHER indicates weakness  
or faulty construction.  
(Controller, 1503A/21 to C. in C. H.F.)

VARDEFJELL. Admty.'s 1801/15. Intend sailing at 1000/22 from  
Kirkwall VARDEFJELL to Methil by S/C route for  
O/R to Tyne in tow of tugs EMPIRE BASCOBEL and  
DANUBE VI assisted by DUNDAS and escorted by  
KINGSTON AMBER.  
(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall, 1838A/21 to A.C.O.S.)

/SALAMANDER ...

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War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

**SALAMANDER.** SALAMANDER arrived today with engine defects necessitating her return to Aberdeen.  
(2) Intend to sail her to arrive Aberdeen p.m. tomorrow.  
(R.A.D., 2130A/21 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

**SHEFFIELD.** Your 1906/20. Request refit and docking of SHEFFIELD may be undertaken concurrently with making good weather damage.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2201A/21 to Admt.)

Shipping and Convoys.

**J.W. 53.** E.T.A. Seidisfjord gate 1300.  
**KOMILES,** (MEYNELL, 0901A/21.)  
**JAMES BOWIE.** My 1155/19. K.21 is now known to be returning to base.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1152A/21 to F.O.S.)  
Hvalfjord departure BLANKNEY at 1135. E.T.A.

**Akureyri 0600/22.**  
(A.C.I.C., 1242A/21 to C. in C. H.F.)  
KOMILES and JAMES BOWIE are returning U.K. with heavy weather damage.

2. As above ships were nominated for White Sea in Dalgleish's 2329/18 request replacements.  
(D.T.D., 1327A/21 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
Seidisfjord arrivals NORFOLK, PYTCHLEY, MIDDLETON at 0955.  
(A.C.I.C., 1426A/21.)  
Estimated position 2158 tonight.

**BLANKNEY** 065° 57' N. 024° 18' W. to N.E. **GLASGOW** due Seidisfjord from North.  
(A.C.I.C., 1557A/21.)  
Positions of submarines at 0800A/22 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) TRUCULENT, SEA NYMPH, SIMOON, and SPORTSMAN in North Norwegian waters East of 15° N.  
(B) UREDD in Lofoten area.  
(F.O.S., 1723A/21 to Admt.)  
Akureyri departure SCYLLA, INTREPID, FURY, ECLIPSE, ORKAN in company at 0001.  
(A.C.I.C., 1725A/21 to JASON.)

**W.S.27 &** Intend sailing WOLVERINE 0900A/23 for Lough Foyle  
**K.M.F.10A.** to fuel and join convoy in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1751A/17. E.T.A. 1800A/23.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1032A/21.)  
Intend sailing RAIDER escorting CAPETOWN CASTLE, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, and FRANCONIA 1230Z/23rd for R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles. E.T.A. R/V 0900Z/24.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1122A/21.)

/H.X.226 ...

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

H.X.226,  
 H.X.226F.

Inform Commodore ships for Mersey capable of arriving Bar Light Vessel by 1400A/23 are to be detached forthwith, together with ships for other destinations capable maintaining speed of this fast section. Designation H.X.226(F)

codeword "Congress".

(2) Detail escort, according to relative size fast and slow portion of convoy, to 007° W., ships thence proceeding independently.

(4) B.A.M.S. is being broadcast to stragglers ordering ships not in the vicinity today noon R/V to proceed direct U.K.

(C. in C. W.A., 1205A/21 to Escorts H.X.226.)

Your 1729. JED, MAYFLOWER, escorting SS. SILVER WALNUT, CARILLO, APENAS, O.M. BERNUTH, MAYA, VILLE D'ANVERS left convoy 2000 in 059° 15' N. 015° 35' W. MAYFLOWER detached having no R.D.F. or Asdic operating. 21 ships now in company. No report of stragglers received from aircraft. EYEBRIGHT detached 20th Feb. to stand by 4 ships which hove to during gale.

(C.T.U. 24.1.13, 2015Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

AMSTERDAM.

Intend sailing transport AMSTERDAM from Cromarty at 0500/24, 17 knots, routed Q.Z.S.150, 352 to 35 buoy, thence 3 miles east of Fair Isle. E.T.A. Lerwick 1600.

(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1238/21.)

ULSTER

MONARCH.

A.M. 2230/10.

Endurance of ULSTER MONARCH does not permit continuing with W.S.28 throughout to Middle East. 2. She will embark personnel for Gibraltar to which port she should proceed with K.M.F.11.

Cs. in C. are requested to arrange onward passage to Suez via Cape, calling at necessary ports for fuel.

3. As ULSTER MONARCH will presumably not be escorted for considerable portions of her passage, numbers on board after Gibraltar should be limited as for unescorted sailing. Local authorities may make use of her accordingly, provided ship is not thereby delayed.

4. ULSTER MONARCH is required to arrive Suez by 15th May or as soon after as possible.

(D.O.D.F., 1511A/21.)

TJALDUR.

My 1235/20. Postponed until 0730/22 owing to weather.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1522A/21.)

K.M.F.10B.

Convoy K.M.F.10B will leave U.K. from the undermentioned ports on 1st March for Algiers. From Clyde - STAFFORDSHIRE, DURBAN CASTLE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, SAMARIA, EMPIRE PRIDE.

From Liverpool - DUCHESS OF YORK.

From Avonmouth - MORETON BAY, TAMAROA.

2. Speed of the slowest ship 14½ knots, but speed must be adjusted to that of the escorts.

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.F.10B.  
(Contd.)
3. Escort will be provided by C.4 Group consisting of CHURCHILL, RESTIGOUCHE, BRANDON, AMHERST, COLLINGWOOD and CELANDINE.  
4. S.O. of the Escort is in CHURCHILL.  
6. C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail escorts and to arrange for sailing of all sections of Convoy to R/V off Oversay.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1716A/21.)
- K.M.S.10.
- A.M. 1606/19 para. 3, does not apply to K.M.S.10.  
(D.T.D., 1727A/21 to A.I.G.21.)  
Your 1715A/19. Arrived Clyde.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2228A/21 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff.)
- Size and Security of Ocean Convoys.
- Representations as to risks likely to result from adoption of proposals in Admty. 1635A/20.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1915A/21 to Admty.)  
See Lion Copy.  
See also C. in C. W.A. 1730A/22.
- PORT CHALMERS.
- Following received from PORT CHALMERS X 042° 110 P2200 G.M.T., hove to, no lifeboats.  
(Burnham Radio, 2200/21 to Admty.)
- O.N.S.167.
- ROSARIO and H.H. CANNA (H.H. ROGERS intended) torpedoed.  
(HARVESTER, 2255Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Use of Barry Roads.
- C. in C. W.A. 2029A/20. D.D.T.D. will be visiting the Bristol Channel ports and Milford Haven this week and it is proposed that the Conference should be deferred until after the conclusion of these visits.  
(D.T.D., 2322A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

# MOST SECRET

795<sup>A</sup>

**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 :  
MOST SECRET." are excepted from this rule.) 1915/21 Feb. IN

From: C. in C. Western .Date: 21.2.43.  
Approaches. Recd: 2345  
Naval Cypher XD by T/F

Addressed: Admiralty.  
IMPORTANT  
823.

*Size of Atlantic Convoys.*

In view of my responsibilities as laid down in C.A.F.O. 432/41 para. two, I consider it essential to state clearly and definitely the consequences likely to result from the proposals expressed in Admiralty message 16351/20. (page 756)

2. The reduced sinkings shown in returns for December and January have mainly been due to diversion leading to successful evasion.

3. The Monster convoys now proposed will render this expedient far more difficult to accomplish. I have recently taken the most experienced opinions of Commodores of Convoys and Senior Officers of escorts in my command as to the maximum number of ships that should be sailed in a convoy. The consensus of opinion is that 40 is the ideal maximum while 60 is the limit above which serious disadvantages are bound to occur.

4. It is pointed out that even in day time, under conditions more or less normal in the Atlantic at this time of year, with the broad front which results from an excess number of ships in convoy, it is not at all unusual for the Commodore to be unable to see both, or at times either of his wing columns. Thus, with oversized convoys, it is found that when altering course a proportion of the convoy frequently does not get the necessary signals and as a result parts company. Such an error may not be discovered for some hours and in any case, the protection of the convoys as a whole is seriously affected, whilst the necessary steps are taken to re-concentrate.

5. ....

5. In this connection, experienced escort leaders inform me that U.S.A. ships which are being included in increasing proportions in the convoys are far the worst offenders in answering and obeying signals.

6. The larger the convoy the more stragglers may be expected and the more difficult it becomes to compete with them.

7. It is appreciated that the convoys of 90 and 100 ships have been run in the past with an A/S escort of similar size. This was in the summer of 1941, when only 25 to 30 U Boats were operating in the North Atlantic in summer conditions, and large packs as we now know them could not be concentrated. The use of A.M.C's with each convoy at this period suggests that our primary need for large convoys was dictated by fear of the surface raider.

8. The present conditions of 90 to 100 U Boats working in packs of 20 or more is very different. It is the aim of these large packs to harry and worry the convoy by incessant attacks and threats over several days and nights hoping, with good reason, that it will eventually result in loss of control by the Commodore of the convoy, leading finally to disintegration and disorder, and hoping too that the escort personnel may become less efficient through fatigue and that the escorts themselves will run out of depth charges. This aim will be more readily achieved when applied to over-swollen convoys.

9. Air protection remaining constant whatever the size of convoy the only available method to provide additional protection for the proposed large convoys is by adding additional escort ships to each escort group. Experience has shown that without proper group training such reinforcement obtained is in fact in no way proportional to the additional number of ships provided.

10. ....

# MOST SECRET

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

-3-

10. It will be realised from the above that I am far from happy as to the possible result of these proposals on the security of our ocean convoys feeling as I do that only dire necessity can justify the taking of such heavy risks.

1915/21

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.C.D. (H) D.T.D.

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (2)  
D.F.S.L.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)  
Nav. Sec.  
U.W.R.  
Capt. Tim  
D.C.D. (H) (2)  
D.C.D. (F) (2)  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D.T.D. (3) for action  
D.T.D. (M)  
D.T.D. (C)  
D. of S.T. (2)  
D. of S.W.  
D. of T. (2)  
Ad. Blake (3)  
C.C.C.S.  
Hd. of M.  
D.C. (2)  
D. of S.  
I.I. (2)  
W.D.  
Ad. Usborne.



796

War Diary.21. 2. 1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- M.K.F.9. My 1042/20th para. (7). (1041/20 intended route for M.K.F.9.) Amend P.C. and S. to read (E) 39.44 11.08 through 40.01 11.01 41.20 13.01 and 44.02 13.24 thence 01° 13. (V.A.Gib. 0224A/21 to A.I.G.55.)
- PORT ARTHUR. Am proceeding independently to Gibraltar to change over I.P. bottom end before proceeding to U.K. Request berth alongside and dockyard assistance. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1600A/21. (PORT ARTHUR 0905A/21 to V.A.Gib.)
- Movements. Arrived BROCKLESBY, LIDDESDALE, QUANTOCK. (F.O.C.Gib. 0908A/21 to Admty. etc.)
- U/B. Following read from A/C 09J. Submarine 40 miles 225° from Gibraltar. (Gib. W/T No T.O.O. Recd. 0920/21.) Another version gives 40 miles 115°.
- Convoy R.S.1(Y) My 1206/20. Sailed 0830. (F.O.Gibraltar 0951A/21 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. (W) S.N.O.C.A.) R.S.1 (Y). Ships sailed 0800/21 as in my 1732/19. (F.O.Gibraltar 1314/21 to S.N.O.C.A. F.O.I.C. Freetown, (R) C. in C.Med. Connav, Admty.)
- Dispositions. Situation report for Area X 1957A/21.  
R.S.1. (group missed ?BUTSER) BIRDLIP 035° 21' 006° 59' through 035° 10' 007° 16' 033° 59' 007° 58' and 035° 35' 009° 30' thence 212° 8.  
2. U.S.S./M BARB on patrol vicinity 042° 30' 009° 15'.  
3. S.R.1. PENTSTEMON 032° 19' 009° 49' through 032° 40' 009° 37' and 033° 30' 009° 02' to 034° 01' 007° 52' thence 035° 6½.  
4. REGINA 036° 21' 007° 50' through 036° 45' 009° 10' thence patrolling off Tagus 12.  
5. C.G.12 French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE 2 P.Cs. 034° 42' 007° 16' through 035° 45' 006° (?03') thence Q (?K) A 87 to Gibraltar 6½. On arrival P.Cs return to Casablanca 15.  
6. M.K.S.8 and G.U.S.4 (O) pass Europa Point 0600/22nd to 035° 49' 006° 43' at 1130/22nd where G (?U) S 4 (O) VANOC proceed 240° 6.6. On Gibraltar section joining M.K.S.8 BLACKSWAN proceeds to 283° 8 local escort returning Gibraltar.  
7. ARCTIC RANGER cable ship MIRROR working cable vicinity 036° 12' 007° 35'.  
8. C.G. 13, V.P.C. sails from Casablanca 1200/22nd through 033° 55' 007° 53' thence 034° 9.5.  
9. ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG, LADY DENISON-PENDER (E) 033° 41' 012° 22' 067° 9.  
10. LIDDESDALE 2 destroyers 036° 22' 007° 56' through 036° 46' 009° 10' and 038° 25' 013° 47' to R/V O.S.43 in 038° 56' 014° 06' at 1330/22nd.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 1028A/21 to N.A.Stn.)  
Situation report area Y at 1957A/21st.  
U.C.1 WESTON 035° 52' 018° 38' 242° 10½.  
(V.A.Gibraltar 1112A/21.)

/Situation...

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. (Contd.) Situation report for Area Z 1956A/21st. Two Swedish relief ships 038° 01' 042° 20' 090° 12'. (F.O.Gibraltar 1301A/21.)

U/B. Following received from Aircraft. Am over enemy submarine in 38.56 N. 21.09 W. was on the surface course 210°. (A.O.C. 19 Group 1132/21.)

MIRROR. My 1138/19. MIRROR completed operation given in your 2037/6 and 2030/9 at 1200A/21, and proceeded to carry out operation given in your 1833/29 Jan. (F.O.Gibraltar 1227A/21 to Admty.)

REGINA, LIDDESDALE, etc. 1. REGINA P.C. and S. at 1700/21st 036° 08' N. 007° 08' W. 290° 12 knots.  
2. LIDDESDALE 2 destroyers P.C. and S. at 1700/21st 036° 02' N. 006° 46' W. 290° 20 knots. (V.A.Gibraltar 1304A/21 to ARCTIC RANGER.)

G.U.S.4 SCHOHARIE arrived 1840/20 from Bone, intend sailing to join G.U.S.4 (F.O.Gibraltar 1308A/21 to S.N.O.C.A., F.O.I.C. Oran. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. Connav, N.O.I.C. Bone.)

NYASSA, interception. Your 1530/20. Yes, vide my 1315/11th Oct. 1942 para. 2.  
2. Mails are always to be made available to Censorship from all vessels arriving for central except in cases where you have special instructions to the contrary e.g. certain Swiss mails. (D.E.W.D. 1318A/21 to C.C.S.O.Gibraltar.)

M.K.S.8. SCHOBARIE (U.S.) not in convoy M.K.S.8, apparently did not sail from Algiers.  
2. THOMAS STONE (U.S.) has evaporator trouble and is being diverted to Gibraltar.  
3. Ref. LUNENBURG's 1301A/20th and 2350/20th (N.T.in W.D.) not on board LUNENBURG or any other escorts.  
4. LUNENBURG requires 200 gallons A/C (?word omitted), 100 gallons diesel for galley and 50 tons water. (WEYBURN 1345Z/21 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. (D) Gibraltar.)  
Your 1840/21st (N.T.in W.D.). E.T.A. position 57, 0600A/22nd. Escort in company WEYBURN S.O. (corrupt group) WIVERN, VELOX, ZETLAND, SUMMERSIDE, LUNENBURG, ALBERNI. 2. THOMAS STONE requires 100 tons water, can then proceed. (WEYBURN 1845Z/21st to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) BLACK SWAN.)

/OKLAHOMA...

War Diary.

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

OKLAHOMA,  
SOLOR.

This is a repetition of my 1500/21 for A.N.P.B. Your 2030/17 due to lack shore storage transferring cargo from OKLAHAMA to SOLOR. Will return OKLAHAMA G.U.F. 5 and keep SOLOR until G.U.S.5. (S.N.O.C.A. 1453Z/21 to C. in C.Med. Cominch, Admty. (R) E.S.F., Cinclant etc.)

REGENT.

Your 1514A/20th. (REGENT E.T.A. in patrol position.) 1000 Feb. 28th. 2. F.O.(S) pass to Comsubron 50. (F.O.Gibraltar 1635A/21 to F.O.S. (R) Admty. etc.) Cancelled by 1629A/23 q.v.

LE ARDRIEUX.

German controlled French LE ARDRIEUX left Valencia midnight 20th for Marseilles. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1845A/21 to S.O.I. Algiers S.O.I. Malta.)

A.S.V.  
Aircraft  
for N.  
Africa.

Agwar 1951Z/21 to Etousa. See America & West Indies.

Movements.

Arrivals. 1345 DEPTFORD from M.K.S.8. 1725 PORT ARTHUR ex G.U.S. ?4. Departures 0915 REGINA to Y.1. patrol to intercept Portuguese S.S. NYASSA, 1905 WILTON to Algiers. (F.O.Gibraltar 2010A/21 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- AFRICAN SUN. Intend to sail AFRICAN SUN 0400Z/22nd to join  
W.S.26. W.S.26 off Capetown. Destination Durban,  
speed 17 knots, C.B. held 22, 23 one ship pad  
1738.  
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 0741Z/21 to Admty.)
- Convoy (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 0821Z/21 to Admty. etc.)  
N.C.3. STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY sailed 0730/21st  
escorting convoy N.C.3 to Saldanha Bay E.T.A.  
0700C/25th.  
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 0933Z/21 to Admty. C. in  
C.S.A.) S.L.127.
- S.L.127. ARAWA and LEIGHTON accepted. Your 2034/20th  
and your 2127/16th refers.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1046Z/21 to B.R.L.O. Rio de  
Janeiro (R) C. in C.S.A. Admty.)
- Convoy My 1248/16th to F.O. West Africa and N.O.I.C.  
Dakar- Bathurst only.  
Port Intend to sail following ships in convoy for Port  
Etienne. Etienne 1830Z/22nd escorted by SERGEANT GOUARNE  
S.O. ORFSAY, M.L. 296, M.L. 287 and one H.D.M.L.  
2. MATANG, SURVILLE, tug BUFFLE, PERSISTANTE,  
towing lighter.
3. S/M LA PERLE and cable ship ARAGO also included in convoy  
and on arrival off Port Etienne will be escorted to Casablanca  
by SERGEANT GOUARNE.
4. Convoy speed made good 6½ knots throughout. Route through  
following positions: A. 017° 45' N. 017° 38' W. B. 015° 46'  
N. 016° 39' W. C. 018° 27' N. 016° 25' W. D. 020° (corrupt  
group) 017° 30' W. E. 021° 00' N. 017° 38' W. F. 022° 20' N.  
016° 54' W. G. 023° 38' N. 016° 34' W. H. 024° 52' N. 015°  
00' W. I. 026° 22' N. 014° 35' W. (II) 26.46 N. 13.42 W.  
J. 027° 55' N. 013° 30' W. K. 028° 25' N. 012° 57' W. L. 028°  
23' N. 011° 35' W. M. 028° 51' N. 011° 07' W. N. 029° 08' N.  
010° 30' W. O. 029° 37' N. 010° 34' W. P. 030° 04' N. 009°  
45' W. Q. 030° 21' N. 009° 44' W. R. 030° 37' N. 009° 55' W.  
S. 031° 27' N. 009° 55' W. T. 032° 15' N. 009° 20' W. U. 032°  
33' N. 009° 24' W. V. 033° 24' N. 008° 25' W. W. 033° 41' N.  
007° 50' W.
5. Request for LA PERLE total bombing restrictions 30 miles  
ahead 60 miles astern and 10 miles either side of estimated  
position.
6. (Communications.) British signalman in SERGEANT GOUARNE.
7. LA PERLE if separated from convoy has orders to proceed to  
Casablanca on surface unless attacked reported initial P.C. and  
S. and subsequent if outside modified total bombing  
restrictions zone. F.O.C.W.Af. pass to Air H.Q.  
(Comar Dakar 1055Z/21 1654Z/21 2254Z/21 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst,  
Admty. etc.)
- NESTOR, Request whether any special circumstances for  
THYME. NESTOR being escorted. If not intend to detach  
NESTOR to proceed direct Freetown, THYME taking  
place to escort tanker EGERO to westward.  
(F.O.W.A. 1122Z/21 to C. in C.S. A. (R) Admty.  
N.O.I.C. Takoradi, THYME.)

/Your...

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.NESTOR,  
THYME.

Your 1122/21st. No special circumstances except to take advantage of the passage of THYME to West Africa to provide some A/S protection to a ship carrying passengers and calling at St. Helena.  
(C. in C.S.A. 2046C/21 to F.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc)

W.S.26.  
C.M.40.

Your 1325/15. Following is intended programme of W.S.26 and attached ships.

A. W.S.26 Capetown section consisting of troopships HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, ARUNDEL CASTLE, ORDUNA and M.T.Ship REMBRANDT for Mid East plus Troopship CALIFORNIA and M.T.Ship CHYEBASSA for India are due Capetown a.m. Monday 22 and will be ready to leave on Thursday 25th Feb. Actual date of departure will however depend on date of readiness of Durban Section.  
B. W.S. 26 Durban section, consisting of Troopship MALQJA for Mid East and MOOLTAN DEMPO, STRATHEDEN, DOMINION MONARCH for India are due at Durban 25th Feb. and should be ready to leave about 4 days later to R/V with Capetown section off Durban.  
C. Store Ship SELANDIA for Mid East and Troopship DILWARA for India will be attached to Durban section on sailing.  
D. Troopship LANCASHIRE which D.S.T.O. Durban reports cannot make passage to Mid East or India without refuelling will embark personnel for East Africa and will also sail with Durban section as far as Kilindini returning to Durban when discharged.  
2. Convoy C.M.40 will be formed from the following ships about 6th March - CITY OF LONDON, CITY OF PARIS, EMPIRE TROOPER, DEVONSHIRE, EMPIRE WOODLARK and SONTAY. It may be possible to include 1 or 2 others dependent on progress of repairs. Destination of this convoy depends on decision from D. of S.T. as to relative priorities of imperial troops for Mid East and India and Union troops for Mid East but it seems likely that it will have to be split. It is also probable that convoy will have to refuel en route either at Kilindini or Diego Suarez as most of these ships are incapable of complete voyage.  
3. ILE DE FRANCE due Durban about 25th March takes POWS to Capetown for transshipment QUEEN MARY and then returns to Durban about 4th April. Ship will then embark 6000 Europeans troops of sixth S.A. division about sixth for mid east. On carriage of 7000 non-European troops of this Division and balance of 1500 Europeans will depend on decisions referred to in para. (2).  
(P.S.T.O. Capetown 1155C/21 to C. in C.E.F. (R) D.S.T.O. Durban, Com. i/c Durban, C. in C.S.A. D.of S.T. P.S.T.O.M.E. P.S.T.O. India, D.S.T.O. Kilindini.)

S.T.56.

Departure 1911/20th BELLWORT, CYCLAMEN, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting S.T.56.  
(S.O.I.Freetown 1200Z/21 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos, B.N.L.O. W.Af.)

Movements.

Arrival 0822/21st INKPEN and BRIDGEWATER.  
(S.O.I.Freetown 1210Z/21 to N.C.X.F. S.N.O. Casablanca, Admty. V.A.Gibraltar, Comar Dakar.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. WAYLAND, CANTON, CILICIA, QUALITY, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, BLACKMOOR, D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES with W.S. 26, 032° 36' S. 017° 12' E. to Capetown 11.3 knots.

ROCKROSE (?MOOIVLIE) with C.N.9 026° 20' S. 014° 15' E. to Walvis Bay 8½.

COVENTRY CITY, STELLA POLARIS with N.C.3 off Walvis Bay to Capetown 8.

CARNATIC, STANDERTON, SONNEBLOM with C.D.5 034° 30' S. 023° 20' E. to Durban 8 knots.

CHALLENGER 030° 55' S. 031° 10' E. to Capetown 9.

CATTERICK with D.C.9 035° 05' S. 024° 00' E. to Capetown 8.

JASMINE, DUNVEGAN 033° S. 036° E. to Durban 9.

(?NORWICH CITY) 033° S. 036° E. to East London 8.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1220C/21 to Areas Q and J.)  
Situation at 2004Z/21st.

DUNKERY, PORTSDOWN with R.S.1 (X) about 25.00 15.57 206 8½.

PETUNIA about 21.19 17.47 307 12¼.

French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES about 19.28 22.28 135 19.

DESPATCH 18.40 32.39 095 20.

MONTE NARANCO under armed guard 21.(?45) 20.37 011° 6.

ARRAN (?3) M.Ls 10.21 16.18 to Freetown 7.

French GAZELLE, LA GRACIEUSE and ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ escorting (?through) Dakar to South 7.

ADRIAS, HYDRANGEA probably escorting off (?Martinique) to South 12½.

ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF on patrol in area 12 to (?17) N. and 28 to (?35) W.

Portuguese ALFONSO DE ALBUQUERQUE in Cape Verde Is. area.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1608/21.)

BENJAMIN SMITH. 23rd Jan. 1943, U.S. BENJAMIN SMITH sunk by torpedo. No casualties. All survivors landed Takoradi.  
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi 1545Z/21 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. W.Af.)

PETUNIA. PETUNIA has not received my 2310Z/19th and will arrive at Gambia Light Float at 0700Z/22nd.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1615Z/21 to Comar Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty. PETUNIA.)  
Ref. my 1406Z/21st and 1400Z/19th my E.T.A. Gambia light float 0700Z/22nd. Your 1322Z/21st and situation report 1608/21st not understood. Last instructions received were contained in your 1101Z/18th, request further instructions.  
(PETUNIA 2230Z/21 to F.O.W.A.)

DRANGEY. Departure 21st DRANGEY. E.T.A. (?Kilindini) 1200Z/2nd March.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 1640Z/21 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.AF. C. in C.S.A.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy R.S.1(X) MONTE NARANCO.

1. Convoy R.S.1 X is to proceed by Coastal route to Port Etienne.
2. DUNKERY is to proceed to R/V with MONTE NARANCO (Spanish) with armed guard on board in 023° 38' N. 020° 13' W. at 1500/22nd.
3. Further orders follow.
4. DUNKERY acknowledge (F.O.W.A. 1645Z/21 to PORTSDOWN, DUNKERY, (R) Comar, Admty, BURDOCK.)

My 1645Z/21st.

1. Telegraphist is to be placed on board MONTE NARANCO with orders to keep international single operator periods on 500 k/cs shifting to read B.A.M.S. routine in accordance with A.F.O. 3/42 page 307 table 13 B.
2. O.I.C. armed guards is to be supplied with S.P. 2405+ and S.P.O. 2272\* (22).
3. Call sign C G J A from S.P.O. 2182= (4) is allocated MONTE NARANCO.
4. When telegraphist not on watch W/T office is to be locked and no transmission allowed.
5. Pass to O.C. Armed Guards.

+ Merchant Navy Code. \* Recoding Table for use with M.N. Code.  
= Mercantile Secret Call Signs (No. 4).  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1803Z/21 to DUNKERY, (R) S.N.O. Casablanca Area Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. (W)).

1. Your 1645Z/21st. R.S.1 (X). Position at 2200Z/21st 024° 50' N. 016° 15' W. Impossible to R/V 1500Z/22nd. Speed 11 knots. Request new R/V or further orders.
2. Addressed F.O. West Africa only. Cmdre. of convoy R.S.1 (X) requests permission to enter Dakar for urgent repairs to propeller guard; diver required. Also to repair engine defects, 48 hours will suffice.

Both trawlers are out of boiler water and using salt.  
(DUNKERY 2210Z/21 to F.O.W.A. PORTSDOWN.)

BALUCHISTAN, Arrived BALUCHISTAN.  
HILDA. 2. Sailed HILDA (?at) 1306Z escorting steamship NORE TRADER routed as in N.C.S.O. Durban's 0821/21. HILDA parts company in position C latitude 017° 05' S. and proceed Diego Suarez speed 7½ knots to C then 8 knots. E.T.A. at Diego Suarez 1500Z/3rd March.

3. BALUCHISTAN 1710Z/21st to overtake and proceed company HILDA to position C thence independently to Diego Suarez. E.T.A. 0400Z/2nd.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1731Z/21 as amended 0924Z/22 to Admty. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Convoy B. My 1923/17th, not to Admty. Sailed southbound  
21. convoy B.21 7 knots routed as follows (details.)

2. R(?U)TE FJELL did not sail.
3. Please pass my 1923/17th as amended by your 1031/19th to Admty. if not already done.  
(Comar Dakar 1801Z/21 to F.O.C. West Africa (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty.)

RANGITIKI. Admiralty 1946/5th. RANGITIKI unable to reach Freetown in time for S.L.126.

/Request...

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.RANGITIKI  
(Contd.)

Request accommodation for her in S.L.127. Expected to sail Montevideo 2nd March due Freetown 15th March speed  $13\frac{3}{4}$  will require 700 tons Diesel oil 800 tons water refrigerated cargo 200 prisoners of war 100 naval officers and ratings.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1901Z/21 to F.O.C. West Africa, (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A. B.A.D. for C. in C.U.S. Fleet.) Reply 1749/23.

BURDOCK  
DUNKERY.

Request BURDOCK, DUNKERY and 2,110 feet motor launches be sailed from Port Etienne escort OVED FEZ BARWIND, Tug EMPIRE TITAN and Tug EMPIRE ROACH (Ex R.S.1 X) to Freetown, OVED FEZ being detached off Dakar.  
DUNKERY will be ordered to proceed to Port Etienne after present duty and should join escort if possible.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1902Z/21 to Comar Dakar, (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, BURDOCK, PORTSDOWN, DUNKERY.)

CHESHIRE.

Arrived 1915/21st.  
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 2020Z/21 to Admty.)

LLANASHE.

Overdue Shipping LLANASHE expected Port Elizabeth 17th Feb. not arrived.  
(C. in C.S.A. 2218C/21 to Admty.)  
Survivors picked up, see 2202/23. Details of sinking, see 1234/26.

Overdue  
Shipping.

ROGER B. TANEY U.S. Capetown 29th Jan. for Bahia 14th Feb. not yet arrived.  
(Recife 2349Z/21 to Admty. etc.)



War Diary.

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- KATSONIS. Following from Greek Submarine KATSONIS (Begins) - Owing to weather conditions being bad am stemming sea. My P.C. and S. 034° 18' N. 035° 04' E. 000° 5 knots proceeding to sail North of Cyprus. Awaiting orders 2240B/20 (ends) My 0113/21 refers. (Capt. S.I. 0115B/21 to C. in C. Levant, (R) Cdre. D.F.O. Coastal Forces, KATSONIS.)  
Your 1201/21 (N.T. in W.D.) 1. P.C. and S. at noon 21st 034° 38' N. 034° 21' E. 240° 9 knots. 2. Estimate you will pass through 033° 57' N. 032° 58' E. at 2100B/21 thence as in your sailing orders and my 1231/20 not addressed to you. Passing position (A) at 0600B/22 and (B) at 0300/24. 3. This should recypher in O repetition O Table repeat signal to C. in C. Levant.  
(Capt. S.I. 1438B/21 to KATSONIS (R) C. in C. Levant Capt. (S) 10 Cdore D.C.F.E.)
- Enemy Convoy. Following received addressed Air H.Q. Malta from A/C c/s B.T.B.A; 2 merchant vessels and 5 destroyers bearing 180° 2 miles course 270° from position 110° C.S.M.D. 6 miles.  
(Alexandra W/T 0445A/21 to Admty.)
- Aden Movements. Arrivals. H.M.R.T. FAVOURITE 0435Z SIGFRA and SIMBRA in company.  
(Com. Aden, 0452Z/21 to Admty.)  
Departure LAUNCESTON 0410Z, FAVOURITE.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0614Z/21 to Admty.)
- Movements Beirut. 20th. departure Gr. Sub. KATSONIS, DELPHINIUM.  
(S.O.I. Beirut, 0905B/21 to Admty.)
- Movements Alexandria Arrivals 20th. SOUTHERN ISLE, BELVOIR, M.L.1122, Greek Destroyer PINDOS. Departures 20th BURRA, JERVIS, PALADIN, CLEOPATRA.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria 0914B/21 to Admty.)
- M.N.B.D.O.I. Your 33959/G 6 Jan. We are planning to provide shipping for M.N.B.D.O.1 to arrive India early May. Confirm if suitable.  
(C. in C. M.E., 1035SB/21 to C. in C. India.)  
Received from War Office 0135/22.
- P.46 (UNRUFFLED) If nothing has been sighted by 1500 to-day resume your patrol.  
(Capt. S.10 1154A/21 to P.46 (UNRUFFLED)(R) P.42 (UNBROKEN))
- P.247 (SARACEN) Your escort will be M.L.273. 2. One Cruiser and one destroyer sail from Algiers to North Eastward at 0630/22. 3. Small Westbound convoy passes Algiers about 1200/22. 4. STURGEON sailed 1800/21 through 038° 17' N. 002° 28' E. thence West.  
(Capt S.8. 1214A/21 to P.247 (SARACEN))

/U/Boat...

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

P.247 U/Boat sighted by aircraft in 038° 56' 004° 51' at  
SARACEN. 1132 course 220°. (Capt. S.8 1224A/21 to P.247.)  
Contd.

P.228 If you were in the south west portion of your  
(SPLENDID) area at 0750 you may have been sighted by  
enemy vessel. (Capt. S.8 1216A/21 to P.288 (SPLENDID))

Malta Sailed Motor Launches 135, 168.  
Movements. (V.A. Malta, 1258A/21 to N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya)  
Admty C. in C. Med. Fleet C. in C. Levant.  
Arrival P.212 (SAHIB) departure P.51 (UNSEEN)).  
(V.A. Malta 1629A/21 to Admty. etc.)

Service Your 2259/20. Proposed embarkations in MALOJA  
Personnel. for U.K. comprise R.N. 300 Free French Navy 120  
Yugo Slav Navy 90, Army 1,000 R.A.F. 500 Polish  
Airforce 300, Merchant Navy 40, Civilians 50.  
2. Apart from one tunnelling Coy. lent to Mideast the majority  
of Army personnel for South Africa are Garrison Coys. returning  
to release White troops for combatant duties. Also for South  
Africa R.A.F. 500 Merchant Navy 30, civilians 50.  
3. Agreed G.H.Q.M.E.F., D.S.T.O., Kilindini pass to E.A.Command.  
(P.S.T.O. Middle East, 1259B/21 to Admty. for D. of S.T. (R)  
C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A., G.H.Q., M.E.F., E.A. Command.  
D.S.T.O. Kilindini P.S.T.O. E.I., P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

Bi-weekly Night 19/20 Feb. 6 enemy aircraft operated  
Opsum between Haifa and Tel Aviv. 4 crossed coast but  
No. 102. no bombs reported. 5 Beaufighters, 2 Hurricanes  
up. 1 probable Cant Z. 1007 B.I.S. shot down in  
sea North of Alexandria. 20 Feb. 31 B.24s  
despatched in 3 formations to attack shipping at Naples. Owing  
to thick cloud all B.24s except 3 turned back South of harbour.  
B.24s bombing Naples scored direct hits on 2 ships and caused  
fire and explosion on docks. 17 B.24s bombed alternative  
target Crotone, scoring many hits on Chemical Works. Other bombs  
burst in town and harbour areas but observation of damage obscured  
by haze.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1307Z/21)

Tripoli For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Tonnage discharged  
Discharges. 20 Feb. Tripoli 3074, Benghazi 2360. One ship  
broke all Mideast records, discharging 955 tons  
in 24 hours.  
(Mideast T.O.O. Nil to Air Min.) Received in War.  
Reg. at 1815/21.

U.G.S.5. U.G.S.5. Destination Tankers as follows SUN,  
Tankers. SAN CIRILIO, SEMINOLE to Gibraltar SANDANGER to  
Casablanca EMPIRE GOLD to Oran.  
Admiral Gibraltar is requested to sail SEMINOLE  
for Algiers in convoy T.E.16.  
(C. in C. Med. 1435A/21 to C.T.F.35 (R) S.N.O. Casablanca,  
N.O.I.C. Oran, Cominch, Admty., Adm. Gibraltar.)

War Diary.

21.2.1943.

Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.R.U. A.X. 403 21st Feb. Admiralty request P.R.  
Genoa. Genoa may be flown as soon as practicable in  
order to locate missing Italian Battleship  
LITTORIO. Request you issue orders accordingly.  
(Air Min. T.O.O. 1445Z/21 to Med. Air Command  
(R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Floating My 1743/7/Jan. and 0958/15/Feb. If these docks  
Docks. do not come into service on this coast by mid  
May, the position will be very serious and may  
even prejudice future operations. 2. Is there  
any possibility of supplying a 2750 ton dock which could  
probably go to Oran. Operating and repair staffs would have  
to be provided as well.  
(C. in C. Med. 1535A/21 to Admty.)

Malta Your 1608A/15. 1. This is necessary.  
Minefield. 2. One additional officer of commissioned rank  
will be required. 3. 64 number (L) mark 1  
star and 36, (L) mark 2 mines are available but  
require considerable repair since being recovered from under  
debris. All necessary components are not available. Items  
to complete to reserve in A.M. 0053/13 Dec. 1941 are being  
demanded by N.A.S.O. Demands for naval stores not available  
locally and required before the relay can be undertaken are  
being forwarded by A.S. Malta.  
(V.A. Malta, 1550/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C.  
Levant.)

P.R.U. P.R.U. 21st visuals. 1240. Taranto 2  
Taranto, Battleships, 2 Cruisers. Photographs. 1425  
Messina. Messina no naval units.  
(V.A. Malta, 1602A/21 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

DOLFIJN. Intend sailing DOLFIJN at 1800/23 for patrol  
within 30 miles of East coast Sardinia and  
between 038° 45' N. 041° 30' N. routed through  
038° 36' N. 004° 46' E. at 2100/24 and 038° 45' N. 009° 11' E. at  
2000/26.  
(Capt. S.8. 1622A/21 to C. in C. Levant (R) Capt. (S) 10,  
8th S/M Flotilla, Cdre. Algiers.)

Port Said 21st Feb. Port Said arrivals CLEOPATRA, JERVIS,  
Movements. PALADIN, M.L.1156, M.L.1226, BURRA Departures,  
JERVIS, PALADIN, SOUTHERN MAID, ROMNEY, POOLE.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1718B/21 to Admty.)

JUAN DE Departure 22nd. 0900 (EAKS) JUAN DE ASTIGARRAGA  
ASTIGARRAGA Genoa Iron Ore.  
(Spanish) (Valencia, 1741/12 to Admty.)

RANGITATA. A.M. 2012/18. Proposed programme for RANGITATA.

/(a)...

807

War Diary.21. 2. 1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

RANGITATA (Contd.) (a) Proceed in K.M.F.11 to Algiers to disembark 1300 British troops.  
(b) From Algiers proceed to Oran to disembark 850 U.S. troops and discharge 500 tons of meat for U.S. forces. (c) From Oran proceed to Casablanca to disembark 500 R.A.F. personnel and R.A.F. stores required for the establishment of new aircraft servicing station on route to Middle East. (d) From Casablanca to proceed to U.S.A. to load refrigerated cargo for U.K. 2. Is this programme acceptable?  
(D.O.D.(H). 1802A/21 to C. in C. Med. (R) S.N.O.C.A., F.O.I.C, Gibraltar.) Reply 1226A/22.

DEWDALE. Your 1230/18. (?1919/18 intended.) Anticipate temporary repairs DEWDALE will be completed at Algiers 18th March ex tests and trials.  
(C. in C. Med. (W) 1813A/21 to Admty. S. of C. London (R) Com. Algiers F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Haifa Movements. Arrivals 21st. AETOS, PANTHER, SPETSAI. M.L. 385, Norwegian Minesweepers TRANSVAALIA, CUMBRAE, ISLAY. Departures 21st M.L.385, PANTHER, AETOS.  
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, Haifa, 1821B/21 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. M.S. 8000 A.I. 502 21st Feb. C.S.R. Malta. Offensive Part 1. Night 20th/21st Feb. In spite of bad weather successful attack was made on enemy shipping off Trapani. Convoy of 1 tanker 10,000, 1 vessel 4/5000 tons 3 D/Rs had been sighted by Baltimore 0912 hours South of Naples (see Part 3) and 11 Wellingtons, 9 Beauforts and 8 Albacores were despatched to locate and attack. Heavy electrical storms and serious A.S.V. jamming were encountered but at 1835 hours 1 Beaufort found convoy 38° 39' N. 12° 21' E. course South 9 knots and aimed torpedo at tanker. Torpedo ran well but results could not be observed owing to evasive action taken from intense and accurate flak. At 0340 hours 1 Albacore and 4 Beauforts found 1 M/V 8000, 1 M/V 5000 tons and 5D/Rs 1 mile south of Marittimmo course 270° 5 knots. All 3 aircraft attacked larger M/V with torpedoes and although very bad visibility prevented any hits being seen smoke was rising from convoy after attack. At 0350 hours off Favignana Island 3 Albacores found 1 M/V 3000 tons and 1 D/R course West 15 knots and attacked M/V with 2 torpedoes and 2 250 lbs bombs scoring 1 torpedo hit on stern of M/V which was left stationary and out of control. 1 Mosquito despatched on intruder patrol over Pantelleria to cover shipping strike is missing. Day 21st Feb. No offensive operations owing to bad weather. Part 2. Enemy air activity, nil. Day 21st Feb. 6 Beaufighters sorties were flown to escort convoy approaching from South. Part 3 R/C. Day 20th Feb. 2 Baltimore shipping R/Cs. First South of Bay of Naples 0912 hours 40° 08' N. 13° 17' E. 1 tanker 10,000 tons dummy funnel amidships last seen Naples 19th Feb. 1 liner type possible A.M.C. 4/5000 tons 3 D/Rs course 200° 6 knots. Second South of Bay of Naples 0800 hours 38° 44' N. 16° 03' E. 1 small coaster

/1 liner...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta  
Air  
Report  
(Contd.)

1 liner type probable A.M.C. 3000 tons coast crawling South West 8 knots. 1000 hours 39° 44' N. 13° 25' E. convoy previously sighted 0912 hours course 220° 6 knots.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 19322/21)

Tripoli  
(Libya)  
movements.

Feb. 21st. Arrivals: PETARD, ISIS, HURSLEY, PRIMULA, G.S. SAKTOURIS, KLO. Departures: PETARD ISIS.  
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya, 1940B/21 to Admty.)

Algiers  
Movements.

Arrival TRIBUNE. Departures Stornoway BADDECK STURGEON.  
(Com. Algiers, 1957A/21 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrivals. CIRCE, CADMUS, ESPIEGLE, VENOMOUS. L.C.Is. 242, 247, 99, 243. Departures M.L.280, L.C.Ts. 160, 164, 170, L.C.Is. 174, 175, 177, 246.  
(?F.O.I.C. Oran, 1959/21 to Admty.)

A/C  
attack  
on enemy  
ships.

Following read: Position course and speed of enemy. One medium vessel and 2 destroyers 37.48 N. 11.50 E. 180° 8 knots. Have attacked enemy with torpedoes and estimate one hit.  
(A/C ANA/C, 2015A/21.)  
Following has been read. One destroyer one merchant vessel 030° 4 38° 06' N. 11° 52' E.  
(A/C ANA/J. 2020A/21)  
P. C. and S. of one enemy merchant 37.50 N. 11.58 E. Have attacked enemy. Hits observed.  
(A/C ANA/M 2020A/21.)

Enemy  
Destroyers.

Following read. Position and speed of one enemy Destroyer?(Position 37° 10' N. 10° 20' E.)  
(Speed 4 knots.) Have lost touch with enemy.  
(A/C APX/N, 2135A/21.)

Enemy  
M/V  
torpedoed  
by P.46  
(UNRUFFLED)

Your (?2306) 20th (2305/20 intended.) At 0815A/21 torpedoed medium sized merchant ship probably sunk. No important traffic sighted in Gulf of Hammamet (?except) 20 (?lighters) Northbound A.M. 18th. One torpedo remaining.  
(P.46 (UNRUFFLED, 2215A/21 to Capt. S.10.  
(R)? P.42 (UNBROKEN.)

Situation  
Report  
No. 2.

Tripoli Libya. Adequate enemy A/T defences recovered and laid across harbour entrance.  
2. Tobruk. 8 enemy aircraft raided port 20th Feb. 2 shot down. 3. Submarine UNA at 1310 1st Feb. in 36° 26' N. 10° 43' E. gunned two 250 ton schooners at anchor. Both badly damaged, action discontinued on shore batteries opening fire. 1 casualty in UNA.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation report No. 2. Contd.

4. At 1651 10th Feb. in 38° 52' N. 16° 35' E. torpedoed and sank 4000 ton northbound MV. At 1854 15th Feb. in position T 9° (?39°) 16' N. 17° 08' E. torpedoed and hit stranded 4000 ton M/V.

5. UNRIVALLED (P.45) at 1032 16th Feb. in 38° 18' N. 16° 26' E. torpedoed and sank 1000 ton four masted vessel at anchor.

6. At 1315 16th Feb. in 38° 18' N. 16° 29' E. claims one hit on 6,000 ton M/V escorted by 2 destroyers.

7. HYACINTH and PROTEA hunting U-boat in 33° 05' N. 21° 43' E. This is third U-boat found in this area since 17th Feb. My 2055 17th Feb. and 2032 20th Feb. refer. (C. in C. Levant, 2217B/21 to Admty.)

Benghazi movements.

Sailed SEAHAM, IMHOFF, T.L.C. 113. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2235B/21 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.

French Squadron, Alexandria.

From Prime Minister to Minister of State. I am still relying upon your promise to me to see this Godfroy business through to the end. If cutting the pay does not suffice we shall have to go on to cutting supplies. (Air Min., 2325Z/21 to Mideast.)

War Diary.21.2.1945.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Dutch C. in C. Re Adm. Helfrich, proposed move of H.Q. from Colombo to Australia.  
(B.A.D. 0057Z/21) See America & West Indies.

Movements. Departure SCOUT.  
(S.C.I. Bombay 0141Z/21 to Admty, C. in C., F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon.  
Departure PATNA for Madras towing tug DARAGA.  
(Vizagapatam 0231Z/21 to Admty.)

F.S. LEOPARD arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0535Z/21 to Admty.)  
Colombo arrival 21st 0551Z H.N.M. Sub. 0.21. 1030Z LIS-MORE.  
Departures 0312Z GAWLER.  
(F.O.Ceylon 1100Z/21 to Admty. etc.)  
ETHIOPIAN left  
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 1100Z/21 to Admty.)  
Departure FALMOUTH for Addu Atoll at 1230Z/21.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1240Z/21 to Admty.)

Trincomalee lack of unloading facilities for M/V's The development and use of Trincomalee as operating base for Eastern Fleet is severely handicapped by lack of unloading facilities for merchant ships, particularly absence of any deep water quay where M.Vs. can discharge direct and small length of quays for lighters.

(ii) Paramount need is for one deep water quay in vicinity of dockyard with good discharging facilities. Oiling jetties in China Bay are cat-walk construction and cannot be used.

(iii) Quickest way of providing quay would be by using hull of SAGAING. I have inspected ship and am convinced that salvage to put her back on the high seas would, even if practicable, be costly, slow and most wasteful of dockyard space and labour. F.O. Ceylon's 0700/13th December refers. The cut down of superstructure to main deck level is necessary for salvage. When this has been done (?lighter) will be most suitable as seaward end of a deep water jetty.

(iv) Details of proposals follow by air mail. A rough estimate of cost for Suptg. C.E. work is £60,000 and time required 7½ repeated 7½ months. Provision of ordnance iron plant and workmen to operate it will be necessary.

5. Request early consideration may be given to Sagaing proposal which seems the cheapest and quickest way of providing a deep water at Trincomalee.  
(C. in C. E.F. 0325Z/21 to Admty. (R) F.O. Ceylon. N.O.I.C. Trincomalee.)

U/B attacks details. I would be grateful for further details concerning U boat attacks which have taken place especially whether they were (a) by day or night (b) escorted (c) covered by air.  
(C. in C. E.F. 0600Z/21 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty)  
Reply: 1446C/23.

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Cont.

Convoy. J.C.7 $\frac{1}{2}$  Departure RAJPUTANA escorting J.C.7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
(N.O.I.C. Madras 0612Z/21, 0618Z/21, 0709Z/21 to Admty etc.)

Catalina from Ceylon to Australia Ref. B.S.O.'s 0509/20 (N.T. in W.D.) I feel it would be difficult to refuse the request for one Dutch Catalina to be sent from Ceylon to Australia and subject to your remarks intend to agree.  
(C. in C. E.F. 0637Z/21 to A.O.C. in C. India.  
(R) A.O.C.222 Group. Admty. Air Min.)

Eastern Fleet weekly disposition. Signal No.24 (A) WARSPITE, REVENGE, RESOLUTION at Kilindini  
(C) DEVONSHIRE left Fremantle 20th for Colombo.  
(D) GAMBIA at Fremantle BIRMINGHAM Kilindini to Durban escorting M.C.4. MAURITIUS leaves Colombo 22nd for Bombay. HAWKINS at Kilindini. FROBISHER at Bombay. DAUNTLESS due Kilindini 22nd CAPADOC leaves Bombay 24th escorting B.A.38 to Aden. CERES leaves Simonstown 22nd escorting W.S. 26 W. Durban.  
(C. in C. E.F. 0750Z/21 to C. in C. S.A.S.  
A.C.N.B. F.O.C. Red Sea Force F.O.I.C. Ceylon,  
C. in C. Med. Admty.)

Shuttle Service. Reference request in A.M. 0903/19. Request confirmation that Shuttle Service was discontinued as from 15th Feb. on conditions contained in A.M. 2045/14 Jan. Confirmed.  
(C. in C. E.F. 0937Z/21 to Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Anson Aircraft. Pass to N.C.S.O. On and after 22nd Feb. R.A.F. Anson training aircraft based Bombay will be exercised in interception and identification of ships in convoy and escort arriving at and sailing from Bombay.  
N.C.S.O. Warn Masters accordingly.  
(C. in C. E.F. 0938Z/21 to E.I. Station, 160.C.)

India Air Rept. February 20th Offensive R/C?  
2 Hurricanes sunk small shipping Minbya, Pauktaw.  
1 Hurricane damaged small shipping Akyab Area.  
(A.H.Q. India 1045Z/21 to Air Min.)

JUMNA E.T.A. Quoinshar 0030Z/23.  
(JUMNA 1201Z/21 to N.O. i/c Hormuz (R) S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)

DAUNTLESS E.T.A. 0800Z/22nd.  
(DAUNTLESS 135 $\frac{0}{21}$  to (? F.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar.)



21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Cont.

MARIPOSA. Your 0711/20. U.S. Authorities have now agreed to MARIPOSA proceeding from Bombay to U.K. and thence to New York.  
2. Admiralty state that she should state that she should call at Capetown only on voyage to U.K.  
(D. of S.T. 1535A/21 to C. in C. E.F. (R) A.C.N.B. B.A.D. P.S.T.O. India. P.S.T.O. Capetown. C. in C. S.A.)

Personal for 1st S.L.

Dutch  
C. in C.

Acting N.S.O. now informs me that he has been warned by Admiral Helfrich that he together with the Dutch Staff are to be prepared to leave Colombo in the immediate future. Request very early information of action taken on my 1016/17.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1846Z/20 to Admty.)

CAP TOURANE.  
ARETHUSA.

Your 1609Z/21. Estimate CAP TOURANE who has not exceeded 9.5 knots since 19th will be in approx. 003° 30' S. 040° 30' E. at 1500Z/23 course 227°. She will have 10 days water remaining at that time. My position at 2100Z/21 001° 15' N. 045° 35' E course 227°. Speed made good 10 knots.  
(ARETHUSA 2016Z/21 to C. in C. E.F. (R)  
ROTTERHAM. F.O. East Africa, R.A. (D) E.F. (corrupt)).

War Diary.

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements

Los Angeles Feb. 18th JOHN WISE (U.S.A.T.)  
for Espirito Santo March 12th.  
(N.S.H.Q., 0057Z/21 to Admty).

Dutch  
C. in C.

Personal and private. Your 2031A/20.  
Admiral Helfrich when passing through Washington  
mentioned to me en passant a doubt in his  
mind as to whether Colombo or Australia would  
be best place for him to install himself.

I understand he spoke to Admiral King on same line but both of  
us place no great importance on matter. Would you wish me to  
discuss matter with King.

(B.A.D., 0057Z/21 to Admty. for 1st S.L. (R) A.C.N.B.)

ANDES,  
U.G.F.6.

Ref. agreed signal 53734 of 18 Feb. from W.O.  
Request you will make necessary arrangements for  
ANDES to proceed from Halifax to New York for  
embarkation in U.G.F.6.

2. Request vessel be prepared for the voyage  
on the basis of returning direct from North  
Africa to North America.

(D. of S.T., 0106A/21 to N.S.H.Q. B.A.D.,  
C.O.A.C., B.M.W.T. New York).

U/B attacks  
on O.N.166.

U-boat sighted ahead of convoy 0038Z/21 051° 25'  
027° 26' SPENCER attacking. U-boat R.D.F.  
contact starboard flank 2340Z/20 051° 32' 027°  
35' CAMPBELL hunting. Believe 2 other U-boats  
present.

(C.T.U. 24.1.3., 0110Z/21 to A.I.C. 303).

Following from Valentia Radio SSSS 49.26 N. 29.08 unknown  
ship torpedoed at 1600 G.M.T. 1655 G.M.T./21 de (BNJC  
LECHISTAN) de GCK 1658/21 R.A.F. informed.

(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O. Recd. 1703/21 to Admty.  
C. in C. W.A)

Further W/T activity today on Series 7 indicates that  
convoy is being shadowed by at least three U-boats.

(D.D.I.C., 1937A/21 to Escorts O.N.166, O.R.P. BURZA,  
(R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch, A.C.I.C., N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C.,  
C.T.G. 24.7).

O.N.166 U-boat sighted astern convoy at 2014Z/21 in 48°  
48' (?29°) 53' SPENCER (?attacking). Aircraft previously  
reported 2 U-boats on surface same locality. U-boat R.D.F.  
contact starboard flank at 2030Z 48° 30' 29° 57' ROSTHERN  
(?hunting). Voluminous D/F bearings today indicate at least  
10 U-boats nearby.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 2045Z/21 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., H.Q.C.C.)

Submarine attacking 49° 26' N. 29° 08' W. at 1600 G.C.T/21  
(Cominch, 2054/21 to Admty).

/Submarine...

War Diary.

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B attacks on O.N. 166. Contd. Submarine attacked 48° 08' N. 29° 35' W. at 1900 G.C.T./21. (Cominch, 2259/21 to Admty). Received at 2143 G.M.T. on 500 k/cs G K R de G NE intercepted at 2138 G.M.T. from unknown station (begins) torpedoed (Ends). Q.S.A. 12 (Ends) Controlling Wick Radio 2244

B.S.T. Wick Radio. (Wick No T.O.O./21 Recd. 2259/21 to Adml. Lyness ). Submarine attack O.N.166 at 2130Z/21st 2 ships 3rd column torpedoed details following P.C. and S. 048° 25' 030° 10' 248° 9. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3., 2215Z/21 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., H.Q.C.C.) Correct my 2215Z/21 to read Pendant 21 torpedoed No.1 hold, will not abandon her. Present intention to proceed stern first for British Isles if bulkhead holds. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3., 0005Z/22 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., H.Q.C.C.)

WITHERINGTON Boston sailed 1800Z/19 WITHERINGTON for St. Johns N.F. (N.S.H.Q. 0154Z/21 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

CABO DE HORNOS. Arfar No.3. Spanish CABO DE HORNOS Buenos Aires to Bilbao. Following items detained. (list). (C.C.S.O. Trinidad, 0938Q/21 to M.E.W.)

Leakage of information Aruba passed report from Lt. Craig S.B.N.O. in Italian Tanker ARCOLA that common gossip in Curacao bars that large convoys with heavy escorts including aircraft carriers planned for near future. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1026R/21 to D.N.I. Admty).

L.23 Following is passed to you for information (begins). addressed F.O.S. (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F. from L.23. Your 0206/21st am proceeding through X and Y to St. Johns N.F. starboard main motor out of action port main motor now repaired. Endurance in my 2200/20 was owing to inability to change main batteries to supply main engine circulators. Fuel stock remaining sufficient to reach St. Johns N.F. T.O.O. 0435Z/21 (Ends). (F.O.S., 1047A/21 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Cominch).

/Movements...

War Diary.

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	F.S. AMAZONE	26° N. 50½° W.	296°	7½
1800 G.M.T.	JAMAICA	44½° N. 31½° W.	Patrol	16
21st Feb.	DESPATCH	18½° N. 34° W.	094°	20
	ALCANTARA )	14½° N. 31½° W.	250°	12
	WOODRUFF )			
	T.A. 35	43° N. 46½° W.	254°	19
	L. 23	52½° N. 31° W.	273°	8

(D.O.D. (F), 1050Z/21 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)

NIPIGON,  
BACCALIEU.

NIPIGON escorting BACCALIEU sailed 1900Z/20 from Argentia for Louisburg routed through (C) 46° 43' N. 54° 49' W. (B) 54° 49' N. 57° 45' W. thence course 275° to edge of Ice Field where BACCALIEU proceeds independently. S. of A. twelve knots.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1245Z/21 to Admty.  
(R) N.S.H.Q., Connav, N.C.S.O. Sydney, N.C.S.O. Montreal C.O.A.C.)

U/B

Four persons claim sighted U-boat periscope depth 5 miles south west of Cockburn Town San Salvador Island at 1010 local time 21st Feb. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1256/21 to Comcarib Nob. Guantanamo (R) Connav, Admty. N.S.H.Q. N.I.D. 18).

B.Y.M.S.

Following is repetition of N.O.B. Trinidad despatch 1430/21. (Begins) B.Y.M.S. 5, 6, 7, 8 arrived D 1200Z/21 (Ends).  
(Opnav, 1339/21 to Admty).

U/B

Intercept from San Juan (begins) Submarine sighted 23° 59' N. 72° 35' W.  
(Kingston 1410Z/21 to Admty).

Submarine  
situation  
Feb. 21st.  
U.S. Submarine  
Notice.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1435/21, 1436/21, 1504/21, 1505/21, 1506/21, 1952/21, 1840/21).

A.F.D. 24

Morgan City departed 19 Feb. A.F.D. 24 escorted by MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, YESTOR FRISKY, ORIANA, Dutch tug ZWARTE ZEE for Trinidad.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1445Z/21 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At. S.O.(I) Jamaica, S.B.N.O.Trinidad, F.O.C.W.Af).

War Diary.

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Signals re H.M. Ships under R.C.N. control. B.A.T.M. 1647Z/19 (not received). In future signals affecting the movement of H.M. Ships under the control of R.C.N. authorities should be repeated to Admty. and not to B.A.T.M. (N.S.H.Q., 1526Z/21 to C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.O.P.C. (R) Admty. B.A.T.M.)

ST. LAURENT Departure ST. LAURENT for Londonderry. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1541Z/21 to Admty. N.S.H.Q., Connav, B.A.D., C.T.F. 24, F.O.N.F., Cdre. i/c Londonderry).

MARIPOSA Your 0711/20. U.S. Army have now issued instructions for MARIPOSA to sail from Bombay to U.K. via Atlantic.  
2. Agreed B.A.S. F.O.C.R.I.N. pass to P.S.T.O. India.  
(B.A.D., 1601Z/21 to C. in C. E.F., (R) D. of S.T., P.S.T.O. India, S.S.T.O. Capetown, A.C.N.B.)

EMPIRE NUGGET overdue. EMPIRE NUGGET detached from convoy O.N.162 for destination HOUSTON has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q., 1626Z/21 to Connav).

Dispositions. Section East S.C.120 M.O.E. T.U. 24.1.5 plus 24.12 4.49 25.48 22 004° 7.5 altering to 046° in 52.01 N. O.N. 165 Western Local E.T.U. 24.18 4 plus 24.12.1 46.37 47.52 191° 7 altering to 241° in 46.00 N. H.J.35 MILLTOWN 47.20 52.18 en route St. Johns N.F. 7.5 Section East NIPIGON en route St. Pierre from vicinity 45.43 57.45 as ice permits EMPIRE NORSE 48.38 47.30 en route St. Johns N.F. 5 VEGREVILLE, FOUNDATION FRANKLIN 48.04 50.15 to assistance of EMPIRE NORSE. WITHERINGTON due St. Johns N.F. from South p.m./21st IRISH FIR 42.(?45) 57. 10 094° 7.  
(C.O.A.C., 1650Z/21 to G.B.7 A).

Tankers disguise. Request you will obtain views of Navy Department on the question of disguising of tankers to look like cargo carrying merchant ships. Our view is that these vessels being distinctive are singled out for attack because of their special value. The small trouble and expense necessary to disguise them as tramps would appear well worth while.  
(D.T.D., 1814A/21 to B.A.D.)

War Diary.21.2.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Technical Mission for Russia. C.O.S. (W) 488 21st Feb. War Cabinet yesterday approved the despatch to Russia of a technical mission headed by Sir Henry Tizard. (Details). (J.S.M. Washington, 1927Z/21 to Air Min).

A.S.V. Aircraft for N. Africa. To Andrews From: Marshall. Ref. No. R. 6065 Supplementing our R.5931, desire that H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron (Provisional) and first and second Anti-submarine Squadrons be moved to North Africa. Will re-direct 4 A.S.V. equipped B.24s as you recommended. You are authorized direct communication with C.G. N.A.T.O. in connection with this movement. Keep W.D. informed as to initiated and completion. Concur in your 7388 Feb. 19th. (Agwar, 1951Z/21 to Etousa).

Convoy O.T.2. Following is substance of C.A.F.A. C's 0950Z/20th corrected by his 2350/20th. Sailing telegram part 2. (1) O.T.2 (10) all U.S. 15.5 SEAKAY 14.5 ESSO PATERSON 15, SHELDON, SILVER BANK: 14 ESSO GETTYSBURG; 15, ESSO HARRISBURGH. ESSO PATERSON being detached after point (K) for New York. (II) all N.E. fuel except ESSO PATERSON Gasoline and Diesel. Admty. to pass C. in C. Med. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) (Cominch C. and R. 2018/21 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Admty. Cinclant).

ANDES. Army plans to sail ANDES speed 21 carrying 4 thousand troops New York to Casablanca either unescorted sailing New York about March 1st or in convoy U.G.F.6. If in convoy ship will return to U.S. unescorted. Length 643 beam 84 draft 31. Advise whether ship can be handled at Casablanca. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2043/21 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C. in C. Med., Admty. Comnavu, B.A.D., C.E.S.F., Cdt. 3rd U.S.N.D., New York, C. in C. A.F., VA. Gibraltar, Port Director New York). Reply: Affirmative. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 0825Z/22).

B.Y.M.S. Your 2235Z/19 (Requesting date of arrival of B.Y.M.S. 2, 3, 4, 30). (D.M.S., 2304A/21 to N.S.H.Q.)

U/B By D/F at 1808Z/21 U-boat estimated to be anywhere within 100 miles of 43° 30' N. 29° 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 2348A/21 to JAMAICA, (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

/Sub...

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. B. PGCG SPENCER attacks sub. 51.25 N. 27.26 W. 0038Z/21.  
Para. C. PGCG CAMPBELL makes Radar contact 51.32 N. 27.35 W. 2340Z/20.  
Para. D. Surface craft sights sub. 17.51 N. 69.38 W. 0100Z/20.  
CG 3065 makes sound contact 40.48 N. 71.15 W. 1530Z/21.  
CG 83361 makes sound contact 38.44 N. 74.36 W. 1345Z/21.  
SS. FARIDA sights sub. on surface 34.38 N. 74.42 W. 2013Z/20.  
Fishing vessel sights sub. course N.W. 41.05 N. 70.55 W. 1930Z/20th.  
A.C.P. Trawler VIKING sights periscope 28.39 N. 91.06 W. 1912Z/20.  
Coast Guard Pilot reports sub. breaking surface course 180 25.54 N. 80.02 W. 2140Z/20.  
(Cominch, 2354/21 to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1008Z/19. JOSEPH WHEELER arrived Fremantle 0830Z/20th.  
(A.C.N.B., 0102Z/21 to Admty.etc).

Digest Serial No. 395 Feb. 20th. Six Catalinas six Fortresses dropped 23 tons bombs Ballale Island midnight to dawn 20th. One Fortress bombed Kahili and another Faisi Seaplane Base same time.  
2. Medium Tanker arrived Buka Passage afternoon 20th from East.  
3. Early afternoon Liberator sighted 5000 ton Cargo vessel anchored off Cape Gloucester Runway. 6 Zeros intercepted.  
4. Three ship convoy off Gasmata (ref. Digest No. 394 para 3) shadowed until early hours while 8 Beauforts attacked with 6 torpedoes plus bombs no results observed. Catalina also bombed with unobserved results before departing. Air Strafe 6 Fortresses 4 B.25s unable locate convoy in bad weather early afternoon. B.25s strafed 2 loaded Barges in harbour.  
6. Small Allied Vessel reported submarine attack 37° 22' S. 139° 29' E. at 1821Z/19. Vessel located by aircraft after daylight 20 Feb. proceeding normal course.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0743Z/21).

/Movements....

21.2.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Movements. Arrivals Darwin 20th KALGOURLIE, Port Moresby 20th BALLARAT, Milne Bay 19th PIRIE, Noumea 20th ATHENE. Departures Fremantle 20th DEVONSHIRE for Colombo, ADELAIDE, (? PENGUIN), TJERK HIDDES, VAN GALEN all 4 for Melbourne. Departures Brisbane 20th GYMPIE (Belgian) for Sydney. Milne Bay 19th GLENELG for Townsville. Darwin 19th VENDETTA, CASTLEMAINE for Thursday Island. Port Moresby 19th LATROBE for (? Fremantle). Townsville 20th ARUNTA on escort duty. Exmouth Gulf 20th U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON for Fremantle.  
(A.C.N.B., 1201Z/21 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1413A/21, 1414A/21.)



22.2.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy J.W.53 is estimated to be about 180 miles East of Jan Mayen at 0800 today. Force R (BELFAST, CUMBERLAND, and NORFOLK) may have been reported by Enemy A/C at 1259; and at 1700 C. in C. H.F., in KING GEORGE V with HOWE, BERWICK, ON-SLAUGHT, OFFA, METEOR, PIORUN, MUSKETEER, and ICARUS left Akureyri to cover the convoy.

GLASGOW arrived at Seidisfiord at at 1830 last night and dragged ashore at 0620 this morning, but reported at 1823A today that she had re-floated safely and had suffered no apparent damage.

The Tug ADHERENT left the Clyde this evening to assist the Panamanian Tanker H.H. ROGERS torpedoed yesterday in convoy O.N.167 and now reported abandoned and possibly salvable in 50° 30' N. 24° 36' W.

129 of our A/C dropped 241 tons H/E and 194 tons incendiaries on Bremen last night.  
No aircraft is missing.

Murmansk was again lightly attacked by A/C from 2000C to 2300C last night, but no damage or casualty was caused.

Yarmouth, Harwich, and Brightlingsea were closed for a few hours today owing to fog.

North Atlantic.

M.K.S.8  
mining  
casualties.

At 1010A, THORSHOLM, Norwegian tanker, second ship in port column of M.K.S.8 was mined in position 14° Cape Spartel 4.7 but at 1025A BLACK SWAN, escorting, was able to report her undamaged and proceeding in convoy.

At 1156A, BLACK SWAN reported that WEYBURN, Canadian corvette, had been mined and sunk in approx. position 273° Cape Spartel 4 (35.46 N. 06.02 W) Her depth charges exploded on sinking, damaging WIVERN, destroyer.

/ROXBURGH...

War Diary.

22.2.1943.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.- Contd.

ROXBURGH  
CASTLE.

Ponta Delgada reported an S O S a.m. today from an unknown ship in 38.34 N. 26.13 W. A seaplane sent by the local naval authority found a submarine half submerged which dived on the seaplane's arrival.

At 1500, an S O S was received from SS. ROXBURGH CASTLE, 25 miles west of San Miguel, Azores, 38.12 N. 26.22 W., stating ship was sinking and boats had been lowered. Vessel was torpedoed by U-Boat at 0732 G.M.T. All members of her crew were landed at Ponta Delgada.

South Atlantic.

F.O.C. West Africa requests that independent sailings from the Cape may in future be routed 150 miles clear of Cape Palma.

U.S. Ship ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL at 1430Z sighted in 32.30 S. 37.40 E. a suspicious ship of 2500 tons which cannot be identified at Capetown. C. in C. Eastern Fleet, however, suggests it may be the Dutch ALGENIB.

Mediterranean.

Malta  
Convoy.

Convoy M.W.21, 4 store ships and 2 tankers, arrived at Malta at 1304 today escorted by CROOME, DERWENT, HURWORTH, ALDENHAM and KANARIS. Unloading was completed by 1400/3rd March.

Air  
Operations.

6 B.25s escorted by 10 P.38s which attacked shipping between Tunisia and Sicily sank a large freighter.

Tripoli was bombed by 12 or more enemy aircraft last night without damage to the harbour or shipping. 5 aircraft were shot down, 2 by fighters, 3 by gunfire.

822

22.2.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.7  
Attacks on  
O.N. 166.

Further attacks on O.N. 166, escorted by T.U. 24.1.3 (SPENCER, S.O.) were made today. At 0350Z, the Norwegian oil refinery N.T. NIELSON ALONSO was torpedoed in 48.00 N. 31.24 W. EMPIRE TRADER, torpedoed last night, was reported at 0730Z underway and heading for U.K., escorted by DAUPHIN. At 1240Z C. in C. W.A. ordered CHAMBLY to join her if endurance permitted, and DAUPHIN to leave her at dark tonight and join O.N.S. 167 in about 48.38 N. 27° W. At 1510A, however, DAUPHIN reported EMPIRE TRADER was abandoning ship, and at 1539Z CHAMBLY reported that her fuel did not permit her to comply, and she was directed to Londonderry. CAMPBELL attacked a U-Boat astern of the convoy at 0717Z in 48.20 N. 30.40 W. At 0723Z DIANTHUS reported the destruction of a U-Boat astern of the convoy in 47.51 N. 31.36 W. At 2126Z, SS. CHATTANOOGA CITY was torpedoed in 46.53 N. 34.32 W. EMPIRE REDSHANK and EXPOSITOR were sunk at the same time. At 2248Z U.S.S. CAMPBELL was damaged and her engine room flooded in collision with a U-Boat in 47.00 N. 34.07 W. (It was later reported that the U/B was destroyed and 13 prisoners taken). At 2355Z, Comtask 24 informed C.T.U. 24.1.3 that WITHERINGTON was proceeding to join the escort of O.N. 166.

823

22.2.1943.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

SKATE.

SKATE would require extensive refit to make her operationally efficient. Propose ship be turned over to Captain S.7 as target-ship after such refit as may be necessary.

(C. in C. W.A., 0947/22 to Admty.)

Trawlers  
for Canada.

A.M. 1332A/19, para. (111) the following 6 A/S trawlers have been selected CAPE ARGONA, CAPE MARIATO, PAYNTER, ST. AYNES, AYRSHIRE and ST. KENAN.

(F.O.I.C.N.I., 1016A/22 to Admty.)

North  
Russia.  
Meaconing  
trans-  
missions.

My 1738/20th Feb. At the request of Russian Chief of Staff I have given orders that no transmission of any kind shall take place from the Meaconing installation. I have been informed that this order is to remain in force until permission has been received from the Russian War Office through you to commence operating. I am then to inform the Russian Naval Staff here.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1714A/22 to Ad. Miles.)

Admiral  
Miles.

Intend visiting North Russia by air shortly.  
2. Intended programme.

(Ad. Miles, 1714C/22 to Admty.)

Movements.

DASHER,  
BLANKNEY,  
LEDBURY.

Take BLANKNEY and LEDBURY under your orders and proceed Scapa passing Hrisey Island 1700A/22nd.

(ii) Route from Akureyri.

(C. in C. H.F., 0101A/22 to DASHER.)

S/M  
movements.

Cancel my 1627/19 and 1023/20. Submarine (K.21) is now known to be returning to base.

(F.O.S., 0131A/22 to S/MS.)

My 1723/21. Add new paras.

G. P.511 escorted by KINGSTON TOPAZ leaves Portsmouth for Plymouth p.m./22nd passing Needles 1830/22, thence by standard convoy route. E.T.A. Rame Head 1200/23.

2. P.511 will keep 10 miles astern of P.W.289.

(F.O.S., 0153A/22 to Admty.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/23 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) UREDD in Lofoten area.

(B) TRUCULENT, SPORTSMAN, SEA NYMPH, SIMOON in North Norwegian waters east of 15° E.

(C) O.9 escorted by SCALBY WYKE due Rothesay 0900/23rd from North Channel.

(D) P.511 escorted by KINGSTON TOPAZ vicinity Start Point due vicinity Rame Head 1200/23rd for Plymouth.

/(E) ...

War Diary.22.2.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M (E) TAKU on patrol vicinity 44° N. 12° W.  
 movements. (F) BARB off Vigo.  
 (Contd.) (F.O.S., 1709A/22 and 1739A/22.)  
 Sailed P.511 escorted by KINGSTON TOPAZ.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1819A/22.)  
 Intend to sail O.10 escorted by OXLIP from  
 Rothesay at 1500A/23 via Sound of Islay and Mill to Tobermory.  
 E.T.A. 1300A/24.  
 (Capt. S.7, 2022A/22.)  
 Your 0506/22. Expect me 24 hours late.  
 (UNRUFFLED, 2125A/22.)  
 1. My 1723/21 para. (D) add. Proceeding about 0100/23,  
 dived by day to patrol vicinity 44° 10' N. 10° 30' W.  
 2. My 1709/22, para. (E) amend position to read 44° 10' N.  
 10° 30' W.  
 (F.O.S., 2238A/22 to Admty.)

MALAYA. Scapa departures 0720 MALAYA, ATHABASCAN, LA  
 COMBATTANTE. E.T.A. 0730/23.  
 (A.C.O.S., 0909A/22.)  
 My 0909/22. Scapa departures 0816 EGGESFORD.  
 (A.C.O.S., 1007/22.)

Trawlers for Admiralty's 1323A/21. Intend to sail A/S trawlers  
 Gibraltar. KING SOL, STELLA CARINA, REIGHTON WYKE, FOXTROT,  
 VISENDA, TANGO for Gibraltar 22nd Feb. routed in  
 accordance with Admiralty's 2035A/17. S.O.A.  
 10 knots. E.T.A. 28th Feb.  
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0951A/22.)  
 My 0951/22. Sailed S.O. of Group KING SOL. Codeword "Saxhorn".  
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1707A/22 to Ad. Gibraltar.)

MORAY. A.M. 1954/11/2.  
 Water boat MORAY is expected to be ready for sea  
 23rd February.  
 2. Request you will arrange for her to make a  
 further attempt to reach Gibraltar, being towed as necessary by  
 tug EMPIRE DENIS, when the weather forecast is propitious.  
 (D.O.D.H., 1316A/22 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

INDOMITABLE. INDOMITABLE arrived Clyde.  
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1408A/21.)

VIVACIOUS. Scapa arrival VIVACIOUS.  
 (A.C.O.S., 1538/22.)

War Diary.22.2.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 1051A/21. "Device" arrived 0837A/22. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0841A/22.)

1. Intend M.L. 205 (S.O.) and M.L.123 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.
2. Leave Portland at 1830 via Q.Z.S.382 for patrol line, adjusting position so as to cover passage of P.W. and W.P. convoys. M.Ls leave patrol line at dawn and return to Portland.
3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Match". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1115/22 and 1216A/22.)

Weather permitting two units of two boats each of the 31st M.T.B. Flotilla are to carry out offensive sweep as follows:-

- A. From approx. 52° 25' N. 04° 28' E. to the northward to approx. 53° 30' N. 04° 50' E.
- B. From approx. R.B.4 to the N.E. to approx. R.B.12.

Any enemy vessels located may be attacked at discretion of the S.O.

2. Waiting position if required - Sweep A - R.B.28. Sweep B - R.B.30. (C. in C. Nore, 1304A/22 and 1452A/22 to MIDGE.)

My 1304/22 amend para. 1(B) to read from approx. R.B.4 to the north-eastward to approx. R.B.12.

2. Any E-Boats steering towards our coast sighted during passage across North Sea are to be reported immediately.
3. If one unit locates a really good target such as a large convoy the other unit should endeavour to act in support if time permits. (C. in C. Nore, 1452A/22 to MIDGE.)

Patrol tonight. 2. Forces employed M.G.B.6.

- 3 and 4. As in my 1811A/13/2. 5. Information. 6. As in my 1811A/13/2. For 1900/13 read 1900/22. For daylight/14 ready daylight/23. 7. Codeword "Scent". (C. in C. Plymouth, 1559A/22 to M.G.B.6.)

Norwegian Coast S/M Patrol. TUNA. (1) TUNA is to leave Holy Loch 25th Feb. for Lerwick thence to patrol on the Norwegian coast between latitudes 063° N. and 061° N.

(2) TUNA has full discretion to enter the leads between the above latitudes but should spend first few days North of Stadtlandet. Should contemplated v.P. operations interfere with TUNA area she may be ordered temporarily to withdraw.

- (3) Object of TUNA is in accordance with F.S.B.2.
- (4) Attention is called to F.S.N.1(C).
- (5) TUNA is to leave not later 2000/14th March but may leave any time earlier at C.O's discretion according to circumstances. She is to return through position X 062° 00', 002° 30' E. and Y 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, thence to Lerwick reporting P.C.S. when well clear of Norwegian coast.
- (6) TUNA is to proceed diving by day when east of meridian of Greenwich. (F.O.S., 1308A/22 to Capt. S.3.)

See also F.O.S. 1329A/23.

/Operation ...

22.2.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Operation  
V.P.-K.My 0241A/13. V.P.-K sailed 1345/22.  
(A.C.O.S., 1445/22 to Admty.)

Future signals ordering operation V.P. to be carried out will continue to be made in usual form but it is to be understood that C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange air co-operation requested in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7.  
(A.C.O.S., 1915/22 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Allied Air Activity.Force  
"Grenadine".Following from Chiefs of Staff. Your Air 277,  
20th Feb. 1943.

1. The role of force "Grenadine" is to protect Allied convoys en route to and from North Russia.
2. Our intention is to exercise operational control by Coastal Command through the local R.A.F. Commander, who will co-ordinate his operations with those of British surface forces.
3. The force is not organised, nor supplied with materials or personnel, for operations outside the role given in para. 1. It was certainly not our intention to employ it during the non-convoy periods except in special circumstances.
4. The whole object of the force is to ensure the safe arrival of ships carrying urgently required materials to Russia and accordingly its targets are likely to be limited to German surface craft and U-Boats. We have far more experience than the Russians in operations of this kind and we are therefore unwilling to place the force under their operational control. Nevertheless we should be glad to co-ordinate its activities with any operations which the Russians may contemplate so far as we can do so without prejudice to the main role of the force.  
(Air Ministry, 1250Z/22 to 30 Mission.)

Bomber  
Command  
operations.On night 21st/22nd, 126 A/C attacked Bremen.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1300A/22.)Lyme Bay  
Patrol.

Sunderland and Swordfish aircraft will carry out an anti E-Boat patrol tonight between 180° Portland Bill 20, 140° Start Point 20, 180° Eddystone 20. (? Do) not proceed South of convoy route unless ordered.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1653A/22 to KINGSTON TOPAZ, P.511.)

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War Diary.22.2.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Murmansk  
bombed.

Light air raid 2000C to 2300C Feb. 21st. No damage to commercial. No casualties. Approximately six delayed action bombs exploded underwater in harbour during Sunday afternoon. No damage caused.

(N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 2007A/22 to Admty.)

Mining.Nore  
Command.

Weekly report of mines rendered safe in Nore Command week ended 20th Feb. One British Mk.XIV. (R.M.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 0915A/22.)

Q.U. 3.

Prepare to carry out operation Q.U.(3) on first suitable night after 23rd Feb. with 51 M.L.F. (C. in C. Nore, 1014A/22 to BEEHIVE, GALLANT.)

Sweep off  
Iona.

M/S.16 1035/22. Intend sailing SHIPPIGAN, DORNOCH TADOUSSAC, ILFRACOMBE from Lough Foyle at 0300A/24 to continue operations Skerryvore area. Ships to return to Londonderry arriving daylight March 1st for exercises.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 1758A/22.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Trawlers.

Following received addressed 19 Group from A/C C/S QIZU. P.C.S. of Trawlers 48° 20' N. 09° 58' W., 140°, 6 knots.

(Plymouth, 1105/22 to Admty.)

Two Trawlers.  
speed 5 knots.

Position 49° 07' N. 9° 53' W., course 360°, (A/C P3YT, 2320/22 to Plympton.)

U-Boats.U-Boats  
reported.

By D/F at 2036Z/21 U-Boat, possibly bound eastwards, estimated to be anywhere within 75 miles of 61° N. 19° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C., 0132A/22.)

D/F bearings at 2330Z/21 indicate an Italian

U-Boat in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C., 0425A/22 to Escorts U.C.1.)

By D/F at 0616Z U-Boat, probably inward bound, estimated in vicinity of 44° 00' N. 13° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C., 0819A/22 to S/MS.)

W/T transmission at 0813Z indicates U-Boat in vicinity of convoy.

(D.D.I.C., 0959A/22 to Escorts M.K.F.9.)

/Am ...



22.2.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported.  
(Contd.)

Am investigating a wake or swirl in 49° 32' N. 6° 43' W. at 1046.  
(A/C 304 Sqdn. Duty H, 1105/22 to 19 Group.)  
Considerable W/T traffic from vicinity of O.N.166 and from vicinity of O.N.167 suggests that each convoy is still being shadowed by three or more U-Boats.  
(D.D.I.C., 1348A/22 to Escorts O.N.166, O.N.167)

U-Boat attacked.

Following has been read:- Addressed 30 H. From QIZO. Am over enemy S/M in 47° 39' N. 16° 37' W. (Plymouth, 1515A/22 to Admty.)  
Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges and estimate 2 hits.  
(O/10 O.T.U., 1518/22 to 19 Group.)  
Am investigating oil patch in 47° 39' N. 16° 37' W.  
(O/10 O.T.U., 1520/22 to 19 Group.)  
Beam attack, height 50, course 060°, enemy's course 010°, speed 12 knots. Depth charges straddled target. Oil seen.  
(O/10 O.T.U., 1605/22 to 19 Group.)

Unknown Ship attacked.

Received at 2134 G.M.T. on 375 k/cs.  
De Gallon Head radio begins:-  
Intercepted at 2124 G.M.T. begins: SSSS de ZZ QSA (strength of signal) 1/2 ends.  
(Wick, 2234/22 to Lyness.)

Navigational.

Yarmouth. Port closed owing to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0820A/22.)  
Port is now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1007A/22.)

Harwich. Port closed owing to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0829A/22.)  
Port now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1341A/22.)

Brightlingsea. Port closed owing to fog.  
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1033/22.)  
Port now open.  
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1603A/22.)

Casualties and Defects.

MIDDLETON. Reports her anchor will not hold.  
See Shipping.

/GLENCREE ...

War Diary.22.2.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- GLENCREE. GLENCREE afloat. Am escorting her to Ramsey Bay. (ADHERENT, 0215A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)  
SS. GLENCREE has been refloated and now proceeding to Ramsey. Tug in company. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man, 0320A/22 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- P.556. Cancel my 1805A/21 owing to defects. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0259A/22.)
- GLASGOW. Have dragged ashore. If ship can be held in present position consider there are good chances of coming off when weather moderates with at worst only minor damage. Intend retaining  
PYTCHLEY until I am clear.  
(GLASGOW, 0620A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Following is a repetition of GLASGOW 1823A/22 addressed to C. in C. H.F. My 0620A/22. All clear and ready for service. No apparent damage.  
(GLASGOW, 2210A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)
- VARDEFJELL. My 1838A/21. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall, 1055A/22 to A.C.O.S.)
- ARIGUANI. Your 1222/16. Request SAMSONIA towing ARIGUANI proceed to Clyde instead of Milford Haven.  
2. Another tug will be detailed in tow ARIGUANI from Clyde to Tyne for repairs. (D.O.D.H., 1650A/22 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- SHEFFIELD. V.A.2 2231A/20. Intend to sail at 0830A/24. Route. E.T.A. 0001A/26. Gate 0100. (SHEFFIELD, 1717A/22 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
- MINER III. My 0912/19. Owing to engine defects which it is expected will take five days to repair. MINER III will not now be available to sail for Yarmouth before 1st March. (F.O. Humber, 1718/22.)
- PLOUGH. Your 1220/21. Motor Drifter PLOUGH can be taken in hand at Lossiemouth. (D.O.D.H., 2123A/22 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall.)
- NORTHEK. Your 1221/21. H.M. Drifter NORTHEK can be taken in hand at Macduff. (D.O.D.H., 2124A/22 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall.)

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22.2.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- J.W. 53. F.E. para. 8 (E). Intend to proceed cover J.W.53 in KING GEORGE V with HOWE, BERWICK, ONSLAUGHT, OFFA, MEPEOR, PIORUN, MUSKETEER, ICARUS pass Hrisey Island 1900A/22.  
(C. in C. H.F., 0009A/22 and 1244A/22.)  
My 1207/16, para. 2.
- R.A.(D) is requested to sail 4 HUNTS or other destroyers to Akureyri to arrive p.m./3rd March and fuel.  
(2) These destroyers with MUSKETEER who is remaining at Akureyri will either -  
(a) Relieve battle fleet screen or (b) Act as local escort to R.A. 53.  
(3) In alternative 2 (a) present fleet screen will provide local escort.  
(4) Further signal regarding para. 2 will be made.  
(C. in C. H.F., 0029A/22 to R.A.D.H.F.)  
My 1426/21. MIDDLETON reports her anchor will not hold and is proceeding to Scapa.  
(A.C.I.C., 0113A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)  
BERWICK arrived Akureyri 1400/21.  
(A.C.I.C., 0459A/22.)  
Seidisfjord 21st Feb. arrivals MEYNELL at 1530, GLASGOW at 1830.  
Departures BELFAST, CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK at 1630.  
(A.C.I.C., 0521A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)  
A.C.I.C.'s 1725/21. Add IMPULSIVE.
2. My 2357/20. For IMPULSIVE read BLANKNEY.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1145A/22 to H.F.)  
Scapa arrival MATCHLESS.  
(A.C.O.S., 1512/22.)  
At 1259 enemy aircraft reported 2 ships of one type and 1 of another type. Position uncertain but believed to be 69° 40' N. 01° 15' W.  
Comment: Possibly Force R.  
(D.D.I.C., 1558A/22 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2, C.S.10, C.S.1.)  
Admty. 1327/21. Only replacement is CITY OF OMAHA.  
Please instruct her to proceed White Sea.  
(Dalgleish, 1627A/22 to Admty.)  
Akureyri arrivals MUSKETEER at 2000/20, BLANKNEY at 1100/22.  
(A.C.I.C., 1825A/22 to R.A.D.H.F.)  
Seidisfjord departures at 1620/22 PYTCHLEY and MEYNELL.  
(A.C.I.C., 1948A/22 to A.C.O.S.)
- O.N. 167. My 2255Z. H.H. ROGERS still afloat in 050° 30' N. 024° 38' W. Salvage possible. P.C.S. O.N.S. 167 049° 50' N. 025° 06' W., 220°, 7 knots.  
(HARVESTER, 0402Z/22.)  
A.C.I. 39 para. 5.  
(A) 2045Z/21st.  
(B) 1 submerged.  
(C) Port bow.

/(D) ...

War Diary.22.2.1943.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- S.D. 37. Intend to sail LEINSTER escorted by SARDONYX and VIDETTE to Greenock at 1900/23 routed as in C. in C.W.A. 0954/18.  
(A.C.I.C., 1150A/22.)  
Hvalfjord arrival VIDETTE at 1930/22.  
(A.C.I.C., 2021A/22 to Cdre. Londonderry.)
- K.M.F.10B. A.M. 1716/21. Route for K.M.F.10B.  
R/V 0800Z/2nd March in position K 270° Oversay 6'. L 55.00, 12.01. M 50.02, 14.40. N 39.58, 14.42. O 36.30, 12.20. P 35.35, 09.58 thence as ordered by C. in C. Mediterranean.  
2. Stragglers route.  
3. Speed estimated at 13 knots to be adjusted to pass position P at 0900Z/7.  
(D.O.D.H., 1705A/22.)
- H.X. and S.C. Convoys. My 1915A/21 para. 5. Add at present in H.X. and S.C. convoys a number of U.S. and Panamanian ships are placed as leaders of columns in convoy formation. It is considered that until more general experience has been gained by them they should not be placed in these positions.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1730A/22 to Admty.)
- Escort Oilers for Convoys. Your 1855/12. Concur. Instructions in accordance with your para. 3 are being issued to F.O.I.Cs concerned.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.F.), 1842A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.22.2.1945.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- ANDES Your 1825/21st (Circulated in Admiralty as 2043/21. Re. information requested whether SS. ANDES can be handled at Casablanca.) Affirmative. C. in C. Med pass to C. in C. Allied Force. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 0825Z/22, to Cominch.)
- M.K.S.8 Sailed BLACK SWAN, LA MALOUINE, AUBRETIA, DEPTFORD, LUNENBURG, WEYBURN, SUMMERSIDE, PORT ARTHUR, escorting M.K.S.8. (F.O.C. Gibraltar 0837A/22 to Admty. etc.)
- THORSHOLM (M.K.S.8) mined. Second ship of port column mined in position 14 degs. Cape Spartel 4.7. Appears little damaged. (Black Swan 1010A/22 to Gibraltar.) My 1010 THORSHOLM undamaged, proceeding in convoy. (BLACK SWAN 10250/22 to Gib.)
- BALSAM, KRAKOWIAK. Propose BALSAM be detached from M.K.F.9 to join M.K.S.6 observing (?that) KRAKOWIAK has now rejoined M.K.F.9. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1135A/22 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty., Escorts of Convoys M.K.S.8 M.K.F.9)
- Dispositions. Situation report area X. 1959A/22nd. S.R.1 PENTSTEMON 34.08 07.47 through Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
- (ii) U.S. Submarine BARB patrolling vicinity 42.30 09.15.
  - (iii) R.S.1 (? YORK) BIRDLIP 33.22 09.41 213 8.
  - (iv) REGINA patrolling off Tagus.
  - (v) K.X 9 WISHART 37.30 11.01 through 37.05 11.00 and 36.15 10.01 thence 98 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
  - REDOUBT (36?) 12.10 40 to Casablanca 15.
  - (vi) QUADRANT 37.05 09.50 to Gibraltar 15.
  - (vii) G.U.S 4 (O) 35.18 07.19 to R/V Casablanca Section in 34.20 09.18 at 11.00 23rd thence local escort return to Gibraltar G.U.S 4 T.F. 38 through 34 (01?)(10?) 01 thence 220 8.
  - (viii) M.K.S. 8 BLACK SWAN 36.03 07.30 through 36.31 10.02 thence 310 9.
- BORRAS part company dawn 23rd to Gibraltar.
- (ix) ARCTIC RANGER, MIRROR working cable vicinity 36.12 07.35
  - (x) ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG, LADY-DENISON-PENDER 35.02.08.27 through Q.K.A, 87 to Gibraltar 9.
  - (xi) C.G.13/MAGGIE COWIE, SAFARI, COMMANDANT DETROYAT F.S., 34.27 07.28 through 34.45 06.23 thence through Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
  - (xii) One escort vessel approx. 38.10 09.28 to join K (?X) 9 dawn 23rd. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1147A/22.)
- Situation Report Area X.  
My 1147/22nd add new para. 13. 2 P.C's sailed 2004 22nd through Q.K.A. 87 35.45 06.23 and 35.55 07.53 to Casablanca 15. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 2014A/22)

/WEYBURN.....

22.2.1943.

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

WEYBURN (M.K.S.8) sunk  
WIVERN damaged.

WEYBURN mined and sunk in approx position 275° Cape Spartel 4.  
(BLACK SWAN 1156A/22 to Gibraltar W/T.)  
WEYBURN'S charges exploded on sinking damaging WIVERN who was standing by, am taking WIVERN in tow to safe water. Request tug.  
(BLACK SWAN 1215/22 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Regret to report WEYBURN sunk in 35.46 north 06.02 west at 1100/22nd details follow.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1307A/22 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (R) Admty. C. in C. Med (W))

O.S.43 C. in C. W.A. 2049/15th (N.T. in W.R.)  
LIDDESDALE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK sailed 1300/21st routed through  
(A) 36.46 N. 09.10 W.  
(B) 38.25 N. 13.47 W.  
S. of A 20 knots to R/V O.S. 43 in position.  
(Y) 38.56 N. 14.06 W. at 1330/22nd. My 1207, part 2 follows.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar. 1200A/22 to Ships escorting O.S. Convoy 43 for Cdre. (R) C. in C. W.A. S.N.O. Casablanca, Admty, F.O.C. W.A. C. in C. Med. (W). LIDDESDALE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK)

G.U.S.4. Merchant ships sailed 0615/22 as in my 1011/16 1731/19 and 1308/21. All ships hold S.P.02272 (22) and (23). Following One ship Pads held, CLIONA 287, OPALIA 1232, VANJA 382, ESSO MONTPELIER 1067, EMPIRE GRENADIER 1752.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1210A/22 to S.N.O.C.A., F.O.C. Oran. (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., Connav.)

G.U.S.4. THOMAS STONE sailed to join.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 1221A/22 to S.N.O. Casablanca Area, D.O.C. Oran, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med. Connav.)  
G.U.S.4 sailed accordance my 1419/18th less JOSHUA SENNY, SAMUEL GRIFIN, DANIEL CARROLL, SOLOR (Norwegian) PHILIP LIVINGSTONE, SAMUEL JOHNSTONE. W.P. FESSEN, DANIEL BOONE, WILLIAM MOULTRIE. Add MATTHEW DEADY and SCHOMARLE.  
Destination of ESSO MONTPELIER is New York. E.T.A. Comtask Point (N) 0500Z/12th March.  
(S.N.O. Casablanca 1853Z/22 to C. in C. Med, Admty. Connav, (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. U.S. Fleet. N.S.H.Q. C.F.38, Comeastseafon).

M.K.S.8 Merchant ships sailed 0830/22nd as in my 2013/15th and 1730/19th plus WELSH TRADER less EMPIRE HAVEN, AMERICAN PRESS, EMPIRE TRENT, TREFUSIS.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1213A/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdre. Algiers etc.)

Proceed at best speed to rendezvous with convoy M.K.S. 8, 60 ships Commodore in CITY OF VENICE escorted by BLACK SWAN, LUNENBURG, PORT ARTHUR, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, F.S. LA MALOUINE, AUBRETIA, BOREAS routed through  
T.36.31 10.02. U.39.58 15.01  
V.49.20 14.35 W.55.01 10.01  
X.55.25 08.30.  
S. of A. 9 knots.

/2. Convoy...

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War Diary.22.2.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

M.K.S. 8. 2. Convoy codeword "Riband".  
(Contd.) 3. M.K.S.8 passed Spartel at 1200/22nd. Report if not met by 1600/23rd.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1555A/22 to WOODSTOCK, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med.,(W), Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.8.)

ALBERNI sailed 1430 to rejoin M.K.S.8.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2210A/22 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med.,(W), N.S.H.Q.)

BOREAS is to remain with Convoy to prudent limit of endurance then return to Gibraltar.

(V.A. Gib., 2251A/22 to Escort of Convoy M.K.S.8, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med. (W).)

U/B. Following received: Addressed A/C c/s H G 70 from Gibraltar W/T:-  
Position of enemy U-Boat at 1200A 35° 46' N. 6° 02' W.  
(Liverpool 1333Z/12 to Admty.)

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Your 2112/16. (Re sailing of EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.) Admiralty 1640A/4 para 5. (Re non inclusion of EMPRESS OF RUSSIA in C.F.11.)  
(F.O.C.Gib., 1413A/17 to N.C.X.F.)

S.R.1. Arrived CEVANNES and RONENNAIS from S.R.1.  
(S.N.O.C.A. 1605Z/22 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib., Admty. F.O.W.Af. Connav, Dakar.)

G.U.F.5. Intend to sail. FRED LYKES 16 knots. SANTA MARIA (T) 15½ knots. EXAMINER 16 knots COLINA (T) 15 knots. U.S.S. WINOOSKI (T) 15 knots. ESSO PHILADELPHIA (T) 14 knots. Request pendant numbers and destinations.

(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1615A/22 to S.N.O.C.A. Connav, (R) C. in C.Med. (W) Admty. F.O.I.C. Oran.)

Intend sail G.U.F.5 as follows from Casablanca at 0700Z/25 Feb. ARGENTINA, THOMAS BARRY, SIBONEY, OKLAHOMA, BRAZIL, HAWAIIAN SHIPPER, SEATRAN TEXAS escorted by Task Force 36, PHILADELPHIA, ARKANSAS, MERVINE, QUICK, BEATTY, EARLE, EMMONS, KNIGHT, DAVIDSOP, MACOMB to R/V at 1630Z/26th Feb. in 34.39 N. 08.05 W. with Mediterranean Section whose composition will be signalled by F.O.I.C. Oran. Onward routing from R/V in accordance Admiralty 1645/21 S.O.A. 13½ knots. Destination of all ships New York. First "Chop" 10° W. 2330Z/26. Second "Chop" 40° W. 0200Z/4th March. Escorts shift from Gibraltar to N.S.S.F. 20° W. 1330Z/28, E.T.A. Point K. 0130Z/9 March.  
(Comorseafon 1717Z/22 to C. in C.Med. Admty. Connav, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C.Oran, Cominch, Cinclant, N.S.H.Q. C.T.U.26.7.1 C.T.U. 26.7.3. C.T.U. 26.7.2. C.T.F. 36. C.E.S.F.)

/T.O.1...

22.2.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- T.O.1. Intend to sail convoy T.O.1 1830Z/24th consisting of following ships, escorted by U.S. ship NELSON with C.T.U. U.S. Destroyers MADDOX and GLENNON.
2. CHERRY VALLEY, ESSO NORFOLK, ESSO WASHINGTON, (?AMERICAN) SUN.
3. French air cover to position (A). Request British air cover thereafter.
4. Convoy speed made good  $13\frac{1}{2}$  knots. Route, etc. (Comar Dakar 1623Z/22 to F.O.C.W.Af. A.O.C.W.Af. Cominch, C. and R. N.O.B. Trinidad, etc.)
- U.G.S.5. R/V escorts for Med. section U.G.S.5  $034^{\circ} 11' N.$   $009^{\circ} 07' W.$  at 0700Z/24th Feb. Casablanca section has been directed arrive end of swept channel  $33.55 N.$   $07.53 W.$  at 0700Z/25th. Med. section breaks off as directed by C.T.F.35. (S.N.O. Casablanca 1709Z/22 to C.T.F. 35, F.O.C.Gibraltar. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Oran.)
- CAMPUZANO. Is Spanish tanker CAMPUZANO allowed to proceed? (ANCHUSA 1710Z/22 to V.A.Gibraltar.)
- BANKA, JACQUELINE, REGEJA (German.)
1. I have seen German Ore Carrying Vessels BANKA and JACQUELINE loading coal at Bilbao. It is believed coal is for Portugal Railway.
  2. Report of REGEJA at Gijon on Feb. 15th where there is no Ore, may be connected with same cargo
  3. Inference is that some of these vessels will call Portuguese Ports and on longer voyage offers more chance of capture or attack.
  4. None of the Masters of Vessels named has yet been contacted with view to surrender but this might be done in Portuguese Port.
  5. All personnel believed Spanish. (Consul, Bilbao 1713/22 to D.N.I.)
- Distress Message, (?ROXBURGH CASTLE.)
- Very mutilated message received from S.S. ROXBURGH (sic) requesting assistance for survivors in a position 25 miles from Ferraria Point, Sao Miguel, ( $037^{\circ} 52' N.$   $025^{\circ} 52' W.$ ) Portuguese destroyer will be sent. (N.A.Lisbon 1718/22 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty.) See also 2045/22.
- NYASSA. Para. 1 of my 1257/20, report of Master of NYASSA. For information. Trinidad in similar case has discovered diamonds of high value were distributed among passengers for carriage as personal jewellery. All stones were skilfully set in valuable rings. Passengers were of poor circumstances lacked receipts and gave conflicting stories. (D.E.W.D. 1720A/22 to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)

/Enemy...



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

Enemy Intelligence. Information in para 2 is from several neutral sources independently of each other who are considered reliable. It is graded B.1.  
2. LITTORIO class battleship identified by 3 triple gun turrets and size was in dry dock at Genoa on Jan. 31st and still there on Feb. 18th.  
3. Three destroyers arrived Genoa Feb. 18th, and basins South of Molonuo full of ships loading coal and unknown cargoes on that date. B.2.  
4. One informant overheard Italians say that a very large military convoy would leave Genoa sailing Southwards on Feb. 25th with the battleship as escort C.O.  
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 1802A/22 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Algiers, S.O.(I) Malta.)  
N.I.D. Comment.  
Para. 2. The 3 LITTORIO's were sighted at Spezia on 16th Jan. and again on 5th Feb. but only two were present on 19th Feb. One 6" cruiser which was sighted at Genoa on 28th Jan. and 5th Feb. may have been mistaken for the LITTORIO class battleship on 31st Jan.  
Para. 4. The assembly at Genoa of requisitioned French merchant shipping may account for this report.  
The departure of this shipping for use on the Tunisian route and also for employment in the Eastern Mediterranean is expected. There is no confirmation of any troop concentrations in Genoa.

G.U.S.4. G.U.S.4 sailed accordance my 1419/18th less (list) Destination of ESSO MONTPELIER is New York. E.T.A. Central Point (N) 0500Z/12th March.  
(S.N.O. Casablanca 1853Z/22 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

SPEY,  
ROTHER,  
O.S.43. Left O.S.43 at 1700A ROTHER in Company, intending to fuel Casablanca. Ship will be 57% or 250 tons short arriving. E.T.A. 1430A/23rd. Imperative both leave again at earliest opportunity. My P.C. and S. 037° 04' N. 012° 14' W. 132° 16½. Q.K.1 only held.  
(SPEY 2000Z/22 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, PELICAN.)

MONTE  
NARANCO. Your 0244Z/22nd. Request estimated position of MONTE NARANCO.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 2004A/22 to F.O.I.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. (W) Comar, Dakar.)

Convoy  
C.G.12. C.G.12 Arrived (four ships.)  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 2034A/22 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med.)

/ROXBURGH...

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North Atlantic - Contd.

ROXBURGH  
CASTLE  
(sunk.)

a.m. 22nd. S.O.S. received from unknown ship in 038° 34' N. 026° 13' W. Seaplane sent by local naval authority which found submarine half submerged but dived on arrival of seaplane. At 1500 S.O.S. received British ship ROXBURGH CASTLE in position 25 miles west Sao Miguel stating ship sinking and life boats lowered. Seaplane despatched but no trace of ship or boat. Portuguese Destroyer LIMA searched the vicinity but nothing seen.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Del Gada 2045C/22 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gib.)  
See also - 0940/23, *page 877*

Movements.

Arrivals 0500 SUMMERSIDE, WEYBURN, LUNENBURG from M.K.S.8.  
0800 ACHIE from Oran 1100 ALBEYOI from M.K.S.8.  
2050 U.S. P.C. 472, 475 French ship DUMONT DURVILLE with C.G.12.  
2345 WIVERN ex G.U.S.4.  
Departures a.m. VANOC BOREAS to join G.U.S.4, 1715 M.Ls. 173, 175 escorting S.S. SOUTHGATE to Melilla and back. 2243 U.S. P.C. 472, 475 to Casablanca.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 2356A/22 to Admty. C. in C.Med. (W) N.S.H.Q. Cominch.)

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DESPATCH. My P.C. and S. are 018° 42' N. 033° 12' W. 094°. 19 knots E.T.A. at Bathurst 0900 zone time 24th. Weather.  
( DESPATCH, 0001Z/22 to F.O.C. West Africa, (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty.)

DUNKERY Your 2210Z/21st. Comply with my 1645Z/21st making PORTSDOWN R/V as early as practicable. Course of MONTE MONTE NARANCO. NARANCO 011°. Speed 6 knots.  
( F.O.C. West Africa 0244Z/22 to DUNKERY, PORTSDOWN (R) Comar, Dakar, BURDOCK, Admty.)  
C. in C. Med.'s 1950Z/21st not to REDOUBT (N.T. in W.D.) REDOUBT should arrive at Casablanca P.M. 23rd Feb. to provide escort. My 2221Z/16th. para. 4 refers.  
( F.O.C.W.A. 0258Z/22 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) C. in C. Med. (W) REDOUBT.)

NORSOL. Tanker NORSOL leaves Accra 1000Z/ to-day N.O.I.C. Lagos 1200Z/14th refers. In view of your 1112Z/21 ( ?1122 intended re Escort etc. of Tankers NESTOR and EGERO.) Propose she enter Takoradi to await escort westward with EGERO.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 0851Z/22 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty.)

BALUCHISTAN. My 1731/21. Para (3). For E.T.A. 0400Z/1 read HILDA. E.T.A. 0400Z/2.  
(Cdre. Durban, 0924Z/22 to Admty., C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon.)

VITA Hospital Ship VITA sailed 21 Feb. for Mauritius E.T.A. 27 Feb. Embarked 26 Army invalids for Mauritius.  
( D.S.T.O. Durban 0942C/22 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius (R) Admty. etc.)

CARNARVON Your 1809Z/19th E.T.A. position (S) 0210Z/3rd CASTLE. March. Est. S. of A. on patrol 15.5 knots.  
( CARNARVON CASTLE, 1116/22 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) C. in C. S.A. Admty., B.N.S.O. Pernambuco, pass to Comsolantfor.)

Dispositions. CILICIA, QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH, RACEHORSE, GENISTA, with W.S. 26 034° 55' S. 020° 35' E. to Durban 12½ knots. BLACKMOOR off danger point to Simonstown 15. CATTERICK with D.C.9 035° 05' S. 019° 50' E. to Capetown 9. STANDERTON, SONNEBLOM 035° 05' S. 021° 50' E. to Capetown 8. CARNATIC with C.D.5 033° 55' S. 027° 06' E. to Durban 8. CHALLENGER 033° 30' S. 028° 25' E. to Capetown 9 knots

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Dispositions. JASMINE 030° 30' S. 032° 00' E. to Durban 12.  
(Contd.) SPHENE 031° 15' S. 033° 05' E. to Durban 9.  
NORWICH CITY 033° 30' S. 032° (?30') E. to  
East London 9.  
ROCKROSE, MOOIVLEI with C.N.9 off Walvis Bay  
to Walvis Bay.  
COVENTRY CITY, STELLA POLARIS with N.C.3 027° 00' S. 014° 15'  
E. to Saldanha Bay.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1127Z/22 to A.I.G. 125.)

GEORGES Arrived 0100Z/22nd.  
LEYGUES. (?F.O.C.W.A. 1154Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

NESTOR, If NESTOR has no cargo for Takoradi detach  
THYME. ship to proceed independently direct to  
Freetown and proceed at best speed to Takoradi.  
Report E.T.A. Takoradi and position in which  
NESTOR detached.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1120Z/22 to THYME, (R) C. in C.S.A.  
Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

ARMERIA. Departure from Congo River p.m. 21st ARMERIA  
E.T.A. ?Takoradi 0700Z/25th.  
(B.N.L.O. West Africa 1205A/22 to F.O.C.W.Af.  
(R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

Convoy Comar Dakar's 1801Z/21st, not to N.O.I.C. Lagos  
B.21. and N.O.I.C. Takoradi.  
1. Convoy consisted of (?S) (?T) HUBERT and  
ANDRE MOYRAVD for Casamance (latitude 12.30 N.)  
ARCTURUS for Konakri, EMPIRE WHALE and BRITISH COAST for  
Freetown, PORT BAERO and FORT DE VAUX for Ivory Coast, ST.  
BASILE for Kotonu.  
2. Escort vessels to Freetown ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ, French Sloop  
Minesweepers GAZELLE LA GRACIEUSE.  
3. Convoy left Dakar 1800/21st proceeding by coastal route 6½  
knots. Ships for Ivory Coast and Kotonu will be dispersed off  
Freetown to proceed independently to destination. Routes will  
be signalled when known.  
4. ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ and French Sloop Minesweeper GAZELLE keep  
watch on group FT.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1218Z/22 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C.  
Lagos, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Comar, Dakar.)

Convoy My 1055Z/21st. (re sailing of ships in convoy  
Dakar - for Port Etienne.) Delete para No. 6 and  
Port substitute:  
Etienne. H.M. Ships and LA PERLE keep group F.T. Signals  
for SERGEANT GOUARNE should be passed through ORFSAY until  
0050/25th after which via Comar Dakar for transmission on  
French Metropolitan Service. Warships carry minor war vessels  
identification signal. LA PERLE holds Loxo Number 18. She has no  
flares. Call sign LA PERLE W/T 5 O Q D Submarine detector  
5 M K R (corrupt group). Visual signal (?Q) D throughout.

/SERGEANT...

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Convoy, SERGEANT GOUARNE no allied wireless call sign,  
Dakar- visual signal call sign L.K. British signalmen  
Port Etienne. in SERGEANT GOUARNE.  
(Contd.) (Comar Dakar, 1243Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst etc.)  
Sailed MATANG, SURVILLE, BUFFLE, PERSISTANTE  
for Port Etienne and S/M LA PERLE and ARAGO  
for Casablanca all in convoy escorted by SERGEANT GOUARNE  
ORFSAY and M.L. 287. My 1055/21st as amended by my 1654/21st  
and my 2254/21st and my 1245/22nd refers.  
(Comar, Dakar 1909Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty. F.O.C.W.Af.  
Air H.Q. West Africa, S.N.O. Casablanca, Admiral Gibraltar.)

U/B U.S.N.O. Freetown has received a request from  
Campaign, T.S. Ryan, representative for West Africa of  
information. Office of Strategic Services at Accra, for a  
compilation of all U-Boat sinkings during the  
last six months in my operational area, also  
every scrap of information which may in any way be connected  
with submarine activities. Suggest this information be supplied  
by Admiralty to B.A.D. Washington for transmission to Research  
and Analysis Branch of Office of Strategic Services in  
Washington, or should this be compiled at Freetown and  
forwarded to Accra?  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1412Z/22 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)  
Reply: Admty. 1328/27.

W.S.26. Capetown 22nd Feb. departure GENISTA to join  
escort W.S.26 to East London. Arrivals WAYLAND,  
RELENTLESS, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES.  
Arrivals and departures to rejoin Durban portion W.S.26  
QUICKMATCH, QUIBERON, RACEHORSE. Simonstown arrivals 22nd  
CANTON, QUALITY departure 1300C/22 CERES for escort W.S.26  
to Durban.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1431C/22 to Admty. etc.)

S.T.56. My 1044Z/20th. From position (C) proceed direct  
to Lagos arriving Fairway Buoy at 1515Z/24th.  
Pass to Commodore.  
(R.A.W.A. 1550Z/22 to BELLWORT, (R) Admty.  
N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, B.N.L.O.  
W.Africa.)

COMMANDANT Your 1547/7th Jan. Request confirmation that  
DUBOC. destination of COMMANDANT DUBOC is Eastern Med.  
C.O. states instructions from F.N.F.L. indicate  
ship is to relieve LEOPARD in Madagascar.  
DUBOC leaves Simonstown 23rd Feb. Escorting  
C.D. 6 to Durban.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1552C/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
Med. COMMANDANT DUBOC, C. in C.E.F. Cmdre.  
Durban.)

/ARRAN...

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ARRAN,  
PINTO. Detach PINTO on arrival 008° 56' N. 014° 10' W. at 1930Z/22nd to proceed independently to Takoradi through positions X. 007° 30' N. 014° 10' W. Y. 003° 14' N. 006° 46' W. and Z. 004° 32' N. 001° 46' W. Estimated speed made good 10½ knots.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1720Z/22 to ARRAN, (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)  
Remained in convoy see 1001Z/23.

R.12. Bermuda arrival U.S. Submarine R.12.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 1819Z/22 to Admty.)

ADRIAS. E.T.A. 0700Z/23rd.  
(ADRIAS 1825Z/22 to F.O.W.A.)

Movements Arrival 19th Brazilian Minelayer CARIOCA.  
Recife. Departure 21st U.S. Aircraft Carrier SANTEE,  
U.S. Cruiser SAVANNAH, U.S. Destroyer EBERLE,  
U.S. Destroyer LIVERMORE Brazilian Minelayer  
CARIOCA arrival 21st U.S. Sloop HUMBOLDT.  
Arrival 21st Departure 22nd U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD, U.S.  
Cruiser MEMPHIS, U.S. Destroyer DAVIS.  
(R.O.Recife. 1925Z/22 to Admty.)

OCEAN British ship OCEAN VESTAL is expected to arrive  
VESTAL. St. Helena on 28th Feb. Request you will instruct  
Master to proceed Walvis Bay for onward convoy  
to Saldanha Bay.  
(C. in C.S.A. 2209C/22 to General St. Helena,  
(R) Admty. F.O.W.Af. Connav, N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay).

Independent Request independent sailings from the Cape may  
Routes. in future be routed 150 miles clear of Cape  
Palma.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 2341Z/22 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty.)

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U/B SARACEN. U-Boat reported in 036° 45' N. 002° 35' E. at 1800/21st, destroyer hunting. Another U-Boat 330° Cape Matifou 5 miles at 1940/21st, destroyers investigating. (Capt. S.8 0016A/22 to P.247 (SARACEN.)).

A.P. 20. Sailing telegram. 2. 0400Z/22nd. 3. 2359Z/24th longitude 55° 030Z/27th latitude 22° 1800Z/28th Khor Kuwai 9½ knots. 5. Gan (O) 022° 15' 060° 40' P G W 6. LAUNCESTON to Hormuz. (N.C.S.O. Aden 0441Z/22 to Admty.)

1. A.P. 20 (10) 10 ALBERT HILL, 10½ BRITISH UNITY, (12) Abardan, E.T.A Rooka p.m. 2nd March. (N.C.S.O. Aden 0445Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

UNRUFFLED, UNSEEN, UNBROKEN. P.45 (UNRIVALLED)'s 2215/21st W.D. Note- 2215/21 was from P.46 (UNRUFFLED), acknowledged, well done. P.46 (UNRUFFLED) returns to Malta passing North of Linosa to arrive usual R/V 0830/23rd. P.51 (UNSEEN) proceeds through 035° 40' 012° 45' to operate West of 012° between 036° 12' and 036° 50'. P.43 (UNBROKEN) will be recalled in 2 days time. (Capt. S.10 0505A/22 to 10 S.M.F.)

Movements Aden. Departure LAUNCESTON 0410Z H.M.R.T. FAVOURITE. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0614Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

Attack on Melos. Joint War Communique 22 Feb. In a successful attack on Melos harbour yesterday one medium sized merchant vessel was blown up and slightly smaller ship set on fire. (Mideast 0900Z/22.)

Convoy. Intend sailing 1100A/24 Gibraltar AGEN 5 for U.K. SCHIAFFINO FRERES 5 for Casablanca, DUGUAY-TROUIN 7 Casablanca. Routed through 109,72,57. Escorted by BADDECK, NASTURTIUM, CONVULVULUS and LA SETOISE S.O.A. 5 knots. (Comnob, Oran 0905A/22 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

Movements, Beirut. 21st Feb. Arrival M.L. No. 385. Departures M.L. No. 1005 M.L. No. 355 M.L. No. 357. (S.O.(I) Beirut 0915B/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Alexandria. 21st Feb. JERVIS, PALADIN M.L. 354. Departures 21st Feb. SILHOUETTE, SNOWDRIFT, L.C.T. 116. (S.O.I. Alex. 0922/22 to Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

/Bi...

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Bi-weekly Night 20/21 Feb. 38 Wellingtons 8 Halifaxes  
Opsum No. despatched to attack shipping at Palermo. Owing  
102 Part 2. to deterioration weather formation was recalled  
but 10 Wellingtons 1 Halifax which reached  
Palermo bombed objective through cloud gaps.  
6 fires started including 1 large fire North end of harbour.  
12 aircraft bombed various targets in Sicily, 20 jettisoned or  
brought back bombs, 2 reports not received. 1 Wellington  
missing. 10 enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk. No damage. 1 other  
rank killed, 1 injured.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1038Z/22.)

(P.51) Arrived.  
UNSEEN. (V.A.Malta 1050A/22 to Admty. etc.)

SPLendid. If conditions permit a patrol in vicinity 150°  
focal point F 20 miles should prove profitable  
tonight in both directions. Withdraw after  
daylight tomorrow Tuesday.  
(Capt. S.8 1116A/22 to P.228 (SPLendid).)  
My 1116. Try and be in position by 0500, Cape Cefalu 312° 26  
miles sector 2.  
(Capt. S.8 2002A/22 to P.228 (SPLendid).)

Movements NURJEHAN and EMPIRE DACE arrived escorted by  
Philippeville. STORNOWAY and FELIXSTOWE.  
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1142A/22 to C. in C.Med.)

Black Sea. 1. Sea. (a) Feb. 13th, Russian Aircraft sank an  
enemy submarine off Tuapse.  
(b) A barge laden with enemy troops struck a  
mine and sank in Kerch Straits.  
(c) Feb. 18th, Russian convoyed M/V unsuccessfully attacked by  
aircraft and E-boats whilst on passage from Djybgga to Gelendjik.  
(d) 2 small enemy M/Vs reported in Taman Bay from which area  
considered embarkation is taking place.  
(N.L.O. Black Sea 1147C/22 to Admty. etc.)

G.U.F.6. Your 2012/18. G.U.F.6 estimated date of departure  
RANGITIKI. 24th March from Casablanca. Your 1802/21  
acceptable. Ship is unlikely to arrive in U.S.A.  
before 26th April.  
(C. in C.Med. 1226A/22 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.  
Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A.)

UNRUFFLED, RORQUAL sails at 1630 for position K. Do not  
RORQUAL. attack subs. tonight unless definitely  
identified as hostile.  
(Capt. S.10, 1227A/22 to P.46 (UNRUFFLED).)  
Do not close Malta before dawn owing to activity of A/S  
aircraft south and east of the island.  
(Capt. S.10 1821A/22 to P.46 (UNRUFFLED).)

/French...



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Mediterranean - Contd.

French Naval Aircraft. My 1435/10 and your 0007/17. As aircraft to be made available are to be exclusively Walrus I think they can be more effectively based on Oran area instead of on Atlantic seaboard, I have informed Admiral Michelier accordingly and he is in agreement. Request Admiral Amanrich may also be informed.  
(C. in C.Med. 1230A/22 to Admty.)

BARDALAND. Swedish BARDALAND arrived Canakkale 1445 G.M.T. Sailed for Salonica 1545 G.M.T. Feb. 21st. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1256C/22 to S.O.I. Med. S.1. D.N.I.)

M.W.21. Arrived convoy M.W.21 CROOME, DERWENT, HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, KANARIS (G.S.) (V.A.Malta 1304/22 to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C. Levant.)

Algiers Air report. Attack on Enemy Convoy. From Spaatz. N.W. African Air Force Operations. Feb. 21. 5 B. 25s escorted by 17 P.38s on 2nd shipping mission sighted and attacked a convoy of several large vessels dropping 7½ tons of bombs from 200 feet. 1 vessel hit and set fire, 2 small escort vessels hit and believed sunk and one cruiser hit and damaged. P.38s engaged enemy escort. 2 Ju.88 and 1 Italian single engine seaplane destroyed, 1 Ju.88 and one Ju.52 probably destroyed and 1 ME.110 and 1 Ju.88 damaged. 1 B.25 crash landed in sea, cause unknown. Fairly intense flak encountered over convoy.  
(Algiers 1305Z/22 to Etousa.)

S/M Reinforce-ments.	Following are anticipated reinforcements for Med. Flotillas in near future.		
	S/M.	Approx. date leaving U.K.	Flotilla provisionally allocated.
	TRIDENT	26th Feb.	1st S/M Flot.
	DZIK	1st March	10th S/M "
	P.314 (TACTICIAN)	7th March	1st S/M "
	P.53 (ULTOR)	7th March	10th S/M "
	O.R.P.SOKUL.	14th March	10th S/M "
	P.49 (UNRULY).	Early March	10th Flot.

2. Anticipated P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) will leave U.K. early March to rejoin 8th Flot.

3. C. in C.Med. and C. in C.Levant are requested to notify any anticipated change of allocation.  
(F.O.S. 1306A/22 to Admty. (R) Cs. in C. etc.)

/TURBULENT...

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TURBULENT.

Intend sailing TURBULENT 1800/24th to patrol in an area to south eastward of Naples. Routed through  $038^{\circ} 12' 004^{\circ} 45'$  at 0500/25th  $038^{\circ} 12' 009^{\circ} 32'$  at 2200/26th  $039^{\circ} 18' 012^{\circ} 01'$  at 2030/27th thence course  $90^{\circ}$  to patrol area. (Capt. S.8 1508A/22 to C. in C.Med. Capt., S.10 Submarines on patrol Cmdre. Algiers.)

General  
Eisenhower  
Status.

Following is Gen. Marshall's 1949 of 6th Feb. to Gen. Eisenhower. (Begins).  
This is a clarification of your status resulting from recent division of theatres in Europe and Africa. Ref. our 1771 and 1901 and your 8993.

You are designated by the President as Commanding General U.S. Forces in North African theatre of Operations. As such you are vested with all powers and authority heretofore conferred by War Department directives, regulations or orders to you as Commanding General of European theatre of operations insofar as applicable to geographical area of North African theatre of operations and compatible with directives issued you from time to time by Combined Chiefs of Staff as C. in C. of Allied Forces. This transfer of authority from the European theatre of operations to North African theatre of operations as Commanding General, U.S. Forces, does not affect your status as C. in C. of Allied Forces in North African theatre of operations. Our proposal to Combined Chiefs of Staff, mentioned in our 1901, has been withdrawn. (Ends.)  
(J.S.M. Washington 1535Z/22 to War Cabinet, London.)

Air R/C  
Genoa.

Your A.X.403 21 Feb. P.R. R/C Genoa had been laid on some days but not practicable until today Feb. 22. Itinerary Genoa Spezia Leghorn Maddalena.  
(H.Q. Mediterranean Air Command 1545/22 to Air Ministry.)

UNSHAKEN.

Intend sailing P.54 (UNSHAKEN) at 1800/24th for Gibraltar and U.K. routed as for URSULA in my 1504/20th, all times 48 hours later arriving Gibraltar 1030/28th.  
(Capt. S 8. 1556A/22 to C. in C.Med. F.O.C.N.A.S. (R) Admty. S.O. Force H. Cmdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran, S.O.(S) Gib. P.54 (UNSHAKEN) F.O.C.(S).)

E.T.12.

Intend to sail (list.)  
(F.O.I.S. 1650A/22 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran, Cmdre. Algiers, N.Os.I.C. Bone, Philippeville, Bougie, (R) Admty. Connav, C. in C.Med.)

U/Bs.

U-Boat activity is on reduced scale. Estimate 2 operating in area within 30 miles coast between meridian of Tolmeita and Mersa Matruh. Also usual patrol of (area?) to South and South East of Malta.  
(Capt. O.S.Alex. 1701B/22 to A.I.G.72 etc.)

/RORQUAL...

War Diary.22.2.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

RORQUAL. Sailed.  
(V.A.Malta 1737A/22 to Admty. etc.)

Movements 22nd Feb. Port arrivals SILHOUETTE, SNOWDRIFT,  
Port Said. CHRISTOS, H. H.M.S. PANTHER, AETOS, ROCKWOOD  
L.C.T. 116. Departures ROCKWOOD.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 1746B/22 to Admty. etc.)

Enemy Units. A/C sighting today 22nd. 1105 one tanker one  
merchant ship P.C. and S. 039° 14' 016° 01' S. 8.  
1110 one merchant ship unescorted P.C. 039°  
26' 015° (?55') S.  
(Capt. S.10 1749/22 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Movements Sailed. EMPIRE BUCKLER (KB) EMPIRE DACE for Oran.  
Philippeville. FINTRA (KB) for Algiers. Request local escort.  
S.O.A. 7½ knots. E.T.A. Algiers 2200/23rd,  
E.T.A. Oran 2200/24th.  
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1819/22 to C. in C.Med.  
(R) Cmdre. Algiers etc.)

E.A.C. Opsum No.103 1800 hours 20 Feb. 43 to 1800  
Report. hours 21 Feb. 43.  
(F) 12th U.S. Air Force. Shipping strike by  
6 B.25s escorted by 18 P.38s. Convoy of several  
large vessels attacked 30 miles south of  
Sicily. 1 vessel hit and set on fire. 2 small E/V hit and  
believed sunk. 1 cruiser hit and damaged.  
(E.A.C. N.Africa 1830/22.)

Movements, Arrived PENELOPE, LIGHTNING, FELIXSTOWE,  
Philippeville. STORNAWAY. Sailed FELIXSTOWE, STORNAWAY.  
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1830A/22 to Admty. etc.)

U/B At 1633/22nd U-Boat was reported in 033° 38'  
KATSONIS. N. 035° 16' E. steer North. Your 1645/22nd  
received.  
(Capt. S.1 1837B/22 to Greek Sub. KATSONIA.  
(R) C. in C.Levant.)

Movements. Feb. 22nd arrivals P.C. 473 from S.R.-1,  
departures T.F.38 with G.U.S. 4 P.Cs. 471, 474  
481 with C.G. 13.  
(Comorseafron 1936Z/22 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.  
Cominch, F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

UNSEEN. Returning by reverse of outward route arrive  
R/V 0830 Tuesday 23rd. Ship's side caulking  
under padded piece of port main inlet leaking.  
(P.51 (UNSEEN) 2005A/22 to Capt. S.10 (R) S/Ms  
on Patrol.)

War Diary.22.2.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Stores  
for  
Tripoli.

My 2011/18. Military requirements exclusive of bulk petrol to be discharged at Tripoli (L) now amount to average of 4,000 tons per day including 2,000 tons cased petrol.

2. To sustain this rate of discharge necessitates allocation to future convoys of shipping to lift minimum 44,000 tons at intervals of 11 days.

3. To guard against possible loss by enemy action necessary to provide additional 6,000 tons each convoy until reserve reaches reasonable dimension.

4. To meet increased requirements and due recent damage mechanical breakdowns and delays incurred by vessels already allocated this service it is necessary to take up additional five vessels for convoy T.7 sailing 20th March.

5. Only suitable vessels available in time to carry out their part fitting for petrol are FORT CHAMBLEY, KING EDWIN, TORONTO, U.S. FRANCIS DRAKE, U.S. WILLIAM T. COLEMAN.

6. Request 4 immediate nominations of vessels to be taken up.

7. Further signal follows respecting requirements for convoy T.8 (?X.T.8) sailing 31st March.

(P.S.T.O. M.E. 2036/22 as amended 0910/23 to Admty. for D.S.T.)  
Agreed, (D.S.T. 0016/25.)Malta  
Air  
Report.

A.I. 509 22 Feb. C.S.R. Offensive.

Night 21st/22nd February. Successful attack was made on tanker 10,000 tons that had been damaged night 20th/21st Feb. by Malta Beauforts see my C.S.R.A.I.502. Tanker had been photographed by P.R. Spitfire at 1135 hours (see part 3) and at 1640 hours 6 special equipment torpedo carrying Beauforts were despatched to attack and found tanker at 1915 hours 37° 15' N. 11° 52' E. course 220° speed very slow. 3 torpedoes were dropped all scoring direct hits causing continuous explosions and setting ship ablaze. At 2012 hours as tanker was still afloat another torpedo was dropped hitting the tanker amidships and causing it to settle lower in the water. 3 Special equipment Wellingtons and 7 Torpedo carrying Wellingtons also airborne to attack the tanker found it broken up and sunk. 1 Mosquito made intruder patrol Cape Bon Marittimo area to cover shipping strike.

Part 3. Reconnaissance.

1135 hours 1 mile south of Oevanzo 1 tanker 10,000 tons with dummy funnel seen heading south.

(A.H.Q. Malta 2112Z/22.)

Movements  
Algiers.Algiers arrivals submarine SARACEN (P.247)  
WILTON L.C.I. (L)s 174, 175, 177, 246, L.C.T.  
160, 164, 170, M.L. 280, WESTRAY. Departures  
PENELOPE, LIGHTNING, WESTRAY, Submarines TORBAY,  
URSULA, SAFARI (P.211.)  
(Com. Algiers 2132A/22 to Admty. C. in C.Med.  
F.O.C. Gib., V.A. Malta.)M.K.F.10  
M.K.S.9.Your 1000/20. Estimate M.K.F.10 sails from  
Algiers March 5th and Gibraltar March 7th. M.K.S.  
9 sails Algiers March 7th and Gibraltar March 10th  
(C. in C.Med. 2211A/22 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.  
F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

War Diary.

22.2.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

NUBIAN,  
JAVELIN.

Sailed.  
(V.A.Malta 2214A/22 to Admty. C. in C.Med.  
C. in C.Levant.)

Movements  
Benghazi.

Arrived and sailed GLOXINIA, AMBER, FALK,  
SOUTHERN SEA. Sailed M/L 349, BEVER, T.L.C. 138.  
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 2221B/22 to Admty. 'R)  
C. in C.Levant.)

UNRUFFLED,  
UNSEEN,  
THUNDERBOLT.

P.46 (UNRUFFLED) 2125/22nd and P.51 (UNSEEN)  
2005/22nd acknowledged. P.46 (UNRUFFLED) usual  
R/V 0830/24th with THUNDERBOLT from east. P.51  
(UNSEEN) decypher my 1227/22nd and 1821/22nd  
to P.46 (UNRUFFLED.)  
(Capt. S.10 2322A/22 to P.46 (UNRUFFLED), P.51  
(UNSEEN.) )

Malta  
M.T.Bs.

Personal from 1st Sea Lord.  
C. in C.Med. 2018/12.  
You are no doubt considering the early return  
of the M.T.Bs to Malta for offensive operation.  
(1st Sea Lord 2341A/22 to C. in C.Levant,  
(R) C. in C.Med.)  
Reply: C. in C.Levant 1220B/24.

War Diary.22.2.1943  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

## Movements.

F.S. LEOPARD sailed.  
 (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0220Z/22 to Admty.)  
 Arrival EARL KITCHENER and LORD GREY.  
 ( N.O.I.C. Madras, 0342Z/22 to Admty.)  
 Transport JALADUTA arrived 21st. Transport BANDRA arrived 22nd  
 ( S.T.O. Karachi 0901/22 to P.S.T.O. India, (R) D. of S.T.)  
 Colombo departure 0745Z/ Mauritius.  
 ( F.O.I.C. Ceylon 1146Z/22 to Admty.)  
 Calcutta departure KONKAN.  
 ( N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 1250Z/22 (?) to Admty.)  
 DAUNTLESS arrived.  
 ( F.O. East Africa 1251Z/22 to Admty.)

## M.B. 35.

Arrival VERBENA with M.B. 25.  
 ( S.O.I. Bombay 0315Z/22 to Admty.)  
 Convoy M.B. 25 arrived.  
 ( N.C.S.O. Bombay 0634Z/22 to Admty.)

Unknown  
S.O.S.

GERALDTON signalled "Cob" Aden at 1020/17/2 that  
 JALARATNA convoy in approx. 16° 13' N.  
 (2) JALARATNA was interrogated on arrival, Aden  
 and stated that at 0450Z/17 she intercepted S.O.  
 S. on 500 k/cs. Distress message did not include a position  
 and JALARATNA considers origin may have been ship's lifeboat.  
 No D/F was obtained. No Naval W.T. Station in E.F. Area  
 intercepted a distress message at this time but Aden W/T heard  
 S.O.S. made twice only from unknown ship strength three at 1502/  
 17. (3) Nothing known here of ship or boats in distress.  
 ( C. in C. E.F. 1121Z/22 to Admty.)

Shipping  
loss,  
publication.

Your 2102A/22 ( N.T. in W.D. ) Following is a  
 repetition of my 1953Z/20 ... T.O.O. of Part one  
 1949Z/20 begins ... Adressed Admty. 330 (R)  
 M. of W.T. from C. in C. E.F. East Africa Govern-  
 ners Conference are concerned because Indians in  
 East Africa who had relatives travelling from India to Mombasa  
 in a ship since last Nov. are unable to get news of their relat-  
 ives. Observations and suggestion.  
 ( C. in C. E.F. 1144Z/23 to Admty. (R) M. of W. T. )

Trincomalee  
underwater  
defences.

Following is C. in C. E.F.'s 0856/21 ( Begins)  
 Following summary of underwater defences of  
 Trincomalee is made after consultation with F.O.  
 Ceylon. 2. Present situation. (details)  
 Intended programme of work:- (details)  
 ( C. in C. E.F. 1206Z/22 to Admty.)

## U/B

Sub. sighted off coast near Manapad Lighthouse  
 1330 G.M.T. 22nd.  
 ( Rep. off Tuticorin, 1530/22 to S.O. (I) Bombay  
 (R) S.O.I. Colombo, N.O.I.C. Madras N.O.I.C.  
 Cochin.)

War Diary

22.2.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.Contd,

Personnel  
Ships.

Para 3 of your 2037/16. Yes. Para 4, escort will be arranged. It will probably be necessary to form convoy at Aden for MALOJA, ARUNDEL CASTLE and ORDUNA.  
( C. in C. E.F., 1607Z/22 to P.S.T.O. M.E. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. )

Raft  
marked  
"TALAMBA".

Raft mentioned in my 1000/20 ( N.T. in W.D. ) marked TALAMBA. Name deeply scored. Have raft on board.  
( Toowoomba 2009Z/22 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.E. Africa and Zanzibar. )

852

War Diary.22.2.1943.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Dutch Personal and Private from 1st S.L. Your 0057Z/21  
C. in C. (A) Next time you see King I suggest you  
propose that neither of us agree to any re-  
distribution of Dutch Naval Forces until we have  
had a chance of discussing the matter. (B) You will remember  
that some little time ago some Dutch destroyers were taken away  
from C. in C. Eastern Fleet and sent to Australia. This was  
arranged between Furstner and King after Furstner had informed  
King that I had agreed to it. As a matter of fact Furstner  
had never mentioned the idea to me. (C) I suggest (A) to  
prevent any repetition of (B).  
(1st S.L. 0033A/22 to B.A.D.)

Movements. Norfolk (Virginia) arrived 1353Z/21 L.S.T.324.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0045Z/22 to Admty.)  
Departure 22nd Feb. U.S. Transport EL LIBERTADOR  
in G.A.T.45 due Trinidad 24th.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 0930QR/22 to Admty.) Amended 0955QR/23.)  
Arrival 22nd U.S. Submarine Chaser S.C.506. Returns  
Reunion Is.(As received.) Trinidad 1900 G.M.T. 22nd.  
Harbour Master, Barbados, 0950/22 to Admty.)  
My 1459/20 (Arrival of armed yacht S.C.005.) left p.m.  
21st unknown destination.  
(R.O. Barranquilla, 1437/22 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)  
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES (U.S. A.T.) arrived Los Angeles 20  
and sailed 21 for Seattle due 25th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2005Z/22 to Admty.)  
At 1730Z/22 from Havana Cuba M.T.Bs. 339 and 341 from  
British M.T.B. Squadron 19 arrived at Miami. This is a para-  
phrase of Port Director Miami 1730/22.  
(Port Director Miami, 2014/22, to Cdr. Gulf Sea Frontier.)

Attacks SSSS DE A.P.25 (EL ALMIRANTE (Panamanian))  
on torpedoed GCK 0350/22. Controlling Station  
O.N. 166. Valentia Radio. R.A.F. informed.  
(Burnham Radio, 0510/22 to Admty.) W.D. Report.  
Report re EL ALMIRANTE incorrect. See next  
signal.  
O.N. 166 inform Cdre. EL ALMIRANTE returned Belfast.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1322Z/22 to Ships escorting O.N.166 (R) Admty.)  
Submarine attack, O.N. 166, 0350Z/22nd number 25 ?  
N.T. NIELSEN ALONSO (Nor.) torpedoed. Details later. P.C.S.  
048° 00' 031° 24' 231° 9.  
(C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3., 0530Z/22 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, H.Q.C.C.)  
Number 21 EMPIRE TRADER torpedoed port side. Now under way  
bow first and escorted by DAUPHIN heading for British Isles  
course and speed 062° 5. DAUPHIN urgently needed by O.N.166.  
DAUPHIN will continue as escort until further instructions.  
Please advise.  
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3., 0730Z/22, to C. in C. W.A. (R)  
Connav. etc.)  
O.N. 166 U-boat sighted well astern convoy 0620Z/22nd  
48 245 31 24 CAMPBELL attacking. U-boat sighted well astern  
convoy 0723Z/22nd 47; 51, 31-36 DIANTHUS reports destruction.

/No...



War Diary.

22.2.1943.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Attacks on O.N.S. 166. (Contd.) No casualties number 21 and number 25 latter crew in CAMPBELL. Weather Report. (C.N.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 0920Z/22 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, etc.) O.N. 166. Towing vessel and escort needed by CAMPBELL who reports vessel salvageable if tow arrives. Polish Destroyer BURZA proceeding but may not be able to tow. (C.T.U. 24.1.3. 1001Z/22 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, etc.) 2 Enemy subs. sighted on the surface at 1034Z/22nd in 048° 02' N. 031° 00' and 048° 08' 030° 55' range 10 miles and 15 respective. Both dived on sight. (BURZA, 1043Z/22 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. H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C. S.E. O.N.C. 166.) EMPIRE TRADER unable to steer. Number one hold flooded number 2 leaking. Stopped 048° 32' N. 029° 50' W. since 0800Z. Attempting to trim ship so far unsuccessful. My limit of endurance 1200Z/23rd when necessary detaching direct for St. Johns N.F. Weather report. (DAUPHIN, 1200Z/22 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, etc.) If endurance permits proceed forthwith to join EMPIRE TRADER torpedoed and being escorted by DAUPHIN until 2200/22 as in my 1241/22. Estimated position EMPIRE TRADER at 2200A/22 is 048° 58' N. 028° 40' W. routed through (A) 052° 01' 024° 00'. Destination EMPIRE TRADER is Clyde. Report intentions. (C. in C.W.A. 1240Z/22 to CHAMBLY (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24. Admty, N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C, C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C. DAUPHIN.) (1) Leave EMPIRE TRADER at dark tonight and join O.N.S. 167 estimated p.C.S. of convoy at 2000/22 48° 38' N. 27° 00' W. routed through (N) 48° 03' N. 28° 02' W. (F) 44° 03' N. 50° 57' Speed 6 knots. Leave O.N.S. 167 on crossing 035° W. and proceed independently St. John's. (2) EMPIRE TRADER to be routed through (a) 52° 01' N. 24° 00' W. (b) 55° 02' N. 09° 58' W. and informed she is to report if she is unable to maintain her course and speed of 5 knots and also on crossing 018° W. (3) report situation on leaving EMPIRE TRADER. (C. in C.W.A. 1241Z/22 to DAUPHIN (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24 Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G., 24.7. H.Q.C.C. CHAMBLY, Ships Escorting O.N.166 Ships escorting O.N.S.167.) Your 1241/22\* not received. Your 1540/22 EMPIRE TRADER unable to get under way. Abandoning ship now. Weather report. (DAUPHIN, 1510A/22 to Admty., C. in C.W.A. (R) A.I.G. 303 etc.,)\*Sent by C. in C.W.A. Repetition of signal is being made by C. in C.W.A.) Your 1240/22nd and my 1119/22nd. Due to fuel situation unable to comply. (CHAMBLY, 1539Z/22, to C. in C.W.A. (R) A.I.G. No.303. DAUPHIN.) Your 1310. If crew can get EMPIRE TRADER under way comply with my 1241/22 if not evacuate crew leave ship floating and join O.N.S. 167 as soon as possible. Ensure confidential matter disposed of. Report intentions. (C. in C.W.A. 1540Z/22 to DAUPHIN (R) Escorts of O.N.S. 167 Escorts of O.N.166, A.I.G.303, CHAMBLY.)

/Cancel...

22.2.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Attacks on O.N. 166. Contd. Cancel my 1240/22nd proceed to Londonderry. (C. in C.W.A. 1701Z/22 to CHAMBLY (R) Connav etc.) Your 1540/22. EMPIRE TRADER abandoned 106 survivors all hands saved. Master considers it doubtful if vessel will remain afloat more than few days making water slightly. Proceeding to join O.N.S.167 weather report. (DAUPHIN 2045Z/22 to Admty., C. in C.W.A.(R) Connav etc.) Please send immediate (help) to U.S.S. CAMPBELL in collision with U-Boat 2248Z/22nd in 047° 00' 034° 07'. Engine room flooded. No power. Polish Destroyer BURZA going to assistance. O.N. 166 critically short of escorts. U-Boat situation extremely dangerous. (C.T.W.24.1.3., 2340Z/22 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., H.Q.C.C.) Submarine attack O.N. 166 2126Z/22. Number 22 CHATTANOOGA CITY torpedoed 046° 53' 034° 32', 278° 8. 2 U-Boats sighted on port bow and were attacked. One U-Boat sound contact starboard beam and attacked. (C.T.U.24.1.3. 2345Z/22 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav etc.) WITHERINGTON proceeding to join escort of O.N.166. Upon arrival of C. Mid Ocean Escort Task Units 24.1.3. make every effort to refuel. WITHERINGTON in event she may be required for O.N. 167. (C.T.24 2335Z/22 to C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3.)

Use of M.M.S Hulls. Request reply to my 1612/12th. (S.B.N.O.W.Af. 1006Q/22 to Admty.)

RHEXENOR torpedoed 3/2. RHEXENOR torpedoed 0942 G.M.T. 3rd Feb. 025° N. 043° 37' W. 4 boats away. 1 (one) arrived here A.M. 21st Feb. with 17 survivors. Fourth mate taken prisoner by submarine flying Italian flag. Positive confidential books thrown overboard in weighted sack. (B.R.L.O. Antigua, 1010/22 to S.O. (I) Jamaica, (R) Admty.)

Movements Summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
1800 G.M.T. 22nd Feb.	F.S/M ARCHIMEDE	34½° N. 68½° W.	309°	11½
	F.S/M AMAZONE	27° N. 53° W.	296°	7½
	ALCANTARA } WOODRUFF }	15° N. 32° W.	Patrol	Blank.
	L.23	50½° N. 35½° W.	254°	8½
	T.A.35	41° N. 55° W.	254° Altering to 303° at 2200.	19
	T.A.36.	46½° N. 25½° W.	264°	19
	(D.O.D.(F), 1038Z/22 to Opanav. (R) Commaveu.)			

War Diary.

22.2.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

OLDHAM (Am) U/B. OLDHAM radios chased by U-boat at 1620 G.M.T. 22nd 017° 21' N. 069° 01' W. (Kingston, 1204R/22 to Admty.)

TENACITY. U/B. Now ready for service. (F.O.N.F., 1355Z/22 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.T.F. 24. (C.O.A.C. Admty., Cominch.)

U/B. Nassau passes report U-Boat sighted 1000 R/22nd. 4 miles East of Hatchet Bay Eleuthera Island. (S.O. Jamaica, 1424R/22 to Seafron San Juan N.O.B. Guantanamo (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. N.I.D.18.)

ANDES. Comply with D. of S.T.'s 0106/21st and report expected date vessel will be ready to sail and expected time of arrival New York. (N.S.H.Q., 1425Z/22, C.O.A.C. (R) D. of S.T., B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New York.)

Submarine estimate 22nd Feb. U.S. Submarine. notice. (Cominch, 1447/22, 1448/22, 1510/22, 1511/22 1512/22.)

Dispositions. Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic. Operating in Northern Waters: KING GEORGE V., HOWE, BERWICK, KENT, GLASGOW, BELFAST, CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK, SCYLLA, 17 Destroyers. Area Scapa: ANSON, MALAYA, FURIOUS, BERMUDA, 1 Destroyer. Area Clyde: INDOMITABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS, BITER. Passage to U.K.: VALIANT. Passage to Gibraltar: SUSSEX, ADVENTURE, ABDIEL. On patrol JAMAICA. Area Gibraltar: NELSON RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, 5 Destroyers. (D.O.D.(H), 1455A/22 to C. in C.U.S. Fleet)

SEAWOLF. Re broadcast my 1456/15. SEAWOLF carrying out anti-submarine exercises with surface ship daily Monday to Friday in area bounded by following position A. 44° 33' N. 63° 20' W. B. 44° 33' N. 63° 10' W. C. 44° 36' N. 63° 20' W. D. 44° 36' N. 63° 10' returning to harbour at 2030Z/daily. (C.O.A.C., 1456Z/22 to G.B.7A.)

A.F.D.24. ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF Patrol. C. in C. U.S. Fleet advises A.F.D. 24 not expected to arrive Trinidad before March 13th (?) ALCANTARA and WOODRUFF remain on patrol in area assigned to prudent limit of endurance then proceed in order to arrive Trinidad prior March 10th. (Comsolant, 1511/22 to ALCANTARA (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, B.A.D. Admty., F.O.C. W.A. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.)

22.2.1943.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

Fuel Newfoundland. Our 2034/10th Dec. Your 2004/7th Jan. re: Tankage at Halifax may reply now be made. (N.S.H.Q. 1513Z/22 to Admty.)

General Eisenhower status. J.S.M. Washington 1535Z/22 to War Cabinet. See Mediterranean.

French Escort Vessels fitting asdics and A/A armament. N.C.X.F.'s 1203/14. Urgent requirement exists for fitting British-type asdic and additional A/A armament to French escort vessels of the trawler or armed yacht type and to sloops of the Elan class. Docking facilities in French North and West Africa and in U.K. are heavily overburdened. Request early report whether some of these vessels can be taken in hand at Bermuda, possibly 2 or 3 at a time followed by others on completion. (Head of M.I., Approved Controller, 1608A/22 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) C.I.C. Bermuda, C. in C. Med. F.O.C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar.)

N.W. African Air Force Command. Following is text of Algiers Telegram No. 1296 (T.O.O. 1739/19) from Spaatz to Arnold re North West African Air Forces and subordinate Commands (details) (J.S.M. Washington, 1647Z/22 to War Cabinet Offices, London)

French Ships re-armament. F.O.C.W.A. 2007/31 (not to B.A.D.) stated that lists of major requirements for rearmament of French ships were sent by Glassford to Combined Chiefs of Staff on 31st Dec. by air mail and that they were to be duplicated in Washington and copies sent to London.

2. Have these yet been despatched? (Hd. of M.II, 1806A/22 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.W.Af.)

ATTACKER. My 1739/12th. ATTACKER defect likely to be completed earlier than anticipated. Estimate ship will arrive Jamaica about 6th March. Request R.N.A.S. Palisadoes arrange to have aircraft and their stores and torpedoes ready for embarking on arrival. (B.A.D. 1825Z/22 to Admty., R.N.A.S. Kingston, Jamaica, (R) C. in C. U.S., Fleet, N.O.I.C. Kingston, S.B.N.O. W.A., S.B.N.O. Curacao, S.B.N.O. Trinidad, ATTACKER.) Sail ATTACKER independently Norfolk (Virginia) to Kingston (Jamaica) when ready about March 2nd. Advise time of departure route speed of advance. Com Caribbean S.F. sail onward to Curacao leaving Kingston (Jamaica) about March 7th. Ship will form part of C.U. one escort and will operate A/C. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2147/22 to Comeast Sea Fron. Com Caribbean Sea Frontier, (R) Com. 5 C.A.F.A.C. Com.6. Com.7. C. in C. Western Approaches, C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet. H.M.S.ATTACKER, S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic, N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica, Admiralty.)

/Propose...

War Diary.

22.2.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Propose release story of U-Boat sinking (AVORIO) Your 1559/20. Unless there is special reason it is preferred that release be delayed until second week of March in accordance with policy in my 1408/1st Jan. to N.S.H.Q. only. 2. B.A.D. pass to Canadian Joint Staff Mission (D.A./S.W., 1925A/22 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Canadian Joint Staff Washington. B.A.D. Opnav.)

Shipping Casualties. Connav serial 22. N.T. NEGSEN ALONSO and EMPIRE TRADER both torpedoed today approx 48° N. 31° W. convoy O.N.166. ROSARIO and H.H. ROGER in convoy O.N.167 both torpedoed 21st Feb. approx. 51° N. 24° W. None confirmed sunk. (Cominch C. and R., 2047/22)

FANTASQUE, TERRIBLE. Boston arrived 1404/21 French Warships FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE. (N.S.H.Q., 2110Z/22, Admty. (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

H.X.227 escorts. Following is repetition of my 1500Z/22, H.X.227. C. M.O.E. T.U. 24.1.4. in FAME H/F D/F Plus VISCOUNT H/F D/F EGLANTINE, ACANTHUS, KINGCUP, VERVAIN designated Ocean Escort for H.X.227. VERVAIN, ACANTHUS, sail 24 hours late to overtake. (Ends.) (C.C.N.F., 2125Z/22 to Cominch C. & R. (R) C.M.O.E. T.U.24.1.4. etc.) See F.O.N.F. 1421Z/23.

B.Y.M.S. Cdr. N.W.S.F. sailing B.Y.M.S. 9, 19, 22, 26, 27 when ready about Feb. 28th to San Francisco. C.W.S.F. route onward to Panama arranging to Logistic requirements en route Cdr Panama S.F. sail onward to Trinidad for further routing by N.O.B. Trinidad to Freetown via Belem and Recife. Action addressees advise times of departure route speed of advance. Vessels have radius of 1700 to 1800 miles at 9 knots using (?30) gallons per hour. Can carry 1200 gallons additional fuel as deck cargo if sailing on favourable weather report.. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2145/22 to C.N.W.S.F., C.W.S.F., C.P.S.F.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. A. N.T. NIELSON ALONZO torpedoed area 48.09 N. 31° W. 0350Z/22. EMPIRE TRADER torpedoed area 47.51 North 31.36 West about 0630Z/22. Two unidentified torpedoed 49.26 N. 29.08 W. 1600Z/21 and 48.25 N. 30.10 W. 2130Z/21. R.A.F. plane attacks periscope course 138 48.08 N. 29.35 W. 1900Z/21. H.M.S. HARVESTER and ACONITE attack sub area 48.30 N. 29.57 W. 2045Z/21. P.G.C.G.SPENCER attacks sub. 48.48 N. 29.53 W. 2014Z/21. DIANTHUS attacks sub 47.51 N. 31.36 W. 0723Z/22. P.G.C.G.CAMPBELL attacks sub. 48 N. 31.24 W. 0620Z/22.

/B...

War Diary.

22.2.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

Sub. B. Aircraft sights two subs. on surface area  
 attack 48.48 N. 29.53 W. about 2000Z/21. Patrol  
 and plane sights sub. 12 S. 53.44 W. 1330Z/22.  
 sighting C. BURZA sights two subs. on surface 48.02 N.  
 summary. 31 W. and 48.08 N. 30.55 W. 1034Z/22. Surface  
 craft makes Radar contact 48.30 N. 29.57 W.  
 2030Z/21.

D. U.S.S. BARNEGAT attacks periscope 46.11 N. 47.58 W. 1344Z/21  
 S.C.412 makes sound contact 37.02 N. 75.07 W. 1930Z/21. Coast  
 watchers sight sub. 27 N. 80.03 W. 2205Z/21 and periscope  
 course N. 23.59 N. 74.35 W. 1410Z/21. U.S.S BROADBILL attacks  
 sound contact 36.44 N. 72.40 W. about 0910Z/22. U.S.C.G.  
 MARION attacks sub. 17.25 N. 71.55 W. 0343Z/22. S.C.712  
 attacks sound echo ranging contact 37.03 N. 74.59 W. 1028Z/22.  
 American export plane sights sub. course West 36.16 N. 74.29 W.  
 1445Z/22. SS. OLDHAM chased by sub. 17.20 N. 69.01 W. 1617Z/22.  
 Object resembling periscope sighted 31.33 N. 79.53 W. 1600Z/22.  
 (Cominch, 2229/22 to Admty.)

M.A.R.I. Your 1711/19. M.A.R.I. Section One, para. 7D  
 Amendment. Sub-para. 2 re ships from Ports North of  
 Cristobal. Does this mean all ships and is  
 your 1849 of Sept. 2nd therefore cancelled?  
 (N.S.H.Q. 2232Z/22 to Admty.)

Shipping To Andrews. Signed Marshall.  
 require- 1. Because of the urgency of the situation in  
 ments. another theatre, there are indications that  
 shipping available for U.K. will be nothing for  
 the months of March and April. Likewise  
 shipping for May to U.K. cannot be determined at this time.  
 Prior to taking final action in this matter, it is requested that  
 you furnish the War Department with your absolute minimum  
 requirements, co-ordinated for air, ground and S.O.S. to continue  
 essential functions. 2. An attempt will be made to allocate  
 the shipping required, based on your recommended minimum  
 requirements.  
 (Agwar, 2316Z/22 to Etousa (Action)).

L.23. My P.C. and S. at 2300Z/22, 050° 18' 031° 46'  
 255° 4 knots. Delay due to engine trouble.  
 Cannot dive during remainder of passage owing  
 to fracture of outboard exhaust J. bend. Group exhaust valves  
 will not hold water pressure.  
 ( L.23 2330Z/22 to F.O. (S) F.O.N.F. (R) Cominch.)

"S" Immediate SSS from KOKY 2340Z/22 position 18.57  
 Report. N. 83.19 W.  
 (Kingston, 2336R/22 to Admty.)

War Diary.

22.2.1943.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Tongatabu H.M.N.Z.S. MONAWAI for Lyttleton.  
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0501Z/22 to Admty.)  
Victualling Store Issuing Ship MERKUR arrived Townsville 21st Feb. U.S. Transport BONTEKOE arrived and departed Townsville 21st arrived Cairns 22nd. H.T.KATOOMBA departed Port Moresby 21st due Townsville 23rd. Hospital ship MANUNDA departed Fall River 20th due Brisbane 24th.  
(A.C.N.B. 0933Z/22 to Admty. Connav.)  
Arrivals Fremantle 21st U.S. Seaplane Tender PRESTON Sydney (N.S.W.) 21st U.S. Destroyer PATTERSON U.S. OTUS. Departures Brisbane 21st U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD on escort duty Port Moresby 21st KATOOMBA for Townsville.  
(A.C.N.B., 1059Z/22 to Admty.)

Digest 2. Tanker departed Buka passage afternoon.  
Serial 3. Afternoon R/C Liberator unsuccessfully  
No. 396. attacked 1000 ton cargo vessel stationary near  
Feb. 21st. Powell Point (Open Bay). Subsequently saw one  
cargo vessel (4000 tons) one gunboat St. Georges  
Channel with one small unidentified vessel two  
miles ahead all course 330°. Later sighted two masted schooner  
in inlet near Gasmata. 6. Seven Pinnaces left Lae harbour 20th.  
11. Seven Liberators attacked one large unidentified vessel  
two medium merchant vessels Ambon Bay 21st with unobserved  
results. Six or more Zeros intercepted whereof two destroyed  
plus two probable. 12. Single aircraft attacking Allied  
convoy proceeding Darwin driven off by four Beaufighters  
morning 21st no damage to convoy.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 0750Z/21.)

Re Your 2257A/19. Concur.  
sailing (A.C.N.B., 0827Z/22 to Admty. (R) N.Z.N.B., C. in  
ships in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Sth At. Stn.)  
Pacific  
and Indian  
Ocean in  
pairs.

Cocos C. in C. Eastern Fleet is informed that V.A.  
Islands, Helfrich has suggested use of Cocos Islands as  
suggested flying-boat fuelling base for a service between  
use as Ceylon and Australia. Also that Colonel Steele  
flying- U.S. Army, in charge of two Pan-American  
boat Clippers flying to Australia, has asked Colonel  
fuelling Arnold, U.S. Navy, Perth, to get complete  
base. information about Cocos, especially on  
conditions for aircraft. 2. Admiralty consider  
it most important that nothing should be done  
to draw enemy's attention to these islands and have taken  
special steps for this purpose, and Air Ministry have purposely  
refrained from using the islands themselves. We should  
strongly resist any proposal to use them as suggested if it was  
made officially. We should be glad to receive any  
information you have on the matter as soon as possible.  
(Hd. of M. Branch, 2105A/22 to A.C.N.B., (R) C. in C. E.F.,  
C. in C. Ceylon, F.O.I.C. Ceylon.)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

22.2.1943.  
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1335Z/22, 1435A/22.)



23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy J.W.53, now consisting of 22 M/Vs, was estimated to be about 280 miles E.N.E. of Jan Mayen at 0800 today.

Pending a decision as to the new claim of the Russian authorities to control the R.A.F. Torpedo Force "Grenadine" whose stores and advance-party are due at the Kola Inlet in two days time, Admiral Miles has today ordered that the R.A.F. personnel and stores in Convoy J.W.53 are not to be disembarked.

Consideration is being given to the possibility of strengthening the mid-Ocean Escorts of Convoys H.X.228 and S.C.122, and also to the institution and escort of a special convoy of about 60 ships designed to absorb the surplus shipping now awaiting passage from New York.

C. in C. W.A. considers that the present scale of U-Boat attacks in the North Atlantic emphasises the need to sail Rescue Tugs with suitable Trawler Escort in each Atlantic convoy; and he also considers it highly desirable that Escort Carriers in these convoys should be capable of fuelling Escorts and supplying them with depth charges.

2 magnetic mines were exploded by Sweepers off Yarmouth today.

North Atlantic.

Attacks  
on U.C.1.

Convoy U.C.1 (tankers, U.K. to Curacao) was attacked in 32.02 N. 24.30 W. at 0642Z, and ATHEL PRINCESS, British, 8882 tons, was torpedoed. She was a straggler. At 0840Z she was reported abandoned but still afloat in 32.00 N. 24.35 W.

At 2130Z, the convoy was again attacked by 3 U-Boats in 31.10 N. 27.30 W. EMPIRE NORSEMAN and ESSO BATON ROUGE were sunk, and BRITISH FORTITUDE and MURENA torpedoed but continued with the convoy. EMPIRE NORSEMAN was an A.N.D. ship. A message from S.B.N.O. Curacao on 8th March explains how she was hit.

/AJAX ...

23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- AJAX. AJAX, cruiser, left Gibraltar at 1936 for Bermuda.
- REDOUBT. REDOUBT, destroyer, has sustained damage to her stem and A/S dome by contact with a whale. S.N.O. Casablanca Area asks Gibraltar for a relief escort for U.S.A.T. JAMES PARKER, due to leave on 26th.
- S.R. 1. Convoy S.R.1 (Freetown to Gibraltar - 5 ships) arrived at Gibraltar at 1446, escorted by PENTSTEMON, VETCH, LORD NUFFIELD.

French  
Refugees  
from Spain.

The French have asked C. in C. Mediterranean's permission to send 2 ships to Cadiz to embark 1,500 non-clandestine refugees, stating they have the Spanish Government's agreement to this. On March 3rd, however, the Admiralty stated they are opposed to the sailing unless the Spanish Government guarantee that the ships will not be hindered by any means whatsoever, including legal process, from sailing again. Even then it may be wiser for the ships to go in singly. Assurance is also asked that adequate security examination will take place either in Gibraltar or North Africa. Following a reply on these points by C. in C. Med. on 5th March, the Admiralty at 1743A/7th March withdrew their objection.

South Atlantic.

- R.B.1. Convoy R.B.1 (Recife to Bahia) sailed from Pernambuco at 2100Z, and is due at Bahia on the 25th.

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Air  
Operations.

Palermo was attacked by 21 Wellingtons and 6 Halifaxes last night and explosions and fires caused in the harbour and town areas. A small steamer in Pizzo Harbour (52 miles N.E. Reggio di Calabria) was damaged by Mosquitoes from Malta last night. At 0454 this morning a Malta Beaufort damaged by M/G fire an 800 ton M/V in 37.45 N. 12.14 E. 18 B.24s bombed Messina today, scoring hits on the train ferry terminus and railway sidings to south of harbour. It is believed considerable damage was inflicted. 1 bomb burst on or near a vessel at the ferry terminus. 6 B.25s of the 12th U.S. Air Force on a counter shipping mission attacked 13 barges believed to be Seibel ferries, dropping 6½ tons of bombs from 200 ft. 5 barges carrying trucks and other equipment were sunk (no position given).

4 enemy aircraft approached Tripoli last night but one was destroyed by a Beaufighter and the remainder turned back.

U/B hunt.

BICESTER, LAMERTON and WILTON, destroyers, with aircraft co-operation are believed to have destroyed a U-Boat (which they had hunted from p.m./20th Feb. to p.m. today) in 36.55 N. 02.23 E. about 35 miles W. of Algiers. Wreckage obtained included a door panel with German script, and possibly human remains. The U-Boat was first located by Algiers R.D.F. at 2125/20 at a distance of 21 miles, and a persistent effort was maintained for nearly 3 days, WHEATLAND and WESTRAY taking part on the 22nd.

FINTRA  
sunk.

At 1350, SS. FINTRA was torpedoed by U-Boat and sunk in 36.57 N. 03.41 E. FELIXSTOWE attacked a contact which was eventually lost.

Mining by  
M.T.Bs.

3 M.T.Bs at Bone, fitted with temporary mine shutes to take 6 American mines each, made their first lay successfully last night in the vicinity of Plane Island, 37.11 N. 10.21 E. C. in C. Med. intends to continue these operations in the Sicilian Channel until the stock of 450 American mines is exhausted.

/Air ...

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.Air  
Organisation.

Details of the new organisation of the Allied Air Forces in N.W. Africa are given in a message from Air Chief Marshal Tedder, Mediterranean Air Command, to Air Ministry today, as follows:-

(a) H.Q. N.W. African Air Forces, Commanding General, Gen. Spaatz.

(b) N.W. African Tactical Air Force, A.O.C., A.M. Coningham. Under this force comes 242 Group, 12th Air Support Command, and Western Desert Air Force.

(c) N.W. African Strategic Air Force, A.O.C., Maj.-Gen. Doolittle.

(d) N.W. African Coastal Air Force, A.O.C., A.V.M. Lloyd (not yet arrived).

(e) N.W. African Training Command, A.O.C., Brig. Cannon (at present Commanding Bomber).

(f) N.W. African Air Service Command, A.O.C., Brig. Dunton.

Malta aircraft are now under the operational control of Air Chief Marshal Tedder's H.Q., but Malta and Western Desert continue to be administered by H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East.

Transfer of personnel from the Eastern Air Command and 12th Air Force to the new formations is in hand.

East Indies.Coastal  
Raid.

A patrol landed by vessels of the Royal Indian Navy coastal forces made a raid last night on the village of Myebon, about 60 miles S.E. of Akyab, remaining 5 hours. The jetty was blown up, buildings burned, and a 100 ft. river steamer destroyed.

Rangoon  
bombed.

6 U.S. Liberators bombed Rangoon docks last night and mined Rangoon River.

4 Hurricanes damaged a small steamer off Runree Island and 1 damaged launches off Akyab Island.

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.

O.N. 166.

In further attacks on Convoy O.N.166 today, the following ships were torpedoed:-  
 WINKLER, Panamanian tanker, at 0710Z, 46.48 N. 36.18 W.  
 EULIMA, British tanker, at 0656Z, in 46.48 N. 36.18 W.  
 HASTINGS, U.S., about 0630Z 46.48 N. 36.18 W.  
 GLITRE, Norwegian tanker.  
 Tug TENACITY left St. Johns N.F., at 0630 to assist U.S. C.G.C. CAMPBELL, damaged in collision with a U-Boat shortly before midnight. NANAIMO was ordered to overtake and escort TENACITY and CAMPBELL.  
 At 1629Z/23, C.T.24 ordered SALIBURY<sup>S</sup> to proceed at best practicable speed to assist CAMPBELL.  
 At 1805Z she was in 50.10 N. 44.15 W.  
 At 1720, S.N.O. Casablanca ordered U.S.S. CHEROKEE to leave Casablanca for similar duty, but this order was cancelled at 0915Z/24.  
 At 2147Z, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa estimated at least 8 U-Boats in the vicinity of the convoy, transmitting heavily on series 8, and possibly 3 more closing from N.W.

Size of  
Atlantic  
Convoys.

In view of the increase in numbers of ships ready to sail for U.K., and the urgency of their imports, Admiralty is seeking American concurrence for a convoy of 80 ships. They consider that if sufficient escorts can be provided the risk is an accepted one in view of the urgency. The next convoy to which the plan could apply would be H.X. 228, for which 107 ships are offering to sail.

Destroyers  
for R.C.N.

The destroyers GRIFFIN and DECOY, due to complete refit at Southampton and on the Tyne respectively on March 12th and 31st, have been offered to the Royal Canadian Navy. (The offer was accepted on 25th February).

Australia and New Zealand.

At dawn today, 6 Fortresses attacked Rabaul. 3 hits were scored on a warship and near misses on a cargo vessel in the harbour. A fire was started on the wharf, and 2 schooners were attacked.

A Hudson attacked a U-Boat 55 miles E.N.E. of Woodlark Island (Murua) and an oil slick was observed.

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

North Russian Co-operation. Your 1738/20 and your 1714/22. D.C.N.S. has matter in hand. 2. He will not know about your 1851/14 but although sympathise I doubt if he can do much. Ambassador is taking up these points.  
(Ad. Miles, 1729C/23 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Movements.

DASHER, BLANKNEY, LEDBURY. C. in C. H.F. 0101/22. Sailed at 1700. E.T.A. 1100/25.  
(A.C.I.C., 0230A/23 to A.C.O.S.)

MALAYA. Clyde arrival MALAYA.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0904A/23.)

S/M movements. Intend sailing O.15 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH from Dundee at 0900/24, to Rosyth. E.T.A. May Island 1230/24.  
(Capt. S.9. 0915A/23.)

My 1709/22. Add new para. (G) O.10 escorted by OXLIP leaves Rothesay 1500/23 via Sounds of Islay and Mull. E.T.A. Tobermory 1300/24.

(F.O.S. 0923A/23.)

Intend sailing TUNA escorted by SCALBY WYKE from Clyde 1430A/25 by Minches and west of Orkneys to Lerwick. E.T.A. 1230A/27.

(Capt. S.3. 1103A/23 and 1705A/23.)

Arrived P.511.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1229A/23.)

My 2022/22. Sailed (O.10)

(Capt. S.7 1501A/23.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/24th and movements for the following 24 hours. (A) TRUCULENT, SPORTSMAN, SEANYMPH, and SIMOON in North Norwegian waters East of 15° East.

(B) UREDD in Lofoten Area.

(C) O.10 escorted by OXLIP approaching Sound of Mull from southward, due Tobermory 1300/24th.

(D) TAKU vicinity 44° 10' N. 10° 30' W.

(E) BARB off Vigo.

(F) O.15 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leaves Dundee for Rosyth at 0900/24. E.T.A. May Island 1230/24.

(F.O.S. 1739A/23 to Admty.)

Intend sailing BLACKFISH escorted by KINGSTON, CHRYSOBERYL at 1000/24 to Plymouth. E.T.A. 1430/24.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2056A/23.)

My 1739/23rd. Add Para. (G). P.555 escorted by COWSLIP arriving Clyde from Tobermory..

(F.O.S. 2231A/23)

TRESPASSER and P.511 will be exercising off Plymouth from 0900 till 1700 on 24th February.

(C.in C, Plymouth, 2339A/23.)

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~~22~~<sup>23</sup>. 2. 1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

S.55 A.M. 2330/19 para. 2 is cancelled. Russian  
 S.56. Naval Mission now state C. in C. Soviet Northern  
 Fleet will provide onward route from 15° E.  
 2. S.B.N.O. N. Russia is requested to signal  
 onward route after consultation with C. in C. Soviet Northern  
 Fleet.  
 (D.O.D.H. 1145A/23 to F.O.S., S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
 Owing to further defects S.56 will not be ready to sail  
 before a.m. 28th. Intend sailing both S/Ms in company to  
 Lerwick as soon as S.56 is ready.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1921A/23 to Admty.)

Operations.

Search Aircraft report 2 trawlers 049° 07' N. 009° 57' W.  
 for course 360° speed 5 knots, at 2320/22.  
 CHICHA 1 (C. in C. Plymouth, 0213A/23 to TANATSIDE, VIOLET,  
 and WENSLEYDALE.)  
 CHICHA 2. Aircraft report 2 trawlers in 049° 04' N. 010° 11'  
 W. St. Albans Head 0515.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 0703A/23 to TANATSIDE, etc.)  
 Two Spanish Trawlers. Positions.  
 (A/C 0845/23, 0909/23, 0914/23, 0937/23 to 19 Group.)  
 Your 1437 part 2. Have intercepted and boarded Spanish  
 trawlers SANTANDER F. 1426 L.3 and SANTANDER F. 1371 L.3 in  
 48° 48' N. 10° 10' W. at 1120Z/23. TANATSIDE in company.  
 (VIOLET, 1205Z/23 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
 Trawlers have been released. Am continuing search until  
 further orders. TANATSIDE not now in Company. My fuel  
 remaining 30%.  
 (VIOLET, 1540Z/23 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
 VIOLET met. Searching over Great Sole Bank and then  
 proceeding Plymouth.  
 (TANATSIDE, 1550A/23 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
 Proceed to Londonderry.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 2215A/23 to VIOLET.)

Coastal My 1115A/22. "Match" arrived at 0840.  
 Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0902A/23)  
 1. Intend M.G.B.s 54 (S.O.) and 56 to patrol  
 tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W.  
 and 02° 05' W. 2. Leave Weymouth at 1845 via Q.Z.S. 382 for  
 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, 1021A/23.)  
 M.G.B. 613 (S.O.) 608 from Newhaven carry out anti-E Boat  
 patrol 10 miles south of convoy route between longitudes of C.2  
 and C.3. returning to harbour after C.E. 156 has left Portsmouth  
 command. M.T.B. 85, 242 short notice Newhaven. M.G.B.54, 56  
 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 1° 30' W. and 2° 05' W.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1109A/23.)  
 F.N.52, F.N. 46, and Destroyers on patrolare to keep 1½  
 miles East Centre Line of Channel between number 3 and number 4  
 Buoy.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1548A/23)

/UREDD...

War Diary.

23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

UREDD. UREDD should have left her patrol North of Lofoten/s for Lerwick A.M. 20th February at the latest and reported her position 48 hours later on crossing latitude 068° N. Nothing has been heard from her. Recent bad weather may have caused W/T failure, it is therefore possible she may arrive Lerwick unheralded. Bombing restrictions are to be extended by Capt. (S) 9. (F.O.S. 1112A/23 to A.C.O.S.)  
Report your P.C.S. forthwith.  
(F.O.S. 1656A/23 to UREDD).

Operations V.P. Your 1915/22. This will be done, but Air Co-operation provided must necessarily depend on availability of aircraft and other, possibly prior, commitments of H.Q.18 Group. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1130A/23 to A.C.O.S.)

Sweep off Dutch Coast. My 1304/22. Owing to breakdown of M.T.B. 621 orders were modified. 3 M.T.Bs. carried out sweep from Hook to Ijmuiden. No shipping seen. (C. in C. Nore, 1604A/23 to Admy.)

Anti Shipping Patrol. M.T.Bs. 204 (S.O.), 203, 231 and 202 are to leave Dartmouth at 1830/23 for St. Malo area passing through positions:-  
(Q) 294° Roches Douvres 13 miles. (R) 076° Roches Douvres 8 miles to position. (S) Frebel L.T. 12 miles. Speed not to exceed 20 knots. (2) Force is to remain in vicinity of (S) until about 0200/24. Object. To attack enemy shipping on coastal passage. (3) On return passage S.O. has discretion to return by reverse route or to pass South of Barnouic and thence to Dartmouth being within 20 miles of our coast by first light. (4) Codeword "Wheel". (6) Latest intelligence. 6 E-Boats at Cherbourg. One E-Boat at Le Havre. Two T.Bs. at Le Havre. Two or three T.Bs. at Brest.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1619/23 and 1755/23.)

Operation "Yorker". D day postponed to Thursday 25th. (A.C.O.S. 1845/23 to C. in C. Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

TAKU Patrol. TAKU has been ordered to patrol vicinity 044° 10' N. 010° 30' W. remaining there until about 28th February.  
(F.O. Gibraltar pass to REGENT.  
(F.O.S. 2152A/23 to F.O. Gibraltar.)



23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Force "Grenadine". For Chiefs of Staff from Head of Mission. Your 1250/22. Role of "Grenadine" and operational control of Force as set out in O.Z.526 has just been explained to Russian Admiralty by Group Captain Cheshire and myself. 2. Soviet D.C.N.S. stated that they cannot accept any principle of non-Soviet operational control of any forces operating in Russia and therefore Soviet must refuse to accept force "Grenadine". 3. When asked to explain difference between accepting "Orator" last year and "Grenadine" this year D.C.N.S. stated he was interested only in organization and operational control of proposed force and not in difference between past and present. 4. In reply to question D.C.N.S. said that if Force were under their operational control following role would be allotted to "Grenadine": (A) Protection of Allied convoys en route to and from Russia. (B) Attack of German sea communications. 5. Russian decision must be accepted as final unless we agree to their demand for operational control or if we threaten to stop convoys on the grounds that Russian Air Forces alone cannot provide adequate protection. 6. Request immediate instructions as advance party and stores arrive Kola Inlet in two days time.

(30 Mission, Moscow, 1110Z/23 to Air Ministry.)

Owing to misunderstanding which Russians allege has arisen over role and operational control of proposed R.A.F. torpedo force following ruling has now been obtained from Chiefs of Staff. (A) Role. To protect Allied convoys en route to and from Russia. (B) Operational. Control by coastal command through local R.A.F. Commander who has to co-ordinate his operations with those of British surface forces. 2. This ruling communicated to-day to Soviet Admiralty in Reply Russians said they would not accept any force for operation in Russia which was not under their operational control and that they therefore refuse proposed fighter aircraft torpedo bombers thus reversing their previous decision. 3. Latest Russian decision has been signalled to Chiefs of Staff and next step rests with them. In the meanwhile R.A.F. personnel and stores due to arrive in J.W.53 must not be disembarked.

(Ad. Miles, 1314C/23 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Enemy Air Activity.

ABDIEL.

Have been shadowed by Focke Wolfe aircraft in 038° 21' N. 012° 21' W.  
(ABDIEL, 1540A/23.)

A/C engaged by JEANIE DEANS on 20th February.

A belated report just received from JEANIE DEANS, shows that at 1959/20, that vessel when anchored in No. 47 position (near B.6A Buoy) engaged two low-flying enemy A/C with all armament. Aircraft passed over ship at about 800 ft. and one is thought to have been hit, as violent avoiding action was taken. The aircraft which were twin engined thought to be Dorniers, disappeared in an Easterly direction.  
(X.D.O. Sheerness, 1550A/23.)

870

23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Off Beachy Head. My 1255/22. At 1248/22 one magnetic Mine exploded by Sweepers in 50° 41' 00" N. 00° 23' 52" E. Details.  
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1043/23.)

Operation Q.U.7. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.U.(7) tonight. 2. Supporting force, one unit 8th M.G.Bs. After operation has been completed M.G.Bs. have freedom of action to intercept returning E boats. 3. Diversionary Force available M.T.Bs. to carry out an offensive patrol between the Hook and Scheveningen timed to commence 1/2 hour before M.Ls. reach position for Q.U.

(C. in C. Nore, 1052A/23 to BEEHIVE.)

My 1802/26th November add (6) Q.U. (7) 052° 14' 30" N. 004° 16' 00" E.

(C. in C. Nore, 1108A/23 to BEEHIVE.)

Iceland C.M. Fields. Your 2212A/2. ALCA and RINGDOVE will arrive Iceland about 1st April for laying the C.M.Fields at Seydisfjordur and Eyjafjordur.  
(D.T.M., 1318A/23 to A.C.I.C.)

Yarmouth. L.L. Sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine at 1350 in 050° 3A Buoy 1/2 mile.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1425A/23, M/S Lowestoft 1940A/24.)

LL Sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine at 1517, 050° 3A buoy 1/2 mile.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1539A/23)(M.S. Lowestoft, 1942A/24)

Enemy Intelligence.

M/V A.10. Photographs at 1215/21 shows:- Danzig. Merchant Vessel A.10 in floating dock at Danziger Werft damaged. Last seen Gydnia.  
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 1920A/23.)

U-Boats.

Ships attacked. SSSS 260° class 2.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 0624/23 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

U-Boats reported. Preliminary D/F bearings at 0138Z/and 045Z. Suggest U/Bs may be reporting you now.  
(D.D.I.C. 0704A/23 to Escorts O.N.167.)  
Am investigating wake or swirl in 49° 32' N.

06° 43' W.

(A/C 304 Sqdn. Duty H. 1036/23 to 19 Group.)

U-Boat attacked (BERN) My 1023A/18. Consider the object seen and attacked by BERN on 19th February was non-sub. and that contacts by other vessels subsequently were also non-Sub.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1945A/23 to C. in C.W.A.)

23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- FINLAND. Departure rescue tugs DIVERSION and DAPPER to assistance of S.S.FINLAND in vicinity of 57B buoy.  
(Convoy F.S.45.)  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0025A/23.)  
Tow parted, am awaiting tug. FINLAND in 158° 57' B. Buoy 2.1 miles. 57 B. Buoy extinguished.  
(GUILLEMOT, 0235A/23 to C. in C. Nore.)  
Escort tow to Yarmouth. Tugs should arrive at daylight.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0423A/23 to GUILLEMOT)  
Following from Salvage Officer Gt. Yarmouth. FINLAND anchored in roads. Propeller lost or all blades broken off close to Boss. No spare propeller on board. Suggest soonest possible tow destination.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2210A/23.)
- PYTCHLEY. The 190 tons of oil fuel received from SHEFFIELD proved to be contaminated and would not burn. I returned Seidisfiord, Iceland and am discharging contaminated oil into oiler by ship(s) pump. My 1210A/21. Temporary repair magazine effected and asdic now efficient. Expect to sail for Scapa at 2000 today.  
(PYTCHLEY, 1007A/23 to R.A.D.)
- VIMY. Delayed by defects. See Shipping.
- Dinghy. Am over a dinghy in 046° 00' N. 012° 15' W. containing 3 live persons.  
(A/C 232 Sqdn. Duty N. 1156/23).
- SHEFFIELD. Your 2201/21. Request early indication of maximum time available for refit.  
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1259/23 to C. in C.H.F.)
- BEVERLEY. Arrived BEVERLEY with A/S defects.  
(Cdre. Londonderry 1550A/23.)
- MATCHLESS. MATCHLESS sailed for Rosyth to boiler cleaning and repairs to weather damage. Estimated date 3rd March.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 1832A/23 to C. in C.H.F.)
- ARIGUANI. My 1222/16 and Admiralty 1650/22. Destination ARIGUANI now Clyde. From position (m) proceed to 052° 00' N. 005° 28' W. then in accordance with Fleet notice to Mariners - 2161 (T) of 1942 route A. and by A.M.Q.Z.S. 259 and 53 to destination.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1849A/23 to ARIGUANI, SAMSONIA.)

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- J.W.53. C. in C. H.F. 0009/22 as amended by his 1244.  
Sailed at 1700/22.  
(A.C.I.C. 0200A/23 to H.F. Ops.)  
Departure Akureyri 1700/22 KING GEORGE V. HOWE, BERWICK,  
ONSLAUGHT, OFFA, METEOR, MUSKETEER, ICARUS, PIORUN.  
(A.C.I.C. 0354A/23.)  
Scapa arrival 1159 MIDDLETON.  
(A.C.O.S. 1221/23 to A.C.I.C.)  
Seidisfiord arrival HALCYON at 1200.  
(A.C.I.C. 1811A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)
- M.K.F.9. Convoy M.K.F.9 is due U.K. about 25/2 comprising  
the following troop transports:-  
(a) To Liverpool:- MONARCH OF BERMUDA,  
JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT. (b) To Tail of the Bank:- NEA HELLAS,  
EMPIRE PRIDE, WINDSOR CASTLE. As far as is known here, no  
personnel or cargo are on board the above vessels with the  
following exceptions:- EMPIRE PRIDE 132, NEA HELLAS 234,  
J.V. OLDENBARNEVELT 272.  
(D.S.T. 0208A/23.)
- O.N.167. E.T.A. 1130A/23.  
H.H. ROGERS. (ADHERENT 0215A/23 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)  
(Torpedoed Sailed CLEMATIS, ADHERENT.  
21st (Cdre. Londonderry, 1715A/23.)  
February.)
- TJALDUR. Your 1235A/20 and escort arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0715/23 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)
- GAIZKA. Panamanian GAIZKA in 043° 37' N. 012° 32' W. at  
0830A/23, course 000°.  
(WENSLEYDALE, 0900A/23 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- W.S.27 Sailed WOLVERINE in accordance with my  
and 1032A/21.  
K.M.F.10A. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1000A/23.)  
My 1122A/21 and my 1124A/21. Sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1330A/23.)  
Cancel my 1104/23 and substitute intend sailing WHITEHALL  
escorting STRATHMORE, 1700Z/24 for R/V 270°. Oversay 6 miles,  
E.T.A. 0900/25.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1732A/23.)  
Convoy delayed 24 hours. Proceed with Liverpool portion to  
Clyde.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1737A/23 to RAIDER.)  
My 1014A/22 and 1746A/22. Sailing delayed 24 hours.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1758A/23.)

/O.N.S.169...

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- O.N.S. 169. Sailed HIGHLANDER, BEVERLEY, ABELIA, ANEMONE, PENNYWORT, SHERBROOKE. Tankers BRITISH LADY and FLAGLER for O.N.S. 169. VIMY delayed by defects.  
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1125A/23.)  
After flare-trials are completed proceed at best speed consistent with weather conditions to fuel Iceland (C). Convoy will be rerouted to the northward. HIGHLANDER to rejoin on completion fuelling.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1642Z/23 to HIGHLANDER)  
Your 2023A/23. BEVERLEY sailing from Londonderry daylight 24th. On completion of trial proceed in accordance with my 1642/23. VIMY expected to sail within 48 hours.  
(C. in C.W.A. 2326A/23 to HIGHLANDER)
- K.M.S.10. Noon R/V 27th, 055° 32' N. 007° 31' W. 28th, 054° 07' N. 011° 28' W.  
(N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1529A/23 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)  
A.M. 0105/19. (1) A/S escort (a) from Clyde ST. CROIX S.O. (b) to join from Londonderry at Oversay R/V BURWELL, NAPANEE, BATTLEFORD, KENOGAMI, SHEDIAC. (2) Following ships will sail from Londonderry as additional escort FORT YORK, PARRSBORO, QUALICUM, WEDGEPORT.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1549A/23 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
A.M. 0105/19, para. 1. Destination of ATLANTIC COAST  
Bone. Delete GUDRUN MAERSK.  
(D.O.D. H. 1915A/23.)
- C.F.11. F.O.C.W.Af. 2221Z/16. Route from position X to 180° 6, 180° Lizard Head 3, and by Q.Z.G.278 to Plymouth. It is important that you should arrive in time to pass the gate at 0900/25.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1743A/23 to VALIANT.)
- Atlantic Convoy Escorts. H.X.228 S.C.122. A.M. 1635/20, A.M. 1650/23 and 1655/23. Request you will examine and report on the possibility of strengthening the Mid. Ocean escort of H.X. 228 and S.C. 122 either throughout or to eastward of Chop if we can get the U.S. to do so to the west of Chop. 2. Request you will report if you can spare a group to escort a special convoy to absorb the surplus shipping now in New York, estimated to be about 60 ships, giving date this could be sailed and effect it will have on the general problem.  
(A.C.N.S.H. 1921A/23 to C. in C.W.A.)  
Your 1921/23. Either scheme will necessitate postponing K.M.F.11 for about one week until PENN, PATHFINDER and PANTHER are ready. No other escort from W.A. Command will be available for their duty. (2) H.X. 228 and S.C.122 can be reinforced at Chop in about 035° W. using 40th and 2nd escort groups respectively. (3) Alternative to above, 40th group can sail on March 3rd direct to St. John's and leave there about 13th March to bring over a special addition to convoy. (4) The above is based on the assumption that para. 5 of your 1913/20 is adopted. (5) On the whole although it postpones the creation of 1st support grp. I favour the alternative in para. 3.  
(C. in C.W.A. 2316A/23 to Admty.)

/Support...

War Diary.

23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Conts.

Support  
Group  
Escort  
Carriers.

In order to increase the mobility of Support Group it is highly desirable that escort carriers should be capable of fuelling escorts and supplying them with depth charges. It is requested therefore that this matter may be given early consideration. The oiling equipment could be impermanent and need not be carried when carriers are not employed on Support Group duties.  
(C. in C.W.A. 2011A/23 to Admty.)

O.N.170,  
O.N.S.171.  
Escort  
Tankers.

Your 1855/12. The following 10 tankers should be available for sailing in O.N.170 or O.N.S.171 according to declared speeds. Names. 2. Request you will select two tankers from above for each convoy to sail with 600 tons furnace oil on board.  
(D.T.D. 2001A/23 to C. in C.W.A.)

LEINSTER,  
SARDONYX,  
VIDETTE.

My 1150/22. Sailed. E.T.A. 1400/26th.  
(A.C.I.C. 2025A/23 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Rescue-  
Tugs and  
Trawlers  
for  
North  
Atlantic  
Convoys.

The present scale of U-Boat attacks in the North Atlantic emphasises the pressing need for implementing the scheme of sailing Rescue Tugs with Convoys. The projected increase in the size of convoys will render this even more necessary. At present there are insufficient Tugs available to commence this scheme and no trawlers available to escort should the Tugs become available. 2. Of the tugs nominated in para. two of your 1302/16/1, GROWLER, GRIPER and DESTINY have not yet joined the command while the remainder are at present employed on various towing duties. 3. It is considered that two ocean-going tugs must be retained in W.A. Ports and one in Iceland before allocation can be made to convoys. 4. The removal of 8 Trawlers from my command in accordance with your 1619/21/1 took away the only readily available escorts. This was pointed out in my 1243/22/1 to Admiralty. 5. The removal of six more Trawlers in accordance with your 1332/19/2 though provided by reducing the Trawler escort with Russian convoys, removes the only possible alternative source from which Trawlers could have been provided for escorting Rescue Tugs. 6. It is requested therefore that immediate steps be taken to ensure that the necessary number of rescue Tugs over and above those mentioned in Para 3 are made available for Trans-Atlantic convoys and that Trawlers may be allocated to W.A. in proportion of one to each Tug as the latter become available.  
(C. in C.W.A. 2031A/23 to Admty.)

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M. 1750A/16th Feb.  
(1) No further reports of raiders or blockade runners but sailings and arrivals of blockade runners in Biscay anticipated in near future. (D.D.I.C., 1815A/23 to A.I.G.13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

REDOUBT. E.T.A. 1000Z/23rd. My P.C. and S. 036° 20' N. 010° 35' W., 137°, 20 knots.  
(REDOUBT, 0001Z/23 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)  
2½ hours late on my 0001Z/23rd. Stem and anti-submarine dome damaged by whale.  
(REDOUBT, 0950Z/23 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) V.A. Gib.)  
REDOUBT 0950Z/23. Sustained damage to stem and loss of A/S dome. Circulator inlet in boiler room leaking badly. All three defects necessitate docking. Intend effecting temporary repairs to make ship seaworthy passage Gibraltar. Further signal will be made giving date of completion. Request relief escort for U.S.A.T. JAMES PARKER departure date planned 26th Feb. (S.N.O.C.A., 1645/23 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

U.G.S.5. A.C.I. 28. Meet.  
(A) U.G.S.5, 44 ships, Task Force 35 U.S. Ships PARKER S.O., U.S. Destroyers LAUB, MOLEISH, OVERTON, BOYLE, MCLANAHAN.  
9 knots. 0800/24th. 114°, 34° 11', 09° 07'. On R/V being made escort Gibraltar and Oran portion 19, 50, 06, 10 thence Q.K.A. 87. Adjust speed to pass through 57 lettered C at 0900/25th thence through 28, 32 lettered D and E to Oran. E.T.A. 0900/26th.  
(B) Commodore Mediterranean section and Vice Commodore main convoy Commander Woodruff U.S.N. in U.S. MACDONOUA.  
(C) Stragglers (? route) as convoy route.  
(D) Detach SUN, SAN CIRILIO, SEMINOLE for Gibraltar.  
VENOMOUS, MOOSEJAW will be sailed to join you in R/V position at 0800/24th.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0050A/23 to VANOC, VERITY, VELOX, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.5, S.N.O. Casablanca Area, ZETLAND.)

QUADRANT. My P.C. and S. are 36.38 N. 10.31 W., 103°, 20 knots. E.T.A. 1330A. Acknowledge.  
(QUADRANT, 0100A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/AJAX ...

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

AJAX. Intend to sail AJAX for Bermuda at 1930/23rd routed through Q.K.A.87 thence (Q) 35.45, 06.35. (R) 35.01, 10.01. (S) 31.40, 15.01. (T) 30.01, 25.01. (U) 30.01, 40.01 thence to Bermuda S. of A. 18 knots.  
(2) Connav please pass to Port Director New York.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 0101A/23 to Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) C. in C. Med. (W), Connav, etc.)  
My 0101A/23. Sailed AJAX, Q.J.B.6.  
(F.O.C. Gib., 1936A/23.)

VALIANT. Following received from VALIANT by aircraft (begins). P.C. and S. at 2000Z/22, 41° 25' N. 13° 15' W., 000°, 13 knots. T.O.O. 1746Z/22 (ends).  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 0303A/23 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty.)

U.C. 1. Submarine in 032° 02' N. 024° 30' W. One ship  
ATHEL torpedoed.  
PRINCESS (WESTON, 0642Z/23.)  
torpedoed. U.C.1. ATHEL PRINCESS straggler torpedoed twice. Engine room flooded, cannot steam, but will probably remain afloat. Ship has been abandoned and left afloat 032° 00' N. 024° 35' W. details of survivors following. P.C. and S. 0900Z/23rd 031° 56' N. 025° 05' W., (? 258°), 10½ knots. (Weather report).  
(WESTON, 0840Z/23 to Admiral Gibraltar, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)  
ATHEL PRINCESS torpedoed. Captain considers ship beyond salvage and will sink before dark. 50 survivors picked up. Second Engineer killed, others seriously injured. P.C. and S. at 1400° 31.32 N. 26.735 W. (X) 258°, 10.25 knots, weather report.  
(WESTON, 13450/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)  
D/F bearings on 5650 k/cs at 0800Z, on 7640 k/cs at 0950Z, on 12260 k/cs at 1126Z and 1135Z indicate probably two U-Boats still in contact with convoy. Sighting report was made on 12260 k/cs at 1216Z.  
(D.D.I.C., 1345A/23 to Escorts U.C.1.)  
A.M. 1345A/23. Further transmission from vicinity of convoy on 12260 k/cs at 1240Z, 1256Z and a sighting report at 1305Z.  
(D.D.I.C., 1500A/23 to Escorts U.C.1.)  
2 submarines sighted, my P.C. and S. 031° 35' N. 026° 14' W., 258°, 10.25 knots.  
(WESTON, 1444Z/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar, B.A.D.)  
German U-Boats using 12260 k/cs series 3 probably reporting you at 1348 and 1302 G.M.T. Series 1 has also been used in your vicinity.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1452A/23 to Escorts U.C.1, (R) Admty.)

/Request ...



877

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U.C. 1. Request I may be informed whether you are able to  
 ATHEL send tug and escort to ATHEL PRINCESS.  
 PRINCESS (C. in C. W.A., 1530A/23 to F.O. Gibraltar, (R)  
 torpedoed. Admty., WESTON.)  
 (Contd.) WESTON 0840/23rd. Do not intend sailing rescue  
 tug as ATHEL PRINCESS is outside air range.  
 Furthermore escorts could only be provided at  
 expense of heavy commitments for cable ships and  
 coastal shipping.  
 (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1727A/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.,  
 C. in C. W.A.)  
 A.M. 1500A/23. Further sighting report at 1350Z and other  
 transmissions at 1431Z, 1536Z, 1605Z, 1650Z and 1827Z indicate  
 two or three U-Boats at least in your immediate vicinity.  
 (D.D.I.C., 2016A/23 to Escorts U.C. 1.)  
 U.C.1. At least 2 ships torpedoed P.C. and S. at 2121Z,  
 031° 10' N. 027° 31' W., 259°, 10 knots.  
 (WESTON, 2227Z/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.  
 Gibraltar.)  
 W.D. Note:- This signal cancelled, and details of ships  
 sunk, see WESTON 1201Z/25.

MACOMB. This is U.S.S. MACOMB 2200/22 addressed to S.O.P.  
 at Casablanca, Comnorwest Africa Seafron for  
 action and to Comtaskfor 36 and Comdesron 15 for  
 information.

E.T.A. of U.S.S. MACOMB off Casablanca breakwater 1100Z/23rd  
 Feb. Pilot with berthing instructions requested. 110,000  
 gallons fuel required.  
 (Comnavcu, 0742/23 to Admty.)

ROXBURGH My 2045/22nd at 0732 G.M.T. 22nd Motor Ship  
 CASTLE. ROXBURGH CASTLE sunk by submarine 038° 12' N.  
 026° 22' W. All safe and landed Ponta Delgada.  
 All C.Bs. thrown overboard.  
 (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0940/23 to Admty., (R)  
 S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001A/23rd.  
 REGINA patrolling off Lisbon.  
 2. U.G.S.5, C.T.F.35 (E) 33.51, 11.01 through  
 34.25, 09.45, 34.11 09.07 at 0800A/24th and  
 33.55, 07.53 thence Casablanca 9.3. (? Oran) section part  
 company 0800A/24th.  
 3. U.S. S/M BARB off Vigo on patrol.  
 4. ARCTIC RANGER, MIRROR working cables vicinity 36.12, 07.35.  
 5. (? COLUMBINE) off Tagus to R/V with 2 merchant ships at  
 2100/23rd and escort coastwise to Cape St. Mary's thence direct  
 to Gibraltar 8.  
 6. Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA 39.49, 11.52 through 37.01, 10.01  
 thence 111°, 11.  
 7. ADVENTURE 41.12, 14.18 through 39.30, 14.20 and 37.01, 10.02  
 thence 111°, 17.

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Dispositions. 8. ABDIEL 37.18, 10.30 through 37.01 10.02 and (Contd.) Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar 22.  
9. K.X.9 WISHART (A) 35.47, 07.43 through Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
10. O.S.43 Gibraltar section (? LIDDESDALE) 35, 50, 09 through Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
11. AJAX sails 1930A/23 through Q.K.A.87 thence 35.45, 06.35, 35.01, 10.01, 476, 231°, 18.  
12. VANOC, VERITY, VELOX vicinity 34.11, 09.07 to R/V U.G.S.5 at 0800/24th and escort Oran section 056°, 6.8.  
13. VENOMOUS searched from 1900/23rd. MOOSEJAW sailed (?07)00/23rd through Q.K.A.87 to join U.G.S.5 Oran section at 0800/24th.  
15. REGENT sailing 1400/24th through Q.K.A.87 and 35.49, 06.06 at 1800/24th thence 297° ?) dive by day 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , surface at night 10. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1133A/23, 1441A/23.)  
My 1133A/23rd add new para. 16. WOODSTOCK 035° 57', 006° 38' through 036° 43', 009° 05' thence 303°, 14.  
New para. 17. Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND passes Europa Point 0800/24th through (?Q).K.A.87 thence 290°, 13 (see amendment 2244/23)  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1730A/23.)  
My 1133A/23rd para. 17 for 0800/24th read 0300/24th.  
Add new para. 18. U.S. HORN, CHEROKEE sail Casablanca 0200/24th 309°, 15.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2244A/23.)  
Situation 2002A/23rd.  
R.S.1(Y) BIRDLIP 30.43, 11.43 through 28.28, 13.25 thence 215, 8.  
(2) M.K.S.8, BLACK SWAN 37, 29, Z, 23, 310, 9.  
(3) G.U.S.4, C.T.F.38, 33.35, 10.25, 220, 8.  
(5) O.S.43 PELICAN (E) 34.02, 12.28 through 34.01, 12.30 thence 175, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
(6) Portuguese Sloop AFONSO DE ALBUQUERQUE left Cape Verde Is. 21st for Lisbon.  
(7) BOADICEA 41.12, 14.18 through 39.30 14.20 and 37.01 10.02 thence 111, 17.  
(8) H.M. Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE 45.32, 14.01 through 45.01, 14.01 and 40.(?01), 13.01 thence 329, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
(9) H.M. Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA 39.49, 11.52 through 37.01, 10.01 thence 111, 11.  
(10) One tug, one ferry steamer 41.58, 12.30, 159, 7.  
(13) SPEY, ROTHER, sail p.m. 23rd from Casablanca to overtake O.S.(?177), 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1204A/23.)  
Add new para. 15 to my 1204A/23rd. U.S.S. CHEROKEE sailing 0200/24th from Casablanca 309°, 15.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 2242A/23.)

Santander, Following from B.N.A. Madrid. Observed Feb. 22nd intelligence. 2 (? small) Axis vessels waiting and one loading Povenena tip of Maclennan mine (as received). Could not identify. Please investigate via Davies. Observed OLGA just arrived Santander. (Santander, 1245/23 to Bilbao.)

/Have ...

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Santander, intelligence. (Contd.) Have now been informed further 6000 tons of ore are to be shipped from Requejada to Bayonne. (Santander, 1447/23 to N.A. Madrid, (R) D. of N.I., A.N.D. Bilbao.)
- Cadiz, Proposed Repatriations. C. in C. Med., 1730/23. See Mediterranean.
- THORSHOLM (mined 22nd February) Following received from VANOC. THORSHOLM hit mine in Straits of Gibraltar but is proceeding with G.U.S.4. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 1935Z/23 to Cominch, (R) Cinclant, Admty., C.T.F.38, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- Convoy S.R. 1. S.R.1 arrived (5 ships). (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1446/23 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) C. in C. Med., Admty.) Arrival PENTSTEMON, VETCH, LORD NUFFIELD escorting convoy S.R.1. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1547A/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., S.N.O.C.A., F.O.C.W.A.)
- OLGA. French departure OLGA sailed 1400 today presumably for Requejada. (Santander, 1451/23 to N.A. Madrid, (R) D. of N.I. and Bilbao.) W.R. Note: Passed to F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, and C. in C. W.A.
- QUADRANT. Arrival. (F.O. Gib., 1523A/23 to Admty.)
- S/Ms. (i) TRIBUNE, STURGEON and URSULA have been allocated to 7th S/M Flotilla for training duties on return to U.K. Their initial destination in U.K. will be Portsmouth to give leave. (ii) P.54 (UNSHAKEN) will return to 9th S/M Flotilla at Dundee. (F.O.S., 1523A/23 to Adm. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Portsmouth, Admty., C. in C. Med., Capt. S.3, Capt. S.9, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.7, Capt. S.5, S.O.(S) Gibraltar.)
- M.K.S. 8. WOODSTOCK sailed 1520 as additional escort to M.K.S.8. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1546A/23 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., (R) C. in C. Med., N.S.H.Q.)

/ZETLAND ...

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War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- ZETLAND. P.C. and S. 034° 49' N. 007° 52' W., 050°, 20 knots. E.T.A. Europa Point 2359.  
(ZETLAND, 1600A/23 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Capt. (D) Gibraltar.)
- T.F. 35 (escorting U.G.S. 5.) After R/V with British escort 34° 11, 09° W. 0700Z/25th plan to execute turn during day arriving 35° 00', 09.16 1900Z when setting course 134°, speed 8 arriving entrance to swept channel Casablanca 0700Z/25.  
(C.T.F.35, 1605Z/23 to S.N.O. Casablanca, Cdr. N.W. Africa Sea Frontier, C.T.F.22, C.T.F.36.)
- REGENT. Cancel my 1635/21. REGENT delayed with defective engine air compressor cooler, further signal will be made giving amended E.T.A. when known.  
(2) F.O.S. pass to last addressee.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1629A/23 to F.O.S., (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, S.5, Comsubron.)  
Note - W.R. has taken action on para. (2).
- K.X. 9. Convoy K.X.9 of 20 ships escorted by WISHART, COREOPSIS, COLUMBINE, JONQUIL, MAN OF WAR, LADY HOGARTH, E.T.A. Europa Point 0800A/24.  
Following embarked (details).  
(WISHART, 1700A/23 to F.O. Gibraltar.)
- U/B attack on O.N.166. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 1720/23, 2025/23 to U.S.S. CHEROKEE.)  
See America and West Indies.
- ROCKBURGH survivors. My 1718/22nd (SS. ROCKBURGH, requesting assistance for survivors). Portuguese (D) LIMA carried out search but 64 survivors had already arrived Ponta Delgada.  
(N.A. Lisbon, 1743/23 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)
- WIVERN, damage. WIVERN was alongside WEYBURN when latter sank. 2. WIVERN was seriously damaged in subsequent explosions. Further signal will be made.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1855A/23 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
- Movements. Arrivals - 7 0830 KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, ESPIEGLE, CIRCE, VENOMOUS, CADMUS from Oran.  
0955 U.S.S. P.C.471, 474, 481 with C.G.13.  
1410 LOCH OSKAIG, ST. NECTAN escorting Cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER.

/Departures ...

War Diary.

23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements.  
(Contd.)

Departures - 1330 U.S.S. P.C.471, 474, 481 for Casablanca. 1318 MOOSEJAW. 1920 VENOMOUS to R/V U.G.S.5 as additional escort to Oran Section. 1915 CIRCE, ESPIEGLE, ALBACORE, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR on M/S sweep west.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2002A/23 to Admty., C. in C. Med.(W), Cominch.)

M.K.S.8.

Your 1823/22nd (requesting composition of M.K.S. 8 and escorts). 60 ships escorted by BLACKSWAN, LUNENBURG, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, F.S. LA MALOUINE, AUBRETIA, PORT ARTHUR, WOODSTOCK, BOREAS, latter to prudent limit of endurance.  
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2250A/23 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., Escorts of Convoy M.K.F.9, Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.8.)

War Diary.

25.2.1945.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Convoy D.C.10 Sailing telegram.  
(2) 0500Z/23rd.  
(4) 8 knots to East London thence 9 knots.  
(5) Coastal ref. 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay Z S.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0547Z/23 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy C.D 6 Sailing telegram.  
(2) 0630Z 23rd Feb.  
(4) 7 knots.  
(5) Coastal ref position Z S  
(6) F.S. COMMANDANTE DUBOC to Durban  
ST ZENO, LE TIGER 024° 30' W. JOHANNESBURG to  
Port Elizabeth.  
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 0812Z/23 to Admty. etc.)

Reports of Shipping Losses. Your 2035/3rd. I am still disturbed about the release to the press in London of information which has been treated here as secret.

(2) Following are recent examples:

(A) Sinking of LACONIA. American bomber on U-Boat towing lifeboats. In view of fact all signals on this subject were most secret details of this incident had been cut out of survivors stories.

(B) Articles by Daily Telegraph's Naval Correspondent which contained direct reference to activities of pack of U-Boats in Cape of Good Hope area.

(C. in C. S.A. 0926C/23, to Admty.)

PINTO My 1720Z/22nd. PINTO remained in convoy to Freetown.  
(R.A.W.A. 1001Z/23.) to Admiralty, repeated N.O. i/c Bathurst N.O. i/c Takoradi).

Dispositions. MONTE NARANCO under armed guard 26.28 19.30. to 29.00 19.00 thence 054° 6.  
DUNKERY about 26.28 19.30.

DESPATCH (?15).56 19.32. to Bathurst 19 SERGEANT GOUARNE Fr. Minelaying Sub. PERLE, ORFSAY M.L. 287 shore convoy 16.50 16.34. to 18.27 16.25 thence 327 6.5.

ADMIRAL MOUCHE F.S. Minesweeper GAZELLE F.S. Minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE escorting about 10.01 15.08 to Freetown 7.

(R.A.W.A.F. 1149Z/23 to A.I.G. 149)

BELLWORT (?F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU) with S.T.56 - 04.49 05.26 to Lagos 13.

THYME - 02.25 02.06 to Takoradi 12.

ST. WISTAN - escorting about 04.00 05.40 East to Eastward 4.

DRANGEY - 01.13 South 07.36 East 170 10

PICT - about 04.00 07.30 to Takoradi 9.

COMMANDANT BORY - escorting off Cape Three Points to West coastal 6.

CYCLAMEN off Takoradi 101 12.

(R.A.W.A.F. 1212Z/23 to A.I.G. 150)

Convoy D.C 10 031° 40' South 030° 10' East to Capetown 8.

/CARNATIC...

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions (Contd.) CARNATIC with C.D.5 032 degs. (?001) South 029 degs. 40' East to Durban 8.  
NORWICH CITY (?033 degs.) 30' South 028° 50' East to East London 8.

CERES, CILICIA, QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH, RACEHORSE with W.S 26 034 degs. 15' South 026 degs. 20' East to Durban 12.5  
CHALLENGER 034 degs. 30 South 024 degs. 45' East to Capetown 10.  
COMMANDANT DUBOC, ST. ZENC, LE TIGER, JOHANNESBURG with C.D.6 (?034 degs.) 55' South 019°. 30' East to Durban 8.  
STELLA POLLARIS, COVENTRY CITY, with N.C.029 degs. 40' South 016 degs. East to Saldanha Bay 7.5. H.M.S. HERO 029 degs. 15' South 032 degs. 30' East to Durban 18.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1151C/23 to A.I.G.125.)

CATTERICK Capetown arrival 23rd.  
(C. in C S.A. 1232C/23 to Admty. Com. Durban, C. in C. E.F.)

C.D.6. Simonstown departure 1353C/23 COMMANDANT DUBOC escorting C.D.6. to Durban. E.T.A. 27th Feb.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1409C/23 to Admty. Cmdre, Durban, C. in C.E.F., F.N.F.L. London).

U/B Your 0600/21. QUEEN ANNE.  
attacks Details of attack given in my 2326/12.  
QUEEN ANNE (A) and (B) My 1116/12/refers.  
HELMSPEY. (C) No air cover at time of attack.  
(2) HELMSPEY.  
Details of attack given in S.O.I. Capetown's 1706/16 (to C. in C.E.F. only.)  
(A) My 1030/11 refers (to C. in C. E.F. only)  
(B) Unescorted. Ship out of position because of non receipt of diversion signal ordering her to Saldanha Bay.  
(C) No.  
(C.C.S.A., 1446C/23, to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty.)

M.A.R.I. Your 1223/22 (re M.A.R.I. amendment) M.A.R.I. Section I para.7C sets out only general principles of routeing.  
2. A.M.1945/11 Dec. was replaced by A.M.1143/15 Jan. Such signals are promulgated from time to time depending on U-boat situation and are not brought into M.A.R.I.  
(D.T.D. 1455A/23 to N.C.S.O. Freetown (R) F.O.C. West Africa.

HILDESAY My 1731/21st HILDESAY returned to Durban with defects.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1701C/23 to Admty, C. in C. S.A. C.in C.E.F., N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, F.O.Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

/RANGITIKI...

23.2.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- RANGITIKI. S.L. 127, your 1901/21st RANGITIKI accepts.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1749Z/23 to B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro. (R) F.O.C.W.A. Admty. C. in C.S.A. B.A.D. Cominch.)
- DUNKERY,  
MONTE  
NARANCO. My position 1800Z/23rd 025° 46' N. 019° 40' W.  
Have not sighted MONTE NARANCO or Aircraft.  
Defective firebars giving trouble, have now used all spares, if any further collapse speed will be reduced to 6 knots. Request instructions.  
(DUNKERY 1820Z/23 to N.O.I.C. W.Af.)
- B.Y.M.S. Am informed by C.G.S. that Union Govt. has agreed through Union High Commissioner in London to waive its acceptance of 5 B.Y.M.S. shortly available for delivery in U.S.A. and that S.A.N.F. crew there are being returned to South Africa.  
2. B.A.D. Washington's 0217/20 Feb. not to Admiralty has stated vessels may be ready for passage early April and has requested names for ships be cabled. Request Admiralty will issue instructions.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1826C/23 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. D.S.A.N.F.)
- Movements,  
Takoradi. Arrival 23rd Feb. CYCLAMEN, ORBITA, departure CYCLAMEN Boma 27th Feb. French Ship COMMANDANT BORY, and M.L. 1018 Freetown March 2nd.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1845Z/23 to Admty. F.O.I.C. West Africa, R.N.O. Lagos.)
- BURDOCK. Shall be ready for sea 1000Z/25th. Fuel stocks remaining 75 tons. Request instructions.  
(BURDOCK 2109Z/23 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Comar Dakar.)  
Your 1006Z/23rd. (N.T. in W.D.) C.O. R.A.F. unable to supply aircraft until 0730Z/24th. Request any data which may have been received of MONTE NARANCO. Only means of communication between aircraft and ship 8450 k/cs day 6610 k/cs night. Suggest datum be 27 N. and 20 W. Request yours and R.A.F. approval and DUNKERY's estimated position and course at 1100Z.  
(BURDOCK 1823Z/23 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) DUNKERY.)
- DESPATCH. Leave Bathurst a.m. 26th Feb. to patrol to limit of endurance in area between position A 006° N. 021° W. B. (?099°) 022° C. 003° 020° D. 004° 019° proceed to Freetown on completion.  
Report P.C. and S. and E.T.A. on leaving patrol area.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 2021Z/23 to DESPATCH (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty. Com. Dakar, Comsolant.)  
(See F.O.C.W.A. 1620Z/26 to DESPATCH.)

/M/S...



23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

M/S and A/S  
vessels for  
South  
African  
Ports.

Your 1913/5, para. 2. Basis of correspondence between First Lord and Waterson has been that programme depends upon Union Govt. approval. It is, therefore, considered that Union Govt. should assume full responsibility for purchase, maintenance and manning and you should now tell D.S.A.N.F. this.

2. For your own information, if Union is unwilling to incur initial purchase, but willing to undertake maintenance and manning, we should still provide necessary vessels in order to give protection to Imperial shipping. You should, however, refer to Admty. for further instructions if Union unwilling to purchase. 3. Your para. 3. This will be arranged.  
(Head of M (II) 2038A/23 to C. in C.S.A. (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.W.A.)

MATAROA,  
ARAWA.

M.O.W.T. has requested first priority inclusion S.L. 126 of MATAROA and ARAWA from Montevideo and has instructed their representative to sail ships short of part cargo to ensure inclusion. 2. Less important ships should be excluded from convoy if necessary.  
(D.T.D. 2102A/23 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

LLANASHE  
survivors.

Survivors ex LLANASHE picked up in 034° 51' S. 023° 50' E. C. in C.South Atlantic's 2218/21 refers.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 2202C/23 to Admty. C. in C.E.F.)

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy M/V. One small M/V under 2000 tons. Position 37.45 N. 12.15 E., course 090°, speed 10 knots. (A/C FCL/T, 0554/23 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Movements, Beirut. 22nd Feb. arrival M.L. 355, 357, 384. Departure M.L.384. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 0845B/23 to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, ? Tripoli. Feb. 22nd arrived M.Ls. 135, 168 departed WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY, BURGONET, T.L.C.153, 100. (S.O. 3rd C.S., 0810A/23 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Malta.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrived 22nd Feb. ROMNEY, POOLE, SOUTHERN MAID. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0910B/23 to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

WHEATLAND, BICESTER. My 0943/23rd (N.T. in W.D.) Request you will sail WHEATLAND when ready to relieve BICESTER who is then to return harbour. (C. in C. Med., 1125A/23 to Cdre. Algiers, (R) BICESTER, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, WILTON.)

Censorship. 1. A joint postal, telegraph, radio and telephone Censorship Committee composed of 4 American or British members and 4 French members has been established under provisions of an agreement signed Feb. 13th, supplementing article 20 of the agreement of Nov. 22nd, 1942. (Details). (Algiers, 1201Z/23 to Agwar for action to Etousa for information.)

AMERICA PRESS. Your 0714A/22 (W.R. signal calling for clarification of 1738/17.) No record here of 1738/17 which is believed mistaken reference. My 1820/17 was intended clarifying message. AMERICA PRESS sailed in convoy at 1256Z/16 Feb. Arrived Casablanca as straggler from U.G.S.4 on 1st Feb. (Comorseafron, 1325A/23 to Admty.)

RORQUAL, SAFARI, SPLENDID. 1. RORQUAL from Malta pass position H at 0600/24th to operate in the vicinity of Marittimo retiring at night to N.W. and returning to Malta passing H at 1800/26th. 2. P.211 (SAFARI) from West pass 038° 12', 012° 00' at 2300/25th and is then to patrol between 038° 00' and 038° 42' and longitude 012° 30' and 014° 00'.

/P.211 ...

War Diary.

23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

RORQUAL, P.211 (SAFARI) and RORQUAL may possibly encounter  
SAFARI, each other on night 25th/26th.  
SPLENDID. 3. P.228 (SPLENDID) is to patrol between latitude  
(Contd.) 038° 50' and 039° 20' and longitude 012° 00'  
and 014° 00' from 2300/25th until ordered to  
leave patrol p.m./27th.  
(Capt. S.8, 1430A/23 to 8 S.F., RORQUAL, (R) S.10)

Air Forces, Personal for C.A.S. from Tedder.  
N.W. Africa, Agree no further Directif necessary.  
Organisation. Organisation of Air Forces in N.W. Africa has  
been agreed with Eisenhower and is being  
implemented. Directifs have been issued.  
Copies in post for Air Ministry.  
(a) H.Q. N.W. African Air Forces. Commanding  
General - General Spaatz. Deputy - A.V.M. Robb.  
(b) N.W. African Tactical Air Force. A.O.C. - A.M. Coningham.  
Deputy A.O.C. - Brig. (? Chuter). Under A.O.C. Tactical Air  
Force comes:- 242 Group - A/Cdre. Cross. 12th Air Support  
Command - Brig. Williams. Western Desert Air Force - A.V.M.  
Broadhurst.  
(c) N.W. African Strategic Air Force. A.O.C. - Maj.-Gen.  
Doolittle.  
(d) N.W. African Coastal Air Force. A.O.C. - A.V.M. Lloyd (not  
yet arrived).  
(e) N.W. African Training Command. A.O.C. - Brig. Cannon (at  
present commanding bomber).  
(f) N.W. African Air Service Command. A.O.C. - Brig. Dunton.  
Malta now under operational control of my Headquarters, but  
Malta and Western Desert continue to be administered by H.Q.  
R.A.F. Middle East. Transfer of personnel from Eastern Air  
Command and Twelfth Air Force to new formations is in hand and  
new formations are functioning, but complete change-over will  
take time.  
(Med. Air Command, 1445Z/23 to Air Min.)  
Received from Air Ministry 24th Feb.

E.A.C. Opsum No.104. 1800 hours 21st Feb. to 1800 hours  
Report. 22nd Feb. Day 22nd. A surfaced U-Boat sighted  
and attacked with 3 depth charges dropped from  
450 feet, results not observed so baiting tactics  
adopted but without result.  
(E.A.C. Africa, 1500A/23.)

Bi-Weekly Feb. 21st. 6 Marauders each with 4 x 500 lb. H.E.  
Opsum No. and 3 torpedo Marsuders despatched to attack ship-  
102, Part 3, ping Melos Island, north of Crete. Torpedo  
Feb. 21st. aircraft attacked 2 M/Vs 5000 and 4000 tons  
respectively. 1 hit on larger vessel which blew  
up and sank, second vessel hit twice and set  
on fire. ? Third vessel straddled by bombs but

/detailed ...

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Bi-weekly detailed results unobserved. 2 Marauders bombed  
Opsum No. landing ground and harbour building without  
102, Part 3. observed results. 1 Marauder jettisoned, 2  
(Contd.) missing. Night 21st/22nd Feb. about 25 enemy  
aircraft bombed Tripoli in 2 formations no damage  
to harbour or shipping reported, 3 other ranks  
injured. 1 Beaufighter up for first raid, no  
interceptions. 1 enemy bomber reported shot down in sea by A.A.  
fire, investigations proceeding. 3 Beaufighters, 4 Hurricanes  
up for second attack. 2 Ju.88s shot down, 1 damaged by Beau-  
fighters, 3 Ju.88s shot down, 1 probably destroyed by A.A.  
defences.  
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1527Z/23.)

Algiers To: Eaker and Brereton. From: Spaatz. Signed:  
Air Report. Eisenhower.  
N.W. African Air Force Operations, Daily  
Intelligence Cable, 22nd Feb. 1. 6 B.25s  
escorted by 10 P.38s attacked shipping between  
Tunisia and Sicily. 4 1-2 tons of bombs dropped from 150 feet  
at 1150 hours. 1 large freighter sunk.  
(Allied Air Force, 1544Z/23 to Etousa.)

SARACEN. Intend sailing P.247 (SARACEN) to Malta for  
docking and patrol leaving at 1800/25th routed  
through 038° 19' 003° 44' at 0315/26th, 038° 19'  
011° 16' at 1800/28th thence through G to pass H  
at 0001/1st March, thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.  
(Capt. S.8, 1546A/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, Capt.  
(S) 10, Subs. on Patrol, Cdre. Algiers.)

Malta Sailed M.T.Bs 307, 315.  
M.T.Bs. (V.A. Malta, 1646A/23 to Admty., C. in C. Med.,  
S.O.I.S. Bone.)  
My 1646A/23rd. M.T.B. 307, 315 returned owing  
to engine trouble.  
(V.A. Malta, 1814A/23.)

Movements, 23rd Feb. Port Said departures PANTHER, BURRA.  
Port Said. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1726B/23 to Admty., etc.)

Proposed French have asked to send two ships to Cadiz to  
Repatriations, embark 1500 non-clandestine refugees. Stated  
Cadiz. that they have agreement of Spanish Government  
to do this. They intend embarking refugees and  
then returning to Oran via Gibraltar. Ships  
chosen are SIDI BRAHIM and GOUVERNEUR GENERAL

LEPINE. Ships are now at Gibraltar awaiting information of  
date when refugees will be ready. Request confirmation that  
there is no Foreign Office objection to this transaction before  
ships are permitted to go to Cadiz.  
(C. in C. Med., 1730A/23 to Admty., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar.)  
Reply: Admty. 1759/3.

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- G.U.F.5. Intend sail Oran section at 1300A/25 (list).  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1740A/23 to C. in C. Med.)
- E.T. 12. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Intend to sail following  
ships, (list).  
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1744A/23 to C. in C.  
Med., F.O.I.S., F.O.I.C. Oran, etc.)
- O.S. 43. A.M. 1851/17. Add to list of ships that did  
not sail in O.S.43 - SS. GENERTON.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1854A/23 to C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C.  
Gibraltar.)

U/B  
believed  
sunk.  
U.443 sunk

~~WHEATLAND~~

BICESTER, LAMERTON and ~~WILTON~~ operated with  
aircraft in a U-Boat hunt from 10 p.m. 20th  
until 1 p.m. 23rd about 35 miles W. of Algiers.  
Wreckage was examined and it is considered that  
the U-Boat was sunk.  
(D.O.R., 1287 - no signal in W.D.)

Malta Air  
Report. A.I.521, 23rd Feb.  
Night 22nd/23rd Feb. Successful intruder sorties  
were made. 4 intruder Mosquitoes were airborne  
2 patrolling Sfax-Sousse area and Western  
Sicily to cover out shipping strike, 1 patrolling  
East coast of Toe of Italy and 1 patrolling West coast of Toe  
of Italy.  
In Pizzo Harbour a small steamer was attacked and damaged. 1  
Mosquito sent to attack. 2 special equipment Wellingtons and  
7 torpedo carrying Beauforts made armed search for shipping in  
Marittimo - Palermo area. Serius A.S.V. jamming was experienced.  
1 Beaufort found 0414 hours 38° 10' N. 13° 24' E. one D/R course  
160°, 12 knots and attacked with 1 torpedo but no results were  
observed. Same Beaufort found 0454 hours one M/V 800 tons 37°  
45' N. 12° 14' E., course East, 10 knots and attacked with  
machine gunfire scoring strikes on bridge and superstructure.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1935/23.)

Movements,  
Oran. Arrivals NASTURTIUM, CONVULVULUS, BADDECK, MISOA.  
Departures CONVULVULUS, BADDECK, BURNHAM, L.C.I.  
99, L.C.I. 242, L.C.I. 243, L.C.I. 247.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2002A/23 to Admty., etc.)

Movements,  
Algiers. Algiers arrivals AVONVALE in tow of EMPIRE GNOME  
M.L.295, L.C.T.135. Departures L.C.Ts. 170, 160,  
164, Dutch submarine DOLFIJN.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2031A/23 to Admty., etc.)

/Benghazi ...

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Benghazi, Sailed HYACINTH, PROTEA, KINGSTON CRYSTAL.  
Movements. Arrived M.L.349, BEVER, T.L.C.138.  
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2042B/23 to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. Levant.)

O.S. 44, Desired to include in O.S.44 few ships which  
S.L.127. will be unable to sail in K.M.S.10. Convoy will  
be routed similarly to O.S.43 and C. in C. Med.  
is requested to say whether an escort can be  
provided to meet and take these ships to

Gibraltar.

2. Both O.S.44 and S.L.127 may comprise up to a maximum of 60  
ships at any stage of the voyage provided that the scale of escort  
now contemplated for these two convoys, namely three sloops and  
four corvettes is not reduced in meantime.

(D.T.D., 2105A/23 to C. in C. Med., F.O.C.W.Af., (R) F.O.C.  
Gibraltar.)

Reply: Escorts can be arranged.  
(C. in C. Med., 1153/24.)

Movements, Feb. 23rd arrived NUBIAN, JAVELIN. Sailed NUBIAN,  
Tripoli. JAVELIN.  
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli, 2201A/23 to Admty.)

Movements, Arrived PETARD, ISIS.  
Tobruk. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2217B/23 to Admty., (R) C. in  
C. Levant.)

Movements, Arrived BURGONET, CONFEDERATE, WHITEHAVEN,  
Malta. CROMARTY, T.L.Cs. 100 and 153.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2312A/23 to Admty., etc.)

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Movements. Arrival TULIP at 0300/23.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0326Z/23 to Admty.)  
Colombo arrivals 1115Z/23 SCOUT. Departures  
0130Z/23 OKAPI.  
(F.O. Ceylon, 1134Z/23 to Admty.)  
Left NORMAN, BURNIE.  
(F.O.E.A. and Zanzibar, 1151Z/23 to Admty.)

Shuttle Service. Your 0903/19th Feb. (Discontinuation of Shuttle Service from 15th Jan.) confirmed.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0530Z/23 to Admty.)

Moorings at Mauritius. A.M. 0123/21 refers. (1) It is confirmed that the 2nd class H. and S. moorings supplied for an oiling berth for cruisers at Port Louis are not now required. It has been ascertained that the existing moorings are suitably placed and of sufficient strength for this purpose. Moreover some improvement will be effected when the floating pipe line is lengthened. A.M.0039 refers. (2) It is understood that first class mooring gear is unlikely to be available for some time and it is therefore proposed to lay one of 2nd class moorings as the stern buoy for oiling berth in Hercules Bay Grand Port and to transfer the other to Kilindini where use can be made of it.  
(C. in C.E.F. 0558Z/23 to Admty. (R) F.O.i/c East Africa and Zanzibar, N.O.i/c Mauritius.)

B.P.69. Departure SUTLEJ, PUNJAB with B.P.69.  
(S.O.I.Bombay, 0717Z/23 to Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon. C. in C. E.F. S.N.O. Persian Gulf N.O.I.C. Hormuz.)

Convoy B.P.69. Sailing telegram. (2) 0730Z/23rd Feb. (3) Crossing 062° 0430Z/26th Feb. (3)(a) West of Quoin Is. 1530Z/27th Feb. (4) 10½ knots (5)(Route) (6) SUTLEJ.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0741Z/23, 0743Z/23 to Admty.)

Controlled Mining Programme. Your 1723C/20 and my 1326Z/12. 2. Until CORNCRAKE is replaced SPINDRIFT is the only controlled minelayer available to implement programme proposed for Diego Suarez and Mauritius. 3. It is most desirable that this should be proceeded with and it is proposed that SPINDRIFT should be made available for this duty returning to South Africa to be taken over by S.A.N.F. on completion.  
(C. in C.E.F., 0759Z/23 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty.) C. in C.S.A. does not concur. See his 0840C/26.

Japanese. M/V mined. Consul at Foochow confirms medium sized Japanese cargo vessel struck mine off Chuanghow 31 Jan. en route Hong Kong to Shanghai. Chinese-troops alleged to have (?captured) number of Formosan Sailors. Vessel sank on 6 Feb. when Japanese gunboat was standing by.  
(N.A. Chunking, 0950D/23 to C. in C. India (R) W.O.)

/Shuttle...

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East Indies.

Shuttle Service. Indian Ocean Shuttle Service discontinued as from Feb. 15th. Your 2045A/14 Jan. 43 and 0903A/19 Feb. 43 refer.  
(Com. R.I.N. 1011Z/23 to Admty., for D.T.D.(R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon.)

SOBKRA PERAK. Departure SOBKRA escorting PERAK to Res Al Hadd. (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 1033Z/23 to Admty., etc.)

Movements summary No. 43 23rd Feb. (1) MAURITIUS left Colombo 22nd E.T.A. Bombay 24th. (2) NORMAN left Kilindini 23rd for Durban E.T.A. 27th. (3) French Light Cruiser LEOPARD left Mauritius 22nd for Diego Suarez. (4) DEVONSHIRE escorting 1 ship left Fremantle 20th for Colombo E.T.A. 1st March. (5) ARETHUSA leaves Kilindini 24th for Durban. (6) ROTHERHAM leaving Kilindini 24th and escorting M.C.5 to Durban through Mozambique Channel. (7) KANIMBLA left Fremantle 17th escorting O.W.4 to 005° S. 074° 30' speed 12½ knots subsequently returns to Australia. (8) Netherlands Submarine O.24 due Colombo 26th from patrol. (9) TRUSTY on passage Australia to Colombo due 26th. (C. in C. E.F. 1217Z/23 to Eastern Fleet 211 Y., Admiralty, F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Aden.)

U/B D/F warnings at 1418Z/23 indicates possibility of Japanese Submarine in Northern most part of Bay of Bengal. Position indefinite but may be near 018° N. 090° E.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1722Z/23 to S. and A.E.I.S. (R) Admty.)



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Movements. STATE OF VIRGINIA (U.S.A.T.) arrived Port of Spain Feb. 20th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0056Z/23 to Admty.)  
New York arrived 21/2 from Norfolk L.S.T. 323.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1232Z/23 to Admty.)  
Arrival Vieuxfort 23rd USAT. (STATE OF VIRGINIA).  
(B.R.O. St. Lucia 1616Q/23 to Admty.)  
Bermuda arrivals U.S. Submarine R.16. U.S.S. MORENO.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 1912Q/23 to Admty.)  
Departures H.M.C.S. MALPEQUE WASAGE escorting H.J. 35  
M.Ls. 063, 062, 052 for St. Johns N.F.  
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 2125Z/23 to Admty.)

T.A.36 Your 1952/22. Cancel my 1133/22 and my 1837/22.  
(EMPRESS Alter course forthwith for new position W.  
OF SCOTLAND) 44.00 N. 31.00 W. thence direct to J.  
(D.O.D.(H) 0120A/23 to T.A.36 (R) C. in C.W.A.  
Connav, N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.Halifax, F.O.N.F.  
H.Q.C.C.)

Convoy T.A.36 comprising EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND sailed from U.K. 20/2 for New York.  
2. Details of personnel are being communicated by W.O. to Milstaff Washington and N.D.H.Q. Washington.  
3. Request report as soon as possible of anticipated date of sailing from New York on completion of repairs.  
(D. of S.T. 0207A/23 to B.A.D. B.M.W.T. New York (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Destroyers For Prime Minister from Deputy Prime Minister.  
for R.C.N. Begins - My telegram 26th January No. 18.  
I am sorry for delay in replying to your message.  
It has been due to a general survey of our escort forces. I fully sympathise with the R.C.Ns. shortage of destroyers, but, for reasons which you will understand, our present policy is to allocate new destroyers for service with the Fleet where air attack or offensive action with enemy surface units is probable. Replacement or reinforcement of ocean escorts has therefore, to be made from older destroyers released from Fleet by new construction or by United States-built "Destroyer Escorts". I understand that views of your Naval Staffs are that best plan would be for R.C.N. to take over some destroyers released from Fleet.  
2. I understand further that you might agree to allocate to Fleet work on this side of Atlantic 4 Canadian TRIBALS at present completing or building. If you could do this, it would not only ensure that these powerful vessels are used to fullest advantage against the enemy but would also make it much easier for us to release existing Fleet Destroyers for conversion to escort work. If you agree, I can say at once that, although our final refit programme has not yet been decided and we cannot look very far ahead, we can now offer 4 destroyers to R.C.N.  
3. GRIFFIN and DECOY are due to complete refit on 12th and 31st March respectively. If you would like to have them, it is important that Canadian crews be sent over to this country at

/earliest...

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Destroyers for R.C.N. (Contd.) earliest opportunity in order that the vessels should not be immobilised.  
4. Two further vessels of similar type will probably complete in May, and First Sea Lord will send details of completion dates as soon as these are available.

5. When refit programme has been clarified a further 2 similar destroyers may be available for transfer before end of 1943. Should this not be possible we should be glad to investigate transfer of the U.S.- built destroyer escorts.  
6. First Sea Lord is sending a separate signal to your C.N.S. Once the transfers have been agreed financial aspects could be discussed between Admiralty and Canadian Naval authorities.  
Ends.

(D.O. 0200/23 to Canada (Govr.) )

Personal from 1st S.L.

Your 1510/13. Prime Minister has offered your Prime Minister GRIFFIN and DECOY due to complete refit on 12th and 31st March respectively. If offer accepted request immediate arrangements be made to send Canadian crews to this country for commissioning and working up on this side.

2. Two further destroyers completing refit in May have also been offered.

3. Our refit programme has not yet been settled but it is hoped that two further destroyers may be made available in 1943. Failing this, we should be glad to investigate the question of transferring American destroyer escorts.

4. I will send a separate message about Escort Group Commanders. (Head of M (II) Approved 1st S.L. 1215A/23 to C.N.S.Ottawa.)  
Reply: 1642/25.

Attacks on O.N. 166. C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 0110/23 TENACITY will be sailed independently as quickly as possible. No ship available from St. Johns N.F. to escort her.  
(F.O.N.F. 0240Z/23 to C.C.T. 24. (R) C. in C.W.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

My 0240/23. TENACITY sailed St. Johns 0630/23.

(F.O.N.F. 0635Z/23 to C.M.O. E.T.U. 24.1.3. C.T.24.)

Request you sail TENACITY to assistance of CAMPBELL.

C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 2340Z/22.

(C.T. 24 0305Z/23 to C.C.N.F. (R) C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. DUNNOSE, C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17.)

In view of critical U-Boat situation this area have advised P.S.BURZA against taking CAMPBELL in tow (?until arrival) of (?tug).

(C.T.U. 24.1.3. 0325Z/23 to C.T.F. 24. C. in C.W.A.)

Detach SALISBURY and MONTGOMERY forthwith to proceed at best practicable speed to O.N. 166 reporting to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3 in SPENCER. Estimated P.C. and S. at 1200Z/23 46° 00' N. 38° 33' W. 254 9.

(C.T. 24 0353Z/23 to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.5., MONTGOMERY, SALISBURY.)

Your 0355 acknowledge. My P.C. and S. 053° 31' N. 044° 49' W. 042° 7½ (A). SALISBURY topped up yesterday and is proceeding now. MONTGOMERY fuelling at daylight then proceeding Weather report.

(C.T.U. 24.1.5. 0701Z/23 to C.T.F.24. (R) Connav, Admty. etc.)

/P.D....

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7  
 Attacks on  
 O.N. 166  
 (Contd.)

P.D.BURZA requested to inform me of extent of danger area and present condition of CAMPBELL. (C.T. 24 0405Z/23 to BURZA (R) Cinclant C.M.O.E. T.U. 24.1.3. CAMPBELL.)

Your 0405Z/23. Have you received M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3's 0415Z/23rd? (?CAMPBELL) has hole 15 feet long by 4 inches wide in engine room, which is flooded. Ship must be towed to port.

I am embarking prisoners survivors and some of crew in boats practicable immediate tow seems unlikely. Anticipate completing operation today and total may exceed 200. Fuel remaining at 0900Z Tuesday 50 per cent. Estimate midday Wednesday latest I can prudently remain. Passengers may total 200 (BURZA 1613Z/23 to C.T. 24 (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3.)

CAMPBELL reports BURZA present. Hole 15 feet long (?4) inches wide in engine room which is flooded. Ship must be towed to port. CAMPBELL has 50 survivors from (corrupt group) 25 NIELSON ALONSO Nor. (?N.)166. Also 13 prisoners.

(C.T.U. 24.1.3. 0415Z/23 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. H.Q.C.C. CAMPBELL.)

C.C.N.F. 0240Z/23rd. Suggest suitable ship of O.N.167 with escort proceed CAMPBELL to tow latter with BURZA screening. Escort to rejoin O.N. 167. If foregoing is impracticable reinforcement of suitable ship O.N. 166 proceed CAMPBELL for tow with Polish Destroyer BURZA screening.

(C.T.U. 24.1.3. 0500Z/23 to C. in C.W.A.)

O.N. No. 166. 5 warships remaining including ROSTHERN with ruptured steam line patched. Two U-Boats sighted 0717Z/22 and 0723Z/22 in approx. 048° 20' 030° 40' not previously reported. Attacked by CAMPBELL and DIANTHUS. Latter claims U-Boat destroyed.

(C.T.U. 24.1.3. 0508Z/23 to C. in C.W.A.)

Following has been read. S S S S DE G M H (Malin Head) Post Office Stn. From A P 63. (Presumed O.N. 166 Name unknown) Torpedoed port 0623/23.

(Burnham Radio No. T.O.O./23 Recd. 0627/23.)

Following has been received F 394. S S S S DE 1 F 21 (Presumed O.N. 166 Name unknown) torpedoed starboard De G C K 0646/23. Controlling station Valentia Radio. R.A.F. informed. Pass to Admiralty London, Admiral Liverpool from Burnham Radio. T.O.R. 0648 G.M.T./23.

(Valentia Radio No. T.O.O. Recd. 0812/23 to Admty. C. in C.W.A.) (A.C.O.S. 0751 B.S.T/23.)

Intercepted 0658 G.M.T. DE G.M.H. S S S S DE 41 (Presumed O.N. 166 name unknown.) Torpedoed 0655/23 from Niton Radio.

(Niton Radio 0758/23 to Adm. Portsmouth, R.A.F. No. 11 Group, Uxbridge.)

(A.C.O.S. 0801 B.S.T/23 to Admty. C. in C.W.A.)

Two intercepts U-Boat contact 012° 35' N. 070° 17' W. 1015Z/23 S.O.S. from unknown ship 014° 10' 068° 45' 1245Z/23. (Kingston 0832R/23 to Admty.)

S/M attack O.N. (?166) 0630Z/23 number 63 WINKLER torpedoed. 0656Z/23 number (?41 or 84) EULIMEA torpedoed port-side. 046° 48' 036° 18' 250° 8. One U-Boat (?sighted) astern (?and) (?attacked). One sound contact ahead U-Boat attacked.

(C.T.U. 24.1.3. 0755Z/23 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24, Admty. etc.)

/O.N. 166...

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1  
 Attacks on O.N. 166. Towing vessel and escort needed by  
 O.N. 166 CAMPBELL who reports vessel salvageable if  
 (Contd.) tow arrives. Polish Destroyer BURZA proceeding  
 but may not be able to tow.  
 (C.T.U. 24.1.3. 1001Z/23 to C. in C.W.A.)

Following for C.C.R.T. TENACITY sailed at 0630/23 from St.  
 Johns N.F. to assistance of CAMPBELL damaged in collision in  
 position 47° 00' N. 34° 07' W.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns 1329Z/23 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)  
 NANAIMO sailing St. Johns N.F. 2030Z/23 to overtake  
 TENACITY and to act as escort for TENACITY and CAMPBELL.

(C.C.N.F. 1351Z/23 1352Z/23 to CAMPBELL, TENACITY, (R)  
 BURYA C. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. C. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17 C.T.  
 24., C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.U.S.Fleet,  
 NANAIMO.)

My 0355Z/23. SALISBURY, MONTGOMERY report P.C. and S. and  
 days fuel remaining.

(C.T.F. 24 1409/23 to SALISBURY, MONTGOMERY, (R)  
 C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.5., C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3.)

Your 1409/23rd. P.C. and S. at 1730Z/23 054° 10' N. 043°  
 35' W. 140° 20 knots steering for CAMPBELL in view of delay  
 before oiling. Have 93% fuel remaining.

(MONTGOMERY 1730Z/23 to C.T. 24 (R) C. in C.W.A. BURZA, C.  
 M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.5. CAMPBELL, SALISBURY.)

Your 1408Z/23. (Presumably C.T.F. 24's 1409/23 intended re  
 SALISBURY's position course speed and fuel.) 051° 07' N. 044°  
 (12' or 38') W. 182° 19 knots. 5 dive at 15 knots.

(SALISBURY 1530Z/23 to C.T. 24. (R) F.O.N.F. C.T.U. 24.1.3.  
 MONTGOMERY.)

If circumstances dictate and C.O. CAMPBELL considers it  
 desirable remove excess personnel from subject ship. BURZA  
 endeavour to fuel from CAMPBELL if considered practicable and  
 remain with subject ship until fuel shortage requires departure  
 of BURZA.

(C.T. 24 1413/23 to BURZA (R) M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. CAMPBELL  
 C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.)

O.N. 166. W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8. SASKATOON (S.O.) QUESNEL,  
 KENORA, DRUMMONDVILLE will relieve you in 044° 13' N. 046° 43'  
 W. at 1600Z/25. LEAMINGTON sails 24 hours late and will assume  
 S.O. on joining.

(F.O.N.F. 1455Z/23 to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. (R) C.T. 24.  
 C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. Cominch, C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8.)

MARKEY requests permission to proceed independently.

Maximum 5 days fuel remaining today best speed 16 knots. Please  
 advise.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 1505Z/23 to Connav, (R) C.T.F. 24  
 Admty. etc.)

Your 1505Z/23rd. Negative.

(Cominch C. and R. 2118/23 to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. (R)  
 C.T. 24 Admty. etc.)

8 transmissions on 13768 k/cs by enemy S/M between  
 1136Z/23 and 1504Z/23.

(Cominch 1545/23 to Admty. (R) Ships Escorting O.N. 166,  
 C.T. 24, C. in C. Lant.)

SALISBURY proceed forthwith at best practicable speed to  
 assistance CAMPBELL with flooded engine room 47° 00' N. 34° 07'  
 W. BURZA in company with CAMPBELL. SALISBURY acknowledge.

(C.T. 24 1629Z/23 to SALISBURY, (R) C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3.

C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Cominch C. and R. C.C.N.F. C.O.A.C.  
 CAMPBELL, C. in C.W.A. BURZA.)

/Your...

899.

23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Attacks on Your 1629Z acknowledged. My P.C. and S. 050° 10' N. 044° 15' W. 117° 19 knots.  
O.N. 166. (SALISBURY 1805Z/23 to C.T. 24 (R) BURZA, C.C.N.F. (Contd.) C.O.A.C. Cin C. W.A.)  
Depart from Casablanca 0100Z/24 for assistance of CAMPBELL stopped with flooded engine-room 47° 00' N. 34° 07' W. Proceed Great Circle course speed of advance 15. Guard Gibraltar Fox until 020° west then N.S.S. Fox.  
(S.N.O. Casablanca 1720/23 to CHEROKEE (R) C.T.U.No. 26.7.2. C. in C.U.S.Fleet, C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. (W) CAMPBELL, Air H.Q. Gib.)  
Cancelled by 0915Z/24.

Additional ships torpedoed and sunk. Numeral 11 EMPIRE REDSHANK and numeral 21 EXPOSITOR about 2126Z/22nd. Numeral 12 HASTINGS and numeral 75 GLITTER about 0630Z/23. TRILLIUM has 155 EMPIRE REDSHANK, EXPOSITOR and CHATTANOOGA CITY. Understand (corrupt group) missing. CAMPBELL has 60 from NEILSON ALONSO Nor. none missing. DIANTHUS 101 survivors from GLITTER and WINKLER. CHILLIWACK 54 survivors from HASTINGS. Survivors not accounted for from numeral 41 EULIMA torpedoed 0656Z/23 in 46° 48' N. 36° 18' W.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 1820Z/23 to Connav, (R) C.T.F. 24. Admty. etc.)  
Ref. C. in C.W.A. 1001Z/23. Hole in engine room has increased mean draft 2 feet. Trim even no listing or further flooding. Situation from that angle under control. Consider only damage to be from U-Boats. Repairs should consist of patching hole and overhauling electrical auxiliaries to render vessel again (?ready for sea). CAMPBELL can supply up to 150 tons of fuel. Suggest if S.O. of convoy O.N. 167 could supply screening vessel during daylight and if BURZA agreeable we fuel her tomorrow and she continue to screen pending arrival of relief. Weather still fine calm. CAMPBELL will be easy to tow by Merchant Ship or Tug. Will disembark all non essential crew survivors and passengers in evening 23rd. My humble opinion CAMPBELL too fine a vessel of a class now desperately needed to leave anything undone.

Shall we keep passengers prisoners from destroyed U-Boat or put them on BURZA. No radio communication available CAMPBELL (?draught) uncertain and faulty operation Kohler (sic.)

(CAMPBELL 1835Z/23 to For Action C.T. 24, C.T.U. No. 24.1.3. C.T.G. No. 24.7 For information C. in C.W.A. HARVESTER.)  
Your 1730Z. You should be proceeding to join O.N. 166 in accordance with C.T. 24 0355Z/23.

(SALISBURY 1955Z/23 to MONTGOMERY (R) C.T. 24. F.O.N.F.)  
Anticipate SALISBURY will arrive in vicinity CAMPBELL about darkness 24th. If fuel will permit request you make every effort to remain with CAMPBELL until arrival of SALISBURY.

(C.T. 24 2005Z/23 to BURZA (R) C. in C.W.A. SALISBURY.)  
U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made a sighting report of convoy at 1706Z/23.

(Cominch 2037/23 to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. (R) C.T. 24 N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)  
Estimated at least 8 U-Boats in your vicinity transmitting heavily on series 8 possibly 3 more closing from North West.

(N.S.H.Q. 2147Z/23 to Ships escorting O.N. 166, (R) C.O.A.C. Admty. Cominch. S.B.N.O.W.At. F.O.N.F.)  
U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F sighting report of a convoy at 1952Z/23.

(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 2217/23 to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. (R) C.T. 24 C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.)

War Diary.

23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

G.A.T. 45. Convoy G.A.T. 45 Curacao portion arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Curacao 0922QR/23 to Admty.)

Re supplying Naval A/C for French F.A.A. R.A. Amarich, commanding French Fleet Air Arm, is on visit to London at invitation of Air Min. He has asked whether we can supply him with any Albacores or Walruses.  
2. Up to 20 Walruses can be made available to form a Squadron for local A/S patrols, either in Morocco or West Africa. French preference seems to be for Morocco, and this would release S.N.O.C.A.'s P.B.Y.'s for longer distance patrols. A limited number of personnel can be accepted in U.K. for training.  
3. If you concur, we propose to supply the Walruses to the French, leaving their ultimate employment to be settled by C. in C.Mediterranean in consultation with the various North African Authorities concerned.

(Head of M.1 Approved 1st Lord. 1015Z/23 to Cominch (R) C. in C.Med.(and for Air Marshal Welsh) Air Min.)

Have no objection to your 1008A/23 and second part thereof provided it is satisfactory to Eisenhower.  
(Cominch 2245Z/23 to Admty.)

ATTACKER. B.A.D. 1825Z/22. Swordfish will fly on board fully equipped. Do you require additional Swordfish spares?  
(Palisadoes 1022R/23 to ATTACKER (R) B.A.D. S.B.N.O. W.At. Admty.)

Movements summary	Ship.	Position	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T.	F S/M ARCHIMEDE	37½° N. 73° W.	309°	11½.
23rd Feb.	F S/M AMAZONE	28½° N. 56° W.	296°	7½.
	ALCANTARA )	15° N. 32° W.	Patrol	Blank
	WOODRUFF )			
	JAMAICA	44° N. 27½° W.	270°	16.
	U.C.I. )	31½° N. 26° W.	251°	10½.
	WESTON )			
	S/M L.23	51° N. 34° W.	255°	14
	T.A.36	43° N. 34° W.	260°	19
	(D.O.D.(F) 1040Z/23 to Opanav (R) Comnav.)			

RHEXENOR torpedoed 3/2. Trinidad reports 53 survivors RHEXENOR still unreported. Air search being conducted.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica 1048R/23 to Admty.)

Use of M.M.S.hulls. Your 1006Q/22 Feb. (Re objection to using hulls of M.M.S. whilst awaiting engines for carrying food stuff). Reply will be sent when considerations involved have been investigated.  
(D.M.S. 1120A/23 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

/Minesweepers...

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Minesweepers F.O.C.W.A. has represented the inadequacy of reinforcement. his minesweeping resources including those at Dakar.

2. The only possible reinforcement for the West African station consists of the 8 B.Y.M.S. already allocated to that station but not yet arrived.

3. Request you make every effort with U.S.A. authorities to expedite their arrival on the West African Station and inform F.O.C.West Africa of the date they may be expected.

(D.M.S. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1235A/23 to B.A.D.(R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Atlantic  
Convoys,  
Cycles,  
Titles.

Admiralty's 1913/20.

1. Consider the W.L.E.F. can maintain proposed schedule in eight groups on the following basis.

A. Four groups escort fast convoys 60% sea time.

B. Four groups escort slow convoys 57% sea time.

C. N.U. and Y.U. convoys to be given through escort from New York to Westomp.

D. That sailing date of U.Y. convoys is adjusted to enable U.Y. to arrive New York 4 days before P.U. sail. It is also desirable that U.N. sail one day earlier than scheduled.

2. Consequently it will be necessary to concentrate all diesel BANGORS (10) in the W.L.E.F. and to provide an additional 4 BANGORS on the Halifax force to escort H.Y.U. and H.N.U. to junction with Y.U. and N.U. respectively.

3. Following figures have been used in analysing subject schedule Liverpool to New York.

N.U. 16 days. Y.U. 19 days. U.N. 19 days. U.Y. 23 days.  
(C.O.A.C. 1321Z/23 to N.S.H.Q. (R) F.O.N.F.)

H.X. 227.

H.X.227. My 1500Z/22nd add ST. LAURENT H/F D/F.  
(F.O.N.F. 1421Z/23 to Cominch C. and R.)

Loading  
programme.  
timber,  
newsprint,  
and pulp.

Your 2128/18. Ships can be accepted and will be given convoy protection. It is requested however if possible that ships may be sent over in roughly two groups per month. It is understood they will probably take about 14 days to load and this arrangement will enable escorts to bring up one group and take down a loaded group in one cycle.

(N.S.H.Q. 1430Z/23 to Admt. (R) B.A.D. C.O.A.C. Connav.)

Shipping  
diversions.

Your 2335/2, (re vessels joining and departing convoys have become intermingled with the resultant danger of collision,) concur.

Necessary instructions are being inserted in C.D. 04024 (41) and I.C.O.C.

(D.T.D. 1431A/23 to B.A.D.)

/Submarine...

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Submarine estimate Feb. 23rd. U.S. Submarine notice. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet 1450/23, 1451/23, 1512/23, 1513/23, (amended 0125/26.) 1514/23, 2345/23.)

Unification of Naval Command of Canadian Atlantic Area. On N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1449/20 coming into force C.C.N.F. is to continue to deal directly with Comtask 24 in matters concerning escort of ocean trade convoys including C.O.A.C. as information addressee in relevant signal. (C.O.A.C. 1550Z/23 to C.C.N.F. (R) C.T.24. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.U.S. Fleet, Naval Member Canadian Joint Staff Washington, Admty. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.), C. in C.W.A.)

ASSINIBOINE. 1. My 1215/13 and N.S.H.Q. 2216/21. Is it desired that ASSINIBOINE proceed U.K. with S.C. 121 or direct as originally intended to join C.2. 2. If proposals in A.M. 1913/20 placed in effect propose employing ASSINIBOINE in W.S.F. until required for S.C.123. 3. C.O.A.C. is requested to sail ship to St. Johns 24th pending decision. (F.O.N.F. 1630Z/23 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.)

Convoy T.B.6. Sailing telegram. 2. 2000/23rd Feb. 3. 8 knots. 5 (Route.) 6. U.S.S. ERIESSON U.S.S. SIREN. U.S.S. P.C. 488. P.C. 577, P.C. 593, P.C. 610 U.S.S. Y.M.S. 60 Y.M.S. 767. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad 1632Q/23, 1634Q/23 to Admty.)

S.C. and H.X. Convoys, numbers. Personal from 1st S.L. A. At the present moment there are 89 ships ready to sail for U.K. and, in view of the urgency of not holding up any of these ships in U.S. Ports, we had proposed that 80 ships should be included in S.C.121 sailing today. B. Cominch has informed us, however, that they cannot agree to what they describe as such an excessively large and inadequately protected convoy. C. In view of the urgency we are returning to the charge and asking the Americans to agree to the inclusion of 80 ships in the convoy if we can rake up sufficient escorts. D. At the moment we are investigating every possible means of providing additional escorts if not for the whole voyage at least for the last part, which would appear the most dangerous at the present time. E. B.A.D. and yourself will be informed what we can provide as soon as we have worked it out. F. I should be most grateful if you could help us out over this difficult position by providing some additional escorts for S.C. 121 and that in order to save time you will inform B.A.D. direct what you can provide.

/G...



War Diary.23. 2. 1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West IndiesS.C. and H.X.  
Convoys,  
numbers.  
(Contd.)

G. This should be looked upon as a special case which requires special and drastic treatment. The question of how to deal with the increased amount of shipping that now appears likely to come forward will be dealt with at the conference on March 1st.

H. If S.C. 121 has sailed the above should apply to H.X. 228 and S.C. 122.

(1st S.L. 1650A/23 to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D. C. in C.W.A.)  
Personal from 1st S.L.

A. War Cabinet considered Cominch 1415/22 and decided that in view of the necessity of:- (a) Increasing the imports to this country, (b) U.S.A. ships should not be kept loaded in U.S. ports waiting to be brought over, that every endeavour must be made to get the Americans to agree to 80 ships being included in S.C.121.

B. We cannot, of course, remove the disadvantages attendant on an 80 ship convoy but it is considered that if we can only provide sufficient escorts the risk is an acceptable one for the reasons given in A.

E. Request you will see Adm. King and point out to him urgent necessity of getting these ships over and ask if he can assist in any way as a special case.

G. If S.C. 121 has sailed the above should apply to H.X. 228 and S.C.122.

(1st S.L. 1655A/23 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C.W.A.)  
Personal for 1st S.L. Your 1655/23rd.

I fully appreciate your view. With possible exception of sailing H.X. class ships which I believe to be contrary to Admiralty wishes no useful purpose could be served by pressing the case of S.C. 121 as all Presenters have been sailed although 16 returned for causes unspecified and convoy will be filled to capacity from Halifax.

2. I will represent position to Adm. King on his return on Friday which will be in time for H.X. 228. Present estimate is 105\* presenters for this convoy including Halifax.

3. Request your view on sailing H.X. ships in S.C. convoys during present emergency.

\* 107, see B.R.L.O. New York 2217Z/23.

(B.A.D. 2225Z/23 to Admty.)

Your 1552/18, 2121/19th. H.X. 228. Sparks M.W.T. New York after consulting Ministry Montreal advised following ships will probably be present for H.X. 228: total 107 include 52 British 20 British managed Allied ships 17 U.S. flag ships 2 U.S. army ships 15 from Halifax and 1 (one) possibly from St. Johns N.F.

2. All these ships are nominated to proceed East Westomp.

(B.R.L.O. New York 2217Z/23 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. B.A.D., C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

Cominch agrees to increase in size of convoys (2219/23), no copy in W.D. but see Admty. 2120A/25.

/AMERICAN...

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.AMERICAN  
ROBIN.Request latest information AMERICAN ROBIN  
ex G.U.S. 3.  
2. Arrival signal for G.U.S. 3 not received.  
(D.T.D. 1700Z/23 to Port Director, New York.)F.F.  
Motor  
Launches.Sailing 1800Z/23 for St. Johns N.F. Will be  
basing there as instructed by Canadian Naval  
Authorities on account of necessary fuel  
supplies not being yet available at St. Pierre.  
(S.O. Free French M.Ls. 1715Z/23 to Canadian  
N.L.O. St. Pierre, for P.O.I.C. (R) F.N.F.L.  
London.)WEST  
POINT.U.S.N.T. WEST POINT sailed with 7925 Troops  
comprising 2780 for Bombay 5145 for Suez.  
(B.A.S. Washington 1750Q/23 to W.O.)Attacks  
on U/Bs.Your 1059B/22 July. In week ending 2300Z/21  
no promising attacks.  
(Cominch 1834Z/23 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

AMAZONE.

AMAZONE Comao of Alar (?Comar Dakar) 14.30 with  
(group missed). No contact made with escort ves-  
sel (corrupt group?) SSOWLATHC (sic) Lat. 30.50  
long. 61.7 (corrupt group), Bermuda, and report E.T.A. Stay  
on surface during last 12 miles. Harbour vessel will meet you  
10 miles E. of Poynt Hill, light berth assigned St. Georges  
Harbour.  
(N.O.B. Bermuda 1940/23 to AMAZONE.)EMPIRE  
NUGGET.My 1626/21 Feb. EMPIRE NUGGET arrived Houston  
Feb. 21st.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2022Z/23 to Admty.)Shipping  
Casualties.Connav Serial 23. CHATTANOOGA CITY torpedoed 22nd  
Feb. 46° 53' N. 34° 32' W. WINKLER and EULIMA  
both torpedoed 23rd 46° 48' N. 36° 18' W. All  
O.N.S. 166 EMPIRE TRADER abandoned afloat.  
(Cominch C. and R. 2045/23 to Comnav.)

L.C.I (L)s.

In order to expedite the sailing of L.C.I.(L),  
can arrangements be made for Catalina aircraft  
to meet flights at Gibraltar and return Ocean  
C.Os. direct to U.S.A?  
(B.A.M.R. 2050Z/23 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C.  
Gibraltar.)

/ST. LAURENT...

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

ST. LAURENT, Ref. A.M. 1650/23 ST. LAURENT is now at St.  
ASSINIBOINE. Johns N.F. awaiting further instructions from  
Admiralty.  
ASSINIBOINE now at Halifax will be ready for sea  
on 24th. It was intended that she should be  
sailed direct to Londonderry to join C (?3) Group.  
2. As convoy S.C. 121 has already sailed recommend ST. LAURENT  
and ASSINIBOINE be used to escort 'H.X. 228. These ships should  
join escort at New York and refuel (?to) St. Johns N.F. thence  
remaining with convoy to U.K.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2127Z/23 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. Naval Member Canadian  
Joint Staff Washington, F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C. in C.W.A.)  
4. Request you will reply to N.S.H.Q.'s 2127/23.  
(B.A.D. 0041Z/24 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para A. CHATTANOOGA CITY torpedoed 46.53 N.  
34.32 W. 2126Z/22. WINKLER torpedoed area 46.15  
N. 36.45 W. 0630Z/23. EULIMA torpedoed 46.48 N.  
36.18 W. 0656Z/23. ROSARIO torpedoed area 50.30  
N. 24.38 W. about 2200Z/21. H.H. ROGERS torpedoed  
area 50.30 N. 24.38 W. about 2200Z/21. U.S. P.G.C.G. CAMPBELL  
attacked sub area 48.20 N. 30.40 W. 0717Z/22. Sub and CAMPBELL  
collided area 47 N. 34.07 2248Z/22.  
Para. D. CYTHERA attacked sub area 20.28 N. 74.21 W. 0348Z/23.  
Sub attack area 14.10 N. 68.45 W. 1141Z/23. Sub contact area  
12.35 N. 70.17 W. 1015Z/23. Suspicious craft area 13.15 N.  
59.30 W. 1445Z/23. Sound contacts by C.G-83360 area 38.30 N.  
74.40 W. 2125Z/22 and 2223Z/22.  
(Cominch 2132/23 to Admty for O.I.C. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U/B. Submarine northbound sighted by pilot of Pan  
American plane southbound from Lisbon at 1838Z/  
23, 38.27 N. 09.20 W.  
(Cominch 2135Z/23 to Admty.)

Sinking of AVORIO (It.) Your 1925/22 the story will not be released until  
March 13th. Would appreciate further details on  
sinking when available. B.A.D. pass to C.J.S.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2141Z/23 to Admty. (R) C.J.S.  
Washington, Opnav, B.A.D.)

ANDES. Ref. D. of S.T.'s 0106/21st. (?CAP DES ANDES) at  
2105Z/24 for New York, E.T.A. 0900Z/26th.  
(C.O.A.C. 2147Z/23 to Connnav, (R) Admty.  
Commandant 3rd U.S.N.D. New York, N.S.H.Q. B.R.L.C.  
New York.)

Attack on possible U/B. Depth charge attack made on possible S/M in  
position 44° 30' 62° 19' at 2013Z.  
(MALPERQUE 2210Z/23 to Connnav, (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., H.Q.C.C.)

/AJAX...

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

AJAX. Admiralty pass to F.O.C. Gibraltar. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) Cmdt. 3rd U.S. N. Dist. New York pass to Naval Yard New York.  
Direct N.O.B. Bermuda route AJAX onward to New York when ready about March 2nd, F.O.C. Gibraltar's 0101A/23rd.  
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet 2301/23 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S. )  
(R) C.E.S.F. Admty. etc.)

L.23. Your 2206A/21 and 0514A/23. My P.C. and S. at 2310Z/23 051° 02' 034° 35' 253° 6 knots.  
(L.23 2330Z/23 to F.O.S.)

Australia & New Zealand.

ROCHAMBEAU. Your 1537A/20\* following is a repetition my 1129Z/4+ addressed Admiralty 408 Connav (Begins) My 1137Z/3rd U.S. Transport ROCHAMBEAU has been diverted to Wellington passing through C 037° 59' S. 159° 00' (?49") 039° 58' 172° 15' (Ends.) (A.C.N.B. 0500Z/23 to Admty.) + N.T. of previous receipt.  
\*Requesting rep. of missing originators no.

Digest  
serial  
No. 397.  
Feb. 22nd.

2. Afternoon Liberator reported Lorengau aerodrome serviceable for fighters runway being lengthened and other improvements in progress also building activity in town area fifty foot boat in Harbour unsuccessfully attacked.

3. Six Fortresses attacking shipping Rabaul at dawn saw nil ships Harbour or near vicinity visibility unlimited. Two medium transports one small vessel unsuccessfully attacked northwest coast Gazelle Peninsula. Photo R/C Rabaul afternoon revealed 79 ships comprising 61 merchant vessels including two tankers totalling 310000 tons also one light cruiser 11 destroyers, two submarine chasers, two submarines, one destroyer tender one naval auxiliary.

4. Morning R/C Liberator unsuccessfully bombed small camouflaged cargo vessel Powell Point also saw 40 foot M.L. same area.

7. Forenoon barge activity reported Maigama river and Gariaemouth.

8. Two possible submarines Merobe Harbour evening.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0730Z/23.)

Movements. Arrivals 22nd Feb. Brisbane H.T. DUNTROON Cairns U.S. transport SWARTE HONDT. Darwin U.S. transport MAETSUYCKER. Townsville U.S. transport NOORDAM. 23rd Townsville U.S. transport BANTAM. U.S. transport VAN DER LIJN departed Fall River 22nd due Cairns 24th. U.S. transport PAUL REVERE departed Newcastle 22nd arrived Sydney (N.S.W.) 22nd.  
(R.B. Melbourne 1149Z/23 to Admty, Connav.)

/Arrived...

War Diary.23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Movements.  
(Contd.)

Arrived Sydney (R.S.W.) 22nd GYMPIE, ROCKHAMPTON, Townsville WAGGA Cairns 22nd LATROBE Darwin 22nd (?WARREGO) INVERELL Fremantle 22nd D.S. TROMP from escort duty.  
Departure Thursday Island 22nd WILCANNIA (?from) escort duty Sydney (R.S.W.) 22nd GYMPIE for Brisbane.  
(A.C.N.B. 1921Z/23 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1410A/23, 1415A/23.)

Submarines Attacked.Weekly  
Summary.

My 1059/22nd July.

Feb. 13th. H.M. Ships and U.S. Army aircraft attacked a U-Boat near Oran and probably sank it after 8 hours depth charging.

2. Feb. 15th. Liberator aircraft attacked a U-Boat in 55° 45' N. 30° 09' W. with 6 Torpex depth charges and produced some wreckage.

3. Feb. 17th. A. A bomber, when running in to lay mines off Lorient, caused a U-Boat to crash dive. A violent explosion took place which shook the aircraft flying at 500 feet. It is considered that the U-Boat dived into a mine.

B. PALADIN and an aircraft 40 miles N.W. of Derna sank the German U-Boat U.205 and took 41 prisoners.

C. WHEATLAND and EASTON sank the Italian U-Boat ASTERIA 50 miles N.W. of Bougie and took 47 prisoners.

4. Feb. 19th. A. An attack by a searchlight Wellington in Bay of Biscay caused an oil patch which was still spreading 55 minutes later.

B. Five ships and an aircraft hunted a U-Boat 80 miles N.E. of Benghazi. Diesel oil was reported still rising several hours later.

5. Feb. 20th. An aircraft of No. 2 U.S. Squadron in 49° 30' N. 21° 55' W. straddled a U-Boat slightly abaft the bow and oil patch 100 yards long indicated damage.

6. Feb. 21st. A Liberator III in 48° 00' N. 29° 15' W. straddled a U-Boat with 6 depth charges. An extra explosion was heard and felt in the aircraft and two very large patches of oil appeared 50 minutes after the attack.

906

War Diary.

23.2.1943.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Weekly  
Summary.  
(Contd.)

7. V.L.R. aircraft from Northern Ireland and Cornwall have given intermittent close escort to O.N. 166 and O.N. 167 out to 1000 miles from base between 21st and 23rd Feb. inclusive. (D.A.S.W. 1355A/23 to Cominch, B.A.D. Comnavu, N.S.H.Q.)

907

24.2.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy J.W.53 is estimated to be about 60 miles S.S.W. of Bear Island at 0800 today, and is said by the Russians to have been reported by A/C at 1305A today.

WENSLEYDALE in 47° 04' N. 10° 8' W. at 1700 A today reported that she was bringing in 4 Spanish Trawlers with an armed guard in one of them, and has asked to be relieved by 1800A tomorrow at the latest in latitude 49° N.

7 Magnetic Mines were exploded by Sweepers off Great Yarmouth today.

North Atlantic.

Suspicious Ship.

SUSSEX and JAMAICA (on operation Regulation) and other ships and authorities were warned by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar at 1632A that a suspicious freighter had been sighted at 1030Z in 41.14 N. 42.00 W. No ship answering the description given is known to be in this locality.

U/B damaged.

A U/Boat is claimed to have been severely damaged by a Catalina aircraft at 1555 in 38.58 N. 16.34 W. Six depth charges straddled from the port quarter whilst the stern was still visible, and air was still coming up 45 minutes afterwards.

KATANGA.

British Consul, Ponta Delgada, states that an enemy consul is keenly interested in the sailing of Belgian SS. KATANGA and suggests a good escort be sent.

NYASSA.

Portuguese NYASSA was intercepted by ANCHUSA outside Lisbon and sent into Gibraltar under armed guard, escorted by REGINA.

Mine.

One enemy mine was detonated today in 35° 47.2' N., 06° 01.3' W.

Convoy.

Convoy K.X.9. arrived at Gibraltar escorted by WISHART and 5 other vessels.

/Control...

24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Control of  
U.S.  
Aircraft.

In a message to Raffel Washington, today, the chief of the Air Staff urges the necessity of U.S. Aircraft in the Casablanca area allocated for shipping protection being under the operational control of the A.O.C. Gibraltar. As a sample of overlapping that will occur if such control is not exercised by one authority, C.A.S. states that Gibraltar aircraft recently attacked 5 U/Boats in the area of S.N.O. Casablanca all of which were well within range of the latter's amphibians.

South Atlantic.

Floating  
Dock.

After consultation with C.O. of CHESHIRE, N.A. Rio de Janeiro suggests the desirability of augmenting the escort of the floating dock for at least the central portion of the route with another armed merchant cruiser.

Convoy  
T.O.1.

Convoy T.O.1 (West Africa to Gulf or Caribbean) left Dakar this afternoon.

MONTE  
IGUELDO.

SS. MONTE IGUELDO, Spanish, Rosario to Tenriffe was torpedoed and sunk in 04.09 S., 32.01 W. (50 miles N.E. of Recife) at 1230 G.M.T. today.

Mediterranean.

Convoy  
ex Malta.

Convoy M.E.18, 3 M/Vs and one tanker, left Malta this evening for Alexandria, escorted by 5 destroyers (DERWENT, CROOME, ALDENHAM, HURWORTH, KANARIS).

LITTORIOS.

P.R.U. today showed all 3 of the Italian LITTORIO battleships at Spezia.

/M.T.Bs. ...



War Diary.

24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.Bs.  
Alexandria  
and French  
Squadron.

In response to an Admiralty suggestion that he may be considering the early return of the Malta M.T.Bs. for offensive operations, C. in C. Levant states that only 4 M.T.Bs were withdrawn from Malta, of which 3 have arrived at Alexandria. Their time is not being wasted as they are refitting. The present tense situation, which might in certain circumstances get worse at short notice, does not yet permit the removal of M.T.Bs.

Tunis  
Repatriation.

Resident Minister, Algiers, reports that Gen. Eisenhower and Admiral Cunningham appreciate the doubts of the Chiefs of Staff in regard to the proposed repatriations from Tunisia to Marseilles, and agree in the circumstances, that the request for facilities should be refused. (U.S. Chiefs of Staff concurred on 3rd March.)

Tanker  
Sunk by  
SPLENDID.

S/M SPLENDID (P.228) fired 4 torpedoes at 0624 at an eastbound laden tanker escorted by a sloop in 38.12 N. 12.47 E. One hit was obtained and the vessel exploded.

East Indies.

C. in C. E.F. sees no objection to the Admiralty suggestion on 19th Feb. that Pacific and Indian Ocean ships should be sailed in pairs, but from such information as he has he believes that masters and agents will not welcome this procedure.

C. in C.E.F. in MAURITIUS arrived at Bombay this morning from Colombo.

24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.

O.N.166  
again  
attacked.

Convoy O.N.166 continued to be shadowed today and the Admiralty estimate at 1350A was that up to 12 U/Bs were in the vicinity. At 0723Z/ INGRIA, Norwegian, was torpedoed in 45.12 N., 39.08 W. 4 submarines were attacked in this area about the same time as INGRIA was torpedoed.

SS. MADOERA was torpedoed in 46.02 N., 39.20 W. 61 survivors in 3 lifeboats and 2 rafts were still adrift on 6th March, when Flag Officer, Newfoundland, asked whether any action could be taken from the Azores.

O.N.167.

There was no indication up to 1200Z/ of any U/boat contact with O.N.167, but up to 10 U/boats were probably between 47.30 and 48.29 N. and 33.01 and 38.59 W.

U/Bs.  
attacked.

Catalina aircraft of Eastern Air Command, Canada claims successful attacks on U/Boats at 1313 G.M.T. in 45.14 N., 40.38 W., and at 2058 G.M.T. in 45.10 N., 41.10 W. In the former attack, 4 depth charges released from 100 ft. straddled the conning tower, and bubbles and debris were observed for 10 minutes. In the latter attack, 4 depth charges released from 100 ft. fell ahead of the swirl as the U/boat submerged.

Australia and New Zealand.

Six U.S. Fortresses attacked shipping at Rabaul and one hit is believed to have been scored on a 10,000 ton ship. Near misses were probably obtained on another (believed a minelayer), while another ran aground during evasive action.

# 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 Governmental Circles. 2300Z/24th February

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

TO:- All SICTEL Addressees. Date 24.2.43.

CYPHER

From War Cabinet Offices.

OZ 553 24th February, 1943. SICTEL No. 4.

"Reference para 3 of SICTEL 1 following revised passing instructions apply to SICTEL 4 and all future SICTELS. (A) Plain language versions by hand Governor Gibraltar pass to A.O.C. Gibraltar and F.O. Gibraltar, Governor Malta pass to A.O.C. Malta, C. in C. Middle East pass to A.O.C. in C. Middle East, C. in C. Persia/Iraq pass to A.H.Q., Persia/Iraq, C. in C. India pass to A.O.C. in C. India and F.L.O. Delhi, B.A.D. pass to J.S.M. B.A.S. and Raffel Washington: (B) Re-encypher in One Time Pad A.O.C. in C. Middle East pass to A.H.Q.'s Western Desert Egypt Levant Aden, A.O.C. in C., India pass to A.O.C. Bengal."

1. GERMAN MILITARY SITUATION. Following is summary of an appreciation of present German Military situation with particular reference to situation arising if German Eastern Front collapses and Russian Armies press forward westwards. Account should be taken of the fact that it has been written at a time when German fortunes are at very low ebb and that it may therefore paint a somewhat over-optimistic picture. It is still too early to state with confidence what course operations in Russia will take.

2. Situation to-day. On such evidence as is available Russia has superiority in numbers, her munitions position is satisfactory, her administrative services reasonably efficient and her food supplies adequate for armed forces and essential civil labour.

3. Germany is now suffering a succession of major defeats in Russia and has lost equivalent of 40 divisions. Her net loss, taking into account divisions moved from France to Russia since November, is some 25 divisions. Once the remains of her forces in Caucasus have been extricated or liquidated, she will be back on, and in places behind, the line from which she started in 1942, some 1,400 miles in length, with, at best, the equivalent of about 160 divisions. German retreat now being carried out is not withdrawal according to plan and there is no plan from her point of view, Germany could withdraw no troops from this front for operations elsewhere.

4. To meet further calls for Russian Front, Germany can only find troops in Occupied Territories and their withdrawal would endanger her control. Her garrisons in Occupied Europe are weak. 34 divisions in France and Low Countries, majority of low category, 9 in Balkans, only one which is offensive. In Scandinavia 10 divisions, of which half are coastal defence troops. In Germany itself little in way of offensive reserves, though a number of low-grade defensive divisions might be used elsewhere in last resort. Her some 7 divisions in North Africa are unlikely to be withdrawn unless forced to evacuate.

5. It is estimated that this summer German Air Force will have front-line strength of some 3,500 to 4,000 operational aircraft, assuming she is given no respite for building-up. Of above, Russian Front is likely to take 2,000 Western Front 1,000, and minimum of 750 on Mediterranean Front.

6. It is believed Russians will have at least 200 divisions facing Germans, and about 4,500 to 5,000 aircraft.

7. Economic shortages, particularly in man-power, oil and transport; lessening subservience of remaining European neutrals; and possible defection of Italy, Hungary Roumania and Finland affect German situation. Allied bombing will increase. Evidence accumulates of disagreement between High Command and Hitler. Only ray of light for Germans is provided by increasing scale of submarine attack on shipping of United Nations.

8. German Strategy. Situation described above will, we believe, make it impossible for Germany to carry out any major offensive strategy on land, in Russia or anywhere else. Her sole offensive strategy will be at sea, where submarine campaign will be continued, and, as far as possible, intensified.

9. Russians have been attacking continuously since November and have proved their ability to defeat Germans in mobile operations and overcome maintenance difficulties over great distances. The further they advance, the greater their immediate administrative problems, though, in fact, their advance has given them better railway system than that which served them when they began, while Germans may have been driven behind the bases from which they hitherto serviced their Front.

10. Germans will try to gain time until thaw in March and April, though, owing to mild winter, thaw may last only about two weeks in South. With arrival of

summer/.....

# MOST SECRET

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- 3 -

summer Germans will be fighting under conditions in which they have in the past proved superior.

11. They will do their utmost to hold Russian advance as far East as possible, if only to avoid losses of men and equipment in withdrawal, and of valuable Ukraine territory. They will wish to retain strongly prepared defences in Northern and Central sectors and, in South, the Crimea, in order to deny to Russians facilities for bombing oil installations, Axis shipping and other important targets. They will, if necessary, transfer further troops from Western Europe, even at cost of further weakening their hold.

12. Impossible to say whether, and on what lines, Germans will be able to stabilise, in view of present uncertainty as to result of fighting between Kursk and Sea of Azov, and what forces Germans will be able to extricate from this area and from Caucasus. If these operations are disastrous to them, they may be unable to stabilise at all. In general, lines on which they might stabilise become shorter and more easily defended as they go westward. A line making use of Lake Peipus, the Pripet Marshes and River Dnieper would be considerably shorter and has great defensive possibilities. Only a withdrawal to shortest line through Poland might enable them to release a limited number of divisions. This would, however, endanger not only security of oil supplies in Roumania but also their hold on Balkans and might result in defection of their satellite allies. Result, therefore, of any such withdrawal would be so to increase Germany's defence commitments in other parts of Europe as to more than absorb any divisions so released.

13. No strategic reserve exists to meet any large-scale Anglo-American attack. When attack comes, a division at a time will be collected from one quarter or another to meet a successful landing. If that is insufficient, more will be withdrawn from Occupied Europe. This process, we believe, will be applied either for this or to bolster up the Russian Front, should Russian advance continue.

14. In North Africa, Germany is likely to continue operations until defeated, since her commitment pays a high dividend in embarrassment to the Allies and maintains among the Italians a will to fight. German strategy there will, we believe, remain defensive and aim at maintenance of bridgehead in Tunisia, and it will be the needs of this defensive strategy which will primarily govern extent of reinforcement.

15. Whatever Germany's intentions or plans may be, we consider possibility must be faced that defeat she has suffered in Russia cannot be retrieved. If a situation arises in which Germans will be unable to stabilise and hold for any length of time a line in Russia at all, organised German resistance in Russia might collapse.

16. Effect of such a collapse, and of a state of affairs in which Russians continued westward advance, might be an attempt on part of Nazis to come to terms with Britain and America rather than with Russia. Failing this, we believe only two alternatives would remain; either the Army would take control, or Germany would disintegrate into anarchy.

17. Under first assumption, Army might either form a military government, or set one up consisting of reputable civilians with whom some or all of the principal allies might be expected by them to be prepared to treat. If the Army took control, there are three possible courses it might adopt; (a) to try for an armistice with Russia; (b) to try for one with Britain and America; (c) or simultaneously with all the United Nations.

18. (a) is improbable except on dictated terms and German Army leaders would expect short shrift from Russia. (b) our "unconditional surrender" pledge precludes, and we doubt whether German military leaders, so long as they could control the situation, would so surrender. They would be more likely to concentrate their forces on withstanding invasion from east and would leave the west wide open for British and American troops to enter, so that when the time for surrender came they would be at hand. An invitation to us to enter might be possible in such circumstances. (c) is only likely if the Germans have withdrawn or been driven back from the West, so that British and American troops were on the spot.

19. Under the second assumption, we believe that, because of the severity of Gestapo control, a collapse in authority would first be apparent in the retreating army and spread thence to the civil population in Germany itself.

20. Though the German people are by nature well suited to authoritative government, which leads one to believe that after a breakdown there would be a strong impetus to return to stability, they have been controlled, regimented and repressed now for so long that it would be unwise not to be prepared for a

situation/.....

# MOST SECRET

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(\*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:

"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule) government situation during which no (original) government existed at all. In such a case, the Allies might be faced with a decision whether or not themselves temporarily to take control pending establishment of some new German regime.

21. As regards non-German European territories now occupied, possibility of stable administration surviving a German collapse depends on two factors - existence of a local administration and absence of internal tensions. Of the indigenous local administrations more or less in charge in these territories, those in Norway, Croatia, Serbia, Greece, and to a less extent in Holland, France and Slovakia, are controlled by Quislings, and will be upset as soon as German control is removed. The danger must be borne in mind of Allied troops becoming involved in internal conflicts.

22. The elements of civil war are already in Yugoslavia. In Eastern Provinces, administration is wholly German, and its removal would leave a void. This applies more strongly to territories incorporated in the Reich such as Western Poland, Alsace Lorraine and Luxemburg, in all of which problem has been complicated by transfers of population.

23. We have recognised Albania's right to independence, but no government or authority. The Greeks if left to themselves might march into Southern Albania, and the Yugoslavs might follow suit and annex Northern Albania.

24. Bulgaria has been badly served by its present rulers, who will probably try to come to terms with Britain and America. On balance, we believe Bulgaria is a country which may go over rapidly to communist system of government, perhaps applying for incorporation in Soviet Union.

25. German collapse will lead to panic in Roumania, and the country would no doubt rapidly come under Russian domination.

26. In Hungary present regime could hardly survive and would probably try to hand over to an alternative regime, either the liberal peasant and socialist elements or the Right. Either of these would try to negotiate with Britain and America, but the possibility cannot be excluded that order would break down and a communist regime emerge, looking to Russia for support.

27/.....

27. Finland would try to enlist support of Britain and America, but she is so placed that her fate is likely primarily to depend on decisions taken in Moscow.

2300Z/24

Received from War Cabinet Offices 0835/25.

W.C.O.'s circulation:-

1st Lord	Brig. Jacob
1st S.L. (2).	First Sea Lord
D.F.S.L.	C.I.G.S.
4th S.L.	C.A.S.
V.C.N.S.	
A.C.N.S. (F) (2).	
A.C.N.S. (W).	
Secretary	
N.A. Mails	
P.A.S. (S).	
D.O.D. (F) (2).	
D.O.D. (H) (2).	
D.N.I. (4).	
D. of P. (2).	
Duty Captain	
D.D.I.C. (2).	
D. of P. (Q).	
Head of M (3).	
I.P. (2).	
W.D.	
Admiral Blake	

abd



24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary .HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Russian procedure. (Meaconing Station transmitter.) My 1738A/20. Report of this incident now received from Murmansk Customs Authorities who give following reasons for action taken. Trailer arrived S.B.N.O. Archangel marked Dolinin and was dealt with according to regulations governing import of goods consigned to Russians. Before reaching its destination however it was diverted to Murmansk and handed over to British Mission. As British are unable to produce import licence transmitter is to remain sealed until position is clarified. Two comments. Trailer was in fact marked Dolinin but signal was received from War Office correcting address, Russians in (corrupt group) were informed of this but too late to stop its first journey into Central Russia from whence it was eventually retrieved with Russian assistance. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1332A/24 to Ad. Miles.)

ST. ALBANS. My 1956/13/11 and my 1750/22. Request ST. ALBANS be sailed as convenient to Londonderry to rejoin command of C. in C.W.A.  
2. ST. ALBANS should arrive Devonport on 16th March to reconvert to escort destroyer.  
(D.O.D.H. 1408A/24 to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Movements.

PYTCHLEY. PYTCHLEY's 1007/23. Seidisfjord. Departure at 2130/23 PYTCHLEY.  
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 0131A/24 to R.A.D., C. in C. Plymouth.)

S/M My 1739/23. Add Para. (H). P.511 and TRESPASSER Movements. exercising off Plymouth 0900 to 1700/24.  
(F.O.S. 0658A/24.)  
My 0915/23. Sailed (0.15.)  
(Capt. S.9 0915A/24 to C. in C.Rosyth.)  
Estimated positions of submarines at 0800A/25th and movements for following 24 hours.  
A. TRUCULENT, SPORTSMAN, SIMOON, SEANYMPH, in North Norwegian waters East of 15° E.  
B. UREDD possibly approaching Lerwick from North East.  
C. TAKU patrolling vicinity 44° 10' N. 10° 30' W.  
D. BARB off Vigo.  
E. TUNA escorted by SCALBY WYKE leaves Clyde 1430A/25 for Lerwick via Minches. 12 knots.  
(F.O.S. 1553A/24 and 2156A/24.)  
Your 0915/23. Arrived.  
(C. in C.Rosyth 1602A/24 to Capt. S.9.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1732/23. WHITEHALL is to proceed to Greenock on completion. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail WHITEHALL and SABRE to escort ILLUSTRIOUS to Liverpool.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1003A/24.)

/Operation...

War Diary.

24. 2. 1943.

Wednesday.HOME COMMAIDS.Operations.

Operation JAMAICA is to be North and West of 044° 10' N.  
"Regulation." 027° 10' W. by 1200/24.

(C. in C.Plymouth 0249A/24 to JAMAICA.)

If endurance permits after passing position given in my 0249A/24 proceed pass through position (T) at 1200/25. In this case do not pass to northbound line E to F. during dark.

(C. in C.Plymouth 1237A/24 to JAMAICA.)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND's 1050/24. Independently routed ships MORMACSWAN, EXCELLER and CALIFORNIA EXPRESS are estimated to be in this area eastward bound.

2. A.M. 1859/1/2 para. 2. Of these ships Admiralty anticipate that HERBORG and MADRONO will be the first two to return.

3. Attention is called to para. 3 of A.M. 1859/1/2 concerning escorting U-Boats.

(D.O.D.H. 1610A/24 to JAMAICA, SUSSEX.)

After reaching position (F) SUSSEX is to cruise between positions (F) and (E) returning to (F) by 1000/26. At daylight 25 JAMAICA to return to Scapa. My 1811/21, 1327/14 and 1237/24 refer.

(C. in C.Plymouth 1922A/24 to SUSSEX, JAMAICA.)

Search Intend to abandon search at 0900A and proceed  
for CHICHA 1 at 15 knots through 047° 03' N. 010° 05' W.  
and CHICHA 2. thence course 000° to 049° 04' N. thence to  
Plymouth.

(WENSLEYDALE 0725A/24 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1200Z/25.

(VIOLET 1240Z/24.)

1 unknown ship 045° 9 miles. My position 46° 53' 10° 23'.

(WENSLEYDALE 1516A/24.)

My 1516. 2 merchant ships.

(WENSLEYDALE 1525A/24.)

My 1516. 1 trawler and 1 merchant ship in addition.

(WENSLEYDALE 1536A/24 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

My 1516. First 2 trawlers F 5598 and F 5599 both from Vigo.

(WENSLEYDALE 1550A/24.)

My 1536. 2 trawlers F 6100 Vigo and F 5371 Vigo.

(WENSLEYDALE 1610A/24.)

Arrived TANATSIDE.

(C. in C.Plymouth 1619A/24.)

My 1610. F 6100 boarded and being taken North under armed guard. Remaining three following.

(WENSLEYDALE 1638A/24 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

My P.C.S. at 1700A, 047° 04' N. 010° 08' W. 000° 5 knots.

4 Spanish Trawlers with armed guard in one in company. Request air escort.

(WENSLEYDALE 1705A/24, and 2000A/24 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Unless trawlers are positively identified as CHICHA ONE or CHICHA TWO or there is other good reason for their arrest they should be released if still in company.

(C. in C.Plymouth 1949/24 to WENSLEYDALE.)

Request relief at 1600A/25 or at latest 1800A/25th as (?endurance) will not permit staying with Trawler any longer. Expect to be in 048° 59' N. 010° 08' W. at 1600, course 000° altering to 073° on reaching 049° 00' N.

(WENSLEYDALE 2115Z/24 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

913

24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Coastal Patrols. 1. Intend M.G.Bs 55 (S.O.) and 53 to patrol tonight on 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.  
2. Leave Weymouth at 1845 by Q.Z.S. 381 and after passing No. 3 buoy will steer direct for western end of patrol-line. Position on patrol will be adjusted to cover passage of P.W. and W.P. convoys. Leave patrol-line at dawn and return to Weymouth.  
3. Object Anti E-Boat patrol. Code word Device. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1056A/24.)  
Patrols tonight. 2. Forces M.G.B.8 (S.O.) and 6.  
3. Patrol 10 miles 069° and 249° from 142°. Start 12'.  
4. Object to intercept E-Boats.  
5. Information. E-Boats at Cherbourg and Le Havre. Torpedo boats at Le Havre and Brest.  
6. Leave Dartmouth at 1900/24 and proceed to patrol. Leave patrol daylight /25 and return to harbour.  
7. Code Word Plumb. (C. in C. Plymouth 1403A/24.)  
My 1056A/24. Device sailed 1902A/24. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1927A/24.)

Coastal Force Operation. Following is report on C/F activity night 23/24. M.T.B. 34 reports that in 52° 05' N. 04° 02' E. at 0245/24 steam engine hydrophone effect and possibly acoustic sweeping impulses every 12 seconds were obtained to N.E.wards Course was set to intercept and at 0254 two small trawlers in line abreast steering 235° at 3 knots were sighted. Enemy was not considered to be torpedo target M.G.Bs. were called up. M.G.B. 79 closed but failed to locate enemy, although area was searched until 0500 when unit returned. (C. in C. Nore 1448A/24 to Admty.)

Operation V.P. Returning. Operation completed. Bringing refugees. (Ship at Sea 1730/24 to Lerwick, C.C.O.)

Operation Valuable. 16 Group will have 6 Hampdens armed with Bombs and 6 Swordfish armed with torpedoes standing by and 3 Swordfish and 1 Hudson available for R/C. Aircraft will be at liberty to operate where desired in the Portsmouth Command to attack main target and to drop flares if necessary, but small craft should not be attacked. M.G.Bs. 616 (S.O.) 611, 613 and M.T.Bs 243 (S.O.) 242, 85 standing by at Newhaven will operate West of line Hastings report if target is reported passing through Straits of Dover. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1810A/24 to 16 Group.)

Operation Yorker. Operation Yorker. D-day postponed to 26th. (A.C.O.S. 1825A/24 to C. in C. Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

War Diary.24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation Tincture. Sailed my 1659A/23.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0331A/24 to Admty.)

Operation Q.U.7. Nore's 1052/23. Operation Q.U.(7) abandoned at 2250/23. Owing to Engine Trouble in M.L. 106.  
(BEEHIVE 1016/24 to C. in C.Nore.)

Yarmouth. The following 7 Mines were exploded by Sweepers today:-  
At 1317/24 in 186° No. 4 Buoy 2 miles (2 mines)  
At 1250/24 in 144° No. 4 Buoy 1 mile 2 cables.  
At 1326/24 in 192° No. 4 Buoy 5 miles  
At 1356/24 in 185° No. 4 Buoy 2 miles.  
At 1501/24 in 120° No. 3A Buoy 12 cables  
At 1600/24 in 020° No. 3A Buoy 1¼ miles.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1335A/24, 1355A/24, 1357A/24, 1417A/24, 1529A/24, 1623A/24, 2216A/24, 2010A/24.) See also F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1840A/26 and 1930/26.  
Two following Mines exploded by Sweepers.  
At 1345A/23 in N.60° E. magnetic No. 3A Buoy ¼ mile.  
At 1515A/23 in N.60° E. magnetic No. 3A Buoy ½ mile.  
(Cmdre. M/S Lowestoft 1940A/24, 1942A/24.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Vessels. Two Auxiliary vessels bearing 090°, distant 1 mile, course 235°. My position 52° 05' N. 04° 02' E.  
(M.T.B. 34 0257/24 to C. in C.Nore, (R) M.G.B.77)  
My 0257. Enemy speed is 3.  
(M.T.B. 34 0315/24.)

Unknown Ships.

One unknown, like German destroyer, length 130 feet, course 036°, 15 knots, 46.25 N. 16.52 E. small funnel well forward, one mast in front of funnel, bridge before mast, white with black superstructure, raked bow cruiser (?) spoon (?) stern.  
(A/C F.3 J. Duty A. 1155/24 to 19 Group.)  
Sighted 2 small M/V 47° 20' N. 09° 52' W. at 1335. 2 small M/V 47° 30' N. 09° 58' W. at 1339.  
(A/C F.3.J.A. 1400/24 to 19 Group.)  
My 1400. Course 180°, 5 knots.  
(A/C 1444/24 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Sighted swirl 46° 03' N. 10° 34' W.  
(A/C F.3 J.A. 1249/24 to 19 Group.)  
Sighted another swirl and periscope 47° 12' N. 9° 47' W.  
(A/C F.3 J.A. 1325/24 to 19 Group.)  
Aircraft reports over submarine 047° 07' N. 009° 37' W. at 1236/24.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 1345A/24 to WENSLEYDALE.)

/In...

War Diary.24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. (Contd.) In conclusive D/F at 1622Z/24 indicates U-Boat in your general vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1855A/24 to SUSSEX.)

U-Boat procedure. For information. Recent experiences have indicated that U-Boats endeavour to get ahead of the convoy to attack from ahead by day. (C. in C.W.A. 1936A/24 to Ships.)

Casualties & Defects.

T.L.C. 403. T.L.C. 403 has sunk in position 14 miles Barrahead 118° at 0430 owing to heavy swell breaking over her. (FREEBOOTER 0445A/24.)

MILLWATER. Sheerness. Departure MILLWATER in tow of tug SUN VI for Victoria Docks. (Cmdre. Sheerness 0845A/24.)

CRAFTSMAN. My 2040/23 and 1615/23. CRAFTSMAN grounded on leaving harbour. Will be docked today but no damage anticipated. CRAFTSMAN or alternative vessel will be ready to sail a.m. 25th. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1121/24.)

Unknown ship. Intercept 1021 G.M.T. bearing from Humber Radio 284.5° automatic S.O.S. strength of signals 3. (Humber Radio 1122/24 to Immingham.)

SHEFFIELD. SHEFFIELD 1717/22. Sailed at 0850/24. (A.C.I.C. 1321A/24 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

PRINCE LEOPOLD. PRINCE LEOPOLD not being able to exercise with us, due to Engine Room defects, request PRINCE ALBERT in Clyde may be loaned for training for 5 days only. (S.O. Force "W" 1528A/24 to S.O. Force "J").

M.T.B. 86. My 1120/24 cancelled. Starboard engine failed on trials and will need to be changed. Probable time for completion two days. (HORNET 1614/24 to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

MARNE. Sailed at 1700/24 MARNE in tow of H.M.Tug EMINENT escorted by PRESTON, NORTHEND for Tyne, speed 7 knots. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1701/24.)

/VARDEFJELL...

War Diary.24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- VARDEFJELL. Your 1838/21. Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1746/24 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall.)
- THORMODUR. THORMODUR reasons for reporting loss as follows officially reported.  
Vessel had sent out messages for assistance, also reported leakage in vessel beyond control. NAEBJORG Salvage Vessel towing in Reykjavik considerable amount of deck planking which was recognised as part of THORMODUR. Also bodies of four persons known to have been on board have been recovered Trollerothe.  
(Reykjavik C.C.O. 1847A/24 to Admty.)  
My 1847/24. D.N.I. 1437/23 February refers.  
(Reykjavik C.C.O. 2056A/24 to Admty.)
- AZALEA. Depth-charge trials in SKATE and AZALEA completed. AZALEA has received minor damage and requires docking. Suggest AZALEA proceed to Liverpool for docking and survey of hull.  
(Chairman, Admty. Shore Committee 2105/24 to C. in C.W.A.)
- FINLAND. Your 2210/23. Tug LYNCH will be ordered to sail from Gravesend 25th February to Yarmouth for towage of S.S. FINLAND to Gravesend. Onward towage of vessel thence to London will be arranged locally.  
(D.S.T. 2257A/24 to F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.)
- FORT YALE. Sailed S.S. FORT YALE at 2200A/24 to Holyhead for convoy and onward routeing to Swansea. E.T.A Holyhead 0830A/25. Heavy weather and bow damage. Lifeboat required.  
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2310A/24.)
- Shipping & Convoys.
- W.S.27.  
KM.F. 10A Liverpool portion arrived escorted by RAIDER.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0904/24.)  
Sailed my 1732/23.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1746A/24.)
- U.R. 64. Amend my 1622A/23 para (A) to read 1545/23.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 0950A/24.)
- Stragglers procedure. S.O. 7 Escort Groups should not request stragglers R/V when convoy is known to be shadowed. The intention under these circumstances is to get stragglers on a route well away from convoy routes.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1039Z/23 to A.I.G. 32.)

War Diary.24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - (contd.)

O.N.S. 169. Sailed BEVERLEY to overtake O.N.S. 169.  
(Cmdre. Londonderry 1155A/24.)  
Proceed direct to Iceland to fuel, thence  
rejoin convoy.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1556Z/24 to BEVERLEY.)

M.K.F.9. Clyde portion arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1344A/24.)

J.W. 53. Russians Report Ju. 88 reported convoy 1305A/24.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1413A/24 to H.F.)  
Scapa arrival 1430 MEYNELL.  
(A.C.O.S. 1508A/24 to A.C.I.C.)

AMSTERDAM. Your 1238/21. Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1520/24 to N.O.I.C. Invergordon)

Escort Tankers. Your 1950A/22. Consider 6 days notice is  
insufficient for ships in this area.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1739/24 to Admty.)

K.M.S. 10. Cardiff portion arrived Clyde.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2054A/24.)

War Diary.24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Enemy  
Mining.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 2129/41 para. 5 and C.B.04135  
Sec. 4 para. 85. Present enemy mining policy  
indicates that the risk of detonating acoustic  
mines through the use of sonic echo sounding  
gear is very slight and can be accepted.  
(D.T.M. 1231A/24 to A.I.G. 12 etc.)

North Atlantic.

K.X.9.

Arrived Gibraltar section (20 Ships.)  
(F.O.C.Gib. 0732A/24 to Admty.)

CHEROKEE  
O.N.S. 166.

My 1720/23 (Orders for U.S.S. CHEROKEE to assist  
CAMPBELL) cancel.  
(S.N.O.C.A. 0915Z/24 to Cominch.)

R.S.2

Intend to sail - for Casablanca - MEDIE II for  
Freetown EMPIRE GIPSY for Takoradi, EMPIRE  
NAIRN, STANHILL, NORTON, EMPIRE STRAIT, EMPIRE  
HEDGE, SOUND FISHER. Agreed M.W.T.R. and S.T.O.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar, 0953A/24, to S.N.O.C.A. F.O.I.C.  
Freetown, Connav, Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.A.)

Intend sailing convoy R.S.2 at 0800/26th.  
2. Route to Freetown, S.O.A.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots. 3. Convoy is composed  
as in my 0953/24th Cmdr. Master of STANHILL.  
4. Escort SPEEDWELL S.O. HUSSAR, NASTURTIUM, CONVULVULUS.  
5. One ship for Casablanca detaches in position (K) at about  
0930/27th.  
6. M.O.M.P. position (O) at 1200 (?14th) March.  
(V.A.Gibraltar 1620A/24 to F.O.C.W.A.)

M.K.S.8.

EMPIRE TOWER returned.  
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 0955A/24 to C. in C.Med.)

LLANGIBBY  
CASTLE,  
boatswain.

My 1033/22nd Jan. Reardon now in British Hospital  
but it is feared leg will never be of very much  
use. 2. Will be discharged to England by plane  
as soon as convalescence is over.  
(N.A.Lisbon 1031/24 to Admty.)

Dispositions. Situation 1955A/24th. MONTE NARANCO (under armed  
guard) 28.51 19.02 through 29.01 19.01 thence  
054° six.

2. ANCHUSA patrolling off Tagus.
3. Two tugs 44.19 13.11 through 43.01 13.01 thence 159° seven.
4. WOODSTOCK 39.16 11.37 320° 14 to join M.K.S.8.

/5. Portuguese...



War Diary.24. 2. 1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Dispositions. (Contd.)
5. Portuguese sloop AFONSO DE ALBUQUERQUE left St. Vincent 21st for Lisbon 15.
  6. Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE 40.08 13.(?02) through 40.01 13.01 and 36.01 10.01 thence 094° 13½.
  7. One tug, one ferry steamer 39.18 11.09 through 37.01 10.01 thence 111°, 7.
  8. U.S. Ship CHEROKEE 36.27, 11.51, 309°, 15.
  9. AJAX 32.55 13.11 through 31.40 15.01 thence 259°, 18.
  10. R.S.1 YORK (sic), BIRDLIP (A) 26.33 14.53 through 26.01 15.20 thence southbound 8 (2 corrupt groups) M.K.S.8 BLACK SWAN 39.46 14.52 through 39.58 15.01 thence 002°, 9.
  12. G.U.S.4, Comtask 38, 31.10, 12.51 through 31.01 13.01 and 29.30 16.(?01) thence 270°, 8.
  13. O.S.43 PELICAN 30.58 12.11 through 29.01 12.03 thence 234°, 8.
  14. Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND 36.57 09.30 through 40.13 13.13 thence 359°, 13.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1032A/24, 1316A/24, 1705A/24.)  
My 1032A/24th. Add new para. 15. REGINA, Portuguese NYASSA (under armed guard) 037° 54' 009° 25' through 036° 45' 009° 10' thence through Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar 10.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1316A/24.)  
Situation 1959A/24th.
- U.S. Submarine BARB patrolling off Vigo.
2. ARCTIC RANGER, MIRROR cable repairs approximately 36.12 07.35.
  3. ANCHUSA, REGINA on patrol off Cape Roca.
  4. H.M. Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA 036° 34' 008° 34' through Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar 11.
  5. ADVENTURE 036° 41' 008° 56' through Q.K.A.87 thence to Gibraltar 17.
  9. G.U.(?F).5, T.F.36, sailing Casablanca 0800/25th to R/V Oran section in 34.39 08.05 at 1730/26th.
  11. (?O.)S.43 Gibraltar section LIDDESDALE 035° 49' 006° 24' through Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar 8.
  12. U.G.S.5 (O) VANOC 035° 10' 007° 23' through 35.50 06.10 thence Q.K.A.87, 8.7.
  14. C.G.14, 3 P.Cs sailing Casablanca through 33.55 07.53 and 35.45 06.23 to arrive Gibraltar p.m./25th.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1115A/24.)

Movements. Arrival WISHART, COREOPSIS, COLUMBINE, JONQUIL, K.X. 9. LADY HOGARTH, MAN-O-WAR with convoy K.X.9.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1103A/24 to Admty., etc.)

ADVENTURE. E.T.A. Gate 1100/25th. My position 038° 18' N. 012° 32' W. Weather report.  
(ADVENTURE, 1158A/24 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

ABDIEL. Arrival.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1203A/24 to Admty.)  
Intend sailing ABDIEL for Algiers at 1300/25th.  
Routed through 28, 82, (?49), (? 74), 100,  
E.T.A. 0700/26th.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1727A/24 to C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers,  
(R) Admty., R.A.(M), F.O.I.C. Oran.)

/Operational ...

War Diary.24.2.1945.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Operational Control of Aircraft. Desirability of Casablanca aircraft being under A.O.C., Gibraltar. (Air Min. 1225Z/34 to Rafdel Washington) See America & West Indies.)

INAKE Spanish. My 1521/18 INAKE now leaves Genoa 27th. (D.E.W.D. 1255A/24 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med.)

U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 38°58' N 16°37'W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge, when first sighted was on course 360° estimated speed 12 knots. (A/C C8P/D, 1417A/24).

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 38°58'N 16°34'W. S/M is on surface, when first sighted was on course 360° speed 12 knots. (A/C C80/D. 1600A/24.) Enemy submarine has been severely damaged by air attack. (A/C C80/D, 1640A/24.)

T.E.16. Intend sailing in accordance with your 1811/22nd (list) (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1503A/24 to C. in C. Med)

LADY DENISON PENDER. My 1244/19 para.3. Intend to sail LADY DENISON PENDER at 1600A/26 escorted by ST.NECTAN and HAARLEM direct to position (J) given in my 1251/9. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1508A/24 to Admty.) Amended see 1012/27.

NYASSA (portuguese) intercepted. Taken over NYASSA from ANCHUSA at 1500 in 38.19 North 9.31 West, E.T.A. 1100/25th. Weather. (REGINA 1530A/24 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Ministry of Marine received report A.M. today that Portuguese NYASSA was intercepted outside Lisbon and has been sent to Gibraltar. They would much appreciate if she could be dealt with as soon as possible and signal made when her time of arrival Lisbon is known. (N.A. Lisbon, 1629/24 to F.O.I/C Gibraltar., (R) Admty.)

Suspicious Ship. Suspicious freighter with 2 masts one central (corrupt group) Sampson posts before (?centre) foremast and straight cut away bows steel wire reported in 041° 14' North 042° 00' West at 1030Z/24th course 080° speed 12.15 knots, sight. (sic).

War Diary.24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Suspicious Ship (Cont.) (2) No ship answering description is known to be in this locality. Greek BIGTIS and STAVROS both from Philadelphia to Lisbon are in the vicinity.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1632A/24 to S & A. Areas X Y & Z (R) SUSSEX, JAMAICA)
- MIRROR My 1227/21 MIRROR reports operations given in your 1833/29 January completed at 1615A/24.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1703A/24 to Admty. (R) C. in C Med. W.)
- KATANGA Enemy Consul here keenly interested Belgian S.S. KATANGA's sailing. Suggest good escort be sent.  
(Consul Ponta Delgada 1705/24 to Admty.)
- EMPIRE ELAINE EMPIRE ELAINE presumed sailed in S.R.2 is urgently required in U.K. Request arrangements be made for her to join M.K.S. 9.  
(D.T.D. 1836A/24 to F.O. i/c Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med.)
- WOODSTOCK My P.C. and S. 2000A/24th 039° 12'N. 011° 46'W. 322° 14. weather report.  
(WOODSTOCK 1845Z/24 to F.O. Gibraltar.)
- O.S.43 Arrivals LIDDESDALE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK with Gibraltar section O.S.43.  
(V.A. Gibraltar 1930A/24 to Admty.)
- Movements. Arrival A.M. ZETLAND Ex G.U.S. 4 A.M. CONVULVULUS, BADDECK from Oran. 1930 M.L. 173 175 from escort duty to Melilla. Departure 1728 IMPERIALIST escorting S.S. EMPIRE. HAVEN to Melilla & back.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2006A/24 to Admty. etc.)
- Minesweeping. My 2252A/22 Feb, following swept to-day Wednesday.  
(A) Channel QKA. 87  
(B) Area off Cape Spartel 1.5 miles each side line between 35° 48.8 mins North. 06° 00.8 West and 35° 44 mins North 06° 02.2 West.  
(2) One mine detonated 35° 47.2 North 06° 01.3 mins West.  
(3) Intend CIRCE ESPIEGLE, and ALBACORE continue sweeping tomorrow Thursday.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2217/24 to C. in C Med (R) Admty. S.N.O.C.A.)

# MOST SECRET

921<sup>a</sup>.

lion  
So.

**WARNING:** This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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

M E S S A G E      No T.O.O.      IN  
MOST SECRET

From G.O.C. in C. West Africa.      Date 24.2.43  
Time 0745

CIPHER

Addressed War Office.

103540. 0925/22/2 cipher 22 Feb.

From FOCWAF.

Following for War Office from G.O.C. in C.  
Begins.

AA. Defences West Africa. On basis your 50751 M.O. 7 Feb. I can provide three heavy AA regiments and two GOR's all for static use overseas. These are trained and ready to take part in operations as soon as you can ship them. Would appreciate early information as to whether regiments will be shipped with guns and if so whether such holdfasts as are serviceable will also (?be) taken. Strongly recommend that all three regts. should if possible be employed in same theatre of war. In this case I would also despatch an AA Bde Headquarters. I am arranging to send three light AA anti-tank batteries each of 18 Bofors guns to India with each of first and second West African divs. in view this commitment I cannot (repetition cannot) at present make firm offer any other light AA batteries as immediately available for use overseas but some btys may become available later.

Coast Defence. Chiefs of Staff on 30 Dec. agreed that there would be no (repetition no) reduction on coast defences West Africa. In my O/7222 10 Jan. I queried whether intention was to maintain existing defences or existing approved scale defences. I understand that consideration being given to retention approved scale except for one minor amendment Bathurst. In view JIC opinion that no attack by land forces, surface craft or air forces considered possible, I submit that desirability of shipping and installing a further 9.2 and 7 5.25 guns at Freetown is questionable. Moreover I

understand.

2.

understand that RAF may be removing their RDF (or RAF) stations. Such actions seems in full accord with JIC estimate but removal RDF warning system does not (repetition not) seem quite in line with (?our) policy of increase of existing coast defence equipments. Agreed. Ends.

T.O.O. Nil.

W.O. Circulation:

C.I.G.S.	D.R.A.
V.C.I.G.S.	D.D.R.A. (O)(W)(RL)
D.C.I.G.S.	R.A.1.3.4.6.7.
A.C.I.G.S.	Air Co.-Ord.
D.M.O.	D. Sigs.
D.D.M.O. (O)(H)	D.D. Sigs.
M.O.1.4.7.	Sigs. 2.
D.P.	Q(Ops)
G.S.P.	War Cab. Secretariat
D.S.D.	(Brig. Jacobs)
D.D.S.D.	Air Ministry
S.D.2.	Admiralty
	Col. Office (Col. Rolleston)

Received from W.O. at 2025/26.

1st Lord.	
1st S.L. (2)	
D.F.S.L.	
4th S.L.	
V.C.N.S.	D.T.D. (3)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.T.D. (M)
A.C.N.S. (W)	D. of L.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	Hd. of M.
U.W.R.	D.S.D.
D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.G.D.
D.O.D. (F) (2)	A.M.W.
D.C. (2)	Ad. Blake (4)
D.N.I. (4)	I.P. (2)
D. of P. (2)	W.D.

War Diary.24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

## Movements.

Arrived HERO.  
(Com. i/c Durban 0524Z/24 to Admty. etc.)  
Arrival a.m. 24th DESPATCH.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1153Z/24 to F.O.C.W.Af.  
(R) Admty.)

Arrived H.M.I.S. CARNATIC.  
(Cmdre. Durban 1501Z/24 to Admty. etc.)  
Arrivals 24th Feb. BELLWORT, COMMANDANT DROGOU.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 1700Z/24 to Admty.)  
Arrival 1630/24 THYME.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1815Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

Dock for  
CYCLAMEN.

Your 1244/19th, dock Boma available 1st March.  
(B.N.L.O. West Africa 0935A/24 to F.O.C.W.A. (R)  
N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

## W.S. 26.

Intend sailing Capetown section W.S. 26 at 1000Z/  
26th to R/V with Durban section in 029° 57' S.  
031° 12' E. at 0800Z/1st.  
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 1004C/24 to C. in C.S.A. (R)  
Admty. C. in C.E.F. N.O.I.C. Durban, N.C.S.O.  
Durban.)

My 1115/21st para. 1. (c). Transport CITY OF PARIS for India  
will be also included in Durban section of W.S. 26 although  
this will reduce S.O.A. of convoy from 12½ knots to 11½.  
(P.S.T.O. Capetown 1116C/24 to C. in C.E.F.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1959Z/24th. PICT about 04.10 04.15  
to Takoradi 9. F.Sloop COMMANDANT RORY escorting  
04.58 04.10 to West Coastal Route 6. CYCLAMEN  
about 04.08 02.50 East towards Lagos 12½. ST. WISTAN escorting  
about 03.59 07.15 East to Eastwards 4. DRANGEY 05.11 S. 08.23 10.  
ARMERIA about 04.00 00.30 to Takoradi 12.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1103Z/24.)

Situation 1958Z/24th.

DUNKERY about 29.00 19.00 to Bathurst 8.  
SERGEANT GOUARNE, ORFSAY French S/M LA PERLE 2 M.Ls. with  
convoy 19.19 16.57 to 20.00 17.30 and 21.00 17.38 thence 027°  
6½.

U.S. Destroyer MADDOX, NELSON, GLENNON, with convoy T.O.1 14.35  
17.43 256 13½ BRIDGEWATER, HYDRANGEA, INKPEN, DUNCTON with  
convoy S.R. 2, 08.46 14.34 to 09.19 N. 17.02 thence 352 7½.  
CROCUS off Freetown to join convoy S.R.2 (?HOLLY) (corrupt group)  
patrolling between 12 (?N.) 28 west and 35 west.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1104Z/24.)

ROCKROSE, MOOIVLEI with N.C. 4 off Walvis Bay to Sainte  
Marie 8 knots.

COVENTRY CITY, STELLA POLARIS with N.C. 3 032° 00' S. 017° 15' E.  
to Sainte Marie 7½.

FRITILLARY, NORTHERN DAWN with C.N. 10 032° 15' S. 017° 15' E.  
to Walvis Bay 8.

F. S. ~~COMMANDANT~~ COMMANDANT DUBOC, H.M.S. ST. ZENO, H.M.S. LE TIGER with  
C.D. 6, 034° 30' S. 023° 30' E. to Durban 8.

CHALLENGER off Cape Agulhas to Capetown 12 knots.

Convoy D.C.10 033° 45' S. 027° 15' E. to Capetown 8.

(?CERES), CILICIA, QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH, RACEHORSE with W.S.  
26, 031° 30' S. 030° 30' E. to Durban 12½.

/JASMINE...

War Diary.24. 2. 1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic

Dispositions. JASMINE, NIGELLA 029° 50' S. 034° 45' E. to  
(Contd.) 029° 48' S. 038° 40' E. 11¼.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1251C/24.)

Convoy 10. TEUCER, FORT MAUREPASS, FORT McMURRAY.  
N.C.4. 11. All ships Military cargo.  
12. Saldanha Bay.  
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1303C/24. to Admty.  
C. in C.S.A. N.C.S.O. Capetown.)  
ROCKROSE sailed 1300C/24th escorting N.C.4. to  
Saldanha Bay, E.T.A. 1500/27th.  
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1314C/24 to C. in C.S.A.  
(R) Admty. N.C.S.O. Saldanha Bay.)

CHESHIRE, After consultation with C.O. CHESHIRE following  
floating points suggest desirability of (?augmenting)  
dock Dock escort at least for central portion of  
escort. route with another armed merchant cruiser.  
(i) Approx. date of sailing must be known to  
enemy.

(ii) Escort by CHESHIRE will probably be known after departure.  
(iii) Necessity of good weather for towing and endurance of  
Tugs entailing a northerly route passing through A position  
028° S. 020° W. Masters of Tugs concur.  
(iv) Should enemy give serious consideration to interception  
(corrupt group) the approximate route could be deduced and 2  
Raiders now probably in Atlantic concentrated to effect  
interception.

(B.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1410Z/24 to D.N.I.)

CHESHIRE sailing from Rio de Janeiro 2030Z/24th E.T.A.  
at Montevideo 1130Z/28th, route direct. Will require 200 tons  
diesel at Montevideo.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1754Z/24 to Admty.)

Convoy List, cargoes, destinations.  
S.R.2. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1501Z/24 to Admty.)  
My 1630Z/22nd. GLENSTRAE for U.K. also sailed  
in convoy S.R. 2.  
(F.O.W.A. 1533Z/24 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)  
C. in C. Med. BRIDGEWATER, S.N.O. Casablanca,  
Admty.)

Convoy, My 1055/21st. Position 017° 15' N. 016° 28'  
Dakar, - W. speed 5 knots at 0700/24th.  
Port Etienne. (Comar, Dakar 1606Z/24 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst,  
F.O.C.W.Af. Air H.Q. W.Af. S.N.O. Casablanca,  
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

T.O.1. Sailed convoy T.O.1 in accordance with my 1623/22  
and my 1211/24.  
(Comar Dakar 1831Z/24 to N.S.H.Q. Admty. C. in  
C. Atlantic Fleet, C.C.S.F. B.A.D. S.B.N.O.W.A.  
F.O.C.W.A.F. Cominch, C. and R. N.O.B. Trinidad).

War Diary.

24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

DUNKERY,  
MONTE  
NARANCO.

Aircraft contacted at R/V 1115Z/24th. Aircraft proceeded in search of MONTE NARANCO. Aircraft has not been in contact since. My position 1930Z/24th 029° 00' N. 019° 07' W. estimate position 1100Z/25th 029° 48' N. 017° 41' W.

Unlikely to contact MONTE NARANCO without aircraft assistance and would be unable transfer operator in prevailing sea. Only ship sighted Portuguese cruiser at 1030Z/24th, P.C. and S. 028° 45' N. 019° 15' W. 030° 15.  
(DUNKERY 2100Z/24 to F.O.C.W.A.)



War Diary.24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. 4 destroyers bearing 180° distant 4 miles approx true course 250° 37.48 N., 11.23 E. (A/C. B.U.A./Q., 0235A/24 To Air H.Q. Malta.)

TRAVANCORE. Departure. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0341Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

NUBIAN, JAVELIN. Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 0710A/24, to Admty etc.)

TETCOTT. Departure 23rd Feb. (S.O.I.Alex, 0914/24 to Admty etc.)

E.T.12. Add to my 1621A/23. (3 ships) (N.O.I/C. Bougie, 1012A/24 to F.O.I.S. etc.)

SPLENDID. If you were off Cape San Vito at 0730 today you were probably sighted by an Italian Warship. (Capt. S.8. 1020A/24 to P.228 (SPLENDID)).

M.T.B.6. My 1113A/23rd. M.T.Bs. 307 and 315 will carry out the same programme 24 hours late. (C.C.F., 1028A/24 to F.O.I.S., H.Q. E.A.C.248 Wing. V.A. Malta.)

O.S.44. Your 2105/23. Escorts can be arranged. (C. in C. Med. 1153/24 to Admty., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar F.O.C.W.A.)

UNBROKEN, UNISON. Leave for patrol after dark to-morrow 25th by reverse of outward route to arrive False Bay 0830/27th. P.43 (UNISON) sailed to-day 24th North of Linosa for patrol in Hammamet. (Capt. S.10, 1220A/24 to P.42 (UNBROKEN))

Malta M.T.Bs. Personal for 1st S.L. Your 2341/22nd. Only four M.T.Bs. have been withdrawn from Malta of which three have arrived at Alexandria. Their time here is not being wasted as they are refitting and slipping. Present tense situation which might in certain circumstances get worse at short notice does not yet permit removal of M.T.Bs. (C. in C. Levant, 1220B/24 to Admty.)

TIGRIS. You may have been sighted by enemy aircraft at 0730/24th. (Capt. S.8. 1232A/24 to TIGRIS.)

/Tripoli...

War Diary.

24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Tripoli Discharges. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Tripoli discharged 23 February 6,440 tons including 4,200 petrol. Benghazi under great difficulties due to bad weather discharged 1,020 tons. (Mideast, 1250Z/24 to Air Min.) Received from Air Ministry 2240/24.

Convoy My 0950A/22 (0905/22 intended) sailed escorted by NASTURTIUM and LA SETOIS. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1340A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN. ROYAL SCOTSMAN, defects. Your 1504/17th. Urgent defects are as follows:- ROYAL SCOTSMAN: refit of Starboard main engine refit of both main air compressors. ROYAL ULSTERMAN: refit of starboard main engine refit of both main air compressors refit of No. 2 A. Generator. (C. in C. Med., 1414A/24 to Admty., (R) Assault Ships and Craft S.O., C.C.O.)

Bi-weekly OPSUM No. 102 Part 4. Night 22/23 Feb. 33 Wellingtons 7 Halifaxes despatched to attack Palermo Harbour, 21 Wellingtons, 6 Halifaxes, bombing objective caused an explosion 8 fires (?) in harbour and town areas, bursts across Naval jetties and North of harbour including dry dock area, 1 further Wellington attacking 4 ships outside harbour started fire on land. 8 other Wellingtons landed Malta. 2 Wellingtons, 1 Halifax returned early. 1 Wellington missing. Agur enemy aircraft approached Tripoli. 2 Beaufighters up shot down 1 Cant Z.1007 in Sea. Remainder withdrew without bombing. Feb. 23. 18 B.24s bombing Messina in 2 formations scored hits on train ferry terminus and railway sidings to south of harbour explosions and fires caused and considerable damage believed inflicted. 1 bomb burst on or near vessel at Ferry Terminus. Both formations attacked by small numbers of enemy fighters of which one M.E. 109 shot down without loss. (Middle East 1423Z/24)

12th Air Force Report. Daily Intelligence Cable. N.W. Africa Air Force Operations Feb. 23. Counter shipping mission of 6 B.25s sighted and attacked 13 barges believed to be Seibel Ferries. 6½ tons of bombs dropped from 200 feet. Five barges carrying trucks and other equipment were sunk. Very intense light flack from all barges. 3. B.25s shot down by Flak. (12th Air Force 1429Z/24 to Etousa.)

/Convoys...

War Diary.24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Convoys Your 1256/18. Following are my comments.  
for (A) Necessity for running a T.E. - E.T. cycle of  
Torch convoys within Mediterranean and intermediate  
Area. to K.M. - M.K. cycle will continue, and will  
probably grow in importance. (B) Assumed  
that an R.S. - S.R. cycle will be necessary  
intermediate to O.S. - S.L. cycle between Gibraltar and Freetown.  
(C) Presumed that through Mediterranean convoys will be  
considered in relation to general arrangement. (D) Two strong  
groups will be necessary to handle, 1) K.M.S. - E.T. cycle,  
working Gib. - Gisp. - Gib. - Algiers - Bizerta - Algiers -  
Gib and repeat. 2. T.E. - M.K.S. cycle, working Gib. - Algiers-  
Bizerta - Algiers Gib. - Comp. - Gib. and repeat. Present  
intention is that these groups will be formed of Class 1 "Hunts"  
and "Dance" class trawlers. (E) Additional group is required  
to meet and despatch U.G.S. - G.U.S. sections. This group  
could also handle R.S. - S.R. convoys on a 20 day cycle but with  
very little to spare. 36th Escort group of four corvettes now  
allocated R.S. convoys but would require reinforcement by at  
least 3. (F) 13th Destroyer Flotilla if kept up to strength of  
9 should be able to handle K.M.F. - U.G.F. - M.K.F. - G.U.F.  
commitment, to reinforce O.T. - T.O. convoys and for emergency  
work. (G) Through convoy requirement will necessitate  
additional escorts with powerful anti-aircraft. Existing 5 "Hunts"  
of Inshore Squadron form a nucleus but will require considerable  
reinforcement depending on volume of traffic intended.  
(H) With expected minesweeping commitment in Tunisian area and  
new grown commitment of minesweeping in Gib. area, all fleet  
minesweepers will be more than fully employed. (J) It can  
therefore be seen that proposed programme will entail  
following reinforcement if it is to be met:- (a) Reinforcement  
of 36th Escort group. (b) Reinforcement of K.M. - E.T.,  
T.E. - M.K. groups because 13th D.F. and Inshore Squadron  
"Hunts" will no longer be available to back them up. See (F)  
and (G) above. (c) Reinforcement of Inshore Squadron "Hunts"  
to form through Escort groups. Alternatively "Hunts" now  
forming part of Force H. Screen could be relieved by fleets and  
join Inshore Squadron.  
(C. in C. Med., 1647A/25 to Admty.)

Movements Arrivals and departures 24th Feb. CUMBRAE and  
Famagusta. ISLAY.  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1704B/24 to Admty. etc.)

S/Ms. Arrivals THUNDERBOLT P.46 (UNRUFFLED) departure  
Malta. P.43 (UNISON).  
(V.A.Malta, 1716A/24 to Admty., etc.)

Movements 24th Port Said Arrivals. M/L 355, TETCOTT, NIKI,  
Port Said. Departure TETCOTT.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1721B/24 to Admty., etc.)

Air P.R.U. Feb. 24th Visuals. 1505, Naples, 2  
R/C. cruisers. 1610, Messina, no Naval Unit.  
1520, Taranto, 2 Battleships 2 cruisers.  
(2) Photographs taken.  
(V.A. Malta, 1740A/24 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

/Movements...

24.2.1943  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, 24th Feb. arrival Gr. S/M KATSONIS departure  
Beirut. M.Ls. 350, 384, 385.  
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 1830B/24 to Admty.)

Mining 3 M.T.Bs. at Bone have been fitted with  
by temporary mine shutes to take 6 American mark  
M.T.Bs. VI mines each with assistance of U.S. mining party  
from Mindiv 50. Report showing arrangements  
being forwarded to Admty. (2) First lay was  
successfully carried out on night 22nd - 23rd Feb. in vicinity  
of Plane Island 37° 11' N. 10° 21' E. Intend to continue these  
operations in Sicilian Channel until stock of 450 American mines  
is exhausted.  
(C. in C. Med., 1835A/24 to Admty., (R) V.A.M., C.C.F. Cominch.)

M.E.18. Sailed convoy M.E.18, DERWENT, CROOME, ALDENHAM,  
HURWORTH, G.S. KANARIS.  
(V.A.Malta, 1847A/25 to Admty., C. in C. Levant  
C. in C. Med.)

Malta 2000A/23 to 2000A/24. Naval. Convoy of 3 M/Vs  
Intelligence and 1 Tanker escorted by 5 D/Rs has left tonight  
Summary. for the East. (2) No enemy air activity.  
Spitfires maintained protective patrols over  
shipping unloading in harbour. Made offensive  
sweeps North of Malta. (3) Offensive. Night 23rd/24th Feb.  
Three Beauforts, two Wellingtons on armed shipping R/C made no  
sightings. Two Mosquitoes intruded over Western Sicily and from  
Cape Bon to Sousse.  
(Govr., Malta, 1905Z/24.)

Movements, Arrival and departure 24th Feb. BURRA G.R. Dest.  
Haifa. PANTHER.  
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, Haifa, 1927B/24 to  
Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

Malta Air Day 24th. Feb. 25 Spitfire sorties were made in  
Report. offensive sweeps North of Malta but no enemy  
aircraft or shipping was found. Enemy air  
activity. Nil.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1931/24.)

Movements. Departures of Warships Feb. 24. SPEY and ROTHER  
to join O.S.43 VANOC, VERITY, VELOX to escort  
U.G.S.5(O) U.G.S. P.Cs. 475, 473 and 472 to  
Gibraltar with C.G.14. Additional arrival Feb. 23, one P.C.  
from Gibraltar.  
(Commorseafon, 1941Z/24 to C. in C. Med. (W) (R) Admty., F.O.C.  
Gib, Cominch.)

Movements, STORNAWAY  
Algiers. Arrivals STORNAWAY FELIXSTOWE L.C.I.(L)s 99, 242,  
243, 247, F.S. ENGANGEANTE departures STORNAWAY  
FELIXSTOWE M.Ls. 1221, 1152, 1225 L.C.Ts. 135, 152.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2022A/24 to Admty., etc.)

/Departures.

War Diary.

24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements  
Algiers,  
(Contd.) Departures UNSHAKEN (P.54), TURBULENT.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2024A/24 to Admty., etc.)

Movements  
Tobruk. Arrived AMBER and SOUTHERN SEA.  
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2142B/24 to Admty., (R) C. in C.  
Levant.)

G.U.F.5. My 1055/20th (?1056/20 intended), all times  
24 hours later. Casablanca section R/V at  
1830A/27th.  
(C. in C. Med., 2145A/24 to N.O.I.C. Oran, S.N.O.  
Casablanca, (R) Connav, Admty., S.O. Force H.  
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements,  
Tripoli. 24th arrival SEAHAM, IMHOFF, L.C.T.113,  
departure M.L.459.  
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya), 2152A/24 to Admty.)

BRITISH  
CHIVALRY. Your 1121/23rd (N.T. in W.R.)  
BRITISH CHIVALRY has sustained weather damage  
which makes her unsuitable for use as Fleet  
attendant oiler until docked for repair.  
Estimated time in dock 2 weeks. In view of present docking  
commitments N.O.I.C. Oran (?is to) sail her for U.K. in convoy  
M.K.S.9.  
(C. in C. Med., 2154A/24 to N.O.I.C. Oran (R) V.A. Gib.  
S.O. Force H. Admiralty.)

Movements,  
Oran. Departures MISOA, BACHAQUERO, CLACTON, ROTHESAY,  
BUDE, POLRUAN.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2210A/24 to Admty. etc.)

Tunisia. Summary of Operations 18 to 20 Feb.  
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers to Ambassadors, etc.) See lion  
Copy.

Enemy  
Units. Following has been read from A/C using callsign  
A.R.J./M.: 3 enemy destroyers, 2 merchant  
vessels in 38.43 N., 1200 E. course 270° speed  
10 knots.  
(Alex. W/T, 2220A/24 to Admty.)  
My 2220. P.C. and S. of enemy. 3 Destroyers, one Medium  
Vessel, one Large Vessel 38.52 N., 12.38 E. 020° 10 knots.  
(A/C. A.R.J./M., 2330A/24 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Air  
Defence  
Command,  
Egypt. Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S. (M.E.)361.  
Your S.D./12030 of 20th Feb. (1305/20). Para 3;  
we approve.  
(Air Min. 2330Z/24 to C. in C. M.E.)

/Tunis...

# MOST SECRET

929<sup>A</sup>

*Lion*  
*Med*

**WARNING :** This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2210Z/24th February IN

From A.F.H.Q. Algiers. Date 26.2.43.

CYPHER

Addressed (H.M. Ambassador, Madrid U.S. Ambassador, Madrid  
Passed by Etouza) Resident Minister, Achimota  
Passed by Colonial Office, (Minister of State  
Cairo, Britman Washington (for Dill) Arminia  
(for Wavell) P.A.I.C.) Passed by Air Ministry  
Special Signal Office (Landforce Melbourne  
(for Blamey) Defender Wellington (for Puttick)  
Dechief Pretoria (for Smuts)) Passed by War  
Office M.A. Ankara (for Marshal Chakmak)  
Passed by Foreign Office.

*Tunisia.*

LINREP NO.23. 24th February, 1943. U.S. 185.

*Tunisia*  
Summary of operations - 18 to 20 February.

1. South. On 18 February the enemy attacked the pass Northwest of Kasserine with Infantry and Artillery. Although this initial attack was held there was some infiltration into our lines. The following day the enemy continued the attack with Infantry, tanks and Artillery and occupied the pass. Enemy motor and foot elements penetrating into the plain Northwest. British and American armoured elements went into action but failed to dislodge the enemy.

2. Additional Infantry reinforcements were moved to assist our troops in this area. The next day the enemy advanced in 2 columns, 1 towards Thala, the other N.W. on Djebela El Hamra. Our armoured elements repulsed the advance on Djebel El Hamra. The main enemy column comprising about 40 tanks and Infantry was directed on Thala. This column made some progress and at the end of the period of this report was within a few miles of the town. Heavy fighting continues but the situation appears to be in hand.

2. Centre. Our force repulsed repeated enemy attacks in the area East of Sbiba. Many enemy tanks were disabled or destroyed. Churchill tanks were employed for the first time in Tunisia destroying 4 enemy tanks for the loss of 1 in the initial encounter. French Goums captured 40 prisoners in a successful raid in the hills North of Gussoltia.

3. North/.....

3. North. Active patrolling was carried on both sides.
4. Southeast. Our forces have occupied Madenine. Our patrols are in contact with the enemy 8 miles further to the N.W.
5. Air. During most of the period our air operations were limited by the weather. A successful attack was made on an enemy convoy South of Sicily 1 large tanker E was hit and set on fire, hits are claimed on 2 small escorts vessels which are believed to have sunk; 1 Naval vessel was damaged later. Malta aircraft sank the tanker.
6. Political. Remains same last report.

2210Z/24.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F).

Received in War Registry at 1125/26.

1st Lord  
1st S.L.(2)  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
D.C.N.A.E.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(A)  
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
U.W.R.  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.O.D.(H)(2)  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
D. of P.(2)  
Duty Capt.(2)  
Hd. of M.  
D.N.I.(4)  
I.P.(2)  
D.P.D.  
C.N.I.  
W.D.  
Adm. Blako  
D.A.W.T.  
D.D.O.D.(M).

Air Ministry Distribution:-

Brigadier Jacob.  
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Mr. Radcliffe, Min. of  
Information.

War Diary.

24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Tunis - C.O.S. (W) 493. Ref. C.O.S. (W) 484 and (W) 485  
Marseilles (1230/20/2, 1240/20/2) Following telegram  
Repatriations. received from Resident Minister, Algiers dated  
20th Feb. F.O. Number 168. (Begins.)  
Your telegram No.135. I have spoken to C. in C.  
and Adm. Cunningham. They appreciate your doubts and agree  
that in the circumstances the request for facilities should be  
refused. (Ends.) 2. We do not know whether Eisenhower  
has reported in this sense to U.S. Chiefs of Staff but we are  
taking it for granted that this is final. At the same time  
we should like to have confirmation from Combined Chiefs of Staff  
(Air Min., 2355Z/24 to Britman Washington)



War Diary.

24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SUTLEJ Arrival 1510Z/23 SUTLEJ with engine defect.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0321Z/24 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N.,  
Ceylon, C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Hormuz, S.N.O.  
Persian Gulf.)

Movements Departure EARL KITCHENER, LORD GREY.  
(N.O.I.C. Madras 0342Z/24 to Admty.)  
Departure TULIP 1200Z/23.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 0342Z/23. to Admty.)  
Arrival MAURITIUS.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0515Z/24 to Admty.)  
Arrival 0717Z/24 SHOREHAM, 0746Z/24 FALMOUTH.  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0749Z/24 to Admty.)  
Arrival 1112 G.M.T./24 GENISTA.  
(N.O.I.C. East London 1117Z/24 to Admty.)  
Colombo arrival 24th 10450 OKAPI.  
(F.O. Ceylon 1140Z/24 to Admty.)  
Arrival RAJPUTANA.  
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 1220Z/24 to Admty.)  
Arrival PATNA.  
(N.O.I.C. Madras 1509/24 to Admty.)  
Arrived ARETHUSA, LURCHER, left ARETHUSA, ROTHERHAM.  
(F.O.E.Af. 1552Z/24 to Admty.)

EMPIRE Expected to complete middle April.  
PINTAIL (C.S.D. Bombay 0412Z/24 to Admty.(R) B.A.D.,  
C. in C. E.F.)

B.A. 38 1. B.A. 38 (Sailing Telegram). 2. 0530Z/24.  
3. Crossing 055° 0330Z/27.  
3a. E.T.A. Aden 0630Z/3rd March. 4. 10 knots.  
5. (U) 010° 57' 067° 48' (V) 010° 38' 061° 39' thence on to Aden.  
6. CARADOC.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0537Z/24 0539Z/24 to Admty.)

P.B. 27 Convoy P.B.27 Bombay portion arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0856Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

Ceylon Movement Summary No.39. Feb. 24th. (1) FALMOUTH left Trincomalee 21/2 due Addu 24/2 with SHOREHAM R/V O.W. 4 26/2 and escorts to P.G.  
(2) SHOREHAM relieved of escorting B.M.42 by GAWLER and due Addu Atoll 24/2.  
(3) GAWLER left Colombo 21/8 ? take over escort B.M.42 due Trinco 25/2 leaves Trinco 27/2 escorting Br. GENIUS and GREEN RANGER to Colombo 1/3 (4/3)  
(4) SCOUT left Bombay 21/2 arriving Colombo 23/3  
(5) SUTLEJ and PUNJAB left Bombay 23/2 escorting P.B. 69 SUTLEJ returned with defects 23/2.

War Diary.24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Ceylon Movement Summary No.39 Feb.24th. (6) MARGUERITE with MARYBOROUGH leaves Hormuz 25/2 escorting convoy P.B.28.  
(7) TULIP left Trinco 23/2 escorting ATHELMONARCH due Colombo 25/2.  
(8) LISMORE leaves Colombo 25/2 escorting M.B.26.  
(9) MADRAS and BENGAL leave Bombay 25/2 escorting B.P.70.  
(10) BOMBAY leaves Bombay 27/2 escorting B.M.43 to be relieved by TAMWORTH from Colombo on 29/2.  
(11) LAUNCESTON left Aden 22/2 escorting A.P.20.  
(12) KONKAN left Calcutta 22/2 escorting TANDA due Madras 26/2.  
(13) RAJPUTANA left Madras 21/2 escorting convoy J.C. 7½ to Calcutta.  
(14) ORISSA leaves Hormuz 25/2 escorting convoy P.A.26.  
(F.O. Ceylon 0931z/24 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., Com. R.I.N., S.N.O.P.G.)

J.C.7½ Convoy J.C.7½ arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta 1034z/24 to Admty. (R) F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., S.O.I.Bombay)

India Air Report. (B) Offensive R/C 23rd Feb.. 4 Hurricanes destroyed small steamer Ramree Island. 1 Hurricane damaged launches Akyab Island (S) ? R/C Hudson Arakan.  
(A.H.Q. India 1150z/24 to Air Min.)

B.M.42 Colombo portion B.M.42 arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 1310/24 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.I.C. Ceylon, Cdre. R.I.N., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

M.C.5 1 M.C.5. (Sailing Telegram)  
4. Knots 9. Route.  
6. ROTHERHAM.  
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 1509z/24 to Admty. (R) F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Durban.)

Madagascar S.T.O. H.Q. Further to my 1146A/23. (removal of H.Q. to Tamatave. - N.T. in W.D.) Following points are submitted for your consideration.  
(6) My previous reasons for non transfer to Capital apply equally to Tamatave.  
(7) Strongly recommend that decision be reconsidered and Diego Suarez remains Sea Transport H.Q.s. unless individual ports are to

/be...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Madagascar  
S.T.O.  
H.Q.  
(Contd.)

be placed under Command of Kilindini when no local H.Q.s would be required and each port acting individually under control of D.S.T.O. Kilindini as suggested in my report.  
(S.T.O. Diego Suarez 1546Z/24 to D.S.T.)

Suggestion  
that Pacific  
and India  
Ocean ships  
be sailed  
in pairs.

No objection to your 2257/19th but from such information as I have believe that master and agents will not welcome this procedure.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1846Z/24 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., C. in C. U.S. Fleet. (C. & R.))

Manza,  
Tanga  
Defences.

Your 0931Z/3rd para. 2 and 3 proposals approved. Your 0930Z/23rd Sept. 1942 - instructions regarding Boom Depot Tanga follow.  
(D.B.D., Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 2019Z/24 to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O. E.Af.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

HAMILTON. E.T.A. 1400Z/24.  
(HAMILTON, 0201Z/24 to C.O.A.C., (R) D.Halifax.)

B.Y.M.S. Seattle departure 2100Z/22 B.Y.M.S. numbers 10,  
17, 18, 21 and 25 due San Francisco 26th.  
(N.S.H.Q., 0215Z/24 to Admty.)

Movements. 24th Feb. St. Johns N.F. arrivals ST. LAURENT ex  
Halifax. Departures WILLIAMSBURG escorting U.S.S.  
PONTIAC to Argentina. TENACITY to assistance  
U.S.C.G. CAMPBELL. HAMILTON to Halifax. NANAIMO  
to U.S.C.G. CAMPBELL. WITHERINGTON to O.N.166. FAME, VISCOUNT,  
EGLANTINE, KINGCUP, ST. LAURENT to H.X.227.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 0250Z/24 to Admty.)  
Baltimore departed 1600Z/23 for Norfolk L.S.T.412.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1213Z/24 to Admty.)  
Arrival 24th Feb. U.S. P.C.566 and 567 from Trinidad.  
(Harbour Master Barbados, 1605/24 to Admty.)  
Norfolk (Virginia) arrived 1401Z/24 L.S.T.416.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2106Z/24 to Admty.)  
Arrival HAMILTON from St. Johns N.F.  
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 2201Z/24 to Admty.)  
San Francisco Feb. 23rd ANTIGUA for Honolulu. JAMES B.  
FRANCIS for San Diego. Both U.S.A.T.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2255Z/24 to Admty.)

O.N.S.166, BURZA pass to CAMPBELL.  
O.N. 167. (Two corrupt groups) CAMPBELL's 1835Z/23rd.  
Request you consider and initiate one of  
following steps.  
(A) Direct escort and M/V from O.N.167 proceed  
to CAMPBELL and attempt to tow to westward.  
(B) Direct escort from O.N.167 to screen CAMPBELL and BURZA  
whilst latter fuels from CAMPBELL.  
(C) Direct escort with sufficient fuel from O.N.167 to screen  
CAMPBELL until arrival SALISBURY.  
Proximity O.N.167 to CAMPBELL at daylight and good weather  
should render any of above steps feasible. Consider every effort  
should be made to protect CAMPBELL continuously until tug arrives.  
CAMPBELL herein directed to transfer prisoners to BURZA.  
(C.T.24, 0427Z/24 to C. in C. Plymouth, CAMPBELL, BURZA, (R)  
Cominch (C and R), Cinclant, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F.,  
C.O.A.C., C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17.)  
O.N.166. U-Boat encountered on surface 0228Z in 045° 20'  
042° 34' astern of convoy. Attack carried out result unknown.  
WITHERINGTON and MONTGOMERY joining and DIANTHUS detaching  
from M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3.  
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 0530Z/25 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, H.Q.C.C.)  
Following has been read. Submarine attack O.N.166 0723Z/24  
numeral 83 INGRIA torpedoed details later P.C.S. 45° 12', 39°  
17', 270°, 8.5. 4 U-Boats sighted from starboard bow to quarter.

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O.N.S.166, 1 U-Boat astern by sound contact. All vigorously  
 O.N. 167. attacked.  
 (Contd.) (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 0845Z/24 to C.T.F.24, (R)  
 Connav, Admty., etc.)  
 Your 0427/24. My 0152/24 refers. O.N.167 now  
 appears to be threatened.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 0921Z/24 to C.T.24, (R) Admty., BURZA,  
 Cominch (C. and R), N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C., M.O.E.T.U.  
 24.1.3, M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17.)  
 My P.C. and S. are 047° 43' N. 036° 16' W., 110°, 19 knots.  
 Weather report.  
 (SALISBURY, 1145Z/24 to C.T.24, (R) F.O.N.F.)  
 A/C call sign BJL/K reports at 1200Z/24th. Freighter in  
 sinking condition 45.43 N. 39.30 W. Survivors in open boat.  
 (C.O.A.C., 1440Z/24 to G.B.7A, (R) C.T.F.24, Connav, Admty.,  
 C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7,  
 H.Q.C.C.)  
 Did CAMPBELL sink submarine which damaged her. Were the  
 13 prisoners referred to in various despatches captured from  
 this submarine.  
 (C.T.24, 1449Z/24 to BURZA, (R) CAMPBELL.)  
 P.C. and S. at 1600Z/24th 047° 46' N. 042° 30' W., 181°,  
 20 knots joining O.N.166 at 0230Z/25th. Will sweep astern till  
 daylight or till otherwise ordered. Oiling at 0800Z/25th 5  
 days at 13 knots.  
 (MONTGOMERY, 1600Z/24 to M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, (R) C.T.F.24,  
 Connav, Admty., etc.)  
 E.T.A. St. Johns 1300Z/26. Have on board 32 survivors  
 from WINKLER and 34 from GLITRE 3 cot cases. Circumstances  
 serious, shortage of fuel rendered rejoining to fuel after last  
 show dangerous from point of view of running out. My P.C. and S.  
 at 1300Z/24 047° 05' N. 042° 00' W., 274°, 10 knots. Can anything  
 in my track refuel to rejoin. Have bare amount to reach St.  
 Johns on one boiler. Weather report.  
 (DIANTHUS, 1932Z/24 to F.O.N.F., (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns,  
 C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3.)  
 Joined O.N.S.167 too late to fuel tonight. I propose to  
 join escort for night fuelling at daylight and then going to  
 CAMPBELL.  
 (SALISBURY, 2000Z/24 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, H.Q.C.C.,  
 BURZA, C.T.U. 24.1.17, CAMPBELL.)  
 Your 1707/24th. At 1900Z/24 my position 047° 19' N. 045°  
 50' W., course 109°, speed 14 knots. E.T.A. 045° 43' N. 039°  
 30' W. 1500Z/25th. Request aircraft from 1500Z/25 to 2200Z/25  
 to help search. At 2200Z/25th intend proceeding to CAMPBELL to  
 arrive 1500Z/26. Weather report.  
 (NANAIMO, 2032Z/24 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, H.Q.C.C.  
 BURZA, SALISBURY.)

L. 23.

L.23 reported her P.C. and S. 51° 02' N. 34° 35'  
 W. 253°, 6 knots at 2310Z/23.  
 (F.O.S., 0934A/24 to Cominch, F.O.N.F., Admty.,  
 C. in C. W.A.)

/Suspicious ...

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Tuesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Suspicious  
Freighter.

Passed suspicious freighter in 041° 14' N. 042° 00' W. at 1030Z/24 distance 12 miles course 080°, speed 12 to 15 knots. 2 masts 1 central funnel. Sampson posts before thick foremast. Straight cut away bow. Admiralty pass to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.  
(EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND, 1050Z/24 to Admty., (R) F.O. Gib., SUSSEX, JAMAICA.)

Movements  
Summary  
1800 G.M.T.  
24th Feb.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
F. S/M AMAZONE	29½° N. 59° W.	296°	7½
SUSSEX	46° N. 27° W.	Patrol	17
U.C. 1 )	30° N. 31° W.	251°	10½
WESTON )			
ALCANTARA )	15° N. 32° W.	Patrol	Blank
WOODRUFF )			
JAMAICA	44° N. 27° W.	Patrol	Blank
T.A. 36	40½° N. 43½° W.	254°	19
L. 23	50½° N. 37½° W.	253°	6

(D.O.D.(F), 1050Z/24 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)

ASSINIBOINE,  
ST. LAURENT.

Your 0127/23 and F.O.N.F's 1630/23.  
Request you will sail destroyers as follows:-  
(1) ASSINIBOINE independently direct to Londonderry to join C.3 Group for training.  
(2) ST. LAURENT with H.X.227 or H.X.228 as desired by you.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1145A/24 to N.S.H.Q., (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., Cdre. Londonderry, C.T.F. 24.)

A.M. 1145/24th. ST. LAURENT is to remain with H.X.227. H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE is to be sailed direct to Londonderry.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1556Z/24 to C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., (R) Admty., B.A.D., C.T.F. 24, C. in C. W.A., ST. LAURENT.)

Operational  
Control of  
U.S. Aircraft  
on Shipping  
Protection.

Webber W.203, 24th Feb. Personal for Durston from C.A.S.  
You are already aware of our views regarding control of Allied Air Forces employed in protection of shipping on this side of the Atlantic, but I would be glad if, at the forthcoming conference, you would press firmly that location and control of American Squadrons

allocated for this role, whether Army Air Force or Naval Air Force, should be exercised through the appropriate R.A.F. Command.

2. The protection of shipping on this side of the Atlantic from North Cape to Capetown is a British responsibility. We have the U-Boat and shipping position constantly before us and operate and distribute our own Squadrons to best advantage. If you could persuade Americans to agree to giving us similar authority over their Squadrons allocated for shipping protection on this side, the best possible use would be made of their services. You may say that we would not hesitate to place

/R.A.F. ...

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Control of  
U.S. Aircraft  
on Shipping  
Protection.  
(Contd.)

R.A.F. G/R Squadrons operating in an American strategic sphere under operational control of appropriate American authorities, and you may care to quote the precedent of 53 Sqn., which you will remember operated from Quonsett and Trinidad under American control.

3. There is some urgency over this problem as First and Second A/S Squadrons are shortly being transferred to Casablanca area to operate presumably under S.N.O. Casablanca, who will then have two Naval P.B.Y. Amphibian Squadrons and two Army centimetre Liberator Squadrons under his control. As a sample of the over-lapping that will occur if operational control is not exercised by one authority. Gibraltar aircraft recently attacked five U-Boats in S.N.O.C.A.'s area all of which were well within range of his amphibians. If economy of force and proper co-ordination of aircraft patrols is to be achieved unified operational control is essential.

4. There can only be one authority responsible for air protection of shipping in any particular area, and in this particular case it must clearly be A.O.C. Gibraltar, whose area extends from latitude of Cape Finisterre to Northern limit of A.O.C. West Africa's Command at 26° 10' N.  
(Air Ministry, 1225Z/24 to Rafdel, Washington.)

ANDES.

Halifax arrived 1932Z/23 ANDES,  
(N.S.H.Q., 1235Z/24 to D. of S.T.)Information  
to Masters  
re U/Bs.

It has been reported by the Master of an independently routed ship that on leaving New York he was supplied with a chartlet showing the estimated positions of all U-Boats in the Atlantic west of 35° W.

2. It is considered that this practice is undesirable because -  
(a) The chartlet cannot give anything but rough information which rapidly becomes out of date.  
(b) It may give Masters a wrong impression by leading them to think they know exactly where the U-Boats are, which in turn might lead them to distrust diversions.  
3. Request you will ascertain if the practice referred to is general, and if so explain our views to Connav.  
(D.T.D., 1244A/24 to B.A.D.)

L.S.Ts.

New York departed 23rd for Bermuda. L.S.T.361,  
403, 320, 302, 401.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1324Z/24 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.,  
S.B.N.O.W.At.)A/C attack  
on U/B.

Aircraft call sign BJL/E attacked submarine with depth charges in 045° 14' N. 040° 30' W. course 250°. 12 attacks delivered successfully at 1326Z/24.

(C.O.A.C., 1350Z/24 to G.B.7A, (R) C.T.F.24, Connav, H.Q.C.C., Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.) Amended 1420Z/24.

/MILFORD ...

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

MILFORD. Then to 021° 30' N. 084° 57' W. course 106° at 1400Z/24th average speed 6 knots. Speed in smooth water 6.5 - 7 knots passing through Tamarisk.  
(MILFORD, 1410Z/24 to Cominch, (R) Connav, N.O.B. Trinidad, Admty., AMARANTHUS.)

Corvettes. (1) Your 1454/17 and A.M. 1650/23 (N.T. in W.R.) to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. and C. in C. W.A. only. Request you sail corvettes as follows: FREDERICTON and OAKVILLE with S.C.122, SNOWBERRY with H.X.229. LETHBRIDGE and HALIFAX with S.C.123.  
(2) Ships named to provide additional through escort from New York to Westomp.  
(C.O.A.C., 1414Z/24 to C.E.S.F., (R) C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., Admty., F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24, N.M.C.J.S. Washington, Connav.)

BAYNTUN. BAYNTUN arrived New York 1615Q/23.  
(C.E.S.F., 1503/24 to C. in C. U.S., (R) B.A.M.R., C.T.G. 90.3, C.T.G. 90.5, N.O.B. Bermuda, Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., C.T.G. 90.1, C. in C. Atlantic.)

Coal bunkering procedure. Your 1924/22. Confirmed.  
(B.R.O. Kingston, 1513R/24 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., B.R.L.O. Bermuda, R.N.O. St. Lucia, Capt. i/c Jamaica.)

Tanker Convoys to Curacao. Crated A/C shipment. No information yet received by Oil Company re commercial cargo for U.C.1. Important to know this if possible 7 days before U.C.1 arrives Curacao in order to prepare berth plan and (corrupt group).  
(2) Your 2140/6 request name of ship.  
(3) Your 1405/3 have these been shipped U.C.-1 and is it intention to establish reserve base here or in San Juan.  
Desire to request names vessels of convoy.  
(N.C.S.O. Curacao, 1517QR/24 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., B.A.D.)

T.F. 22. Originated by C.T.F.22 at 1207/24. Cominch information Admty.  
Comtaskforce 22 in RANGER, Desdiv 20 plus RODMAN, ELLYSON, CHICOPEE, TUSCALOOSA departs lat. 33.40 long. 08.23 1200Z/24th Feb. through point T lat. 31.00 long. 16.10. Point B lat. 26.00 long. 25.00. Point W. lat. 26.00 long 40.00, thence base H. "Chop" 10° 1730Z/24th Feb. 40° 1500Z March 1st. S. of A. 14.5. Desire air coverage for departure and along track.  
(Radio Washington, 1526/24 to Admty.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- T.A. 36  
(EMPRESS OF  
SCOTLAND). Your 1050/24. MORMACSWAN, EXCELLER and CALIFORNIA EXPRESS are estimated to be in your vicinity.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1530A/24 to T.A.36, (R) Connav, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- S/M Estimate Feb. 24th, U.S. S/M Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1547/24, 1548/24, 1616/24, 1617/24, 1618/24.)
- L.C.I.(L)s. Your 1706/19 para. two.  
It is intended to sail 24 L.C.I.(L) for Gibraltar under command of Commander Sherwood during the first few days of March.  
2. The remaining 92 L.C.I.(L) will be sailed for Gibraltar in five flights of approx. 18, each fortnight commencing Monday 15th March.  
3. It is pointed out that the realisation of this intention with regard to the 92 craft is dependent on a number of factors. The most important of these, which is an Admiralty liability, is the provision of.  
(A) Officers for command of flights. See my 1426/23.  
(B) Ocean C.Os. It is considered with reference to A.M. 1912/30th Feb. (? Jan.) that each craft must have an Ocean C.O. Cdr. Sherwood concurs. This is borne out by case of L.C.I.(L) 242 which became separated from the remainder early in the crossing. After departure of Commander Sherwood's flight there will be no Ocean C.Os in the U.S.A.  
(C) Full crews. See my 2052/23 and 1548/24 which asked for certain ratings.  
4. Attention is also invited to my 2050/23 which suggests a flying boat should be available at Gibraltar to fly Ocean C.Os back to the U.S.A. direct.  
(B.A.M.R., 1556Z/24 to Admty.)
- CAIRO, My 1555/17th Dec. 1942 para. 4.  
ADVANTAGE. A.M. 1959/25th Dec. 1942 para. 6.  
CAIRO will probably be ready towards end of March tug ADVANTAGE completes about same time.  
Suggest they proceed unescorted to Trinidad and questions of escort and route for onward passage be decided nearer the time.  
(B.A.D., 1837Z/24 to Admty., F.O.C.W.Af., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., S.B.N.O. Trinidad, N.S.H.Q.)
- Atlantic Convoys, Cycles. A.M. 1913/20th. N.S.H.Q. concurs with C.O.A.C. 1321/23 which is being passed to addressees of this signal. Request proposed changes in sailing dates may be considered.  
2. While these changes will have the effect of bettering the layover of mid Ocean group at Newfoundland at the expense of U.K., they

/provide ...

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Atlantic Convoys, Cycles. (Contd.) provide the best cycle for the western local escort force and allow it to be operated in 8 groups.  
3. The only ships available for western local escort force are a few corvettes backed up by short leg destroyers and "Bangor" Class mine-sweepers whose endurance is limited. Therefore it is essential to satisfy the requirements of this force. (N.S.H.Q., 1852Z/24 to Admty., (R) Cominch, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., N.M.C.J.S. Washington.)

MAJA. U.G.S.5A. Request confirmation MAJA returned to port.  
(D.T.D., 1900Z/24 to Connav, (R) R.O. Norfolk (Virginia), S.N.O.C.A.)

ASSINIBOINE. Sailing ASSINIBOINE 2300Z/25 through (A) 43° 30' N. 60° 00' W. (B) 44° 20' N. 51° 00' W. thence great circle to Inishtrahull thence Londonderry via Q.Z.S.388, S. of A. 15 knots, E.T.A. 2000Z/4 March. A.M. 1145/?/24) refers.  
(C.O.A.C., 1936Z/24 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24, Cdre. Londonderry.)

B.T. 5. Serial Number 11. Following ships sailed Bahia 1900Z/23rd in convoy B.T.5 for Trinidad 8th March: CITY OF HEREFORD, CITY OF NEWCASTLE, CITY OF DELHI, BARON CAWDOR, ARMADALE, SANDOWN CASTLE, LARACHETON, BRITISH TRADITION, IMPERIAL VALLEY, EMPIRE ORTOLAN, SAN FELIX II, VICTORY SWORD, FELIX TAUSSIG, THOMAS H. WHEELER, 3 United States, TJIBESAR, VERMEER, EDAM 3 Dutch, ROMULUS Norwegian, BALTIC Panamanian.  
(A/S.O.(I) Recife, 2004Z/24 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Freetown, S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro.)

Ships training & refitting. N.S.H.Q.'s 1552/10 Jan. After discussion with Cdr. Fraser R.N. we arranged for new construction ships mentioned in N.S.H.Q.'s 1552/10 Jan. work up at Bermuda.  
2. The working up of ships after refit and group training will continue to be carried out by Capt. D. Halifax, Capt. D. Newfoundland and Capt. D. Esquimalt.  
3. S.B.N.O.W.At. is requested to confirm that numbers indicated in above signal can be accepted at Bermuda and Admiralty's concurrence is requested.  
(N.S.H.Q., 2006Z/24 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., B.A.D., N.M.C.S. Washington, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.O.P.C., Capt. D.Halifax, Capt. D.Newfoundland, Capt. D. Esquimalt.)  
Concur. (Admty., 1347A/1/3.)

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America and West Indies - Contd.

S.C.120, SCHENCK. S.C.120. U.S. Dest. SCHENCK sailed at 1945Z/24. It is expected that SCHENCK will join during daylight Feb. 26th. My 0301/23rd. (C.T. 24.6, 2012Z/24 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., SCHENCK.)

U/B. U-Boat's position by R/C report 1854Z/24th within 150 miles 45° N. 42° 30' W. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2043/24 to Admty.)

A/C attack on U/B. Aircraft call sign HAC/B attacked a U-Boat in 045° 10' N. (corrupt group) 17' W. at 2054Z/24. (C.O.A.C., 2118Z/24 to G.B.7A, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C.) A/C sighted submarine 45° 10' N. 41° 17' W. at 2058/24. Attack made on head of swirl possible kill probable damage. (F.O.N.F., 2228Z/24 to G.O.A.C.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. (A) EXPOSITOR, EMPIRE REDSHANK, torpedoed sunk 46° 53' N. 34° 32' W. 2126Z/22. GLITTRE, HASTINGS torpedoed sunk area 46° 15' N. 36° 45' W. 0630Z/23. INGRIA torpedoed area 45° 12' N. 39° 08' W. 0723Z/24. Surface craft attack four subs. area 45° 12' N. 39° 08' W. 0720Z/24.

WESTON sights sub. on surface course 258°, 31° 35' N. 26° 14' W. on 23rd. Surface craft attacks sub. area 46° 48' N. 36° 18' W. about 0730Z/23. DIANTHUS attacks sub. 48° 20' N. 30° 40' W. 0723Z/23. Surface craft attacks two subs. area 46° 53' N. 34° 32' W. about 2126Z/22.

Para. (C). Surface craft sights sub. on surface 04° 37' S. 32° 04' W. 1200Z/24. B.18 sights sub. on surface 12° 35' N. 70° 17' W. 1019Z/23.

Para. (D). Shore watchers sight sub. 29° 05' N. 80° 53' W. 0404Z/24. Plane attacks sub. 45° 04' N. 40° 30' W. 1326Z/24. B.25 sights sub. 35° 15' N. 73° 37' W. 1420Z/24.

MALPEQUE attacks sub. 44° 30' N. 62° 19' W. 2013Z/23. (Cominch, 2210/24 to Admty.)

U/B Campaign, information. F.O.C.W.Af.'s 1412/22. O.S.S. applied to Navy Department for similar information. Adm. King has requested B.A.D. to pass nothing of this nature direct to O.S.S. as he wishes to control the distribution. (B.A.D., 2241Z/24 to Admty.)

Minesweepers reinforcement. A.M. 1235/23. Five ships part of 154 M/S Flotilla are expected to leave San Francisco 27 Feb. routed via Panama, Trinidad, Belem and Recife. 2. The remaining three vessels of this Flotilla would not normally be allocated until very much

/later ...

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War Diary.24. 2. 1943.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Minesweepers  
reinforce-  
ment.  
(Contd.)

later in accordance with M.M/S 0669/42 of 23rd October.  
3. Should a further three ships be allocated now.  
4. Arrival of these ships is being expedited as far as possible.  
(B.A.D., 2245Z/24 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Tunis  
Repatriations.

C.O.S.(W) 493, quoting telegram from Resident Minister Algiers.  
(Air Min., 2355Z/24 to Britman Washington.)  
See Mediterranean.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial  
No. 398  
Feb. 23rd.

Afternoon R/C saw two medium merchantmen forty miles west New Hanover course East.  
(2) Liberator early p.m. sighted one torpedo boat, one cargo vessel vicinity Cape St. George course 300°.  
(3) Six Fortresses struck Rabaul dawn scoring three hits one warship near misses medium cargo vessel one fire started in wharf and town area and two schooners strafed Ataliklikun Bay. One aircraft missing.  
(4) Morning photographs Wewak by Lightning reveal 1 10,000 ton merchantman several small vessels in harbour also 25 fighters on runway and work continuing dispersal area. Interception by 6 fighters evaded.  
(7) 4 Bostons attacked Warai River area night 22nd to dawn 23rd damaging 2 barges but results generally unobserved.  
(9) Thorough search Merobe Harbour revealed no evidence of submarines.  
(19) Hudson attacked submarine 55 miles E.N.E. Woodlark Island early p.m. Oil slick observed.  
(11) Milne Bay area twice raided night 22nd/23rd causing slight casualties and damage.  
(14) Photos Powell Point 22nd show one small wrecked vessel.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0733Z/24.)

Movements.

Arrivals Townsville 22nd WARRAMUNGA. Brisbane 23rd U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD. Thursday Is. 22nd VENDETTA, CASTLEMAINE. Port Moresby 23rd ARUNTA. Cairns 23rd GLENELG. Milne Bay 23rd BENDIGO. Fremantle 23rd U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON, Dutch Ship VAL GALEN.

/Departures ...

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War Diary.

24.2.1943.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.. Departures: Darwin 23rd WARREGO for Townsville. KALGOURLIE for Maryborough. Thursday Island 23rd VENDETTA for Townsville. Sydney N.S.W. 23rd U.S. Destroyer PATTERSON for Brisbane. Melbourne 23rd AUSTRALIA, U.S. Destroyer HENLEY, U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY on escort duties.

(A.C.N.B., 1113Z/24 to Admty.)

Arrivals 23rd Feb. Port Moresby U.S. Transport BOSPHORUS. Townsville R.A.F.A. KURUMBA. Brisbane Hospital Ship MANUNDA. R.F.A. BISHOPDALE arrived Thursday Is. 23rd and departed 23rd due Townsville 26th. U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER departed Darwin 23rd due Thursday Is. 26th thence Townsville 28th. Dutch Naval Store Ship SOEDOE departed Merauke 23rd due Thursday Is. 25th thence Brisbane via Cairns. U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT departed Cairns 23rd due Townsville 24th thence Brisbane 27th.

(A.C.N.B., 1206Z/24 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1345A/24, 1350A/24.)

War Diary.25. 2. 1943.  
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Convoy J.W.53 was estimated to be about 190 miles E. by S. of Bear Island at 0800 today; and at noon, when steering 124° at 8 knots in 73° 41' N. 29° 42' E., was attacked with medium level bombing by 14 Junkers 88 A/C who scored no hits. The Convoy was reported by SCYLLA at 1446A to be still shadowed by A/C and U-Boats, but no U-Boat attack had then yet developed.

The S/M VANDAL is overdue while returning from exercises in Kilbrennan Sound which should have ended yesterday afternoon in Inchmarnock Water west of 05° 09' W., and CYGNET and 5 S/Ms are sweeping the area.

The 4 Spanish Trawlers being brought in by WENSLEYDALE are proceeding unescorted as ordered by her to the Scillies, and WENSLEYDALE herself is returning to Plymouth. She reports that C. in C. Plymouth's signals to her timed 1949A/24 and 0511A/25 did not reach her until 1150A and 1126A today respectively.

115 A/C made a blind bombing attack on Wilhelmshaven last night.

The combined Convoy W.S.27 and K.M.F.10A sailed from the Clyde at 0006A this morning. It consisted of 11 M/Vs.

7 magnetic mines were exploded by Sweepers off Yarmouth today.

French Shipping.

All French merchant vessels trading in the interests of the United Nations are to be treated as Allied for the purpose of issuing confidential books.

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic.Suspicious  
Ships.

At 0535, a transit aircraft in 47.37 N. 07.15 W. sighted 2 suspicious ships on a northerly course, and shortly after a light was seen flashing rapid morse 3 or 4 miles astern of them.

Mines.

Further mines were exploded in sweep, and others were cut, in the Straits of Gibraltar today.

South Atlantic.

C. in C. S.A. states that it is not possible to maintain surface and air escort for C.D., D.C., C.N. and N.C. convoys on the bi-weekly basis. From March 2nd, these convoys will be run once a week with through surface escort between Capetown and Durban, and Capetown and Walvis Bay.

Mediterranean.Air  
Operations.

In a successful attack on an enemy convoy last night by 6 Beaufighters and 7 Wellingtons, in 38.43 N. 12.20 E., 1 Beaufort at 2355 torpedoed a destroyer, causing a large mushroom of smoke; others scored 2 torpedo hits (at 2355 and 0215) on a merchant vessel of 7000 tons, which sank; and a Wellington obtained bomb hits at 0210 on a merchant vessel of 5-6000 tons, causing an explosion which is believed to have sunk the ship as another Wellington searching the area could find no trace.

6 B.24s of the U.S. Air Force attacked Naples last night, dropping 36 American 1000-lb bombs. Hits were observed on the Vittorio Emanuele Mole and the Della Mannella Quay and adjacent area. 1 B.24 bombed the alternative target of Crotona. 40 Fortresses of U.S. N.W. Africa Strategic Air Force were sent to attack Bizerta, and 32 bombed, bursts being seen in the docks and town.

/Tripoli ...

25.2.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Tripoli was bombed last night by 1 enemy A/C which mingled with our outgoing bombers. Slight damage was caused to a vessel in harbour.

Mining.

RORQUAL completed a minelaying operation off Marittimo today, and ABDIEL off Ras Engelais.

Submarines.

SPLENDID, in a message at 0415A from 38.37 N. 10.49 E., stated that she had torpedoed 3 ships, and had only 2 unreliable torpedoes left.

NATHANIEL  
GREENE  
torpedoed.

SS. NATHANIEL GREENE (U.S.) was reported today by C. in C. Med. to have been torpedoed by U-Boat off Mostaghanem. She was towed in and salvage operations have started.

BLYSKAWICA.

Polish destroyer BLYSKAWICA, having been primarily designed for service in the Baltic, is considered unsuitable owing to her poor ventilation arrangements for service in the Mediterranean in summer. C. in C. Med. asks for a relief to enable her to transfer to a more suitable climate.

Zuara.

The harbour of Zuara was reported today ready for use by small craft.

Convoys.

Operation M.H.7. Convoys of 4 empty M/Vs from Malta, and 7 from Tripoli (L) are now on passage to Port Said.

Vessels  
in Prize.

C. in C. Levant, requests that N.O.I.Cs at Tobruk, Benghazi and Tripoli (Libya) be appointed Deputies to the Marshal of the Prize Court, London, in order that prize proceedings may be initiated before captured vessels are requisitioned and brought into Egyptian waters, which are now treated as outside Prize Court jurisdiction.

East Indies.

SS. STORAAS, Norwegian tanker, Table Bay to Abadan, made an "S" report at 1909 G.M.T. in 23.43 N. 59.00 E.



947

25.2.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.

VICTORIOUS was slightly damaged by fire today when one aircraft crashed on landing on her deck whilst VICTORIOUS was oiling at Colon. The ship's fighting efficiency is not impaired.

O.N. 166.

At 0228Z in 44.58 N. 42.55 W., WITHERINGTON, escorting convoy O.N.166, sighted a U-Boat on the surface which dived and was attacked with depth charges. No further contact was obtained and the hunt was abandoned at 0320Z.

At 0500Z, C.T.U. 24.1.3 reported that INGRIDIA (torpedoed yesterday) was astern of the convoy with a hole in her engine room.

At 0725Z, there was a further attack on the convoy and MANCHESTER MERCHANT was torpedoed in 45.10 N. 43.23 W. SPENCER attacked the U-Boat without visible result.

At 1320Z, an R.D.F. contact ahead of the convoy was attacked with gun and depth charges without visible result.

At 1405A, Admty. estimated six or seven U-Boats still near the convoy, but no clear indication that contact was being maintained.

Size of  
Atlantic  
Convoys.

Cominch has agreed to a temporary increase in the size of H.X. and S.C. Convoys beyond the former limit of 60 ships. In view of certain difficulties, however, alternative proposals are made today by Admiralty to relieve the shipping congestion at New York and avoid dangerously large convoys. It is proposed that:-

(a) Normal convoys continue to be limited to 60 ships, excluding L.S.Ts.

(b) A special 60-ship H.X. convoy be sailed from New York on 8th March.

(c) 40th Escort Group (2 sloops, 2 cutters, 2 frigates) be sailed from Londonderry on 3rd March to arrive St. Johns 11th March, thence to R/V with the special convoy at Westomp on 13th March.

Australia and New Zealand.

5 U.S. Fortresses attacked Rabaul, scoring hits or near misses on one vessel, believed to have been a seaplane tender, and a near miss on one small ship.

At Alexishafen, one Liberator scored 2 hits or near misses on a small stationary cargo vessel.

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

S/M  
Target  
Vessels.  
SKATE.

C. in C. W.A's 0947/22. The only target vessels at present available to the 7th Flotilla are all slow small vessels. Faster targets are occasionally provided by 2 ex-French destroyers from Campbeltown or by 2 destroyers lent by C. in C. W.A. The latter are only available when operations permit, and their provision is necessarily spasmodic and does not permit of progressive training against high speed targets.

2. It is requested therefore that favourable consideration may be given to C. in C. W.A's proposal for the employment of SKATE. (F.O.S., 1651A/25 to Admty.)

New construction working-up. Anticipated arrivals of new construction at Bermuda for A/S working-up as follows:-  
April 1943 - B.D.Es BERRY, BLACKWOOD and COCKBURN.  
May 1943 - B.D.E. BURGESS. Corvettes LINARIA and SMILAX.  
June 1943 - B.A.Ms CATHERINE and CATO. Algerines ARIES, CLINTON and FRIENDSHIP. Twin-Screw Corvette EVENLODE. Corvettes ROSEBAY, STATICE and WILLOWHERB.

2. Intended that following should come to U.K. for first of class trials and working-up at Tobermory.  
B.D.Es BAYNTUN and BAZELY. D.Es BETTINCK and BYARD.  
A.Ms STRENUOUS and TOURMALINE. B.E.C. 1 and B.E.C. 2.  
Algerines ANTARES and ARCTURUS. Twin-Screw Corvettes BARLE and CUCKMERE. Corvettes DITTANY and HONESTY.

3. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1552/10th January (not to all addressees). Spare accommodation at Bermuda should be used for any R.C.N. vessels that cannot satisfactorily be worked up at Halifax owing to lack of second submarine.  
(D.A/S.W., Approved by A.C.N.S.(H), 2102A/24 to SOMERS ISLES, Cdre.WESTERN ISLES, (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.A/S.E.E., S.B.N.O.W.At., Com. i/c. Bermuda, C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, Cdre. Londonderry.)

Movements.

JULIAN. My 1119/23. Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0833/25 to A.C.O.S.)

ILLUSTRIOUS,  
WHITEHALL,  
SABRE. N.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1158A/20. Intend sail ILLUSTRIOUS escorted by WHITEHALL and SABRE at 0115A/26 for Liverpool.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1018A/25.)

S.55, S.56. Your 1145/23 para. 2. Russian Staff give onward route as follows:-  
L. 071° 58' N. 021° 39' E. M. 072° 13' N. 025° 00' E. N. 072° 13' N. 031° 26' E. A. 071° 26' N. 036° 04' E. B. 070° 00' N. 036° 04' E. G. 069° 19' N. 035° 10' E. thence escorted to Kola Inlet.

25.2.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S.55, S.56. 2. Russians also request that Capt. Friedman may  
(Contd.) be informed if P. submarines are to act in  
accordance with "Battle Instructions" which he  
holds. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F., F.O.S.,  
C. in C. Rosyth.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1325A/25 to Admty.)

S/M Sailed TUNA and SCALBY WYKE for Lerwick in  
Movements. accordance with S.3's 1103/23 amended by 1705/23.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1734/25.)  
Position of submarines at 0800A/26 and movements  
for following 24 hours.

- (A) TRUCULENT, SEA NYMPH, SPORTSMAN and SIMOON in North Norwegian waters east of 15° E.
- (B) UREDD possibly on passage to Lerwick from North-eastward.
- (C) TAKU vicinity 44° 10' N. 10° 30' W.
- (D) BARB off Vigo.
- (E) TUNA escorted by SCALBY WYKE vicinity 57° N. 07° W., speed 11 knots, for Lerwick. E.T.A. 0830/27.
- (F) TRESPASSER escorted by KING HAAKON VII leaves Plymouth 0900/26 for Holy Loch.

(F.O.S., 1738A/25 to Admty.)

Subject to completion of defects, intend to sail P.312 escorted by KING HAAKON VII at 0900/26 to Holy Loch.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1743A/25.)

Sailed S.3's 1103/23 amended by his 1705/23 four hours late (TUNA).

(Capt. S.7, 1815A/25.)

JAMAICA. My position 2000A/25, 056° 01' N. 011° 01' W.  
E.T.A. 1710A/26th.  
(JAMAICA, 2000A/25 to A.C.O.S.)

PYTCHLEY. Scapa arrival PYTCHLEY.  
(A.C.O.S., 2103/25.)

Operations.

Search for My 1949/24. Confirm that relief is still  
CHICHA 1 & required in accordance with your 2115Z/24.  
CHICHA 2. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0511A/25 to WENSLEYDALE.)  
My 2115A/24. Making good 6½ knots. Shall be  
in 049° 00' N. 010° 08' W. at 1110, steering

073°. 4 Trawlers still in company.  
(WENSLEYDALE, 0825A/25 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Have you received 0511/25.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 0929A/25 to WENSLEYDALE.)

My 2115A/24. Trawlers have enough coal to reach Scilly Isles but no further.

(WENSLEYDALE, 0951A/25 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

WENSLEYDALE is bringing in 4 Spanish trawlers and has armed guard in one of these numbered F.6100. WENSLEYDALE expects to be in 49° 00' N. 10° 08' W. at 1600 today, steering 073°, and reports she requires relief by 1800 on account of

/fuel ...

War Diary.25. 2. 1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Search for fuel shortage. Proceed with dispatch to take  
CHICHA 1 & over escort of trawlers to Falmouth.  
CHICHA 2. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0951A/25 to TANATSIDE.)  
(Contd.) Arrived VIOLET.  
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1045A/25.)  
My 0951/25. TANATSIDE sailed.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1121A/25 to WENSLEYDALE.)  
My 0951/25. For 1600 today read 1110 today. WENSLEYDALE  
reports trawlers short of coal. Take them to Penzance if  
possible otherwise to Scilly Isles.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1135A/25 to TANATSIDE.)  
My 1135. After 25th insert - making good  $6\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1319A/25 to TANATSIDE.)  
Your 0511A/25 received at 1126A/25 and your 1949A/24  
received at 1150A/25. There is no special reason for  
arresting, but trawlers are equipped with radio telephony  
and had been fishing on great Sole Bank.  
2 armed guards withdrawn at 1315 and trawlers given course  $073^\circ$   
for Scilly Isles. My P.C.S. at 1400A,  $049^\circ 05' N.$   $009^\circ 54' W.$   
 $073^\circ$ , 15 knots. E.T.A. Plymouth 0530A/26.  
(WENSLEYDALE, 1430A/25 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
My position at 1600/25,  $049^\circ 38' N.$   $060^\circ 59' W.$ , course  
and speed  $253^\circ$ , 25 knots.  
(TANATSIDE, 1530A/25 to WENSLEYDALE.)  
Cancel my 0951A/25. Return to Plymouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1825A/25 to TANATSIDE.)  
Trawler met at 1920A/25 in  $049^\circ 23' N.$   $008^\circ 48' W.$   
proceeding as directed by WENSLEYDALE. Returning 15 knots.  
E.T.A. 0800A/26.  
(TANATSIDE, 1921A/25 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Coastal My 1056A/24. "Device" returned to base.  
Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0750A/25.)  
Patrols - No.3 FERNIE. No.4 EGLINTON. No.5  
BLENCATHRA. No.6 WINDSOR. No.7 WIDGEON.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0948A/25.)  
ALBRIGHTON, KINGSTON TURQUOISE stand by Yarmouth.  
Chasseurs 11 and 10, ASIE stand by St. Helens.  
2 M.G.Bs, 2 M.T.Bs short notice Newhaven.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1040A/25.)  
F.N.54, F.S.47, and destroyers on patrol are to keep  $1\frac{1}{2}$   
miles east of the centre line of the Channel between Number 3  
and Number 4 Buoy.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1208A/25.)  
Night 25th/26th. M.Ls 140 and 293 patrolling "D" to "C.1"  
Buoys. M.T.Bs 38, 221, 35, 24 from Dover and M.G.Bs 114, 113,  
108 from Ramsgate R/V "A" buoy 1900/25, thence southward to  
patrol Berck Buoy from 2130 to 2359. E.T.R. Dover 0215/26.  
(V.A. Dover, 1657A/25.)  
Add to my 1657.  
M.G.Bs 41, S.2, 40 patrolling at No.4 Buoy from 1900 until  
daylight.  
(V.A. Dover, 1738A/25.)

/Operation ...

War Diary.

25. 2. 1943.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation "Regulation". My 1922A/24. From position F steer 145°. S.O.A. 20 knots.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2331A/25 to SUSSEX.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Command operations. On night 24th/25th. 115 A/C made a blind bombing attack on Wilhelmshaven.  
(H. Q. B. C., 1552A/25.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy P.W. You were reported by enemy aircraft at about 1130.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1737A/25 to Escorts P.W. Convoy.)

Mining.

Yarmouth. The following 6 magnetic mines were exploded by Sweepers today:-  
At 0905/25 in 152° No. 4 Buoy 12 cables.  
At 1130/25 in 360° No. 3A Buoy 1 mile.  
At 1145/25 in 045° No. 3B Buoy 3 miles (2 mines).  
At 1157/25 in 062° No. 3B Buoy 2 miles.  
At 1410/25 in 057° No. 3B Buoy 2 miles 4 cables.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0943A/25, 1159A/25, 1221A/25, 1249A/25, 1229A/25, 1435A/25.)  
One magnetic mine exploded by Sweepers at 1115A/25 in N. 20° E. magnetic 3A Buoy 1 mile.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1417A/25 and Cdre. M/S Lowestoft 2001A/26.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Nantes on 21st February. Photographs taken at 1515/21 at Nantes, show: the 2 T.Bs now west side of Port Maritime to be of Mowe class. All six Agile class D/Rs still fitting out in port.  
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 0700A/25 to Admty.)

Altafiord. See Shipping.

War Diary.

25.2.1943.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Am over enemy S/M in 47° 10' N. 05° 15' W.  
(A/C 3WWS, 0058/25 to 19 Group.)  
Up to four German and Italian U-Boats on passage to and from Bay of Biscay estimated in your vicinity today.  
(D.D.I.C., 0918A/25 to Escorts M.K.S.8.)  
By D/F at 1716Z/25, U/B estimated within 75 miles of 58° N. 19° W.  
(D.D.I.C., 1901A/25 to Ships.)  
D/F bearings at 2118Z/25 indicate U-Boat in your immediate vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C., 2309A/25 to M.K.S.8.)

U-Boat attacked. One Whitley A/C made a promising attack on a U-Boat at 1515/22. Six depth charges were dropped from 50 feet as the periscope submerged, and a large quantity of oil was later seen on the water.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1552A/25.)

Navigational.

Jan Mayen. Ice. Following from Jan Mayen. Ice approaching North coast, drifting southward south coast.  
(A.C.I.C., 0437A/25 to Admty.)

Brightlingsea. Port closed due to fog.  
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 0801A/25.)  
Port open.  
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1030/25.)

Technical.

Oiling at Sea. Masters of escort oilers have complained that escorts frequently part the steady lines when oiling by rubber hose method through lying back on the tow. Supplies of Manilla are becoming very short and it is essential that care should be taken not to part these lines.  
2. Every endeavour should be made to keep the oiler within screen while oiling. If this is impracticable and oiler drops astern she should be escorted back to convoy and not be left by herself without protection. If it proves impossible for the oiler to keep within screen the S.O. of Escort should be immediately informed. The S.O. of Escort in consultation with Cdre. should then consider whether speed, or even course, of convoy might not be adjusted in order to keep the oiler within screen.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1753Z/25.)

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

MARNE.

MARNE and Tug EMINENT arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0930A/25.)

VANDAL.

(A) VANDAL (P.64) is overdue in returning from exercises which commenced a.m./22nd in Kilbrennan Sound north of 55° 37' N. which should have terminated p.m./24th in Inchmarnock water, west of 05° 09' W. Vessel has not replied to W/T signal.

(b) CYGNET with Lieut.-Cdr. (G) on board and 5 S/Ms are sweeping the area. LA CAPRICIEUSE and BREDA proceeding now. KINGFISHER proceeding as soon as ready. Air search arranged. TEDWORTH is at immediate notice.

(c) Capt. (S) 7 has taken charge of search.

(Capt. S.3, 1117A/25 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

CYCLOPS pass to all by teleprinters.

In BREDA. Further to Capt. (S) 3rd Sub. Flot. 1117/25, situation now as follows:

Area bounded by latitude of Scatmore Light on North and latitude of Loch Ranza Light to South and Inchmarnock Island to East, has been searched repeatedly by A/S craft. Two possible positions are being investigated by E/S Vessel and further sweep by A/S Vessel is being carried alongside most probable track taken by submarine. Do not consider oil patch sighted by aircraft is relevant.

Unless further convincing contacts are made intend to abandon search at 2359A/25.

(Capt. S.7, 1932A/25 to CYCLOPS.)

DASHER.

Scapa arrival DASHER, BLANKNEY, LEDBURY.  
(A.C.O.S., 1154/25 to A.C.I.C.)

CULEBRA.

Intend to sail CULEBRA in (? tow) of BUSTLER escorted by THIRLMERE at 1400/27 in accordance with my 1346/8th.

(N.O.I.C. Reykjavik, 1200A/25 to N.O.I.C. Thurso.)

H.H. ROGERS  
(torpedoed  
21st Feb.)

Estimated position of H.H. ROGERS at 1200A/25 allowing for drift 51° 20' N. 22° 15' W. An unknown ship was torpedoed in 49° 26' N. 29° 08' W. at 1600Z/21. Lookout for survivors making for U.K.

(C. in C. W.A., 1310A/25 to CLEMATIS.)

SCOTTISH  
AMERICAN.

See Shipping.

/SEA ROVER ...

25.2.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- SEA ROVER. Admiralty 2343A/22. Intend to sail ABEILLE 21 towing SEA ROVER at 1300A/26 for Barrow, routed north of Isle of Man. Approx. E.T.A. 1300A/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1514A/25.)
- BILSDEAN. BILSDEAN delayed due to defective safety valve. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1731A/25.)
- BRADFORD. F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1217/21 and my 1527/13. Owing to continuous breakdown of main machinery consider BRADFORD of no further value to W.A. Propose ship be paid off. (C. in C. W.A., 2042A/25 to Admty.)
- LARGS. A.M. 1219/25. Present deficiency arises from mechanical unreliability of two French-built 205 kilowatt sets and one particularly unreliable Paxman 125 kilowatt set. Ship is in no state to undertake a long ocean voyage followed possibly by operations. Propose subject to concurrence by Deputy N.C.X.F. that ship be delayed sailing until reliable electrical service is assured. (S.O. Force W, 2302A/25 to Admty.)



War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- W.S. 27 and K.M.F. 10A. Sailed convoys and escorts as in A.M. 2336/15, 2338/15, 2351/16, and 1509/21. Cmdre. Combined Convoys and K.M.F. 10A is in CIRCASSIA. Vice Cmdre. Combined Convoys and Cmdre. W.S. 27 is in ALMANZORA. Vice Cmdre. K.M.F. 10A LETITIA. Vice Cmdre. W.S. 27 CAPETOWN CASTLE.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0006A/25.)  
The following sailed 0005/25. 11 Pendants.  
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 0040/25 to D.S.T.)  
Sailed EGRET, CLARE, WOLVERINE, TEST, ERNE Fishguard.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0817A/25.)
- O.N. 168. Propose to sail at 0900Z to arrive in 061° 01' N. 027° 25' W. at 0800Z/26 and then sweep westward along line of advance of convoy.  
(HAVELOCK 0026Z/25 to A.C.I.C.)  
Hvalfjord arrival HAVELOCK, VOLUNTEER at 2355.  
(A.C.I.C. 0036A/25.)
- W.S. 28 Following amendments should be made to Statements  
W.S. 27Q.B. dated 19.2.43. Details  
(D.S.T. 0230A/25.)
- Stragglers. A.C.I. article 35. Procedure as to broadcasting of R/Vs. Details.  
(C. in C.W.A. 0939Z/25.)
- K.M.S.10. Intend sailing convoy passing Clyde Boom 1500A/26 to R/V escort from Londonderry in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0900A/27, thence in accordance with A.M. 1820A/19.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0954A/25.)
- R.A. 53. Intend to sail. 1. for U.K. 14 ships. Names.  
2. for U.S. 16 ships. Names.  
(N.L.S.O. Murmansk 1005A/25 to Admty.)
- J.W. 53. K.I.G.M. para. 3 C. E.T.A. at position M.U. 1630A/26.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1019A/25 to Escorts J.W.53)  
12 Jus. 88 and 10 Mes. 109 proceeding seaward at 1030A.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1050A/25 to Escorts J.W.53, Force R.)  
Proceed passing Switha 1200A/28 to Hvalfjord, routed through 058° 50' N. 007° 05' W. thence through Reykjanes Passage.  
2. On arrival disembark mail and personnel and proceed to Akureyri to arrive in daylight 3rd.  
3. Complete with fuel at Akureyri and await further orders.  
(R.A.D.H.F. 1123A/25 to VIVACIOUS.)  
Owing to a complete breakdown of her cable windlass it has been necessary for safety of ship to withdraw SCOTTISH AMERICAN from Seidisfjord and she has therefore been sailed for

/Hvalfjord...

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.53 (Contd.) Hvalfjord for repairs. U.S. tanker CULPEPPER is now at Akureyri with 11,000 tons. Intend to bring fuel U.S. tanker MATINCOCK back to Hvalfjord to replenish and then send her to Seidisfjord. It is hoped she will arrive there 5th March. Your 1145/9th not to all addressees. This will leave no oiler at Seidisfjord from now until 5th March and fuel at Akureyri will only be just sufficient for your full requirements. This is the best that can be achieved with existing tanker resources. N.O.B.I. concurs.  
(A.C.I.C. 1339A/25 to C. in C.H.F.)  
Convoy J.W. 53 was probably reported by enemy aircraft at 0835/25.  
(D.D.I.C. 1347A/25 to A.I.G. 47.)  
Seidisfjord 25th February departure HALCYON at 0900.  
E.T.A. Boom 1830/27.  
(A.C.I.C. 1407A/25 to A.C.O.S.)  
E.T.A. 0400/26. NORFOLK and CUMBERLAND in company.  
Approach course (?to) M.U. 195°.  
(C.S.10 1438Z/25 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
At noon in 073° 41' N. 029° 42' E. 124° 8 knots, attacked by 14 Jus. 88. Medium level bombing. No hits. Convoy is being shadowed by aircraft and U-Boats but no U-Boat attacks have yet developed. Following alteration of course will be made: at 1815 to 090°, at 2030 to 124°, at 0015 to 156°.  
(SCYLLA 1446A/25 to H.F.)  
Russian Sub. M. 172 returning Kola Inlet from North Westward. E.T.A. Toros Island 0001A/26.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1511A/25 to S.O. Force R.)  
Russian visual air R/C of Alta Fjord 1005A/25 observed one cruiser, three destroyers, one Base ship.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1602A/25 to A.I.G. 47.)  
Admiralty 1722/24.  
Soviet ships GROMKI (S.O.) KUIBEYSHEV, URITSKI, OURAGAN, GROZA and H.M.S. BRITOMART will R/V with convoy in position M.U. to close screen escort of ships bound to White Sea.  
2. Request merchant ships may be ordered to proceed, after being detached, to 045° Cape Teriberski 10 miles and then proceed eastward along the coast.  
3. If local escort fails to meet convoy at M.U. they will endeavour to meet detached ships along route in Para. two.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1738A/25 to SCYLLA.)  
My 1738/25. Local escort passes Toros Island 1200A/26.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2041A/25 to SCYLLA.)  
Pilots will board ships requiring them off Bolshoi Oleni Island.  
2. Berthing. SCYLLA and 6 Destroyers anchoring Vaenga Bay. 6 Destroyers berthing in number 13,14,15,17 19 and 20. JASON berthed alongside Polyarno. Corvettes alongside Cruiser as arranged by S.O. Force R. LORD AUSTIN berthing alongside at Murmansk.  
3. Fuel available. Two tiny Russian Tankers fuelling SCYLLA. Tomorrow OLIGARCH in 18 berth 3400 tons can take 4 Destroyers together. EMPIRE EMERALD in 13 berth 1,000 tons can take one Destroyer only at a time. Rosta fuel jetty for remaining Destroyers POPPY and BERGAMOT two ships at a time, rate very slow. JASON, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA, and LORD AUSTIN fuel later as arranged by me. OLIGARCH is retaining a further 700 tons as requested by C. in C.H.F. for issue to Destroyers on passage.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2211A/25 to Escorts J.W. 53.)

/Following...

957

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.J.W.53  
(Contd.)

Following is a repetition of GLASGOW's 1905N/24th addressed C.S.I. Tanker SCOTTISH AMERICAN is immobilised. Consider unsafe for cruiser to go alongside tanker. Intend proceeding Akureyri 26th Feb. to complete with fuelling then (?proceeding) to Seidisfjord.  
(A.C.I.C. 2240A/25 to C. in C.H.F. V.A.2.)

O.S. 44.

Providing the total number of ships in the convoy does not exceed sixty, vessels for Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar and North Africa may be included in O.S. 44 but not to the exclusion of normal O.S. ships.

2. C. in C.Mediterranean will arrange breaking off point and onward escort.  
(D.T.D. 1435A/25 to C. in C.W.A.)

TJALDUR.

My 1115/23. Sailed with escort.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1603/25 to C. in C.Rosyth.)  
Intend to sail at 0730/27 S.S. TJALDUR kite balloon (troops) escorted by FORFEIT, speed 9 knots, for Aberdeen. E.T.A. 0700/28. Routed by my 1125/14.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1800A/25 to A.C.O.S.)

S.C.L. 120.  
SCHENCK.

P.C. and S. at 1956Z.  
062° 04' N. 032° 39' W. 248° 9.5 knots. If not met will broadcast for Homing at 1030 and 1230Z. Weather report.  
(SCHENCK 1852Z/25 to C.T.G. 24.6.)

K.M.S. 11.

To avoid congestion in the Clyde it is proposed to sail K.M.S. 11 from the various convoy assembly anchorages, making use of Belfast Lough to relieve Mersey and Milford Haven if necessary. Sailing date from Mersey will be 13th March.  
(D.T.D. 2005A/25 to C. in C.W.A.)

M.K.S. 8.

It is intended to split convoy, Mersey and Bristol Channel ships to proceed southabout Ireland.  
(C. in C.W.A. 2048A/25 to Escorts M.K.S.8.)

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.

C.Bs. for French M/Vs. Pass to F.Os. I.C. N.Os. I.C. and N.C.S.Os. Ref. C.B. 03050 (10) N.C.S.I.82. all French Merchant Vessels trading in interests of United Nations are to be treated as Allied for the purpose of issuing Confidential Books.

2. These ships are to be provided with War W/T call signs from S.P. 02182 series, application for British signal letters being made to Admty. where not already allocated. (D.T.D. 1539A/25 to A.I.G. 13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

REGENT. My 1629/23, (REGENT delayed due to defective engine air compressor cooler.) Defects completed. E.T.A. patrol position 1000 March 1st Admty. \* pass to last addressee. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 0340/25 to F.O.S. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, S.5., Consubron.) \* Passing action being taken by W/R.

Intend sailing H.M.S. REGENT p.m. 25th Feb. for patrol vicinity 42.30 09.15 to relieve U.S.S. BARB.

2. REGENT passing through S. 35.49 06.06 $\frac{1}{2}$  at 1800/25th  
T. 35.53 06.(?00) 1900/25th. U. 36.37 07.24 0200/26th.  
V. 36.51 09.13 2000/26th. W. 38.01 10.59 0648/27th.  
R. 41.31 10.59 2200/28th thence patrol position. F.O.(S) is requested to assume operational control at 2200/28th.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 0341A/25 to Admty. F.O.S. (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)  
T.C.A.O.16. A. Total. B. REGENT. C. 1800/25th 35.49 6.06 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
1900/25th 35.53 6.15 0200/26th 36.37 7.24. D. 10 knots.  
2. T.C.A.O. 16. A. Submerged. B. REGENT. C. 0200/25th 36.37  
7.24 2000/26th 36.51 9.13 0648/27th 38.01 10.59 2200/28th  
41.31 10.79 D. 10 knots.

3. All times zone minus 1 positions N. and W.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 0342A/25 to R.A.F.Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C. (R) Admty. F.O.S.)  
My 0341/25. Sailed REGENT. Admty. pass to Consubron. (Passing Action being taken by W/R.)  
(F.O.Gibraltar 1332/25 to Admty. F.O.S.)  
Proceed on surface with despatch from 2200 tonight 25th and endeavour to make good 12 knots. After passing through position V proceed to amended position W 37.41 10.30 thence amended position R 41.48 10.30 where F.O.S. will assume operational control.  
Total bombing restrictions will be arranged up to 1201/27th. Admiralty pass to Consubron.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 1930/25 to REGENT (R) Admty. F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.Med. Consubron, Capt. S.3. Capt. S.5. BARB, C. in C.Portsmouth.)

/Air...

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Air Report. A.I. 189. 25 Feb. Opsum No. 115 for 24 hrs. ended Midnight 24 Feb.  
G. Sighting and Attacks. Cat. D/202 on A/S Patrol SV11 at 1411/24 sighted U-Boat 38.50 N. 16.37 W. co. (360° or 390°?)/12 submerged immediately not attacked. Cat D/202 on same Patrol attacked U-Boat when submerging at 1555/24 38.58 N. 16.34 W. co. 360°/12. 6 D/Cs straddled from Port Quarter whilst Stern still visible. (F 5?) Large Air Bubble 8 mins. after attack, second 25 mins. Air still coming up 45 mins. afterwards.  
(Gibraltar 0555Z/25 to Air Ministry etc.)

BOREAS My 1622/24th. Returning to Gibraltar owing to (ex K.M.S.8) fuel E.T.A. 1400A/26th. Weather report.  
(BOREAS 0847A/25 to F.O. Gibraltar.)

U.G.S.5. Gibraltar section arrived SAN CIRILIO, SEMINOLE SUN.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 1047/25 to Port Director New York (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C.Med. N.S.H.Q. S.N.O. Casablanca.)

ADVENTURE. Arrival.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 1050A/25 to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation 1959/25th.  
1. MONTE NARANCO (under armed guard) 030° 20' 016° 58' 054° 6.  
2. Two tugs 041° 36' 012° 19' 159° 7.  
3. U.S. Ship CHEROKEE 040° 10' 017° 52' 303° 15.  
4. G.U.S. 4 C.T. Force 38, 029° 30' 016° 01' ?(270°) 8.  
5. Hospital ship now 41.01 13.13 000° 13.  
6. O.S. 43 PELICAN (E) 27.47 13.55 through 27.02 15.06 thence 203° 8.8  
7. Two Swedish relief ships 36.54 19.37 096° 12.  
8. KING SOL 5 trawlers 43.01 13.36 through 40.05 13.30 thence 142° 10.  
9. M.K.S. 8 BLACK SWAN (E) 42.54 15.01 002° 8.  
10. ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM, LADY DENISON-PENDER sail 1600/26th westbound 9 knots.  
11. BOREAS 37.40 12.18, (?111° 293° or 273°) 20.  
(V.A.Gibraltar 1056A/25.)  
My 1056A/25 add new para (12) REGENT 35.53 06.13 at 1900/25 thence 36.37 07.24, 36.51 09.13, 37.41 10.30 thence 000° 10 knots until 2200/25 then 12 home waters.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 2014A/25.)  
Situation report for area Y, 1958A/25th.  
2. AJAX 030° 42' 020° 52' through 030° 01' 025° 01' thence 288° 18.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 1207A/25.)  
Situation Report Area Z.  
U.C.I. WESTON 029° 43' 035° 48' (corrupt group) 10 situation 2001A/25th.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 1216A/25.)

/AJAX...

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

AJAX. On crossing 25° W. alter to new position Z.32° N. 32° W. thence to Bermuda omitting T. and U. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 1127A/25 to AJAX (R) Admty. Connav etc.)

Your 1127/25. Recommend AJAX be rerouted forthwith to pass through new A.34° N. 27° W., new B, 35° N. 35° W., thence to Bermuda.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1757A/25 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) AJAX, Connav, Cinclant, S.B.W.O. W.A.)  
Cancel my 1127A/25th, comply with Admty. 1757/25th forthwith.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 2330A/25 to AJAX (R) Admty. etc.)

Convoy U.C.1. (attacked by U/B. 23/2.) D/F on 9967 k/cs. at 0948Z indicates U-Boat somewhat astern of your estimated position, but E-Barred procedure used. (D.D.I.C. 1127A/25 to Escorts of U.C.1.) U.C.1 Cancel my 2227Z/23rd. At 2130Z position 031° 10' N. (?027°) 30' W. convoy attacked by 3 S/Ms. EMPIRE NORSEMAN, ESSO BATON.ROUGE sunk, BRITISH FORTITUDE and MURENA torpedoed but proceeding with convoy. During night 24th-25th position 030° 00' N. 031° 30' W. 6 S/Ms encountered and attacked by escort no attack on convoy developed casualties not included: (names of personnel.) P.C. and S. at 1200Z/25th 029° 16' N. 034° 16' W. 259° 9 knots. (WESTON 1201Z/25 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A.) \* Heavy W/T Traffic on Series 3 since 1412Z/25 indicates at least 8 U-Boats in your immediate vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 2235A/25 to Escorts of U.C.1.) \*W.R.Note: Pass to F.O.Gib. for information.

LOCH OSKAIG. In view of return of LADY HOGARTH intend sailing LOCH OSKAIG to U.K. for refit as additional escort to convoy in N.C.X.F. 1546/13. (F.O.Gibraltar 1137A/25 to C. in C.Med. (W) (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. Capt. D.Gibraltar.)

T.E.16. Cancel my 1503/24th. Intend sailing: for Bone: OCEAN VICTOR, ALEXANDRE ANDRE (T), EMPIRE TERN, LINGE and TORFIN. JARL.

For Mers-el-Kebir: CROMARTY FIRTH.

For Oran: FORT RUPERT, LE TRAIT, RUDBY, MERCHANT PRINCE, U.S.S. REDWING.

For Philippeville: JOHN McLOUGHLIN, EMPIRE SNIPE, DANIEL CARROL, JOSHUA SENEY and SAMUEL GRIFFIN.

For Zarate: MEROPE, TRADER, LORD DELAWARE, SEMINOLE (T), EILDON and EMPIRE SCOUT, FORT LACLAGONONS and RALLUS. Following pendant numbers allocated to Oran ships: 72, 73, 74, 81, 82 and 83 (V.A.Gibraltar 1225A/25 to C. in C.Med.)

BANKA,  
JACQUELINE.

R.O.Bilbao's 1713/22nd. (German vessels BANKA and JACQUELINE loading coal at Bilbao.) It appears vessels were discharging coal at Bilbao for Portuguese railway and will not proceed to Portuguese port.  
(N.A.Madrid 1602/25 to N.A.Lisbon.)

/BELNOR...

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- BELNOR  
S.R.2. A.M. 1836/24, same urgency (required in U.K.) applies to BEINOR (?BELNOR) reported sailed in S.R.2.  
(D.T.D. 1606A/25 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med.)
- KATANGA. Following message T.O.O. 1705/24 received from British Consul Ponta Delgada (begins):  
Enemy consul keenly interested Belgian S.S. KATANGA's sailing. Suggest good escort be sent. (Ends.)  
2. C.S.A. Ponta Delgada's 1021/11 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.  
(D.T.D. 1608A/25 to F.O.Gibraltar.)
- M.K.S.8. Your 1831/24 destinations in your 1727/20 and 1913/19 remainder Belfast for orders. Destinations of ships from Med. ports unknown. Number of ships stated in my 2250/22 only approx.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 1637A/25 to Admty.)
- Suspicious Ships. At 0535/25 in 47.37 N. 07.15 W. transit aircraft sighted two vessels disposed abeam course northwesterly 20 to 25 knots. Ships showed internal lighting. Shortly after light seen flashing rapid morse 3 to 4 miles astern of 2 vessels. All lights extinguished after delivery short message which was not read.  
(N.B.C. Gibraltar 1647A/25 to Admty. C. in C. Plymouth (R) 19 Group.)
- AMARAPOORA. Arrived, has 50 Army Nursing staff on board.  
(S.T.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1800A/25 to P.S.T.O.X.F. (R) D.S.T.O. London.)
- Movements, Casablanca. Feb. 25. Arrivals T.F. 35 with U.G.S. - 5 U.S.S DORAN of T.F. 36 U.S.S. BOYLE arrived Safi. S.C. 517 departed Casa. for Gibraltar.  
(S.N.O.C.A. 2005Z/25 to C. in C.Med. (W) (R) Cominch, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)
- Movements. Arrivals. 0750 ARCTIC RANGER, Cable ship MIRROR. 1058 STURGEON from Algiers, 1320 U.S.P.C.S. 472, 473, 475 with convoy C.G. 14, 1715 REGINA escorting Portuguese S.S. NYASSA, 1840 NASTURTIUM from Oran 1955 KATHIAWAR, KUMRON from M/S sweep. Departures 1330 ABDIEL for Algiers 1515 U.S.P.C.S. 472, 473, 475, 1905 ARCTIC RANGER escorting S.S. CARSLOGIE, KINGSBOROUGH to Huelva.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 2010A/25 to Admty. etc.)
- EMPIRE CHUB, CROCODILE. Your 1436A/17. (re sailing of EMPIRE CHUB and Tug CROCODILE.) EMPIRE CHUB arrived, Tug CROCODILE put into Lisbon.  
(F.O.Gibraltar 2107/25 to N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, (R) Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

25.2.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- Troop Movements. Your 1155/21 para (2). Requirements for movement from South Africa to Middle East and India appear to be as follows:- (details)
2. Accommodation available is as follows:-
- |                               |               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| (a) DILWARA in W.S.26         | 1,990         |               |
| (b) C.M.40 as in your 1155/21 | 10,400        |               |
| (c) ILE DE FRANCE             | 6,988         |               |
| (d) C.M.41 in late March      | <u>10,000</u> | Total 29,378. |
3. Priorities are
- (i) Personnel for Middle East now in South Africa and arriving in W.S. 26 including diversions as cabled by War Office to Impcon.
  - (ii) Ditto for India.
  - (iii) S. African Division.
4. Propose following allocation of space:-
- (i) DILWARA to be filled with personnel for India.
  - (ii) C.M. 40 Sufficient to be allocated to cover the personnel for Middle East now in South Africa and arriving in W.S.26. Balance for India.
  - (iii) ILE DE FRANCE for South African Division, European personnel.
  - (iv) C.M.41 to take balance of personnel ex W.S. 26 for India. Surplus to be used for non-European personnel of South African Division.
5. Further signal follows regarding arrangements to be made for balance of non-European personnel of South African Division.
6. Would appreciate report on range of ships of C.M.40 as so far as is known almost all have been capable of the direct voyage from Durban to India or Middle East.
7. Agreed.  
(D.S.T.0226A/25 to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Unescorted Group Sailing.	(1) Unescorted group.	(2) 0700Z/25 from Capetown
	(3) Nil.	(4) 14½ knots.
	(5) Route.	
	(12) Lagos, Nigeria 2200Z/4th March (Chop 1st Mar.)	
	(N.C.S.O. Capetown 0725Z/25 to Admty. C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.W.Af. Opanav.)	

CHALLENGER Capetown arrival 24th Feb.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1105C/25 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

Dispositions Situation 2002Z/25.  
DUNKERY about 28.45 19.00 175 10  
BIRDLIP, BUTSER with R.S.1 Y, 24.55 16.28 207 8  
BURDOCK about 19.53 17.30 180 12  
SERGEANT GOURANE, ORFSAY, LA PERLE two M.Ls. with convoy 20.09 17.25 to 21.00 17.38 thence 27, 5.  
PELICAN with O.S.43, 27.54, 13.46 to 27.02 15.06 thence 204, 8.  
U.S. Dest. MADDOX, GLENNON, NELSON with T.O.1 13.17, 23.05 to 13.05, 24.00 thence 273, 13½.

/BRIDGEWATER ....



War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. BRIDGEWATER, HYDRANGEA, CROCUS, INKPEN, DUNCTON, (Contd.) with S.R.2 09.48 17.05 353 7½.  
PORTSDOWN escorting 2 tugs about 14.06 17.50 179 8½.  
BARWIND 2 M.Ls. 14.06 17.50 to Bathurst 8½.  
ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF on patrol between 12N. and 17 N. 28 W. and 35 west.  
PETUNIA escorting off Bathurst to south 8.  
(F.O.C.W.A.F. 1209Z/25.)  
Situation at 2003/25th.  
F.S. COMMANDANT BORY 1 M.L. escorting 004° 35' 006° 34' to west by coastal route 6. CYCLAMEN off Lagos to South east 12½.  
DRANGEY 09.12 S. 09.06 E. 170, 10.  
(R.A.W.A.F. 1211Z/25.)

Convoys. In view of the small number of ships available the following convoys will not be run. A. C.D.7 on 26th Feb. B. C.N.10 on 27th Feb. These convoys will sail on 2nd March and 3rd March respectively.  
2. N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay is requested to hold N.C.6 until 8th March.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1236C/25 to N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, N.C.S.O. Capetown, N.C.S.O. Durban, N.L.O. Capetown, Port Elizabeth, East London, Cmdre i/c Durban, Karachi, Admty.)  
My 1236/25, for C.N.10 read C.N.11.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1653C/25 to N.C.S.Os. etc.)  
My 1236C/25th. It is not possible to maintain surface and air escort for C.D, D.C, C.N, N.C. Convoys on the Bi-weekly basis. Commencing 2nd March these convoys will be run once a week with through surface escort between Capetown-Durban and Capetown-Walvis Bay, sailing as follows: 2nd March C.D.7 and D.C.12. 4th March C.N.11. 9th March N.C.6. C.D.8 and D.C.13. 11th March C.N.12 16th March N.C.7. Thence at weekly intervals.  
2. 4 escort groups for these convoys will be formed from Corvettes and trawlers from Capetown.  
3. Opportunity will be taken for exchange of escort vessels between Capetown and Durban as necessary.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1713C/25 to Cmdre. Durban, N.L.O. East London, N.C.S.O. Saldanha Bay, N.L.O. Capetown, N.C.S.O. Capetown, Admty. N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay.)  
Amended 1557C/26.

Convoy My 1218Z/22nd Para. 3.  
B.21. 1. Convoy dispersed in position 008° 30' N. 013° 30' W. at 0700Z/25th.  
2. FORT DE VAUX and BAARD proceeding within 5 miles of coast to Takoradi calling at Sassandra ports Bouet, and Grand Bassam. 6 knots.  
3. SAINT BASIL proceeding within 5 miles of coast to Lagos calling at Tabou, Lome, and Cotonou. 6 knots.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1328Z/25 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Gold Coast, R.N.O. Lagos, Comar, Dakar.)

LONGWOOD. LONGWOOD declares a maximum speed of 6½ knots in good weather due to drag caused by having 4500 tons water forward. Present destination Trinidad for orders, request instructions.  
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 1240C/25 to Admty.)

/CHESHIRE...

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25.2.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- CHESHIRE. Sailed 1930/24th Feb.  
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1410Z/25 to Admty.)
- R.B.1. Following ships sailed Pernambuco 2100Z/23rd  
in convoy R.B.1 for Bahia 25th SINCLAIR H.C.  
U.S. MIDOSI ITAPAGE 2 Brazil.  
(A. S.O.(I) Recife 1414Z/25 to Admty. (R)  
F.O.C.W.Af. S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro.)
- Movements. Arrival CYCLAMEN departure (CYCLAMEN?), BELLWORT,  
COMMANDANT DROGOU.  
(F.O.I.C. Lagos 1458Z/25 to Admty.)  
Arrivals 25th ALMERIA, PICT.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1842Z/25 to Admty.)
- W.S. 28 Convoy W.S.28 about 16 ships is due to leave  
K.M.F.11. U.K. for Middle East via Cape on 15th March.  
K.M.F. 11 about 8 ships, for North Africa, and  
H.M.S. ULSTER MONARCH for Gibraltar will leave  
U.K. in company with W.S.28, my 1511/21 refers.  
2. Through escorts for W.S. 28 will be signalled  
later.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1635A/25 to F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.Med.  
F.O.Gibraltar, C. in C.S.A. (R) C. in C.E.F.  
C. in C.Levant.)
- CILICIA. Sailed (?CILICIA) to Simonstown routed through  
A. 030° 40' S. 031° 02' (?E.)  
B. 031° 17' N. 030° 32' (?E) C. 033° 31' N.  
028° 05 (?E.) D. 034° (?14') N. 025° 28' (?E). (?E) 034°  
55' N. 019° 50' (?E) speed of advance 16 knots, E.T.A. 1800C/27th  
2. Escorting to group S.L. 0001C/26th Feb.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1649C/25 to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Departures 23rd Feb. Brazilian minelayers  
Recife. CARIOCA and CARAVELAS and survey vessel RIO  
BRANCO.  
Arrival 24th U.S.D. KEARNEY. Departure 24th  
U.S. Sloop HUMBOLDT.  
Departures 25th U.S.D. KEARNEY, U.S. Corvettes SAUCY and SPRY  
and Sub. chasers P.C. 493 and 574.  
(R.O. Recife 1919Z/25 to Admty. etc.)
- B.T.5. Following ships joined B.T.5 off Pernambuco  
1800Z/25th. (list.)  
(S.O.I. Recife 1928Z/25 to Admty. etc.)
- ALCANTARA, C. in C.U.S. 1831Z/20 Feb. Regret failure to  
WOODRUFF, cancel my 1645Z/17. Request you give any orders  
A.F.D.24. you consider necessary.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 2025Z/25 to Comsolantfor (R) C. in  
C.U.S. C. in C.A.F. Admty. B.A.D. ALCANTARA.)
- Movements. Bermuda arrivals U.S.S. TILLMAN, departures U.S.  
S/M R.16. (B.A.D. N.S.H. Q.)  
(S.B.W.O.W.A. 2125Q/25 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Jamaica)

25.2.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Stores for Tripoli. Your 2036/22 and 0910/23. Agree use of FORT CHAMBLEY, KING EDWIN and TORONTO. W.S.A. have been asked for immediate approval to use the two U.S. Ships.  
(D. of S.T. 0016A/25 to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Enemy Units A/C attacks. Following read: P.C. and S. 3 enemy destroyers, 1 merchant vessel, 1 large vessel 39.06 N. 12.43 E. 090° 10 knots. Have attacked with torpedoes and estimate one hit.  
(A/C G.L.T/W. Via Alex W/T 0115/25 to Air H.Q. Malta Command.)  
Following read Addressed A/C B.Q.Y/U.

P.C. and S. of 4 unknown enemy vessels 39.01 N. 17.12 E. 020°  
(Air H.Q. Malta Command via Alexandria W/T 0125A/25.)  
Following read:  
P.C. and S. of 1 enemy large vessel 39.12 N. 12.47 E. 015° 00.  
Have attacked enemy with torpedoes, sunk.  
(A/C using call sign G.L.T/T, via Alexandria W/T 0315/25.)

Movements Aden. Arrival CESSMOCK 0600Z, departure BATHURST.  
(Cmdre. Aden, 0414Z/25 to Admty. etc.)

SPLENDID 3 ships sunk. My P.C. and S. 038° 37' 010° 49' 268°. 165 miles per day, have torpedoed 3 ships. Two unreliable torpedoes only left.  
(P.228 (SPLENDID) 0415A/25 to Capt. S.8 (R) Capt. S.10, Submarines on patrol.)  
Your 0415 well done. Adjust speed to pass 038° 34' 009° 10' at 2200/25th, 038° 26' 003° 04' at 2200/27th.  
Thence on surface at your discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 38' 003° 04' at 0715/28th.  
(Capt. S.8 0602A/25 to P.228 (SPLENDID) (R) C. in C.Med. Cmdre. Algiers, 8th S/M Flot. )

A.P. 21. (10) and (12), 9 JALAYAMUNA, Basra, 10, BRITISH TRADER, Abadan, E.T.A. Rooka p.m. 6th.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 0526Z/25 to Admty. etc.)

P.A.25 Convoy P.A. 25 arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0734Z/25 to Admty. )

TIGRIS. Endeavour to be in vicinity 083° focal point A 23 miles by 1700 today Thursday or alternatively in vicinity 140° focal point A 50 miles by 2300.  
(Capt. S.8 0850A/25 to TIGRIS.)

Movements, Beirut. My 1830/24. Add arrivals, M.L. 1005, departures (CORDELA?).  
(S.O.I. Beirut 1025B/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

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25.2.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

T.E.16. MAMMY, NARVA, both for Bone.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1034A/25 to S.O.I.S. (R) Admty.  
etc.)

ABDIEL. ABDIEL leaving Gibraltar 1300/25th, 25 knots,  
through 036° 26' N. 002° 01' W. to Algiers.  
(Capt. S.8 1150A/25 to URSULA, UNSHAKEN.)

Division of 5th Flotilla. Your 0931/11. Flotilla should be numbered 22nd Flotilla. Request names of vessels allocated to 5th and 22nd Flotillas may be reported. (Head of M. 1120A/25 to C. in C. Levant, Cmdre. (D) Levant.)

Situation Report No. 65. 1. P.212 (SAHIB) shelled 2 150 ton schooners at 1130/18th in 038° 09' N. 014° 38' East. Schooners were left derelict and abandoned.  
2. P.247 (SARACEN) sank 2 tugs by gunfire off Cape Camarat at 1830/12th. At 0840/15th off Cape Noli 4 torpedoes were fired at large Eastbound tanker escorted by armed yacht. One possible hit. At 1735/19th bombarded schooner building yard at Cervo and scored hits on two schooners. Salvage operations were observed in progress on merchant ship torpedoed by TRIBUNE off Cape Cervo on 11th Jan.  
3. An A/S hunt by A/C and H.M. Ships was begun at 2200/20th and concluded at 1300/23rd when H.M.S. BICESTER, LAMERTON and H.M.S. WILTON attacked a contact in 036° 55' N. 002° 23' E. Miscellaneous wreckage was obtained including a door panel 4 feet by 2 feet with German script and possibly human remains. U-Boat considered sunk. (Further details, see 1108A/1/3.)  
4. At 1350/23rd S.S. FINTRA was torpedoed by a U-Boat and sunk in position 036° 57' N. 003° 41' E. H.M.S. FELIXSTOWE attacked a contact which was eventually lost.  
5. S.S. NATHANIEL GREENE was torpedoed by a U-Boat off Mostaghanem. The ship was towed in and salvage operations started.  
(C. in C. Med. 1153A/25 to Admty.)

Air R/C. P.R.U. on 24th shows 3 Italian Battleship LITTORIO are now at Spezia. 2 - 8 inch cruisers at Maddalena have booms round them.  
(Capt. S.8 1154A/25 to 8 S.F.)

P.R.U. Feb. 25th Visuals. 1009 Taranto 2 Battleships 2 Cruisers, Photographs. 1028 Messina no major Naval Units.  
(V.A. Malta 1239A/25 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

P.R.U. February 24 (25th) visuals. 1445 Messina no major naval unit. 1530 Naples two cruisers. Photographs. 1545 Taranto two battleships two cruisers. Photographs.  
(V.A. Malta 1825A/25 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

GUARDIAN. My 1851/17th and Admty's 1814/24th (N.T. in W.D.) Request you will sail GUARDIAN in next convenient convoy to U.K.  
(C. in C. Med. 1207A/25 to S.O. Force H.)

/Your...

25.2.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (cont.)

- GUARDIAN  
(Contd.) Your 1814/24. GUARDIAN will be required to return to Mediterranean in accordance with Admiralty 1915/18. (HUSH, Most Secret.)  
2. Request her armament may be improved to the maximum extent practicable in time available.  
(C. in C.Med. 1257A/25 to Admty. (R) F.O.H. C. in C.Levant, GUARDIAN, C. in C.Med.)
- Floating  
Docks,  
Massawa. Admiralty 1927/10 to N.O.I.C. Massawa. (Italian Floating Docks G.O. 21 and Sa Odero-Ferni-Orlando 1936 A. XIV should be handed over to S.T.O.) Instructions to hand over A.F.D's 29 and 30 C/O S.T.O. not understood. Docks are under repair by U.S. Mission and as Admiralty Docks are under control of Naval Authorities, no action has been taken to hand over to S.T.O. Please confirm.  
(C. in C.Levant 1404B/25 to Admty. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. N.O.I.C. Massawa.)
- Raids on  
Messina  
(?date.) 1. Primary target of a daylight raid was the Ferry Station at Messina, Sicily, by 10 B.24s. of 98th Bomber Group out of Benina. 9 aircraft dropped 45 American bombs, 1,000 pounds each, on and about the target. Large explosion followed by flames and high column of smoke after direct hits on ferry slips. No damage to our aircraft.  
2. From Gambut 10 B.24s of 98th Bomber Group departed Feb. 23rd on daylight raid on Messina. 9 aircraft dropped 81 American bombs, 500 pounds each, in and about harbour. Ship believed hit at ferry dock, fires and explosions observed along docks. All our aircraft returned.  
(Cairo 1500Z/25 to Etousa.)
- G.U.F. 5. C. in C.Med's 1054A/25th Feb. (N.T. in W.D.) Unless F.O.I.C. Gibraltar reports BLYSKAWICA is available intend to sail OAKLEY and ASHANTI as additional escorts of G.U.F. 5 with instructions to scuttle off when convoy passes Europa Point.  
(S.O.Force H 1536A/25 to C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- Movements  
Oran. EMPIRE BUCKLER, EMPIRE ACE arrived escorted by STORNOWAY and FELIXSTOWE.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 1546A/25 to C. in C.Med. etc.)
- Movements  
Bone. Bone arrival PENELOPE, LIGHTNING, departure ATHERSTONE, EASTON, PRESCOTT, ITHURIEL, GOTH, KITCHENER, CAMROSE, JAUNTY, EDAY, KERRERA.  
(S.O.I.S. 1626A/25th to C. in C.Med. Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib. N.S.H.Q.)

/Local...

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Local Convoys. The following local convoy programme is intended (Details.)  
(C. in C.Med. 1650A/25 to F.O.Gibraltar, etc.)  
Cancelled by 1817A/27 q.v.

Free French Warships. Your 2345/23. Free French Naval H.Q. have requested, and Admty. have agreed, that COMMANDANT DUBOC shall relieve LEOPARD, who will then proceed to Levant Station. COMMANDANT DUBOC will in turn be relieved by SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA and then become available for Levant.  
2. Free French Naval H.Q. are being informed that this re-disposition does not entail any departure from the principle of British operational command.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1657A/25 to C. in C.Levant (R) C. in C.S.A. C. in C. E.F.)

NUBIAN, JAVELIN. Sailed NUBIAN, JAVELIN for Benghazi.  
(V.A.Malta 1718A/25 to Admty. etc.)

TAURUS. Intend to sail P.339 (TAURUS) 1800/27th routed through 041° 50' N. 006° 58' E. at 2300/1st to patrol north of 041° 50' N. and west of 007° 38' E.  
(Capt. S.8 1730A/25 to C. in C.Med. (R) Capt. S. 10, 8th S.F. Cmdre. Algiers.)

CAMELIA. Greek relief vessel CAMELIA referred to in H.M. Minister's telegram number 100 to M.E.W. as sailing from Heraklion at 1500/25th Feb. for Piraeus is now delayed 24 hours by German Authorities on account of weather.  
(N.A.Stockholm 1748/25 to Admty.)

Vessels in Prize. Request N.O.I.Cs Tobruk, Benghazi and Tripoli (L) be appointed Deputies to Marshal of Prize Court, London, in order that prize proceedings may be initiated before captured vessels are requisitioned and brought into Egyptian waters, where best repair facilities exist and which are now treated outside Prize Court jurisdiction.  
(C. in C.Levant 1756B/25 to Admty.)

Movements Palestine. Arrival 25th Feb. M.Ls. 350, 384, 385 and 1017 ISLAY, CUMBRAE, CORDELA. Departure 25th Feb. M.Ls. 350, 384, 385, 348 CUMBRAE (?Greek Destroyer SPETSAI) St. Johns (sic.)  
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 1801B/25 to Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

/Movements...

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, 25th Feb. Port Said arrivals H.H.M.S. PANTHER,  
Port BURRA departures RAGLAN CASTLE.  
Said. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1820B/25 to Admty. etc.)

Movements Arrival L.C.Ts. 135 and 152.  
Philippeville. Departure PENELOPE, LIGHTNING, L.C.Ts. 135  
and 152.  
(N.O.I.C. (?Philippeville) 1904A/25 to Admty.)

Situation Tripoli (L) raided 22nd Feb. by 12 aircraft.  
Report No. Two destroyed by fighters, 3 by gunfire. Zuara.  
4. My 2055/19th Feb. para. 1. Harbour ready for use  
by small craft.  
2. Operation M.H.7. Convoys of 4 empty merchant  
ships for Malta and 7 empty merchant ships from  
Tripoli (L) now on passage to Port Said.  
(C. in C.Levant 1909B/25 to Admty.)

SARACEN. Algiers departure S/M P.247 (SARACEN.)  
(Cmdre. Algiers 1949A/25 to Admty. etc.)

BLYSKAWICA. Owing to poor ventilation arrangements, engine  
room temperatures in ORP BLYSKAWICA become  
excessive in hot weather and ship, which was  
primarily designed for service in Baltic, is not considered  
suitable for service in Mediterranean in Summer.  
2. Request early consideration to provision of a relief to  
enable her to transfer to a more suitable climate.  
(C. in C.Med. 2003A/25 to Admty.)

Movements, Arrival H.M.S. BRIXHAM, FELIXSTOWE, STORNOWAY.  
Oran. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 2005A/25 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Feb. 25th departures HURSLEY, G.S. SAKTOURIS,  
Tripoli. PRIMULA, SEAHAM, BOSTON, BRIGAND, KLO, IMHOFF,  
BOKSBURG.  
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli 2058A/25 to Admty. (R)  
C. in C.Levant.)

Enemy Following has been read:  
Units. P.C. and S. of 8 unknowns, 40.18 N. 14.29 E.  
050° 8 knots.  
(A/C A.P.X/U 2130/25 to Air H.Q. Malta.)  
P.C. and S. of 3 unknowns. 40.18 N. 14.29 E. 050° 8 knots.  
(A/C A.P.X/V 2220A/25 to Air H.Q. Malta.)  
W.R.Note: Received via Alex. W/T.  
Position of 2 M/Vs, 2 destroyers and 4 unknown, 40.15 N.  
14.20 E.  
(A/C A.P.X/U 2232A/25 to Air H.Q. Malta.)  
W.R.Note: Received via Malta W/T.  
P.C. and S. of 8 unknown 40.12 N. 14.18 E. 120° 10 knots.  
(A/C A.P.X/W. 2305A/25 to Air H.Q. Malta.)  
W.R.Note: Received via Alex W/T.

/Malta...

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta M.S. 8157. A.I. 544 25 Feb. C.S.R. Offensive.  
 Air Night 24th/25th Feb.  
 Report. Successful attack was made on enemy shipping North of Trapani. At 2120 hours a convoy of 2 large M/Vs and 3 D/Rs was found by a special equipment Wellington 38° 43' N. 12° 20' E. course West 10 knots, and 6 Torpedo carrying Beauforts, 5 Torpedo carrying Wellingtons, and 2 Wellingtons with bombs were despatched to attack. Convoy was found by Beauforts at 2355 hours 38° 54' N. 12° 25' E. course 020°. 1 Beaufort aimed torpedo at a large D/R causing a large mushroom of smoke. Another Beaufort aimed torpedo at M/V 7000 tons and a splash was seen on its port side. This M/V was found stationary at 0215 hours by another Beaufort which attacked with 1 torpedo scoring a hit amidships and causing M/V to sink. Intense flak was encountered and 2 Beauforts are missing. At 0210 hours 1 Wellington aimed 4 100 lb. A.Q and (?2) 250 lb. G.P. bombs at M/V 5/6000 tons 39° 06' N. 12° 43' E. Bombs caused flash and explosion on M/V witnessed by another Wellington which then searched area without finding trace of M/V which is believed sunk. 1 Wellington is missing. A large M/V moving North off Cape Alice was strafed by Mosquitoes and many strikes seen on hull and superstructure. Another M/V moving North off Crotona was attacked and damaged.  
 (A.H.Q. Malta 2157Z/25.)

Movements, Sailed BEVER M.L. 349, M.T.B. 260.  
 Cyrenaica. (S.N.O. Cyrenaica 2203B/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

RORQUAL, (?Your) 0935/25th (N.T. in W.D.) Acknowledged.  
 UMBROKEN. Nice work. P.42 (UMBROKEN) leaves Gulf Hammamet tonight passing south of Lampedusa.  
 Report when convenient which route was adopted from K.  
 (Capt. S.10 2234A/25 to RORQUAL.)

RORQUAL passes North of Linosa tonight thence through 035° 12' 014° 04'.  
 (Capt. S.10 2236A/25 to P.42 (UMBROKEN) (R) P.211 (SAFARI), Capt. S.8.)

Movements, Arrived KINGSTON CRYSTAL, PROTEA, HYACINTH.  
 Tobruk. Sailed PROTEA, SOUTHERN SEA, AMBER, PETARD, ISIS, M.L. 1012.  
 (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 2245B/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

889 C. in C.Med's. 200/00282/31 of 19th Jan. Concur  
 Sqdn. in disbanding 889 Squadron on 1st March.  
 Personnel to be returned to U.K. for forming new Squadrons. Fulmar aircraft may be disposed of as you see fit. C. in C.E.F. to state his requirements of these aircraft.

Unless requirements are foreseen in Egypt all Fulmar spares (airframe engines, propellers, etc.) to be forwarded to N.S.O. Kilindini.  
 (Hd. of Air Br. 2324A/25 to C. in C.Levant, C. in C.E.F. C.O.N.A. Egypt, (R) C. in C.Med. R.A.N.A.S. R.A.N.A.S. (Indian Ocean), Combrax Portsmouth, Combrax Lee on Solent.)



War Diary.25.2.1943.  
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

B.P.70                      Sailing telegram.  
                                  2. 0330/25th.  
                                  3. E.T.A. position (C) R/V with Karachi portion  
                                  1030/27th.  
 3A. Crossing 062° 1530Z/28th.      3B. E.T.A. West of Quoins 0730/2.  
 4. 9 knots.      5. Route.  
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0351Z/25 to Admty.)

Movements                      Calcutta Dep. SANDIP for Chittagong.  
                                  (N.O.I.C. Calcutta 0429/25 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)  
 F.S. LEOPARD arrived.  
 (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0430Z/25 to Admty.)  
 Departure FROBISHER.  
 (S.O.I. Bombay 0358Z/25 to Admty.)  
 Departure 0429Z/25 FALMOUTH, SUTLEJ.  
 (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0431Z/25 to Admty.)  
 Departure BADORA.  
 (N.O.I.C. Madras 0804Z/25 to Admty.)  
 Arrival GAWLER at 0730Z/25.  
 (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 0847Z/25 to Admty.)  
 Colombo arrivals 25th Feb. 0210 TULIP departures 1100Z,

LISMORE.  
 (F.O. Ceylon 1134Z/25 to Admty.)  
 Arrival DIPAVATI.  
 (N.O.I.C. Karachi 1228Z/25 to Admty.)

B.M.42                      Trincomalee portion B.M.42 arrived.  
                                  (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 0946Z/25 to Admty.)

M/Vs.                      Your 0598Z/19th Feb.      Failing Welsh coal it is  
 smoke.                      considered that some steps can be taken to improve  
                                  combustion with resulting reduction of smoke.  
 Suggest you nominate Engineer Officer to investigate and put  
 into effect whatever improvements he considers possible.  
 Results should be reported.  
 (D.T.D. 1206A/25 to Com. R.I.N.)

STORAAS                      Following from Tyree Radio: (Begins) 3 Class  
 attacked.                      099° distress STORAAS.  
                                  (Port Patrick Radio 1905/25)  
 Intercept 1909 G.M.T. DE STORAAS SSSS position 23° 43' N. 59° 00' E  
 at 1900 G.M.T.      Controlling Station Wick Radio.  
 (Wick Radio 2009 B.S.T./25 to R.A.F. Wick etc.)  
 (Humber Radio No. T.O.O. Recd. 2044/25 to Navycharge, Immingham)  
 (A.C.O.S. 2035/25 to Admty.)  
 Norwegian Tanker STORAAS reports sighting S/M in 023° 43' N.  
 059° 00' at 1900Z/25.  
 (C. in C. E.F. 2012Z/25 to S. and A. E.I. Station (R) Admty.)

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War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

TRAIL.

Cancel my E.T.A. Fog bound off Port Ellen.  
Addition to my 1635Z/24th urgent defect repair  
to R.D.F. and echo sounder.  
(TRAIL 0050Z/25 to F.O.N.F., (R) Capt. (D) St.  
Johns.)

O.N.166  
MANCHESTER,  
MERCHANT  
torpedoed.

Following is a repetition of BURZA 2114/24th  
received in very corrupt form (Begins).  
Addressed C.T. 24 (R) C. in C. W.A. HARVESTER,  
Ships escorting O.N. 166 F.O.N.F., DAUPHIN,  
SALISBURY, CAMPBELL. From BURZA.

It is impracticable for me to fuel from CAMPBELL.

2. DAUPHIN joined 1300Z/24th. 3. SALISBURY expected to join  
after fuelling in O.N.167. 4. As fuel shortage prevents  
my remaining longer intend leaving at dusk today Wednesday and  
shaping course for St. Johns at 12 knots. 5. Have ordered  
DAUPHIN to screen CAMPBELL until arrival SALISBURY, she will then  
proceed St. Johns. She has fuel remaining for 5 days.  
6. Leaks in my feed water tank have already caused  
contamination of two boilers and third will be in similar  
condition within three days. 7. Position CAMPBELL at 1700Z ~~047~~  
11' 033° 76'. 8. Weather report (Ends.)

(C. in C.W.A. 0127Z/25 to HARVESTER, Ships escorting O.N.166  
SALISBURY, CAMPBELL, (R) Admty., C.T. 24, BURZA, DAUPHIN.

Sighted enemy S/M on the surface at 0228Z/25th in 044° 58'  
042° 55' distant 1 mile. S/M dived and was attacked with  
depth charges. No further contact was obtained and hunt was  
abandoned at 0320Z.

(?WITHERINGTON, 0330Z/25 to Connav, M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. (R)  
C.T.F. 24. Admty., etc.,)

Boat with survivors reported by Aircraft at 1200Z/24th in  
vicinity 45° 43' N. 39° 30' W. Circumstances permitting  
conduct search of Area en route St. Johns as practicable.  
Your 2114Z/24. (Contained in signal T.O.O.0127Z/25 from C. in C.  
W.A.)

(C.T.24, 0431Z/25 to BURZA (R) C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17,  
DAUPHIN, F.O.N.F.)

When relieved by Western Local Escort and if circumstances  
permit detach corvettes Mid Ocean Escort to St. Johns. SPENCER  
to Argentia. Switch MONTGOMERY to remain with convoy until  
detached by me. Every effort to be made to fuel latter vessel  
in event of detachment to O.N. 167 becoming necessary.

(C.T.24 0439Z/25 to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3.(R) WITHERINGTON,  
F.O.N.F., MONTGOMERY, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Cominch C. & R.)

My ?455Z/24th (0845/24 intended) Number 83 INGRIA  
torpedoed hole in engine room astern convoy. 37 survivors in  
ROSTERN. No casualties or missing. 64 survivors (?19) crew  
19 HASTINGS in CHILLIWACK. Chief mate HADP (as received) died  
and buried (?23rd.) 8 others missing names D.A. Peterson,  
C. Miller, E. Ontson, M. Rudin (?E) Grey, L. Sir Kastrom Guanell.

(C.T.U. 24.1.3., 0500/25 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. H.Q.C.C.)

/S/M...

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25.2.1943.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

O.N.166 S/M attack O.N.166 0725Z/25th number 71  
MANCHESTER, MERCHANT (? torpedoed) starboard side  
MERCHANT, in 045° 10' 043° 23'. Torpedo fired from  
torpedoed. starboard beam about 5,000 yards from (? evidence  
Contd. of) R.D.F. and Asdic contacts. SPENCER attacked  
but (? no visible) evidence of destruction.  
U-boat also sighted astern was attacked and  
(? driven down).

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3., 0925Z/25 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.,  
H.Q.C.C.)

My 1932/24th. Will (?exhaust) fuel approx. 50 miles  
short at St. Johns 0700Z/26th. Now bearing 273° 211 miles  
speed 8 knots. Request tow preferably by ship fitted with  
R.D/F. in view of present dense fog.

(DIANTHUS, 1200Z/25 to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns  
(N.F.))

O.N.166 R.D.F. contact enemy U-boat 045° 38' 045° 20' at  
1320Z/25th 6 (?miles) ahead of convoy. Sighted at 3 miles.  
Dived at five (?thousand) yards. Attacked with gun and depth  
charges. No evidence of damage.

(C.T.U. 24.1.3., 1445Z/25 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 H.Q.C.C.)  
DAUPHIN standing by us. Please advise what (? help would)  
probably (corrupt group). Provided screening was present  
DAUPHIN would tow us westward and thus use present fine weather.  
Want to get moving before losing all (? our) luck.

(CAMPBELL, 1550Z/25 to C.T.F.24.)

Got 100 tons from O.N.167 - all they had. Have now 76%  
My P.C. and S. are 049° 47' N. 035° 26' W. 153° 13 knots.  
E.T.A. CAMPBELL 0800Z/26th. On relief by NANAIMO will proceed to  
join O.N.168

(SALISBURY, 1700Z/25 to C.T.F. 24 (R) DAUPHIN, NANAIMO,  
Connav. Admty. etc.)

Both SALISBURY and NANAIMO screening CAMPBELL en route to  
St. Johns Newfoundland until within effective air coverage.  
Orders to detach SALISBURY will be issued by me.

(C.T.24 1755Z/25 to SALISBURY, NANAIMO (R) (?C.O.A.C.  
Halifax) F.O.N.F.)

O.N.166. 32 survivors picked up by ROSTHERN, MONTGOMERY  
from MANCHESTER MERCHANT torpedoed 0725Z/25th in 045° 10'  
043° 23'. 36 unaccounted for. SPENCER with 4 depth charges  
remaining.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 1810Z/25 to Connav, L.C. (R) C.T.F.24.,  
Admiralty, etc.)

CHILLIWACK detached 1540Z/25th for (?St. Johns) due to  
Generator completely wrecked. Only 126 limit electric power  
available for W/T. Steering by hand. MONTGOMERY. expect fuel  
WITHERINGTON tomorrow. SPENCER, ROSTHERN, (?TRILLIUM) remaining  
with O.N.166 at least until tomorrow due to U-Boat situation.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 1930Z/25 to C.T.24. C.C. N.F.)

Request your P.C. and S.

(SALISBURY, 2035Z/25 to DAUPHIN)

My 2032Z/24th. No trace of survivors. At 2200Z/25th my  
position 046° (25'?) N. 039° 34' W. course 080° Speed 13. E.T.A.  
CAMPBELL 1700Z/26th.

(NANAIMO, 2329Z/25 to C.T.F.24. (R) Connav, Admty., etc.)

/S/M...

War Diary.

25.2.1945.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

S/M estimates Feb. 25th. U/M S/M Notices. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0929/25, 1502/25, 1503/25, 1536/25, 1537/25, 1538/25, 2112/25.)

U/B convoy O.N.168. U/B outward bound northabout may be in your vicinity today. (D.D.I.C., 0947A/25 to Escorts of O.N.168 (R) A.C.I.C., C. in C.W.A., H.Q.C.C.)

T.F.32 constitution. C. in C. Lant's 1855/24, informs as follows: My 0535/14 Jan. modified as follows: Task Force 32 (Captain Wilson) hereby reconstituted to consist of COLE, BERNADOU, DALLAS, HERBERT, MATTOLE, CHICKADEE, MORENO, 10 L.S.Ts. (British), 2 L.C.I. (L)s (British), 6 L.S.Ts. (U.S.) 24 L.C.I. (L)s (U.S.) sail from Bermuda when assembled and ready about 28th Feb. Commaveu informs Admiralty; Commander, Task Group 26.7, and N.C.X.F. (Commaveu, 1021/25 to Admty. (to pass to N.C.X.F. and C.T.G. 26.7.)

Movements summary	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
1800 G.M.T. 25th Feb.	SUSSEX	45° N. 25° W.	Patrol	Blank
	F.S/M			
	AMAZONE	31½° N. 62½° W.	296°	7½
	U.C.I. }	28½° N. 35½° W.	252°	10½
	WESTON }			
	ALCANTARA }	15° N. 32° W.	Patrol.	Blank
	WOODRUFF }			
	L.23	49½° N. 41° W.	255°	6 kts.
	T.A.36.	38° N. 54½° W.	254°	19 knts.
	(D.O.D.(F) 1046Z/25 to Opnav (R) Commaveu.)			

MAJA, U.G.S. 5 A. U.G.S. 5 A. negative your 1900Z/24th. (Cominch C. and R. 1050/25 to Admty., (R) Commandant 5th U.S. Naval District Hampton Roads. S.N.O. Casablanca.) U.G.S. 5 A. Your 1900/24th MAJA has not returned Hampton Roads. (B.R.O. Norfolk, Virginia, 1327Z/25 to Admty., (R) Connav.)

B.T.4. Convoy B.T.4 arrived except CEARALOIDE (Braz.) Did not sail and ITANAGE (BR) detached at Belem. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1102Q/25 to Admty.)

Convoy G.A.T.45 Arrived. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1104Q/25 to Admty.)

Air Report. A.983 25 Feb. 4 sorties No. details. (B) Enemy sightings. 2 Canso A. easy of five Sqdn. sighted enemy U boats at 1313 G.M.T. (?24th) in 45° 14' N.

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Air Report (Contd.) 40° 38' W. and attacked. 4/250 lbs D/Cs released from 100 feet and dropped in centre of conning tower-attack believed successful. Bubbles and Debris observed for 10 minutes. Canso A Baker of 5 Sqn. sighted enemy U/Boat at 2058 G.M.T. in 45° 10' N. 41° 10' W. and attacked. 4 250 lb D/Gs released from 100 feet ahead of swirl of submerging U/Boat estimate U/Boat badly damaged. (E.A.C. H.Q. Canada, 1105Z/25 to Air Min. (R) Admty.)

H.H. ROGERS, EMPIRE TRADER, search. Tug ADHERENT escorted U.S. CLEMATIS has been despatched to search for H.H. ROGERS or EMPIRE TRADER estimated positions at 1200Z/25 allowing for drift 51° 20' N. 22° 15' W. and 48° 35' N. 28° 10' W. respectively. Request you will consider routing ASSINIBOINE through these positions to endeavour to assist Tug to locate one or both of these casualties. An unknown ship was torpedoed in 49° 26' N. 29° 08' W. at 1600Z/21. Survivors may be in the vicinity. (C. in C.W.A. 1220/25 to F.O.N.F. (R) A.I.G. 303.)

H.X. 227. VERVAIN, ACANTHUS sailed 2030Z/24th to overtake H.X. 227. (F.O.N.F. 1255Z/25 to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4. (R) C.T. 24 C. in C.W.A. Cominch C. and R. Admty., C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q.)

B.D.E.s. A.M. 1402/31 January and 1402/12 February, neither to all addresses B.D.E.s which work up at Bermuda should upon completion be sailed in convoy to join Western Approaches Command. (D.O.D. (H), 1256A/25 to B.A.D., C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q. (R) C.O.A.C. C. i/c Bermuda, SOMERS ISLES.)

U.B. attacked by A/C. My 2118Z/24. U.boat sighted at dusk ten miles astern convoy-course 270° 8 knots. 4 250 lb Torpex depth charges set to 23 feet centre of pattern fell six feet ahead of swirl and up track. Results of attack not observed. (C.O.A.C., 1424Z/25 to A.I.G. 302.)

A/C attack on U/B. 24/2. My 1350/24. U boat of 500 ton class sighted at six miles by aircraft flying at three thousand feet. U boat course two fifty true course time. Knots three quarters of U boat still visible when four two hundred fifty lb. torpex depth charges released set to 28 feet. Continuous air bubbles for ten minutes followed by oil and debris observed over a period of forty-five minutes. (C.O.A.C., 1434Z/25 to A.I.G. 302.)

/Cablegrams...

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Cablegrams regarding bunker and coal supplies. Ref. A.M. 1924A/22nd. It is assumed that London Agents of suppliers will be notified automatically by M.W.T. on receipt of cable referred to in paragraph (C). Bunker Liaison Office seems unnecessary unless amount of shipping nominated for bunkers increases considerably. Procedure considered practicable. (B.R.O.St.Lucia, 1601Q/25 to S.B.N.O. W.A.(R)Admty)

Movements. Departure 1830Z/25th U.S. A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA Trinidad 26th E.T.A. not available. (B.R.O.St. Lucia, 1605Q/25 to Admty.)  
Your 0247A/25\* The following is a recyphered version of my 1940Z/23. (Begins.) Admiralty 779, From N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. New Orleans February 21, U.S.A.T. KING CANAL Z 1940Z/23. (Ends.) (Ottawa C.C.O. 1655Z/25 to Admty.)\* W.R. signal requested repetition of 1940/23, previously received indecypherable. U.S.A.T. COLUMBIA, CHIRIKOF and LEW WALLACE arrived Kodiak Alaska 24th February. (N.S.H.Q., 2004Z/25 to Admty.)

Transfer of GRIFFIN and DECOY to Canadian Navy. Your 1215A/23. Very many thanks. We are endeavouring to arrange passages for first two ships' companies to sail New York March 10th and trust arrangements for transfer can be adjusted, accordingly. (C.N.S. Canada, 1642Z/25 to Admty., Personal for 1st S.L.)

Positions. Position 2159 tonight Thursday. HAVELOCK, VOLUNTEER 048° 36' 023° 30' to South. HALCYON, 063° 27' 012° 03' to South East. O.N.S.J.169 U.S. Destroyer BABBITT, BIBB vicinity Skagi to South West. (N.O.I.C. St. John N.B. 1651A/25 to A.I.G.54.)

CITY OF PRETORIA. Your 1554/24 CITY OF PRETORIA independently provided not more than one hundred passengers. (D.T.D., 1659Z/25 to Connav.)

T.F. 34 constitution. Cinclant's 1632/24 addressed to Battleship NEW YORK for action: and to Com.3, C.E.S.F., Comdeslantflt, Comservforlant, Cominch and Commaveu, informs as follows:-  
Task Force 34, Captain Umsted, hereby constituted as NEW YORK, BROOKLYN, MATTAPONI, and Destroyer Squadron 13. Inform ships all of which have been ordered to New York. Escort U.G.F.6 convoy which will be ready sail New York 5th March for Casablanca and other North West African ports. Keep to route prescribed by Cominch (C. & R.) Operational control passes from me to Admty. at 40° W. longitude and then to C. in C. A.F. at 10° W. Turnover to British escort ships bound for Meditn. at point prescribed by Cominch (C. & R.) Use MATTAPONI to

/fuel ...

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

T.F.34 fuel destroyers at sea. Return to New York  
 Constitution following Admiralty routing, escorting G.U.F.6  
 (Contd.) convoy, when directed by S.N.O.C.A.  
 (Commaveu, 1742/25, Admty., (to pass to  
 S.N.O.C.A. and N.C.X.F.)

Report Report of torpedoing of British Merchant Ship  
 on RHEXENOR in about 021° 53' N. 041° 30' W. she  
 RHEXENOR was convoyed from Freetown, by BRIDGEWATER  
 (Torpedoed as far as 035° W. About 6 p.m. Jan. 27th  
 3rd Feb.) contact was signalled, about 7 p.m. Jan. 29th  
 contact was again signalled and deepset depth  
 charges dropped, a further contact was signalled  
 at 10 p.m. also 29th. On Feb. 3rd while on course North 035°  
 W. True, steaming 13.5 knots and making good 11 $\frac{3}{4}$  miles while  
 continuously zigzagging, a torpedo struck port side at 7.40 a.m.  
 abreast number 2 hold, and the S/M appeared shortly after on  
 starboard bow about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile off; track was not seen as far as  
 the Second Mate knows, 2 torpedo distress messages were sent  
 out and operator was heard saying he heard Washington clearing  
 the air for him. One Oerlikon gun on conning tower and several  
 machine guns were trained on ship but did not open fire.  
 4 boats got away with all crew uninjured; S/M then fired 80 to  
 90 shells with 3.7 guns making very bad shooting: ship sank, on  
 fire about 8 a.m. The 4 inch defence guns did not open fire.  
 Captain of S/M was very excitable and talkative, speaking good  
 English was undoubtedly Italian and a cinema camera was in  
 continual use. He said he could not spare anything as he was  
 short of water and provisions for himself. He tried to get all  
 the boats alongside, asking for the Captain and Chief Engineer,  
 but crew declared both had gone down with ship and finally he  
 took Fourth Officer prisoner, confiscating papers of Chief  
 Steward as well. S/M then steamed eastward at good speed 10  
 or 12 knots. She was about 1000 tons painted light grey,  
 the paint was oldish but neither barnacles nor weeds were seen;  
 a Swordfish was painted on C/T.. Big sheer to bow with vertical  
 cutwater; gun forward of C/T. vertical sided straight from hull  
 with jumping wires forward and aft. No sign wireless mast.  
 C.Bs were sunk in over 2000 fathoms. Extended air patrol  
 still looking for other boat. U.S. Naval Intelligence Officer  
 is reporting to U.S. Authorities.  
 (B.R.L.O. St. Thomas, 1805/25 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.  
 S.B.N.O. W.A. S.O. (I) Kingston.)

GEORGETOWN Your 1650Z/24 GEORGETOWN E.T.A. Charleston  
 refit. 10th March.  
 (F.O.N.F., 1818Z/25 to B.A.M.R. Washington, (R)  
 N.S.H.Q. Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A.T., C.T.F.24.,  
 C.O.A.C. GEORGETOWN.)

Movements. Arrival 25th U.S.A. Submarine Chaser No. 522.  
 (B.R.O. Georgetown, 1828/25 to Admty.)  
 Arrival 25th U.S. PUMPER escorted by U.S. Submarine  
 CHASER 522.  
 (B.R.L.O. Georgetown, 1830/25 to Admty.)

/NORTHBROOK...

War Diary.

25.2.1943.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

NORTHBROOK  
overdue.

Ref. 1051/19th from R.O. Port Auxbasques  
NORTHBROOK not arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1951Z/25 to N.S. Ottawa (R)  
R.O. Port Auxbasque, Admty. C.E.S.F. Connav.  
C.T.F. 24, F.O.N.F., N.O.I.C., Sydney (C.B.) N.C.S.O.  
Montreal.)

U/B

U.Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made  
sighting report for convoy or important unit at  
1825Z/25th 12260 Kc/s.  
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 2024/25 to C.T.F. 37 (R) C.  
in C. Atlantic Fleet Admty.)

My 2024/25th additional bearings move sighting away from  
you.  
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 2232/25 to T.F.37 (R) Cinclant. Admty.)

VICTORIOUS  
A/C  
Accident.

A.F.O. 2476/1942, casualties:-  
(1) 832 Squadron (F.A.A.) (2) Grumman Tarpon  
06110. Wright cyclone 14. 150004/33732.  
(3) VICTORIOUS. (4) Yes. (5) (A) Temp. Lieut.  
(A) Harold Eyre, R.N.V.R. seriously injured  
through burns. Temp Lieut. (A) William H.G. Browne, R.N.V.R.  
very dangerously injured through burns. William F. Lovell,  
Leading Airman LD/X5299 seriously injured through burns.  
(b) N.A. (c) N.A. (d) N.A. (e) VICTORIOUS 1558/25/2/43.  
Aircraft landed pointing slightly to port echelon fore and aft  
line catching 1st wire which pulled out sufficiently to allow  
aircraft to run endangering edge of flight deck and fall on top  
of port crane. Aircraft caught fire and burnt out.  
(f) Category "Z" (g) N.A. (h) Yes, in VICTORIOUS. (i) N.A. ?  
(VICTORIOUS, 2050Z/25 to Admty.)

Sub  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

Para. A. MANCHESTER Merchant torpedoed 45.10 N.  
43.23 W. 0700Z/25. Unidentified torpedoed sunk  
04.46 S. 31.5 W. 1241Z/24. P.G.C.G. SPENCER  
attacks Sub. Area 45.10 N. 43.23 W. about 0700Z/25.  
WITHERINGTON attacks Sub. on surface 44.58 N.  
42.55 W. A.M. 0228/25. Patrol Plane attacks Sub.  
04.46 S. 31.55 W. 1241Z/24. Plane attacks Sub.  
45.10 N. 41.17 W. 2058Z/24. Para. C. CAJIOCA attacks Sub.  
contact 09.55 S. 35.45 W. 2115Z/24. Para D. C.G.83332 sights  
Sub. 37.03 N. 75.28 W. 0052Z/25 L.S.T. 358 sights Sub. 34.08  
76.37 W. 1705Z/25.  
(Cominch, 2116/25 to Admty., for action.)

S.C. and  
H.X.  
convoys  
Numbers.

A.M. 1635/20 and Cominch's 2219/23 neither to all  
addressees. The agreement of Cominch to our  
request for an increase in the size of H.X. and  
S.C. convoys is appreciated. 2. However, in view  
of:- (a) reasons put forward in Cominch's 1415/22.  
(b) The difficulties outlined in N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's  
1403Z/23 and the lack of forces to reinforce in this area.  
(c) the fact that trained groups would have to be broken up if  
vessels from Western Approaches have to be provided to relieve  
Western Support Escorts in mid Atlantic, the following proposals

/provide...



25.2.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

S.C. and H.X. Convoys Numbers. (Contd.) provide a more satisfactory way of relieving the shipping congestion at New York and avoid the dangerously large convoys. 3 It is proposed that:- (a) Normal convoys should continue to be limited to 60 ships, exclusive of L.S.Ts. (b) A special 60 ship H.X. convoy be sailed from New York on 8th March. (c) The 40th Escort Group of 2 sloops, 2 cutters and 2 frigates be sailed from Londonderry on 3rd March to arrive St. Johns 11th March, thence to R/V with the special convoy at Westomp on 13th March. 4. The previous programme allocated 40th Group to K.M.F. 11 due to sail U.K. on 15th March, but it is estimated that an adequate escort for this convoy can be scraped up from other sources. 5 These arrangements do not prejudice the provisions made for closing the cycle referred to in A.M. 1110/19 Feb. They only provide temporary palliative and the search for a more permanent solution continues. 6. The early concurrence of Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and C. in C.W.A. is requested. Cominch is requested to confirm that escort to Westomp can be provided. (D.O.D.(H) Approved 1st S.L. 2120A/25 to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. C. in C.W.A. C.T.24.)

Information to Masters re U/Bs. Your 1244/24. Understand this is not the usual practice at New York such chartlets are only supplied to Commodores of convoy and the Queens. 2. If further representation is desired request name of ship referred and details. (B.A.D. 2141Z/25 to Admty.)

Shipping Casualties. Serial 25. *↓ page 943 in your diary* MANCHESTER MERCHANT torpedoed today 045° 10' N. 043° 23' W. O.N. 166. ATHEL PRINCESS torpedoed and abandoned afloat 23rd February 032° 02' N. 024° 30' west convoy U.C.1. Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier has this for information. (Cominch C. and R. 2147/25.)

# SECRET

*Leon* A.W.1  
979A.

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased\* If it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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

## M E S S A G E

SECRET

IN  
2231Z/25th February

Date 26.2.43

From J.S.M. Washington.

Recd.0855

### CYPHER

Addressed W.C.O. London.

Communications, Secrecy.

IMPORTANT.

IZ 788. JSM 760. 25th February.

Combined Communications Board have considered question of British and B.S. secrecy equivalents and have reached following agreement (a) that, with regard to communications publications, documents or dispatches, the present equivalents be discontinued and that a system be introduced whereby the recipient of such a publication, document or dispatch should, on receipt, classify it in accordance with the rules of his own service having due regard to the classification already placed thereon by the originator (b) that when an originator has requested that the receiving Nation allot a specific classification in the system of the receiving Nation, such request be granted (c) that it is desirable to give appropriate consideration to extending this system to embrace publications and documents other than those dealing with communications.

2. No action has yet been taken on this agreement as it is obviously desirable that secrecy equivalents applied to communications material should be in step with general classification for all U.S./British documents.

3. Present equivalents are obviously unsatisfactory. For example, highest grade U.S. cypher is classified "U.S. Secret" and therefore "British Most Secret", whereas equivalent highest grade British cypher is classified "British Secret" and therefore "U.S. Confidential".

4. You will recall that on previous occasions we have failed to get Americans to introduce new "Most Secret" category of their own but in view of action taken by C.C.S. we feel that some effort must be made to reach general agreement covering all material.

5. Green

5. Green 118 of 9th December from British Joint Communications Board to Commonwealth Joint Communications Committee stated that British Chiefs of Staff were likely to propose new revised equivalent as follows:-

- (a) British Most Secret or Secret equal American Secret.
- (b) British Confidential and Security equal American Confidential.
- (c) British "not to be published" and "official use only" equal American restricted.
- (d) No obligation for either party to reclassify past matter.

6. We consider it unlikely that the U.S. will agree to the introduction of a "Most Secret" category and the procedure outlined in paragraph 5 seems to be the best we are likely to achieve. Request your instructions as to what action we should take.

22312/25

1st Lord  
1st S.L.(2)  
D.F.S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
P.A.S.(S)  
O.D.(5)  
D.M.I.(5)  
D. of P.(3)  
Ops.(3)  
O.I.C.(3)  
D. of P.(Q)  
M.(2)  
I.P.(3)  
W.D.  
Ad. Blake  
D.S.D.(2)  
N.I.D.10 (3)  
H.W.R.

Circulation.

Brigadier Jacob  
Foreign Secretary  
War Registry Admiralty  
C.6 Tels War Office  
A.M.C.S.(C)  
C.C.O.  
Mr. Buckley  
Capt.Layman

War Diary.25.2.1943.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Sailing  
M/Vs in  
pairs.

Your 2257/19th. (Re suggestion that in Pacific and Indian Oceans ship of 15 knots and over should be sailed in pairs for mutual support against surface raiders.) Concur.  
(N.Z.N.B. 0021Z/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C.U.S. Fleet (C. and R.) C. in C.E.F. C. in C.S.A. A.C.N.B.)

Movements.

Arrival Auckland U.S.S. CYGNUS 0113Z/25.  
Arrival Wellington Task Unit 62.7.2. 0355Z/25.  
My 0200/19 refers.  
(S.O.I. Wellington 0501Z/25 to Admty.)

Arrival Cairns 24th. PIRIE, Townsville 23rd. KATOOMBA, Melbourne 24th, ADELAIDE, PJERK HIDDES, HEEMSKERCK, departure Thursday Island 24th, CASTLEMAIN Port Moresby 23rd, BALLARAT both on escort duty Sydney (N.S.W.) 24th. U.S. OTUS for Fremantle F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT on escort duty.

(A.C.N.B. 1503Z/25 to Admty.)

Arrivals 24th Feb. Townsville Hired Transport KATOOMBA, U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT. 24th Cairn U.S. Transport VANDERLIJN. 25th Adelaide Hospital Ship ORANJE. Netherlands Naval Store Ship SOEDOE arrived and departed Thursday Island 24th due Cairn 27th. V.S.I.S. MERKUR departed Townsville 23rd for Palm Island. U.S. Transport YARNTAM departed Townsville 24th due Brisbane 27th., hired transport KATOOMBA U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT departed Townsville 24th due Brisbane 28th. U.S. Transport both departed Port Moresby 24th due Orobay 25th. Hired Transport DUNTRON departed Brisbane 23rd due Townsville 26th. U.S. Fleet Oiler VICTORIA departed Brisbane 23rd for Challenger Bay U.S. Transport TASMAN departed Sydney 24th due Melbourne 27th. R.A.A.F. Storeship WAKAKA departed Thursday Island 24th due Darwin 28th.

(A.C.N.B. 1529Z/25 to Admty.)

Arrival 25th Feb. Melbourne Hired Transport NIEUW AMSTERDAM.

(A.C.N.B. 1531Z/25 to Admty.)

Position 25th NIEUW AMSTERDAM. A. Arrived. B. Disembarking C. March 6th.

(S.T.O. Melbourne 2301Z/25 to D. of S.T. L. (R) A.C.N.B.)

Arrival Auckland U.S.S. TALAMANCA.

(D.N.I. Wellington 1806Z/25 to Admty.)

Digest Serial Dawn attack 6 Fortresses shipping Rabaul. Skip No. 339 Feb. bomb hit 10,000 ship, no explosion seen, near 24th. misses, possible minelayer, another warship

ran aground manoeuvring. 10 ships seen in harbour 5 others dispersed outside also 10,000

ton cargo vessel Open Bay.

3. Another morning search Liberator unsuccessfully bombed 6,000 ton cargo ship escorted by destroyer four miles W.N.W. Cape St. George course 170°.

5. Midday Lightning photographed Wewak showing medium mine-layer outside harbour. Saw two barges in harbour eleven fighters runway.

25.2.1943.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand

Digest  
Serial  
No. 399.  
(Contd.)

6. Mid morning seven B.25s. successfully bombed and strafed villages Lae area and Malahang strip where four planes seen. Possible submarine off Lae also aircraft hidden Dona strip (South Meroke Harbour.)

8. Early morning Liberator saw small ship Kokas (South Coast entrance Maccluer Gulf) hit large cargo ship Babo with light bomb also bombed waterfront saw two fighters take off Aerodrome but nil interception. Subsequently sighted three unclassified ships course northwest 45 miles West of Kaukenau where another Liberator dropped light bombs and incendiaries.

10. Large tanker sighted eighty miles N.N.E. Lorengau course 140° afternoon 23rd.  
(G.H.Q S.W.P.A. 0837Z/25.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1405A/25, 1416A/25.)

26.2.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy J.W.53 was attacked again at 1220A today by an unknown number of Bomber A/C in 71° 16' N. 36° 54' E. but suffered no damage; and no U-boat attack upon it has yet been made. Force "R" arrived at the Kola Inlet at 0500A this morning; and at 1730 C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with HOWE and 6 destroyers arrived at Akureyri, where he has ordered GLASGOW to join him on the 28th to replace BERWICK detached to Hvalfiord this morning.

Enemy  
tanker sunk.

An enemy Tanker resembling, and believed by the Admiralty (3rd March) to be the Norwegian HERBORG, was sighted by A/C at 0945A today in 41° 25' N. 21° 25' W. and was intercepted by SUSSEX at 1601A, set on fire by her at 1726A, and sunk at 1810A in 41° 45' N., 20° 58' W. Four boat-loads of survivors were not picked up owing to the risk of U-boat attack. SUSSEX reported (5th March) that the Tanker was found to be extremely difficult to hit; that fire was opened upon her at 1522 at a range of 17,000 yards, checked at 1600 when the Tanker was seen to be on fire, and re-opened again from 1630 to 1645. The firing was carried out at 30 knots, and the Tanker sank at 1710.

The German-owned Spanish Trawlers CHICHA 1 and CHICHA 2 were sighted by A/C at 0252 this morning in 48° 00' N. 11° 00' W.

The British EMPIRE PORTIA, 7058 tons, was bombed and set on fire this morning in the Kola Inlet and will probably have to be beached.

S/Ms UREDD and  
VANDAL lost.

The Norwegian S/M UREDD which left Lerwick on 5th February for two landing operations on the Norwegian Coast must now be regarded as lost; and the search for the British S/M VANDAL near the entrance to Loch Fyne was abandoned today.

The number of M/Vs presenting themselves in America for Atlantic Convoy is 545 in March (including about 60 left over from February), 495 in April, and 525 in May; and Admty. estimate that, to absorb this congestion, 5 H.X. and 4 S.C. convoys will have to be run in March, 5 H.X. and 4 S.C. in April, and 6 H.X. and 4 S.C. in May - being a total of 28 of these convoys in those three months. Each convoy will consist of 60 ships: and C. in C. W.A. has today formulated his proposals for their sailing-date. and escorts.

/The...

War Diary.

26.2.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

The Troop Convoy K.M.S.10 sailed from the Clyde at 2256 tonight.

E-boats plotted by D/F off the Lizard from 0005A till 0112 this morning are suspected to have laid mines, and M/S F.4 are to sweep the area tomorrow.

One German Mine was exploded by sweepers in Lyme Bay today, one off Dungeness, one in the Thames Estuary, one off Spurn Point, and six off Great Yarmouth.

North Atlantic.

Minesweeping, Mines were exploded today by Oropesa sweep in Gibraltar. 35.52 N. 6.03 W. and by LL sweep in 35° 56.5' N. 6° 01.2' W.

German Ship. LIVADIA arrived at Bilbao today from France.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations. 12 Wellingtons of N.W. African Air Forces last night attacked Bizerta. 20 Fortresses attacked Cagliari, dropping 46 tons of bombs. In an anti-shipping patrol by 20 B.17s of N.W. African Strategic Air Force, 1 small vessel, believed tanker, was sunk, and 3 others left on fire. 12 Ju.88s bombed Tripoli last night without damage or casualties.

/The...

26.2.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

The French SS. OASIS at 0232 G.M.T. made an S O S report that she was being gunned by a submarine, and Coltano Radio was heard asking her for her position. The submarine was TORBAY who sank OASIS by gunfire at 0312 in 43.20 N. 08.15 E. (Gulf of Genoa).

East Indies.

Japanese  
Launches  
Attacked.

At 2300, 2 armed 90 ft. Japanese-built diesel engined launches carrying troops and ammunition were intercepted by a patrol launch 6 miles N. of Kyankpyn. 1 was sunk, the other damaged, believed sunk, and it was estimated that 50 Japanese were killed; 5 were captured, belonging to water transportation units.

RESOURCE

RESOURCE, fleet repair ship, which has just been refitted at Durban, is required to return to the Eastern Mediterranean by the beginning of May. C. in C. E.F. is asked by Admiralty to sail her accordingly.

Areas for  
Catalinas.

The following nomenclature will be employed in future to indicate areas in which Catalinas are being employed:-

(A) Southern Area, includes the Cape and Mozambique as far north as 25° S.

(B) Western Area, includes remainder of East Coast of Africa, Madagascar, Seychelles and Mauritius.

(C) Northern Area, includes approaches to Aden, Persian Gulf, and Arabian Sea north of 10° N.

(D) Eastern Area, includes Ceylon and Indian Coast except (C).

Present normal allocation of Catalina squadrons is:-

(B) Western Area, 2; (C) Northern Area 1;  
(D) Eastern Area, 4. In order to deal with the submarine campaign at the Cape the normal allocation has been re-adjusted to admit of the equivalent of three squadrons being attached to the Southern Area.



War Diary.

26.2.1943.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

O.N.166

The heavy W/T activity from the vicinity of this convoy declined sharply after 0239Z, indicating that the majority of the U-boats had been detached.

SALISBURY reported at 0605Z that she had joined CAMPBELL (damaged). CAMPBELL's estimated position at 1900Z/25 was 47.25 N. 32.24 W.

Australia & New Zealand.

6 Fortresses bombed Wewak (N. New Guinea) early this morning, scoring 1 hit and 2 near misses on a cargo vessel, and destroying an aircraft on the runway.

At the same time, 1 Fortress attacked shore installations at Lae.

There were strong indications of an enemy unit early this morning in 32.29 S. 153.09 E. and a Hudson later attacked a possible submarine in this area, about 90 miles N.N.E. of Sydney.

26.2.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Force "Grenadine". Request immediate reply to my 1110Z/23. We shall have utmost difficulties with Soviet Customs and Immigration Authorities at Murmansk as soon as J.W.53 arrives there unless we can tell them that - (A) "Grenadine" advance party and stores are returning to U.K. immediately; or (B) party and stores being disembarked because Russian operational control of "Grenadine" has been accepted. (30 Mission, 1040Z/26 to Air Ministry.)

LOBELIA. Cancel my 1539 December 24th, 1942. (C. in C. W.A., 1521A/26 to Admty.)

CARLISLE. When ready for service CARLISLE is to proceed to Gibraltar and will come under the orders of C. in C. Med.  
2. Request you will sail her for Gibraltar calling at Clyde to embark passengers and mail. (D.O.D.H., 1550A/26 to V.A.2.)

DECOY,  
GRIFFIN. Will be transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy next month. (D.O.D.H., 2042A/26.)

Movements.

ILLUSTRIOUS. Sailed ILLUSTRIOUS, WHITEHALL, SABRE in accordance with my 1018A/25. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0134A/26 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

S/M  
Movements. Request you sail TUNA from Lerwick at 1600/27 through Y. 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles.  
X. 062° 01' N. 002° 30' E. thence patrol in accordance with F.O.S. 1308/22 Feb.  
2. Submarine to proceed diving by day when east of meridian of Greenwich.  
(Capt. S.9, 0921A/26 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)  
My 1743/25. TRESPASSER and KING HAAKON VII sailed.  
E.T.A. Cumbrae 0001A/28.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1027A/26.)  
Positions of submarines at 0800A/27 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(A) TRUCULENT, SEA NYMPH, SIMOON, SPORTSMAN in North Norwegian waters east of 15° E.  
(B) TRESPASSER escorted by KING HAAKON VII 52° 22' N. 05° 40' W., due Holy Loch 0010/28.  
(C) TUNA escorted by SCALBY WYKE probably vicinity Westray for Lerwick. If engine defects in escort are repaired these ships may be ahead of this position. TUNA is due to sail from Lerwick at 1600/27th probably on the surface through 62° 01' N. 02° 30' E., thence to eastward for patrol.

/(D) ...

987

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M (D) BARB off Vigo.  
 Movements. (E) TAKU vicinity  $44^{\circ} 10' N. 10^{\circ} 30' W.$   
 (Contd.) (F.O.S., 1727A/26 to Admty.)  
 Intend sailing H.28 escorted by SPIREA from  
 Lough Foyle at 1900A/27 by standard routes,  
 speed 8 knots, arriving Rothesay 0700A/28.  
 (Cdre. Londonderry, 1914A/26.)  
 My 1727/26 para. (E). Amend to read: TAKU approx.  $44^{\circ}$   
 $24' N. 11^{\circ} 01' W.$ , diving by day through  $45^{\circ} 01' N. 12^{\circ} 26' W.$   
 at 0800/28.  
 Para. (D) add: Leaves patrol 2200/27 proceeding diving by day  
 within 30 miles of coast to patrol in zones K.505 and K.501  
 South of  $44^{\circ} 25' N.$   
 (F.O.S., 2309A/26 to Admty.)  
 Your 2221A/26th. Shall be passing through  $045^{\circ} 01', 012^{\circ}$   
 $26'$  at 0800/27. My daily advance 150 miles, and can R/V  $180^{\circ}$   
 Bishop Rock 10 miles a.m./2nd.  
 (TAKU, 2350A/26 to F.O.S.)  
 My 1727/26. Add new para.  
 (F) H.28 escorted by SPIREA leaves Lough Foyle 1900/27 by  
 standard routes, speed 8 knots, arriving Rothesay 0700/28.  
 (F.O.S., 2354A/26.)

NEWCASTLE. When ready for sea request that you will sail  
 NEWCASTLE for Scapa to work up.  
 (D.O.D.H., 1145A/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

JAMAICA. Scapa arrival JAMAICA.  
 (A.C.O.S., 1745/26.)

Operations.

Search for Arrived WENSLEYDALE.  
 CHICHA 1 (C. in C. Plymouth, 0617A/26.)  
 & CHICHA 2. Arrived TANATSIDE.  
 Search for (C. in C. Plymouth, 0823/26.)  
 A/C dinghy. Sighted CHICHA 1 and 2 in  $48^{\circ} 00' N. 11^{\circ} 00' W.$   
 at 0252, course  $360^{\circ}$ , speed 5 knots.  
 (A/C XR8G, 1239/26 to 19 Group.)  
 GOATHLAND is to sail by Q.Z.S.315 to R/V  
 MELBREAK and WENSLEYDALE in  $180^{\circ}$  Bishop Rock 8 miles at 0100/27.  
 MELBREAK and WENSLEYDALE are to sail at 1900 passing through  
 $180^{\circ}$  Lizard Head 10 miles to R/V as above.  
 Force under command of GOATHLAND is then to proceed through  
 position (B)  $049^{\circ} 01' N. 011^{\circ} 02' W.$  to position (C)  $044^{\circ} 59'$   
 $N. 013^{\circ} 03' W.$ , speed 20 knots.  
 Codeword GOATHLAND to R/V "Arena". WENSLEYDALE and MELBREAK  
 to R/V "Arena 1". Force "Arena".  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1707A/26.)  
 Sailed GOATHLAND to R/V MELBREAK and WENSLEYDALE in  $180^{\circ}$   
 Bishop Rock 8 miles at 0100/27.  
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1711A/26.)

/Cancel ...

26.2.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Search for CHICHA 1 & CHICHA 2. Search for A/C dinghy. (Contd.)

Cancel my 1707A/26. GOATHLAND return Milford Haven. MELBREAK and WENSLEYDALE return Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1933A/26.)

Cancel my 1933/26. Proceed to 49° 14' N. 05° 40' W. Instructions follow. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2053A/26 to GOATHLAND.)

My 2053. Endeavour to rescue crew of Liberator reported in dinghy. Position given is known to enemy. If nothing sighted be within 20 miles of the coast by daylight. (C. in C., Plymouth, 2153A/26 to GOATHLAND.)

Report result of search when within 10 miles of mainland. If negative proceed to Lundy R/V. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2239A/26 to GOATHLAND.)

Hudson co-operating from 0130/27 for 3½ hours.

(2) Aircraft will report and transmit for homing on 385 k/cs when dinghy located.

(3) Fighter protection arranged from dawn. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2337A/26 to GOATHLAND.)

Two Enemy Freighters sighted by A/C. One Enemy Tanker (HERBORG) sunk by SUSSEX.

Gray, high bridge, tall forward mast, short central mast, one stick in rear, low in water. (A/C 300 Sqdn., 0945/26 to 19 Group.)

Following has been read: Addressed 19 Group. P.C.S. of enemy tanker 41° 25' N. 21° 25' W., 140°, 8, tonnage 5000. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0945/26 to Admty.)

P.C.S. of enemy freighter 42° 35' N. 25° 35' W. 120°, 10 knots. (A/C 5FZU, 1025/26 to 19 Group.)

Enemy zigzagging, general direction north. (Freighter). (A/C C/US., 1030/26 to H.Q.G.R.)

Aircraft reports tanker in 041° 25' N. 021° 25' W. at 0945A today on easterly course, speed 8 to 10 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1101A/26 to S/Ms. (R) F.O.S., SUSSEX.)

Enemy course and speed are 085°, 8 knots. (Freighter). (A/C CIUS, 1105A/26 to 19 Group.)

C/1US 0945/26. Course 140° is likely to be incorrect, as enemy invariably alter course on being sighted. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1107A/26 to SUSSEX.)

Disregard reported enemy freighter in U/2US signal 1025/26. Go for the tanker. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1115A/26 to SUSSEX.)

Make an amplifying report description of ship. (19 Group, 1130A/26 to A/C.)

Gray, high bridge, tall forward mast, short central mast, one stack in rear, low in water. (A/C C1US, 1145/26 to 19 Group.)

Proceeding limit of endurance 1200. Not zigzagging. (A/C 1MWC, 1147/26 to 19 Group.)

S.M.Z.49. BARB and TAKU come under orders of C. in C. Plymouth forthwith. REGENT from 1200/27. Until further orders address all signals to C. in C. Plymouth.) (F.O.S., 1151A/26 and 1337A/26 to S/Ms.)

/Have ...

War Diary.

26.2.1943.

Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Two Enemy Freighters sighted by A/C. One Enemy Tanker sunk by SUSSEX. (Contd.)

Have lost touch with enemy. Enemy last observed in  $41^{\circ} 09' N.$   $21^{\circ} 28' W.$  at 1155. Returning to base.  
(A/C C1US, 1200/26 to 19 Group.)

P.C.S. of one enemy M/V  $42^{\circ} 30' N.$   $19^{\circ} 07' W.$ , course  $180^{\circ}$ , speed 8 knots.  
(A/C Z224, 1215/26 to 19 Group.)

My 1215/26. Enemy previously reported is M/V of 6000 tons, no name, no markings.  
(A/C Z224, 1230/26 to 19 Group.)

It is possible that enemy position signalled by C/1US and U/2US may be as much as 40 miles South of true position.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1419A/26 to SUSSEX.)

Liberator aircraft B/1US has been ordered to R/V with you in your 1800 estimated position and then search for enemy. Fortress aircraft C/59 will also be searching.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1525/26 to SUSSEX.)

Sighted tanker bearing  $170^{\circ}$ , 9 miles. My position  $041^{\circ} 57' N.$   $020^{\circ} 51' W.$   
(SUSSEX, 1601A/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 1601. Assumed tanker hostile in view of submarine menace and F.W. flying round.  
(SUSSEX, 1618A/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 1618. Have set tanker on fire but no sign of sinking yet. Am continuing to engage.  
(SUSSEX, 1726A/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 1230. M/V 6000 tons, 3 Island, single stack aft, tall bridge, stern higher than poop, and gun either end.  
(A/C Z224, 1730A/26 to 19 Group.)

Position of enemy  $41^{\circ} 56' N.$   $20^{\circ} 50' W.$ , tanker burning.  
(A/C C59, 1750A/26 to 19 Group.)

Following received from A/C C/S 3ROC.  
Tanker sunk. Survivors in 4 lifeboats  $41^{\circ} 59' N.$   $20^{\circ} 50' W.$   
(Plymouth, 1810/26).  
(A/C C59, 1810/26 to 19 Group.)

Consider ship reported in Z/224's 1215/26 may be outward-bound blockade runner. Retire to south-westward and I will endeavour to get air R/C tomorrow.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1815A/26 to SUSSEX.)

Tanker which had every resemblance to HERBORG sank at 1810 in  $041^{\circ} 45' N.$   $020^{\circ} 58' W.$  In view of submarine menace am not attempting to pick up any survivors who appeared to abandon ship earlier in the proceedings.  
(SUSSEX, 1818A/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Have fuel for 4 hours remaining. Am returning to St. Eval. E.T.A. 2100.  
(A/C Z224, 1820A/26 to 19 Group.)

My P.C.S. are  $041^{\circ} 57' N.$   $020^{\circ} 48' W.$ ,  $122^{\circ}$ , 30 knots. Am proceeding investigate enemy merchant ship reported in Message 1215 from aircraft Group 2. My A/C unserviceable.  
(SUSSEX, 1834A/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Cancel my 1815A. Proceed Freetown in accordance with A.M. 1935A/17. Pass through position (A)  $039^{\circ} 01' N.$   $020^{\circ} 12' W.$ , thence as ordered by F.O.C. Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1951A/26 to SUSSEX.)

Cancel my 1151/26. F.O.(S) has resumed operational control of submarines operating S. of  $51^{\circ} N.$  Blockade runner has been sunk by SUSSEX after being located by U.S. aircraft.  
(F.O.S., 2213A/26 to S/Ms.)

/Coastal ...

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Coastal Patrols. M.G.B. 53 (S.O.), 56 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 05' W. and 1° 30' W. Chasseurs 13 (S.O.), 11, UNST stand by St. Helens, KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth. M.G.B. 616 (S.O.), 613, 611, M.T.B. 85. 242, 243 short notice at Newhaven.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1308A/26.)

Patrol tonight. 2. M.G.B. 8 (S.O.) and 6 are to leave Dartmouth at 1900/26 and proceed to patrol-line 10 miles 069° and 249° from 142° Start 12'. Leave patrol daylight/27 and return to harbour.

3. Object. To intercept E-Boats.

4. Enemy. E-Boats at Cherbourg and Le Havre. Torpedo boats at Le Havre and Brest.

5. Codeword "Scent".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1353A/26.)

1 unit M.G.B. is to proceed to 090° 2 miles from 54 Buoy forthwith.

(C. in C. Nore, 1748A/26 to BEEHIVE.)

C. in C. Plymouth's 1353/26. M.G.B.8 non-operational. M.G.B.6 only will carry out patrol.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1811/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation V.P.-(?R) Carry out operations V.P.-(?R).

(1) Through position 25 miles west of R to contact, R. Possibly leave through L.

(2) Will be signalled.

(3) 1400A/27th or first suitable day thereafter.

(4) 7. (6) No. (7) 0800A, 065° Out Skerries 110 miles.

Sailing signal will be made. Return of M.T.B. No.619 and 627 from patrol K is probably delayed owing to weather.

(A.C.O.S., 1607/26 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

Operation V.P. 2.

Carry out V.P.2.

(i) B. (ii) Lygrefjord. (iii) 2000A/27th or first suitable day thereafter.

(iv) 4 2. Fighter escort is requested for return trip, R/V 0800A, 100° Out Skerries 110 miles.

(A.C.O.S., 1612/26 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

TAKU patrol.

TAKU leaves patrol forthwith diving by day to pass through 045° 01' N. 012° 26' W. at 0800/28, thence by route "Red" to R/V 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at dawn 4th March.

(F.O.S., 2221A/26.)

S/M Patrol off Vigo. BARB, REGENT.

(1) Unless otherwise ordered by F.O.C. Gibraltar REGENT is to proceed diving by day from dawn 27th through position R thence relieving BARB. Estimate REGENT will arrive on patrol 0300/28.

(2) BARB is to leave patrol at 2200/27 and proceed diving by day within 30 miles coast to patrol in zone K.505 and K.501 south of 044° 25'.

(F.O.S., 2308A/26 to S/Ms.)

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

Practice.

My 1728/3/12. Carry out practice tomorrow.  
 (A) MONTROSE, COTTESMORE. (B) 9.  
 (C) Dummy attack. A.L.T. with central dummies  
 and dropping smoke floats.  
 (C. in C. Nore, 1726A/26 to MONTROSE, COTTESMORE.)

Trials at  
Inchmarnock.

Propose to carry out trials in Upper Inchmarnock  
 Exercise Area between sunset and sunrise from  
 5th March to 10th April. Ships and craft taking  
 part to keep within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of East and South  
 shores of Kilfinan Peninsula between sunrise and  
 sunset. C.C.O's S.R.990/43 of 21st Feb. refers.  
 (Capt. L.C.T., 1816/26 to Capt. S.7.)

Allied Air Activity.Norway  
Coastal  
Air Patrols.

P.R.U. Trondheim, also Oslo - Hortsink in  
 operation.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1243A/26 to V.A.2.)

Coastal  
Air Patrols.

D.C.J.55. Patrol 1A and 2A will be carried  
 out by Swordfish and Sunderland aircraft from  
 2000/26 till dawn 27th.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1435A/26 to Escorts W.P.300,  
 P.W.300.)

Bomber  
Command  
operations.

On night 25th/26th, 34 A/C laid mines.  
 (H.Q.B.C., 1500A/26.)

Enemy Air Activity.EMPIRE  
PORTIA  
damaged.

At 0735A/26 (?EMPIRE) PORTIA bombed and set on  
 fire while anchored at Kola Inlet. Fire not  
 yet under control, and ship will probably have  
 to be beached. No casualties.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1419A/26.)

Iceland.

Unidentified aircraft now classified as probably  
 hostile plotted over Reykjanes at 1324/25, 5  
 miles N.W. of Reykjavik at 1342, and over  
 entrance to Hvalfjord at 1344, when plot faded.  
 (A.C.I.C., 1457A/26.)

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Lyme Bay sweep. M.S.4's 2344A/25. Sailed 0835A/26.  
 Clearance sweep off Lizard. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0848A/26.)  
 Cease sweeping. KELLETT and one other ship proceed at best speed to Falmouth. Remainder of Flotilla with CONCERTATOR and PATTI are to R/V with M.S.4 at D.1 Buoy at 0800/27. Flotilla required for clearance operation in vicinity of Lizard. F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to supply necessary information.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1551A/26 to M/S.4.)  
 Area swept increased to 4.7 miles. One German type Z mine cut and exploded in 50° 14'24" N. 03° 17'12" W.  
 (M/S 4, 1714A/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Dover Area. Routine sweeping carried out 25th/26th. One red mine detonated in 50° 52'08" N. 00° 54'24" E.  
 (V.A. Dover, 1026A/26.)

Thames Estuary. One ground mine exploded by Sweepers at 0130/26 in 054° B7 Buoy 1.9 miles. Details.  
 (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1140/26.)

Yarmouth. Following 6 miles exploded by Sweepers today:  
 At 1207/26 in 054° 3B Buoy 2½ miles.  
 At 1357/26 in 131° 3A Buoy 16 cables.  
 At 1654/26 in 080° 4 Buoy 12 cables.  
 At 1703/26 one magnetic and one acoustic mine in 141° 3A Buoy 1½ miles.  
 At 1825/26 in 148° No. 3A Buoy 1½ miles.  
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1237A/26, 1323A/26, 1431A/26, 1711A/26, 1735A/26, 1855A/26, 2013A/26, 1644A/1st March.)

Humber. At 0953/26 one magnetic mine exploded by Sweepers in 251° Spurn Light 34 cables. Details.  
 (F.O. Humber, 1553/26.)

Loch Ryan. MINER II has completed operations at Loch Ryan. GLIA and GLIB relaid and now in action.  
 (N.O.I.C. Stranraer, 1716A/26 to D.T.M.)

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats. Group A unidentified plot 200° Lizard Head 6, course 310°, speed 20 knots at 2358.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 0005A/26 to WENSLEYDALE.)  
 Group A unidentified plot 190° Lizard Head 6, course 110°, at 0012.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 0017/26.)  
 My 0017/26 and my 0031/26 considered to be E-Boats.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 0035/26 to WENSLEYDALE.)

/At ...



993

26.2.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats. At 0500 Group A position 150° Lizard Head 7  
(Contd.) miles, Group B position 085° Lizard Head 8 miles.  
Pass 10 miles south of Lizard Head in case of  
minelaying.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0101A/26 to WENSLEYDALE.)  
Plot faded group A at 0054, Group B at 0112.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0137A/26 to WENSLEYDALE.)  
Following from MONTROSE.  
3 E-Boats bearing 000° in 235° Sunk Light Vessel 5.  
(Nore, 0359A/27 to Yarmouth W/T.)  
Following from MONTROSE.  
Enemy course 040°.  
(Nore, 0402/27 to Adnty.)

TIRPITZ, (a) TIRPITZ. There is no reason to believe she  
SCHARNHORST, has either gone or is about to go to Narvik area.  
PRINZ EUGEN, Graded A.3.  
GRAF (b) SCHARNHORST and PRINZ EUGEN. Some three  
ZEPPELIN. weeks ago it was still intention to send these  
Trondheim. vessels to North Norway. Graded A.3.  
(c) GRAF ZEPPELIN. Air personnel should have been  
ready in March but difficulties in obtaining them  
may cause further delay. Graded A.3.  
(d) My 1701/9. Seaplane carriers. Vessels of ten to 12,000  
tons with four large seaplanes on board sighted Trondheim 19th  
Feb. Graded C.3.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 1514/26 to Adnty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats Am over enemy submarine in position following.  
attacked. (A/C Z224, 1125/26 to 19 Group.)  
My 1125. Have attacked enemy with depth charges,  
position 42° 3(?) N. 20° 14' W.  
(A/C Z224, 1224/26 to 19 Group.)  
My 1230. Enemy has altered course to 240° approx.  
(A/C Z224, 1300/26 to 19 Group.)  
My 1300? Enemy has altered course to approx. 180°.  
(A/C Z224, 1400/26.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 44° 21' N. 15° 48' W.  
(A/C Z224, 1620/26 to 19 Group.)  
My 1620. Have attacked enemy with depth charges.  
(A/C Z224, 1630/26 to 19 Group.)  
My 1620. Enemy has been severely damaged by air attack,  
resurfaced, sank.  
(A/C NJ1Z, 1635/26 to 19 Group.)  
Sub. on surface.  
(A/C X224, 1650/26 to 19 Group.)  
My 1620. Enemy submarine is still on surface. Am  
returning to Base P.L.E.  
(A/C Z224, 1700/26 to 19 Group.)

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Dartmouth. Dartmouth now open.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1023A/26 to M/S.4.)

Workington. Port of Workington will be open from p.m. tide  
2nd March for ships up to 14 foot draft.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1319A/26.)

Casualties and Defects.

VANDAL. My 1932/25. No contacts have been obtained in  
area previously referred to, neither have any  
visual indications of vessel been seen. Have  
abandoned search except for CYGNET who has been  
ordered to patrol probable track of S/M from daylight until  
noon today in case anything should float up.

(Capt. S.7, 0105A/26 to CYCLOPS.)

Capt. (S) 7 0105/16. Search has been carried out today  
between Inchmarnock Island and entrance to Loch Fyne by  
KINGFISHER and 5 aircraft covering vicinity of Lamont Shelf  
where a smoke candle was sighted by TEMPLAR at about 1420/24.  
Blank report by aircraft. KINGFISHER's report awaited.

(Capt. S.3, 2359A/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ARIGUANI. Is ARIGUANI destination Rothesay Bay.  
(SAMSONIA, 0900A/26 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Your 1000A/26. E.T.A. Boom 0900A/27.  
(SAMSONIA, 1300A/26 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

UREDD lost. UREDD is overdue and must be considered lost.  
2. UREDD left Lerwick 5th Feb. for a special  
landing operation (short title "Seagull") in  
the vicinity of Noviken 66° 59' N. 13° 52' E.  
Although this entailed penetration of the large  
German declared area quoted in Admty. Message 653 WZ 1236/4th  
December 1942, mining between Fugloy and Gronna was considered  
to be most unlikely on account of the unevenness of the bottom.  
It is not known whether this operation was carried out or not.  
3. UREDD had orders to proceed to carry out operation "Upsilon  
III" on the completion of operation "Seagull". "Upsilon III"  
involved the landing of a Norwegian guide in Mefjord (69° 31' N.  
17° 27') and the subsequent embarkations of 2 Norwegian  
personnel and 2 French naval ratings. These had been left  
behind in error from JUNON during operation "Upsilon".  
4. UREDD was due to leave Mefjord on the night 19th/20th Feb.  
at the latest and proceed to Lerwick reporting her position  
on crossing 68° N. which it was expected she would do about  
48 hours after leaving Mefjord.  
5. UREDD has failed to reply to F.O.(S) 1656/23rd Feb.  
ordering her to report her position course and speed.  
6. There is no direct evidence as to how UREDD was lost. A  
German broadcast of 18th Feb. however claimed that "a submarine  
had been sunk by gunfire of coastal batteries after an attack

/on ...

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- UREDD  
Lost.  
(Contd.)
- on a convoy, the submarine had the letters MBY on the conning tower". This cannot be connected with UREDD in default of further evidence. UREDD's pendants on the conning tower were 41P. 7. UREDD was carrying a minimum of Secret and Confidential matter on board.  
(F.O.S., 1247A/26 to Admty.)
- FINLAND.
- Owing to minesweeping and "Consular" commitments regret no escort available for SS. FINLAND.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1323A/26 to C. in C.Nore.)
- SEA ROVER.
- Sailed ABEILLE XXI towing SEA ROVER for Barrow in accordance with my 1514A/25.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1344A/26.)  
My 1606A/25. Delayed. My 1514A/25 refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1439A/26.)
- SHEFFIELD.
- Arrived SHEFFIELD.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1444A/26 to A.C.O.S.)  
N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1259/23. N.O.I.C. Glasgow has been asked to report governing factor in length of SHEFFIELD refit.  
(V.A.2, 1719A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your 1259/23. Subject to weather damage and structural defects being completed request SHEFFIELD be ready to sail on 10th April.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1916A/26 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
- VARDEFJELL.
- Tanker VARDEFJELL (after part) in tow of EMPIRE BASCOBEL, DANUBE VI and DUNDAS undocks at Methil 0900/27 and proceeds by searched channels to Tyne. Speed of advance 4 knots.
2. Escort to be provided as follows:- North Rathground Buoy to 21 C Buoy, Trawler from Dundee.  
21 C Buoy to Tyne, Trawler from Tyne.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1543A/26.)
- H.H. ROGERS  
(torpedoed  
21st Feb.)  
EMPIRE  
TRADER.
- My P.C.S. 1800A/26, 51° 26' N. 22° 00' W., 060°, 11½ knots until 2030 then 230°, 7 knots until daybreak, thence sweeping East and North. Have found submerged lifeboat belonging to H.H. ROGERS also some lifeboat tanks. Weather 7782 3654.  
(CLEMATIS, 1750/26 to C. in C. W.A.)  
If H.H. ROGERS is not sighted by dusk tomorrow proceed search for EMPIRE TRADER sighted and photographed by aircraft in reported position 048° 13' N. 029° 20' W. at 1000A/23 and by different aircraft safe 047° 40' N. 028° 45' W. at 1400A/23, floating easily, slightly down by the bows. She was originally abandoned in 048° 32' N. 029° 50' W. at 1200Z/22. ASSINIBOINE will be passing through area about a.m. March 21st.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2157Z/26 to CLEMATIS.)

26.2.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

D.F. 3. Convoy D.F.3 comprising LEINSTER will sail Clyde 3rd March.  
2. Vessel will embark approximately 800 personnel. (D.S.T., 0200A/26.)

J.W. 53. Kola Inlet, arrived Force R at 0500A/26. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0635/26.)  
My 1738/25 and your 0724/26. To ensure daylight meeting local escort will now meet White Sea section in 045° Cape Teriberski 10 miles. Request requisite escorts may accompany section as far as R/V.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1109A/26 to SCYLLA.)

Following is a repetition of C. in C. H.F. 1148A/26 to GLASGOW. Join me at Akureyri a.m./28th.

(3) BERWICK is being detached to Hvalfjord a.m./26th. E.T.A. 0730N/27.

(4) GLASGOW will replace BERWICK with Battle Fleet.

(A.C.I.C., 1656A/26 to A.I.G.47.)

Arrival Akureyri at 1730/26 KING GEORGE V, HOWE, ONSLAUGHT, OFFA, METEOR, MUSKETEER, ICARUS, PIORUN.

(A.C.I.C., 1716A/26 to Admty., V.A.2.)

At 1220A/26 in 071° 16' N. 036° 54' E. convoy was attacked by bomber aircraft. Number unknown as bombs were released above cloud base. No hit or damage to convoy or escorts. No U-Boat attacks have yet developed.

(SCYLLA, 1921A/26 to H.F.)

Convoys From New York. Figures now received from M. of W.T. of number of ships presenting for convoy are March 485 plus about 60 left over from February, April 495, May 525.

To meet the above it is estimated the following convoys will have to be run.

March 5 H.X. and 4 S.C. inclusive of special convoy proposed in my 2120/25 total 9.

April, 5 H.X. and 4 S.C. Total 9.

May 6 H.X., 4 S.C. Total 10. Each convoy to consist of 60 ships.

2. Request you will signal as soon as possible proposals for meeting the above commitments.

(D.T.D., 1030A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

Admty. 1030/26. 1. (a) On Admiral Mansfield's previous visit to U.S.A. about Christmas, C.T.F.24 refused to accept a shorter lay-over than six days in Newfoundland on the grounds that defects and weather damage would permit of nothing less. In the exceptionally severe weather which has been almost continuous since that date in Western Atlantic his contention has been justified.

(b) If however the conditions laid down in Admiralty's 1030/26 are to be fulfilled, it will be necessary during the transition period to accept a lay-over of four days for a few groups. In these circumstances it may be necessary to delay sailing of eastbound convoys or divert them to Halifax to await escort should westbound convoys be weather-bound.

/(c) ....

26.2.1943.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Convoys  
from  
New York.  
(Contd.)

(c) In the proposals which follow, mid-ocean sailings have been arranged to give the following lay-overs when the fourteen group scheme is in operations - Fast convoys, 12 days in U.K., 6 days in Newfoundland; Slow convoys, 14 days in U.K., 7 days in Newfoundland. The longer lay-over in U.K. has been designed on the assumption

that the training scheme will continue during May.

(d) With the above considerations in mind, the following are my proposals.

## 2. Sailing dates.

(a) H.X.228 Feb. 28th. H.X.229 March 8th. Additional convoy March 9th. H.X.230 March 18th. H.X.231 March 25th. H.X.232 April 1st. H.X.233 April 6th then six day intervals to H.X.237 April 30th then five day intervals.

(b) S.C.122 March 5th. S.C.123 March 13th. S.C.124 March 20th then 8 day intervals.

(c) O.N.170 March 3rd. O.N.172 March 9th. U.N.1 March 21st. U.N.2 March 25th, then 6 day intervals to U.N.5 April 12th then 5 day intervals.

(d) O.N.S.171 March 4th. O.N.S.173 March 11th. U.Y.1 March 17 U.Y.2 March 28th then 8 day intervals.

## 3. Escort allocations. Details.

4. (a) O.S. convoys to be escorted by 37th, 38th, 39th Groups on dates as now arranged.

(b) U.C. convoys to be escorted by 42nd Group.

## 5. Supporting Groups should be available as follows:-

Group 1 April 10th after return with S.L.126. Group 2 April 20th after return with a Gibraltar convoy.

(C. in C. W.A., 1937A/26 to Admty.)

C.H.L.  
Plot  
Warnings.

As from 1st March, C. in C. W.A. will cease to issue warning of meets in waters covered by C.H.L. plots. F.Os.I.C. operating C.H.L. plots are to continue to be responsible for warning ships when they are running into danger. Ships that are uncertain of their position should

ask the plot concerned for it. A.C.I's Article 424 para. 5 will be amended.

(C. in C. W.A., 1223Z/26 to Ships.)

S.C.120.

Estimated P.C.S. of S.C.120 at 1600Z/26, 60° 01' N. 34° 12' W., 090°, 7½ knots.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1359Z/26 to SCHENCK.)

Large Ships  
to report  
revised  
E.T.As.

Masters of the undermentioned ships are to be instructed to break W/T silence and report, by coded message 24 hours beforehand, their revised E.T.A. at destination or rendezvous if they expect to be more than one hour different from original expected time of arrival.

War Diary.26. 2. 1943.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Large Ships  
to report  
revised  
E.T.As.  
(Contd.)

2. QUEEN ELIZABETH, QUEEN MARY, MAURETANIA, ILE DE FRANCE, NIEUW AMSTERDAM, AQUITANIA, PASTEUR, ANDES, EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND and MARIPOSA (U.S.A.)  
3. Above is re-issue of instructions in my 1905/21st August 1942, remainder of which has been cancelled.  
(D.T.D., 1705A/26.)

M.K.S.8.

My 2048/25. If weather conditions permit detach ships for Bristol Channel and Mersey from position (V) routed through (Y) 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles thence via Q.Z.L.18 escorted by BLACK SWAN, DEPTFORD, ALBERNI, LUNENBURG, LA MALOUINE, SUMMERSIDE, WOODSTOCK. One escort to be detailed to escort Bristol Channel ships to Scarweather.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1726A/26 to Escorts M.K.S.8.)

K.M.S.10.

My 0954A/25. Sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1848A/26.)  
K.M.S.10. The following sailed at 2256/26.  
Pendants.  
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 2300/26 and 1748/27.)

O.N.170,  
O.N.S.171,  
O.S.44.

A.M. 2133A/22nd Jan. para. 3C. Ships for East Coast of South America, south of Cape Orange of 8½ knots or over are not to sail in O.N.170 or O.N.S.171 but are to be held for O.S.44.  
(D.T.D., 1950A/26 to A.I.G.21.)

War Diary.

26.2.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy My 1620/24 sailed.  
 R.S.2. ( F.O.C. Gib. 0736A/26 to F.O.C. W.A. (R) C. in C. Med. (W) Admty. S.N.O.C.A., Comar Dakar.)  
 R.S.2 Ships sailed as in my 0935/24 (0953/24 intended) less MEDIE II.  
 (F.O.C. Gib. 0951/26 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) C. in C. Med. Connav, Admty F.O.C.W.A.F.  
 My 1511A/26 ( N.T. in W.D.) Sailed MASTERFUL.  
 ( F.O.C. Gib. 1934A/26 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty., C. in C. Med. W.)

Convoy S/M sighted (? trailing) U.C.1. 29.00 N. 37 (755)  
 U.C.1. W. at 0730Z. Sound contact not obtained.  
 ( HILARY P. JONES 0750Z/26 to C. in C. Plymouth  
 (R) Admty., C. in C. W. A. F.O.I.C. Gib. F.O.C.W.  
 A. Connav, C.C.S.F. Cominch.

My 2235A. Continued heavy W/T traffic indicates U/Boats still in contact. Series 8.

( D.D.I.C. 0910A/26 to Escorts U.C.I. (R) C. in C. W.A. Cominch. S.N.O.C.A. H.Q.C.C. N.S.H.Q. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Mediterranean.)

Considerable W/T activity during past 12 hours suggests some U/Boats have abandoned chase of convoy U.C.1. and may now be home-ward bound within 150 miles of 31° 30' N. 30° 30' W.

One U/Boat is estimated from D/F 2039Z/24 now within 100 miles of 36° 30' N. 27° 30' W. bound S.W. Three or four U/Boats are still shadowing Convoy U.C.1.

( D.D.I.C. 1300A/26 to AJAX (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. S.B.N.O. W.A. Cominch.)

T.E.16. T.E.16. Ships sailed as in my 1225/25th MERCHANT PRINCE now for Algiers.  
 ( F.O.I.C. Gib. 0952A/26 to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, Connav, N.O.I.C. Bougie, Phillippeville, Bone, Admty.)

SEBASTIAN. Departure 25th. 2100 SEBASTIAN Marseilles.  
 ( Spanish.) ( Valencia 1006/26 to Admty.)

Dispositions. Situation 1959A/26.  
 G.U.S.4. C.T.F. 38. 29.30 20.44 270 8.  
 2. MONTE NARANCO ( under armed guard ) 31.47 14.41, 54, 6.  
 3. (?2) Tugs 38.58 10.59 through 37.01 10.01 thence 111, 7.  
 4. Two Swedish Relief Ships 36.23, 13.36, 96, 12.  
 5. KING SOL, 5 Trawlers 39.15 12.40 through 36.30 10.01 thence 103, 10.  
 7. SUSSEX 41.42, 19.51, 145°, 20.  
 8. REGENT 38.33, 10.30 to 41.48 10.30 at 1201/27th when F.O.S. assumes operational control. On the surface 12.  
 (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1032A/26 to A.I.G.55)  
 Amended 1809A/26, 1836A/26.

/AJAX ...

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War Diary.

26.2.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.

Dispositions. AJAX 33.52 26.52 through 34.01 27.01 and 35.01  
35.01 thence 01.18.  
(2) G.U.S. 4, C.T.F. 38, 29.30 20.44 270,8.  
( N.O.I.C. Gib. 1044A/26 to A.I.G. 64,)  
Situation at 2003A/26th. U.C.1, WESTON 028° 09' 039° 56'  
246° 10. (2?) AJAX 034° 03' 027° 35' through 035° 01' 035° 00'  
thence 263° 18. (3) U.G.S. 5 A, Comtask Force 37, 034° 41'  
040° 12' 078° 8.  
( F.O.I.C. Gib. 1106A/26 to A.I.G. 65.)  
Situation at 2001A/26th.  
(4) R.S.2, SPEEDWELL 35.22 06.58 through (34?)06 08.02 thence  
235° 7½. (5) ANCHUSA (3one) tug 2 Merchant Ships 36.43 07.(?  
35) through Q.K.A. 87, to 8. (6) ARTIC RANGER 35.54 06.22  
through Q.K.A. 87, to Gib., 10. (7) G.U.F.5, (0) VANOC passing  
Europa Point 0600/27th through Q.K.A. 87 and 35.47 06.30 to R/V  
G.U.F. 5 in (234) 39, 08.05 at 1830/27th. After R/V escort  
return to 049° 12. (8) G.U.F.5, C.T.F. U. leaves Casablanca  
to pass through 34.39 08.05 at 1830/27th thence 09°, 13½.  
(9) U.S. S/M BARB on patrol off Vigo. (10) STURGEON sails  
1400/27th by Q.K.A. 87 32.35 49.06 06½, at 1915/27th thence to  
35.52 06.13 at 2000/27th on the surface 8 knots. (11) BOREAS  
sails 0800/27th through Q.K.A.87 and 35.45 06.23 to arrive  
Casablanca 1800/27th. (12) IMPERIALIST 2 merchant ships sail-  
ed 1600/26th through Q.K.A. 87 and 35.56 06.20 to Guadalquivir  
7½ thence IMPERIALIST returns independently by reverse route 10.  
(13) Tug MASTERFUL sailed 1900/26th through Q.K.A. 87, 35.49 06  
34 and 34.06 08.02 to overtake R.S. 2, 12.  
( F.O.I.C. Gib. 1134A/26 to A.I.G. 63.)  
( See F.O.I.C. Gib. 1834A/26 to A.I.G. 63)  
My 1134A/26th add new para. 14 ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM, CORMORANT  
sail 1400/27th through Q.K.A. 87, thence 248° 9.  
( F.O.I.C. Gib. 1834A/26 to A.I.G. 63.)

ALBERTO Your 0948/25th. Following is repetition my 1619/  
refit. 24th (Begins) Following for Director of Small  
Vessels Pool. Your 1402/20th Portuguese have  
not yet made up their mind on Capt. of Dockyards  
proposal but promise answer within few days. Probable they will  
not accept and I will not press. 1619/24 received and understood  
(ends)  
( N.A. Lisbon 1054/26 to Admty.)

Red Cross Following was position 2200/25th of Red Cross  
Vessels. vessels eastbound. YARRAWONGA and AKKA 36° 51' N  
16° 56' W.  
( N.A. Stockholm 1127/26 to Admty.)

LIVADIA German 63 arrived from France 26th Feb.  
( Bilbao 1223/26 to D.N.I. M.E.W. B.N.A. Madrid,  
S.O.(I) Gib.)  
Passing action being taken by W.R. to F.O.(S),  
H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth)

/STURGEON ...



1001

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

STURGEON. Intend to sail STURGEON p.m. 27th for U.K.  
 2. STURGEON passes through (s) 35.49 06.06½ at 1915/27th, (r) 35.53 06.15 at 2015/27th  
 (q) 36.37 07.24 at 0515/28th (p) 36.51 09.13 at 0125/1st Mar  
 (c) 42.59 12.26 at 0615/4th Mar. shifting W/T watch at 0615/4 Mar. thence as ordered by F.O.S.  
 3. W/T Watch 4. STURGEON is painted dark blue. 5. F.O.S. 1149/8th Jan. 1942. (A) 4 Mark 8. (B) 8 knots (120 M per day)  
 (C) Ready for patrol 100% fuel (D) (1) Nil (2) Nil.  
 ( F.O.C. Gib. 1230A/26 to Admty, F.O.S. Rpt. S.3, S.7, S.5, S.8, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, STURGEON.)  
 Cancelled, see 1740/27.

BOREAS. My 2344/25th. Intend sailing BOREAS at 0800/27th for Casablanca routed through Q.K.A.87, thence (P) 35.45 06.23 (q) 34.01 07.53 S. of A. 20 knots.  
 (2) S.N.O. Casablanca is requested to fuel BOREAS and sail her (Corrupt group) JAMES PARKER to Dakar. (3) Comar Dakar is requested to fuel BOREAS and sail her for Gib. after one night in harbour.  
 ( F.O.I.C. Gib. 1245A/25 to S.N.O.C.A., Comar Dakar, (R) Admty., F.O.C.W.A., BOREAS, C. in C. Med.)

OXFORDSHIRE. Your 1029/30 (? 1029/20 intended. Re sailing Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE.) arrived.  
 ( F.O.I.C. Gib. 1323A/26 to N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, (R) C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.I.C. N.I. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, N.O.I.C. Swansea, N.O.I.C. Holyhead, H.Q.F.C. C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

MARIE LOUISE MACKAY. Request future movements of Cable Ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, observing that ship has not been employed since completion of repair of Malaga-Las Palmas cable on 8th Jan.  
 ( F.O.C. Gib. 1528A/26 to Admty, (R) C. in C. Med. (W)

U/B. Following read: Am over enemy S/M in 36° 43' N. 14° 18' W. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge.  
 ( A/C H.G.7.F. 1650/26)  
 Via Gib. W/T.

ANCHUSA. E.T.A. 0230A/27th.  
 ( ANCHUSA 1713A/26 to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

ALLIGATOR, EMPIRE ACE. Your 2357A/19. Arrived.  
 (F.O.C. Gib. 1722A/26 to N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., (W) F.O.C. W.A.)

/BANKA ...

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War Diary.

26.2.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic = Contd.BANKA,  
JACQUELINE

Your 1602/25th. Information here is that small quantities of German coal from Bilbao is coming here by sea to Leixoes but insufficient to meet requirements. It is therefore possible attempt may be made to run coal by ship to Viana de Castello or ? Leixoes.  
(B.N. Attache Lisbon 1729/26 to B.N. Attache Madrid, (R) Admty. for D.N.I., S.O. (I) Gib.)

Minesweeping

My 2217/24/2. Following areas searched yesterday Thursday A. From 05° 42' W. to 06° 01' W between southern edge of Q.K.A. 87 Channel and Moroccan Coast outside territorial waters negative result.  
B. Channel 1.4 miles each side of positions 35.54 50.05 42.40 3.5 57.36 05.56 25.35 20.05 59.14 35.55 06.06 07.00.  
(2) Mines exploded in sweep 035° 56' 4 north 005° 57' W. and 035° 56' 8 North and 005° 57.3 W.  
(3) Mines cut in Psayi on 35 57.9 N. 05.53 W. and 35 56.7 N 05 53.8 W. First mine cut was secured by M.L. the other was sunk.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1903A/26 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. S.N.O.C.A.)

KAULDI  
(Spanish)

Spanish 59 left for France 1800 G.M.T. today 26th.  
Addressed D.N.I. M.E.W. B.N.A. Madrid S.O.(I) Gib.  
(Bilbao 1915/26 to Admty.)

X.K.2  
(Slow Convoy  
Gib.-U.K.)

N.C.X.F.'s 1546A/13.(Most Secret). Intend sailing X.K. 2 ships as in my 2011A/15 (list of ships) less EMPIRE USK, WELSH TRADER. Details. Request destinations. Propose issuing Outcon 323 (R)  
(F.O.C. Gib. 1927A/26 to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdre. Algiers, Admty.)

FORMIDABLE

FORMIDABLE will be ready for sea a.m. 1st March. If FORMIDABLE is to proceed to Mers-el-Kebir propose to retain 4 HUNTS ex G.U.F. 5 to escort her.  
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 2315A/26 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. S.O. Force 'H', F.O.I.C. Oran, Capt. (D) 6.) Approved C. in C. Med. 0215A/27.

SUSSEX

Onward route from position (a) 039° 01' 020° 12' to  
(b) 033° 01' 014° 30' (c) 027° 30' 014° 56'  
(d) 025° 01' 016° 50'.  
2. F.O.C. West Africa is requested to signal onward route from position (d).  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 2346A/26 to SUSSEX (R) Admty. F.O.C. W.A., C. in C. Med., S.N.O. Casablanca.)

War Diary.

26.2.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

Movements.

BARWIND escorted by M.L.S 277 and 290 detached in 013° 58' N. 017° 50' W at 0300Z/26th. OUED FEZ arriving Dakar daylight 26th. (PORTSDOWN 0350Z/26 to R.A. W.A. (R) Comar, Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

Arrival 25th U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE, U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW.  
Arrival 26th Brazilian Minelayer CARAVELLAS, Escort Vessel RIO BRANCO.  
(R.O. Bahia 1240Z/26 to Admty.)  
Arrival 26th BELLWORT, COMMANDANT DROGOU F.S. departure PICT THYME.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1550Z/26 to Admty.)

D.C. 11

- (1) D.C. 11
  - (2) 0500Z/26th
  - (4) 8 knots
  - (5) Coastal Reference 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay Z.S.
  - (12) E.T.A. Capetown A.M. March 2nd. E.T.A. East London p.m. Feb. 27th.
- (N.C.S.O. Durban 0732Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

SPINDRIPT controlled mining..

C.in C. E.F. 0759/23 Feb. Regret I do not concur. Suggest it is essential that SPINDRIPT should remain here continuously not only for maintenance of C/M Field at Saldanha but also to assist in maintenance and laying of T/S fixed defence system MEAD is only (R) only vessel at present available on this Station for this purpose owing to persistent unsatisfactory state of CECILE MAPLESON.  
2. In view of heavy wear and tear on fixed defences in those waters programme yet to be completed and submarine threat, SPRINDRIPT and MEAD will be barely sufficient. BARBRAKE has had to be used to lay remaining H.D.A's in Table Bay.  
(C. in C. S.A. 0840C/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Tankers for Trinidad.

0900Z/26th. In company NESTOR Freetown/U.K. 2nd March speed in convoy 9, independently 10, days 36, requires 100 fresh water.

EGERO Trinidad 15th March 9 and 9½ days 25.  
NORSOL Trinidad 13th March 9 and 12 days 27 escorted by THYME and PICT as in R.A.W.Af's 1809Z/22nd. Section 2 to Admiralty etc. (Routes)  
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi 1001Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

DUNKERY

P.C and S. 1000Z/26th 026° 25' 019° 38' W 191° 10. No sign of MONTE NARANCO. Permission is requested to return direct to Freetown instead of Bathurst. Radio defective and likely to cease operating - no spares on board. R.D.F not

operating. FIREBARS in critical condition, and Boiler scale 15 ounces.  
(DUNKERY 1030Z/26 to F.O.W.Af.)

/VESTALE....

1904

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.SOUTH ATLANTIC. - Cont.VESTALE  
ANTIOPE

Intend sailing submarine VESTALE and French submarine ANTIOPE escorted by LA GRANDIERE for Casablanca 1830Z/1st March. A.N.A.O.F. Air cover arranged latitude Cape Bojador.

- (2) Convoy speed made good  $9\frac{1}{2}$ . Routed through following positions. (list).
- (3) E.T.A. positions (all G.M.T.)
- (4) Request total bombing restrictions 30 miles ahead 60 miles astern and 10 either side of estimated position.
- (5) Should convoy pass outside total bombing range zone or should a submarine in the vicinity separate then position course and speed would be signalled initially. Subsequent signals would be made if passing outside modified bombing range zone.
- (6) Submarine will proceed on the surface throughout passage but may dive if attacked.
- (7) W/T.
- (8) Publications held.  
W/T call signs VESTALE.
- (9) Allied minor war vessels recognition signal to 24th March. Submarine no flares.  
(Comar Daker 1033Z/26 to F.O.W.Af., H.Q. West Africa, S.N.O. Casablanca, Gibraltar, Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

Dispositions. FRITILLARY, NORTHERN DAWN C.N. 10 026° 30' South 014° 30' East to Walvis Bay 8 knots.  
ROCKROSE N.C. (?4) 028° 30' South 015° 50' East to (?Saldanha Bay)

CANTON, RELENTLESS, CATTERICK, BLACKMOOR W.S. 26 034° 55' South 020° 04' East to Durban 12½.

ST. ZENO, LE TIGER D.C.10.035° 05' South 019° 40' East to Capetown 8.

CILICIA 034° 50' South 024° 15' East to Simonstown 16 knots.

COMMANDANT DUBOC C.D.6 031 degs 45' South 030° 00' East to Durban. 8.

BIRMINGHAM JASMINE, NIGELLA M.C. 4 031° 15' South 034° 00' East to Durban 10½

VIVIANA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, SONDRRA D.N.20 032 degs. 40' South 035 degs. 15' east to 033 degs. (?South) 036 degs. East 8.

NORMAN (?-28°) 40' South 035° 00' East to Durban 18. D.C.11 031° 30' South (?029°) 45' East to Capetown 8.  
(C. in C. S.A. 10530/26 to A.I.G.125.)  
Situation at 2001Z/26 PELICAN with O.S.43 025° 01' 016° 06' 204° 8½.

GOUARNE, LA PERLE 022° 20' 016° 54' to 023° 38' 016° 54' thence 049° 6½

DUNKERY about 024° 39' 018° 35' 175° 10.

BIRDLIP, BUTSER with R.S.1.Y.20.59 18.01 176 8.

BURDOCK 15.05 17.32 to Bathurst 10½

DESPATCH about 10.12 18.41.

U.S. Destroyer NELSON, U.S. Destroyer MADDOX, GLENNON with (?S or T) One 13.20 28.34 to 13.30 31.01 thence 271 13.5.

BRIDGEWATER, HYDRANGEA, CROCUS, INKPEN, DUNCTON with S.R. 2 12. 45 17.28 352 7½.

FANDANGO escorting off Bathurst to Freetown S.R.2 7½.

PETUNIA escorting about 11.58? 7 45 to S. East 8½

ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF patrolling between 12 North and 17 North 28 West and 35 West.

PORTSDOWN escorting 2 tugs about 11.01 17.19 to Freetown 8½.  
(R.A.W.Af. 1247Z/26 to A.I.G.149).

/GEORGES....

1005

War Diary.26.2.1945.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

GEORGES LEYGUES. Intend to sail F.(C) GEORGES LEYGUES for Freetown 0730Z/28th. Speed made good 20 knots E.T.A. 0900Z/1st.  
(2) Routed as follows: All positions N. and W.  
(A) 014 degs. 00' 017 degs. 15'  
(B) 011 degs. 20' 017 degs. 20'  
(C) 009 degs. 30' 015 degs. 27'  
(3) Full air cover until last night 28th.  
(4) British liaison signalmen on board  
(Comar Daker 1111Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. (C.in C. Med. F.O.C.W.A.)

Troop Movements. C.M.40 W.S.26. D. of S.T's 0226/25 para. 3 entails following alterations to proposals in my 1155/21 and 1116/24 (A) CITY OF PARIS attached to W.S.26 will now be for Egypt not India.  
(B) Sailing of C.M 40 from Durban will be considerably delayed owing to ships having to come to Capetown first to embark 9000 personnel ex W.S.26 disembarked there. Two thirds of these are for India remainder for Middle East  
(2) Following appear most suitable ships for Capetown Section of C.M.40 and should be ready to leave Durban for Capetown about Wednesday 3rd March EMPIRE TROOPER and EMPIRE WOODLARK accommodation 4,000 CITY OF CANTERBURY and CITY OF LONDON accommodation 2600 DEVONSHIRE accommodation 2283. Last three ships are due Durban within next few days and may be delayed by repairs discovered on arrival.  
(3) Durban section will probably consist of KHEDIVE, ISMAIL and ELIZABETHVILLE for Mideast with SONTAY added for India if capable of making the voyage. Sailing date from Durban will be about Middle March. First two ships will take all remaining personnel for Mid East and only Imperial troops remaining at Durban for C.P.41 would be about 5000 for India.  
(4) D.of S.T's para. 6 D.S.T.O. Durban is requested to report latest information regarding range of ships concerned.  
(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1159C/26 to C. in C.E.F. (R) D.S.T. etc.)

CHARON (salvage of SANGARA) E.T.A. 1100G.M.T. 28th. Request assistance tug beach if possible.  
(CHARON 1225Z/26 to N.C.S.D. Duala (R) F.O.C. W.A., R.N.O. Lagos.) Amended by 1150/27 q.v.  
My position 1220Z/26th was 166° from position (D) 17 miles speed 3.6 miles course 083°  
(CHARON 1605Z/26 to CYCLAMEN, (R) R.N.O. Lagos)

LLANASHE torpedoed 17th Feb. RACEHORSE arrived 25 Feb. with 8 survivors from GZGB LLANASHE.  
(2) 34° S. 28° 30' E approx. at 0050Z/17  
(3) Submarine large type 300 feet long very light grey recently painted, one gun forward.  
(4) Torpedoed and sank in 8 minutes.  
(5) 2 torpedoes fired both hit.  
(6) 8 survivors balance unaccounted for presumed lost. 2 possible taken prisoner.  
17/Ship did not open fire.  
(8) Survivors state distress message was sent.  
(Cdr. Durban 1234Z/26 to Admty. C.in C.S.A.)

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War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.MONTE  
IGVELDO

Unknown ship believed to be MONTE IGVELDO Spanish torpedoed and sunk 50 miles N.E. of Recife a.m. 24th.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1259Z/26 to Admty.  
(R) C. in C.S.A. R.A.W.A. S.O.(I) Kingston N.S.  
H.Q. S.O.(I) Gibraltar.) Not confirmed see his 1245Z/2/3.

W.S.26

W.S.26 sailed 26th Feb. E.T.A. R/V 1st March. D.S.T.O. Durban is requested to advise addressees E.T.A. next port.\*  
(S.T.O. Capetown 1329Z/26 1331/26 to Admty. for D.S.T. etc.) \* see 1231C/2/3

STAFFORDSHIRE  
"R"  
message  
8/10/42.

STAFFORDSHIRE has reported that at about 0410 on 8th October 1942, in position 41° 30' N. 20° 5' W. she was illuminated by star shell and that in the absence of the correct identification procedure she made a 'R R R' message.  
2. A report by signal is to be forwarded if anything is known of this incident and a further report in writing if DURBAN was involved.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1444A/26 to Durban, (R) C. in C.E.F. Date 26.2.43)

W.S.26.  
Escorts.

Departure 1512C/26th CANTON, RELENTLESS, CATTERICK, BLACKMOOR for escort W.S.26.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1515C/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. Cdre. i/c Durban.)

RESOURCE.  
W.S.26

Intend to include RESOURCE in convoy W.S.26 sailing Durban 1st March 1943.  
(Cdre. Durban, 1604C/26 to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A. RESOURCE Admty.)

Unidentified  
M/V

BARON DUNMORE reports sighting unidentified merchant ship in 025° 57' N. 034° 13' W. at 1750 Z/17th Feb. Course 320° 14 knots. Ship resembled Silhouette number 78 in O.U.6329 (1)  
Freetown shipping plot indicates CALVALCADE may have been in vicinity.  
(F.O.C.W. Af. 1835Z/26. to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. B.A.D. Comar Dakar.)

BARON DUNMORE reports sighting suspicious vessel in 25° 57' 34° 13' W. course 320° speed 14 knots at 1750/17th Feb. resembling German silhouette number 78 in O.U.63-29(1)  
F.O.C. GEORGES LEYGUES informed and proceeded in direction of ship.  
(S.O.1 Freetown, 2201Z/26th to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C.French Coastal Sector Oran Comar Dakar.)

DESPATCH.

Cancel my 2021Z/23rd proceed Freetown.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1620Z/26 to DESPATCH (R) Admty. Comar Dakar, Comsolant.)

/YOUR 1620....

War Diary.

26.2.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DESPATCH  
Contd.

Your 1620/26th. E.T.A. 1100 Z/27th. My position 010° (200') N 016° 46' West 124° 19 knots. Weather report.  
(DESPATCH 2300Z/26 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty.)

Bunkers,  
Freetown

Masters of coal burning ships proceeding to Freetown for onward routeing of convoy to the U.K. should not rely on obtaining more than 500 to 600 tons coal bunkers per vessel at Freetown without previously consulting M.O.W.T. London. Ships both coal and oil should have on leaving South Africa or Plate sufficient bunkers on board at least 5500 miles plus safety margin to permit diversion to an alternative convoy or bunkering port.

Furthermore any additional coal or oil that can be lifted in South Africa or oil in South America without excluding cargo should be taken.

2. Homeward bound vessels should leave Freetown with sufficient bunkers on board on board for homeward voyage at convoy speed plus safety margin. This is equivalent to a total of 30 days at 7½ knots inclusive of safety margin.
3. Homeward vessels to the U.K. of 15 knots and over with the requisite bunker capacity should whenever practicable leave South Africa and Plate with sufficient bunkers for 9000 and 8500 miles respectively plus safety margin.

(D.T.D.2038A/26, C. in C. S.A., C. in C.E.F. C. in C. Levant, A.C.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N., B.S.N.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

1008

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

OASIS. Intercept 0232 G.M.T. OASIS S.O.S. Sommergebile  
(French) enemigo cannonegoia. At 0229 I.C.I Navire  
sunk by Francai OASIS.  
TORBAY. (N.Ireland Radio 0334/26 to Admty. etc.)  
Translation by O.I.C:- Enemy S/M shelling me,  
from French Ship OASIS.

Intercept at 0232 G.M.T. Bearing 148° app. From OASIS (begins),  
S.O.S. I.C.I. Navir Francais, OASIS. Acknowledge by Coltano  
Radio. (Ends.) Wick Radio.  
(R.A.F. Wick 0334B.S.T/26 to Admiral Lyness.)  
(Passed to Admiralty for information.)  
Intercept at 0244 G.M.T. From Coltano (begins)  
OASIS Q.T.H.?(What is your position?) ends.  
(R.A.F.Wick 0347 B.S.T/26 to Admiral Lyness.)  
W.D.Note: OASIS was sunk by TORBAY, see C. in C.Med. 1500A/9/3.

Enemy 4 Destroyers 2 Medium M/Vs one submerged S/M  
Units. course 270° 5 miles 130°, 39° 40' N. 15° 20' E.  
(A/C G.K.S/D 0345A/26.)  
P.C. and S. of 4 enemy merchant vessels unknown  
and 4 aeroplanes 38° 57' N. 14° 10' E. 10 knots.  
(A/C C.Y.H/L 0917A/26.)

Alexandria Arrival 24 Feb. ROCKWOOD.  
Movements. (S.O.I. Alexandria 0908/25 to Admty.)  
Arrival 25th Feb. TETCOTT.  
Departures 25th Feb. ANTWERP, DELPHINIUM,  
SOUTHERN MAID, WOLBOROUGH, SKUDD FIVE, TREERN, M.L. 1122  
KELVIN, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT Greek Destroyer QUEEN OLGA.  
(S.O.I. Alexandria 0915B/26 to Admty.)

Movements 25th Feb. arrival M.Ls. 350, 385 and 384,  
Beirut. CUMBRAE?(corrupt group).  
(S.O.I. Beirut 0925B/26 to Admty.)

TIGRIS, After 2000/27th TIGRIS is to operate North of  
TURBULENT. 040° N. and East of 012° 30' E. and will be  
recalled about 6th March.  
2. TURBULENT passing 039° 18' 012° 01' at  
2030/27th and is then to proceed to course 90° to operate  
south of 039° 50' N. East of 014° E.  
(Capt. S.8 0938A/26 to TIGRIS, TURBULENT, (R) KEREN, Capt. S.10  
8th S/M Flot.)

Oran Arrived U.S. P.C. 472, 473, 475, from Gib. U.S.  
arrivals. D.D. OVERTON from Safi.  
(Commorseafron 1025Z/26 to Admty. Cominch,  
F.O.C.Gib. C. in C.Med. (W).)

/Slow...



1009

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Slow Convoy. Gib.-U.K. My 1546/13. Request you will comply.  
(C. in C.Med. 1025A/26 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R)  
F.O.I.C. Oran, S.N.O.C.A. Cmdre. Algiers, Admty.)

M.T.Bs. 307, 315. M.T.Bs. 307 and 315 will leave Malta at 1530/26th  
at 25 knots passing 5 miles South of Marittimo  
and through 038° 08' N. 010° 55' E. to Bone.  
Fighter protection low priority. Codeword Bosom.

Call sign B.A.M.  
W/T M. Broadcasting shifting to 1579 k/cs. on passing 010° E.  
(V.A.Malta 1046/26 to C. in C.Med. S.O. Force Q., F.O.I.S.  
H.Q.E.A.C. 248, Wing, C.F.B. Bone, Admty.)  
Sailed M.T.B. 307, 315.  
(V.A.Malta 1636A/26 to Admty. C. in C.Med. F.O.I.S.)

Bi-weekly Opsum 103 part 2. Night 24/25th Feb. 6 B.24s attacked Naples.  
Bombs burst at base of vittoria Emanuele Mole  
and north of harbour. 1 B.24 attacking alter-  
native target Crotone observed bursts in harbour  
and town. 1 unidentified enemy aircraft  
approached Tripoli at low altitude mingling with  
our outgoing bombers. 4 H.E. bombs dropped. Slight damage to  
vessel in harbour and some civilian damage. 2 Beaufighters up.  
No interceptions.  
(Middle East 1048Z/25 to Air Min.)

Effect of British Naval Shellfire. Your 1543/10. Investigation of effects of shell  
fire is being actively pursued with help of  
French who would themselves be grateful in  
return for information of effects of French shells  
against British Ship targets.  
2. Information of effect of French 15 inch shells  
(?at) Dakar in 1940 would be particularly  
welcome.  
(C. in C.Med. 1100A/26 to Admty. (R) F.O.H.)

Hospital Ships. Expected sailing from Suez week ending 4th  
March with over 100 personnel. March 1st,  
H.S. MAUNGANUI, Port Sudan, Aden, Kilindini,  
Durban. About March 1st, DENBIGHSHIRE, Australia,  
March 4th, H.S. AMRA, Kilindini, Durban.  
(F.O.R.S.C.A. 1111B/26 to Admty.)

P.R.U. Visuals. P.R.U. Feb. 26th visuals.  
1045 Naples two cruisers. Photos. 1040 Taranto  
two battleships 2 cruisers. Photos. 1135  
Messina no major naval units.  
(V.A.Malta 1258A/26 to C. in C.Med. etc.)  
1430 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers. 1510 Messina no major  
Naval units. 1600 nil 2 cruisers.  
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1746A/26 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

/G.U.F....

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- G.U.F.5. G.U.F.5 sailed at 1300/26. Ships as in my 1740/23 plus TAWALI for Gibraltar escorted by FARNDALE, PUCKERIDGE, HOLCOMBE, CALPE to R/V and VANOC, OAKLEY and ASHANTI to Gibraltar. (Com. N.O.B. Oran Area 1500A/26 to C. in C.Med. (W) (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, Connav, Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q.)
- U.G.S.5. U.G.S. 5 arrived (list of ships), escorted by VENOMOUS, VELOX, VERITY, VANOC, MOOSEJAW. (Com. N.O.B. Oran Area 1515A/26 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. Connav, F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A.)
- U.G.S. 5 - 5 Casablanca Section arrived 1930A/25, 24 ships as follows (list). Escorted by Taskfor 35 PARKER, LAUB, MCLEISH, OVERTON, McCORMICK. At Safi BOYLE. (Commorseafron 2215Z/25 to Cominch, Admty. C. in C.Med. (W) (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran, C. in C.Lant, N.S.H.Q.)
- TRIBUNE. Intend sailing TRIBUNE 1730/28th for Gibraltar for onward passage to U.K. routed through A. 038° 05' N. 001° 57' E. at 0230/1st. B. 135° Palos Cape 10 at 0030/2nd. C. 180° Cape de Gata 5 at 1930/2nd. D. 180° Cape Calaburras 5 at 0630 to arrive at 1030/3rd unless otherwise ordered by F.O.C.Gibraltar. 2. TRIBUNE will shift normal wireless watch to Gibraltar broadcast at 2200/1st and will not pass position D. before 0630/3rd. (Capt. S.8 1532A/26 to C. in C.Med. F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. F.O.C. Subs, Cmdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.H., S.O.Subs, Gibraltar, Capt. S.5.)
- Controlled minefield. V.A.Malta 1550/21. Completion of controlled minefield off Malta is not considered as of sufficient importance to justify any diversion of effort from the essential requirements of restoring Malta as an operational base one feature of which is mine depot able to deal with requirements for offensive mine-laying. 2. Mine loops are sited in positions in which it is improbable that large enemy submarines would venture and guard loops will not detect Midgets or Limpets. (C. in C.Med. 1723A/26 to Admty. (R) V.A.Malta, C. in C.Levant.)
- RORQUAL. Capt. S.10 2237/25th after passing 034° 30' 020° 01' at 0200B/28th proceed to pass A. 033° 42' 029° 19' at 06(?)00 (?)B)/3rd March B. 033° 42' 032° 11' at 0600B/4th March to arrive end of Haifa searched channel at 0600B/5th March. Your S.O.A. is estimated at 143 miles diving by day. (Capt. S.1 1728B/26 to RORQUAL (R) C. in C.M.F. Capt. S.10th S.F. F.O. 15th C.Squ. C.i/c. Levant Cmdre. D.Coastal Forces East.)

/NARVA...

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War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

NARVA. A. Intend sailing NARVA to Philippeville 0600A/  
27th routed one mile North of 100 fathom line.  
B. Speed 8 knots. C. Codeword (?Cadwallader)  
as received. D. Will be escorted by trawler  
from Bougie to R/V with local escort from  
Philippeville in position 036° 59' N. 006° 04' E. at 1200A/27th.  
E. Request fighter protection.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1800A/26 to N.O.I.C. Philippeville (R)  
C. in Med. Cmdre. Algiers, etc.)

Oran Arrivals VANOC, VERITY, VELOX, VENOMOUS,  
Movements. MOOSEJAW. Departures VANOC, VERITY, VELOX,  
FARNDALE, PUCKERIDGE, HOLCOMBE, CALPE, OAKLEY,  
ASHANTI.  
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 1915A/26 to Admty.)

Bone Bone arrival LAMERTON, WILTON, (?BUDE), CLACTON,  
Movements. EDAY, KERRCORIT.  
(F.O.I.S. 1952A/26 to C. in C.Med.Fleet. Admty.  
F.O.Gibraltar.)

Sinking of N.S.H.Q. Ottawa will be releasing to press on  
AVORIO March 13th a statement of sinking of U-Boat  
(Italian by REGINA. Request you will signal short  
U/B 9/2.) statement of circumstances (C. in C.Med.'s  
1813A/9/2 refers.)  
(D.A.S.W. 1952A/26 to C. in C.Med. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Algiers Arrived ABDIEL, L.C.T. 152, 135.  
Movements. Departures. M.L. 273, 338 L.C.T. 170, 160, 164.  
(Cmdre. Algiers 2007A/26 to Admty.)

Operation Situation at 1800/26.  
M.W.21. 1. 15880 tons of general cargo discharged.  
2. Tanker OVULA completed discharge of 8300  
tons furnace oil at 0300/24.  
3. Tanker DROMUS completed discharge of 6000 tons of Octane  
and 4000 tons of kerosene at 1115/26.  
It is hoped to complete discharge of all cargo by March 4th.  
(V.A.Malta 2008A/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant.)

TORBAY. You may have been sighted off Cape Mele this  
afternoon.  
(Capt. S.8 2050A/26 to TORBAY.)

/Air...

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Air  
Report.

From Brereton. For Arnold, Spaatz, Bissell &amp; Andrews.

1. 9 B.24s of 576th Group departed Solluch during hours of darkness Feb. 24/25th with primary target shipping in Naples Harbour. 6 Aircraft dropped 36 American Bombs 1,000 pounds each. Hits observed on Vittorio Emanuele Mole and Della Marinella Quay and adjacent area. 4 enemy aircraft showing orange nose lights with black vertical band through centre closed in but did not attack. Dummy fires seen 25 miles west of Naples.
2. 2 Aircraft returned early to base 1 due to leaking tank other engine trouble. Disposition of their bombs unknown. 1 aircraft bombed alternate target - Crotone. (Cairo 2103Z/26 to H.Q. Etousa.)

Benghazi  
Movements.Arrived and sailed NUBIAN, JAVELIN.  
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 2128B/26 to Admty.)P.43  
(UNISON.)

A. Extend your patrol to an area formed by joining following points.

1. 037° 05' 011° 25'    2. 037° 05' 011° 59'  
3. 036° 12' 011° 25'    4. 036° 12' 010° 16'

B. P.247 (SARACEN) on passage to Malta passes through North East corner of your area night of 28th and Day 1st. Do not attack S/M from dark 28th until dawn 2nd.  
(Capt. S.10 2310A/26 to P.43 (UNISON.)

Malta Air  
Report.

A.I. 551. Offensive. Night 25/26 Feb.

Armed searches by 4 Wellingtons and 4 Beauforts for enemy shipping South of Naples were hampered by haze and bad visibility. 1 Beaufort sighted 0235 hours 1 tanker 5000 tons and (?) D/Rs. 39° 40' N. 15° 21' E. course 160° speed slow and aimed one torpedo at tanker but no results were observed. 1 Beaufort is missing. 4 intruder Mosquitoes were airborne to cover shipping strike, 2 patrolling Taranto and 2 patrolling Trapani area. An A.A. gun position at Crotone and airfield lights at Sciacca were strafed. (A.H.Q. Malta 2314/26.)

Port Said  
Movements.

26th Feb. Port Said: Arrivals, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, KELVIN, QUEEN OLGA, CLEOPATRA. Departures, PANTHER, BURRA, SILHOUETTE, SNOWDRIFT, F.F.M.L. 1143, F.F.M.L. 1164, CHRISTOS, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, CLEOPATRA, KELVIN, QUEEN OLGA.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 2236B/26 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

26.2.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements.

Arrival KONKAN.  
(N.O.I.C. Madras 0252Z/26th to Admty.)  
Colombo arrivals 1000Z/26th, Dutch S/M 024.  
(F.O. Ceylon 1200Z/26 to Admty.)  
French T.B. LA POMONE arrived. Left DAUNTLESS,  
WALKER.  
(F.O. East Africa 1451Z/26 to Admty.)

A.F.Ds.

From Mitchell. Monthly progress report A.F.D.23.  
A.F.D. 26. 6. Calcutta labour situation  
improving but night shift only being worked at  
one of the works.  
(N.O.I.C. Bombay 0626Z/26 to Admty.)

Convoys

1. P.A. 26 P.B. 28 (Sailing telegram.)  
P.A.26 2. 0600Z/25th. 4. (?8) knots P.A. 26 8½ knots.  
P.B.28. 5. P.A. 26 A.A. 024° 26' 058° 14' B.B. 022°  
54' 060° 30' Gan. P.B. 28 from B.B. to  
C.C. 023° 07' 064° 00' D.D.. 023° 28' 065° 36'  
E.E. 020° 45' 067° 50' (?F)F 018° 10' 069° 30' 6. P.A. 26  
ORISSA P.B. 28 MARYBOROUGH, MARGUERITE.  
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz 0630Z/25 to C. in C.E.F. etc.)

W.S.26  
C.M.40.

If time permits strain on escorts would be much  
eased by the inclusion of 3150 troops for Middle  
East (referred to in para. 1 (B) of D. of S.T.  
0226/25th) in W.S. 26 leaving C.M. 40 for India  
only.

2. Provided destroyers are available allowing C.M.40 to be  
routed through Mozambique channel (my 1820/26th Feb. to C. in  
C.S.A. and N.O.I.C. Durban only refers). The inclusion of  
SANTAY as far as Kilindini is acceptable as agreed to in  
P.S.T.O. Capetown 1537/12th (not to D. of S.T.) In any other  
circumstances her inclusion will constitute a grave danger to  
rest of her convoy.

(C. in C.E.F. 0856Z/26 to D. of S.T. P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R)  
D.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C.S.A. 80, N.O.I.C. Durban.)  
Reply: P.S.T.O. Capetown 0958/27. D.S.T. 1617/27.

Movement  
Summary  
No.44  
Feb. 26th.

1. CARADOC escorting B.A. 38 left Bombay 24th due  
Aden 3rd March. 2. FROBISHER left Bombay 25th  
due Kilindini 3rd March. 3 DAUNTLESS escorting  
one ship leaves Kilindini 26th for Aden. 4. Ref.  
movement summary number 43 cancel para. 3. F.S.  
LA FLORE leaves Mauritius 27th for Reunion and

Tamatave.

5. The following Y Messages are cancelled 192 of 31st Jan. 196  
1st Feb. 199 5th Feb. 203 11th Feb. 205 12th Feb.  
(C. in C.E.F. 0941Z/26 to E.F. (214 Y), Admty. C. in C.S.A.  
C. in C.Red Sea Force, C.A. N.O.I.C. Aden.)

/RESOURCE...

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War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.

RESOURCE. RESOURCE is required to return to the Eastern Med. by the beginning of May. Request you will sail her as convenient to comply.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1053A/26 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)

Dispositions. My 2131A/20th Feb. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Pacific:-  
VICTORIOUS at sea. CHICAGO delete.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1103A/26 to C. in C. E.F.)

U/B Dispositions. Japanese U/B dispositions. No. 3:- One possibly off Muscat 25th Feb. One by D/F fixed in northernmost part of Bay of Bengal 23rd Feb.  
( C. in C. E.F. 1314/26 to E.F. (215Y) (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. F.L.O. Delhi, Cdore. in Charge Aden, A.H.Q.E.A. 246 Wing.)

Air Report India. (B) Offensive R/C 25 Feb. 6 Hurricanes Monuwa Ye-U. 6 Beaufighters Myittha Valley. 6 or (9?) Hurricanes Akyab Island, Ramree Island. Small steamer severely damaged.  
(D) P.R.U. Results 25th Feb. (1) R.A.F.  
(2) U.S.A. Rangoon Docks - 3 M/Vs total 8/12000 tons. Rangoon River 2 M/Vs total 5000 tons.  
(E) U.S.A.A.F. 22/23 Feb. Night. 6 Liberators bombed Rangoon Docks. Rangoon River successfully mined.  
( India 1330Z/26 to Air Min.)

Areas for Catalinas. Following is C. in C. E.F.'s 0645/21 Feb.  
(1) The following nomenclature will be employed in future to indicate areas in which Catalinas are being employed.  
(A) Southern Area includes the Cape and Mozambique as far N. as 25° S. (B) Western Area includes remainder of East coast of Africa Madagascar Seychelles and Mauritius.  
(C) Northern area includes the Approaches to Aden the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea N. of 10° N. (D) Eastern Area includes Ceylon and Indian coast except (C).  
(2) The present normal allocation of Catalina Squadrons is as follows, (B) Western area two squadrons (C). Northern area one squadron is as follows. (B) Western area two Squadrons (C) Northern area one squadron (D) Eastern area four squadrons.  
(3) In order to deal with the S/M campaign at the Cape the normal allocation has been readjusted so as to admit of the equivalent of 3 squadrons being attached to the Southern area.  
(4) The approx. Nos. of Catalina in the various area and their serviceability on the 19th Feb. 1943 is as follows:

/(A) Southern ...

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War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Areas for  
Catalinas,

- (A) Southern 20 Of which 5 are serviceable
- (B) Western 10 of which 2 are serviceable
- (C) Northern 7 of which (group missed (R) are serviceable
- (D) Eastern 25 of which 6 are serviceable.

5. After consultation with A.O.C. 222 Group it has been agreed that when U/B campaign in the S. area admits of withdrawals the normal disposition of Catalina aircraft will be as follows:

- (A) For Southern and Western area 40%
- (B) For Northern area 20%
- (C) For Eastern area 40%.

This coincides with final allocation of the 12 F.B. squadrons.

(6) Owing to lack of maintenance facilities in Persian Gulf and at Aden it is not intended to send the increased number of Catalina aircraft to the Northern area but to keep designate detachments of about 4 aircraft each in the Eastern area ready to proceed at short notice to the Persian Gulf or Aden at the first sign of U/B activity in these areas. T.O.O. 0645Z/21.

S.N.O.P.G. pass to A.H.Q. Iraq. F.O. Ceylon pass to C. in C. Ceylon and 222 Group.

( C. in C. E.F. 1432Z/26 to 222 Group A.H.Q. E.A. A.H.Q. Iraq, A.H.Q. India, A.H.Q. Middle East, C. in C. Ceylon, S.N.O.P.G. Com. i/c, Aden, C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.R.I.N. Com. R.I.N. (R) Admty. Air Min.)

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War Diary.

26.2.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements. Departure 26th Feb. U.S. P.C. 566 and 567 for Trinidad.  
(Harbour Master, Barbados 0015/26 to Admty.)  
BRIGADIER GENERAL H.F. RETHERS (U.S.A.T.) joined T.B.6 off Paraelribo for Belem.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0028Z/26 to C. in C.S.A.S. F.O.C.W.A.)  
Kingston arrival TAMARISK.  
(N.O.I.C. Jamaica 0842R/26 to S.B.N.O.W.At.)  
Departure Bermuda 24th U.S. S/M R.12.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 1203Z/26 to Admty.)  
Armed yacht S.C. 655 arrived a.m. 26th.  
(R.O. Barranquilla 1547/26 to Proximo London.)  
Arrival Bermuda French Submarine AMAZONE. U.S.S. BERNADOU.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 1609Z/26 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. S.O.I. Jamaica, B.A.D. Comar, Dakar.)  
Kingston departure TAMARISK.  
(Capt. in Charge Jamaica 261745R to S.B.N.O.W.At.)  
A.T. MAUI (U.S.) arrived San Francisco 24th.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1948Z/26 to Admty.)

S/M (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 0029/26, 0435/26, 0439/26,  
Estimates 0602/26, 1535/26, 1536/26, 1601/26, 1602/26.)  
26th Feb.  
U.S.  
Submarine  
notices.

Convoy T.B.6 sailed Trinidad 2000/23rd Feb. due Bahia  
T.B.6. 1500/12th March. (list). Individual routes  
being passed separately.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0030Z/26 to C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.W.A.)

Convoy CAMPBELL's 1550Z/25th. SALISBURY should arrive  
O.N.166, (arranged?) vicinity 25th. Corvette and Tug  
CAMPBELL en route should arrive night 26th. DAUPHIN  
(damaged) pass to CAMPBELL.  
(C.T. 24 0055Z/26 to DAUPHIN (R) CAMPBELL,  
SALISBURY.)

SALISBURY 1700Z/25th. Remain with CAMPBELL prudent limit of  
endurance or until detached by me. Refer my 1755/25th (N.T. in  
W.D.)

(C.T. 24. 0205Z/26 to SALISBURY (R) DAUPHIN, NANAIMO,  
Cominch, C. and R. C. in C.W.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q.)  
Joined CAMPBELL. Your 0205/26. Acknowledged.  
(SALISBURY 0605Z/26 to C.T. 24 (R) F.O.N.F.)  
CAMPBELL estimated position 1900Z/25, 47° 25' N. 32° 24' W.  
(C.T. 24 1217Z/26 to NANAIMO (R) DAUPHIN.)  
TENACITY took CAMPBELL in tow SALISBURY screening DAUPHIN  
proceeding St. Johns N.F. Unless otherwise ordered will proceed  
St. Johns N.F.  
(CAMPBELL 1340Z/26 to C.T.24.)

/The...



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War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Convoy  
O.N.166  
CAMPBELL  
(damaged.)

The heavy W/T activity from your vicinity has declined sharply since 0239Z/26th indicating majority U-Boats now detached.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1436Z/26 to Ships escorting O.N. 166, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. C. in C.U.S. Fleet. S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Recommend CAMPBELL N.K. be routed to the southward.  
(Cominch C. and R. 1526Z/26 to Admty. (R) C.T.F. 24. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.)

CAMPBELL under tow of TENACITY escorted by SALISBURY underway for St. Johns N.F.  
(C.T. 24 1701Z/26 to NANAIMO.)

ASSINIBOINE.

My 1936/24. At 0400/26 sailed ASSINIBOINE routed through A and B.T. C-48° 35' N. 28° 10' W. D.A. 51° 20' N. 22° 15' W. Thence to Londonderry via Q.Z.S. 388. S.O.A. 15 knots. ASSINIBOINE has been ordered to comply with C. in C.W.A. 1220/25.  
(C.O.A.C. 0405Z/26 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.T.F. 24. Cmdre. Londonderry.)

A.F.D.24.

This is Comgulfseafon 2032/25th addressed to appropriate commands concerned with convoy movements: New Orleans 5 Floating Drydock 3 tugs 4 escorts Trinidad 21-00 82-45 120 4. Summary miscellaneous convoys this frontier 2000Z/25th.  
(Comnaveu 0842/26 to Admty.)

AMERICAN  
ROBIN.

This is Port Director New York's 1504/25th. Ref. A.M. 1700/23.  
The AMERICAN ROBIN did arrive in New York in G.U.S/3 on 7th Feb. and is still in that port.  
(Comnaveu 0847/26 to Admty.)

RHEXENOR  
(torpedoed  
3rd Feb.)

My 1805/25th Feb. 3rd Mate and 14 others survivors brought to St. Thomas from Tortola. 3rd Mate says all in his boat consider 4th boat steered further to Southward and is probably off Windward Islands. United States Intelligence Officer has informed C. in C.

Caribbean Sea Frontier.

17 survivors moved from St. Thomas to San Juan. I am requesting F.O. Trinidad to inform all in his vicinity.

(B.R.L.O. St. Thomas 0914/26 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. S.B.N.O. W.At. S.O.(I) Kingston.)

My 1805/25th, 3rd mate gives latitude and longitude 025° N. 045° W. he states he had worked position up to date just previous torpedo attack. 2nd W/Operator told him that New York acknowledged signal of distress.  
This boat tied to submarine and 4th Officer made prisoner, 3rd Officer took charge later: they are convinced German (?Captain in Charge) of Itian (?Italian intended) submarine and only about 500 tons.

/Submarine...

26.2.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

RHEXENOR (torpedoed 3rd Feb.) (Contd.) Submarine had not wire cutter. Boat was wrecked in landing on island near Tortoza men being weak. (B.R.L.O. St. Thomas 1032/26 to Admty. (R) B.A.D S.B.N.O. W.At. S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

U/B. Following is repetition of my 1621R/25 to same addressees as this message (begins) Nassau reports U-Boat sighted on surface by two reliable persons 1400Q today, Thursday 5 miles North West of Longcay, Fortune Island. Vessel then submerged. Aircraft despatched. (Ends.) (S.O.I. Jamaica 1055R/26 to Comgulf (R) Comcarib. Admty. N.O.B. Guantanamo N.S.H.Q. N.I.D. 18.)

Dispositions. Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic. Operating in Northern Waters: KING GEORGE V, HOWE, BERWICK, KENT, GLASGOW, BELFAST, CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK, SCYLLA, 16 Destroyers.

Area Scapa: ANSON, FURIOUS, BERMUDA, JAMAICA.  
Area Clyde: SHEFFIELD. Area Liverpool: ILLUSTRIOUS.  
Passage to South Atlantic: MALAYA. On patrol: SUSSEX.  
Area Gibraltar: NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, ABDIEL, ADVENTURE, 7 destroyers.  
(D.O.D.(H) 1050Z/26 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet, (R) Opnav, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, B.A.D.)

Movements Summary	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T 26th Feb.	U.C.1 } WESTON)	28° N. 40° W.	246°	10½
	AJAX	30° N. 28½° W.	270°	18
	ALCANTARA } WOODRUFF )	15° N. 32° W.	Patrol	Blank
	T.A. 35.	41° N. 63½° W.	270°	19
	L. 23	49° N. 45° W.	255°	6
	CHESHIRE	31° S. 50° W.	217°	12
	(D.O.D.(F) 1105Z/26 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)			

ASSINIBOINE. Departure ASSINIBOINE for Londonderry. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1307Z/26 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Connnav, B.A.D. C.T.F. 24. F.O.N.F. C. in C.W.A. Cmdre. Londonderry.)  
Note: Received undecipherable correction now recd.

WINKLER torpedoed 23rd Feb. 1. WINKLER 2 Atlantic Refining Co. Philadelphia. 3. First attack 0710Z/2nd attack 0900Z/23rd in position 46.48 N. 36.18 W. 4. Unknown. 5. At 0720/7 a submarine was sighted ahead, crash dived when Master attempted to ram. Believed to have scored 1 hit on conning tower with 3 inch. 6. Unknown 6. 7. Ship sank after being hit by 3 torpedoes. 8. See my 1414/26 which follows is a list of survivors.

War Diary.

26.2.1943.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

WINKLER  
torpedoed  
23rd Feb.  
(Contd.)

9. Only sighted C/T which appeared to be square.  
10. Torpedo. 11. Current Admiralty publications  
dumped over the side in steel box.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1410Z/26 to Admty.  
Cominch, (R) N.S.H.Q.) Amended 1836Z/27.

Polish  
refugees  
ex Persia.

My 0250/9 para. 1 (d). F.O. now advise that it  
has been agreed that 4000 Polish civilians ex  
Persia can be accepted in Mexico via United  
States.  
2. B.A.D. is requested to confirm his previous  
agreement that this number can be embarked in MONTICELLO and  
WEST POINT.  
3. If confirmed P.S.T.O. India is requested to embark as many  
as practicable in MONTICELLO and balance in WEST POINT.  
4. B.A.D. is also requested to state whether there is any  
objection to urgent personnel awaiting passage in India to  
U.K. being embarked in MONTICELLO for passage to U.S.A. Onward  
passage to U.K. would be arranged in an A.T. sailing.  
5. If no objection P.S.T.O. India should embark any such  
personnel.  
(D. of S.T. 1442A/26 to B.A.D. P.S.T.O. India, (R) C. in C.E.F.  
D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf.)

IROQUOIS.

Your 1015/20 and A.M. 1335/28 Jan.  
In view of desirability of IROQUOIS arriving  
in Halifax for inspection by shipbuilders as  
soon as possible and for her early return to U.K.  
for service with H.F. request she may be sailed  
for Halifax at best possible speed and not as  
additional escort for O.N. 170.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1545Z/26 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty.  
C. in C.H.F. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. C.C.C.S.)

Situation.

Section South West.  
S.C. 121 (W.L.E.T.U. ?24.18.6) (E) 042° 19'  
063° 55' 056° 4.5 alter in 042° 44' N. to 078°.  
H.S.C. 121 in vicinity 042° 19' 063° 55' to junction with S.C.  
121.  
O.N. 165 Task Unit 24.18.9 040° 30' 065° 17' 246° 7 alter in  
067° 28' W. to 271°.  
WILLIAM S.BURG. 042° 26' 067° 07' 265° 12.  
U.S.S. TAHOMA depart Caslo Bay 1600Z/26th in 043° 33' 069° 14'  
098° 10 alter to 055° in 065° 36' W.  
U.S.S. BOUGE, BELMAP, BADGER 041° 02' 063° 47' 048° 13.  
S.S. GULHAUG vicinity 045° 09' 060° 53' for Halifax.  
S.S. LAURENTIAN vicinity 044° 53' 061° 40' en route Canso via  
coastal ports F.H. 39 sailed St. Johns 2100Z/26th.  
(C.O.A.C. 1545Z/26 to Admty.)  
My 1545Z/26th add T.A. 36 040° 05' N. (061°?) 38 W. 255°  
alter to 289° in 038° 45' N. 068° (23?) W. (S.O.A.?) 19 knots.  
(C.O.A.C. 1550Z/26 to Admty.)

/S.C.L...

1020

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

S.C.L. 120. As S.C.L. 120 includes one transport 2 oilers and one special cargo ship plus 3 others it is hoped that arrangements can be made to utilize BIBB and U.S. Dest. BABBITT for S.C.L. 120 delaying detachment until Feb. 28 if necessary or alternatively for BIBB and U.S.S. BABBITT to overtake S.C.L. 120 and reinforce U.S. Dest. SCHENCK. Your 1047Z/26th. (C.T.G. 24.6 1741Z/26.)

HELENE. British Army staff are now responsible for supplying stores to British troops in South Caribbean Area and urgently require a small vessel with refrigerating space for the transport of frozen victualling stores around the Islands. HELENE at present examination vessel at Georgetown appears suitable for their requirements. Is it possible to release this vessel and if so can reallocation of small vessels in your command be made to take her place or is an additional vessel required. (B.A.D. 1901Z/26 to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, Admty.)

Escort tankers with Convoys. Connav 1600/12th to Admty. (R) Port Director New York and C.E.S.F. emphasised need for at least two properly equipped escort tankers in any convoy. 2. It is noted that S.C. 121 sailed with ROSEWOOD only designated escort tanker although SAN TIRSO fitted with platform and BRITISH FREEDOM also sailed. 3. H.X. 228 Advance sailing telegram includes ORANGELEAF which is properly fitted, 4 ships carrying Admiralty fuel oil, and 2 carrying commercial fuel oil. It is hoped that 2 ships will be provided with emergency gear preference being given to those carrying Admiralty fuel. (D.T.D. 1908A/26 to B.A.D.)

O.N. 167, Escorts. O.N.S. 167, P.C. and S. 2100Z/26th 049° 48' N. 040° 02' W. U. 270° 6 knots. HARVESTER has leak star'bd main condenser and is steaming on one engine. Efforts to repair at sea unsuccessful owing to defective crane's packing rings in discharging ends of tubes. All 3 boilers will require internal cleaning. In view of short turn round suggest ship proceed to St. Johns N.F. on relief. Also propose GARLAND proceed St. Johns N.F. to land one badly burned hospital case and NARCISSUS escorting S.S. SUERTE to St. Johns N.F. and landing survivors. Request ROSELYS, F.S. COMPULSION visit St. Pierre with personnel and mails. She requires 2 days Argentia for repairs. Weather report. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17 1910Z/26 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty. Escorts O.N.S. 167.)

Loading programme, timber, news-print, pulp. Your 1430/23 further details will be signalled in due course. (D.T.D. 1927A/26 to N.S.H.Q.)

/B.Y.M.S...

1021

War Diary.26.2.1943.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

B.Y.M.S. San Francisco arrived 25th B.Y.M.S. numbers 10,17,18,21 and 25.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2017Z/26 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C.O.A.C.)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. E.T.A. 2100Z/27th.  
(EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND 2035Z/26 to Cominch Cand R.  
(R) U.S.Port Director New York. B.A.D. C. in C.W.A.  
Admty. Comtask 24.)

Shipping Connav Serial 26.  
Casualties. STIGSTAD O.N. 166 torpedoed sunk 21st Feb. 49.26  
N. 29.08 W. All ships reported torpedoed this  
convoy now believed sunk.

MONTE IGVELDO (Spanish) torpedoed sunk 24th Feb. 04.46 S. 31.55  
West.  
ROSARIO, Serial 22, sunk.  
ROGER B.TANEY overdue Bahia since 14th Feb. from Capetown.  
(Cominch C. and R. 2115/26 to Comnav.)

Tanker Your 1517/24.  
Convoys MOBILGAS and ECLIPSE destination Aruba. Loading  
to instructions despatched via New York.  
Curacao. 2. Following are for Curacao. EMPIRE MARVELL  
loading instruction number 169. ATHEL REGENT  
loading instruction number 170. CIMBULA loading  
instruction follows. SAN ADOLFO, SAN AMBROSIO, GULFPOINT,  
TIDEWATER, VINGA, SAINTONGE Admiralty furnace oil for U.K.  
KAIA KNUDSEN Admiralty furnace oil for New York discharge.  
3. Above 12 vessels are to return via New York.  
4. It is expected that 12 fast tankers will load in Curacao  
and Aruba for convoy to U.K. direct sailing 15th March or  
shortly afterwards. Details will be communicated when known.  
(Tanker Message.)  
5. Reply will be made to you paras. 2 and 3 by separate signal.  
(D.T.D. 2125A/26 to N.C.S.O. Curacao (R) S.B.N.O. W.At.  
B.A.D. B.R.L.O. Aruba.)

S.C. and H.X. N.S.H.Q. concurs A.M. 2120/25th.  
Convoys Nos. 2. R.C.N. corvettes FREDERICTON and OAKVILLE  
available New York March 1st and SNOWBERRY  
March 10th could be made available to assist  
in escorting special convoy.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2211Z/26 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet, Admty.  
(R) B.A.D. C.T. 24. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. C. in C.W.A.)

Shipping Serial 26. Additional ships torpedoed 23rd Feb.  
Casualties. 31° 10' N. 27° 30' W. convoy U.C.1. ESSO BATON,  
ROUGE and EMPIRE NORSEMAN sunk. MURENA and  
BRITISH FORTITUDE both still proceeding.  
STIGSTAD O.N. 166 torpedoed sunk 21st Feb. 49° 26' N. 29° 08' W.  
All ships reported torpedoed this convoy now believed sunk.

/MONTE...

1022

26.2.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Shipping Casualties (Contd.) MONTE IGUELDO (Spanish) torpedoed sunk 24th. Feb. 04° 46' S. 31° 55' W. ROSARIO serial 22 sunk. ROGER B. TANEY overdue Bahia since 14th Feb. from Capetown. (Cominch C. and R. 2115/26.)

Serial 25. MANCHESTER MERCHANT torpedoed today 045° 10' N. 043° 23' W. O.N. 166. ATHEL PRINCESS torpedoed and abandoned afloat 23rd Feb. 032° 02' N. 024° 30' W. convoy U.C.1. (Cominch C. and R. 2147/25 to Comnavu.)

Submarine attack and sighting summary. A. Surface craft attack submarine 45.38 N. 45.20 W. 1320Z/25. C. Submarine sighted 05.45 N. 52.30 W. 1130Z/25. D. Submarine sighted 17.15 N. 62.45 W. 0830Z/25. Coast watchers sight submarine 22.41 N. 74.22 W. 1800Z/25. Sailboat chased by submarine 17.40 S. 29.02 W. on 24th. (Cominch 2212/26 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial No. 400 Feb. 25th. Five Fortresses attacked Rabaul early hours scoring hits or near hits on vessel resembling KAGU MARU Class Seaplane tender and near miss on small vessel which smoked, also hit town and Vunakanau Aerodrome Area but results not observed.

3. One Liberator dropped two bombs each on Powell Point and wreck and Cape Gloucester runway morning.
4. Incomplete photos Wewak by lightning forenoon show one Destroyer, one Minelayer, one unidentified vessel, several barges in harbour while visual sightings included one 6000 ton Merchant Vessel. Lightning evaded interception by two fighters.
5. Liberator over Alexishafen noon scored two hits or near hits on small stationary cargo vessel. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0520Z/26.)

ACHILLES. ACHILLES arrived Bora Bora 2000Z/23rd fuelled and departed for Bilbao E.T.A. 1300Z/8th March. Route C. 014° 25' S. 148° 30' W. D. 002° 30' S., 090° 00' W. E. 003° 30' N. 080° 00' W. S.O.A. 17 knots. (N.Z.N.B. 0827/25 to Admty. etc.)

/SHROPSHIRE...

1023

26.2.1943.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

SHROPSHIRE  
not to be  
renamed.

The Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Curtin, announces that as President Roosevelt has directed that a cruiser now under construction in the United States shall be named CANBERRA, the King has approved the retention of the name

SHROPSHIRE for the cruiser which the United Kingdom Government presented to the Commonwealth to take the place of the lost flagship H.M.A.S. CANBERRA.  
(The Times 27.2.1943.)

Movements.

Arrival 25th Feb. Fall River U.S. transport  
BOTH 26th Townsville R.F.A. BISHOPDALE.

Dutch Hospital Ship ORANJE departed Adelaide  
25th and arrived Melbourne 26th. Royal Australian F.A. KURUMBA  
departed Townsville 25th due Port Moresby 27th. U.S. Transport  
BONTEKOE departed Cairns 25th due Fall River 27th.

(A.C.N.B. 1212Z/26 to Admty. Connav.)

Arrivals Brisbane 24th U.S. Destroyer PATTERSON, GYMPIE  
Port Moresby 24th BROOME. Departure Melbourne 25th D.S.  
HEEMSKERCK, ANGORA.

(A.C.N.B. 1326Z/26 to Admty.)

Lyttleton MONOWAI.

(D.N.I. Wellington 2000Z/26 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1435A/26, 1440A/26.)

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27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The Murmansk section of convoy J.W.53 (15 ships) arrived at Murmansk at 1900A today.

BERWICK arrived at Hvalfiord at 1525, and GLASGOW leaves Seidisfiord at 2000A for Akureyri to join C. in C. H.F.

Convoys W.P. 300 and P.W.300 were attacked by E-boats in Lyme Bay last night and in W.P. 300 the escort Vessel LORD HAILSHAM, the Norwegian M/S Whaler HARSTAD, the L.C.T.381 and the British MODAVIA, 4858 tons were sunk.

At 0400 this morning MONTROSE located and drove off 3 E-boats about 2 miles West of 54 G Buoy; and at 0445 an A/C attacked 17 E-boats off Southwold.

The armed Raider at Dunkirk was bombed yesterday by our A/C; and at Murmansk the Panamanian EL ORIENTE was bombed and damaged at 1415C today.

One magnetic Mine was exploded by sweepers off Dungeness.

South Atlantic.

COLOMBIA  
sunk.

At about 0830Z, COLOMBIA, Dutch S/M depot ship, on coastal passage from East London to Port Elizabeth, escorted by GENISTA, corvette, and aircraft, was torpedoed, and sank at 0900Z in 33.36 S. 27.29 E.

The 1st S.L. at 2355A asked C. in C. S.A. to report by signal the circumstances regarding her sailing, with remarks on the adequacy of the escort provided.

In his reply (1910C/1st March) C. in C. S.A. states that COLOMBIA was required to dock at Simonstown on 2nd March. It was decided to sail her, escorted by GENISTA, by day only so that continuous air escort could be provided. He explains the weakness of surface escort due to the number of escorted convoys at sea.

/When...



War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

COLOMBIA  
sunk.  
(contd).

When a sighting report of a submarine by training aircraft was received, a South African M/S trawler was sent to the position given and an extra aircraft sent up to search. This extra aircraft was over COLOMBIA a few minutes before the ship was torpedoed but did not see either the submarine or torpedoing. COLOMBIA and GENISTA were informed of the reported sighting by shore light and altered course shoreward, being apparently 16 miles off shore when torpedoed. GENISTA made no contact with the submarine, nor did the escorting aircraft see it. If the submarine was the same as was previously reported, it must have moved 40 miles in three hours against a 2 to 3 knot current through waters over which aircraft were searching for it.

Freetown

Now that Dakar with its dock and repair facilities is available to the United Nations, U.S. Chiefs of Staff have decided to withdraw from further participation in the development of Freetown.

B.A.D. however, intend to resist strongly this unilateral decision, which comes to them as "a complete bolt from the blue".

Dakar  
Contraband  
Control.

Admiralty concur in purely informal discussions being opened with Admiral Collinet concerning a contraband control being started in Dakar.

Mediterranean.

Air  
Operations.

12 Malta Spitfire bombers escorted by 4 Spitfire fighters attacked the power station and seaplane base at Syracuse from 1440 to 1447, starting several fires. R/C photographs later showed a 20 ton steamer sunk in this raid.

Mining.

M.T.Bs carried out a minelaying operation off Plane Island today.

/Destroyer...

War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Destroyer  
Sweep,  
Force K.

NUBIAN and JAVELIN left Malta at 1535A for a sweep west of Pantellaria, but sighted nothing.

SEMINOLE  
torpedoed.

At 1946A, LIDDESDALE escorting convoy T.E.16 reported that the French tug FORTE had the tanker SEMINOLE in tow for Oran with engine room damage in 35.49 N. 01.19 W. Additional tugs were asked for from Oran at daylight. Later information showed that SEMINOLE was torpedoed by a U-boat in 35.50 N. 01.33 W. while in convoy T.E.16. Her cargo is believed intact. 2 good contacts were attacked by QUANTOCK without any evidence of destruction.

Tripoli  
Supplies.

D.S.T. is concerned at the rapidly growing volume of tonnage required for the maintenance of Tripoli and Benghazi and in particular at the increasing use of large and valuable ships for this purpose. P.S.T.O. Middle East is asked to report suggestions with a view to releasing valuable ocean going tonnage.

ST. LUCIEN

The German controlled French ship ST. LUCIEN left Valencia at 2200 for Marseilles.

East Indies.

At 2240 G.M.T. ST. LOMAN, A/S trawler, attacked a suspicious contact in 33.41 S. 26.58 E. Search is continuing.

U.S. aircraft confirm by photographs that a direct hit was scored on an armed M/V of 5 - 7,000 tons south of Moulmein. The vessel, which had military landing craft on deck, was left burning.

America & West Indies.

SS. ST. MARGARET, British 4312 tons was torpedoed and sunk at 1256Z or 1400 G.M.T. in 27.38 N. 43.23 W.

War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

A Japanese transport and 2 corvettes were bombed off the N.E. Coast of Vella Lavella Island. The transport was seen on fire after being hit by 4 heavy bombs. 1 corvette was also on fire.

1028

War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

SPORTSMAN. My 1247/26. In order to maintain submarine strength in home waters intend to retain SPORTSMAN in U.K.  
(F.O.S. 1221A/27 to Admty.)

M.L. Flots. To reduce congestion at Newhaven it is intended at HORNET. to base 2nd, 11th and 23rd M.L. Flotillas and one division of 4th M.L. Flotilla at HORNET. One of these Flotillas which will be operated by X.D.O.(E) and used for local patrols, air-sea rescue duties, and escort of S.P. and P.S. convoys is to be sailed to Portsmouth as soon as practicable. The remaining 2½ Flotillas which will be operated by HORNET and used for escort of C.E. and C.W. convoys are to be transferred to Portsmouth as soon as convenient.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1901A/27 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

Movements.

S/M My 2309/26. Para. (E). Amend to read TAKU 45°  
Movements. 01' N. 12° 26' W. diving by day towards 49° 10'  
N. 12° 26' W.  
(F.O.S. 0834A/27.)

Intend sailing TRESPASSER and USURPER escorted by CUTTYSARK from vicinity Pladda Island at 2359A/1st by Minches to Scapa. E.T.A. 1400A/3.

(Capt. S.3. 1026A/27.)

S.55 and S.56 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH are to leave Rosyth at 0800/28 and proceed by searched channel to 35 buoy and then through following positions to Lerwick. E.T.A. 1400/29th 2. On arrival at Lerwick you are to come under the orders of S.O. Subs. Lerwick and act in accordance with F.O.S. S.M. 04393/166 to which is to be added 48 hours to all times.

(C. in C.Rosyth 1116/27 to S.55 S.56.)

16. 1. TRESPASSER is required to tow an X craft from Rothesay to Port H.H.Z., leave 13th March.  
2. On completion of towing TRESPASSER is to proceed Scapa to assist with A/S training.  
3. Capt. S.7th S/F is requested to sail H.M.S. SEALION about 5th March to carry out C.O.Q.C. training at Scapa, returning to Rothesay on completion.

(F.O.S. 1223A/27.)

Intend sailing TRIDENT escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE from Clyde at 1130A/1st by standard route to 000°. Round Island 7 miles. E.T.A. 2330A/2nd.

(ii) Thence TRIDENT to westward.

(Capt. S.3. 1421A/27.)

S.3s. 1103/23 amended by his 1705/23 arrived and escort sailed for Scapa E.T.A. 0700A/28.

(S.O.S/M Lerwick 1656A/27.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/28th and movements for the following 24 hours.

A. TRUCULENT, SEANYMPH, SPORTSMAN, SIMOON, in North Norwegian waters East of 15° E.

B. TUNA 62° 01' N. 02° 30' E., probably dived by day to patrol vicinity Stadtlandet.

C. TAKU 47° 30' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W. daily advance 150 miles.

/D...

War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M  
Movements.  
(Contd.)

D. BARB in zones K.505 and K.501 south of 44° 25' N.  
E. REGENT off Vigo.  
F. Russian Submarines S.55 and S.56 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leave Rosyth 0800/27th. E.T.A. Lerwick 1400/1st.  
(F.O.S. 1716A/27.)

Sailed my 1914A/26. (H.28.)  
(Cmdre. Londonderry 1850A/27.)  
My 1716/27 para. B. Delayed.  
(F.O.S. 2129A/27 to Admt.)  
My 1753/27th. Examination of defects (TUNA) completed.  
Intend to sail submarine at 1200A/28.  
(S.O.S/M Lerwick 2235A/27.)  
Arrived TRESPASSER escorted by KING HAakon VII.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2334A/27.)

UGANDA. C. in C.H.F.2341/16, and Admiralty 1640/17.  
Weather having delayed practices and storing intend sailing UGANDA for Clyde to arrive a.m. 5th.  
(V.A.2. 1358A/27 to Admt.)

Operations.

Coastal  
Patrols. My 1130A/26. "Device" arrived 0750A/27.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0758A/27.)

1. M.G.B. 616 (S.O.) 611, 612 M.T.B. 243, 242, 85 short notice at Newhaven.
2. Chasseurs 13 (S.O.), 15 Patrolling Southward of E.A.5 Buoy.
3. FYLLA at St. Helens. ESKDALE, KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth.
4. M.G.B. 316, 317 and 2 L.C.N. leave Needles 1745 for Patrol south of Isle of Wight returning daylight.
5. M.L. 123 and R.M.L. 518 from Portland on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 30' W. and 2° 05' W.
6. M.T.B. 344 patrolling independantly southward of Portland.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1216A/27.)

1. Intend M.L. 123 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 518 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.
2. Leave Portland at 1845 via Q.Z.S. 382 for patrol-line. M.Ls. to leave patrol line at dawn and return to Portland.
3. Object anti-E-boat patrol. Code word "Device."  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1252A/27.)

My 1216/27 para. one. Amend to read - M.G.B. 611 (S.O.) 613 to anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy route between longitude of C.2 and C.3 buoys, keeping to southward of convoy and returning to Newhaven after convoy has left Portsmouth command. M.T.B. 243, 242 short notice Newhaven.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1709A/27.)  
My 1252A/27. "Device" sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1843A/27.)

/Operation...

1030

War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Operation "Huckaback."  
(*Intelligence unit, Sisk*)

1. Intend sailing M.T.B. 344 from Portland at 1820 today.
2. Speed 25 knots. E.T.R. approx. 0600/28.
4. Codeword "Cadger". C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange for fighter protection and bombing restriction and fighter escort if M.T.B. 344 has not returned by first light 28th.
5. M.T.B. 344 may shoot at sight when south of 050° 15' N. and east of 003° 00' W.  
(H.O.I.C. Portland 1055A/27 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
My 1055A/27. "Cadger" sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1822A/27.)

E-Boats attacked by MONTROSE and A/C.

Report of E-Boat activity night 26th/27th.  
0400 MONTROSE on No. 5 Patrol located and drove off 3 Boats about 2 miles West of 54 G. Buoy. No damage to enemy claimed. Possibility of minelaying. 9th M/S F sweeping between 4 and 54 D. Buoys today.

2. At 0445 returning Hudson of 16 Group reported and attacked 17 E-Boats in 4 lines in 52° 18' N. 02° 38' E. course 110°. No indication whatsoever of what these boats had been doing.
3. At 0500 EGLINTON with F.S. 48 at 54 B. Buoy reported faint Y raw material.
4. 16 Group Beaufighters sent out at first light did not locate enemy. 841 Squadron Albacore and 12 Group Fighters grounded by fog after midnight.  
(C. in C. Nore 1138A/27.)

Sinking of Tanker by SUSSEX.

On arrival in harbour request you will signal a brief report of the operation which resulted in the sinking of an enemy tanker on 26th Feb. including the success or otherwise of aircraft homing procedure.  
(A.C.N.S.H. 1950A/27 to SUSSEX.)

Allied Air Activity.

Raider attacked at Dunkirk.

On day 26th 5 formations of 12 Venturas were despatched with fighter-cover against an armed raider in Dunkirk. Three formations attacked at about one hour intervals. Bursts were seen in and around the dock and at least one near-miss to the stern of the ship. Flak was intense and accurate.  
(H.Q.B.C. 1240A/27.)

Exercise "Spartan."

Following signal despatched to R.A.F. Home Commands begins - During exercise "Spartan", and especially initial stages estimated to last 8 days, it is important that all flying in area of troop concentrations be restricted to essential minimum. From 0600/1st until further notice request you make every endeavour to avoid routing aircraft on operational missions by day from or through land area of England south of line Weymouth - Dorchester - Blandford - Durrington - Basingstoke - Woking - West Malling - Eastbourne.  
(Air Ministry 1507A/27 to Admty.)

/Kola...

War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Kola Inlet Balloon Barrage. Your 0908/12 and 1503/12. Approved for ships to fly Mk. VI balloons in Kola Inlet making use of Russian hydrogen and maintenance facilities. 2. Maintenance instructions in Russian will be forwarded unless you prefer to arrange for translation of standard English instructions. 3. Supply position prohibits increase of present allocation of two balloons per ship, therefore if first balloon is lost on outward voyage you will have to decide whether to Fly second balloon in harbour or reserve it for homward voyage. 4. When organisation has been arranged request particulars so that necessary information may be given to ships before leaving U.K. or Iceland (C). (A.C.N.S. H. 1512A/27 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk bombed. EL ORIENTE damaged. During low-level attack by single enemy plane at 1415C/27 small bomb dropped on stern of Panamanian EL ORIENTE. Damage to crews accommodation (?however) hoped retain her in R.A. 53. One killed, one seriously injured, 2 injured. (N.O.I.C. Murmansk 1844/27.)

Mining.

Clearance Sweep off Lizard. Your 1551/26. Intend to sail KELLET and SELKIRK from Falmouth at 0715 today to R/V with ROSS, ALBURY, SALTASH, CONCERTATOR, and PATTI at D.1 buoy and start clearance of area joining following positions A. 050° 02' 00" N. 004° 58' 45" W. B. 049° 58' 12" N. 004° 53' 36" W. C. 049° 48' 24" N. 005° 11' 24" W. D. 049° 52' 06" N. 005° 16' 18" W. E.T.A. Falmouth 1915. (M/S 4 0122A/27 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Sweep off Yarmouth. Proceed as soon as practicable after daylight with available ships of 9th M.S.F. to Humber 4 Buoy and sweep Western half of Q.Z.S. 311 in G formation, as far as 54D Buoy, thence returning Yarmouth Roads for night.

Keep one and a half miles to eastward of centre line of Q.Z.S 350, where L.L. sweepers are operating. (C. in C.Nore 0525A/27 to M/S 9.)

Dover Area. Routine sweeping carried out 26th. One red mine detonated in 51° 06' 30" N. 01° 21' 03" E. (V.A.Dover 0915A/27 and 1729A/27.)

/Operation...

War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Operation Q.U.7. 1. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.U.7 tonight with available M.Ls. 51st Flotilla.  
2. Close escort one unit 8th M.G.B. Flot. with freedom of action to support or attack targets located by M.T.Bs. after operation has been complete.  
3. M.T.B. Diversion, if two units are available one unit between R.B. 10 and R.B. 12, one unit between R.B. 5 and R.B.5 (sic.) proceeding by northern route.  
If one unit only available between R.B.10 and R.B.12. Targets for M.G.Bs. should be shadowed if possible. Type 252 being switched on.  
(C. in C.Nore 1134A/27 to BEEHIVE.)  
Your 1134/27. 1. M.Ls. 106 (S.O.) (Type 252), 100, 110. E.T.D. 54B Buoy 1845.  
2. M.G.Bs. 77 (S.O.) (Type 252), 79, 111, 81. E.T.D. 54B Buoy 1915.  
3. M.T.Bs. 70 (S.O.), 32 (Type 252), 69, 72. E.T.D. 54B Buoy 1900.  
Your 1108/27. 3. M.G.Bs. 74, (S.O.), 63 (Type 252), 61. E.T.D. B.Buoy 1900.  
(BEEHIVE 1259A/27 to C. in C.Nore.)  
Departure M.G.Bs. 77, 111, 81, 79, M.T.Bs. 70, 32, 69, 72.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1823A/27.)

Iceland. My 1804/18. Paras. 1 and 2 completed with 100% and 50% sweep respectively. Negative results. Intend to continue as in para 3 on 1st March with 7 minesweepers.  
(A.C.I.C. 1157A/27 to C. in C.H.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

HIPPER,  
SCHEER. Photographic R/C of Wilhelmshaven 1120/26 shews HIPPER and SCHEER still present.  
(D.D.I.C. 1515A/27.)

Casualties & Defects.

H.H. ROGERS.  
EMPIRE  
TRADER. Request you will sail DIANELLA as soon as ready towards 051° 00' N. 023° 00' W. DIANELLA is to relieve CLEMATIS escorting tug ADHERENT searching for H.H. ROGERS. EMPIRE TRADER.  
(C. in C.W.A. 0057A/27 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)  
Sailed DIANELLA.  
(Cmdre. Londonderry 1102A/27.)  
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1545/26 being passed to you. Cancel para. 2 of my 1015/20. Request you sail IROQUOIS when ready tomorrow for Halifax. IROQUOIS should be routed through 53° 00' N. 18° 00' W. and 48° 00' N. 30° 00' W. and should keep look out for EMPIRE TRADER and H.H. ROGERS both derelict and abandoned and for survivors.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1337Z/27 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

SEA ROVER. My 1439A/26. "Familiar" sailed at 0700A/27.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0853A/27.)  
E.T.A. 1400 B.S.T/28. Require Tug.  
(ABEILLE 21 1732/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/CULEBRA...



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27.2.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- CULEBRA. My 1200/25. Sailing postponed on account of weather.  
(A.C.I.C. 1055A/27 to N.O.I.C. Thurso.)
- ARIGUANI. Report forthwith A. if you can assist in steering B. maximum draft.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1117A/27 to ARIGUANI.)  
Arrived ARIGUANI in tow of Tug SAMSONIA.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1138A/27.)  
Your 1117. A. Am not able to assist in steering.  
B. Maximum draught 20 feet 3.  
(ARIGUANI 1206/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- CAMELLIA. CAMELLIA reports following damage affecting seaworthiness. Request examination of damage.  
(Capt. D.3 1120A/27 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- NAMSOS. Cancel my 1328/19. Owing to satisfactory repairs NAMSOS is fit for further service in Iceland and it will be unnecessary for her to proceed to U.K. for repairs now. My 1735/26 refers.  
(A.C.I.C. 1122A/27 to Admty.)
- FINLAND. Intend sailing S/S FINLAND in tow of Tug LYNCH at 0900 tomorrow by inshore route to Harwich for London. Vessels will be unescorted but under cover of heavy A/A Guns until South of Benacre Ness. Request fighter protection Benacre to Harwich. S.O.A. 5 knots. E.T.A. Harwich 1800.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1623A/27.)
- CASTANET. Sailing barge CASTANET sunk in immediate vicinity of, and after collision with, wreck of SKAGGERACK in River Orwell.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1747A/27 to C. in C.Nore.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- J.W.53. Your 1656A/26. Approximately 7 hours late.  
(BERWICK 0215A/27 to A.C.I.C.)  
Local escort is probably to westwards of you. Reverse your course until met and then come to Kola Inlet.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0851A/27 to INGLEFIELD.)  
Your 0730/25. (2 corrupt groups) proceeded until the weather moderates at moderate  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile astern of you at 0730A. I have been requested to follow on at best speed with 2 patrol vessels.  
(BRITOMART 0915A/27 to INGLEFIELD.)

/Mast...

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War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.53 Mast 404. Following for Dalgliesh from M.O.W.T.  
(Contd.) Your 181. As whole question R.A.F. Stores and  
equipment is under discussion on highest level,  
you should take your instructions regarding the  
six ships involved from Admiral Miles with whom you should  
maintain closest contact until present difficulty resolves  
itself.  
(D.T.D. 1416A/27 to P.O.I.C. Murmansk.)  
My 0029/22, Para. 1. For 3rd March read 4th March. (4  
Destroyers to arrive Akureyri.)  
(C. in C.H.F. 1437A/27 to R.A.D.H.F.)  
Hvalfjord arrival BERWICK at 1525.  
(A.C.I.C. 1623A/27 to C. in C.H.F.)  
Following is repetition of GLASGOW's 1212/27 to A.C.I.C.  
Intend proceeding Akureyri passing Seids Fjord Boom at 2000A/27.  
E.T.A. Hrisey Island 0920A/28.  
(A.C.I.C. 1630A/27 to C. in C.H.F.)  
TRUCULENT, SEANYMPH, SPORTSMAN, SIMOON in North Norwegian  
waters East of 15° E.  
TUNA 62° 01' N. 02° 30' E. probably dived by day to patrol  
vicinity Statlandet.  
(F.O.S. 1716A/27.)  
My 1446/27. Detached escorts arrived 1900A/27.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1942A/27 to C. in C.H.F.)

W.P. 300 3 M.T.Bs., 1 M.G.B., 3 Tugs, and 2 M.Ls.  
and P.W. sailing Dartmouth 0645 to search for survivors.  
300 attacked. (C. in C.Plymouth 0511A/27 to Convoy Escorts.)  
LORD HAILSHAM, Intend to sail the following ships to search for  
HARSTAD, survivors from P.W. 300 and W.P. 300 in area  
MODAVIA, contained by the following positions:  
L.C.T. 381 A. 50° 27' N. 3° 7' W. B. 50° 28' N. 2° 58' W.  
sunk. C. 50° 24' N. 2° 58' W. D. 50° 23' N. 3° 7' W.  
1. M.T.Bs. 204 S.O. 202, 231, M.G.B. 8 at 0630/27  
codeword "Wheel."  
2. H.M.Tug MARAUDER with Tugs AUBE and PORTWEY escorted by M.Ls.  
304 (S.O.), 163 at 0645/27 codeword "Wheel 1".  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0515/27 to C. in C.Plymouth.)  
Convoy W.P. 300 and P.W. 300 were attacked by E-Boat  
in Lyme Bay last night. 3 or 4 merchant ships were sunk and  
H.N.M.S. HARSTAD.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 0823A/27 to Admty.)  
My 0823/27. It now appears that P.W. 300 suffered no  
casualties. Casualties in W.P. 300 were merchant vessel  
MODAVIA 4858 tons, and LORD HAILSHAM, and HARSTAD. C.O. and  
2 officers and 16 ratings from LORD HAILSHAM, 1 P.O. from  
HARSTAD, Captain and 53 men from MODAVIA have been picked up.  
Search for survivors continuing. Whereabouts of L.C.T. 381  
not yet established.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 1231A/27 to Admty.)  
My 1231A/27 L.C.T. 381 in convoy WP.300 is missing and  
must be presumed lost.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 1939A/27 to Admty.)  
My 0515/27. "Wheel 1" returned 1655/27. "Wheel" returned.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2109/27.)

/K.M.S....

War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.S.10. Sailed FORT YORK, BURWELL, SHEDIAC, BATTLEFORD, KENOGAMI, NAPANEE, WEDGEPORT, QUALICUM for K.M.S. 10. ST. CROIX will sail about 2300A/27 to overtake.  
(Cmdre. Londonderry 0750A/27.)  
Sailed 07 in accordance with Admiralty 0105/19, 1820/19, 1915/23, except BOSWORTH, GEMERTON, and HOUSTON CITY did not sail. Cmdre. in MACHARDA, Vice Cmdre. CLAN MURRAY, Rear Cmdres. MASIRAH, and FORT STIXINE. Following ships sailed with degaussing off EMPIRE FLAMINGO, FORT BATTLERIVER, and LIBERIAN.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1028A/27.)  
Admiralty message 1101/16. Intend to sail TYNEDEALE at 1900/1st to R/V with K.M.S.10 in 042° 01' N. 013° 31' W. at 0800A/4th.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 1557/27.)  
My 1028A/27. HOUSTON CITY sailed to overtake convoy.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1746A/27.)  
Your 0750/27th. Request you sail ST. CROIX to R/V HOUSTON CITY 000° Tory Island 5 miles at 0800A/28 and escort her to overtake convoy.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1752A/27 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)  
Inform Cmdre. EMPIRE SUNBEAM is returning to Clyde.  
(C. in C.W.A. 2137A/27 to Escorts K.M.S.10.)
- O.N. 170. Escorts for O.N. 170. WHIMBREL, (S.O.) WHITEHALL, VANESSA, GENTIAN, HEATHER, SWEETBRIAR, CAMPANULA, CLEMATIS. WHIMBREL, VANESSA fitted H.F/D.F.  
(Capt. D.Liverpool 0957A/27.)
- K.M.F.10.B. Intend to sail WHITEHALL escorting DUCHESS OF YORK 1700Z/1st March for R/V 270°. Oversay 6 mile in accordance with Admiralty 1716/21 and C. in C.W.A. 1559/26. E.T.A. R/V 0800Z/2nd. S.O.A. 13½ knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1006A/27 and 1444A/27.)
- RANCHI. A.M. 1933/5. and C. in C.W.A. 1557/26, amended by 2045/26. Intend sail RANCHI escorted by SABRE for Southampton at 1700A/27. Speed 14¾ knots. E.T.A. Needles 0800A/1st.March.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1214A/27.)  
See N.O.I.C. Greenock 1359/27.  
Sailed RANCHI and SABRE in accordance with my 1214/27th.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1224A/27.)
- Ships for Until further orders ships from U.K. for South Cape. Africa and beyond are to be routed to Walvis Bay. See also my 1120/1st November, 1942.  
(D.T.D. 1552A/27 to C. in C.W.A.)

/Rescue...

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- Rescue Ships. Special rescue ships should always be stationed in a position in rear of one of the columns to facilitate rescue operations and station should not be altered for the purpose of more efficient visual-signals communications with S.O. of escort.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1704A/27 to A.I.G. 32.)
- North Atlantic Convoys. My 1513/27. Following are proposed sailing-dates of convoy to meet the commitments given. Repeats proposals in C. in C.W.A. 1030A/26. 8. It appears most probable that it will be necessary to maintain a flow of 6 H.X. and 4 S.C. convoys during the remainder of the year, but this depends on the forecast of shipping to be convoyed for which no figures are at present available after May.  
(D.T.D. 1743A/27 to V.C.N.S. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.S.J.169. ANEMONE 1400/27 indicates that O.N.S. 169 may be late at the I.C.O.M.P. Proceed through I.C.O.M.P. at the time scheduled in my 1442/27 in order to R/V with straggler. Then continue to meet main convoy.  
(C. in C.W.A. 1808Z/27 to C.T.U. 24.6.5.)
- L'ORAGE. Sailed from Scrabster at 1900 for Reykjavik S.S. L'ORAGE speed 9 knots routed as per Admiralty's 1125A/17 Jan.  
(N.C.S.O. Thurso 1920/27 to A.C.I.C.)
- GEORGIC. Message from GEORGIC for Admiralty by aircraft F/502. GEORGIC crossed 50° N. at 10 hours zone time today 27th.  
(St. Eval 2050A/27 to Admty.)
- K.M.S.11. 1. C.B. 26189 will load at Ardrossan as R.665 commencing March 1st a full cargo of Aviation Spirit in cartons for Gibraltar.  
2. Vessel to be at R/V in Clyde by 13th March for inclusion in K.M.S. 11.  
4. Loading Officer is authorised to exceed height limit of ten tiers imposed recently and to fill holds.  
(D.T.S. 2115A/27.)
- R.U. 63. CELEROL. R.U. 63. Your 1701/27. Detach one escort to endeavour to locate and escort CELEROL.  
(C. in C.W.A. 2203A/27 to STAFNES.)

1037

War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

BOREAS Following is a repetition of my 2040Z/26th (begins). BOREAS E.T.A. 033° 55' N. 007° 53' W. at 1800A/27th Feb. from Gibraltar. Provide one S.C. escort through minefield. Exercise best possible speed to escort JAMES PARKER to (?Dakar). (S.N.O. Casablanca, 0100Z/27 to C.T.U. 26.7.3. (R) C.T.U. 26.7.1. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Admty. BOREAS, C.T.U. 26.7.2). My 1245/26 (1245/25 intended? sailing BOREAS at 0800/27 for Casablanca) Sailed. (F.O. Gibraltar, 0808A/27 to S.N.O.C.A., Comar Dakar).

G.U.F.5 Arrival 0630/27 TAWALI from Oran. (F.O. Gibraltar, 0633A/27 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) Connav, C. in C. Med., Admty. F.O.I.C. Oran). 27 Feb. departed T.F.36 with G.U.F.5. Arrived Casa. BOREAS. (S.N.O.C.A., 2105/27 to Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. (W), Cominch).

Movements Arrivals 27th 0430 Tugs CROCODILE, BARON FORBES, ALASKA. (2) Admiralty pass to Milford Haven (passing action being taken by W.R.) (F.O. Gibraltar, 0937/27 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon (R) Admty etc).  
Arrival 0430 ANCHUSA, Tug CROCODILE. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 0938A/27 to Admty etc).  
Arrival tugs ALLIGATOR, EMPIRE ACE. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1617A/27 to Admty).

LADY DENISON My 1508/24th. Amend time of sailing to read PENDER. 1400A/27th. S. of A. 9 knots. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1012A/27 to Admty). My 1012/27, cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER, ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM sailed 1500/27. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1531A/27 to Admty).

Dispositions. Situation 2004/27. Area X. STURGEON passing 35.53 06.15 at 2015/27th and 36.37 07.24 at (905)15 28th thence diving by day to 36.44 08.21 at 2000/28th.  
(2) REGENT 41.30 10.30 to arrive patrol area vicinity 42.30 09.15 at 0300/28th. S/M BARB leaves area 2200/27th proceeding within 30 miles of coast to patrol south of 44.25 between 0701 and 0901.  
(3) X.K.2 COREOPSIS sails Gibraltar 0900/28th through Q.K.A. 87 and T.47. 06.30 thence 284° 6.  
(4) 2 Swedish relief ships 35.56 07.44 through Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar 12.  
(5) KING SOL 5 trawlers 36.23 09.21 through Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar 10.  
(6) R.S.2 SPEEDWELL 33.25 09.13 through 33.12 09.34 thence 215° 7½.  
(7) G.U.F. 5 C.T.F.36, 34.39 08.29 (?293°) 13½.

/(8)...

War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Dispositions. (8) HOLCOMBE 3 (?destroyers) 34.53 07.45 through  
(contd). 35.47 06.30 thence through Q.K.A. 87.15.  
(9) ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM, LADY DENISON PENDER  
35.46 06.17 248° 9.  
(10) Portuguese Sloop AFONSO DE ALBUQUERQUE left  
Funchal p.m./26th for Lisbon 14.  
(11) BOREAS 1 merchant ship leave Casablanca 28th through  
32.57 09.14.1 217° 17.  
(12). QUADRANT sails 1130/28 through Q.K.A. 87 thence 291° 20.  
(13) ARCTIC RANGER 2 merchant ships sailed 2200/27 through Q.K.A.  
87 and 35.56 06.20 thence to Huelva 8.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1135A/27).  
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 1105A/27 (?1135A/27) FARNDALE,  
HOLCOMBE, CALPE, PUCKERIDGE passing through position 57 at  
0200A/28th thence 22, 32, 2, 109 S. of A. 17. Weather report.  
(FARNDALE, 1925A/27)  
Situation 2002A/27 Area Z.  
AJAX 34.57 35.21 263° 18. 2. U.G.S.5 (A) 35.22 36.28 078° 8.  
3. French Ships SERGEANT GOUARNE, LA PERLE, cable ship ARAGO  
25.55 14.44 through 26.22 14.35 and 26.46 13.22 to 27.56 13.30  
thence 045° 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1152A/27).  
Situation, Area Y. 1958A/27. G.U.S.4, C.T.F.38, 29.29  
24.21 through 29.29 27.02 thence 291° 8.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1304A/27).

G.U.F.5 My 1817/22nd. Casablanca Section G.U.F.5 sailed  
0800A/27 to R/V at 1830A/27th with Med. section  
consisting (?of) (list). Add DORAN to escort.  
All "Chop" times add 25 hours. Escorts holds  
Q.J.C.130.  
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1211Z/27 to C. in C. Med.  
etc).  
G.U.F.5 ships sailed as in my 1615/22 destinations COLINA  
and ESSO PHILADELPHIA Curacao, remainder New York. All ships  
hold S.P. 02272/23.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1216A/27 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) Connav,  
C. in C. Med., Admty. F.O.C. Oran).

GENEROSO Swiss GENEROSO leaves Genoa 4th March for  
Gibraltar.  
(D.E.W.D., 1227A/27 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)  
C. in C. Med).

Convoy Intend to sail convoy X.K.2 at 0900/28.  
X.K.2 (2) Escorts COREOPSIS (S.O.) JONQUIL, ANCHUSA,  
COLUMBINE, LOCH OSKAIG.  
(3) Route. Through Q.K.A. 87 thence (details).  
S. of A. 6 knots.  
(5) Codeword "Horse".  
(6) First two letters W/T call sign SM.  
(F.O.C. Gib. 1253/27 to Admty etc).  
X.K.2. Sailing destinations, your 1927A/26.  
(D.T.D., 1926A/27 to F.O. Gibraltar).

/Convoy...

War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Convoy U.C.1. If no evidence of U-boats detach southbound ships tonight Saturday. Thence routed as in Admty. B.A.M.S. 1030Z/27th.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1331Z/27 to Escorts of U.C.1.  
(R) Admty. F.O.C.W.Africa, C. in C. S.A., Connav).  
D/F on 12260 k/cs at 1955Z/27 indicates U-boat in your vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C., 2259A/27 to Escorts U.C.1. (R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch, etc).

Minesweeping Gibraltar. My 1903/26. Following area swept by Oropesa yesterday Friday between 35.52 and 35.53.2 N. 555 and 605 W. One mine exploded in sweep 35.52 N. 6.03 W.  
2. Area between 35.52 N. and 35.56.5 N. long. 5.55 & 6.05 W. searched by LL by CIRCE, ESPIEGLE and ALBACORE one mine exploded in sweep position 35. 5.6.5 N. 6.01.2 W.  
3. Centre line of Q.K.A. 87 searched in LL by CIRCE and ALBACORE negative result.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1641A/27 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. S.N.O. C.A.)

STURGEON Cancel my 1230/26th. STURGEON delayed with defects.  
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1740A/27 to Admty. etc).

URSULA Intend to sail URSULA p.m. March 1st for U.K.  
2. URSULA passes through T. 35.49 06.06½ at 1845/1st March. U. 35.53 06.15 2000/1.  
V. 36.37 07.24 0700/2. W. 36.51 09.13 0500/3.  
C. 42.59 12.26 0330/7. shifting W/T watch at 0330/7 thence as ordered by F.O.S.?  
3. W/T watch.  
4. URSULA is painted dark blue.  
5. F.O.S., 1149/8 Jan. 1942. (A) 4 mark VIII. (B) 6½ knots (10.2 miles per day) (C) Ready for short patrol. Generators slightly defective 100 per cent fuel. (D) One nil Two nil.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1809A/27 to Admty etc).  
T.C.A.O. 16. A. Total. B. URSULA. C. 1845/ March 1st 35.49 06.06½ 2000/1 35.53 06.15 0700/2 36.37 07.24.  
D. 6½ knots. 2. T.C.A.O. 16. A. Submerged. B. URSULA. C. 0700/2 36.37 07.24. 0500/3 36.51 09.13 0330/7 42.59 12.26.  
D. 6½ knots. All times zone minus 1 positions N. and W.  
(F.O. Gib. 1821A/27 to R.A.F. Gib. H.Q.C.C.)

REDOUBT My 1645/23. Anticipate temporary repairs will be completed 28th Feb. Intend sail REDOUBT departing Casablanca at 1700A/28 for Gibraltar route Coastal via Q.K.A. 88 and Q.K.A. 87 speed 15, E.T.A. Gibraltar, 0700A/29.  
(S.N.O.C.A., 1900/27 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) C.T.U. 26.7.1. C.T.U. 26.7.3., Admty; F.O.C. W.A., C. in C. Med., (W), REDOUBT).

/Movements...

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War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements. Arrivals 0100 ARCTIC RANGER from escort duties West.  
0720 OAKLEY, ASHANTI, VANOC with S.5 TAWALI ex G.U.F. (G.U.F.) 5 0830 ALBACORE 1248 CIRCE, ESPIEGLE from M/S sweep 1010 U.S. S.C. (S.C.) 517 with SS. PENGREEP from Casablanca 1920 IMPERIALIST from escort duties West., departures 1625S S.C. (S.C.) 517 for Casablanca 1845 ADVENTURE, OAKLEY.  
ASHANTI for Mers-el-Kebir 2230 ARCTIC RANGER escorting SS. OTTINGE to Huelva.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2227A/27 to Admty etc).



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War Diary.

27.2.1943.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- Movements. Arrived BIRMINGHAM, NORMAN.  
( Cdre., Durban 0631Z/27 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.  
C. in C. E.F. F.O.E.A.Z.)  
(See also 1834/27 for NORMAN.)  
Arrival 28th Feb. BELLWORT, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU.  
( N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1823Z/27 to Admty.)
- ST. LOMAN. Sailed 0829Z/27 ST.LOMAN for 033° 44' S. 026° (744)  
E. speed 12 knots (2) Ship holds recognition  
signals as from midnight G.M.T. 27th to midnight  
March 2nd.  
( N.O.I.C. East London 0841Z/27 to Admty., C. in C.  
S.A. Cdre. i/c Durban, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth.)
- COLOMBIA. S S S S DE BXPB. ( Dutch Depot Ship COLOMBIA)  
Am sinking in position 33.36 S. 27.29 E.  
( Simonstown W/T, 1140/27 to Admty.)  
COLOMBIA on coastal passage East London to Port Elizabeth  
escorted by GENISTA and aircraft torpedoed about 0830Z sunk at  
0900Z. Crash boat assisting to pick up survivors. Details  
later.  
( C. in C. S.A. 1447C/27 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.)  
Arrival 1330Z/27th crash boat R.6, with 59 survivors and  
1717Z/27th. GENISTA with 318 survivors including C.O. COLOMBIA.  
( N.O.I.C. East London, 1723Z/27 to Admty., etc.)  
My 1723/27th (? total (? number)) of survivors 308 all told.  
( N.O.I.C. East London 1757Z/27 to Admty., etc.)  
Your 1447/27. Request report by signal of circumstances  
regarding sailing of COLOMBIA with your remarks on the adequacy  
of the escort provided. Admty., 1416/25 refers.  
( 1st. S.L. 2355A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)
- S.T. 57. Intend to sail CORINTHIAN, SARABANDE, M.L. 305 and  
M.L. 271 escorting convoy S.T. 57 at 1100Z/28th.  
Convoy consisting of CALGARY ( Commodore) and  
BRITISH COAST for Lagos and HAI LEE and GLENBEG for Takoradi.  
Orange route. 9 knots. E.T.A. Takoradi p.m. 4th March.  
Lagos ship proceed independently from position C.  
( F.O.C.W.A. 0935Z/27 to N.O.I.C. Lagos (R) N.O.I.C.  
Takoradi, Admty., CORINTHIAN.)
- C.M. 40. Your 0856/26. My 1159/26 ( N.T. in W.D.) explains  
present position created by D. of S.T. 0226/25.  
Regret can see no way out of converting C.M. 40  
into a single destination convoy. 2. As LANCASHIRE and  
CARTHAGE will exhaust personnel for Kilindini SONTAM will not be  
required for this service and it is proposed therefore that she  
be sailed independently for India when ready with such personnel  
as you may permit.  
( P.S.T.O. Capetown, 0958C/27 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C.  
S.A. etc.)

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

C.M.40 D. of S.T.'s 0226/26 (0226/25 intended) para. 6 and P.S.T.O. Capetown's 1159/26. All ships nominated for C.M.40 with exception of EMPIRE WOODLARK and KHEDIVE ISMAIL have ample endurance at 11 knots for voyage to India and Middle East (from either Durban or Capetown) under existing routing instructions. Endurance of EMPIRE WOODLARK is 20 days and KHEDIVE ISMAIL 14 days. No allowance being made for any bunkers that may be required for stability purposes. Duration of voyage approx. 17 days to Aden and 19 days to Bombay.

(D.S.T.O. Durban, 1601C/27 1051C/28 to D.S.T. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc).

C. in C. E.F.'s 0856/26. Request you will implement para. (1) if possible by advancing ships as requisite from C.M.40. If it will assist VOLENDAM may continue in W.S.26 to Middle East but it is hoped that this will be avoided.

2. Para. (2) is it possible to avoid use of SONTAY by substitution of CITY OF CANTERBURY? If not and if C. in C. E.F. accepts SONTAY as far as Kilindini, can she and LANCASHIRE be interchanged?

(D. of S.T., 1617A/27 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) C. in C. E.F., etc).

U/Bs. Training aircraft at 0532Z/26 sighted U/B on surface in 34° 50' S. 20° 40' E. Course 270° and altered to 220° on diving. Conning tower seen painted light grey. Aircraft had no depth charges.

2. Anson training aircraft at 0440/27 sighted U-boat in 33° 45' S. 26° 45' E. which immediately crash dived on sighting aircraft. Aircraft had no depth charges.

(C. in C. S.A., 1106C/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., Com. i/c Durban).

PROTEA. Ref. Natal T.O.O.1306/21st Feb. Request (attack on approval to release to South African Press, U/B) news that A/S whaler PROTHUS (?PROTEA) took part in promising attack on U-boat in Mediterranean.

Release to South African papers prior to London Press would help to alleviate difficulties explained in my 1926/23rd Feb.

(C. in C. S.A., 1146C/27 to Admty.) Advance copy sent D.N.I.

CHARON Amend my 1225Z/26. E.T.A. 0300Z/28. (CHARON 1150Z/27 to N.C.S. Duala, (R) R.N.O. Lagos).

Argentina 706. My 703. I again emphasise extreme docking importance to us that everything possible be facilities. done to help Argentine Government to obtain their machinery. I am constantly asking docking favours. Today for instance am anxious to get dock for Dutch Tug THAMES to avoid delay REGUSCI (?CHESHIRE) docks and escort. Any concession we can make will be greatly appreciated. (Chadwick, Buenos Aires, T.H.I.1318/27 to Shipminder). See also 2355/10 March.

/U/B...

War Diary.

27.2.1945.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Cont.

U/B Your 1412/22.  
Campaign. U.S.N.O. Freetown should be informed that full  
information. information is passed to Navy Department  
Washington to whom Office of Strategic Services  
should apply.  
(D.N.I. 1328A/27 to F.O.C. West Africa, (R) B.A.D.)

Dispositions. Weekly state South Atlantic Station 27th Feb.  
Cape area FRITILLARY, NORTHERN DAWN, ROCKROSE,  
ST. ZENO, LE TIGER, Durban to Capetown. CILICIA  
East London to Simonstown, COLOMBIA, GENISTA,  
Capetown to Durban, CANTON RELENTLESS, CATTERICK,  
BLACKMOOR. Lagos, Nigeria, to Walvis Bay.  
DRANGEY Durban area. LETHBRIDGE, ARCTIC EXPLORER,  
VIVIANA, NORMAN, SONDRAL Walvis Bay, NORTHERN ISLES SALDANHA BAY  
FERNMOOR SPINDRIFT, NORTHERN DUKE (?WELLARD) COMMANDANT  
D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, CAPE WARWICK, LADY ROSEMARY, STELLA POLARIS,  
WEST NEUK, CARTHAGE, CHALLENGER, MANCHESTER CITY, QUALITY, WAYLANT  
M.L. 830, Simonstown CHITRAL (?LADY ELSA) HERTFORDSHIRE. South  
Georgia, M.L. 380, 381, 382, 383, 829, and 1150 Port Elizabeth,  
STORMWRACK, KHETI, PACHECO CECILE MAPLESON. East London SARKA  
SATSA, NORTHERN CHIEF, ST. LOMAN Boom Defence.  
Durban EREBUS, RESOURCE, ALBATROSS, NAPIER, FREESIA, LN No. 325  
(Signification unknown). BIRMINGHAM, CERES, QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH,  
RACEHORSE, JASMINE, NIGELLA, F.S. COMMANDANTE DUBOC, PRUDENT, INDIAN  
STAR, SPHENE, MEAD, INTEGRITY, CARNATIC.  
(C. in C.S.A., 1341C/27).

SUSSEX. F.O.I/C Gibraltar's 2346A/26th.  
From D 025 degs. 01' North 016 degs. 50' West to  
E 020 degs, 01' North 019 degs. 30' West  
F 011 degs. 01' North 019 degs. 01' West  
G 008 degs. 38' North 015 degs. 01' West  
thence Freetown.  
(F.O.W.A. 1426Z/27 to SUSSEX (R) Admty. C. in C  
Med. F.O.I/C Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca.)

BOREAS F.O.I.C. Gib. 1245A/26th/-  
QUADRANT In order to free ADRIAS to complete working up  
ADRIAS and as there are no other suitable escorts in  
MALAYA. W. Africa, propose BOREAS continues escort of  
JAMES PARKER as far as Freetown and that QUADRANT  
BOREAS, and ADRIAS escort MALAYA Freetown  
sailing about 10th March.  
(F.O.W.A. 1459Z/27, to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C.  
Gibraltar. Comar, Dakar, S.N.O. Casablanca.)  
Concur in C. in C. Med. 1101A/1

Dispositions Weekly statement 27th Feb. Dakar.  
Dakar. French Cruisers GLOIRE, GEORGES LEYGUES, French  
Despatch Vessel CALAIS French S/MS ARGO ANTIOPE  
ATALANTE, ARETHUSE, QUERCY, CENTAURE, VESTALE,  
SULTANE.  
Dakar Area. LA GRANDIERE. Air France 1, 2 and 3.  
2. Port Etienne. S/M Parent Ship JULES VERNE  
/Port Etienne....

1044

War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Port Etienne Area, VICTORIA.  
(Contd.) Port Etienne to Casablanca, SERGEANT GOUARNE  
and M/L S/M PERLE.  
3. Dakar area, Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, Sloop  
M/S MINA.  
4. Freetown, Sloops M/S GAZELLE, LA GRACIEUSE.  
Freetown Area, MOUCHEZ.  
Cape Palmas Area, Sloop M/S COMMANDANT BORY.  
(Comar Dakar, 1503Z/27 to F.O.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

CHESHIRE. Your 1910/26th (N.T. in W.R.) Confirm CHESHIRE  
should arrive 1130Z/28th.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1517C/27 to N.A. Montevideo, (R)  
B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, CHESHIRE.)

Chilean Examination Service. My 2020Z/14th\*. Station of examination vessel  
now changed to Port Sara and battery will be at  
Cap San Gregorio. Service will be put into  
force 1st March.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1523Z/27 to C. in C.  
S.A., (R) Admty.)  
\* (Chileans expect to put into force 1st March  
Examination Service).

Movements. Departure 27th Feb. BELLWORT, F.S. COMMANDANT  
DROGOU, M.L.274, Port Bouet.  
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1545Z/27 to Admty.)

BERGENFJORD. Sailed 1530Z/27th Feb. H.M.T. BERGENSFJORD,  
Lagos 28th.  
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 1601Z/27 to Admty., etc.)

BIBUNDI. My 2210/17. Affidavit should also be sworn in  
respect of BIBUNDI, in case it is later decided  
to place her in Prize.  
(Hd. of M.I., 1627A/27 to F.O.C.W.A., (R)  
Governor Sierra Leone.)

Dakar Contraband Control. Resident Minister's telegram No.232 repeated to  
you, Saving. Concur in purely informal dis-  
cussions with Collinet concerning contraband  
control being started at Dakar.  
(Hd. of M.(1), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1736A/27 to  
F.O.C.W.Af., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. Med.)  
Reply: F.O.C.W.A., 1034/3.)

NORMAN, Sailed NORMAN and HERO to East London keeping  
HERO. (? 116) miles from coast, E.T.A. 0630C/28th speed  
20 knots.  
(2) Shift to group S.L. at 0130C/28th.  
(Cdre. i/c. Durban, 1834C/27 to Admty., etc.)

/Blockade ...

War Diary.27.2.1945.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Cont.Blockade  
Runner  
Patrols.

Admty M. 2330A/18th Feb. (see General)  
Request I may be informed whether this  
procedure is to remain in force and if so  
whether it is intended to promulgate it (?in  
more general form.  
(F.O.I.C. West Africa 1843Z/27 to Admty. (R)  
DESPATCH.) Reply No. Permanent Scheme under  
consideration D.T.D. 1710A/1.

ASSINIBOINE.

Pass through 45.43 North 39.30 West where  
lifeboat with survivors was reported by aircraft  
on 24th Feb. thence through 45 (? 50) North  
36.00 West to position C.  
(F.O. West Africa 1953Z/27 to ASSINIBOINE (R)  
Cominch C & R, Admty, C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q.C.T. 24,  
C. in C. W.A.)

A/A Defences  
W.Africa.

Your 057392 18 Feb. RA/66502/22 Feb. and  
0925/22/2 22 Feb.  
(3) Do not propose despatch any more AA guns to  
you. Therefore you will have only equipment at  
present held plus those on route.  
Part II Coast Artillery.  
(7) Your views in para. 2 regarding installation  
additional guns being submitted Defence of Bases  
Committee for decision.  
(8) Regarding removal R.A.F. R.D.F. stations  
their primary role aircraft warning and  
retention not now necessary. Not intended  
reduce scale of Coast Artillery R.D.F. sets.  
(W.O. 1955A/27 to G.O. C. in C. W.Africa.)

GAZELLE,  
LA GRACIEUSE,  
CAP PADARAN.

(i) Intend sailing French sloop Minesweeper  
GAZELLE, French Sloop Minesweeper LA  
GRACIEUSE for Dakar at 0700Z 1st March, provide  
escort to CAP PADARAN to Bathurst.  
(ii) Route.  
A 008 Degrees 31' North 014 Degrees 25' West  
B 011 Degrees 38'                      017 Degrees 36'  
C 013 Degrees 34'                      016 Degrees 56'  
D 014 Degrees 26'                      017 Degrees 33'  
thence to Dakar estimated speed made good 9 knots  
to position 'C'.  
(iii) CAP PADARAN will be detached off Bathurst  
to arrive about 1200 3rd March.  
(iv) E.T.A. GAZELLE, LA GRACIEUSE, at position D  
will be signalled.  
(v) W/T Watch will be kept on group F.T.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 2022Z/27 to Com. Dakar (R) N.O. i/c  
Bathurst, Admty, GAZELLE.)

CANTON.

Your 2142C/27th (N.T. in W.D.). My present  
P.C. and S035 degs. (?29') South 025 degs. 19'  
East 103 degs. (?12)<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.  
(CANTON 2030Z/27 to C. in C.S.A. (R) N.O. I/C.  
Port Elizabeth).

/HOGGAR....

War Diary.

27.2.1945.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

HOGGAR

HOGGAR did not complete embarkation at Marshall in time to sail in S.R.2. Can escort be provided from 026°. North about 8th March? If not propose to include HOGGAR in S(?L) 126 sailing for Freetown on 12th March. Your 2230/31st Jan. refers.  
(R.A.W.A. 2055Z/27 to C. in C. Med, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar S.N.O. Casablanca, Com Dakar.)

Freetown.

Memorandum on developments and U.S. desire to withdraw, now that Dakar is available to United Nations. (B.A.D., 2115Z/27 to Admty.) See America & West Indies.  
Remarks of F.O.C.W. Africa, see his 1943/1/3.

Suspicious  
Ship.  
22/2.

U.S. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL at 1430Z/22 sighted in 32° 30 mins. South 37° 40'.  
East Gorm, (?German) type vessel of 2500 tons.  
(Description)  
(2) Course when sighted 45° speed dead slow.  
Vessel closed ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL who was on opposite course, passed under stern and was last seen steering 090° to 120° speed dead slow.  
(3) Suspicious vessel cannot be identified here.  
(S.O.1 Capetown, 2145C/27 to Admty.)  
May be Dutch ALGENIB (see C. in C.E.F. 0722/1/3).

W.S.27.

Following personnel arriving Freetown in convoy W.S.27 will require onward conveyance (details) 2. Request you arrange accordingly.  
(D. of S.T. 2236A/27 to D.S.T.O. W.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

1047

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SARACEN Pass position 038° 19' 011° 16' E. at 1800/28th then proceed (1) 038° 01' 011° 30'. (2) 037° 08' 011° 34' (3) 036° 50' 012° 20'. thence direct to Malta to R/V with sweeper at end of searched channel at 0830/2nd. (Capt. S.8. 0002A/27 to P.247 (SARACEN) (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10).

Escort for FORMIDABLE. Your 2315/26th. Approved. (C. in C. Med., 0215A/27 to F.O. Gibraltar (R) S.O. Force H. Capt. (D) 6, Admty. F.O.I.C. Oran). Personal F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 2315/26th. I had intended suggesting that Force H should return to Gibraltar for transfer flag and to collect FORMIDABLE. (S.O. Force H., 0315A/27 to C. in C. Med).

Tripoli, Benghazi. Re tonnage required for maintenance. (D.S.T., 0334A/27 to P.S.T.O. M.E.) See Lion Copy. Reply: P.S.T.O., M.E., 1557/7 March. See Lion Copy.

Movements, Beirut. 26th Feb. departure, CUMBRAE, BIGLIERI. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 0745B/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

Movements Alexandria. Arrival 26th Feb. GLOXINIA, FALK, RAGLAN CASTLE, departure 26th Feb. APHIS. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0914B/27 to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

Destroyer sweep. Arrival NUBIAN, JAVELIN. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0921A/27 to Admty etc).

ABDIEL ABDIEL leaves Bone 1900/27th to operate South of 038° N. in vicinity of 009° 41' E. leaving for Algiers a.m./28th. (Capt. S.8., 0936A/27 to 8th S.F.)

Stores for Tripoli. My 2036/22, para. 7. Additional tonnage required is 4 vessels for convoy X.T.8 sailing 31st March. 2. Vessels in area suitably placed are ROMNEY, EMPIRE CONRAD, EMPIRE FALCON, KARMT, FRANS HALS, DAGRUN. 3. Request early nomination. All vessels to be part fitted for carriage petrol concurrent with discharge onward cargo. 4. Further signal will be made respecting requirements for X.T.9 sailing 11th April. (P.S.T.O.M.E., 0959B/27 to Admty. for D.S.T.) Reply: (D.S.T., 0006A/2 March).

# MOST SECRET

1047A  
Med

**WARNING:** This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 0334A/27th February  
Addressed P.S.T.O. Middle East. Date 27.2.43.

Naval Cypher A2.

*Tripoli and Benghazi: Maintenance*

From Director of Sea Transport.

We are concerned at the rapidly growing volume of tonnage required for the maintenance of Tripoli and Benghazi and in particular at the increasing use of large and valuable ships for this purpose.

2. At present some 25 British and U.S. controlled ocean-going ships of about 10,000 tons deadweight including many with heavy derricks are employed on this and similar services in the Eastern Mediterranean in addition to those required for Malta. Although a few of these are expected to be released almost immediately it appears from your 2036/22 that additional ships will be required in the near future and that no substantial reduction in the total number thus employed can be expected at present. Each ocean going ship allocated for this service is delayed many weeks from other vital programmes and this is imposing a heavy burden on our already strained resources.

3. Fifty per cent of the cargo carried apparently consists of cased petrol and most of the remainder presumably comprises supplies, ammunition and other stores not requiring heavy derricks or other special features.

4. While the vital operational needs of the 8th Army must be met we are anxious to explore every possibility of doing it in a more economical way. You are therefore requested to report as soon as possible:

(a) For what period the maintenance of Tripoli is expected to continue at the rate of 4,000 tons a day and what is the expected rate thereafter.

(b) Whether any special features such as speed, derricks etc. are necessary for this service.

(c) Whether you are satisfied that maximum use is being made of all small petrol ships and Sea Transport and Commercial feeder ships in the Middle East area.

/(d)



(d) Whether additional shipping from Indian Ocean such as ships of medium size normally based on India or South Africa would be suitable if it could be made available for even short term until such time as other less valuable tonnage can be got into the area.

(e) Whether provision of additional small ships if practicable from India or even from U.K. would enable larger ships to be released or will use of the latter have ceased before smaller ships could arrive.

(f) Any further suggestions you can put forward with a view to releasing valuable ocean-going tonnage.

5. Request you will pass copy of this message to Murrant with whom your reply should be agreed.

0334A/27

for Director of Sea Transport.

V.C.N.S.  
A.O.N.S.(F)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)  
U.W.R.  
D.O.D.(H)(2)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.T.D.(3)  
D.T.D.(M)  
D. of S.T.(2)  
Hd. of M.(4)  
D. of P.(2)  
D.O.(2)  
I.P.(2)  
W.D.  
Ad.Blake(4)

MEK.

10475  
Lion  
Med.

# 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.

**MOST SECRET** *\*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.* MESSAGE 1830Z/27 February  
OUT  
Date: 27.2.43.

To: Mideast  
Britman Washington  
Arminia,  
P.A.I.C.

## CYPHER

From: Air Ministry  
OZ 597 27th February 1943.

Begins:-

LINREP 24 26th February 1943  
Dated 1949Z/26 Feb.

From: A.F.H.Q. Algiers

To: H.M. Ambassador Madrid )  
U.S. Ambassador Madrid ) Passed by ETOUSA  
Resident Minister, Achimota. Passed by Colonial Off.  
Minister of State, Cairo  
Britman Washington (for Dill) } Passed by Air  
Arminia (for Wavell) } Ministry Special  
P.A.I.C. } Signals Office  
Landforce, Melbourne (for Blamey) )  
Defender, Wellington (for Puttick) } Passed by  
Dechief, Pretoria (for Smuts) } War Office  
M.A. Ankara (for Marshal Chakmak) ) Passed by  
Foreign Office.

22 to 25 Feb. Summary of Operations. (Tunisia)

### LINREP 24

1. Eighth Army. Our forces have advanced NW from Medenine and patrols are now 8 miles SE of Mareth keeping under observation enemy defensive positions on both sides of the main road.
2. First Army.
  - a. South. The enemy thrusts towards Thala and Tebessa were checked and on 23rd Feb. the enemy commenced to withdraw towards the Kasserine Pass closely followed by our troops. Actions occurred between our forward units and enemy rearguards during which some prisoners were captured. On 25th Feb. our forces recaptured the Pass without great opposition. The enemy covered his with-drawal by the free use of mines.

b. ....

b. Center. French Forces repulsed attacks by Italians west of Ousseltia and the enemy is now on the defensive in this area.

c. North. Nothing to report.

3. Air. Main effort by our aircraft was in support of our ground troops. Enemy were attacked as frequently as unfavourable weather would allow by fighters and bombers. Attacks were also made on Tunis, Bizerta and enemy shipping.

4. Political. Peyroutons broadcast was well received and is a significant indication of the character of his administration. In the political background a slow but steady improvement is observed.

1630Z/27

Recd. in War Registry 0050/28/2

Circulation:-Brigadier Jacob  
Foreign Secretary  
First Sea Lord  
C.6 Tels. War Office  
A.M.C.S. (C)  
Mr. Strang Foreign Office  
Mr. Radcliffe Min. of Information.

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (2)  
4th S. L.  
5th S.L.  
D.C.N.A.E.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (A)  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
U.W.R.  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.O.D. (H) (2)  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D. of P. (2)  
Duty Captain (2)  
Hd. of M.  
D.N.I. (4)  
I.P. (2)  
D.P.D.  
C.N.I.  
W.D.  
Admiral Blake.  
D.A.W.T.  
D.D.O.D. (M)

War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Bi-weekly Opsum No. 103 Part 3. Night 25/26 Feb. 12 Ju.88s bombed Tripoli Harbour no damage or casualties. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1049Z/27).

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one medium merchant vessel (not exceeding 10,000 tons), one small merchant vessel (not exceeding 2,000 tons) and two destroyers. 39° 35' N. 13° 30' E. course 190° 5 knots. (A/C FFD/L, 1050/27 to Air H.Q. Malta).

Destroyer sweep. 2 Destroyers of Force K leaving Malta at 1530A today 27th to carry out a sweep between the Tunisian Coast and Pantellaria during the night. (V.A. Malta, 1116A/27 to C. in C. Med. etc).

D.5., D.22. Your 1120/25 (request for names of ships allocated to 5th and 22nd flotillas) 5th D/F DULVERTON (S.O.) BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, EXMOOR, ROCKWOOD, BELVOIR, PINDOS (G.S.) MIAOULES (G.S.) 22nd D/F DERWENT (S.O.) ALDENHAM, HURWORTH, HURSLEY, CROOME, EASTON, KANARIS (G.S.) ADRIAS (G.S.) (Com. (D) Levant, 1117B/27 to Admty).

UNISON Surface forces operating tonight in Ras Mahmur area approaching South of QBB286 QKB 22 and returning North of it. They will not attack submarines West of 012° E. Keep in your S.W. corner if possible, position K is not to be approached within 10 miles. (Capt. S.10., 1123A/27 to P.43 (UNISON)).

Convoy T.E.16. T.E.16 sailed for Philippeville MARGA, EMPIRE DACE, ODYSSEUS. For Bone CARA, DUX. MOOSEJAW sailed to join escort. (Com. N.O.B., Oran, 1230/27 to C. in C. Med., W. Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Connav, Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, S.O.I.S.)

Convoy E.T.12. E.T.A.12 sailed (list of ships). (Cdre. Algiers, 1254A/27 1509A/27 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, C.I.M., N.O.B., Oran, (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. Connav).

/SPLENDID...

War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

SPLENDID,  
TAURUS,  
ABDIEL.

Trawler CAVA will be your escort.  
(2) P.339 (TAURUS) leaves Algiers 1800/27 course 31° 11 knots.  
(3) Convoy from west arrives Algiers 1200/28th.  
(4) Two L.C.T. sail to eastwards at 0930/28th.  
(5) ABDIEL passes Algiers westbound at about 1200/28.  
(Capt. S.8., 1448A/27 to P.228 (SPLENDID) (R) C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, X.D.O)

Your escort CAVA will meet you in position 036° 58' N.  
003° 04' E. at 0715/28th.  
(S.8., 1740A/27 to P.228 (SPLENDID) (R) Cdre. Algiers, X.D.O.)

Air Report.

H.Q., N.W. African Air Forces Op. Sum. No. 6, 24 hours to 0600 hours 27th Feb.  
17 B.17 despatched to attack convoy North of Sicily  
15 attacked bombs dropped from 1500 feet, 1 large Merchant Vessel left in flames. 20 B.17 attacked Cagliari 204 500 pound bombs dropped from 21,500 feet. Bursts in City and on Railway yards and Hangar at Elmas. 12 Wellingtons on night 25/26 attacked Bizerta. Bursts in town and dock area. (Spaatz, N.W.A.A.F., 1520Z/27 to Air Min).

Destroyer  
Sweep.

NUBIAN and JAVELIN sailed for operation. (V.A. Malta, 1535A/27 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. (?C. in C. Levant)). To sweep west of Pantellaria (Govr. Malta, Intelligence Summary. 1905Z/27).

EMPRESS OF  
AUSTRALIA.

Owners here have received information that EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA will be ready to proceed to U.K. end February.  
2. Request report.  
(D.S.T., 1619A/27 to S.T.O. Oran).

Movements,  
Port Said.

27th Feb. Port Said. Departures M.L. 351, M.L. 355, F.F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, dredger ST. DAVID. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1643B/27 to Admty etc).

Minesweeping.

Experience in Eastern Med. has shown value of sweeping shallow mines in approach to captured port using Mark V sweeps fitted in H.D.M.L.  
(2) 3 sets are being transferred to Bone. Request 5 complete outfits for double overtime and T cutters, with full set of maintenance stores be shipped to Algiers at earliest opportunity.  
(C. in C. Med., 1643A/27 to Admty).

French  
Navy  
Requirements.

My 1052/7. Your letter L93/JJ of 18th Feb. with requirements for Allied Pool Ships Repair materials will be dispatched to Cominch with request to supply in accordance with policy of C. in C. Allied Forces.

1050

War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.French  
Navy  
requirements  
(contd).

2. To cover items very urgently required request you will forward copies of enclosures E.F. and G. to Cdre. Supt. Gibraltar.

3. C.S. Gibraltar requested to dispatch items or nearest equivalent to Oran as soon as practicable signalling advance shipping particulars.  
(C. in C. Med., 1651Z/27 to F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) Admty. Cominch, F.O.C. Gibraltar, C.S. Gibraltar)

Local  
Convoys.

Cancel my 1650/25th. Following local convoy programme is intended for eastbound and westbound convoys between Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Bone, Bougie, Philippeville (details).  
(C. in C. Med., 1817A/27 to F.O. Gibraltar etc).

M.K.S.8,  
G.U.S.4.

Your 1145/24. (1945 intended) Following seven ships are sailed in M.K.S.8 to join G.U.S.4, JAMES MONROE, SAHAIE, BEALANTA, THOMAS PINKNEY, THOMAS STONE, SCOBHA(?)IE, REVERDY JOHNSTON my 1041/20 M.S. (not to S.N.O.C.A.) para. 15 refers.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1844A/27 to Admty).

Movements  
S/Ms.

Arrival UNBROKEN (P.42) departure UNBENDING (P.37) UNITED (P.44) UNSEEN (P.51).  
(V.A. Malta, 1903A/27 to Admty etc).

Malta Air  
Report.

A.I.588 27th Feb. Offensive Night 26/27 Feb. Bad weather hampered operations 4 Beauforts and 7 Wellingtons on armed search for enemy shipping in Sicilian narrows and Marittimo-Palermo area found no suitable targets.

Day 27th Feb. 12 Spitfire Bombers escorted by 4 fighter Spitfires attacked Syracuse Power Station and Seaplane base from 1440 to 1447 hours with H.E. and incendiary bombs scoring direct hits on seaplane hangar followed by column of white smoke and many other hits on railway yards and buildings adjoining Power Station and among seaplanes and shipping in harbour. Several fires started. 6 Spitfires provided cover for returning bombers.  
(A.H.Q., Malta, 1944Z/27).

SEMINOLE  
damaged.

French tug FORTE has tanker SEMINOLE in 035° 49' N. 001° 19' W. speed of advance 2 knots. Request additional tugs at daylight as damage to SEMINOLE is in engine room only and cargo believed undamaged.  
(LIDDESDALE, 1946A/27 to Com. N.O.B., Oran).

Movements  
Tripoli.

Feb. 27th arrived and sailed PETARD and ISIS. (N.O.I.C. Tripoli (L) 1952A/27 to Admty (R) C. in C. Levant).

/Movements...

1051

War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd. .

Movements, Bone. Bone arrival ABDIEL. Departure ABDIEL (?LAMERTON) WILTON (?BUDE) CLACTON, ALGOMA. (F.O.I.S., 2003A/27 to C. in C. Med etc).

Enemy Barges. Position course and speed of 5 motor transport barges 37.50 N. 12.10 E. (A/C CYD/R, 2120/27).

BROCKLESBY. Algiers E.T.A., 0702A/28th with rating dangerously ill. Require 100 tons oil fuel and to sail as soon as possible to rejoin convoy. Route as for T.E.16. (?BROCKLESBY, 2232A/27 to N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) ACUTE).

Movements Tobruk. Arrived ANTWERP, WOLBOROUGH sailed ANTWERP, BEVER, M.L. 349, M.L. 1126 M.T.B. 348. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2236B/27 to Admty).

M.K.F.10 A. Convoy M.K.F.10 A sailed from U.K. 24th Feb. comprising following troop-ships:- BATTERY, LETITIA, CIRCASSIA, BOISSEVAIN, FRANCONIA NIEUW HOLLAND. Numbers of Personnel on Board and destinations.

2. My 2311/13 refers regarding personnel for Gibraltar in LETITIA and FRANCONIA.

3. Particulars of vessels with personnel for destinations East of Oran (list). (D.S.T., 2237A/27 to P.S.T.O. X.F.)

Movements Haifa. Arrival 27th Feb. CUMBRAE, BIGLIERI Greek Destroyer PANTHER, BURRA Fighting French M.L. 1164, 1143, SILHOUETTE, SNOWDRIFT, Greek minesweeper schooner CHRISTOS. Departure 27th Feb. Greek Destroyer PANTHER, BURRA ISLAY, CUMBRAE, M.L. 1164, 1143, SNOWDRIFT, CHRISTOS, M.L. 1017 JENNET. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa) 1908B/27 to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

Movements Oran. Departures MOOSEJAW, MIAOULES arrivals L.C.T. 160, 164, 170. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2055A/27 to Admty. etc).

Movements Benghazi. Arrived AMBER, SOUTHERN SEA, PROTEA. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2302B/27 to Admty).

1052

~~1047~~War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Movements.

F.S. LEOPARD sailed.  
 ( N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0001Z/27 to Admty.)  
 Calcutta departure SANDIP for Chittagong.  
 ( N.O.I.C. Calcutta 0429Z/27 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Arrival BADORA.

( N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 0521Z/27 to Admty.)

Colombo arrival 1100Z/27th TRUSTY. Departure 1300Z/27th

TAMWORTH.

( F.O. Ceylon 1729Z/27 to Admty.)

B.P. 70.

Karachi portion of B.P. 70 sailed 27th Feb. for Basra.

( S.T.O. Karachi, 0701Z/27 to D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf, (R) P.S.T.O. Bombay, D.S.T.)

Karachi portion B (?P) 70 sailed 0735Z/27th to R/V 0351Z/25th from N.C.S.O. Bombay refers.

( N.C.S.O. Karachi, 0736Z/27 to Admty.)

RADFIELD.

Following received from Tamatave, (Begins)

RADFIELD on berthing struck quay heavily. Holed sheer strake port side forward and fractured plating below. Also holed engine room bilge port side. Temporary repairs may be effected with cement boxes. Ends.

Therefore intend sailing EMILE BAUDOT and H.M.S. MAGNOLIA immediately to Tamatave to coal to capacity from RADFIELD and thence to ultimate destination as further delay not considered acceptable. Your 1517Z/10th ( No trace in W.R. ) and my 1016/6th ( No trace in W.R. )

( N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 0931Z/27 to C. in C. E.F. D. of S.T. R.A.W.A.F. N.O.I.C. Tamatave, D.S.T.O. Kilindini.)

Air Report India.

(B) Offensive R/C 26th Feb. 2 Hurricanes damaged small steamer and launch Ramree Island.  
 ( A.H.Q. India, 1200Z/27 to Aie Min.)

Attack by ST. LOMAN on suspicious contact.

Following from ST. LOMAN.

Attacked suspicious contact 2 pattern 5 charges at 2240 G.M.T. in 033° 41' S. 026° 58' E. Am making anti-sub and R.D.F. search as follows. From swept channel East London steered (? 230°) (? to) position of sinking 033° 37' S. 027° 29' E. thence 256° to position sub. sighted 033° 44' S. 026° (744') E. From this position intend to alter course 180° at 0100 G.M.T. and steam for 22 miles then alter course 052° S. of A. 9 knots.

( Colombo W/T 2300/27 to N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, (R) N.L.O. East London.)



War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

DAUPHIN, O.N.166. Circumstances permitting pass through vicinity 45° 50' N, 39° 30' W. while en route St. Johns N.F. Survivors of torpedoed ship in boat reported by aircraft Feb. 24th that location. (C.T.24, 0015Z/27 to DAUPHIN, (R) F.O.N.F.)

Movements. Port of Spain arrival Feb. 25th EL LIBERTADOR (U.S.A.T.) (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0117Z/27 to Admty.)

Conference, Washington. R.A. Brodeur has informed me of the following R.C.N. views which will be put forward at conference on March 1st.  
(2) Control of North-west Atlantic to be under a C. in C. North West Atlantic, responsible to N.S.H.Q.  
(3) North West Atlantic to be divided from North East Atlantic by meridian of 30° W.  
(4) North Atlantic should be area North of 40° N.  
(5) Existing U.S.A. and British strategic areas to remain unchanged.  
(6) If found practicable to appoint a supreme authority for the whole Atlantic, then N.S.H.Q. will recommend that C. in C. N.A. Atlantic be placed directly under his orders. (B.A.D., 0149Z/27 to Admty.)

C.T.U. 24.1.3. In lat. 44° 32', long. 52.26 at 0200Z/27 C.T.U. 24.1.3 in SPENCER for Base R, E.T.A. 1330Z, S. of A. 16.5. (C.T.U. 24.1.3, 0200/27 to Base R.)

STALKER. Norfolk arrived 25th L.S.T.417, departed 1800/26 STALKER for New York. (N.S.H.Q., 0348Z/27 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

Escorts ex-O.N.S.167. In view of extremely short turn around present intention to send all ships of M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17 to St. Johns N.F. No escorts available to reinforce your group, prior to relief by Western Local Escort. HARVESTER detach when circumstances permit. Other escorts remain with convoy until relieved then proceed St. Johns N.F. Regret time will not permit F.Ship ROSELYS to proceed to St. Pierre. Your 1910Z/26th. (C.T.24, 0414Z/27 to M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17, (R) Ships escorting O.N.167, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

S/M Estimate 27th Feb., U.S. S/M Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0805/27, 0847/27, 0955/27, 1511/27, 1512/27, 1532/27, 1533/27, 1534/27.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements. Arrival of U.S. Minesweeper A.M.C.41.  
(Harbour Master Barbados, 0831/27 to Admty.)  
Kingston arrival and departure MILFORD, arrival  
YESTOR.  
(N.O.I.C. Kingston, 2125R/27 to S.B.N.O.W.At.,  
(R) Admty.)

Movements summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T. 27th Feb.	AJAX	30° N. 37° W. (Position doubtful)	270°	18
	U.C. 1 ) WESTON )	26½° N. 44° W.	246°	10½
	ALCANTARA ) WOODRUFF )	15° N. 32° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CHESHIRE	34° S. 53° W.	218°	12
	T.A. 36	Approaching New York		19
	L. 23	48½° N. 48½° W.	255°	6
	(D.O.D.(F), 1047Z/27 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)			

ARCOLA, armed guard. Your 1951/10/1. S.B.N.O. ARCOLA reports that when ships are alongside a wharf para. 1 could not be carried out unless approaches to ship are roped off and entrance under armed guard. It does not appear that this can be done in a neutral port and in any case workmen habitually coming on board to carry out repairs, the firm employed at Las Palmas being German.  
2. As coder and signalmen are used as part of guard while at sea and all ratings employed on guard duty in harbour S.B.N.O. ARCOLA requests whether coders may be replaced by any suitable rating for guard duty only.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1127QR/27 to Admty.)

Movements. New York arrived 25th L.C.I.(L) 118, 122, 124, 125, 127, 123, from Boston. Miami departed 1620/25 British T.B. 333, 343, and B.84 for Mayport en route Fyfes Shipyard, Long Island.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1136Z/27 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

CAMPBELL. CAMPBELL pass to SALISBURY for action.  
Route for CAMPBELL direct St. Johns N.F. from 40 W.  
(Cominch (C. & R.), 1340/27 to SALISBURY,  
CAMPBELL, C.T.24, F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

U/B. One U-Boat sighted on surface in 047° 49' N. 035° 29' W.  
(SALISBURY, 1415Z/27 to C.T.F.24, (R) Connv, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F., H.Q.C.C. C.T.G. 24.7, C.O.A.C.)

1055

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U/B. My 1415Z/27th. Submarine apparently shadowed  
(Contd.) CAMPBELL. Chased and put down but hunt  
unsuccessful.  
(SALISBURY, 1610Z/27 to C.T.F.24, (R) Connav,  
Admty., etc.)

BUTTERMERE, Re-encypherment Administrative Office of Comsolant  
WASTWATER, 1208/26th action Cominch (C. & R.) follows:  
etc. "Cominch (C. & R.) pass to C. in C. W.A. and  
F.O.C. W.Africa. Your 1615/25th BUTTERMERE and  
5 minesweepers at present in Belem. Expected  
time of departure 0900Z/28th for Recife, after  
completion of repairs. WASTWATER escorting Brazilian transport  
to Fernando Noronha from Recife returning on arrival with another  
Brazilian ship to Recife".  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1434/27 to Admty., (R) C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.  
W.Af.)

ANDES. My 1825/21st and Cominch (C. & R.) 1616/26th.  
Sailing ANDES independently when ready about  
March 1st New York to Casablanca.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1455/27 to C.E.S.F., (R)  
C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty., Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces in  
Europe, B.A.D., Commandant 3rd U.S. Naval District, New York,  
C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Allied Forces, Port  
Director New York, S.N.O. Casablanca.)

Dispositions. Section East.  
O.N.166 Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.1  
(E) 43.04 56.02 264°, 9 altering to 270° in  
59.12 W. and to 241° in 60.08 W.  
G.S.20 (E) T.U. 24.8.2 47.57 49.24, 256°, 6.5.  
VEGREVILLE escorting FOUNDATION FRANKLIN towing EMPIRE NORSE due  
St. Johns N.F. p.m./27th (see amendment 2002Z/27.)  
ASSINIBOINE 44.27 50.13 075°, 10 knots, altering 2100Z/27th to  
082°, 10.  
H.M. Sub. L.23 on surface and unescorted 48.17 48.37 253°, 6  
en route for St. Johns N.F.  
Western Local Escort T.U.24.18.3 vicinity 47.58 50.18 073°, 12  
to join O.N.167 GAMO (schooner) 40.10 54.40 301°, 6.  
(C.O.A.C., 1520Z/27 to G.B.7A.)  
Amended 0110Z/28.  
My 1520Z/27th section East amend VEGREVILLE escorting F.  
FRANK(?LIN) searching for EMPIRE NORSE vicinity 047° 12' 051°  
25'. Add MONTGOMERY 044° 42' 054° 03' 028° (? 15) en route  
(? St. Johns N.F.) from O.N.166.  
(C.O.A.C., 2002Z/27 to Admty.)

H.X.228. (1) Sailing telegram part 1. H.X.228.  
(2) Position A at 1900Z Feb. 28th.  
(3), (5), (8) routes and R/V as per C.E.S.F's  
2133/23rd Feb.  
(6) W.L.E. T.U. 24.18.7. FENNEL S.O., DUNVEGAN, COWICHAN, TRURO.  
C.E.S.F. pass to C.O.A.C. Halifax for action.  
(Port Director New York, 1526Z/27 to Admty., (R) Cominch (C. & R.)  
C.E.S.F., C.T.24, C.T.G. 24.6, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

/MOUNT ...

1056

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.MOUNT AETNA,  
routeing.

Your 2016/17. A.M. 1240A/9 gives routes only for Swedish ships engaged on Greek relief. MOUNT AETNA does not come within this category and is in fact a Swiss chartered vessel, having sailed from Lisbon 13th Feb. for Philadelphia with a ship's navicert.  
(Head of M.I., 1528Z/27 to Connav.)

French  
Escort  
Vessels,  
fitting  
asdic and  
A/A armament.

Your 1608/22\* para. 2.  
If all equipment is available by 26th March 2 ships can be taken in hand on that date and it is estimated that a further two ships could be received at intervals of three weeks.  
2. A/S equipment and A/A armament must be supplied from U.S. or U.K. as only one in number type 123 A.A/S set is now available at Bermuda.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 1532Q/27 to Admty., (R) Cdre. in Charge Bermuda, C. in C. M.F., F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

\* Request report whether French escort vessels of the trawler type and sloops of ELAN class can be taken in hand at Bermuda.

Independent  
oil burning  
ships,  
routeing.

It is observed that independent oil burning ships proceeding to U.S. and W. African coast for convoy to U.K. are being routed to New York via Norfolk. As oil supplies at latter port are somewhat short suggest for consideration routeing of such ships direct to New York.

(2) Suggest also in order to obtain accurate expected times of arrival that troopships destined for New York be routed direct to that port rather than to Chesapeake e.g. HIGHLAND MONARCH and HIGHLAND PRINCESS which were routed to Chesapeake but diverted to New York at request of British Ministry of War Transport.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1603Z/27 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af., B.A.D., B.R.L.O. New York, C. in C. S.A.)

W.S.F.  
Destroyers.

Ref. C.T.F. 24's 0237/26th regarding 11 R.N. destroyers now assigned to Western Support Forces, recommend consideration be given to removal of one boiler and instal additional oil fuel tanks in these ships when in hand for refit in U.S.A.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1645Z/27 to Admty., (R) B.A.M.R., etc.)

Information  
to Masters  
re U/Bs.

Your 2142/25 name of ship is QUEEN MARY.  
(2) Practice here is to supply chartlets neither to Commodores nor to Masters of any independent ships. Commodores are shown appreciated dispositions but are supplied with nothing in writing or on a chart.

(3) Request Connav be asked to consider adopting same procedure.  
(D.T.D., 1719A/27 to B.A.D.)

/Curacao ...

1057

War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Curacao  
Convoys.

Your 1122/23 (sailing of 6 Lake tankers for Puerto la Cruz). On return present convoy, suspend any further sailing pending instructions. Acknowledge.  
(D.T.D., 1725A/27 to B.R.L.O. Curacao, (R) B.R. L.O. Puerto la Cruz.)

Ships  
carrying  
L.C.M.(3)s  
from U.S.

A.M. 1732/17 request routeing proposals when decided.  
(D.T.D., 1727A/27 to B.A.D.)

Escort  
tankers  
with  
Convoys.

Your 1908/26 para. 2. SANTIRSO and BRITISH FREEDOM were fitted and warned to be available for oiling at sea. Your para. 2 ORANGELEAF and MIRALDA with emergency gear will be designated.  
(B.A.D., 1803Z/27 to Admty.)  
Amended 0221Z/28.

STATE OF  
VIRGINIA.

Position J, 010900 U.S.A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA escorted by U.S.S. S.C.503 Puerto la Cruz 1st March in Convoy to J 11.32 N. 64.23 W. thence through K 10.21 N. 64.43 W., knots (II) 14, days 5.  
(R.O. Port of Spain, 2027/27 to Admty., etc.)

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

Action Admty. for O.I.C.  
Para. C. Unidentified ship sights periscope 09.04 S. 34.46 W. 1455Z/27.  
(Cominch, 2030Z/27 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

H.X.228,  
maximum  
number of  
ships.

Maximum number of ships convoy H.X.228 to Halifax 80, from W.O.M.P. eastward 60 exclusive of L.S.Ts. Port Director New York has for action C.O.A.C., C.E.S.F. and C.T.F.24 have for info. by other means.  
(Cominch (C. and R.), 2033/27 to N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F Admty.)

U/B.

S/M sighted 026° 29' N. 044° 04' W. at 2015Z/27.  
(WESTON, 2043Z/27 to B.A.D., (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Tanker  
Convoys  
to Curacao,  
Crated A/C  
Shipment.

Your 1517/24.  
Para. 2. SS. GOVERNOR A.M. 2307A/26 refers.  
Para. 3. Aircraft have not been shipped in U.C.1. Reserve base will be established at San Juan with overflow in Curacao if found necessary.  
(D.T.D., 2058A/27 to N.C.S.O. Curacao, (R) S.B.N.O. W.At., B.A.D.)

/Bermuda ...

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War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Bermuda  
movements.

Bermuda arrivals U.S. S/M R.15, U.S.S. SWANSON, WOOLSEY, DALLAS, HERBERT, U.S. L.S.T. (sic) 333, 383, 386 and 388. British L.S.T. (sic) 320, 302, 361, 401 and 403.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 2109Q/27 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., S.O.I. Jamaica, F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Freetown,  
development  
by U.S.A.

Following memorandum on Freetown has been received from U.S. Chiefs of Staff (begins) - In May 1942 when we undertook to participate in development of port of Freetown, Dakar was in unfriendly hands and the strategic situation required the prompt development of base facilities at Freetown.

The strategic need for this development has been changed materially now that Dakar with its dock and repair facilities is available to United Nations.

2. Joint Chiefs of Staff therefore have decided to withdraw from further participation in development of Freetown.
3. Up to the present time we have delivered to Freetown (list of lighters and equipment).
4. If British consider it desirable to continue development of Freetown base facilities in furtherance of war effort we propose to turn over to U.K. all materials now in Freetown "as is" through Lend-Lease machinery. If this material is not desired it will be moved to areas in which it can be more profitably used at such time as may be opportune. Balance of machine tools and other equipment originally destined for Freetown from U.S. resources will be used at Casablanca, Oran or other African ports where we have commitments for repair facilities and where we are faced with a critical shortage of machine tools. (Ends).
5. We intend to resist this strongly on lines of Admty. 0005/3, making also following points:

(A) Approval by C.C.S. of C.C.S.63 at 16th Meeting cannot be unilaterally disregarded in this manner.

(B) Para. 7 of C.C.S. 67/1/D requires that material earmarked for this project shall continue unless British C.O.S. agree to contrary (but please note also last sentence).

6. Memorandum on lines of para. 5 will be forwarded to Adm. King on Tuesday March 2nd unless we hear to contrary before then.

It may however be possible to reach compromise involving withdrawal of American Construction personnel and completion of project by our own labour, providing necessary material is supplied to enable existing schemes to be worked. (For example American Electric generators are essential as machine shop equipment is designed for American voltage). Request your comments and those of F.O.C.W.A.F. on this. On other hand it seems that balance of machine tools and equipment for workshops not yet provided is what is principally worrying them.

7. Immediate previous history of this matter is as detailed in B.A.D's 0245/23/1. No subsequent approach of any kind had been made to us and this document is a complete bolt from the blue.

(B.A.D., 2115Z/27 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Remarks of F.O.C.W.Africa, see his 1943Z/1/3.

/Polish ...

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War Diary.27.2.1943.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Polish  
refugees  
in Persia.D. of S.T. 1442/26th.  
Para. 2. New York confirms. Navy Department are awaiting authority from State Department who are delaying decision. British and Polish Embassy both pressing for decision and hope to get one on Monday.Para. 4. Service personnel may be embarked.  
(B.A.D., 2117Z/27 to P.S.T.O. India, (R) D. of S.T., P.S.T.O. Persian Gulf, C. in C. E.F.)T.F. 32  
constitution.This is Cinclant's 1404/27th Feb. modifying his 1855/24. Delete the following: 2 British L.C.I.(L).  
(Comnaveu, 2127/27 to Admty.)U.S. and  
Mine  
Maintenance.Personal for V.C.A.S. Ref. Salor 6171.  
Mine, mark 24. (1) For maintenance U.S. are forming operational groups to maintain up to 100 mines each group. Each group will consist of one technical officer, one electrical officer and two enlisted men. Training is proceeding now. Navy Dept. consider British personnel should be trained in U.S.  
(2) Arrangements being made for Lieut. Strickland Constable, whose appointment to B.A.D. shortly expires, to be trained in this weapon in order that he may advise Admty. on his return to U.K.  
(3) First party of British personnel of up to 20 should be available in U.S. for training by 1st April. U.S. are having difficulty in selecting technicians with adequate basic specialist knowledge for training as officers.  
(4) Intend that B.A.D. should continue to procure these weapons for both services on same basis as aircraft torpedoes. Request decision which service is to undertake responsibility of training technical ratings.  
(B.A.D., 2245Z/27 to Admty., (R) Air Min.)

L. 23.

My 1918 (N.T. in W.D.) estimated position at 2240Z/27th 048° 03' N. 049° 44' W., E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1630Z/28th.  
(L.23, 2245Z/27 to F.O.N.F., (R) C. in C. U.S.)French Ships  
rearmament.Your 1806A/22. We have not been able to trace any lists other than those which have been compiled by Navy Dept. from the many signals on the subject from Eisenhower and Glassfurd which were repeated British C.O.S.  
(B.A.D., 2321Z/27 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.A.)  
Reply: F.O.C.W.A., 1145Z/1/3.

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War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Cocos Is. Ref. A.M. 2105A/22.  
re use as It is confirmed that enquiries were made by  
flying boat Colonel Steele as stated for a special flight  
fuelling which has now taken place without touching at  
base. Cocos.  
There has been no official suggestion to A.C.N.B.  
or C.S.W.P. by V.A. Helfrich to use Cocos as a  
flying boat fuelling base. I have informed him  
verbally that such a suggestion would be strongly opposed by  
U.K. and C.S.W.P. has concurred.  
(A.C.N.B., 0212Z/27 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C.  
Ceylon, F.O.I.C. Ceylon.)

Movements. Arrivals Townsville 25th ARUNTA, VENDETTA.  
Thursday Island 25th WARREGO, Milne Bay 26th  
ECHUSA.  
(A.C.N.B., 0502Z/27 to Admty.)  
Departure Wellington U.S.S. PRESIDENT ADAMS, PRESIDENT  
JACKSON, PRESIDENT HAYES escorted by U.S.S. DRAYTON and GRAYSON,  
E.T.A. Auckland 0015Z/1st March.  
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0530Z/27 to Admty.)  
Hired Transports QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, ILE DE FRANCE,  
arrived Sydney 27th Feb.  
(A.C.N.B., 0600Z/27 to Admty., Connav.)  
U.S. transport MAETSUYCKER departs Thursday Island 26th  
Feb. due Townsville 28th. R.A.F.A. BISHOPDALE departs Townsville  
26th due Brisbane 29th.  
(A.C.N.B., 1049Z/27 to Admty., Connav.)  
Departures Auckland 1824Z/27 U.S.S. Y.P.239 Noumea 2359Z/3  
U.S.S. KOPARA Noumea 1000Z/4.  
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1851Z/27 to Admty.)  
Arrival Wellington U.S.S. WEST POINT.  
(D.N.I. Wellington, 2054Z/27 to Admty.)  
Departure Fall River 26th ECHUSA for Port Moresby.  
Brisbane 26th MILDURA for Sydney (N.S.W.). Sydney (N.S.W.) 27th  
ROCKHAMPTON on escort duty. Townsville 27th ARUNTA for Port  
Moresby. Arrival Port Moresby 26th BOWEN. Melbourne 27th U.S.S.  
OTUS.  
(A.C.N.B., 2358Z/27 to A.I.G.115.)

Digest (1). R/C Fortress after daybreak saw 48 ships Rabaul  
Serial Harbour though only half area visible unsuccess-  
No. 401 fully attacked three small vessels Powell Point  
Feb. 26th. area and shortly afterwards sighted three medium  
merchantmen, one possible tanker, one possible  
submarine, two small unidentified vessels 12  
miles N.W. Ubili course 250°. 2 afternoon  
strikes despatched failed locate convoy due weather attacked  
alternative targets. 3 Liberators, 2 Fortresses struck  
Gasmata destroying several buildings and 4 Fortresses bombed  
Lae town and aerodrome.  
(2) Six Fortresses bombed Wewak early morning scoring one hit  
two near hits on medium cargo vessel also hit runway destroying  
one aircraft. 1 other cargo vessel sighted off Wewak.



War Diary.

27.2.1943.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial  
No. 401,  
Feb. 26th.  
(Contd.)

(3) Same time 1 Fortress attacked runway and shore installations Lae.  
(6) Strong indications enemy unit 32° 29' S. 153° 09' E. early morning and Hudson later attacked possible submarine this area.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0632Z/27.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1348A/27, 1354A/27.)

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The 7 M/Vs composing the White Sea section of convoy J.W.53 were reported to be off Danilov at 0840C today in company with 4 ice-breakers.

GLASGOW joined C. in C. H.F. at Akureyri at 1400 today.

While returning from covering the mine-laying operation Q.U.7 off the Dutch coast this morning, M.G.Bs. 79, 77, 81, and 111 sighted a heavily-escorted 5 - 6,000 ton M/V S.W. of Ijmuiden and at 0320 engaged a force of M class Minesweepers and E/R Boats just off the Hook. Hits are claimed on 2 of the Minesweepers and on some of the E/R Boats, and M.G.B.79 was sunk, 7 survivors being rescued.

24 of our A/C which attacked the docks and shipping in daylight yesterday at Dunkirk found that the Armed Raider previously there had left.

*/a*  
The S/M VANDAL (P.64) which had been due to commence exercising in Kilbrannan Sound on 22nd February is now considered lost.

North Atlantic.

X.K.2

Convoy X.K.2 (slow convoy Gibraltar to U.K.) left Gibraltar at 0900 escorted by COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE, and LOCH OSKAIG. VANOC sailed at 1610 as additional escort to prudent limit of endurance.

South Atlantic.

French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES left Dakar at 0730Z for Freetown.

War Diary.

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

DANIEL  
CARROLL  
torpedoed.

Convoy T.E.16 was again attacked by U-boat at 1715 in 37.03 N. 03.58 E. and DANIEL CARROLL American, 7176 tons, was torpedoed forward. She was towed into Algiers. At about 1915, both convoy T.E.16 and the Ferry Service were attacked by aircraft without damage.

U/B attacked.

Returning from a raid on Cassabillo power station ( 9 miles S.W. of Syracuse) 11 Spitfire bombers attacked a U-boat 5 miles E. of Avola (E. Coast of Sicily) with machine gun and cannon fire, scoring many hits on the hull and causing a flash and cloud of smoke from the conning tower.

Air  
Operations.

Dawn and dusk raids were made today by 13 and 4 aircraft respectively on Tripoli, Libya. No damage or casualties were caused, and 1 aircraft was destroyed.

Minesweeping

The 2nd M/S Flotilla, sweeping in the vicinity of Mersa Matruh, has accounted for 52 mines.

F.A.A.  
Organisation.

Arrangements for disembarked aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm in Western Mediterranean are described today by C. in C. Mediterranean.

Information  
for French  
Navy.

C. in C. Med., reports that embarrassment is being caused in French collaboration in harbour defences by our withholding information about LL and S.A. gear. The question of R.D.F. in ships and for coast defence warning also urgently requires a policy decision. If the existence of type 271 and similar coastal warning sets may not be revealed, it will not be possible to allow French officers access to local defence plots and local naval operations rooms. The Admty. would not permit details of LL sweep to be communicated. Their decision regarding R.D.F. and Type 271 is given in A.M.1536A/14.

America & West Indies.

German Zone  
for Neutral  
Shipping.

An Opnav telegram states that it is reliably reported that the Germans have established a new route for all neutral vessels navigating between the United States east coast and units of the German zone of operations established on 26th June 1942. The new route is as follows:-

/From...

War Diary.

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

German  
Zone for  
Neutral  
Shipping.  
(contd).

From a point 2 miles S. of Overfalls Lightship  
alongside 38° N. to 65° W. thence 34° N. 61° W.  
thence alongside 34° N. to 39° W. proceeding from  
that point directly to port. Westbound, reverse.

H. X. 227

At 2350Z, WADE HAMPTON, American, 7176 tons,  
in H.X. 227, was torpedoed in the vicinity of  
59.49 N. 34.43 W. but remained afloat.

Australia & New Zealand.

N. Z. N. B. sends details of the actions on the  
night of 29/30 January in which the New Zealand  
minesweepers KIWI and MOA engaged by depth  
charges and gunfire and ramming and finally  
drove ashore the Japanese U-boat I.1 in 9.13 S.  
150.38 E. (p. 1092)

1065

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Admiral  
Miles.My 1714/22. D day postponed 24 hours.  
(Ad. Miles, 1003C/28.)Russian  
procedure.

My 1851/14. Situation to date.  
(A) Customs. Outgoing draft searched, luggage turned inside out with preference carefully packed items. Private letters looked through page by page. Export of all English money as well as Russian forbidden.  
(B) Incoming mails. Official mail cleared satisfactorily. Private mail on board Tug JASON for safe custody. As special concession to avoid it going to Moscow, Russians will allow it to be dealt with in local Post Office, i.e. opened and letters examined. Although possibly reasonable under other circumstances, I do not intend to allow Russians to get their hands on it in view of general attitude.  
(C) Outgoing mails. Representative of N.K.V.D. Murmansk will probably visa official mail, but no prospect of clearing private mail except through Russian hands, which I do not intend doing.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1723A/28 to Admty.)

My 2007/25. Masking Beacon. Officials arrived with tractor at noon today and removed lorry and trailer, without prior official notification to me of intention. But have seen translation of customs resolution which concludes - "Decided to deprive the British Military Mission of the possession of the above-mentioned radio set consisting of (group omitted) lorry and trailer and to pass it to the possession of the U.S.S.R."  
2. The duplicate trailer which arrived in J.W.52 was loaded (on a?) railway truck at Murmansk on Feb. 21st for despatch to Vaenga (7 miles) and not seen since, but enquiries continue.  
3. Even if latter trailer could be installed Meacon cannot operate without lorry as Russian power inadequate.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1728A/28 to Admty.)

Movements.S/M  
Movements.

My 1716/27. Para. (B). Amend to read TUNA sails Lerwick 1200/28 dived by day when east of Greenwich meridian through 62° 01' N. 02° 30' E., thence to patrol vicinity Stadtlandet.  
(F.O.S., 0107A/28 to Admty.)

Your 1914/26. Arrived (H.28)

(Capt. S.7, 0743A/28 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

My 1116A/27 sailed. (S.55 and S.56)

(C. in C. Rosyth, 0850A/28 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Intend to sail S.55 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH 1800A/1st for-  
(A) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles passing 091° Out Skerries 5 miles, E.T.A. 0400A/2nd.

2. On arrival at position (A) S.55 proceeds in accordance with F.O.S's S/M 0400/166.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1153A/28 to A.C.O.S.)

/Cancel ...

War Diary.28.2.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Cancel my 1223/27.  
 Movements. (1) TRESPASSER is to leave Holy Loch 1st March  
 (Contd.) for Scapa to carry out A/S and C.O's qualifying  
 course of training.  
 (2) TRESPASSER is to leave Scapa p.m./11th  
 immediately on completion of the days exercises,  
 for Rothesay whence she will be required to tow an X-craft to  
 Port HHZ leaving on 15th March.  
 (F.O.S., 1419A/28.)  
 Positions of submarines at 0800/1st and movements for  
 following 24 hours.  
 (A) TRUCULENT, SEA NYMPH, SPORTSMAN, SIMOON in North Norwegian  
 waters East of 15° E.  
 (B) TUNA dived by day approaching vicinity Stadtlandet from  
 westward.  
 (C) Russian submarines S.55 and S.56 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH  
 vicinity North Ronaldshay due Lerwick 1400/1st. Thence S.55  
 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leaves Lerwick 1800/1st to 090°  
 Muckle Flugga 10 miles. Thence unescorted probably on surface  
 through 62° 00' N. 01° 27' W. and 65° 30' N. 03° 01' E.  
 (D) TRESPASSER and USURPER escorted by CUTTY SARK leave Clyde  
 2359/1st through Minches, due Scapa 1400/3rd.  
 (E) TRIDENT escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves Holy Loch 1130/1st  
 due 360° Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 2330/2nd.  
 (F) TAKU 49° 10' N. 11° 12' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N.  
 09° 00' W. and 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles to R/V in 180° Lizard  
 Head 10 miles at 1200/2nd. TAKU will probably be proceeding  
 on the surface after crossing 08° W.  
 (G) BARB, in zones K.505 and K.501 south of 44° 25' N.  
 (H) REGENT off Vigo.  
 (F.O.S., 1741A/28.)

RANCHI, RANCHI and SABRE proceed Milford Haven forthwith.  
 SABRE. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested sail ships  
 as necessary to arrive Needles at 1830/1st.  
 Night passage up channel is not acceptable under  
 present conditions of E-Boat activity.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1041A/28.)

MORAY, Request you sail water boat MORAY for Gibraltar  
 EMPIRE with Tug EMPIRE MINNOW as convenient after arrival  
 MINNOW. of latter at Milford Haven about 9th March.  
 2. Final destination of EMPIRE MINNOW is Capetown.  
 (D.O.D.H., 1810A/28 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

1067

War Diary.28.2.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Huckaback". My 1055/27. "Cadger" arrived 0544.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0630A/28.)  
My 0630A/28. Add: (A) O.O.O.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0945A/28.)

Coastal Patrols. My 1252A/27. "Device" returned.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0920A/28.)  
(1) Intend M.G.Bs 55 (S.O.) and 53 to patrol tonight, on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.  
(2) Leave Weymouth at 1900 by Q.Z.S.381 and leave patrol-line at dawn.  
(3) Object: anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Match".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1200A/28.)  
1. M.G.Bs 616 (S.O.), 613, M.T.Bs 243 (S.O.), 85 at short notice at Newhaven.  
2. Chasseurs 15 (S.O.), 10 patrolling southward of E.A5 Buoy.  
3. LORD WAKEFIELD at St. Helens and UNST at Yarmouth.  
4. M.G.Bs 55 (S.O.), 53 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 1° 30' W. and 2° 05' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1223A/28.)  
Patrol tonight.  
2. Force A BLEASDALE S.O., ALBRIGHTON, GOATHLAND, KRAKOWIAK.  
3. Patrol Q.Z.S.391 between 2° 55' W. and 3° 25' W.  
4. Object - to intercept E-Boats.  
5. Information - Own. Swordfish and Sunderland aircraft carry out patrols 1a and 2a from 2000/28 till dawn/1st March. D.C.I. 55 refers. W.P.301 proceeds Torbay. P.W.301 proceeds Portland. M.G.Bs 55 and 53 patrolling S.E. of Portland. Enemy- E-Boats from Cherbourg or Guernsey may operate on convoy route.  
6. Execution. BLEASDALE join W.P.301 at Dart Buoy at 2230/28. Force A to leave W.P.301 in accordance with para. 6 of my 1439 and carry out patrol at about 12 knots. Destroyers are not to proceed south of Northern limit of aircraft patrol unless called for by aircraft or ordered. Q.Z.X.834 is clear north of 50° 15' N. Remainder may also be crossed if in close pursuit of enemy. At 0630 if no contact BLEASDALE and ALBRIGHTON to join W.P.301, GOATHLAND join P.W.301, KRAKOWIAK proceed Plymouth.  
7. Codeword "Scent".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1441A/28 and 1823/28.)  
My 1200/28. "Match" sailed 1858A/28.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1905A/28.)

TUNA Patrol. TUNA left Lerwick 1201A/28 unescorted and on surface at C.O. discretion till meridian Greenwich then diving by day routed through 090° 10 miles and 062° N. 002° 30' E., thence patrol in area K.5 and K.6.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1209A/28 to S/Ms.)  
Hove (to ?) position 060° 47', 000° 45' W. Mountainous seas northward Shetlands make progress to eastward impossible.  
(TUNA, 1730A/28 to A.C.O.S.)

/Attack ...

War Diary.28.2.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Attack on  
Enemy Convoy  
off Hook.  
M.G.B. 79  
sunk.

Preliminary report of C/F activity night 27th/28th.  
(1) M.T.Bs 83, 93, and 222 were sailed to be in 53° 40' N. 05° 00' E. at 2300. 12 group report of a large M/V escorted by 4 'M'-class sweepers off Ymuiden at 1620 was passed out at 1723. Unit increased speed but was delayed by minor defects. M.T.Bs swept to 53° 43' N. 05° 48' E., arriving at 0108/28, returning via initial position to base at 0245 due to petrol shortage. Target was not sighted but 4 auxiliary vessels, presumed anti E-Boat patrol fired ineffectively on unit in 53° 40' N. 05° 06' E.  
(2) Operation Q.U.(7) carried out successfully vide BEEHIVE's 1133/28.  
(3) M.G.B.77 (S.O.) with M.G.Bs 79, 111, and 81 after completing escort of Q.U.(7) obtained R.D.F. and hydrophone contact in 52° 14' N. 04° 07' E. Unit investigated and made contact with a 5/6000 ton M/V, 2 trawlers, and heavy escort of minesweepers. Initial sighting achieved complete surprise, M/V presenting a perfect torpedo-target at 3 cables. Unit was sighted and fired on and worked down towards the Hook reporting to M.T.Bs. Just off the Hook at 0320 a 'M'-class sweeper was sighted and unit started a diversion due to proximity of convoy to harbour. Very fierce engagement ensued for 5-7 minutes and hits were claimed on 2 'M'-class and E/R Boats, unit disengaging to S.W. It was then discovered that M.G.B.79 was missing, and Flotilla "Help" call, tracer in air, was seen. Unit closed to find M.G.B.79 in flames amidships, petrol tanks exploding. 7 survivors were rescued from water. Unit was surrounded by the enemy who did not fire for 10 minutes, then enemy opened up and all M.G.Bs were hit while retiring to N.E.  
(4) M.T.Bs 70 (S.O.), 69, 32, 72 were to patrol of the Hook had difficulty in disengaging from a number of mines in 52° 02' N. 03° 57' E. On receipt of M.G.B.77's reports unit endeavoured to make contact but failed to do so, target only once being dimly sighted in light of starshell. M.T.Bs came under heavy but inaccurate fire during their search, finally making contact with M.G.Bs in 52° 02' N. 04° 02' E. at 0447, when course was set for base.  
(5) Regret to report total loss of M.G.B.79, S.O. considers C.Bs were definitely destroyed.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1816A/28 to Admty.)

Inter-  
ception  
of Ships  
from  
Norway.

My 1257/28. (See Special File). Request CHIDDINGFOLD now be sailed to arrive in position Q 057° 45' N. 000° 20' E. by 0800/1st, and then steer 080° at 15 knots but not to proceed East 001° 40' E. The latest information shows that a 600 ton merchant ship left Sogndale at 1600/28 steering 260°, at 12 knots.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1840A/28 to A.C.O.S.)  
My 1955/27. (See Special File). Proceed to arrive at position Z at 0800/1st or as soon after as weather permits and then patrol as in para. 5 of my 1955/27.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1855A/28 to ST. ALBANS.)

/In ...



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War Diary.28.2.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Inter-  
ception  
of Ships  
from  
Norway.  
(Contd.)

In order to intercept Merchant ship & fishing vessel cut out from Norway one trawler is to be sailed to position 056° 50' N. 001° 00' W. by 1200/1st, to remain this vicinity till further orders. If any of above vessels are met they are to be directed to steer 255° to War Channel and thence Aberdeen,  
(2) Trawler should be capable of receiving Red Head Beacon transmissions. Beacon ordered every half hour from 1000/1st.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1915/28 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, (R) ST. ALBANS, CHIDDINGFOLD.)  
Proceed to comply with C. in C. Rosyth's 1840A/28.  
(A.C.O.S., 2032/28 to CHIDDINGFOLD.)  
Sailed ST. ALBANS.  
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 2110A/28.)  
Scapa departure CHIDDINGFOLD.  
(A.C.O.S., 2305/28.)

Operation  
V.P.-R.

My 1607/26. Operation V.P.-R is cancelled.  
(A.C.O.S., 1920A/28 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

Exercises.Fleet  
Exercises.

Unless any objections, intend to carry out tactical exercises p.m./5th and a.m./6th March in area up to 40 miles N. and W. of Orkneys. Units taking part include ANSON, FURIOUS, cruisers, destroyers, and carrier-borne and shore based A/C.  
(V.A.2, 1206A/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.Dunkirk  
bombed.

On day 27th, 2 formations of 24 Venturas with fighter cover, left to attack the armed raider, but on reaching the port they found the raider had left. Eleven aircraft attacked a smaller vessel and appeared to straddle the ship.  
12 aircraft attacked the docks and bombs were seen to straddle the dock area. Considerable heavy flak was encountered. No E/A were seen.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1530A/28.)

Mining.Sweep off  
Iona.

Conditions unfit for sweeping. Am returning Merville. Trawlers are proceeding to Oban.  
(M/S.16, 0730A/28.)  
Your 0730/28. Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1505A/28 to M/S.16.)

/ M/S.16 ...

War Diary.

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sweep  
off Iona.  
(Contd.)

M/S.16, 0730/28. Request you report amount of Skerryvore dangerous area which still requires clearance sweep.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1541A/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Your 1729A/28 and C. in C. W.A. 1541A/28. No clearance sweep has been carried except as reported in my 1811A/23rd Jan.  
(M/S.16, 2234A/28 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Yarmouth  
Area.

Your 1209/27 this must be postponed till area has been swept. F.O.I.C. Yarmouth is requested to arrange for surveying officer to place Dan buoys in the new positions for 3, 3A, 3B and 3C buoy together with such intermediate buoys as are necessary for sweeping.  
When these buoys are laid, sweeping is to be carried out by Harwich and Lowestoft minesweepers and a report made when one mile each side of centre line of new channel is considered clear of mines.  
(C. in C. Nore, 2258A/28 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Enemy Intelligence.

M/V off  
Dutch coast.

One large merchant vessel in 52° 08' N. 04° 09' E. course 200°.  
(M.G.B.77, 0230/28 to M.T.B.70.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats  
reported.

By D/F at 0524Z, U-Boat probably outward bound in approx 47° 00' N. 12° 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 0701A/28 to TAKU.)  
D/F at 0813Z indicates U-Boat within 25 miles of a line joining positions 59° 00' N. 32° 00' W. and 59° 00' N. 38° 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 1111A/28.)

MORMACSWAN  
attacked.

D/F bearing 1st grade 227° MORMACSWAN, distress.  
(Gallon Head Radio, 0702 G.M.T./28 to Lyness.)  
Following from MORMACSWAN.  
Sub. sighted 51° 10' N. 18° 15' W. at 0700/28.  
(Burnham Radio, 0804/28 to Admt.)

Unknown ship  
attacked.

SS SS 296°, class one.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 2350 G.M.T./28.)

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War Diary.

28.2.1943.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- EMPIRE FORD. SS. EMPIRE FORD which grounded off Farne Islands on 10th Jan. was refloated p.m./27th Feb. and is now in Warkworth Harbour, Amble. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0740/28.)
- H.H. ROGERS, EMPIRE TRADER. Report situation. (C. in C. W.A., 0822Z/28 to CLEMATIS.) Your 0822Z/28. My 2020A/27 read as follows begins. C. in C. W.A. 2157Z/26. H.H. ROGERS not sighted. Am proceeding to look for EMPIRE TRADER. My P.C.S. 050° 14' N. 022° 56' W., 249°, 11 knots. Ends. (CLEMATIS, 1000A/28 to C. in C. W.A.) My position at 1400Z/28th was 049° 34' N. 027° 21' W. am searching towards position 048° 13' N. 029° 20' W. Weather report. (CLEMATIS, to 1945Z/28 to C. in C. W.A., DIANELLA, (R) F.O.I.C. Londonderry, ASSINIBOINE, C.O.A.C., C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F., Admty., F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Sailed IROQUOIS at 1340/28, routed through (? 053°) 00' N. 018° 00' W., 048° 00' N. 030° 00' W. at best speed arriving Halifax March 6th. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1350A/28.)
- DASHER. Proceed passing Hoxa at 1715 today to Dundee so as to arrive at Bar at 1000A Monday 1st March. S.O.A. 12 knots. 2. R.A.D. is requested to arrange destroyer escort. (V.A.2, 0948A/28 to DASHER.) Cancel my 1128A/27. NEWARK, WELLS R/V with DASHER off Hoxa gate at 1715 today, and provide escort to Dundee. (R.A.D.H.F., 1032A/28 to NEWARK, WELLS.)
- M.G.B. 645. Your 1732/27. M.G.B.645 developed certain minor engine defects on trial. Anticipate sailing date March 3rd. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1031/28 to Admty.)
- FORTUNE. Departure FORTUNE for London Graving Dock, Poplar. (Cdre. Sheerness, 1210A/28.) Arrival FORTUNE. (N.O.I.C. London, 1615A/28.)
- DASHER. Scapa departures DASHER, NEWARK, WELLS. E.T.A. 1000/1st. (A.C.O.S., 1716/28 to N.O.I.C. Dundee.)

/SEA ROVER ...

1072

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

SEA ROVER.

Your 0853/27. Arrived ABEILLE 21.  
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1637A/28 to F.O.I.C.)  
Tug ABEILLE 20 and tow arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 1652/28.)

Unknown  
Ship.

Following from Lands End Radio begins:  
1622 G.M.T. 127° GONIOA approx. de unknown  
station S O S unread by T.O.R.P. controlling  
station G L D. 1725/28 G.M.T. ends.  
(Recd. Admty., 1758/28.)

1073

War Diary.28.2.1943.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

K.M.S.10 My 0750/27. Sailed ST. CROIX to overtake K.M.S.10 (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0245A/28).  
Your 1752A/27. HOUSTON CITY not met. Proceeding to overtake convoy.  
(ST. CROIX, 0822A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Estimated P.C.S. at 0800A/28 K.M.S. 10, 054° 30' N. 011° 16' W. to 049° 58' 013° 30' 7 knots.  
M.K.S.8 052° 06' N. 012° 23' W. to 055° 01' 010° 01' 9 knots.  
K.M.S.10 keep clear to westwards.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0946A/28 to Escorts K.M.S.10).  
EMPIRE MAIDEN returned to Clyde owing to heavy weather.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2323/28).

R.A. 53 My 1005/25. Delete EMPIRE PORTIA, add MOSSOVIET.  
(N.C.S.O. Murmansk, 0650A/28 to Admty).  
My 1123A/27. My 1434A/27, postponed 24 hours.

VIVACIOUS acknowledge.  
(R.A.D. H.F., 0830A/28 to C. in C. H.F.)  
E.T.A. 1200A/2.  
(VIVACIOUS, 1100A/28 to A.C.I.C.)  
R.A. 53 sails at 1300A/March 1st.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1635A/28 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Akureyri arrival GLASGOW at 1400/28.  
(A.C.I.C., 2016A/28).  
ICARUS proceeds at 1430N/1st to Scapa. Capt. of the Fleet will embark.  
2. Route via Q.Z.L. 51 and West of Iceland North Rona Mine Barrier.  
3. R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to sail ICARUS to R/V with Battle Fleet off Faeroes a.m./7th March.  
(C. in C. H.F., 2113A/28 to ICARUS).

R.U.63 Your 2203A/27. CONTENDER detached.  
CELEROL. (STAFNES, 0845A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

J.W.53 J.W.53. White Sea section. 7 (?merchant vessels) with 4 ice breakers in company reported off Danilov at 0840C today.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 0846A/28).

TJALDUR Your 1800/25 and escort arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1123/28 to N.O.I.C.Lerwick).

P.W.301 Convoy P.W.301 is to proceed into Portland by Q.Z.S.381.  
(2) MELBREAK on joining company is to proceed into Portland with convoy.  
(3) BLEASDALE part company with convoy at 1700 and proceed Dartmouth, E.T.A. 2000/28.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1235A/28 to BLEASDALE).

War Diary.

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- W.P. 301            W.P. 301 is to proceed to Torbay and anchor tonight.  
                    2. Route from Dart buoy through 50° 23' N. 03° 24' W. thence to Torbay.
3. L.C.Ts may enter Dartmouth instead of anchoring.
  4. P.W. 301 is to enter Portland.
  5. BLEASDALE is to leave P.W. 301 to arrive Dart buoy at 2230 to R/V with and join W.P. 301.
  6. Destroyer to leave W.P. 301 in 50° 23' N., 03° 24' W. and proceed as in my 1441A/28.
  7. A/S trawlers and M.Ls. are to maintain an A/S patrol whilst convoy is anchored.
  8. FORT YALE is to be anchored in a sheltered position. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1439A/28 to Escorts).
- C.H.L. plot        My 1223/26. Does not include Allies' Submarines. warnings.        C. in C. W.A., will continue to issue warning if submarines are likely to be met. (C. in C. W.A., 1513A/28 to Ships).
- U.C. Convoys.     Cancel my 1108/24 Jan. Programme of U.K.-Curacao tanker convoys is being reconsidered. (D.T.D., 1708A/28).

1075

War Diary28.2.1943.  
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- U/B. By D/F on 4540 kc/s at 2052Z/27 U-Boat estimated anywhere within 100 miles of 35 degs 00' N 26 degs 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 0310A/28 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)
- TRIDENT TRIDENT leaves Scilly Isles at 2330A/2nd March diving by day by route green to 043 degs North E.T.A. 1400A/7th March. Thence as routed by you. Speed 135 miles a day to 043 degs North. (2) Communications. (4) TRIDENT is dazzle painted in light and dark grey with number on conning tower in light grey.  
(Captain S.3 1021A/28 to F.O.C. Gibraltar  
(R) F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth. C. in C. Med. etc.)
- Movements E.T.A. 0700A/1st TANGO, FOXTROT, VISENDA (? REIGHTON WYKE) STELLA CARINA in company. (KING SOL 1030A/28 1545A/28 to F.O. Gibraltar)
- U.C.1. Intend detaching southbound ships after dark today Sunday if there is evidence of submarine in vicinity during daylight. My P.C. and S. at 1001Z Sunday 025 degs 21 mins North 045 degs 37 mins West.  
(S) 250 degs 9.75 knots. Weather report.  
(WESTON 1030Z/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connv. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Adm. R.A. South American Div. B.A.D. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.))  
U.C.1. My 1718 18th Feb. (? cancel) ATHEL PRINCESS.  
Delete ESSO BATON ROUGE and EMPIRE NORSEMAN.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1059Z/28 to A.I.G.356. C. in C.S.A. N.S.H.Q.)
- X.K.2. Sailing telegram. 2. 0900/28. 4. 5½ knots. 5. Standard. 6. COREOPSIS (S.O.) JONQUIL, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE, LOCH OSKAIG.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1033A/28 1113A/28 to C. in C. Med. (R) Adm.)  
Intend sail VANOC as additional escort to X.K 2 to Prudent limit of endurance then to return to Gibraltar.  
(F.O. Gibraltar 1211A/28 to Ships escorting convoy X.K 2 (R) Adm. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Med. (W)).  
Convoy X.K.2 sailed 0900 escorted by H.M. Ships COREOPSIS, COLUMBINE, ANCHUSA, JONQUIL, LOCH OSKAIG. VANOC sailed 1610 as local escort.  
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1644A/28 to Admty. etc.)
- K.M.F.10.A. Intend sailing QUADRANT 1130/28th to R/V K.M.F.10A, W.S.27, in approx 38.45 12.28 at 1200/1st March and act as additional escort for W.S.27 to Freetown.  
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1128A/28 to Escorts of K.M.F.10A. and W.S.27., (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F. C. in C. Med. S.N.O. Casablanca Area).

/QUADRANT...

1076

War Diary.28.2.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

K.M.F.10A QUADRANT sailed 1140 to join convoy W.S.27 as  
 W.S.27 additional escort. Q.L.A. 163 less 162.  
 (Contd.) (F.O.C.Gibraltar 1249A/28 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.)

Dispositions. Situation 1958A/28th.  
 URSULA sailed 1230A/1st through 35.49 06.06 5  
 at 1845/1st and 35.53 06.15 at 2000/1st surface  
 by night 6½ dive by day 2.  
 2. REGENT patrol vicinity 42.30 09.15  
 3. X.K.2. COREOPSIS 35.47 06.33 284° 6.  
 5. ARCTIC RANGER (?from) Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar 10.  
 6. MONTE NARANCO to 034° 35' 010° 04' through 035° 49' 008° 01'  
 thence through Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar 6.  
 7. REDOUBT 034° 08' 007° (?31') through Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar  
 15.  
 8. 1 P.C. 1 M/V depart Casablanca 0730/1st through 033° 32' 008°  
 48' thence 213° 10.  
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1228A/28 to A.I.G. 63.)

Situation 2002A/28th.  
 R.S.2 SPEEDWELL (?30).52 11.30 215° 7½  
 2. ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM, LADY DENISON PENDER 34.23 10.21 248° 9.  
 3. QUADRANT 36.32 08.30 through 36.41 09.07 to R/V K.M.F. 10A,  
 W.S. 27 in 38.45 12.28 about 1200/1st (?)  
 4. K.M.F. 10A. W.S.27 Fleet Unit EGRET 41.50 13.40 through  
 40.05 13.41 thence 145° 13.  
 5. SUSSEX 30.23 14.42 through 27.30 14.56 and 25.01 16.50  
 thence southbound 16.  
 6. BOREAS 1 merchant ship 31.29 10.37 through 28.30 13.15 and  
 26.01 15.48 thence 200° 17.  
 7. French ship SERGEANT GOUARNE, F.M. Submarine PERLE cable  
 ship ARAGO 26.32 14.12 through 26.46 13.42 and 27.55 13.30 to  
 28.25 12.57 thence northbound coastwise 6½.  
 8. G.U.F. 5 C.T.F. 36. 31.40 13.52 through 31.01 15.01 thence  
 257° 13½.  
 (F.O.C.Gibraltar 1233A/28 to A.I.G. 55.)

Italian Departure Valencia.  
 MAURO CROCE. (Barcelona 1321/28 to M.W.T.)

REDOUBT, Ref. Admty's. 2351/16 and S.N.O.C.A's 1900/27  
 MALAYA. and 1645/23. As no dock now available REDOUBT  
 will not be ready. Request substitute escort  
 for MALAYA be detailed.  
 (F.O.C.Gibraltar 1543A/28 to C. in C.Med.  
 (R) F.O.C.W.A. Admty.)

CRISTINA Spanish CRISTINA 2421 G.T. nation and swiss  
 colours "Switzerland CRISTINA Bilbao" painted  
 on side sailed 1700/28th for Genoa by approved  
 route. Not to be interfered with this voyage.  
 (V.A.Gib. 1715A/28 to S. and A.Area G. etc.)

/OXFORDSHIRE...



1077

War Diary.

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

OXFORDSHIRE. OXFORDSHIRE arrived. Has 79 Q.A.I.M.N.S. on board.  
( S.T.O.I.C. Gib. 1755A/26 to D.S.T.)

Gib.  
9.2 Guns. Ref. meeting of Governor and C. in C. with Chiefs of Staff on 22nd. Feb. Admty. no longer wish to press for installation additional 9.2 guns at Gib.  
(War Office 1900A/28 to Governor & C. in C. Gib.)

Movements. Arrivals 0115 M.L.s 175, 176, from patrol east. 1209 P.54 from Algiers.  
( F.O.C. Gib. 1920A/28 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

ST. LUCIEN. From Valencia departure 27th, 2200, German controlled, French ST. LUCIEN, Marseilles.  
( S.O.I. Gib. 2145A/28 to S.O.I. Malta, S.O.I. Algiers.)

1078

28.2.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- ALMANZORA. Understand 100/150 M.M. personnel in ALMANZORA in  
W.S.27. W.S.27 for Dakar.  
(2). As no possibility on carriage from Freetown  
suggest vessel calls Dakar en route to Freetown.  
3. F.O.C.W.Af. agrees.  
(D.S.T.O.W.A.0622/28 to D. of S.T. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)  
Reply: D.S.T. 2046A/2/3.
- ARETHUSA. Arrived.  
(Cdre. i/c Durban 0728Z/28 to Admiralty. C.in C.S.A.  
C.in C.E.F. F.O.E.A. and Z.)
- COMMANDANT Arrived.  
DUBOC. (Cdre. i/c Durban 0827Z/28 to Admiralty etc.)
- GEORGES Sailed Fr. Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES 0730/28 in  
LEYGUES. accordance with my 1111/26.  
(Coffar. Dakar 0937Z/28 to F.O.C.W. Af.  
(R) N.C.X.F. Admiralty N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)
- 32 M.L. Your 1801A/16th Feb. (Base for 32nd M.L. Flotilla).  
Flotilla. Freetown.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1030Z/28 to Admiralty, (R) C.in C.  
South Atlantic, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, HORNET.)
- CILICIA. Simonstown arrival 27th Feb.  
(C.in C.S.A. 1051C/28 Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban).
- U/B. U-boat may be in your vicinity p.m. today.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1058/28 to TAMESIS (R) Admty. for  
information.
- W.S.26. D.of S.T's 1618/27 para.1. As 3,000 troops for  
Mideast referred to in your 0856/26 are in  
Capetown, use can not be made of VOLENDAM and ship  
will carry out pre-arranged programme. There are  
large numbers of India personnel at Durban but no ships that can  
be sufficiently advanced to embark them and accompany W.S.26.  
2. Owing to limited range of LANCASHIRE it is not considered  
desirable to include her to destination in either Section of  
W.S.26. My 1155/21 para.1(d) refers. She is therefore being  
used to accelerate on-carriage of Kilindini personnel who have  
been waiting for considerable period.  
(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1102C/28, to C.in C.E.F. (R) D.S.T. etc.)

/Dispositions ...

28. 2. 1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Dispositions. DRANGEY 018° 50' S. 011° 00' E. to Walvis Bay 9 knots.  
NORMAN, HERO, GENISTA with D.C.11 034° 20' S. 025° 50' E. to Capetown 8.  
CANTON, RELENTLESS, CATTERICK, BLACKMOOR with W.S.26 032° 40' S. 029° 30' E. to Durban 12½.  
(C. in C.S.A.1125C/28 to A.I.G. 125.)

BURDOCK. Your 2016Z/27th (N.T. in W.D.). Intend sail  
O.S.43. BURDOCK at 1700 28th to R/V with convoy O.S.43 in 016° 00' N. 018° 01' W. at 1600 1st March. This assuming position given in your 2016 27th giving 017° 01' W. to be incorrect.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1146Z/28 to R.A.W.Af.(R) PELICAN.Admt.)

CYCLAMEN, Your 0925Z/27th Coders Mulveney and Coletake to  
Duala. Lagos in DAYSPRING. No longer required by Salvage Officer after 1400Z/28th. Your 2242Z/24 E.T.A Boma 0800Z 3rd March.  
(CYCLAMEN 1230Z/28 to F.O.C. W.Af. R.N.O. Lagos.  
(R) B.N.L.O. W.Af. Capt.(D) Freetown, N.C.S.O. Duala, Vice Consul Matadi).  
My 1402/28th (N.T. in W.D.). Arrival 1145Z/28th  
S.S. SANGARA, H.M. Tug CHARON, Nigeria Marine Ship DAYSPRING and CYCLAMEN.  
CYCLAMEN sailed 1500Z/28th for Boma.  
(N.C.S.O. Duala 1613/28 to Admt. F.O.C.W.A.F., R.N.O. Lagos, N.O.i/c Takoradi, B.N.L.O. W.Af.)

Movements, Departure 28th Brazilian minelayers CARAVELLAS  
Bahia. CARIOCA Escort Vessel RIO BRANCO to Escort North bound convoy.  
Departure 28th U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE,  
U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW.  
(R.O. Bahia 1310Z/28 to Admt. (R) S.O.I.Freetown, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

M.L's for East Indies. Your 1143 26th Feb. (N.T. in W.D.). Following is intended programme for M.L's:-

Port	Arrival	Departure
Simonstown	-	5th March
Port Elizabeth	7th March	8th "
East London	9th "	10th "
Durban	11th "	13th "
Lourenco Marques	14th "	15th "
Tulear	17th "	19th "
Majunga	21st "	23rd "
Lindi	25th "	27th "
Dares Salaam	28th "	29th "
Mombasa	30th "	-

2. Shell Co. South Africa arranging fuel at all ports mentioned.
3. Cdre. i/c. Durban, arranging 1 corvette to escort M.L's from vicinity Lourenco Marques to Tulear. For consideration that

/escort ...

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

M.L's for  
East Indies  
(Contd.)

escort from Tulear to destination be provided  
by Eastern Fleet.

4. Maintenance Staff being fitted out and  
despatched by R.A. Training Establishment.  
My 1044 18th Feb. refers.

(C.in C.S.A. 1447C/28 to C.in C.E.F.

(R) Admty., AUSONIA, S.N.O.~~EG~~N.O.I.C. Diego  
Suarez, N.O.I.C. Durban).

T.B.5.

Serial No.14, following ships joining convoy

T.B.5 off Pernambuco a.m. 28th. (list).

(A.S.O.(I) Recife (Pernambuco) 1456Z/28 to  
Admty.) (Amended 1524Z/7).

SAINT LOMAN.

Arrived 1525 G.M.T. 28th.

(N.O.I.C. East London 1531Z/28 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Movements Sailing MISOA, BACHAQUERO, ROTHESAY, POLRUAN.  
Philippeville. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 0013A/28 to Admty.)

Enemy Report. Following has been read.  
P.C. and S. of one small craft 38.12 N. 12.54. E.  
250° 5.75.  
(Naval Aircraft C.U.D/V Via Alexandria W/T  
0013A/28.)

Air Report. W.X.2892. N.R. 1833.  
H.Q.N.W.African Air Forces Operational Summary  
No. 5, 24 hours to 0600 hours 26th February.  
N.W.African Strategic Air Force. 40 B.17s and 34 P.38s  
dispatched to attack Bizerta. 32 B.17s dropped 383 x 500 lb.  
bombs. Bursts seen in dock and town and near misses shipping.  
(H.Q. N.A.A.F. 0755Z/27.)

Destroyer Sweep. NUBIAN and JAVELIN returned from operation.  
(V.A.Malta 0845A/28 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.  
C. in C.Levant.)  
My 1116/27th. Nothing sighted.  
(V.A.Malta 1051A/28 to C. in C.Med.)

Movements Alexandria. Arrivals 27th Feb. CLEOPATRA, DULVERTON,  
BEAUFORT, KELVIN Greek Destroyer BASILISSA OLGA.  
Departures 27th Feb. CLEOPATRA, PAKENHAM,  
PALADIN, RAGLAN CASTLE.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 0924/28 to Admty.  
C., in C.Levant.)

F.A.A. Aircraft Western Med. My 1950/8th to N.C.X.F. only. Following  
arrangements are intended for disembarking F.A.A.  
aircraft in Western Mediterranean.  
2. Oran area. A section of Tafaroui aerodrome  
has been allocated for G/R wing, R.A.F. and F.A.A.  
Intend to establish small Naval Air section there  
to act as parent station for all disembarking F.A.A. aircraft  
in North Africa and as part storage for F.A.A. reserve aircraft  
to reduce congestion at Gibraltar, temporary arrangements for  
use of La(?s)enia to cease. Total F.A.A. visualized as using  
Tafaroui, 2 carriers disembarked squadrons, one flight  
Swordfish 813 squadron, one 809 Defiant fleet practice unit.  
3. Algiers area. Blida aerodrome. Base for 826 Squadron  
Albacore, one flight Defiant fleet practice unit. Facilities  
for one flight 813 Squadron when required.  
4. Bone. (?Forward) operating base for 826 Squadron with No. 3  
M.T.M.U.  
5. Gibraltar facilities for one flight 813 Squadron (?including)  
Defiant 5 Walrus. Part storage for Fleet Reserve Aircraft not  
accommodated in Tafaroui. Provided space at the time permits

/periodical...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

F.A.A. periodical facilities for disembarking up to  
Aircraft two squadrons from carriers.  
Western 6. (?Personnel) requirements for Tafaroui are  
Med. being assessed. There are requirements now  
(Contd.) for one Commander as Senior Officer, Naval  
Air Section, North Africa. Possibly some  
maintenance personnel being released from Egypt  
in accordance with C. in C. Levant 1345/17th  
(re reduction in strength of Naval Air Service in Eastern Med.)  
might be made available.  
(C. in C. Med. 0959A/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, etc.)

UNA. Admiralty 1740/19th. Intend to sail UNA for U.K.  
at 1400/1st via P.247s route through Q.K.B.20  
to pass 038° 01' 011° 30' at 0500A/3rd. Capt. S.  
8 required to route her thence Gibraltar.  
(Capt. S.10 1123A/28 to C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1  
etc.)

SARACEN. Shift normal Wireless Watch to Malta Broadcast  
150 k/cs at 2200/28th. Subs. are not to be  
attacked after passing position 2 in Capt. S.8's  
0002/27th until arrival.  
(Capt. S.10 1124A/28 to SARACEN (R) Capt. S.8.)

FARNDALE. Noon position 036° 09' N. 003° 08' W. S.O.A. 9  
through position (?1) and 2. Intend to patrol  
5 miles to seaward line joining Cape Falcon and  
Cap Del'Aiguille until daybreak March 1st.  
Weather report.  
(FARNDALE 1142A/28 to S.O. Force H, (R) C. in C.  
Med. F.O.I.C. Oran.)

Technical A.M. 0019/14 and Cominch 422/15.  
Information Some embarrassment is being caused in French  
for French collaboration in harbour defences by their  
Naval repeated requests for information on magnetic  
Forces. minesweeping and the fact reported in my 1157/22  
that they have demonstrated to Fleet Torpedo  
Officer a form of single L magnetic sweep  
employing buoyant cable and pulsing. They have instructions on  
British single L written by Admiralty representative in 1940.  
They can see our M.M.S. daily employing apparently similar  
method.  
2. Request reconsideration of policy on release of L.L. and S.A.  
gear and that French personnel may be permitted to embark in  
M.M.S. for demonstration.  
3. Question of R.D.F. in ships and for coast defence warning also  
urgently requires policy decision as requested in C. in C.  
Allied Forces N.A.F. 78 of 2nd Jan. to Combined Chiefs of  
Staff.

/Request...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

Technical Information for French Naval Forces. (Contd.) Request information (A) Whether it is intended to fit French ships rearming in U.S.A. with R.D.F. (B) Whether existence and capabilities of type 271 and similar coastal warning sets may be revealed. If not, it will not be possible to allow French Officers access to local defence plots and local Naval Operations Rooms. 4. French state some ships of Toulon Fleet had R.D.F. capable of ranging on surface vessels at 25,000 yards. (C. in C.Med. 1146A/28 to Admty. (R) Cominch F.O.C.W.A.) Reply: Question (A) affirmative S.A. and S.F. (Cominch 2045/2 to Admty.)

T.E.16. Sailed following to join DORSET COAST, EGRET (K.B.) ALPERA all for Bone. (Cmdre. Algiers 1223A/28 to N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) Connav, Admty. etc.)

T.E.16. Algiers section arrived as in your 1225/25 and 0952/26 less SEMINOLE plus ODYSSEUS and MARGA from Oran.

(Cmdre. Algiers 1437A/28 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) Connob, Oran, C. in C.Med. Admty. Connav.)

T.E.16. My 1034/25th sailed except MAMMY. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 2020/28 to Admty. Connav.)

Movements, Algiers. Following is a repetition of Cmdre. Algiers 1948A/27 (begins): Arrivals ATHERSTONE, EASTON, CAMROSE, KITCHENER, PRESCOTT, GOTH, ITHURIEL, JAUNTY, SIRIUS, VERITY, VELOX French Ship ANGELE, PEREZ. Departures ABDIEL, VERITY, VELOX, CAMROSE, KITCHENER, PRESCOTT submarine TAURUS (PP.339) (ends.) (Cmdre. Algiers 1347/28 to Admty.)

P.R.U. Feb. 28th. 1145 Naples (Napoli) 2 cruisers. (V.A.Malta 1401A/28 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

Air Report. H.Q. N.W. African Air Forces Opsum No. 7, 24 hours to 0600 hours 28th Feb. N.W.African Strategic Air Force. Further reports on Anti Shipping Patrol of 26th Feb. by 20 B.17 indicate 2 100 and 4 500 pound bombs dropped from 15,000 feet scoring hits on 4 vessels and near misses on 1; small vessel believed tanker sunk and 3 others left on fire. (H.Q. N.A.A.F. 1432/28.)

G.U.F.5. Composition, P.C. and S. of G.U.F.5 at 0800A were reported in Syko by aircraft at 1140A today Sunday. Speed was given as 9 knots. (C. in C.Med. 1550A/28 to Admty. (R) S.N.O.C.A. F.O.C.Gibraltar, Cominch.)

/E.T.12...

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War Diary.28.2.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

E.T.12. E.T.12 sailed OCEAN PILGRIM, EMPIRE BUCKLER, GEORGE B. MACLELLAN, TROUBADOUR, W.P. FESSENDEN, DANIEL BOONE, SAMUEL JOHNSTON, WILLIAM MOULTRIE, LUTHER MARTIN, PHILLIP LIVINGSTONE, SIDI BRAHIM, WILLIAM MOULTRIE has defective windlass and is unable to anchor. SIDI BRAHIM now for Casablanca. (Comnob Oran 1625A/28 to C. in C.Med. (W) (R) F.O.C.Gib. Cmdre. Algiers, Admty. Connav.)

Movements, Port Said. Port Said arrivals 28th Feb. H.H.M.S. PANTHER, BURRA, FAVOURITE. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1753B/28 to Admty. etc.)

M.K.S.9. F.O.I.S. is requested to sail convoy M.K.S.9 at 1900/4th escorted by ACUTE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, LADY HOGARTH, KUMAON and KATHIAWAR. S.O.A. over ground  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots.

2. Route through 96.36 100.7 44.84 82.37 lettered D to L omitting I. Stragglers route as convoy.

3. Sections join and detach as follows with local escorts: Philippeville in  $037^{\circ} 15' N. 007^{\circ} 04' E.$  at 0100/5th. Bougie in  $037^{\circ} 08' N. 005^{\circ} 16' E.$  at 1300/5th. Algiers arrive at 0300/6th and enter bay sailing again at 1100/6th. Oran in  $036^{\circ} 12' N. 000^{\circ} 26' W.$  at 1100/7th. Gibraltar in 37 at 1900/8th or as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.

4. Route from 37 through Q.K.A. 87 then (M)  $035^{\circ} 44' N. 006^{\circ} 30' W.$  then standard ocean route lettered N. to R. Standard straggler route lettered A.A. to F.F.

5. Ocean escort ST. CROIX, NAPANEE, BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC, PARRSBORO, QUALICUM, WEDGEPORT, BURWELL, KENORA, FORT YORK.

6. First 2 letters of W/T call sign V.Q. Outcon (?424).

7. Fighter protection priority 2, code word Cockatoo. (C. in C.Med. 1849A/28 as amended 1033A/3/3, 0005A/4/3 to F.Os. I.C. etc.)

?Force Q. Sailed ORION, NUBIAN, JAVELIN. (V.A.Malta 1926A/28 to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrivals BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, MIAOULES. Departures ATHERSTONE Tug JAUNTY, L.C.Ts. 15, 21, 35, L.C.I.(L)s 99, 243, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, BICESTER, WHEATLAND M.T.B. 84 M.L. 295 BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK. (Cmdre. Algiers 1942A/28 to Admty. etc.)

SPLENDID TRIBUNE. Algiers arrival submarine SPLENDID (P.228) from patrol. Departure Submarine TRIBUNE to Gibraltar. (Cmdre. Algiers 1943A/28 to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...



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28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,  
Oran.

Arrivals ADVENTURE. OAKLEY, ASHANTI.  
Departures L.C.T. 160. L.G.T. 1646, L.C.T. 1701.  
(Comnob Oran 2011A/28 to Admty. etc.)

LOUISBERG  
(sunk  
6/2/43.)

A.F.O. 3700/40. Not intended to hold Board of  
Enquiry into loss of H.M.C.S. LOUISBERG as  
considered no useful purpose would be served.  
(C. in C.Med. 2020/28 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Situation  
report  
No. 5.

Western Desert.  
Tripoli (L) raided 24th Feb. 26 and 27 Feb.  
Two merchant ships slightly damaged by near  
misses. Two aircraft destroyed and two probable.  
2. Second Minesweeping Flotilla sweeping  
vicinity Mersa Matruh, 52 mines swept.  
(C. in C.Levant 2022B/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C.  
E.F. etc.)

Malta  
Air  
Report.

A.I. 565 28th Feb. C.S.R. Part 1 offensive.  
Night 27/28th Feb. 5 Torpedo carrying Beauforts  
on search for Enemy shipping N.W. of Marittimo  
experienced bad weather and heavy A.S.V. jamming.  
1 Beaufort at 0400 hours sighted 1 M/V 2000  
tons stationary in Bay on S.E.coast of Marittimo  
Island and attacked with 1 torpedo but  
visibility was poor and no result observed. 7 special equipment  
Wellingtons on armed search for shipping N.E. of Tunis  
encountered electrical storms and found no target. 6 Intruder  
Mosquitoes were airborne to cover our shipping strike, 3  
patrolling Pantellaria Trapani and 3 Patrolling Comiso Area. At  
Comiso, dispersal areas, searchlights and gun positions were  
strafed and 2 M.Ls. off Marsala were attacked and damaged.  
Day 28th Feb. 6 Spitfire Bombers escorted by 3 Fighter  
Spitfires attacked Comiso Aerodrome, scoring hits among hangars  
and on runway and causing a large fire in Aerodrome buildings.  
11 Spitfire Bombers escorted by 4 Fighter Spitfires attacked  
Cassabillo Power Station, scoring numerous hits in target  
area, and on return journey 5 miles east of Avola attacked an  
enemy S/M with M/G and cannon fire scoring many hits on Hull  
and causing flash and cloud of smoke from C/T.  
(A.H.Q. Malta 2033/28, 2059Z/28, 2110Z/28.)

French  
Naval  
Aircraft  
Oran.

Your 1230/22 and my 1015/23. Cominch concurred  
subject to Eisenhower's approval. New proposal  
to base Squadron on Oran may increase complexity  
of air organisations in the area. Presume you  
are consulting North African air authorities.  
2. Air Ministry are signalling Air Chief Marshal  
Tedder on this question.  
(Hd. of M.I. Approved A.C.N.S. (A), 2137A/28  
to C. in C. Med).

Movements,  
Tobruk.

Arrived M.L.1012, sailed WOLBOROUGH, KINGSTON  
CRYSTAL.  
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2225B/28 to Admty., (R)  
C. in C. Levant.)

War Diary.28.2.1943.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Departure BADORA for Calcutta.  
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 0102Z/28 to Admty.)  
Arrival LORD GREY and EARL KITCHENER.  
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 0655Z/28 to Admty.)  
Arrival 0530Z/28th DIPAVATI. Departure 0900/28th KARACHI.  
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0904Z/28 to Admty.)  
Departure RAJPUTANA escorting CITY OF SINGAPORE.  
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 1100Z/28 to Admty.)  
Departure GAWLER for Colombo at 1100Z/28.  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1126Z/28 to Admty.)

MAURETANIA. 1st March MAURETANIA, U.K. via Durban 11th  
March. "Chop" 9th March. Route.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0538Z/28 to Admty., F.O.Ceylon,  
C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.S., Com. R.I.N.,  
Com. i/c Durban.)

O.24. During patrol in Penang area from Feb. 15th to  
21st D.S. O.24 sank by gunfire northbound deeply  
laden motor vessel 3000 to 4000 tons off  
(? B.A.\*) Seylon Island on 21st Feb.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1136Z/28 to Admty., (R) S.O.(S) Colombo, F.O.  
Ceylon, (? Capt. (S) 4).)  
\* Alternative East Seylon.

Eastern Fleet Weekly Disposition Signal No.25. (A) No change. (C) DEVONSHIRE due Colombo 1st  
March. (D) GAMBIA due to sail from Fremantle  
for Mauritius 28th Feb. BIRMINGHAM and CERES  
leave Durban 1st March escorting W.S.26 to  
Bombay and Aden. MAURITIUS to Bombay.  
FROBISHER Bombay to Kilindini. DAUNTLESS  
Kilindini to Aden.

(E) 1 Battleship, 1 cruiser carry out exercises 2nd to 5th  
March.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1216Z/28 to C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B., F.O.  
Ceylon, C. in C. Med., F.O.R.S.C.A., Admty.)

India Air  
Report.

(D) P.R.U. results 27th Feb. Arrival 1 M/V  
approx. 240 feet Rangoon since 25th Feb. No  
important shipping Port Blair or Bassein.  
(A.H.Q. India, 1610Z/28 to Air Min.)

M.N.B.D.O.

Your 12290/21 Feb. (1035SB/21) and S.D. 14621  
26th Feb. M.N.B.D.O. not required to arrive  
India before August 1st.  
(C. in C. India, T.O.O. Nil, 40143G to C. in C.  
M.E., W.O.)

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Algerine Class Your 1930/17. Information is requested whether  
M/S these vessels will now be fitted with a  
building in hedgehog in view of their employment as escort  
Canada. vessels.  
(D.T.M., 0008A/28 to N.S.H.Q.)

GEORGE Miami Feb. 24th GEORGE WASHINGTON (U.S.A.T.)  
WASHINGTON. Trinidad visited Panama 26th.  
(N.S.H.Q., 0017Z/28 to Admty).

U.S.S. CAMPBELL in tow TENACITY escort SALISBURY  
CAMPBELL. NANAIMO in 048° 05' N. 037° 35' W. 27° 6 knots.  
SALISBURY detaching for St. Johns N.F. at  
1000/28th with 30% fuel remaining.  
(SALISBURY, 0100Z/28 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., H.Q.C.C.)

Ref. Cominch's 0522/15th Jan. CAMPBELL engine room  
flooded result several small holes caused by collision with  
destroyed enemy S/M. All main and auxiliary machinery engine  
room completely submerged now being towed St. Johns arriving  
approx. March 6th suggest docking for whole repairs St.  
Johns where thorough examination can be made and more  
complete report submitted after which suggest arrangements  
be made for towing to Boston on Completion repairs. C.T.U.  
24 pass to 3rd addressee and C.T.U. 24.3.

(CAMPBELL, 1200Z/28 to Cominch, C.T.U. 24 (R), Commandant  
Coast Guard District, Coastguard Officer Boston, 1st  
U.S.N.D. C.T.U. 24.3)

EMPRESS OF EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND arrived Ambrose 2045Z/27th.  
SCOTLAND. (Port Director New York, 0104Z/28 to Admty.  
Cominch, C. and R. N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F.)

Tanker Convoys Request you will keep C.C.S.F. (?) informed of  
to Curacao, the purport of your 1047 4th and A.M. 2112/26th.  
shipment (B.A.D., 0145Z/28 to S.B.N.O. Curacao (R) Admty).  
of crated  
A/C.

TAMPA Corrected estimated time of arrival 0800Z.  
(TAMPA, 0530Z/28 to F.O.N.F. Comtask 24,  
Greenland).

H. X. 227 U/Bs Your 2133Z/27 (N.T. in W.R.) received late.  
Recent poor reception has made D/F accuracy  
impossible. Since 1541Z/27th 6 uncertain  
fixes your area and possibly 4 more. 3 of the  
10 are possibly report of the convoy. Last interception at  
0226Z/28 Volumn type and urgency of transmissions suggests  
U-boat gathering for wolf pack attack from the south.  
(Cominch, 0850/28 to S.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4 (R) C.T. 24., C. in C.  
Lant).

/D.F...

War Diary.

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

H.X. 227. D/F bearings on 13768 k/cs at 1405Z/28 time of  
U/Bs. origin 1358/28 indicate U-boat in vicinity of  
(contd.) convoy H.X. 227. Convoy not informed by Admty.

(D.D.I.C., 1550A/28 to Cominch (R) A.C.I.C.,  
C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C.)

Your 2133Z/27. It is considered doubtful at  
present whether you have yet been reported and there was no  
indication up to 1200Z/28 that you were being shadowed. The  
U/Bs which have been transmitting are thought to be to the  
southward of 59° 00' N. between 37° 00' W. and 42° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C., 1314A/28 to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4 (R) Connav,  
C. in C. W.A.)

A.M. 1314A/28. D/F bearings at 1405Z/28 and at 1542Z/28  
indicate that you are now being shadowed.

(D.D.I.C., 1721A/28 to M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4 Cominch, (R)  
C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C.)

B.Y.M.S. 15 My 1458/25 not to Admty. B.Y.M.S. 15 and 16 delayed  
and 16. anticipate ready proceed St. Johns N.F. 5th March.

(C.O.A.C., 0903Z/28 to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q.,  
C.C.N.F., C.G.S.F., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary 1800	AJAX	34½° N. 43° W.	264°	18
G.M.T./28th	ALCANTARA)	15° N. 32° W.	Patrol	Blank
Feb.	WOODRUFF )			
	L. 23	Approaching	235°	6
		St. Johns.		

(D.O.D. (F), 0948Z/28 to Opnav (R) Comnav).

Curacao Your 1725/27th. Puerto la Cruz sailings are  
Convoys. suspended. Lake tankers will be re employed on  
local trade.

(B.R.L.O. Curacao, 1051/28 to Admty. (R)  
B.R.L.O. Puerto la Cruz.)

Neutral Reliably reported Germans have established new  
vessels, route for all neutral vessels navigating between  
German U.S. East Coast and units of German zone of  
routing operations established June 26th 1942. New route  
U.S. East as follows. From point two miles south overfalls  
Coast. Lightship alongside 38° N. to 65° W. thence 34° N.  
61° W. thence alongside 34° N. to 39° W.

proceeding from that point directly to port.  
Westbound reverse.  
(Opnav, 1257/28 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.)  
Admty. N.O.B. Bermuda).

28.2.1943.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

H.X. 227,  
 O.N. 168,  
 U/Bs.

C. in C. W.A., Broadcast by B.N. U-boat estimated your vicinity by direction finding at 1225Z/28th. Has made sighting report of a convoy or important unit. 137 68 k/cs. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1420/28 to Escort convoy O.N. 168, and H.X. 227, (R) C.T. 24., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet).

To C. in C. W.A., for broadcast by B.N. Final fix my 1420/28th within 150 miles 58.30 N. 38. W.

(Cominch, 1652/28 to Ships escorting O.N. 168 and H.X. 227 (R) C.T.F. 24., C. in C. Lant, C. in C. W.A.)

U-boat in your vicinity has made first sighting report on convoy at 2127Z/28th and 2137Z/28th. 4600 k/cs.

(Cominch, 2302/28 to Ships escorting H.X. 227, O.N. 168, (R) C.T. 24, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Lant).

ASSINIBOINE

Speed reduced by heavy weather and damage after magazine. Now proceeding Great Circle Route. My position, course and speed at 1100 G.M.T. 044° 23' N., 049° 00' W. 053° 15. Weather report 2385 8323. (ASSINIBOINE, 1441Z/28 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., H.Q.C.C.)

GREENWICH

A.M. 1010/18th Dec. Can a date now be given for arrival of GREENWICH. (B.A.M.R., 1450/28 to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., GREENWICH).

Troop movement, Jamaica.

Request reply my 1422/13. (Naval Service Ottawa, 1457Z/28 to B.A.D., (R) Admty. D. of S.T., British M.W.T. New York).

U.S. S/M Notices. S/M situation 28th Feb.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1516/28, 1517/28, 1605/28, 1606/28, 1607/28, 1811/28).

Dispositions.

Section East O.N. 167 Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.3. 048° 27' 046° 33' 217° 7.5 Midocean escort T.U. 24.1.17 vicinity 048° 38' 047° 02' en route St. Johns N.F. from vicinity 048° 52' 045° 54' H.J. 39 MALPEQUE, WASAGA 046° 35' 050° 52' 235° 7.5 Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.2 less TAMPA, MOJAVE vicinity 047° 24' 052° 33' en route Argentinia. GEORGETOWN vicinity 047° 35 minutes 049° 39' 082° 12 to assistance of U.S.S. CAMPBELL. U.S.S. MOJAVE 046° 32' 053° 34' en route Argentinia VEGREVILLE escorting FOUNDATION FRANKLIN searching for disabled EMPIRE NORSE vicinity 047° 38' 051° 38' H.M. S/M L.23 on surface and unescorted St. Johns N.F. approaches inbound. DAUPHIN 047° 35' 050° 02' en route St. Johns N.F. DALWARNIC 046° 53' 052° 28' 015° 7 knots en route St. Johns N.F. GAMO (Portuguese Schooner) 041° 25' 057° 20' 300° 6 knots. (C.O.A.C., 1525Z/28 to Admty).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Dispositions. Section East. My 1525/28th add tug AMERICAN and (contd). RIOSAMA escorted by Motor launches 064 and 060 sailed St. Johns N.F. en route for position 048° 02' N. 052° 08' W. where EMPIRE NORSE was reported at 1455Z 28th HARVESTER from Mid Ocean E.T.U. 24.1.17 048° 35' 048° 26'. 250° 14. U.S.C.G. TAMPA sailed 2030Z/28th from St. Johns N.F. Argentinia ARCLIGHT sailed St. Johns N.F. 2000Z/28th en route U.S.A. Argentinia J.H. 39 049° 01' 052° 37' 196° 7 O.N. 167 Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.17 (E) 049° 05' 045° 47' 210° 5 Altering to 218° in 046° 28' W. W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.3. in vicinity to Junction. (C.O.A.C., 2245Z/28 to Admty).

H.J.37 1. H.J. 37 sailing telegram.  
2. Halifax 1600Z/28.  
3. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F., 2200Z/3 March.  
4. 7.5 knots. Route. H.M.C.S. STRATFORD. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1649Z/28 to Admty).

S.C.120 position. S.C. 120. TAY, WOODPECKER, SNOWFLAKE and ALISMA in company Cdre. and about 30 ships. PINK and 6 ships 10 miles astern, LOOSESTRIFE PROSPECT and 6 ships 15 miles astern, all rejoining slowly. My P.C. and S. at 1600Z 059° 12' 024° 50' (S) 125° 5. Request following new R/V may be broadcast on B.A.M.S. for stragglers. Monday 1st. 058° 00' 021° 50' Tuesday 2nd. 056° 54' 017° 52'. Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.1.5., 1730A/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. A.C.I.C. H.Q.C.C., Connav, Ships Escorting S.C.120, C.T.24.7., C.T.24., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q.)

Movements San Francisco 26th Feb. U.S.A.T. JOHN BARTRAM for Papeete, Bora Bora and Tutuila. (N.S.H.Q., 1827Z/28 to Admty). Departure Mobile Feb. 28th 1600 U.S.A.T. HENRY GIBBONS New York March 5th coastal. (P.D. Mobile via New York, 1944/28 to Admty). Bermuda Arrivals U.S.L.S.T. 385, 387. Departures U.S.S. WOOLSEY, U.S.S. SWANSON French Submarine AMAZONE. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 2019Q/28 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Ships Your 2006/24th Feb. and A.M. 2101/24 Feb. Total Training capacity of A/S working up base at Bermuda and refitting. estimated at twenty per month provided that ships arrive in small groups at more or less regular intervals. Based on assignments of U.S. Construction known up to end of September all R.C.N. new construction ships may be taken definite reply for number which can be worked up in final quarter must depend on U.S. assignments for this period. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 1847/28 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty. B.A.D., N.M.C.S., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.O.P.C. Capt. (D) Halifax, Capt. (D) N.F., Capt. (D) Esquimalt).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.- Contd.

TRACKER Portland (Oregon) departed 27th Feb. for Seattle for Gunnery trial TRACKER. Due 1300/28th Feb.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1850Z/28 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. DYP 549 makes sound contact 36.59 N. 75.28 W. 0055Z/28. C.G. 46026 sights submarine course 070° 29.15 N. 80.57 W. 0643Z/28.  
(Cominch, 1936/28 to Admty).

ESCAPADE E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1000Z/1st. GARLAND in company. F.O.N.F. acknowledge.  
(ESCAPADE, 2107Z/28 to Connav (R) C.T.F.24., Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., HARVESTER, C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7., H.Q.C.C.)

ANDES Ref. my 1930/28 (N.T. in W.R.) ANDES, departed Ambrose 2100Z/28th Feb.  
(Port Director New York, 2244Z/28 to Cominch C. and R. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., C. in C. Lant, U.S. Operating Base Bermuda, V.A. Gib. S.N.O. Casablanca)

AJAX E.T.A. Bermuda 1200Z/2nd March.  
(AJAX, 2330Z/28 to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty. Connav, S.N.O.C.A., B.A.D., C. in C. At. Fleet.)

LEAMINGTON E.T.A. 1130Z/1st. Have following major defects. (details).  
{LEAMINGTON, 2339Z/28 to C.O. Atlantic Coast, (Halifax) (R) Capt. (D)}

AMARANTHUS Kingston arrival and departure AMARANTHUS.  
(N.O.I.C. Kingston, 2359R/28 to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals 27th Feb. Townsville Hired Transport DUNTROON Fall River U.S. Transport BONTEKOE CAIRNS Dutch Naval Store Ship SOEDOE Port Moresby R.A.F.A. KURUMBA Melbourne U.S.

Transport TASMAN.

28th Feb. Townsville U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER Brisbane Hired Transport KATOOMBA U.S. Transport CREMER.  
Departed Sydney 27th and arrived Newcastle 27th U.S. Transport BOTH departed Fall River 27th due Port Moresby 28th.

/Hired...

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Movements. (contd). Hired Transport TAROONA departed Sydney 27th due Brisbane 1st March. Dutch Hospital ship MORANJE departed Melbourne 28th Feb. due Sydney 1st March.

(A.C.N.B., 0659Z/28 to Admty. Connv).

Arrival Sydney N.S.W. 27th. AUSTRALIA, BAGLEY U.S.S. HENLEY Netherlands Ship HEEMSKERCK F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT. Arrival Fall River 27th. (?SWAN) and GLENELG. Departure Townsville 26th. STUART for Brisbane. Thursday Island 27th. WARREGO on escort duty. Port Moresby 27th. BROOME for Townsville. Sydney, (N.S.W.) 28th. WAGGA U.S.S.M. Tender SUMNER for Brisbane.

(A.C.N.B., 1002Z/28 to Admty).

Digest serial No. 402 Feb. 27th.

Barge activity Lae to Labu 26th. Following afternoon four B.25s attacked Labu area started fires.

2. Australian minesweeper dropped depth charges after dark 26th after receiving strong indications of submarine 8° 52' S. 148° 35' E. and reported large oil patches next morning.

4. Fortress morning reported seven merchant vessels totalling 31000 tons Shortlands area. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0712Z/28).

U/B destroyed by KIWI night 29/30th Jan.

My 1203/1st Feb. Reports and narratives have been received and are being forwarded, position of action 9° 13' S. 150° 38' E. U-boat was I one. KIWI contacted U-boat H.E. followed by Asdic contact at 3,000 yards range. 26 charge attacks followed U-boat surfaced and proceeded at slow speed. KIWI closed range engaged with gun fire and rammed three times at hull speed of 12½ knots. U-boat caught fire. U-boat reported down by stern. MOA engaged with gun fire as opportunity offered. KIWI later withdrew damaged and MOA continued engagement. U-boat increased speed to approx. 12 knots pursued by MOA towards land and struck a reef 1,000 yards off shore observed next day to have foundered with 40 feet of bows above water at 45°. My 1537/1st Feb. Barton was wounded in separate action against Japanese landing craft on 30/31st Jan. In this action MOA and TUI encountered four Japanese landing barges sinking two, casualties incurred amongst crew of MOA.

(N.Z.N.B., 1113A/28 to Admty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1407A/28, 1418A/28).