

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

1.3.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy R.A.53 sailed from the Kola Inlet at 1300A today for Loch Ewe. It consisted of 30 M/Vs (10 British, 17 American, 2 Panamanian, and 1 Russian) of which 4 were tankers. It's speed of advance is 7 knots, and its Ocean Escort is SCYLLA, 13 destroyers, 4 corvettes and 2 A/S Trawlers.

C. in C. H.F. reports today that on leaving Akureyri tomorrow morning in KING GEORGE V with HOWE, GLASGOW, and six destroyers, he intends after reaching his covering position to keep to the northward of the Convoy route and to leave from a position about 120 miles ahead of the Convoy when it crosses longitude 14° E.

The Troop Convoy K.M.F.10B sailed from the Clyde at 2330A today.

A Norwegian M/V attempting to reach the U.K. from Sogndal in Norway was reported by A/C to be in 56° 40' N. 02° 48' E. at 0926 this morning having been bombed by German A/C. She is being searched for today by ST. ALBANS, CHIDDINGFOLD, and A/C; and at 1410 ST. ALBANS reported that she was herself being attacked by A/C in 56° 20' N. 01° 12' E. At 1735A the M/V was reported to be low in the water and her crew in boats.

407 of our A/C dropped about 520 tons of H.E. and 585 tons of incendiary bombs on St. Nazaire last night.

During air raids on Murmansk from 1300C till 2030C yesterday the Russian M/Vs ANDRE MARTI and MOSSOVIET were hit by bombs and sustained some casualties. But MOSSOVIET sailed in Convoy R.A.53 today.

North Atlantic.

MALAYA.

At 2001A, MALAYA reported she was being shadowed by one Focke Wolfe A/C in 38.24 N. 12.14 W.

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SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

At 0700Z, SS. FITZ-JOHN PORTER, American, 7176 tons, was torpedoed in Convoy B.T.6, 12.20 S. 37.01 W. (60 miles N.E. Bahia). (One report gives the position as 12.10 S. 36.50 W.)

SS. PENRITH CASTLE reported at midday today that she had picked up 28 survivors of SS. ROGER B. TANEY (American, 7191 tons), Suez for Bahia and Paramaribo.

British SS. SANGARA, torpedoed at anchor at Accra on May 30th, 1941, and recently salvaged, and taken in tow, was safely beached in the Cameroon River this afternoon in 03° 56'50" N. 09° 34'04" E.

Mediterranean.

LIGHTNING
damaged.

The destroyer LIGHTNING sustained several casualties and holes in her side from a near miss at Bone this morning. It is hoped her side plates will be repaired by p.m. tomorrow.

SEMINOLE
(torpedoed)

British tanker SEMINOLE, torpedoed on 27th Feb., was still in tow escorted by LIDDESDALE at 1901A today in 35.58 N. 01.15 W.

Air
Operations.

Heavy bombers of the U.S.A.A.F. again attacked Naples today, bombs bursting on the moles and the dock area. 9 Middle East B.24s also attacked Naples last night. 5 Halifaxes and 5 Wellingtons last night attacked Palermo. 1 Halifax unable to locate bombed the vicinity of Messina.

Tripoli (Libya) was bombed last night by 5 Ju.88s without damage or casualties.

/Operation ...

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Operation M.H. 8. / A combined convoy of 3 store ships and 2 tankers for Malta, 7 store ships, transport NEURALIA and 1 tanker for Tripoli, Libya, left Alexandria today. 2 store ships and APHIS (gunboat) were to join the convoy off Tobruk.
- LITTORIOS. / A P/R sortie of Spezia at 1315 today showed all 3 LITTORIOS present.
- Mining. / M.T.Bs carried out a minelaying operation off Bizerta today.

America and West Indies.

Unified naval command of the Canadian Atlantic area established.

- Convoy O.N.168. / At 1940Z, HAVELOCK, escorting Convoy O.N.168, reported 2 U-Boats on the surface in 59.25 N. 38.15 W.
- Convoy U.C.1. / WESTON at 1730 reported that MURENA and BRITISH FORTITUDE (torpedoed on 23rd February in 31.10 N. 27.30 W.) both had extensive underwater damage and could maintain $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots in fair weather only, but it was intended for them to continue to Curacao with the convoy, whose speed was thereby reduced by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a knot.
- Refuelling U-Boats, proposed offensive patrols. / An American suggestion made unofficially to B.A.D. is that Allied submarines operating under British control might profitably be employed on offensive patrols in areas in which enemy refuelling submarines are known to operate, using if possible enemy homing signals to bring them on to their quarry. The U.S. Navy cannot spare any more S/Ms from the Pacific for this purpose. In reply, the Admiralty on 3rd March stated that some of our submarines will probably be used on anti U-Boat operations in the Atlantic, but for certain reasons it is unlikely to be in the manner suggested. Various alternative schemes are being studied.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Enemy
Convoy.

A convoy of 14 vessels comprising 6 destroyers, 2 medium merchantmen and 6 small unclassified ships was sighted at 0500Z in 04.30 S., 150° 45' E. on a course of 270°. About 4 hours later a shadowing Fortress unsuccessfully bombed the ships 30 miles further west. A Fortress striking force was unable to locate the convoy owing to darkness and weather.

✓ The U.S. Tanker GULFWAVE was reported torpedoed today in 22.30 S. 174.45 E.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

R.A. Northern Air Stations. Flag of Rear Admiral C.V. Robinson C.B. was hoisted in MERLIN at 0900/1st as Rear Admiral Northern Air Stations. Captain H.C. Bovell C.B., D.S.O., R.N. has assumed command of R.N. Air Station Donibristle. (R.A., N.A.S., N., 0901/1 to Admty).

Admiral Miles. My 1003/28. D day postponed further 24 hours. (Ad. Miles, 1018C/1).

23rd M.L.F. The 23rd M.L. Flotilla is permanently allocated to the Portsmouth Command. (D.D.O.D.C., 1757A/1).

P.511 (1) S.7 reports that today only 5 submarines are available for A/S training out of a total of 12. Two of those at present out of action should be available again about 8th March. (2) It is suggested that P.511, at present allocated to Plymouth command should be returned temporarily to seventh flotilla until situation improves. (F.O.S., 1917A/1 to Admty).

Movements

S/M movements. My 1741/28 para. (F). After 09° 00' W. amend to read. To R/V in 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 1200/2. TAKU will probably proceed on surface after crossing 08° W. (F.O.S., 1037A/1 to Admty).

Intend to sail P.57 escorted by Rescue M.L. 549 at 0700A/3 to Dundee, E.T.A. 1730. (Capt. S.6., 1205A/1).

Sailed TRIDENT escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with Capt. (S) 3, 1421A/27. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1218A/1).

C. in C. Rosyth's 1116/27. Arrived. (S.55 and S.56) (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1435/1).

My 1421/27 para. 2. Cancel all after LA CAPRICIEUSE. Substitute "to Clyde E.T.A.*0500/4, speed 15 knots". (Capt. S.3., 1603A/1) *TRIDENT.

Position of submarines at 0800A/2 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) SEANYMPH, SIMOON, SPORTSMAN, TRUCULENT, in North Norwegian waters east of 15° E.

(B) TUNA in Zones K.6 and K.5

(C) S.55 62° 32' N., 00° 46' W. probably on surface through 69° 00' N., 07° 48' E.

(D) S.56 leaves Lerwick at 1800/2 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH to 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, thence unescorted probably on the surface through 62° 01' N., 00° 38' W., and 69° 00' N. 08° 52' E.

(E) TRESPASSER, USURPER, escorted by CUTTY SARK vicinity North Channel through Minches due Scapa 1400/3rd.

/(F)...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M (F) TRIDENT escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 52° 40' N.
Movements. 05° 32' W. due 360° Round Island Scillies 7
(contd). miles at 2230/2, thence unescorted dived by
day through 49° 30' N., 09° 00' W., and 49° 30' N.
12° 26' W.
(G) TAKU 49° 29' N., 07° 24' W., probably on the
surface to R/V in 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 1200/2nd with
ELLESMERE for escort to Plymouth.
(H) BARB in Zones K.505 and K.501 south of 44° 25' N.
(J) REGENT off Vigo.
(F.O.S., 1707A/1 and 2349A/1 to Admty).
S.55 left Lerwick 1802A/1st escorted to 090° Muckle
Flugga 10 miles, thence unescorted and on the surface at C.O's
discretion by route "Grey" to 071° 30' N., 015° 00' E. thence
to North Russia Port as ordered by Russian Authorities.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1817A/1).
Intend sailing S.56 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH 1800A/2nd
for (A) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, passing through 089°
Out Skerries 5 miles, E.T.A. 0400A/3rd.
(2) On arrival at (A) S.56 proceeds in accordance with F.O.S.
S/M 04393/166.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1821A/1 to A.C.O.S.)
Cancel my 1744/28 and 1459/1st.
(2) ELLESMERE is to be detached from P.W.301 to R/V TAKU at
1200/2nd in 180° Bishop Rock 10 and escort her to Plymouth
passing through position 180° Lizard Head 3 then by standard
route. TAKU will approach R/V from westward.
(3) Report at 1400 second if not met. Attention is called to
P.C.W.O.106.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1827A/11 to GOATHLAND).
Sailed TRESPASSER and USURPER escorted by CUTTY SARK in
accordance with Capt. (S) 3, 1026A/27.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2358A/1).

FURIOUS FURIOUS is badly in need of flying and gunnery
training.
Suggest sailing her to Clyde on 6th March for
one week approx.
(V.A.2., 1301A/1 to C. in C. H.F.)
Your 1301/1st approved.
(2) FURIOUS can be sailed 4th March or later at your discretion.
(C. in C. H.F., 2103A/1 to V.A.2).

Operations.

Interception of ships Following A/C co-operation from first light
from Norway. today. Details.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0019A/1 to ST. ALBANS,
CHIDDINGFOLD, STREPHON)
Ship reported in 056° 40' N., 002° 48' E.
at 0926/1.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1015A/1 to ST. ALBANS).
M.S. Reported by A/C in 056° 40' N., 002° 48' E. at
0926, steering West. Proceed with moderate despatch to
reinforce ST. ALBANS keeping to westward of Q.Z.X.398. Estimated
position at 1600, 056° 40' N. 000° 43' E. but any further
information will be signalled.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1140A/1 to CHIDDINGFOLD).

/If...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception of Ships from Norway. (contd). If not in contact with merchant ship by dark (1) ST. ALBANS is to return to Aberdeen to arrive at 0630/2 and refuel with despatch. (2) CHIDDINGFOLD is to patrol longitude 000° 00' W. 194° 40' latitude of 056° 00' N., and 056° 40' N. leaving northern-most end of patrol at daylight and proceed to position Z remaining in that vicinity until further directions. (3) On reaching patrol-line CHIDDINGFOLD to report percentage of fuel remaining at 0800/2.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1830A/1 to ST. ALBANS, CHIDDINGFOLD)
My 1830/1st. 8 Hampden A/C with 3 Beaufighter escort will carry out search of area tomorrow. Aircraft taking off 1st light.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2125A/1 to CHIDDINGFOLD, ST. ALBANS).
Following from ST. ALBANS. I am being attacked by enemy aircraft in 56° 20' N., 01° 12' E. 272° 20.
(Lyness W/T, 1410/1 to Aberdeen W/T).
My 1140/1st. Merchant ship last reported 056° 40' N., 002° 48' E. stopped after bombing attack. Proceed to vicinity this position and search until dark.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1535A/1 to CHIDDINGFOLD, ST. ALBANS).
My 1535/1. Position doubtful and may be about 9 miles further to North. Ship low in water, crew in boats. ST. ALBANS reported by another A/C to be in 056° 38' N., 002° 11' E. at 1215, but position may not be reliable.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1735A/1 to ST. ALBANS, CHIDDINGFOLD).

Coastal Patrols. My 1200A/28. "Match" returned.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0750A/1)
1. Intend M.L. 205 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 521 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W., and 02° 05' W.
2. Leave Portland at 0845 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. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1036A/1).
M.G.Bs. 6 and 8 are to be sailed to patrol on a line joining position (D) 210° Eddystone 5 miles (E) 049° 58' 30" N. 004° 29' 00" W.
2. M.G.Bs. to be on patrol by 2000/1st and to leave at 0700/2nd returning to Dartmouth.
3. Codeword "Scent".
6. M.G.Bs. are not to proceed south of line connecting 180 Start point 10 miles to 180 Lizard Head 10 miles unless in pursuit of the enemy of convoy instructions to do so.
7. Object to protect convoy P.W.301 against E-boats attack and to destroy any enemy surface craft encountered.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1549A/1 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

P.511 P.511 and NORTHCOATES exercising with A/C off Plymouth in area C between 1000/1 and 0200/2. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1143A/1).
My 1143/1. P.511 and NORTHCOATES move to vicinity Area A at 1800/1, remaining there until 0200/2. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1625A/1).

Trials with INDOMITABLE on 19th March. Approval given for trials to take place with INDOMITABLE to investigate night ship control of Beaufighter fitted A.1. H.L.VIII (A.O.305 1st IK). Trials are due to start 19th March, aircraft to operate from Ballyhalbert. (H.Q., F.C., 1915A/1 to R.A.F., N.I.)

Battle Fleet Exercises. Your 1206/28. No Admiralty objection. (D.O.D. H., 1924A/1 to V.A.2).

Allied Air Activity.

Cherbourg - Havre Patrols. Following from A.D.I. Request permission reduce frequency Cherbourg - Le Havre routine. These Ports have been daily commitments since 22.5.42. Not considered results obtained justify task especially in view heavy commitments elsewhere. (H.Q.C.C., 1550/1 to Admty).

St. Nazaire, bombed. On night 28th - 1st, 407 A/C attacked St. Nazaire, dropping approx. 520 tons of H.E. (including a number of 8000 lb) and 585 tons of I.B. in $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. Crews are unanimous that an extremely heavy attack was concentrated round the aiming points. By the end of the attack, fierce fires had taken a good hold. Pilots describe the town as looking like "a pot of boiling metal" "a bubbling mass of red fire" and the glow was visible for nearly 100 miles on the return journey. Several large explosions were observed, including a particularly impressive one at approx. 2118 hrs. At 2148 hrs. another violent explosion occurred accompanied by an enormous sheet of flame, followed by a series of smaller explosions. Dense columns of black smoke billowed up to 16,000 ft. (H.Q.B.C., 1600A/1).

Convoy P.W.301. Sunderland aircraft will carry out an anti E-boat patrol from 2000/1st till dawn/2nd between position (A) 186° Start Point 13 miles. (B) 192° Start Point 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles (C) 207° Start Point 35 (D) 192° Start Point 38. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1659A/1 to Escort Convoy P.W.301).

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.PORT
WYNDHAM
attacked.

Following from PORT WYNDHAM: Attacked by German plane in 44.22 N. 19.40 W. (Hialeak Florida Radio, No T.O.O./1st Recd. 1011 G.M.T./1).
Following received. PORT WYNDHAM 44.16 N. 19.56 W. bombed.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1041/1 to Admty).

Murmansk
bombed.
ANDRE MARTI
and MOSSOVIET
damaged.

Raids 1300C until 2030C Feb. 28th mostly on ships at anchor. Russian ships ANDRE MARTI and MOSSOVIET hit lying at timber quay. Casualties in both ships. Dockyard extent of damage not known yet. As far as is known no British or American damage or casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 1046A/1 to Admty.)

Codeword
"Rats".

In future any ship off the Coast between Plymouth and Portland who sights low flying hostile or doubtful aircraft is immediately to broadcast by W/T the word "Rats" followed by request fighter escort or 2 letters denoting approx. magnetic course of aircraft.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1919A/1 to Ships).

Mining.Operation
N.L.78.

Operation N.L.78 part 1. (a) 050° 38' 00" N., 001° 30' 09" E, extending 090° for 12 cables. (b) M.L. 104, 210, 213, 128, 102, and 107. (c) 2319 - 2329/28th.
Part.2 (a) 050° 38' 24" N., 001° 31' 48" E. extending 048° for 10 cables. (b) M.T.B.38, 221, 35, and 24. (c) 2330 - 2336/28th.
(V.A. Dover, 1045A/1 to Admty).

Q.L.1 A.

Prepare to carry out operation Q.L. 1 (A) with 51st M.L. Flotilla on first suitable night. Lay is to be irregular in direction either 027° or 110° from charted position of Hook of Holland Whistle Buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 1204A/1 to BEEHIVE).

Clearance of
Q.Z.X. 871.

Your 2122/26. (1) 9th M/S Flotilla less BANGOR is to leave Harwich so as to arrive Humber before dark 5th.
(2) 9th M/S F. is to clear A.M. Q.Z.X. 871 using Humber as base and anchor at Bridlington at night as necessary.
(C. in C. Nore, 1644A/1 to M/S 9).

/Sweep...

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Sweep off Iona. Due to unfavourable weather the 16th M/S F. has been unable to make a clearance sweep of Skerryvore area. One division of 16th has already sailed on escort duty and the 2nd Division is required to work up and prepare to sail on March 13th approx, if it is considered essential to clear this area request other Fleet sweepers may be loaned to W.A. or that 16th M/S Flotilla may again be utilised on their return for escort duty.
(C. in C. W.A., 1820A/1 to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Craft sighted by TAKU. Your 0741A/1st. These vessels conform in same particulars. One only observed closely and was of 30 tons, hull cream or white, funnel red and blue bands. No name painted on them but forward on waterline, and difficult to distinguish for certain, was F.61 07 VIGO 7. Vessels steering North and were not fishing. (TAKU, 1015A/1 to C. in C. Plymouth).

U-boats.

U-boats reported. D/F bearings at 1010Z and 1017Z indicate U-boats in vicinity of either or both convoys. (D.D.I.C., 1209A/1 to Escorts H.X. 227, and O.N.168).
A.M.1209/1. Five further transmissions from vicinity of convoys indicate that either or both are being shadowed. (D.D.I.C., 1355A/1 to H.X. 227 and O.N.168).

U-boat attacked. Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Estimate no hits. (A/C T7KD 1250/1 to 19 Group). Submarine has dived. (A/C T7KD 1308/1 to 19 Group). Am over enemy S/M in 47° 00' N. 18° 00' W. (A/C T7KD 1320/1 to 19 Group).

Casualties & Defects.

SEA ROVER Sailed Tug ABEILLE 20 and tow on passage to Tyne. (N.C.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 0911A/1).

Unknown Ship. Automatic S O S bearing 125° from Burnham on Sea Radio. (Burnham 1008G.M.T./1) (N.F. Radio 1109/1). (C. in C. Portsmouth 1112/1) (Port Patrick 1115/1) (Humber Radio, 1118A/1).

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- DASHER Your 1716/28. DASHER arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1135A/1 to A.C.O.S.)
- CHARLESTOWN. My 1727/28. Intend to sail CHARLESTOWN to arrive Sleet Boom 1800/1 for onward routing to Scapa. Capstan engine stripped and adjusted. Engine not strong enough for work but will just function.
(WESTERN ISLES, 1233/1 to R.A.M.)
- WELLS Have developed condenser trouble and maximum 18 knots. E.T.A. 62 A Buoy at 2100/1st.
(WELLS, 1545A/1 to MENESTHEUS).
- ABRAHAM
BALDWIN. Keep lookout for ABRAHAM BALDWIN in distress anchored in 10 fathoms just South of Reykjanes lights. If sighted one of the escort is to be detailed to stand by her until arrival of rescue tug HORSIA.
(A.C.I.C., 1843A/1 to BLACKFLY).
Reykjavik departure HORSIA at 1940 to assist ABRAHAM BALDWIN in distress in vicinity of Reykjanes.
(A.C.I.C., 1951A/1).
- H.H. ROGERS, 50° N. 26° W. thence 53° N. , 19° W. on Route
EMPIRE to destination and look out for abandoned vessels
TRADER. in these areas.
(C. in C. W.A., 2021Z/1 to ASSINIBOINE).
My P.C.S. at 1030Z/2nd will be 049° 17' N.
028° 41' W, 045° 11 knots.
(CLEMATIS, 2045A/1).
- 050° CLEMATIS 2045A/1st (?due) meet at 1330Z/2nd. My P.C.S.
36' 023° 31' 252° 13 knots.
(DIANELLA, 2330A/1 to C. in C. W.A., CLEMATIS).

Shipping & Convoys.

- K.M.F.10 (B) Sailed my 1036/26.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0001A/1).
Sailed WHITEHALL escorting DUCHESS OF YORK in accordance with my 1006A/27. My 1008A/27, also refers.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1800A/1).
Sailed Convoy as in A.M. 1716A/21. Cdre. in DURBAN
CASTLE, Vice Cdre. STAFFORDSHIRE, Rear Cdre. DUCHESS OF YORK.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2336A/1).
Following sailed at 2330/1st. P.8, P.32, P.55, P.26,
P.50.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 2345A/1).

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R.U.63 CELEROL. CELEROL rejoined. My P.C.S. 285° 39 miles from (C), 122° 7½. (STAFNES, 0845A/1).

R.A.53 My 1100A/28. Amend to read 24 hours late. (VIVACIOUS, 0928A/1 to A.C.I.C.) PYTCHLEY with MEYNELL, LEDBURY proceed passing Switha 0700A/2nd to arrive Akureyri in daylight Fourth. Route through 062° 20' N., 005° 30' W, 066° 10' N., 011° 58' W, thence via North coast of Iceland.
2. On arrival complete and await further orders.
3. VIVACIOUS will arrive Akureyri 4th March from West. (R.A.D., H.F., 1210A/1).

Sailed VIVACIOUS to Hvalfiord and Akureyri. Hvalfiord 1200A/3rd.

(R.A.D. H.F., 1215A/1 to A.C.I.C.)

F.E. Intend proceeding to cover R.A.53 in KING GEORGE V with HOWE, GLASGOW, ONSLAUGHT, OFFA, ICARUS, MUSKETEER, PIORUN, FORESTER, passing Hrisey Island at 0730N/2nd.

(2) After reaching covering position Battle Fleet will keep north of convoy route and will leave a position approx. 120 miles ahead of convoy when convoy crosses longitude 14° E.

(3) Intend Home Fleet to return to Scapa.

(4) My 0029/22nd ?. Unless otherwise ordered relief screen of 4 destroyers is to R/V at 0800A/6th March in 067° 24' N., 010° 01' W. Battle Fleet approach course 220°

(5) F.E. para. 10 (D). Local escort will be at Akureyri.

(C. in C. H.F., 1609A/1 to A.I.G. 47).

My 2113/28. For ICARUS read METEOR in para. 1 and 4. Para. 3 R.A.D. H.F., is requested sail 1 other destroyer to this R/V.

(2) METEOR will probably require docking on arrival. E.T.A. 1800A/3.

(C. in C. H.F., 1701A/1 and 1801A/1).

R.A.53. Sailed from Toros Island 1300A/1 for Loch Ewe. Codeword "Numeral". S.O.A. 7 knots. Routed as in C. in C. H.F. 1928/8.

2. British ships for U.K. latest TEMPLE ARCH, DAN Y BRYN, OCEAN FAITH, SAN CIPRIANO, OLIGARCH, EMPIRE SNOW, EMPIRE EMERALD, EMPIRE ARCHER, EMPIRE CLARION, EMPIRE TRISTRAM.

3. American ships for U.K. GULF WING, RICHARD BASSET, WEST GOTOMSKA. American ships for U.S.A. J.L.M. CURRY, RICHARD BLAND, OREMAR, EXECUTIVE, VERMONT, YORKMAR, J.H.B. LATROBE, JEFFERSON MYERS, PUERTO RICAN, CHESTER VALLEY, RALPH W. EMERSON, DELSUD, NICOLAS GILMAN, CORNELIUS HARNETT, CALOBRE (Pan.), EL ORIENTE (Pan.) U.S.S.R. MOSSOVIET.

6. Ocean escort. SCYLLA, MILNE, OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT, OBDURATE, ORWELL, FAULKNER, FURY, ECLIPSE, INGLEFIELD, INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, BOADICEA, POPPY, CAMELLIA, BERGAMOT, LOTUS, STARWORT, ORKAN, ST. ELSTAN, NORTHERN PRIDE.

(N.C.S.O. Murmansk, 1959A/1 to Admty).

/TJALDUR...

War Diary.1.3.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

TJALDUR Intend sailing at 1400/3rd TJALDUR (K.B.) for Lerwick with troops escorted by FORFEIT. Routed my 1535/19th Jan. S.O.A. 9 knots. E.T.A. Lerwick, 1400/4. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1015/1).

K.M.S.10 My 1557A/27. Route for TYNEDALE leaving Plymouth 2300/1st through (X) 180° Bishop Rock 5. (Y) 049° 30' N., 009° 00' W. (Z) 048° 39' N., 010° 31' W. to R/V in 042° 01' N., 013° 31' W. at 0800/7th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1059A/1 to C. in C. W.A., Escorts K.M.S.10, ST. CROIX). My 1557/27. and my 1059/1st. Sailed TYNEDALE. S.O.A. until R/V 12 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2305A/1).

O.N.S.167 Preliminary report on attack on O.N.S. 167 21st H.H. ROGERS February 1943. Position 50° 30' N., 24° 38' W. and ROSARIO, Night ?calm overcast visibility good. Number 11 torpedoes on ROSARIO and number 13 H.H. ROGERS torpedoes port 21st February. side at 2045Z. No H/F D/F bearing prior to attack. U-boat probably submerged ahead of convoy before dark. Detected by R.D.F. by ACONIT in position R attempting to escape on surface. Forced to dive with star shell and attacked with one pattern. Contact lost. U-boat surfaced at about 0230Z and started transmitting on series one and gaining bearing. At 0410Z HARVESTER ran down close ground wave bearing on F.H.4 R.D.F. contact obtained and U-boat sighted. 3 patterns dropped in 17 minutes 25 depth charges. First attack considered accurate. Large air bubble no other evidence. Operation observant with no result. Convoy was not reported again. (HARVESTER, 1030Z/1 to C. in C. W.A.)

EMPIRE My 1005/1st. Detach MELBREAK forthwith at best FLETCHER. speed to D.1. Buoy. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1131A/1 to GOATHLAND). Intend to sail at 1500/1st EMPIRE FLETCHER (T) for Milford Haven for onward routing to New York for orders to R/V with MELBREAK at 1600/1st at D 1 buoy, thence proceeding in company to destination. Speed 11 knots. E.T.A., 0800/2nd. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1257A/1). My 1131/1. Cancel my 1005/1. N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail Tanker EMPIRE FLETCHER to R/V MELBREAK at D 1 buoy at 1600/1. (2) MELBREAK is to escort tanker to Milford Haven. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1331A/1).

Navigation In order to reduce the risk of collision, all Lights. convoys and all H.M. Ships should normally burn navigation lights as follows when in the following areas. Details. (D.T.D., 1325A/1).

/ROTA...

War Diary.

1.3.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

ROTA Sailed independently 1545/1 from Methil for Reykjavik. Details.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1406/1).

R.U.64 The inclusion of the stragglers from H.X.227 in this convoy may make a reinforcement of escort desirable.
(ii) CAMPION and MALLOW will be available to sail from Liverpool noon 4th to reinforce.
(iii) Request you will delay sailing of R.U. 64 to permit reinforcement to arrive Reykjavik, if number of ships presented for inclusion necessitates this.
(iv) Alternatively CAMPION and MALLOW can reinforce at an ocean R/V.
(C. in C. W.A., 1451A/1 to A.C.I.C.)

Assembly Port for Bristol Channel ships. My 2322A/21 Feb. The establishment of a convoy Assembly Port in the Barry Roads is considered to be impracticable without the provision of considerable facilities, and even then undesirable on account of the strong tides, prevalence of fog, and exposed anchorage.
2. Because of its facilities, and established organisations, Milford Haven is thought to be the best Convoy Assembly Port for the Bristol Channel ships. In the unlikely event of Operational requirements necessitating the temporary abandonment of Trade Convoys assembling at Milford Haven, it is practicable to make use of either Fishguard or Belfast Loch in lieu.
3. There does not appear to be any special difficulty in sailing a convoy from Milford Haven in the dark, except in bad weather on the ebb tide. However, in the summer months sailing in the dark should rarely be necessary.
4. It is desirable to keep Barry Roads as free from shipping at anchor as possible in order to minimise the risk of collision when B.B. convoys enter the Roads in darkness or fog.
5. In view of the above it is proposed that -
(a) Ships should sail independently from their loading ports direct to Milford Haven.
(b) The Bristol Channel portion of O.N. convoys should sail direct from Milford Haven to R/V with the Liverpool portion, night sailing from Milford Haven being avoided as far as possible especially on the ebb tide, and
(c) Fishguard should be used in emergency if Milford Haven is temporarily closed due to mines and Belfast be used only if for any reason Milford Haven has to be abandoned as a Convoy Assembly port for a considerable period.
6. If you concur it is thought that no conference will be necessary.
(D.T.D., 1608A/1 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Stationing...

War Diary.

1.3.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Stationing of Tankers. Ref. C.B.04024 (41), article 73, tankers fitted for oiling escorts at sea are, whenever possible, to be stationed as follows:-
(a) If only one is present, immediately astern of the Commodore's Ship.
(b) If more than one present, one should be stationed immediately astern of the Commodore's ship and the others immediately astern of leading Ships of adjacent columns.
(D.T.D., 1629A/1).

J.W. 54, Intend following movements. 15th March,
R.A. 54. BELFAST, CLASGOW leaving Scapa for Hvalfiord.
(2) 17th March. C.S.1 in KENT with BERWICK leaving Hvalfiord for Scapa.
(3) Cruiser cover for J.W.54 - R.A.54 will be provided by C.S.1 in KENT with BERMUDA, JAMAICA (?SHEFFIELD). CUMBERLAND will proceed with Battle Fleet covering force.
(C. in C. H.F., 1721A/1 to Admty).

EMPIRE F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail SS.
MAIDEN. EMPIRE MAIDEN to Milford Haven with despatch to arrive as early as possible on 3rd March.
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to include this ship in the special convoy of coastal craft to Gibraltar which sails from Milford 4th March.
A.M. 1323/21 refers.
(D.O.D. H., 2120A/1).

K.M.F.10 B. My 1006A/28. Sailed escorted by VIDETTE.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2338A/1).

War Diary1.3.1943.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic.

Movements

Arrival H.M. Trawlers KING SOL, TANGO, FOXTROT, STELLA CARINA, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 0747A/1 to Admty.)

Convoy O.T.2.

4 tankers escorted by C.T.G.21.5 consisting of ROPER and DECATUR estimated 0800A 3 032 degs. 14' north 036 degs. 16' west steer N.N.W.
(Q) 034 degs. 35' north 009 degs. 10' west thence
(R) 033 degs. 58' north 008 degs. 07' west thence
Gibraltar S. of A. 13.8 knots.
C.T.U.26.7.2. (?provide) daylight air cover from 0800 (A) 3 to 35 N (?W 49). C.T.U.26.7.1. provides 2 P.C meet convoy at (R) at (?1000A) 4 and escort SEAKAY to Casablanca. Gibraltar pass to C.T.G. 21.5.
(S.N.O.C.A., 0855/1 to C.T.U.26.7.1. C.T.U. 26.7.2. C.T.U. 26.7.3. repeated Air Headquarters Gibraltar C.T.G. 21.5 (Escort of Convoy O.T.-2))

NYASSA

ARFAR 87 for MEW from Conband, Gibraltar, reference Admiralty's 1247B/26/7/41, stop Portuguese NYASSA. (Conband, Gibraltar, 0910/1 to Admty.)
ARFAR 88 for M.E.W. from C.C.S.O. Gibraltar my 1038
27 Feb. Portuguese NYASSA all located baggage of first and second class passengers examined.
2. All baggage of suspect passengers examined. Results as follows.
6. Search of crew held up by bunkering. (S.O.I. Gib., 1544A/1 to Admty.)

Italian
MAURO CROCE

Sailed Barcelona p.m. Feb. 27th from Valencia. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 0942A/1 to S.O.(I) Algiers, S.O.(I) Malta).

Dispositions

Situation 1959A/1st.
K.M.F.10 (A), W.S.27 fleet unit EGRET 037 degs. 59' 011 degs. 48' through 036 degs. 02' 010 degs. 01' at 1000/2nd whence W.S.27 fleet unit proceeding 188 degs. 13 and K.M.F.10 (A) EGRET proceeding 091 degs. 12.9. (See amendment 1836A/1).
(2) URSULA 035 degs. 53' 006 degs. 15' through 036 degs. 37' 007 degs. 24' at 0700/2nd thence (?224 degs.) on surface 6½ to 0700/2nd thence diving by day 102 miles per day.
(3) REGENT patrol off Vigo 42.30 09.15.
(4) One P C 1 Merchant Ship 32.51 09.21 through 31.52 10.06 and 30.31 10.11 to Agadir E.T.A. 1230/2nd as instructed (?5) XK 2 VANOC 36.23 09.25 through 36.30 10.01 thence 310 6.
(6) MONTE NARANCO (under armed guard) 35.49 07.40 through QKA 87 to Gibraltar 6.
(7) LADY HOGARTH 2 merchant ships 229 Tarifa 9 through QKA 87 and 35.56 06.20 to Huelva one merchant ship part company thence coastwise to St. Vincent 8.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1027A/1 to A.I.G. 63).

War Diary.1.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. My 1027A 1st para (1) amend P.C. and S. to read -
(Contd.) 37.32 12.23 through 35.01 12.01 where K.M.F. part
company to 35.01 10.01 thence 076° 13. W.S. 27
proceeding 170° 13. Add new para. (8). LORD HOTHAM
sailing 0900/2nd through Q.K.A. 87 thence 295° 9.
(F.O.Gibraltar 1836A/1 to A.I.G. 63.)

Situation at 2002A/1.

ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM, LADY DENISON PENDER (?33).01 14.21 to carry
out cable operations in (?25). 24 16.09 9.

2. R.S. 2 SPEEDWELL.

(D) 28.08 13.42 through (?26). 49 14.24 thence to (?219°) 5.4

4. W.S.27 fleet unit proceeding 188° 13, and K.M.F. 10B proceeding
091° 12.9. French ship SERGEANT GOUARNE S/M LA PERLE cable ship
ARAGO 28.23 12.41 through 28.23 11.35 thence northbound coastwise 6½

5. G.U.F. 5, C.T.F. 36, 030° 04' 019° 41' through 029° 01' 025°
01' thence 253° 13½.

7. One P.C. one M/S 032° 51' 009° 21' through 031° 52' 010° 06'
and 030° 31' 010° 11' to (?Bilbao) E.T.A. 1230/2nd.

(F.O.Gibraltar 1104A/1 to A.I.G. 55.)

REGEJA R.O. Bilbao's 1713/22nd (re German Ore Carrying
(German.) Vessel.)
REGEJA loaded 300 tons Fluor Spar at Gijon for
Bayonne.
(N.A.Madrid 1305/1 to Admty.)

Axis Arrival 28th Italian (?MAURO CROCE) Genoa in
Shipping. ballast, arrival 1st TOM Marseilles in ballast.
(Valencia 1333/1 to Admty.)

G.U.S.4. Your 1210A/22 and S.N.O. Casablanca Area's 1853/22
do not mention ships in my 1945A/24 with the ex-
ception of THOMAS STONE.

2. Admiralty received Cmdre. Algiers 1844/27 but
has no information of movements beyond Gibraltar.

3. Did following ships join convoy?

SAHALE, JAMES MONROE, THOMAS PINKNEY, BEALANTA, REVERDY JOHNSON
and ANDREW HAMILTON.

(D.T.D. 1528A/1 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med.

S.N.O. Casablanca Area, Connav.)

UNA. My 1652 not to all addressees, UNA arriving Gibraltar
10th March for passage to U.K.
(Capt. S.8 1648A/1 to F.O.(S) (R) Admty. C. in C.Med.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

UNSHAKEN. Intend sailing P.54 (UNSHAKEN) p.m. March 3rd for U.K.
2. UNSHAKEN pass through T. 35.49 96.06½ at
1845/3rd March. U. 35.53 06.15 at 2000/3rd
V. 36.37 07.24, 0700/4th. W. 36.51 09.13 0500/5th
C. 42.59 12.26 0330/9th.
Shift wireless watch at 0330/9th thence as ordered
by F.O.S.

War Diary

1.3.1943.

MondayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic.

UNSHAKEN (3) W/T watch. (4) Painted dark blue.
 (contd.) (5) F.O.S. 1149 8th Jan. 1942.
 (a) 4 mark 8
 (b) 6½ knots (102 miles day)
 (c) ready for patrol 100% fuel.
 (d) (1) Nil (2) 3.
 (F.O. Gibraltar, 1901A/1, to Admty., etc.)
 T.C.A.O.16 (A) Total (B) P.54 (C) 1845/3 March 35.49
 06.06½, 20 00/3 35.53 06.15 0700/4, 36.37 07.24. (D) 6½ knots.
 (2) T.C.A.O.16. (A) Submerged (B) P.54 (C) 0700/4 36.37
 07.24, 0500/5, 36.51 09.13, 0330/9, 42.59 12.26. (D) 6½ knots
 all times zone minus one, positions north and west.
 (F.O., Gibraltar 1904/1 to R.A.F. Gibraltar H.Q.C.C.)
 (R) Admiralty F.O.S.)

G.U.S.4. Inconclusive D/F bearings on 12260 kc/s at 1427Z
 U.G.S.5A. and 1454Z indicate U-boat may have reported either
 U/B. convoy.
 (D.D.I.C. 1950A/1 to Escorts G.U.S.4 Escorts U.G.S.5A.)

MALAYA A/C Am being shadowed by one F.W. P.C. and S. 038 degs.
 24' North, 012 degs. 14' West, 142 degs, 13.
 QUADRANT has joined. Weather.
 (MALAYA 2001A/1 to F.O.C. Gibraltar).

LIVADIA Report, graded B.3, that German ship LIVADIA will
 complete loading at Bilbao on March 2nd.
 (D.D.I.C. 2131A/1 to C. in C. Plymouth 381.
 F.O.S. H.Q.C.C.)

W.S. 27 German aircraft reported a convoy West of Portugal
 X.K.3. at 1920/1.
 Enemy A/C. (D.D.I.C. 2135A/1 to Escorts of W.S 27 Escorts of X.K 2
 Repeated F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, etc.,

WOLVERINE E.T.A. Seaward End Q.K.A 92 0830A/2nd. Requiring 310
 tons oil fuel.
 (WOLVERINE, 2201A/1 to N.O.I.C. Casablanca, (R) F.O.C.
 Gibraltar, MALAYA, QUEENBOROUGH.)

Mines Your 1742A/28. (A) 1447/26 Feb. (B) Q.LL. ALBACORE,
 Gibraltar CIRCE, ESPIEGLE. (C) 400 yards. (D) ESPIEGLE
 35 degs 56.5 north 06 degs 01.4 west, 270 degs 10 knots.
 (E) 1½ cables. Green 150°. (F) On Pulbe blue to
 starboard. (G) and (H) No. (I) and (J) Nil.
 (Remainder of signal undecypherable).
 (F.O. Gibraltar 2232/1 to Admty.)

QUEENBOROUGH. Request arrangements for ship to fuel 360 tons as
 quickly as possible on arrival 0700Z/2nd March.
 (QUEENBOROUGH, 2359A/1 to S.B.N.O. Casablanca.)

War Diary

1.3.1943.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic.

Movements Arrived 0756Z 1st ^{TO} SCIRMWRACK.
(N.O.I.C. East London 0758Z/1 to Admty., etc.)

BERGENSFJORD Intend sailing BERGENSFJORD (Cmdre.) LEOPOLDVILLE
LEOPOLDVILLE 1130Z/2nd March Freetown 1730/6 March through.
ORBITA (To (E) 006 degs. North 002 degs. 40' East.
join W.S.27) (F) 005 degs. 06' North 36' West.
(X) 004 degs. 51' 001 degs. 37'.
(O) 003 degs. 15' 008 degs.
(V) 007 degs. 38' 014 degs. 30'. stragglers.
(S) 002 degs. 40' 007 degs. 46' (T) 004 degs. 010 degs.
(R) 007 degs. 38' 014 degs. 30'.

S. of A. 12.5 knots. Escort BELLWORT (S.O.) COMMANDANT
DROGOU. ORBITA from Takoradi to R/V at position (corrupt group)
004 degs. 51' North 001 degs. 37' West at 1230Z/3. March.
Wireless Call Sign G.S.30.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 0802Z/1, 1031Z/1 to N.O.I.C. W. Africa
(R) Admty., etc.)

Convoy N.C.5. FRITILLARY, NORTHERN DAWN, sailed 0800 1st
escorting convoy N C 5 to Saldanha Bay E.T.A.
1400 4th.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 0803C/1, 0807C/1 to
C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty. N.C.S.O. Saldanha Bay).

S.T.57 Departure 0819/28th Feb. CORINTHIAN, SARABANDE
M/L 305, 271, escorting S.T.57.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 0851Z/1 to Admiralty, N.O.I.C.
Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos.)

Dispositions BIRMINGHAM, CERES, RESOURCE, RELENTLESS, BLACKMOOR,
CATTERICK, CARNATIC, COMMANDANT DUBOC, FREESIA with
W.S.26 30.20 south 32.05 east to 32° south 36°
(?19) 12 knots. (? NORMAN) HERO, GENISTA with (?D)
C 11, 34.55 south 21.30 east to Capetown 8 knots
FRITILLARY, NORTHERN DAWN with N.C 5 off Walvis
Bay to Saldanha Bay 8 knots. DRANGEY 21.50 south
(? 12). 30 east to Walvis Bay 9 knots.
(C. in C. S.A., 1102C/1 to A.I.G. 125)

Situation at 2005Z/1.
BRIDGEWATER, HYDRANGEA, CROCUS, INKPEN, DUNCTON, FANDANGO
with S.R.2, 21.21 18.28 to 23.01 18.01 thence 040 degs. 7.
PELICAN, ROTHER SPEY, SENNEN, BURDOCK, with O.S., 14.20,
18.03 to 13.57 18.20 thence 158 degs. 8½.
WEAR escorting about 14.21 17.57 to Bathurst 8½.
LA GRANDIERE escorting French submarines LA VESTALE,
ANTIOPE 14.48 17.35 to 15.46 (?16). 39 thence (?004 degs.)
9½.
(?DU)NKERY, 12.56 18.36 to 10.01 (?18) 00 thence Freetown
(?10).
BIRDLIP, BUTSER with R.S.1 (Y) 11.50 17.21 to 10.00
16.59 thence Freetown 8.

/ADMIRAL...

War Diary1.3.1943.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic.Dispositions
(contd.)ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ escorting 13.07 17.30
356° 7.French sloops M/S GAZELLE, LA GRACIEUSE 1 M.L.
escorting, 08.57 14.54 314° 9.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1342Z/1 to A.I.G.149).French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT BORY one M.L.
escorting about 07.34 14.19 to 07.38 14.30 thence Freetown 6.
SARABANDE, RUMBA, CORINTHIAN 2 M.L. with S T 57, 05. (?40)
11.05 123 degs. 9. PETUNIA escorting about 07.40 14.30 to
Freetown 9. Situation at 2000L/1st. THYME, PICT escorting
03.56 13.26 290 degs. 9. CYCLAMEN about 01.52 08.54 east to
Boma 12.

(R.A.W.A. 1350Z/1).

EMPIRE FLINT

Owing to bad W/T communication between Freetown
and Marshall information of sailing of EMPIRE
FLINT was not received in time to comply with
Admiralty message 1950A/19 para. 2.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1141Z/1 to Admty.)French
RearmamentLists referred to in your 2321Z/27 Feb.* were
forwarded by Adm. Glassfurd as enclosures to
his letter of Dec. 31st 1942 addressed to
Combined Chiefs of Staff. In this letter he
refers to despatch Glassfurd to Opnav 291525
Dec. 1942.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1145Z/1 to B.A.D.)

*(Re no trace of lists of major requirements
for rearmament of French ships).

ROGER B. TANEY

Following received from V J 4 I D (PENRITH
CASTLE). G 53 H picked up 28 survivors ex
SS ROGER B. TANEY.
(Burnham Radio 1210/1 to Admiralty pass to
Connav, C. in C. W.A. (Passing action being
taken by W.R.))

W.S.26

Sailed convoy W.S 26 routed as in N.C.S.O.
Durban's 1433/1st.2. Shift W/T organisation to group N.U.H 1415
Z/4th. C. in C.E.F. is requested instruct

escort when to shift to group V.

3. Ocean escort.

(A) BIRMINGHAM for Kilindini when relieved by C. in C.E.F.

(B) RESOURCE for Kilindini from vicinity of position W.

(C) CERES and (D) CARNATIC for Diego Suarez.

(E) COMMANDANT DUBOC, for Tamatave.

4. Local A/S escort to position S, RELENTLESS, CATTERICK,
BLACKMOOR, JASMINE, FREESIA and NIGELLA.

(N.O.I.C. Durban 1415Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

My 1415Z/1, amend T.O.O. to read 1451Z/1.

(N.O.I.C. Durban 2230C/5 to Admty. etc.)

/Sailing ...

War Diary1.3.1943.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic.

W.S.26. Sailing telegram. (i) WS.26A. to Aden, WS.26B
(contd.) to Bombay. (ii) (?12 or 21) 30Z/1st. (iii) R/V
with Capetown section in 029° (?09') South 031°
12' East at 1400Z 1st. (iv) 11½ knots.

(v) R 032° 00' South (?036°) 00'.
S 027° 35' 041° 35'
T 027° 20' 048° 30'
U 024° 25' 051° 40'
V 013° 50' 051° 59'
W 006° 01' 047° 50'
X 003° 10' North 050° 30'
Y 011° 20' 052° 20'
Z 012° 40' 051° 20'
A 012° 02' 045° 40'

thence to Aden.

WS.26B leaves in vicinity of equator to F., 016° 30'
North 066° 20' East to Bombay. (vi) HIBISCUS, CERES and A/S
escort.

(N.C.S.O. Durban 1433Z/1 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.
C. in C. E.F., etc.)

W.S.27. Following transports sailed from United Kingdom
on 24/2 in Convoy W.S.27.:—
ALMANZORA, CAPETOWN CASTLE, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS,
STRATHMORE, STRATHAIRD, ANTENOR. (Speeds,
Destinations, Personnel on Board, etc.)

2. Following stores etc. were shipped.
3. RUYSS, SIBAJAK, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, BERGENSFJORD,
LEOPOLDVILLE and ORBITA will be sailed by F.O.C.W.A. from
Lagos to join convoy W.S.27 at sea. All vessels are for
Middle East.
4. Separate signal has been sent regarding on-carriage
of personnel for West Africa from Freetown.
5. P.S.T.O. Capetown should arrange for on-carriage of
personnel from South Africa as follows:— (details).
6. P.S.T.O. India should arrange for on-carriage from
Bombay of all personnel for Iraq and Ceylon.
7. ANTENOR will turn round in South Africa and return
to U.K.
8. CAPETOWN CASTLE, STRATHMORE and STRATHAIRD will proceed
to Middle East in first place to disembark personnel and
discharge L.C.V. and will then continue to Bombay, former
to discharge cargo and latter two to change crew, disembark
personnel and discharge cargo.
9. After discharge of L.C.V. at Suez ships' lifeboats
which are on board should be re-hoisted at davits.
(D.S.T.1532A/1 to F.O.C.W.A., etc.)

CARTHAGE,
QUALITY,
WAYLAND.

Intend to sail CARTHAGE for Kilindini at 1200C
2nd March routed A. 038 degs. 00' South 019 degs.
00' East. B. 038 degs. 00' 030 degs. 00'
C. 034 degs. 10' 037 degs. 15'. D. 025 degs.
45' 052 degs. 15'. E. 013 degs. 45' 052 degs. 00'.
F. 009 degs. 00' 049 degs. 00'.

War Diary

1.3.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic.

CARTHAGE
QUALITY
WAYLAND
(contd.)

(ii) QUALITY will escort CARTHAGE to position C and will then proceed to Durban.
(iii) WAYLAND did not sail with W.S.26 being delayed by E.R. defects which are now completed. Intend to hold this valuable but comparatively slow ship at Saldanha Bay till suitable escort is available. First opportunity probably not before departure from Capetown of C.M.40 mid. March.
My 1203 28th Feb.(N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(C. in C. S.A. 1541C/1 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban, WAYLAND, CARTHAGE)

O.S. Convoys

Request you will assume control as soon as detachment of southbound ships by Admiralty order has been effected. No "Chop" signals will be made.
O.S.43 southbound ships 'Chop' to you forthwith.
(D.T.D.1649A/1 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

LLANASHE.
(sunk 17/2)

Dutch ship TARAKAN has landed 2 survivors from LLANASHE rescued from life raft at 0730C/28 Feb., S.P. Lloyd Chief Officer, A. Hodder D.E.M.S. rating. Life raft originally contained nine members of crew. Three empty rafts also seen by TARAKAN.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1657C/1 to Admiralty (R) Com. I.C. Durban).

Movements
Pernambuco.

Departure 27th Feb. Brazilian Light Cruiser BAHIA Brazilian Minelayer CABEDELLO and Submarine Chaser C.S 2.
Arrival 28th U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI U.S. Destroyer JOUETT U.S. Destroyer BORIE U.S. Corvette COURAGE and TENACITY and Sub. Chasers P.C 575 and 592, Brazilian Sub. Chasers C.S 51 and 52.
Arrival 1st March U.S. Destroyer KEARNEY.
(R.O. Pernambuco 1701Z/1 to Admty.)

CONSBRO

Sailed 1730 Z 1st March B.D.V. CONSBRO escorted by M.L.265 E.T.A. P.M. 7th March. Through 004 degs. 38' North 002 degs. West 004 degs. 08' North 007 degs. 46' West 007 degs. (corrupt group) North 014 degs. 11' West Speed approx. 6 knots. M.L. 265. single operator periods.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1702Z/1 to Admiralty R.A. West Africa, R.N.O. Lagos.)

Blockade
Runner Patrols

Your 1840/27 (1843/27 intended)*No. A permanent scheme is under consideration.
(D.T.D. 1710A/1 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) DESPATCH).
*(re procedure for ships engaged in blockade runner patrol).

/CONSBRO...

1.3.1943.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic.

CONSBRO Sailed 1730/1st March B.D.V. CONSBRO escorted by M.L.265 Freetown E.T.A. p.m. 7th March. Through 004 degs. 38' North 002 degs. West 004 degs. 08' North 007 degs. 46' West 007 degs. (?) 40' North 014 degs. 11' West, speed approx. 6 knots. M.L. 265, single operator periods.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1802Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

French S/M's. Sailed S/Ms French (S) LA VESTALE and French (S) ANTIOPE escorted by LA GRANDIERE in accordance with my 1033/26th.
(Comar Dakar, 1829Z/1 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty., F.O.C.W.A.F., Air H.Q. W.A.F., Adm. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca)

COLOMBIA A.M.2355/27th Feb.
(sunk 27/2) COLOMBIA was required to dock at Simonstown on 2nd March and after full consideration it was decided to sail ship escorted by GENISTA by day only so that continuous air escort could be provided. It would have spent night of 27th in Port Elizabeth.

2. Weakness of surface escort was unavoidable owing to following escorted convoys being at sea that day - WS 26, C.N10, NC 4, D.N20, CD 6, MC 4, stretching across 1800.
3. In addition D.C.11 was at sea with air but without surface escort and was diverted into East London till escort was available. CILICIA was also at sea with only air escort.
4. When sighting report of submarine by training aircraft was received a S.A.N.F. M/S Trawler was sent to position given and an extra aircraft sent up to search. This extra aircraft was over COLOMBIA a few minutes before ship was torpedoed but it did not see submarine or torpedoing.
5. COLOMBIA and GENISTA were informed of reported sighting by shore light and altered course shoreward being apparently 16 miles off shore when torpedoed.
6. GENISTA made no contact with submarine nor did escorting aircraft see it.
7. If submarine was same as was previously reported it must have moved 40 miles in 3 hours against a 2 to 3 knot current through waters over which aircraft were searching for it.
(C. in C. S.A. 1910C/1 to Admty.)

Freetown, Development. Ref. B.A.D's 2115A/27th Feb. Withdrawal U.S. construction unit at this advanced stage most unfortunate. It would involve us undertaking
(A) deep water quay followed by Corvette jetty.
(B) Construction workshop buildings and stores.
(C) Installation generators and machine tools. (D) Erection oil tanks contingent earthworks and pipe line works. All additional present extensive programme. According your para. (3) only balance machine tools and generators outstanding from U.S. but last consignment not ashore or checked and no local knowledge regarding materials at sea.

/If...

War Diary1.3.1943.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic.Freetown,
Development.
(contd.)

If U.S.A. personnel withdrawn following approximate additional staff required complete work reasonable time.

Essential have white operators to make effective use American plant, if necessary obtaining temporary release from Army. Strongly adverse employing Army unit on these works which must remain under full Naval control. If difficult obtain volunteers and as last resort suggest consideration embodiment as special reserve officers and ratings similar proposed dockyard ratings. This would facilitate accommodation messing and discipline.

3. Wet weather will seriously interfere manual work May onwards but mechanical plant and small organised units properly protected can continue effective work.

4. Question of staff for actual installation of machine tools matter subsequent consideration.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1943Z/1 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

PROTEA
(attack on
U/B)

Your 1146/27 not to C. in C. Levant. As special case agree to your releasing in South Africa now the fact that PROTEA took part in attacks on a U-boat in Mediterranean about a fortnight ago and that U-boat is believed to have been destroyed.

(D.A/S.W. and for D.P.D. 2036A/1 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. Levant).

FITZ-JOHN
PORTERTorpedoed at 0700Z/1, 12.20 S., 37.01 W.,
(Cominch, 2153/1)(See America and West Indies).

War Diary.1.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.IPSWICH,
Convoy
A.P.22.Departure IPSWICH.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0908Z/1 to Admty., etc.)
(1) A.P.22. (2) 0900Z/1st. (3) Longitude 55°
1300Z/4th, latitude 22° 2100Z/6th, Khor Kuwai
1700Z/8th. (4) 8½ knots. (5) G.A.N. (O) 022°
15' 060° 41' P.G.W. (6) IPSWICH to Hormuz.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0932Z/1, 0935Z/1 to Admty.,
etc.)Movements
Alexandria.Arrivals 28th Feb. M.T.B.260, M.Ls 351, 355,
2 French sloop LA MOQUEUSE.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0918/1 to Admty., C. in C.
Levant.)Bi-Weekly
Opsum No.
104, Part 2.Night 27th/28th Feb. A Wellington on special
operations over Crete bombed Tymbaki aerodrome.
Results unobserved. About nine Ju.88s attacked
Tripoli Harbour. All bombs in sea. 3
Beaufighters up. No interceptions.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 100Z/1.)

? MIERMY.

Your 1755/28th not to S.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Bone
(N.T. in W.D.)
(A) Intend sailing (? MIERMY) 0600A/2nd routed
1 mile north of 100 fathom line to R/V BLACKFRIARS
at 1200A/2nd.
(B) Speed 8 knots.
(C) Codeword "Basinghall".
(D) Escorts: 1 trawler, 1 H.D.M.L.
(E) Communications constant R/T loud speaker watch 1579 k/cs.
(F) Destination Bone when ordered by P.S.T.O. Med.
(G) Request fighter protection.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1029A/1 to N.O.I.C. Philippeville, (R)
S.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Bone, C. in C. Med., Admty., H.Q.E.A.C.,
N.L.O. Jijelli, Connav.)

GUARDIAN.

Your 2147/26. Approved for GUARDIAN to proceed
to U.K. in M.K.S.9.
(C. in C. Med., 1057A/1 to S.O. Force H, (R)
GUARDIAN, F.O.I.S., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.,
N.O.I.C. Oran.)BOREAS,
QUADRANT,
ADRIAS,
MALAYA.Your 1459/27th. Concur.
(C. in C. Med., 1101A/1 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R)
V.A. Gibraltar, Comar Dakar, S.N.O. Casablanca
Area.)

/ U/B

War Diary.

1.3.1943.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

U/B sunk by My 1153/25/2 para. 3. Sinking of this submarine BICESTER, etc. had interesting features and may be of use for 23rd Feb. emphasising value of persistent effort once the submarine has been located.
(German)

2. Submarine was reported by Algiers R.D.F. at 2125/20 at distance of 21 miles. Three destroyers and A.S.V. aircraft were sent out, thereafter surface vessels and/or aircraft maintained constant patrol in the area. Aircraft sighted at 1609/21 WHEATLAND at 0400/22 but contact was lost. WESTRAY sighted periscope at 1013/22 and attacked. Aircraft sighted again at 0630/23 BICESTER and three destroyers obtained A/S contact at 1306/23 and followed up with a successful attack details of which will be forwarded by letter.
(C. in C. Med., 1108A/1 to Admty.)

Movements, Arrived CLEOPATRA, PAKENHAM, PALADIN.
Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1121A/1 to Admty., etc.)

Force H. S.O. Force H 0315/27 Feb.
Vice Admiral Willis hopes to leave Mount Batten by air p.m./3rd March for Gibraltar.
It would be convenient if transfer of flag takes place there.
(D.O.D.(F), 1128A/1 to S.O. Force H, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.)

Turkey, Preliminary discussion on further minesweeping
Minesweeping. questions proceeding satisfactorily and Turkish Government will probably be asking soon for a minesweeping adviser to visit Turkey again.
Before this is arranged a further ruling is requested as regards to details of "(?L)L" (? vessels) that may be divulged to Turks in view of their requests in Adana list for supplies of these sweeps.
(N.A. Ankara, 1242C/1 to C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Arrived DELPHINIUM, SOUTHERN MAID, M.L.1122,
Benghazi. TREERN, SKUD 5, additional arrival 27th IMHOFF, BOKSBURG.
Sailed AMBER, PROTEA, SOUTHERN SEA, IMHOFF, BOKSBURG, SAINT MONANCE, M.L.1159.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 1308/1 to Admty.)

T.E.17. Intend sailing convoy in accordance with C. in C. Med's 1853/28 ships as follows:
For Algiers (corrupt group) CITY, EMPIRE GOLD, KRISTEL: for Philippeville (? VAR)OA, BACHAQUERO; for Bone OCEAN VALENTINE, ORPHEUS.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1420A/1 to C. in C. Med.(W), (R) Cdre. Algiers, Admty., Connav, etc.)

War Diary.1.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

HOGGAR. Your 2055/27th. No escort available. HOGGAR should be sailed in S.L.126. (C. in C. Med., 1527A/1 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements, Oran. Sailed French ships MARIE LOUISE LEBORGNE, JOSEPHINE LEBORGNE, and GALLIUM escorted F.S.? LA BOUDEUSE and ENGAGEANTE. Merchant ships for onward routing to Casablanca. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1537A/1 to C. in C. Med.)

French Naval Rearmament. Recommendations on French list of 20th January, 1943, etc. (Algiers, 1555Z/1 to War and H.Q. Etousa). See Lion Copy.

Enemy Units. Aircraft sighted one S/M and one escort vessel at 0930 today P.C. and S. 038° 32' 015° 46', 360°, 9 knots. At (?12)24 one merchant ship, one destroyer P.C. and S. 037° 45' 011° 25', 040°, 10. (Capt. S.10, 1617A/1 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

UNA. Sailed UNA. She carries two only mark 2 torpedoes. Ordered to shift W/T watch to Algiers broadcast at 1900/3. (V.A. Malta, 1619A/1 to C. in C. Med.)

Capt. (S) 10 1123/28th. Onward route through A. 038° 17' N. 011° 10' at 1300/3rd. B. 038° 17' N. 001° 37' E. at 1000/7th. C. 135° Cape Palos 5 at 1000/8th. D. 180° Cape de Gata 5 at 0500/9th. E. 180° Cape Calaburras 5 at 0600/10th to arrive Gibraltar 1100/10th.

(2) Do not pass position E before 0600/10th owing to own A/S patrols.

(3) Shift normal W/T watch to Algiers broadcast at 0500/3rd and to Gib. broadcast at 0500/8th.

(4) Submerged bombing restrictions arranged 10 miles either (? side) of your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of your estimated position.

Total bombing restrictions arranged on 10th. (Capt. S.8, 1652A/1 to UNA, (R) S.O. S/M Gibraltar, 8th S.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (S) 10.)

Algiers Air Report. From: Spaatz. For: Arnold. For: Air Ministry. Signed: Eisenhower. N.A.A.F. 1. Directly hitting 2 small and 3 large ships and docks heavy bombers attacked Cagliari. (Algiers, 1621Z/1 to Etousa, Agwar.)

/Movements ...

27A
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.

(*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 1555Z/1st March IN

From Algiers.

Date 1.3.43.

Recd 2330Z.

French Fleet Re-Armament.

Addressed War and H.Q. Etousa for action.

U.S. 192. Ref. 3729 1st March 1943.

Reference: NCXF signal 1619 January 30th, 1943, to Admiralty and Cominch.

1. In accordance with previously approved plans the rearmament and re-conditioning of the ships of the French Fleet is going forward.
2. In addition to this programme the French have handed me a completed list of all rearmament materials required for other Naval activities. This list dated January 20th, 1943, is being forwarded by air mail to C.C.S. and Admiralty. Fenard Mission has several copies. Following is a summary of the action taken or the recommended policy on the main items of these requests in-so-far as pertains to TORCH area. Recommend all Dakar Naval commitments except fuel be handled separately since Dakar is in British Naval strategic zone controlled by FOCWAF and is not part of TORCH Naval area. Categories below correspond to chapters in French list.
3. Approval of recommended policies is requested.
First Category A: New Construction:
Final request is for 12 destroyers, 30 escorts, and 12 tugs. This is a long term matter which should be taken up by Fenard Mission.
First Category B: Planes and Equipment for Naval Air Force requested as follows:
Seaplanes, 33 PBY Amphibians and 18 single engine 2 seater Seagulls. Landplanes, 105 B-25's fitted for sea patrol, 110 P-40 pursuit and 38 miscellaneous. Equipment complete for each plane plus 1,276 miscellaneous vehicles.
4. Recommend as early priority that French Naval Air Force be equipped to conduct anti-submarine convoy escort and patrols. The PBY Amphibians are excellent planes for this type of work and recommend provision of some or all of 33 requested with necessary armament spares and operational and maintenance equipment.

5. The 18.....

5. The 18 Seagulls should be provided subject to equipment of RICHELIEU and cruisers with catapults for this type. British have already offered 20 Walrus for inshore patrols.

6. The landplane requirements are closely paralleled by similar requests made by French Air Force. All landplanes and land equipment and vehicles supplied to TORCH area will be turned over to the French as a single allocation. These Naval requests should therefore be considered in conjunction with French Air Force requirements and the French should determine what percentages of all landplanes will be operated by Army and Navy.

Second Category: Ordnance.

(1) Recommend ship-board installations be completely refitted and equipped during U.S.A. overhaul. Recommend gradual building up of reserve stocks for shipboard batteries as material becomes available, 1st priority small caliber and AA.

(2) Coast defence in French set up is Naval including harbor defense and AA guns. Requirements for guns and ammunition for these services will be considered with army requests.

Third Category: Armament:

Staro torpedoes should be provided. Standard depth charges are being issued from local stocks. Recommend all special equipment be fitted during U.S.A. overhaul. British are providing Asdic and close range AA armament for local North African escorts and AA for coastal merchant ships not provided with guns removed from French War vessels. British and American degaussing ranges when established will be available for all French ships.

Fourth Category:

The fuel and petroleum requirements of the French Navy have been included in the estimates submitted by the Petroleum Division A.F.H.Q. French are being requested to coordinate Dakar requirements through FOCWAF.

Fifth Category: Clothing

List states requirements for 30,000 men which is considered excessive. British providing emergency requirements for 500 men. Recommend first priority for shipboard personnel, remainder on basis availability material and regular shipments each convoy for a total of 18,000 men.

Sixth Category: ,

MOST SECRET

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

- 3 -

Sixth Category: Foodstuffs:

Requirements for bulk supplies of all foodstuffs will be referred to Haut Commissariat of the French Civil Government.

Seventh Category: Berthing and Messing Equipment and miscellaneous stores:

Recommend regular shipments each convoy as materials become available on basis of 18,000 men.

Eighth Category: Medical Material:

Recommend as for category seven.

Ninth Category:

Recommend books and pamphlets be provided as available.

Tenth Category: Ship Repair Materials.

French requests cover all of North Africa. In lieu of meeting this bulk requirement it is recommended that ship repair materials necessary for Navy yards and all local ship repair establishments be requested by the local British or American Naval Commanders from their respective Governments on the basis of 6 months stock for maximum repair capacity French to draw on these Allied pools as practicable.

Eleventh Category: Electric Equipment.

Same as 10th except special items of non-standard stock to be requested separately through local U.S.A. or British Naval Commander.

Twelfth Category: Construction Materials.

Same as 10th subject to maximum use of local materials.

Thirteenth Category: Machine Tools and Vehicles.

Due to the scarcity of machine tools each requirement will be subject special request to be resubmitted by French which request will be forwarded by the British or American Naval Commander, in locality where pools are to be set up, to his Government direct with recommendation. Recommend all vehicle requirements by French Navy be considered with French Army requirements.

7. Shipments to Allied pools under 10th, 11th and 12th categories will be requested and controlled by senior British or American Naval authority in the area in which...

in which material is to be used and French requirements included in-so-far as practicable. Shipment of all materials for French Navy in all other categories will be included in tonnage allocation established by Commander-in-Chief Allied Force for French rearmament. Recommend the filling of Naval requirement tonnage allocations in each convoy and full loading returning Naval vessels be arranged by French Naval authorities through Fenard Mission and Munitions Assignment Board in Washington subject to any operational priorities which may be established by Commander-in-Chief Allied Force.

8. French requests do not adequately cover harbor and local defense requirements. My proposed policy is to equip the French so that they can eventually take over defense of their own territory. Naval aspect of this has been dealt with in NCXF signal 1619 January 30th, 1943, to Admiralty and Cominch and arrangements are going forward.

1555Z/1

Received in War Registry at 2235/2

1st Lord	D.M.R.	
1st S.L. (2)	D.T.D. (3)	Distribution:-
D.F.S.L.	D. of S.	Brig. Jacob.
Controller	D. of V.	Foreign Secretary.
Vice Controller	D.T.S.D.	1st Sea Lord.
4th S.L.	D.A.M.	C.6. Tels. W.O.
5th S.L.	S.D.G.	A.M.C.S. (C)
V.C.N.S.	D. of L.D.	Mr. Strang.
A.C.N.S. (H)	E. in C.	Mr. Radcliffe.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.N.C.	Mr. Benson.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.P.S.	
A.C.N.S. (A)	M.D.G.	
A.C.N.S. (U.T.) (2)	D.A/S.M.	
Fin. Sec.	D.T.M.	
Sec.	D.G.D.	
Naval Sec.	D.A.S.	
P.A.S. (S)	D.E.E.	
D.C.N.A.E.	I.P. (2)	
P.A.S. (P.R.)	Ad. Mack (4)	
U.W.R.	Ad. Blake (4)	
D.O.D. (H) (2)	Dept. Cont.	
D.O.D. (F) (2)	D. of D.	
Duty Capt. (2)	D.A/S.M.	
Hd. of M. (2)	S.D.G.	
D. of P. (2)	D.T.M.	
D.N.I. (4)	E. in C.	Bath
Controller (M.S.R.)	D.N.C.	
P.N.L.O.	D.A.S.	
Hd. of Air.	D.E.E.	
Hd. of M.A.S. (2)	Hd.S.W.R.)	
D. of P. (Q)		
C.C.O. (2)		
D.D.I.C. (2)		
D.S.D.		
D.A/S.W.		
D.N.A.O.		
D.A.W.T.		
D. of D.		
W.D.		

War Diary.1.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Port Said. 1st March Port Said departures PANTHER, BURRA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1647B/1 to Admty., etc.)

M.K.S. 9. Have following for inclusion (list of 13 M/Vs) GUARDIAN. All for U.K. except GOUVENEUR GENERAL LUPINE Gibraltar for Cadiz. Com. Algiers is requested to allocate pendant numbers. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1705A/1 to C. in C. Med.) 1 addition to M/Vs. (1030A/4.)

CASABIANCA. Intend sailing CASABIANCA 2000/2nd for patrol north of 042° N. between longitude 006° E. and 010° E. routed through 037° 56' 003° 04' and 042° 20' 006° 20'. (Capt. S.8, 1728A/1 to C. in C. Med., (R) Cdre. Algiers, 8th S/M.F.) CASABIANCA will be at sea from 2nd to 15th March, read M.S. routine and hold A.5 figure cypher decypherable by Capt. (S) 8th and CASABIANCA only. (Capt. S.8, 1732A/1 to S/Ms on Patrol, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Malta, C. in C. Levant, Capt. S.1, Capt. S.10.)

EMPIRE GOLD. U.G.S.5. Your 1515A/26. (Arrival of ships in U.G.S.5). S.N.O.C.A's 2215Z/25 and F.O.C. Gibraltar's 1047/25. Request information EMPIRE GOLD. (D.T.D., 1739A/1 to Com. N.O.B. Oran Area, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A.) Reply: 1011/3.

M.K.S.9. Intend to sail INDIAN PRINCE, U.K., THOMAS HEYWARD ADAM, DORSET COAST, ANTONIAN, Algiers EMPIRE FOAM, C.A.M. Algiers SERULA, Oran TORFINNJAIL, unknown TURKISTAN, U.K. Facto Oran. (S.O.I.S., 1747A/1 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Oran, etc.)

SEMINOLE (torpedoed 27th Feb.) SEMINOLE still in tow in 035° 58' N. 001° 15' W. As only 1 A/S trawler is present, intend to remain in company until adequate A/S escort arrives. (LIDDESDALE, 1901A/1 to Com. N.O.B. Oran, (R) C. in C. Med.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.1.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No. 661. At 0925/27 tanker SEMINOLE was torpedoed by U-Boat in 35° 53' N. 010° 33' W. while in convoy T.E.16. Ship was hit in engine room and is being towed into Oran. Cargo believed intact. QUANTOCK attacked two good contacts but no evidence of destruction.

(2) T.E.16 was again attacked by U-Boat in 37° 03' N. 03° 58' E. at 1715/28 when DANIEL CARROL was torpedoed forward. Ship has been towed into Algiers.

(3) At about 1915/28 both convoy T.E.16 and the Ferry Service were attacked by aircraft. No damage.

(4) LIGHTNING sustained near miss at Bone a.m./1st March. Several casualties. Holes in ship's side plates will be repaired by p.m./2nd March.

(5) SPLENDID reports an attack on two westbound merchant ships escorted by two destroyers and one sloop in position 010° Cape St. Vito 3 at 1903/17th Feb. Both merchant ships were sunk. At 0624/24 SPLENDID fired four torpedoes at eastbound laden tanker escorted by one sloop in 38° 12' N. 12° 47' E. One hit was obtained and the vessel exploded.

(C. in C. Med., 1915A/1 to Admty.)

S/Ms for Med. Flotillas. My 1306/22nd Feb.
(1) Amend sailing date of P.49 (UNRULY) and DZIK to 7th March, P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) 10th March.
(2) Add P.224 (SICKLE) 23rd March 8th S/M.F.
P.225 (SIMOON) 1st April 8th S/M.F. P.219 (SERAPH) 3rd April 8th S/M.F. P.31 (ULLSWATER)
3rd April 10th S/M.F. P.55 (UNSPARING) early April 10th S/M.F.
(F.O.(S), 1919A/1 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, etc.)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 585. Day 1st March. Photos show 1 steamer 20 tons sunk as result of Spitfire bomber attack on Syracuse 27th Feb., see my A.I.558.
Part 2. Enemy air activity 1st March. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1935/1.)

DOLFIJN, U/B. At 1400, you may have been reported, there is another U-Boat in your vicinity.
(Capt. S.8, 1940A/1 to DOLFIJN.)

Malta Intelligence Summary - 2000A/28 to 2000A/1st. Naval. One of our submarines sank a medium sized M/V off the Tunisian coast. Another submarine operating in the Adriatic scored successes against a variety of targets including 2 schooners, a minesweeper, a small naval auxiliary a tug towing a dredger and a train on a railway bridge.
(Malta, 1945Z/1 to A.F.H.Q. Algiers.)
Received from Air Ministry 0445/3.

/Movements ...

War Diary.1.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Arrived C.S.12 in AURORA, DIDO, LAFOREY, LOOKOUT, ROTHEsay from eastwards. MOOSEJAW, JAUNTY from T.E.16. L.C.T.164 from Oran. M.L.444 from Bougie, Hospital ship AMARAPOORA from Gibraltar. Departures SIRIUS, EASTON, MIAOULES to Bone. L.C.I.(L)s 177, 175, 246, 242, 247 to Bougie. (Cdre. Algiers, 1959A/1 to Admty., etc.)

Situation Western Desert.
Report Tripoli Libya, dawn and dusk raid 28th Feb. by No. 6. 13 and 4 aircraft respectively. No damage or casualties. 1 enemy destroyed.
2. Operation M.H.8. A combined convoy of 3 store ships and 2 tankers for Malta, 7 store ships, H.M.T. NEURALIA and 1 tanker for Tripoli (L) has left Alexandria. 2 store ships and APHIS for Tripoli (L) join convoy off Tobruk. (C. in C. Levant, 2027B/1 to Admty.)

Movements, Arrived APHIS, G.S. SAKTOURIS, PRIMULA, sailing Tobruk. G.S. SAKTOURIS, PRIMULA. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2108B/1 to Admty.)

P.R.U. 540 Sqdn. P.R. Sortie D/151 dated 1st March time 1315 hours, shows:-
Spezia. Since 19th Feb. one LITTORIO class battleship returned to previous berth north of Marola jetty while the other two LITTORIO class remain at previous positions. 90 ft. of bows of REGOLO class cruiser hull have been cut away and are now fitted to damaged REGOLO cruiser which is in dry dock. Heavy cruiser BOLZANO remains at usual berth and has been further dismantled since 19th Feb. Minor naval units show departure of two destroyers and target ship SAN MARCO and the arrival of two T.Bs 260 ft. and four escort vessels 210 ft. 9 U-Boats visible of which 6 215 ft. and 3 130 ft. (P.R. Benson, 2110/1 to Admty., etc.)

PALADIN. Sailed PALADIN for Tripoli (Libya). (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2232A/1 to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Bone departures AURORA, DIDO, PENELOPE, LAFOREY, Bone. LOOKOUT, LOYAL, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BICESTER, WHEATLAND.
Arrival SIRIUS, PENELOPE, LOYAL, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BICESTER, WHEATLAND, ACUPE, ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, MAN-O'-WAR, L.C.T.135, 152. (F.O.I.S., 2302A/1 to C. in C. Med., Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

War Diary.

1.3.1943.

MondayFOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

MONTICELLO 01 1st U.S.S. MONTICELLO Bombay 3rd March 19 knots, coastal, ship escorted for full voyage. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 0358Z/1 to Connav, C. in C. E.F., S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay, Admty).

U.S.S. MONTICELLO with escort passing Cochin swept Channel 1900Z/1st entering Bombay swept channel 0900Z/3rd at number 5 buoy.

(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 0542Z/1 to Admty).

MONTICELLO proceeding without entering escorted by SCOUT routed coastal lanes E.T.A. Bombay 0900Z/3rd.

(F.O. Ceylon, 0634Z/1 to Comrin (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N., P.S.T.O. India, (Bombay)).

Convoy
B.P.70 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Sailing telegram.

2. 0630Z/1st March. 3. Expect time crossing 062° 2330Z/4th March. (3.A) Salinas Point off Muscat 0130Z/6th March (3.B) E.T.A. west of Quoin Is. 0630Z/7th March. 4. 8 knots. 5. K.021° 59' 068° 40'. L. 022° 28' 064° 29' M. 022° (?47') 060° 16' thence P.G.W. (N) to (S). 6. SUTLEJ. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0651Z/1, 0653Z/1 to Admty).

Suspicious
Ship, 22/2.

Suggest this may be Dutch ship ALGENIB which could have been in vicinity at this time. Your 2145/27th Feb. refers.

(C. in C. E.F., 0722/1 to S.O.(I) Capetown, (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Durban).

Catalina for
Australia. /

A.209. C. in C. E.F., 0637/21/Z. Agree to One Dutch Catalina being sent from Ceylon to Australia. Propose arrange to send Official and Private mail by this flying boat, and if possible Ordinary Mail Ex India for Australia. (Air H.Q., India, 0918Z/1 to Air Ministry (W), (R) C. in C. E.F., 222 Group, Admty).

Convoy
B.M.43.

Sailing telegram. 2. 0930/1st March.

3. R/V with TAMWORTH position 016° 16' 073° 01' at 0500/2nd March.

3.A. Passing Cochin 2230/3rd March.

3.B. E.T.A. Colombo SANTHIA escorted by TAMWORTH

0200/5th March remainder with VERBENA 0930/5th March.

4. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots SANTHIA, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots after R/V.

5. T.014° 47' 073° 12'. U. 009° 57' 075° 33'. V. 008° 05' 076° 50' thence Colombo.

6. VERBENA, TAMWORTH with SANTHIA from R/V.

(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0952Z/1, 0954Z/1 to Admty.(R) F.O. Ceylon etc).

Revised
programme
of troop
movements.

Para. D. of my 1115/15th Feb. B.P. 71 revised date of sailing is now 7th March. Para. G, B.P.72 now

/re-named...

War Diary1.3.1943.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies.

Revised programme of troop movements. renamed B.P.71.
(P.S.T.O. India 1001Z/1 to C. in C. E.F.
(R) N.C.S.O. Bombay, N.O.I.C. Hormuz,
D. of S.T., F.O.I.C. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Movements. Departure (700) 36 Z, H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ with
B.P.70 $\frac{1}{2}$, 0900Z, VERBENA with B.M.43.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 1156Z/1, to Admty., etc.)
Colombo arrivals 1st March 0230Z DEVONSHIRE
1025Z POONA.
Departures 0005Z SCOUT. 1115Z POONA.
(F.O. Ceylon 1218Z/1 to Admty. Amended
1705Z/1)

S/M's for Eastern Fleet. Dutch S/M K.11's refit cannot be further
delayed and after 3rd March there will be no
target submarine available on the station.
2. The early arrival of OSIRIS is therefore
most desirable. Your 1625/17 Feb. refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 1403/1 to Admty., (R) C. in C.
Med., Com. R.I.N. F.O.S.)

Sitrep No.123 1. Arakan. Two armed 90-foot Japanese built
Diesel-engined launches carrying troops and
ammunition intercepted by patrol launch six
miles North of Kyaukpyu 2300 hours 26/2. One
enemy launch sunk, other damaged believed sunk. 50 Japanese
estimated killed, 5 captured. All prisoners belong to water
transportation units.
(C. in C. India No. T.O.O./1 Recd. 1706/1 to W.O.)

War Diary.1.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

H.X. 227. Important intercept 2344 G.M.T. DE CYD 33 S S S S torpedoes.
WADE (C. in C. Plymouth 0045/1.)
HAMPTON H.X. 227. WADE HAMPTON torpedoed 3 miles astern of convoy at 2345Z. At least (?18) stragglers have not (?yet) complied with (gp. or gps. missing) 's 1850Z/28th weather report.
(U.S. 7176 tons) sunk. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4 0034Z/1 to Connav, Admty. C.T.F. 24. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. H.Q.C.C. C.T.G. 24.7 A.C.I.C. C.T.G. 24.6 C. in C.W.A.)

WADE HAMPTON from H.X. 227 torpedoed in vicinity of 059° 49' N. 034° 43' W. at 2350Z/28th.
(C.O.A.C. 0500Z/1 to G.B.7A 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.)
B.T. 0601/1, between 2300Z/28 and 2359Z/28 WADE HAMPTON was torpedoed three miles astern of H.X. 227 X. F.O.C. Iceland and C.T.G. 24.6 have this info.
(Washington 0620/1 to Admty.)
H.X. 227 my 0034Z/1st. WADE HAMPTON still afloat in (?approx.) 59° 29' N. 35° 26' W. Ship considered salvable but (?cannot) steam. VERVAIN standing by. Weather report.
(M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4. 0825Z/1 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C. C.T.G. 24.6 VERVAIN.)
My P.C. and S. 059° 30' N. 035° 50' W. 090° 14½ knots. (?71) survivors of WADE HAMPTON on board. WADE HAMPTON still afloat in 059° 25' N. 036° 15' W. with stern blown off. Master considers ship will founder shortly, now rapidly breaking up. Am proceeding to rejoin convoy.
(VERVAIN 1430Z/1 to C. in C.W.A.)
H.X. 227 P.C. and S. at 1400Z/1st 60° 02' N. 31° 35' W. 108° 9. 57 ships in convoy. Ref. A.M. 1209A/1st, no indication of U-Boat in vicinity since 0426Z/1st. Am not in W/T touch with VERVAIN. Weather report.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4. 1445Z/1 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 A.C.I.C. C.T.G. 24.6 VERVAIN, BIBB, C.T.U.24.1.19). Retain U.S. BIBB until daylight 2nd March, then detach to escort of S.S. TOLTEC if circumstances permit.
(C. in C.W.A. 1447Z/1 to Escorts H.X. 227.)
C.T.U. 24.1.4. 0825/1. Request you will send tug if available.
(C. in C.W.A. 1626Z/1 to A.C.I.C.)
D/F Bearings on 5650 k/cs at 1923Z and 1954Z indicate convoy is being shadowed.
(D.D.I.C. 2210A/1 to Escorts H.X. 227 (R) C. in C.W.A. Cominch, N.S.H.Q. A.C.I.C. H.Q.C.C.)

see also p. 143

S.C.L. 120. S.C.L. 120 composed of U.S.S. CHATEAU THIERRY, U.S.S. SALINAS. ?MONTANA, KINGMAN, LARRANGA, HINDOO, BRUARFOSS escorted by U.S.S. SCHENCK arrived 2100Z/28.
(C.T.G. 24.6 0114Z/1 to C.T.F. 24.)

Dispositions. Section East. My 1525Z/28th add ESCAPADE and GARLAND from M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.1 route St. Johns N.F. E.T.A. 1000Z/1st.
(C.O.A.C. 0140Z/1 to Admty.)

/TRACKER...

War Diary.

1.3.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

TRACKER. TRACKER arrived Puget Sound 0300Z/1st.
(Ottawa W/T 0315Z/1 to Admty.)

Movements Summary.	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
1800 G.M.T. 1st March.	AJAX	33° N. 58° W.	264°	18
	U.C.1.)	22½° N. 52° W.	237°	10½
	WESTON)			
	ALCANTARA)	15° N. 32° W.	Patrol	-
	WOODRUFF)			
	(D.O.D.(F)	1021Z/1 to Opnav (R) Comnav.		

Curacao Convoys. Your 1725/27th received and understood.
(Puerto la Cruz 1050/1 to D.N.I.)

B.Y.M.S. San Francisco departure 28 B.Y.M.S. no. 10,17,18,
21 and 25.
(N.S.H.Q. 1108Z/1 to Admty.)

Tanker Convoys to Curacao. Crated A/C shipment. Your 2112/26th Feb. refers to Curacao's proposal for landing aircraft there. Your 2058/27th Feb. stated that reserve bases for aircraft will be established at San Juan also that steamship GOVERNOR has torpedoes for ATTACKER. Request
A. Destination of aircraft in GOVERNOR.
B. Destination of aircraft in SETTLER.
C. E.T.A. of GOVERNOR at Curacao, as it appears she will miss ATTACKER unless routed direct.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 1202Q/1 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. Curacao, B.A.D.)

T.U.24.18.5. E.T.A. West O.M.P. 2300Z/2rd. HAMILTON will have to detach for fuel a.m. 3rd.
(C.T.U. 24.18.5 1205Z/1 to C.T.F. 24. C.T.U. 24.1.3.
(R) Connnav, Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.)

ASSINIBOINE. ASSINIBOINE's 1551/28th, (1441/28 intended). Request you will issue any orders to ASSINIBOINE demanded by present appreciation of situation of EMPIRE TRADER and H.H.ROGERS.
(C.O.A.C. 1325Z/1 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connnav, 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. ASSINIBOINE.)

Special H.X.Convoy. Your 2120A/25th concur para. (?3) A.B. and C. Escort will be provided for special convoy New York to West O.M.P. using ships N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2211Z/26th plus such others as can be made available from U.S. and Canadian sources.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1344/1 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.T. 24. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. C.E.S.F. C. in C.W.A. B.A.D.)

War Diary.1.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- U.G.F.6. Convoy U.G.F. 6 for Mediterranean Ports and for West Africa Ports expected ready to sail New York March 5th with ships and destinations as follows (list.)
- A.C.Vs. HUNTER, STALKER, both carrying non-operational U.S. army aircraft. U.S.S. MATTAPONI will be included to fuel destroyers. Total 22 ships, MONTEREY will return unescorted if submarine situation permits.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1345/1 to C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, (R) C.E.S.F. Admty. etc.)
- Ships, training and re-fitting at Bermuda. Your 2006/24th Feb. is concurred in.
(D.A.S.W. 1347A/1 to N.S.H.Q. (R) S.B.N.O. 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.)
- Movements. Departure 1st U.S. Minesweeper A.M.C. 41 for Trinidad.
(Harbour Master Barbados 1445/1 to Admty.)
Arrived 1st U.S.A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA.
(Puerto la Cruz 1504/1 to Admty.)
Seattle arrived 1845/28, TRACKER.
(N.S.H.Q. 1603Z/1 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C.O.P.C.)
- A.T's PRESIDENT GRANT (U.S.) and PRESIDENT JOHNSON (U.S.) sailed San Francisco Feb. 26th for Noumea.
(N.S.H.Q. 1617Z/1 to Admty.)
Bermuda arrivals L.C.I(L) 169, 171, 172, 179, 181 and 241 add to my 2019/28/2 departure U.S. Submarine R.7.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 1659A/1 to Admty.)
- Submarine Estimate 1st March. U.S.Submarine notice. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1530/1, 1531/1, 1600/1, 1601/1.)
- A.T. 38 (QUEEN ELIZABETH.) Convoy A.T. 38. Request you will sail QUEEN ELIZABETH to arrive Clyde p.m. 16th March.
2. In order that maximum air protection may be arranged, she should cross 10° W. at daylight 16th.
3. C. in C.W.A. is requested to provide such destroyer escort as can be made available.
4. Fighter protection codeword "Sparrow."
(D.O.D.(H) 1725A/1 to Connnav, (R) C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. H.F. F.O.I.C. Greenock, Air Min. H.Q.F.C. H.Q.C.C.)
- Solops 6. 1 Japanese Transport and 2 Corvettes were bombed off North East coast Vella Lavella Island on Feb. 27th. Transport seen on fire after 4 heavy bombs hit. 1 Corvette also on fire.
(B.A.D. 1729Z/1 to Admty. C. in C.E.F. (R) C.O.I.S. E.F. F.L.O. Delhi, Concentric Colombo.)

/ARROWHEAD...

War Diary.1.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

ARROWHEAD. P.C. and S. at 1700/1st 036° 30' 074° 28' 199° 14. altering to 221° at (y) and to 259° at (z). E.T.A. Charleston 2000/2nd. (ARROWHEAD 1730Z/1 to C'dant 6th U.S. N.D. Charleston.)

O.N. 168 U-Boat by D/F at 1441Z/1st vicinity of 058° 45' N. 046° 00' W. within 60 miles. (N.S.H.Q. 1810Z/1 to Ships escorting O.N. 168, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At. Opnav.)

Convoy O.N. 168. 2 U-Boats on surface my position 59.25 N. 38.15. W. (HAVELOCK 1940Z/1 to Connav, Admty. F.O.I.C. Liverpool, C.O.A.C. A.C.I.C. Cominch C. and R.)

Minesweepers reinforcement. Your 2245Z/24/2 para. 3. Provided the five ships (part 153rd M.S.F.) and the five ships (part 154th M.S.F.) are not delayed, the allocation in M.M.S. 0669/42 of 23rd October, should stand. (D.M.S. 1915A/1 to B.A.D. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

EMPIRE TRADER torpedoed 21st Feb. 1. EMPIRE TRADER. 2. Shaw Savill. 3. 2130Z/21 in 48° 25' N. 30° 10' W. 4. Not sighted. 5. Not sighted. 6. Not known. 7. Hole in both sides forepeak and No. 1 vessel making water and settling slowly, C. in C.W.A. 1540/22 and DAUPHIN's 2045/22 refer. 8. No casualties. 9. Not sighted. 10. Torpedo. 11. Current Admiralty publication dumped overboard in metal box. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1924Z/1 to Admty. Cominch (R) N.S.H.Q.C.)

CHELSEA. My 2130/18th Feb. CHELSEA expected to be ready to sail p.m. 6th March. Request information as to where she should be sailed. (B.A.M.R. 1958Z/1 to C.C.N.F. (R) CHELSEA, Admty. etc.)

Shipping Casualties. Serial (?27) 28 and 1st March. FITZ JOHN POTTER torpedoed in B.T.6 1st March 012° 20' S. 037° 01' W. WADE HAMPTON Convoy H.X.227 torpedoed 28th Feb. 059° 49' N. 034° 43' W. (Connav 2044/1 to Connaveu.)

S/Ms under British Control, suggested offensive patrols. In a private conversation with one of my staff the Chief of Naval Staff made the following suggestion "That Allied S/Ms operating under British Control might profitably be employed on offensive patrols in areas in which enemy refuelling S/Ms are known to operate using if possible enemy homing signals to bring them on to their quarry." 2. U.S. Navy can spare no more S/Ms from Pacific for this purpose. 3. Request your views in case further remarks emanate. (B.A.D. 2125Z/1 to Admty. (R) F.O.S.) Reply: Admty. 1546A/3/3.

/Limit...

War Diary.1.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Limit on
number of
passengers.

My 2029/11th Feb. U.S. Authorities recognise desirability of agreed rules for Atlantic. They stress that due to the completely different situation such rules should not apply to the Pacific where practically no restrictions are at present applied. This is in line with last sentence para. 2. in your 1605/6th Feb. Remarks on 1605/6th para. 3. To summarize U.S. views: They cannot come entirely into line on all classes as regarding numbers in U.S. ships but are prepared to allow British operated ships to embark passengers under British rules in U.S. strategic area. 4. Agreed B.A.S. (B.A.D. 2145Z/1 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.E.F. C. in C.S.At.)

Sub attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A. WESTON sights Sub. 26.29 N. 44.04 W. 2015Z/27. EGLANTINE attacks Sub Area 58.55 N. 38.40 W. 0540Z/28. Para. C. Sub sighted Area 03.45 S. 38.30 W. p.m./28. Para. D. C.G.R. 30-80 makes sound contact 40.25 N. 72.50 W. 1838Z/1. P.B.M. makes Radar contact 36.55 N. 74.23 W. 1930Z/28. U.S.S. STEADY attacks sound contact 35.22 N. 74.58 W. 2130Z/28. (Cominch 2153/1 to Admty.)

Escort of
A.F.D. 24.

Following is a repetition of Capt. i/c Jamaica 1753/27th to Cominch, B.A.D. N.O.B. Trinidad passed to MILFORD, Cinclant, Comcaribseafon, ALCANTARA, Comsolant, F.O.C.W.A. for information by Cominch.

Submitted in interest of successful outcome of operation in hand I consider that A.F.D. 24 should make a short stay at Trinidad for following reasons:-

- A. To rest personnel, particularly A/S operators.
- B. To overhaul machinery and material of all ships concerned for final leg of operation. (MILFORD already requires 24 hours in harbour to effect repairs to an important boiler defect.) (YESTOR's D/F is out of action cause unknown.) All ships on arrival at Trinidad will have 500 boiler hours to their credit.
- C. To allow conference to be held by C.O. ALCANTARA and to ensure ALCANTARA has all necessary supplies.
- D. Consultation about onward (?independent) fuelling arrangements for coal burners water and diesel oil and various pipe connections for supplying same. Necessary action in case of loss of one or more of the important escorting or towing units to practical ports of refuge en route. Dockyard Repairs.
- E. In order to fuel store and carry out any necessary repairs in rotation this procedure will take several days or alternately ships leaving in groups to shorten above process will, unless adequate Astrobosugos (as received) escort can be provided, leave the dock poorly protected. It is obviously undesirable to have dock hove to as she might well have to be with only one or two tugs in attendance.
- F. Difficulty to date has been experienced in keeping to route as laid down thus making escort R/V problematical. I have ascertained from C.O. ZWARTE ZEE that he can navigate the Bocas without great difficulty. (He has good local knowledge having worked out of Trinidad for some months.) One local tug would be required astern of dock for steering purposes. Dock can anchor and recover her anchors. Information to the contrary was deficient. Requested that I may be informed by signal of your decisions with regard to above submission as soon as possible. (Radio Washington 2215/1 to ALCANTARA, MILFORD, Cinclant, etc.)

/B.Y.M.S....

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

B.Y.M.S. Cmdre. N.W. Sea Frontier sail B.Y.M.S. 11.12.20.23 when ready about March 4th to San Francisco. Cmdre. Western Sea Frontier route onward to Panama arranging for logistic requirements en route. Cmdre. Panama Sea Frontier sail onward to Trinidad for further routing by NO.B. Trinidad to Freetown via Belem and Recife. Action addressees advise time of departure, routes, S.O.A. Ships have radius of 1700 to 1800 miles at 9 knots using 30 gallons fuel per hour. Total tank capacity 5700 gallons. Can carry 1200 gallons additional fuel as deck cargo if sailed on favourable weather report.
(Cominch 2218/1 to C.N.W.S.F. C.W.S.F. Cmdre. Panama S.F.)

MULGRAVE. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1000Z/2 P.C. and S. 045° 50' N. 054° 10' W. 058° 13.
(MULGRAVE 2345Z/1 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C.)

A.S.V. J.S.M. 771. Following is text of telegram 2677 Aircraft dated 21st Feb. from Marshall to Eisenhower. for N.Africa. (Begins): Ref. your 1051 dated 16th Feb. In our 2387 dated 16th Feb. Andrews was directed to dispatch one A/S squadron to North Africa. We have now directed movement of both First and Second A/S squadrons and provisional H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron A/S Wing from U.K. to North Africa immediately, as no A.S.V. equipped squadrons can be made available from U.S. In connection with this movement you are authorised direct communication with C.G. E.T.O. Notify W.D. initiation and completion of movement. (Ends.)
(J.S.M. 2345Z/1 to War Cabinet Offices, London.)

War Diary.

1.3.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements

Arrival Feb. 28th MOMBA, BROADWAY, WHYALLA, MACEDON.
Departure Feb. 28th LANENA, PORT LINCOLN, March 1st. M.J. GOULLANDRIS, WHYALLA March 1st. (N.O.I.C. S. Australia (Port Adelaide) 0031Z/1st to Admty. (R) Connav).
My 0530/27 Feb. Task Unit arrived Auckland 0142Z/1. (D.N.I. Wellington 0355Z/1 to Admty).
Arrivals Brisbane 28th STUART COLAC, Port Moresby 28th ECHUCA, Milne Bay 28th WHYALLA, Darwin 28th WILCANNIA.
Departures Milne Bay 27th SWAN for Townsville, Port Moresby 28th (?BOWEN) for Townsville, Brisbane 28th STUART COLAC for Sydney. Sydney (N.S.W.) 28th AUSTRALIA U.S. Destroyers HENLEY, BAGLEY, HELM.
(A.C.N.B., 1017Z/1 to Admty).
Arrivals 27th Feb. TOWNSVILLE R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK.
28th Port Moresby U.S. Transport both Brisbane U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT.
1st March. Sydney Hospital ship ORANJE. Dutch Naval Storeship SOEDOE departed Cairns 28th Feb. due Brisbane 6th March. H/T KATOOMBA departed Brisbane 28th due Sydney 2nd R.A.F.A. KURUMBA departed Port Moresby 28th due Townsville 2nd. U.S. Transport BONTEKOE departed Fall River 28th due Oro Bay 1st. U.S. Transport BANTAM arrived Brisbane 28th and departed 1st due Sydney 3rd. R.F.A. BISHOPDALE arrived and departed Brisbane 1st due Sydney 3rd.
(A.C.N.B., 1036Z/1 to Admty. Connav).

Digest Serial No. 403 Feb. 28th. Noon photos Wewak show one destroyer, one minelayer, one small vessel, 30 barges also 21 fighters, 5 bombers on aerodrome. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0535Z/1).

Solops 6. B.A.D. 1729Z/1 to Admty. etc. (See America and West Indies).

PINKNEY Departure Vila U.S.S. PINKNEY for Auckland E.T.A. 0530Z/5.
(L) 20° S. 171° 45' E. (M) 23° 15' 173° 15'
(N) 33° 30' 174° 05'. S. of A. 17 knots.
(D.N.I. Wellington 2300Z/1 to Admty).

War Diary

1.3.1943.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C.1400A/1 1404A/1)

Submarines Attacked

U.S. Weekly
Summary

Your 1059B/22/7. In week ending 2400Z/28 escorts of ON.166 conducted many attacks. Preliminary reports are that 1 U-boat was rammmed and sunk Feb. 22nd by the U.S.C.G. CAMPBELL, 13 prisoners taken. Possibly another U-boat sunk same day by DIANTHUS. February 24th plane believed to be R.C.A.F. attacked U-boat approx. 550 miles southeast of Newfoundland. Four D/C's dropped continuous mass of bubbles rising after explosion. Oil streak located 45 minutes after attack with debris floating in area.

(Cominch 2214/1 to Admty.)

2.3.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The 7 M/Vs in the White Sea section of Convoy J.W.53 arrived in Molotovsk Roads at 0900A today, and all the 22 M/Vs in this Convoy have thus safely reached their destinations.

At 1000A Force R consisting of C.S.10 in BELFAST with CUMBERLAND and NORFOLK left the Kola Inlet to cover Convoy R.A.53; and at 0830 C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with HOWE, GLASGOW, and six destroyers left Akureyri for his proposed covering-position to the northward of the Convoy route. U-Boats in 37° 45' E. and 37° 55' E. were reported to the Convoy by S.B.N.O. North Russia at 1503A and 1548A respectively, and at 1800Z the Convoy may have been reported by one of them.

Admty. has today informed C. in C. W.A. that Rescue Tugs may sail in Atlantic Convoys without special escort.

The search by CHIDDINGFOLD for survivors of the bombed Norwegian M/V in about 56° 20' N. 04° 00' E. was abandoned at 1339A today, but the search is to be resumed tomorrow by ST. ALBANS from Aberdeen assisted by a high-speed Launch from Tay and A/C.

The American MERIWEATHER LEWIS, 7176 tons, a straggler from Convoy H.X.227, was torpedoed at 0658Z this morning in 62° 10' N. 28° 25' W.

The Greek destroyer AETOS reported ramming a U-Boat about 450 miles S.W. of Rockall today.

2 magnetic mines were exploded by Sweepers today off Yarmouth.

North Atlantic.

MONTE
NARANCO

C.C.S.O. Gibraltar is satisfied that no stowaways are on board Spanish MONTE NARANCO, which was suspected of concealing 3 ex members of the crew of GRAF SPEE.

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.AFFONSO
PENNA
torpedoed.

SS. AFFONSO PENNA, Brazilian, was torpedoed at 2200Z in 16.14 S., 36.03 W. and was abandoned. Some survivors were landed at Rio de Janeiro on 6th March by U.S.S. TENNESSEE.

Mediterranean.

E-Boats.

Enemy E-Boats were active in the Bone area last night. One group was engaged by a shore battery and retired. Another was intercepted and chased off by M.T.Bs. The engagement had some interesting inter-Service features, described by C. in C. Mediterranean, in his 2028A/5th March.

U/B
attacked.

STROMA (M/S A/S trawler) attacked a U-Boat at 1300 in 37.10 N. 07.25 E.

Air
Operations.

19 Wellingtons bombed Palermo Harbour last night, starting fires. 1 Wellington unable to reach its objective attacked Licata. Naples was bombed today by 9 B.24s, bursts being obtained across the railway station and in the dock area.

Tripoli, Libya, was attacked by 17 enemy aircraft at dusk tonight. There were several military, R.A.F. and civilian but no naval casualties. PALADIN was attacked shortly after leaving harbour, but was not damaged.

N.L.O. Black Sea reports that a Russian convoy carrying reinforcements and supplies for the Novorossisk area was attacked off the coast south of Novorossisk by bomber and torpedo aircraft and probably also by E-Boats and 4 medium sized merchant vessels and 2 F barges were sunk and a destroyer badly damaged.

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

"Q" Report.

At 1922Z, SS. HOEGH SILVERSTAR, Norwegian, New York and Balboa for Abadan and Basra, reported that she was being followed by a suspicious craft.

America and West Indies.

It is under consideration to run the U.C. convoys on about a 55 day cycle which would consist of N.W.I./U.K./N.W.I./New York/N.W.I. The advantages are set out in B.M.S.M. Washington 2020/2.

U/B sunk by
ASSINIBOINE.

*(Assiniboiné probably
sunked" AIS report,
August 1943, p. 44)*

At 2250Z, ASSINIBOINE destroyed a U-Boat in 49.55 N. 26.30 W. (about 720 miles S.W. of Rockall). She narrowly missed ramming, but a shallow pattern definitely destroyed the enemy. ASSINIBOINE sustained considerable damage to her starboard side and propeller. She arrived at Liverpool at 1000/7.

O.N.168.

HAVELOCK at 0452Z reported that 3 or 4 U-Boats were shadowing and reporting the convoy, and asked whether air assistance from Greenland could be anticipated.

MADOERA.

SS. MADOERA, Dutch, ex O.N.166, was reported by N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., today to have been torpedoed, with a large hole in her bow.

Australia and New Zealand.Japanese
Convoy
heavily
attacked.

An enemy convoy of 14 vessels, with large fighter cover, was attacked this morning, N.W. of Cape Gloucester, New Britain, by 25 Fortress & 2 Liberator aircraft, escorted by 16 Lightnings. 2 medium M/Vs were sunk, 1 large M/V was heavily hit and was last seen in a sinking condition with decks awash, 1 destroyer and a fourth M/V were

/damaged ...

War Diary.

2.3.1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Japanese
Convoy
heavily
attacked.
(Contd.)

damaged.
In the afternoon, 15 vessels were reported as having been sighted N.W. of Rooke Island, indicating that additional units had possibly joined the convoy.
The convoy was again attacked by Fortress aircraft in the afternoon, N. of Rooke Island where an additional M/V was sunk.
(Further attacks were made on 3rd March, q.v.)

M/V sunk.

A small probable ammunition ship was sunk by a Liberator in the forenoon today in Wide Bay, New Britain.

Darwin
Raid.

Darwin aerodrome was raided by 3 bombers and 12 Zeros this afternoon, and slight damage was caused.

GULFWAVE.

SS. GULFWAVE, American, 7140 tons, arrived at Suva today with torpedo damage.

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

14th M.G.B. Flotilla. The 14th M.G.B. Flotilla consisting of 4 "C" type M.G.Bs. is re-allocated from Dover to Dartmouth. (D.D.O.D.(C) 0105A/2 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Russian Procedure. Your 1723/28 paras. B and C. Concur in action taken by you. Ambassador will be asked to take these matters up again. (Adm. Miles 0928C/2 to S.B.N.O.N.Russia, Admty.)

My 1723/28 para C. After protracted local negotiations with head of Murmansk Customs has got permission from Moscow for British official and private mail to be sent and this has been done. 2. Para. B. Situation unchanged. My 1744/27 to Admiral Miles only. Can anything be done?

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1311A/2 to Ad. Miles.)

As a result of examination of storage plans of ships concerned have at the request of Russians ordered 3 ships carrying R.A.F. stores to berth immediately.

2. Consider your instructions about not landing these stores can be adhered to.

3. Senior S.T.O. and Senior R.A.F. officer are co-operating. (Dagleish Murmansk 2001A/2 to Ad. Miles.)

Your 1723/28, 1728/28 and my 0031/27. Foreign Office are instructing H.M. Ambassador to represent what a deplorable impression is being created here by these actions particularly when our memorandum on these and kindred topics is under consideration by the highest Soviet Authorities. (A.C.N.S.H. 2230A/2 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Admiral Miles. My 1003C/28. Today left for Archangel 1000C. (Adm. Miles 1020C/2.)
Admiral Miles's 1714/22. Arrived Archangel 1400 today. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1531Q/2.)

PRINCE ALBERT. On completion of present duty, to remain on the Clyde at the disposal of Force W until further orders. (C.C.O. 1823A/2 to F.O. Force W.)

ABERDONIAN. It is desired to withdraw ABERDONIAN from Dartmouth and to use her as target, accommodation and maintenance ship for Coastal Forces working up at Weymouth.

2. Request you will report whether ABERDONIAN is capable of acting as a target ship without being previously docked, and what effect her withdrawal will have on Coastal Forces based at Dartmouth. (D.D.O.D.(C) 1832A/2 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Movements.

S/M Movements. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/3 and movements for following 24 hours.
A. REGENT off Vigo.
B. U.S.S. BARB in zones K 505 and K 501 S. of 44° 25' N.

/C...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- S/M
Movements.
(Contd.)
- C. TRIDENT 49° 35' N. 08° 50' W. dived by day through 49° 30' N. 09° 00' W. 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W. 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W. due 43° 01' N. 12° 54' W. at 1400/7.
- D. UNIVERSAL escorted by M.L. 549 leaves Blyth 0700/3 due Dundee 1730/3.
- E. TRESPASSER and USURPER escorted by CUTTY SARK vicinity Cape Wrath due Scapa 1400/3.
- F. TUNA in zones K 5 and K 6.
- G. Russian S/M S.56 62° 35' N. 00° 08' E. probably on surface through 69° 01' N. 08° 52' E.
- Russian S/M S.55 65° 27' N. 02° 57' E. probably on the surface through 69° 00' N. 07° 48' E. and 71° 30' N. 15° 00' E.
- J. TRUCULENT, SEANYMPH, SIMOON, SPORTSMAN in N. Norwegian waters E. of 15° E.
(F.O.S. 1704A/2.)
My 1704A/2 add new Para.
- K. TAKU escorted by UNST leaves Plymouth 0700A/3 for Portsmouth.
(F.O.S. 2117A/2.)
My 1704A/2. Add new para. L. O.15 escorted by M.L. 454 leaves Rosyth approx. 1030A/3 for Dundee.
(F.O.S. 2347A/2.)
Your 1003/1 approved (UNIVERSAL.)
(F.O.S. 1421A/2 to VERNON.)
After undocking at 1000/3rd leave Harbour and proceed by Searched Channels to Dundee escorted by M.L. 454.
(C. in C.Rosyth 1821A/2 to O.15.)
Intend sailing TAKU escorted by UNST at 0700/3 to Portsmouth by standard route.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1719A/2.)
Arrived TAKU, ELLESMERE.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1759A/2 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)
My 1821/1 sailed (S.56.)
(S.O. S/MS Lerwick 1748A/2.)
Russian S/M S.56 left Lerwick 1747A/2 escorted to 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence by route "Pink" to 071° 10' N. 015° 00' E. and thence Russian port as ordered by Russian authorities unescorted, and on surface at C.Os. discretion.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 1751A/2.)
Request you will sail SHAD and HERRING to patrol in Bay of Biscay leaving vicinity of Scillies at 2000/8.
(F.O.S. 1732A/2.)
Request P.511 be sailed to join 7th S/M Flotilla at Rothesay as convenient after 6th.
(Admty. 1849A/2.)
- FURIOUS. Intend to sail for Clyde after exercises a.m. 6th for three weeks flying and gunnery practices.
R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to provide screen.
(V.A.2. 1125A/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- SURPRISE. Sailed 0630Z/2 E.T.A. (?Argentia) 12th.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 1250Z/2 to Admty. C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C. Connav, N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.)

/BLEASDALE...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.BLEASDALE,
ALBRIGHTON.

Intend to sail from Needles 1530/2 to R/V with Plymouth destroyers at Dart Buoy at 2000/2.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1340A/2.)
My 1340A/2. Sailed 1550.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1617A/2.)

A.F.D.VII

A.M. 2219/30th December. Mooring in Gareloch completed.
(A.S.Rosyth 1620/2 to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE.

Three destroyers are required to screen INDOMITABLE during trials to be carried out North West of Ireland during the following periods 4th to 13th and 15th to 20th March.
(D.O.D.H. 1749A/2 to V.A.2.)

Operations.Unknown
Operation.

My 1530A/1. Operation completed. M.G.Bs. 316, 616, 317, 613 and 611 returned to Harbour.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0635/2 to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Attempted
interception
of ship
from Norway.

ST. ALBANS arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0820/2 to C. in C.Rosyth.)
Proceed towards 056° 20' N. 004° 00' E. keeping clear Q.Z. message X 399 and expect further orders.
Beaufighter A/C will escort you from 1200.
(C. in C.Rosyth 1043A/2 to CHIDDINGFOLD.)

Cancel my 1137/2. Abandon search and return to Scapa passing South and West of lane X 398.

(C. in C.Rosyth 1339A/2 to CHIDDINGFOLD.)

Attempt by CHIDDINGFOLD of rescue of men in lifeboat and raft ex (?CULTOUT) Norwegian Merchant Ship abandoned. Destroyer ordered to return Scapa.

(C. in C.Rosyth 1348A/2 to Admty.)

Am grateful for loan of CHIDDINGFOLD and regret operation had to be abandoned.

(C. in C.Rosyth 1908A/2 to A.C.O.S.)

My 1111/2. Sail from Aberdeen at 0300/3. Proceed position Z to arrive 1000 weather permitting. High speed launch from Tay will be operating to eastward of you in co-operation with aircraft. Remain vicinity of position Z until further orders.

(C. in C.Rosyth 1930/2 to ST. ALBANS.)

Coastal
Patrols.

My 1036A/1. Device arrived 0845A/2.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0905A/2 to C. in C.Portsmouth.)
Intend M.G.B. 55 (S.O.) and 56 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between long. 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.

Leave Weymouth at 1900 by Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at Dawn.
Object: Anti E-Boat patrol.

Code word "Device".

(F.O.I.C. Portland 1121A/2 to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Patrol tonight. BLEASDALE, S.O. ALBRIGHTON, GOATHLAND,

/KRAKOWIAK...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols (Contd.) KRAKOWIAK, TANATSIDE.
Patrol Q.Z.S. 391 between 2° 55' W. and 3° 25' W.
Object to intercept and destroy E-Boats.
6. Execution. Destroyers to R/V in position 50° 21' N. 3° 15' W. at 1900 today 2nd for patrol at about 12 knots. Q.Z.X. 834 is clear N. of 50° 15' N. and remainder may also be crossed if in close pursuit of enemy. Destroyers are not to proceed South of Northern limit of A/C patrol unless called for by A/C or ordered.
Discontinue patrol as requisite for BLEASDALE and ALBRIGHTON to join W.P. 302 at 0700/3. On discontinuing GOATHLAND, KRAKOWIAK and TANATSIDE proceed Plymouth.
Code Word "Arena."
C. in C.Plymouth 1511A/2.)
GOATHLAND is to pass the gate at 1630/2 and R/V at Dart Buoy at 1830/2 with TANATSIDE and KRAKOWIAK who are to leave convoy W.P. 302 as necessary. TANATSIDE, KRAKOWIAK and GOATHLAND are then to proceed to R/V with BLEASDALE and ALBRIGHTON in 50° 21' N. 03° 15' W. at 1900 code word Arena II. Force then to act as in my 1511A/2.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1515A/2.)

Attacks on Russian Convoy in Black Sea. Moscow Mission 1147C/2 see Mediterranean.

Allied Air Activity.

Raid on St. Nazaire on night 28th/1st. Damage assessment 55A Sortie D/148 St. Nazaire. Of two hutted camps reported damaged one is believed munitions store. 12 Buildings destroyed and at least 5 seriously damaged. Total damage over 60%.
(R.A.F. Medmenham 1125A/2.)

Mining.

Yarmouth. Following 2 mines exploded by Sweepers today:-
At 0956 in 347° 3 C Buoy 2 miles
At 1052 in 4 cables 280° from Frementon Wreck Light Buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1033A/2, 1131A/2.)

N.L. 79. A. 050° 38' 36" N. 001° 23' 24" E. extending 110° for 20 cables, thence 130° for 13 cables, thence 150° for three cables. B. M.Ls. 104, 210, 213, 128, 102, and 107. C. 0113 - 0139/2.
(V.A.Dover 1107A/2 to Admty.)

Clearance of Q.Z.X. 834. My 1551A/26 and your 2021A/27. On completion of coaling proceed to Dartmouth with all available ships to arrive p.m. tomorrow resuming clearance of Q.Z.X. 834.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1240/2 to M.S.4.)

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. North Russia. See Shipping.
Am over enemy submarine in 60.30 28.35.
(A/C of 426 Sqdn. 1031A/2 to 15 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 47° 10' N. 21° 20' W.
(A/C D.3.U.E. 1305/2 to 19 Group.)

Casualties & Defects.

CULEBRA. Cancel my 1845/1. Return to Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C. 0228A/2.)
Sailed my 1200/25 for Scrabster. E.T.A., 2355/6.
(A.C.I.C. 1945A/2 to N.O.I.C. Thurso.)

H.H.ROGERS, When DIANELLA has joined CLEMATIS is to proceed
EMPIRE TRADER. to St. Johns N.F. DIANELLA and ADHERENT to sweep
on broad front through 49° 30' N. 25° 01' W.
thence through 53° 15' N. 18° 30' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 1008Z/2.)

H.M.S. DIANELLA joined 1330Z/2. Am proceeding St. Johns N.F.
14 knots.
(CLEMATIS 1352Z/2 to WOODSTOCK.)
In company ADHERENT. My P.C.S. 49.45 N. 28.04 W. 098°
11 knots. Empty raft seen in this position.
(DIANELLA 1727A/2.)

ABRAHAM My 1951/1. HORSIA returned. Ship now safe in
BALDWIN. Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C. 1129A/2.)

DEPTFORD. Damage has been sustained by DEPTFORD from
Grounding. Temporary Repairs effected but vessel
is not considered fit for service until permanent
repairs have been carried out.
(Capt. D.Liverpool 1403A/2 to C. in C.W.A.)

EMPIRE PORTIA. My 1419/26. Ship has been towed to Murmansk for
repairs.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1639A/2.)

Fire now under control. Vessel in safe position. All crew back
on board. Fire and damage confined to number two hold number two
tween deck and bridge. Underwater damage probable repairable
without drydocking. Considerable buckling decks and sides.
Bridge and contents entirely gutted.
(Dalgleish, Murmansk 2002A/2 to Admty.)

ARIGUANI. Admty. 1652A/28. C.O. ARIGUANI reports, ship
sheers very widely whilst being towed. In view
of this it is submitted ABEILLE 21 and 4 to
from each bow and a third tug sent as stern tug.
(Supt. Rescue Tugs, Glasgow 1754/2 to Admty.)

/M.T.Bs...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

M.T.Bs. 80, 212, and 246. M.T.Bs. 80, 212, and 246 ran aground on Ringstead Ledges during night exercises at 0400/2. M.T.B. 212 and 246 refloated and have damage to propellers shafts, and rudders. No apparent damage to hulls. M.T.B. 80 still badly aground. Request Admiralty Salvage Department may give all possible assistance.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1925A/2 to Admty.)

DASHER. DASHER is now expected to complete repairs p.m. 17/3. She cannot leave Dundee until p.m. 18/3.
(D.O.D.H. 1932A/2 to C. in C.H.F. V.A.2.)

Shipping & Convoys.

K.M.F.10B. Sailed CHURCHILL, RESTIGOUCHE, BRANDON, AMHERST, COLLINGWOOD, CELANDINE for K.M.F.10B.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0601A/2.)

H.X.227 D/F 293° class 1.
MERIWETHER (Sheigra Radio 0602 G.M.T/2 to Lyness.)
LEWIS Cancel S S S. S.O.S. made.
torpedoed. (MERIWETHER LEWIS 0602/2 to Admty.)
S.O.S. torpedoed 62° 10' N. 28° 25' W.
(Valentia Radio 0602/2 to Admty.)
Intercept 0602 G.M.T. S.O.S. S S S S torpedoed lat. 62° 10' N. 28° 25' W.
(Humber Radio 0702 B.S.T/2 to Immingham.)
SSSS SSSS SSSS DE MERIWETHER LEWIS. Torpedoed 62.10 N., 28.25 W., fire, torpedoed. 0658/2 DE Valentia Radio.
(Burnham Radio 0705 G.M.T/2.)
MERIWETHER LEWIS. SSS from 62.10 N. 28.25 W. at 0658Z/2.
If ship is located by aircraft and afloat, request tug and escort may be sent.
(D.T.D. 1245A/2 to A.C.I.C.)

R.A.53. My 1210/1 Sailed. (PYTCHLEY, MEYNELL, LEDBURY.)
(S.O.D.F.H.F. 0747A/2 to A.C.I.C.)
Kola Inlet departure Force R at 1000A/2nd.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1045A/2.)

Destroyers addressed proceed from Akureyri as necessary to comply with C. in C.H.F. 1609/1st, para. 4.
(R.A.D.H.F. 1048A/2 to VIVACIOUS, PUTCHLEY, MEYNELL, LEDBURY.)

Following tankers sailed with tons of bunker on board GULFWING 590, OLIGARCH 520, EMPIRE EMERALD 500, SANCIPRIANO 300. 2. All except SANCIPRIANO require stores and water at first port of call.

(Dagleish 1224A/2 to Admty.)
By D/F,U-Boats in 072° 05' N. 037° 45' E. at 1414A/2nd.
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia 1503A/2 to Ships escorting R.A.53, Force R.)
Sailed at 0830/2nd C. in C.H.F. 1609/1st, para. one.
(A.C.I.C. 1521A/2 to H.F.)
My 1959/1 para. 6. Delete CAMELLIA.
(N.C.S.O. Murmansk 1537A/2.)

/By...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

R.A. 53 (Contd.) By D/F in 071° 37' N. 037° 55' E., at 1451A/2.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1548A/2 to S.F. Convoy R.A. 53 Force R.)
Positions at 1959 tonight. GLASGOW, ONSLAUGHT,
OFFA, ICARUS, MUSKETEER, FORESTER, PIORUN 067° 43' N. 012° 37' W.
(A.C.I.C. 1601A/2.)
My P.C.S. are at 1800A/2 060° 31' N. 011° 12' W. 304° 15
knots.
(VIVACIOUS 1758A/2 to Admt.)
D/F bearing at 1800Z/2 indicates that either R.A. 53 or
C.S. 10 may have been reported by a U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 1945A/2 to A.I.G.)

J.W. 53. White Sea section passed Zimnigorski 0600C today.
S.O.A. 4 knots.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 0805A/2.)
All vessels of Murmansk portion of J.W. 53 arrived safely.
(Dalgleish Murmansk 1309A/2 to Admt.)
J.W. 53 White Sea Section arrived Molotovsk Roads 0900A
today.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1542A/2.)

LEINSTER. Your 1044A/28. CHIDDINGFOLD will be sailed to R/V
LEINSTER in 270° Cape Wrath 18 miles at 1600A/4.
2. Onward route through 060° 20' N. 004° 40' W.
and 061° 52' N. 005° 42' W. thence Sorvaag.
3. Speed to make landfall at Faeroes at first
light 5th.
(A.C.O.S. 1010Z/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

R.U. 63. E.T.A. 1700A/2. CELEROL, LYRA, ROSENBERG not
in company.
(STAFNES 1032A/2 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

M.K.S.8. Arrived Clyde 25th.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1216A/2.)
Arrived ALCOA TRADER, ANNISTON CITY, JAMES IREDELL, KANA, PORT
RUSH, ROBIN GRAY, ITTERSUM (Du.)
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1500A/2.)

Escort Tugs with Atlantic Convoys. Your 2031/23. As there may be occasions when rescue
tugs can keep up with convoy while towing it has
been decided that they may sail in Atlantic convoys
without special escort.
2. It is anticipated that tugs will be available in
the near future and escorts will be provided as
soon as available.
3. Dispositions of rescue tugs mentioned in your para. 2 are
as follows.
(D.T.D. 1301A/2 to C. in C.W.A.)

/Bristol...

War Diary.

2.3.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Bristol
Channel
Assembly
Ports.

/ Your 1608/1. Concur with para. 5. Intend to bring into operation forthwith. Agreed that no conference is necessary.
(C. in C.W.A. 1526/2 to Admt.)

K.M.S.11.

Admiralty's 2005/25. Concur.
(C. in C.W.A. 1657A/2.)

A.N.D.
procedure.

In ocean convoys, ships fitted with N.D. should normally only stream their nets if the convoy is threatened with attack and occasionally for drill purposes when circumstances permit. If threatened with attack, the Commodore should if necessary reduce the speed of the convoy to enable ships with N.D. gear to maintain their station in convoy with their nets streamed.
(D.T.D. 1814A/2.)

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy Probable position S/M at midnight by R.D.F. contact
X.K.2, which disappeared at 1000 yards reported by
U/B. COLUMBINE was 36.38 N 10.12 W (S). Weather report.
(VANOC 0001A/2 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. etc.)

G.U.S.4. My 1843Z/22nd, G.U.S.4, additional ships U.K.
sail as follows, from Oran, FERNCLIFF; from
Algiers, JAMES MONROE, SAHALE, AMROLANTA,
THOMAS STONE, REVERDY, JOHN STONE. Total now
49 ships, 1500Z/24th, position 31.07 North 13.08 West
(? course) 220 speed 9.
(N.O.I.C. Casablanca 0905Z/2 to C.in C. Med., Admty, Connav).

MONTE NARANCO. Your 1939 Jan 28th Spanish MONTE NARANCO.
2. Thorough search and interrogation satisfies me
that no stowaways on board. This confirmed by
armed guard of 2 officers and 15 ratings.
3. Two members of crew joined at Buenos Aires but I am satisfied
as to their bona fides.
4. Examination of storerooms so far reveals 400 pounds assorted
jam in tins and 12 cases of biscuits all marked Bagley.
5. Search proceeding in other storerooms.
6. Are we to open every tin marked Bagley or confine this to
peaches if found?
(C.C.S.O. Gib. 1030/2, to M.E.W.)
My 1030/2nd. Search completed. No Peaches marked
Bagley. All tins marked Bagley under seal. Request
instructions.
(C.C.S.O. Gib. 1720/2 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

Dispositions. Situation report 1954/2.
K.M.F.10 A, 35.01 10.01 through 35 (758) 06.28 and
Q.K.A. 87 13.
2. LADY HOGARTH 1 Merchant ship 36.56 08.43 coast
wise to Tagus 8, whence merchant ship enter and LADY HOGARTH
patrol outside territorial waters.
3. URSULA 36.41 08.01 passing 36.51 09.13 at 0500/3, thence
to 37.33 09.32 at 2000/3.
4. UNSHAKEN sailing (?1230)/3rd by Q.K. 87 to 35.49 06.06½
at 1845/3rd to 35.53 06.15 at 2000/3rd.
5. REGENT patrol vicinity of 42.30 09.15.
6. WOLVERINE leaves Casablanca p.m. 2nd to South Westward 20.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1045A/2.)
Situation report area XB at 2002A/2.
W.S. (?27) fleet unit 33.23 11.42 through (?30).03 11.02 thence
227° 13.
2. X.K.2, VANOC 37.45 11.50 310° 6.
3. ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM, LADY DENISON PENDER working (? in
vicinity) 32.24 16.09.
4. R.S.2, SPEEDWELL 26 20 15 02 through 25.26 15.49 at 0900
3rd thence 220° 5.4 to R/V with S.R.2. BRIDGEWATER at approx.
1200/3rd whence escorts change convoy R.S.2 proceeding 220° 7½,
S.R.2 proceeding through 25.26 15.49 thence 016° 7½.
5. French SERGEANT GOUARNE, French Minelaying Sub. PERLE cable
ship ARAGO 29.30 10.33 northbound coast-wise 6½.
6. Two tugs 43.09 13.01 through 43.01 13.01 thence (?321) 7½.
7. O.T.(?) C.T.U. 21.5, 29.59 18.41 through 31.30 15.50 thence
61° 13.8.
8. WOLVERINE leaves Casablanca P.M. 2nd to rejoin W.S.27,20 knots.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1115A/2)

/Situation ...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Dispositions (contd.) Situation Report for Area Y at 1957A/2nd. G.U.F.5, C.T.F.36, 028° 49' 025° 40' 253° 13½. 2. U.G.S.5.A, C.T.F.37, 036° 10' 024° 27' through 036° 10' 023° 15' thence 099° 8½. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1130A/2).
- VANOC, Convoy X.K.2. Condenseritis developing badly. Consider should return harbour but in view of last night's sighting vide my 0001A propose remaining with convoy until daylight tomorrow Wednesday. Position 37°.24' 11°.19' W. (U). Weather report. (VANOC 1101A/2 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- E.T.12. E.T.12 arrived, 27 ships. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1216/2, to C.in C. Med.,)
- U/B. Am over enemy S/m. in 35° 42'N 7° 3'W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge, when first sighted was on course 270° estimated speed 10. (A/C R7G/S. 1219/2.)
- Swiss Shipping. Swiss chartered Spanish vessels CRISTINA and MONTE MONJUICH leave Genoa about 5th and 6th respectively for Gibraltar. (D.E.W.D. 1308A/2 to F.O.1/c Gibraltar, (R) C.in C. Med.) Postponed, see 1210A/9.
- French M/Vs. Your 1537A/1st sailing of French Ships MARIE LOUISE LEBORGNE, etc. arrived. (F.O. Gibraltar 1606A/2 to Com., Oran)
- G.U.S.4. None of the ships mentioned in para.3 of your 1528A/1 was sailed from Gibraltar. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1711A/2 to Admty.)
- U/B. U-Boat sighted on surface by aircraft at 1520 in 036° 20' N. 008° 12' W, course 190° speed not reported. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1723A/2 to S. & A., Area "X")
- Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals: 1010 VELOX, VERITY, PRESCOTT, CAMROSE, KITCHENER with convoy E.T.12. A.M., F.O.H. in NELSON, RODNEY, ESKIMO, TARTAR, ASHANTI, CALPE, PUCKERIDGE, FARNDALE, HOLCOMBE, ILEX, HAYDON, OAKLEY from Mers El Kebir. 1615 French ships LA BOUDEUSE, ENGAGEANTE with three M/V's from Oran. (F.O. Gibraltar 1919A/2 to Admty etc.)

/MAURO CROCE ...

2.3.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

MAURO CROCE.

Please pass C.in C. Med., and F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
(Passing action being taken by O.I.C.). Italian
MAURO CROCE left Valencia Northbound 16 hours
G.M.T. March 2nd.
(N.A. Madrid, No. T.O.O./2 to Admty. Recd.1940/2).

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

SANGARA. SANGARA safely beached River Cameroons. Very grateful for services of DAYSPRING and (corrupt group) CAMPTON.
(Salvage Officer CHARON 0700Z/2 to Director, Nigerian Marine, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)
SANGARA safely beached 003° 56' 50" N. 009° 34' 04" E. p.m. 1st March.
(Salvage Officer CHARON 0702Z/2 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Cmdre. i/c Freetown, R.N.O. Lagos, N.L.O. Accra.)

Convoy Sailing telegram.
C.D.7. 2. 0630A/2nd March. 4. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$. 5. Coastal, reference position D.A. Saldanha Bay one - 8.
6. VEREENIGING, PRETORIA, LE TIGER.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 0728Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

CILICIA. Ref. A.M. 2325/1st. Intend sailing CILICIA at 0800C/3rd through B. 031° 00' S. 016° 30' E. C. 026° 30' S. 013° 30' E. D. 010° 00' S. 005° 00' W. Thence as ordered by F.O.I.C. West Africa. (C. in C.S.A. 1103C/2, 1514Z/2 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. West Africa.)

Your 1103C/2. Request CILICIA be routed at best speed through positions X. 020° S. 010° W. and Z. 003° S. 012° W. and that estimated fuel remaining at position Z. may be communicated. (F.O.C.W.A. 1618Z/2 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty.)

Movements, Departures 2nd March BELLWORT, COMMANDANT DROGOU
Lagos. F.S.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 1105Z/2 to Admty.)

Dispositions. FRITILLARY, NORTHERN DAWN with N.C.5 028° 15' S. 015° 10' E. to Saldanha Bay 9 knots.
NORMAN, HERO, GENISTA with D.C.11 off Cape Point to Capetown.
LE TIGER, VEREENIGING, PRETORIA with C.D. 7, 034° 55' S. 019° 30' E. to Durban 8.
INDIAN STAR, ARCTIC EXPLORER with D.C. 12, 031° 40' S. 030° 00' E. to Capetown 8.
ARETHUSA 031° 40' S. 031° 00' E. to Capetown 21 knots.
NIGELLA escorting DELAWARE 030° 15' S. 031° 45' E. to Durban
JASMINE 030° 50' S. 033° 05' E. to Durban 12.
CARTHAGE, QUALITY 036° 30' S. 018° 50' E. E. to 038° S. 019° E. thence 090° 14.7.

(C. in C.S.A. 1137C/2.)

Situation at 2001Z/2nd. BOREAS escorting 19.43 17.23 (181°)
17. SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, (?NASTURTIUM), CONVULVULUS with (?R) S.2. 25.46 15.27 to 25.26 15.49 thence 221° 8. BRIDGEWATER, (?CROCUS), HYDRANGEA, FANDANGO, INKPEN, DUNCTON with S.R. 2 22.53 18.03 to (?23).01 18.01 thence 041° 6. French sloop LA GRANDIERE escorting F.S. LA VESTAL, F.S. ANTIOPE 18.09 16.25 to 18.27 16.25 and 20.15 17.30 thence 348° 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. BIRDLIP, BUTSER with R.S. 1 Z 09.29 15.43 to Freetown, 8. DUNKERY 09.42 17.03 to Freetown 10. PELICAN, ROTHER, BURDOCK, SPEY, SENNEN (?with) O.S.43, 11.8 17.07 152° 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.
French Sloop M/L GAZELLE French Sloop GRACIEUSE escorting 11.38 17.(?38) 019° 9. M.L. 251, 11.38 17.36 to Bissao 10. WEAR off

/Bathurst...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Bathurst to South 14. ALCANTARA and WOODRUFF
(Contd.) on patrol South West of Cape Verde Is.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1638Z/2.)

W.S.26. LANCASHIRE sailed in W.S.26 for Kilindini, E.T.A.
end of March. Personnel on board.
2. Request you will arrange onward conveyance.
(D.S.T.O Durban 1144C/2 to D.S.T.O. Kilindini.)

W.S.26 B. sailed 1st March for Bombay E.T.A. 18 March, personnel
on board, STRATHEDEN, DILWARA, DEMPO, MOOLTAN, DOMINION, MONARCH.
(D.S.T.O. Durban 1201C/2 to S.S.T.O. Bombay.)

W.S.26A. Sailed 1st March for Aden. E.T.A. 16 March.
Personnel on board. MALOJA, CITY OF PARIS.
(D.S.T.O. Durban 1208C/2 to D.S.T.O. Aden.)

S.T.O. Capetown's 1331/26. E.T.A. Aden 16 March.
(D.S.T.O. Durban 1231C/2 to D.S.T., P.S.T.O., Egypt, (R) C. in C.
S.At. C. in C.E.F. etc.)

MONTE IGVELDO
(Spanish) My 1259Z/25th Feb.
Have been unable to obtain any confirmation of
sinking of MONTE IGVELDO.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1245Z/2 to Admty.)
W.D.Note: See, however, R.O. Recife 2115Z/2 (p. 53)
and other signals.

Aircraft Accommodation. Position with regard to accommodation disembarked
squadrons from carriers visiting Durban.
3. Request early action be taken through Dominion
Office stating Admiralty requirements for F.A.A.
in Durban area.
(C. in C.S.A. 1255/2 to Admty.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. From position S 010° S. 022° W. at 0200Z/3rd
March proceed to patrol area (?bounded) by
following positions P. 002° 01' N. 016° 59' W.
Q. Equator 014° 01' W. R. 002° 15' S. 017° 54' W.
X. 001° 00' S. 019° 00' W.
Estimated speed made good 15½ knots shift wireless watch to
group F (?T) at 2000Z/4th March.
(F.O.W.A. 1500Z/2 to CARNARVON CASTLE (R) Admty. Comsolantfor.)

NORWICH CITY. Sailed 1504Z/2nd NORWICH CITY in accordance
with Cmdre. i/c Durban 0944Z/2nd.
(N.O.I.C. E.London 1509Z/2 to Admty. C. in C.S.A.
Cmdre. i/c Durban.)

My 1609Z/2nd (?1509 intended) NORWICH CITY returned to East
London 1654Z/2nd March to repair elements and sailed 2223Z/2nd
March.
(N.L.O. East London 2226Z/2 to Admty. etc.)

/DESPATCH...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

DESPATCH. Intend to sail DESPATCH at (?18)00Z/2nd March to carry out patrol in area between following points
 A. 004° 19' (?N) 017° 41' W. B. 001° 00' (?N) 018° 00' W. C. 002° 57' (?N) (?021°) 42' W.
 D. 005° 01' (?N) 020° 10' W.

DESPATCH will leave patrol p.m. 5th March to return to Freetown. R/C by Catalina aircraft will be carried out in this area during (?surface) patrol.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1501Z/2 to Admty. (R) DESPATCH, CARNARVON CASTLE, Comsolantfor.)

CITY OF
ALBERNI.
overdue.

Ref. S.O.(1) Esquimalt 1100/11/11/42. (Sailing CITY OF ALBERNI). Schooner CITY OF ALBERNI Lloyd shipping index states that ship sailed from San Francisco on 12th Dec. No report received of arrival and departure at San Francisco. Request inquiries may be made. (C. in C.S.A. 1703C/2 to N.S.H.Q. (R) S.O.I. Esquimalt.)

WEAR.

Your 1235Z/2nd to F.O.C. West Africa only.

Sailed WEAR to rejoin S.E. O.S. 43.

(F.O.C. West Africa 1717Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) PELICAN, S.E. O.S. 43 Admty.)

P.C.S. at 2200Z/2nd 013° 21' N. 017° 04' W. 185° 18 knots. Intend to R/V at 1330Z/3rd in position 009° 01' N. 015° 50' W. (WEAR 2230Z/2 to PELICAN (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

CARTHAGE,
QUALITY.

Capetown departure 1145C/2 March CARTHAGE, QUALITY Routed as in my 1541/1 March not to F.O.E.A. and Z. S.O.A. 14.7 knots, QUALITY E.T.A. Durban 1800C/6. Shifts to W/T organization J at 0500C/6, CARTHAGE, E.T.A. Kilindini 0900C/13 shifts to W/T organization NU (as received) at 0600C/7.

(C. in C.S.A. 1734C/2 to Admty. C., in C.E.F. Com. Durban, F.O.E.A.)

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

A.M. 2319/1 March.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA is to be sailed via Freetown to arrive U.K. by 31st March or as soon after as possible.

2. Personnel for U.K. may be embarked but, as A/S escort will probably not be available, numbers in each category should not exceed 250 except that 500 P.O.W. may be embarked. Accommodation within these categories should be left at the Cape to permit embarkation of 250 R.A.F. 250 R.N., and 50 Military at Freetown.

3. Cancel A.M. 1701/13 Feb. to F.O.C.W.Af. only. (D.O.D.(F) 1824A/2 to C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.C.W.A. F.O.L.C. Greenock.)

ARETHUSA.

Sailed ARETHUSA routed as my 1704/3rd (sic) to C. in C.S.A. only to Capetown. S.O.A. 22 knots E.T.A. 0700C/4th. 2. Shifts to Group S.L. at 0100C/3rd.

(N.O.I.C. Durban 1824C/2 to Admty. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. N.L.O. E.London N.L.O. Port Elizabeth N.L.O. Capetown.)

War Diary.

2.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

ALMANZORA
W.S.27

Your 0622/28. (suggested call at Dakar.)
On the assumption that F.O.C. West Africa can
make satisfactory arrangements, there is no
objection to your suggestion.
(D.of S.T. 2046A/2 to D.S.T.O. W.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

Survivors,
FITZJOHN
PORTER,
MONTE
IGVELDO.

52 Survivors ex an American ship (W.D.Note:
FITZJOHN PORTER, see 1255/3.) now disembarked here
having been picked up off the coast near Aracaju.
Chief of Maritime Police here states he can
confirm rumour of sinking of a British ship
off Tamandare approx. 40 miles South from Recife
and a Swedish ship off Ponta De Pedras approx.
27 miles North from Recife.

Understand survivors ex Spanish Ship MONTE IGVELDO are at
Toures on Coast North of Natal. Further information follows.
(R.O.Recife 2115Z/2 to Admty. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, S.O.(I)
Freetown, B.A.D.)

Movements,
Rio.

U.S.Cruisers MEMPHIS, MARBLEHEAD, and U.S.
Destroyer DAVIS arrived Montevideo 1830 G.M.T.
28th Feb.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 2135Z/2 to Admty. (R)
S.O.(I) Freetown.)

T.G.23.1

T.G.23.1 consisting of aircraft carrier SANTEE,
U.S.S. SAVANNAH, U.S.S. EBERLE, U.S.S. LIVERMORE
are on patrol in St. Pauls Rocks Ascension area.
(F.O.C.W.A. 2157Z/2 to CARNARVON CASTLE (R)
Comsolantfor.)

War Diary.

2.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Stores for Tripoli. Your 0959/27th. Agree use of EMPIRE FALCON, ROMNEY, EMPIRE CONRAD and FRANS HALS. (D. of S.T., 0006A/2 to P.S.T.O. Middle East).

Spezia. P.R.U. of Spezia 1315 March 1st. Since Feb. 19th one LITTORIO battleship has returned. Other 2 berthed as before. 90 feet of bows of REGOLO class cruiser hull have been out away and are now fitted to damaged REGOLO class cruiser in dry dock. BOLZANO has been further dismantled. Of the minor units, 2 destroyers and target ship SAN MARCO have left while 2 torpedo boats and 4 escort vessels have arrived. Six submarines of 215 feet and 3 of 130 feet visible. Of the merchant ships, MARCO POLO has left, while 1 liner of 420 feet and 1 ship of 370 feet have arrived. One ELAN class escort vessel and 1 submarine under way in the bay. One submarine has arrived at Odero Terni shipyard. (D.D.I.C., 0020A/2 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., etc).

Movements Oran. MISOA, BACHAQUERO, ESNEH, and FORT (?CHILCOTIN) arrived. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 0800A/2, to C. in C. Med).

SPETSAI 1st March departure. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 0815B/2 to Admty. AURICULA, C. in C. Levant).

Tripoli discharges. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Tripoli discharge 1 March 3377 tons. Benghazi 1229 tons. Air Raid on Tripoli did no damage. (Mideast, 0900Z/2 to Air Min.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 1st March ANTWERP, BEVER, CROOME, KLO, M.Ls. 349, 1126 Greek Destroyer KANARIS. Departures 1st March DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, ROCKWOOD, KELVIN, EXMOOR, Greek destroyer PINDOS Greek Destroyer QUEEN OLGA French Sloop COMMANDANT DOMINE. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0906B/2 to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

TORBAY, CASABIANCA. Be south of 042° 40' N., E. of 007° 30' E. and West of Corsica by 0300/6th.
2. Leave patrol pass 042° 01' N., 008° 22' E. at 2100/9th and proceed direct to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 57' N., 003° 04' E. at 0700/9th proceeding on the surface at your discretion on 9th.
3. CASABIANCA will be in vicinity of 043° 06' 006° 47' until 0300/6th when she proceeds 87° to North of Corsica. (Capt. S.8., 1004A/2 to TORBAY (R) C. in C. Med etc).

/My...

War Diary.

2.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

TORBAY, My 1004 para. 2, leave patrol through 042° 01'
CASABIANCA. 008° 22' at 2100/6th.
(Contd.) (Capt. S.8 1512A/2 to TORBAY (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)
Reply: TORBAY 1809A/3.

Bi-weekly Night 28 Feb. - 1st March, 5 Halifaxes 5 Wells.
Opsum No. attacked Palermo Harbour bursts near dry dock on
104 Part bases of Main Jetties and in dock area. 1 short-
3. lived fire started. 1 Halifax unable to locate
objective bombed vicinity of Messina. No results
seen. 1 Halifax landed Malta, 2 jettisoned. 5 Ju.
88s bombed Tripoli. No damage or casualties. 2 Beaufighters up.
No interceptions. Another Beaufighter later intercepted single
He. 111 North of Tripoli enemy shot down into sea in flames. 9
B.24s bombed Naples Harbour. Burst on Moles and in Dock area.
Formation attacked by about 4 Me. 109s of which 1 shot down. 1
B.24 damaged in combat last seen South of Naples heading towards
Coast. 1 B.24 unable to reach objective bombed Soverto. Results
unobserved. Time over target 16.35 to 16.45 Z hours.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1011/2.)

AMARAPOORA. Intend sailing H.M. Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA
1630A/2 through A. 36° 53' N. 02° 55' E.
B. 36.50 N. 01.10 E. "Chop" 36.05 N. 00.35 W.
S.O.A. 10 knots E.T.A. Oran 1230A/3.
(Cmdre. Algiers 1119A/2 to F.O.Oran.)

M.K.S.9. Intend to sail the following ships (list of 7.)
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1133A/2 to C. in C.Med. etc.)
2 Additions. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1539A/3.)
M.K.S. 9. Intend sailing (excluding Gibraltar and Oran sections.)
(list.) (21 ships) for U.K. all in ballast except DALHANNA.
DALHANNA has no D.G. Request destinations. Also (4) for Oran,
FILISTEK E (Fr.) Gibraltar for Dakar.
(Cmdre. Algiers 1702A/2 to Admty. Connav, (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)
Destinations (D.T.D. 1911A/3, 1912A/3.)

Turkey B.N.A. Ankara 1242/1st March. (Re minesweeping
Minesweeping. questions - details of L vessels to be divulged
to Turks.) Request policy as to what Turkey may
know.
(C. in C.Levant 1140B/2 to Admty.)

P.R.U. P.R.U. March 2nd. Visuals. 0930 Taranto 2
cruisers.
(V.A.Malta 1141A/2 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

P.R.U. March 2nd visuals 1130 Naples 2 cruisers.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1318A/2 to C. in C.Med. etc.)
P.R.U. March 2nd visuals 1630 Taranto 2 battleships 2
cruisers.
(V.A.Malta 1908A/2 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

/Black...

G1A
G1A
Went
Lion

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1427/2nd March

IN

Date 2. 3. 43.
Recd. 1942

From Algiers

CYPIER

Addressed	U.S. Ambassador, Madrid	} Passed by Etoussa
	R.I. Ambassador, Madrid	
	Britanilat Ankara (for	} Passed by Foreign
	Marshal Chakmak)	
	Resident Minister	} Passed by Colonial Office.
	Achinota	
	Minister of State, Cairo	} Passed by Air
	Britann Washington (for	
	Dill	} Ministry Special
	Araindia (for Wavell)	
	P.A.I.C.	} Signals Office.
	Force Nairobi (for Platt)	
	Landforces Melbourne	} Passed by War
	(for Blaney)	
	Defender Wellington (for	} Office
	Puttick)	
	Dechief Pretoria (for	}
	Sauts)	

ETOUSSA ROUTINE

Situation, N.W. Africa.

Ref. No. 3919 (LINREP 25)

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 25th to 28th February

1. Eighth Army. Our patrols have maintained contact with the enemy to the East and Southeast of Mareth Line. Enemy activity has been limited to patrols and artillery fire.

The force under General Leclerc is advancing Westward and NW from Four Tatabouhine and a mobile column has reached Ksar Rhilane, 50 miles SW of Medinine.

2. First Army. In South our forces have consolidated their positions on the General Line of the hills Northwest of Feriana and Kasserine.

In the Ousseltia Valley area patrol activity continues.

In Northern Tunisia early on February 26th the enemy launched several attacks on a wide front. Each attack was carried out by mixed force of Infantry and tanks. 1 attack was made in area Bou Arada - Goubellat and some enemy tanks followed by Infantry succeeded in infiltrating as far as the road El Aroussa - Medjez El Bab. Enemy tanks were engaged by Churchills and in 1

action/

action 7 enemy tanks were destroyed for the loss of 1 Churchill. The road has now been cleared of enemy.

Confused fighting occurred to the East of Med jez El Bab and the enemy was repulsed. On 26th February Sidi Nsir was captured by the enemy advancing SW up the Mateur - Beja Valley. This advance has now been stopped 10 miles NE of Beja.

In the sector held by the French Corps Franc D'Afrique North of the road Tabarka - Mateur the enemy succeeded in cutting the road from Ston de Sedjenane to Cap Serrat. A counter attack by our forces stopped this advance.

The situation is now generally in hand. Approximately 900 prisoners have been captured and considerable losses in personnel and equipment inflicted on enemy.

3. Naval. A submarine sank 2 enemy merchant ships and damaged another off North coast of Sicily.

2 ships in convoy were attacked by U-Boat but managed to reach port.

4. Air. Heavy bombing attacks were made on docks and shipping at Bizerta and Cagliari (Sardinia); the latter was particularly successful. An enemy convoy North of Sicily was attacked and 1 large ship was set on fire. No bombing was possible 27th Feb. owing to weather.

Fighters and light bombers effectively supported our ground troops in Northern Tunisia. Enemy concentrations and tanks were attacked with success.

5. Political. New Prefet Oran, Eugene Battistini, installed. Considered definite step towards improving character of administration.

Considered as favourable sign Leclerc's exploits which local press is playing up.

Circulation 1412Z/2

Brigadier Jacob
Foreign Secretary

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| 1st Lord | D.O.I.C. (2) | First Sea Lord |
| 1st S.I. (2) | D. of P. (2) | C.6. Tels. War Office |
| 4th S.I. | D. of P. (2) | A.M.C.S. (C) |
| 5th S.I. | Hd. of H. | Mr. Strang, Foreign Office. |
| D.C.N.I.W. | (2) | Mr. Radcliffe, Ministry of Information |
| V.C.H.S. | D.N.I. (4) | |
| A.C.N.S. (1) | D.A/S.W. | |
| A.C.N.S. (F) (2) | D.P.S. | D.A.M.T. |
| A.C.N.S. (U) (2) | C.H.I. | Ad. Osborne |
| A.C.N.S. (D) | V.D. | D.T.S.D. |
| U.V.R. | Ad. Blake | C.C.L.S. |
| D.O.D. (F) (2) | Ad. Mack (4) | D.C. (2) |
| D.O.D. (H) (2) | I.P. (2) | |

War Diary.

2.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Black Sea. / Following telegram issued from N.L.O. Black Sea.
1. A. Russian convoy (carrying?) reinforcements and supplies for Novorossisk area was attacked by bomber and torpedo aircraft and probably E boats off coast South Novorossisk, 4 medium sized merchant vessels and 2 F barges sunk, a destroyer badly damaged.
(b). Considerable movement of enemy craft across Kerreve Straits continues.
(Moscow Mission 1147C/2 to Admty. etc.)

Attacks on U/Bs.	A.M. 1916/9 July 1942. Para. 9	All positions North and East.				
	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
	414	1550/23/10/42	IERAX	33.00	H	Nil.
	415	1241/7/11/42	UTMOST	34.57 37.52		
	416	1221/10/11/42	UNA	15.46.5 37.25	G	Nil.
	417	0840/2/2/43	GLOXINIA	15.35 32.19.5	G	Nil.
	418	1500/9/2/43	SOUTHERN MAID	23.48.5 32.48.5	I	Nil.
	419	1038/17/2/43	PALADIN and Bisley A/C	21.10 33.10	H	Nil.
	420	1035/5/2/43	SOUTHERN MAID and ERICA	22.14 32.12 24.52	A D	U.205 Nil.

(C. in C.Levant 1158B/2 to Admty (R) B.A.D.)

PENSHURST INCHCOLM. A. Intend to sail PENSHURST at 0530A/3rd.
B. Escorted by INCHCOLM shuttle service routed along 100 fathom line.
C. R/V with Algiers escort 000° Cap Tedles 1½ miles at 1200A/3rd.
D. (Group missing) 8 knots. E. Code word Aldwych.
F. W/T watch on 1579 k/cs. G. Fighter protection requested.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1215A/2 to Cmdre. Algiers.)

K.M.F. 10A. My 1131/28th pass Europa Point position 37 at 1400A/3rd Convoy is then to proceed at best speed. On reaching position 93 proceed out. Algiers section is to sail out at 2000A/4th through 93.89 and 100 at best speed. E.T.A. 1200A/5th.
(C. in C.Med. 1249A/2 to EGRET, Escorts of K.M.F.10A (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. N.O.I.C. Oran, Cmdre. Algiers, Connav, N.A.C. W.Af.)

SIBYL. Intend to sail P.217 (SIBYL) 1830/4th for patrol off North coast Sicily routed through 038° 27' 004° 08' at 0530/5th and 038° 27' 010° 01' at 0400/7th.
(Capt. S.8 1358A/2 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

/SARACEN...

War Diary.

2.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SARACEN, UNRIVALLED. Arrival P.247 (SARACEN) departure P.45 (UNRIVALLED) (V.A.Malta 1520A/2 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Port Said. 2nd March Port Said. Arrivals: SPETSAI, DERWENT, ALDENHAM, HURWORTH, HURSLEY. Departures: DERWENT, ALDENHAM, HURWORTH, HURSLEY. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1616B/2 to Admty. etc.)

PERLE. My 1853/17, not to F.O.S. French minelaying S/M PERLE is expected to be ready for operations in Mediterranean about end of March. Stock of French mines available at Oran are not fitted with flooders. 2. Understand mines with flooders were manufactured in U.K. for Free French S/M RUBIS. Request information of stocks available and any alterations required to submarine. (C. in C.Med., 1640A/2 to Admty. (R) F.O.S. S.8.)

Movements, Palestine. Arrivals 2nd March CUMBRAE, ISLAY Greek ship PANTHER, BURRA departures 2nd March BAGSHOT, BURRA Greek ship PANTHER, CORDELA, ISLAY, CUMBRAE. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 1656B/2 to Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

French Naval Air Personnel. In consequence of Amarich's visit to London Admiral Michelier has nominated Capitaine de Vaisseau Aviateur Sala, formerly Assistant Naval Attache in London, to be in charge of all French Naval air personnel undergoing training in U.K. and as Liaison Officer with Air Ministry and Admiralty in all matters affecting British provision of aircraft. 2. Request early confirmation that he is acceptable. Admiralty pass to Air Ministry. (C. in C.Med. 1815A/2 to Admty.) Reply Admty. 0056/5.

Troop Transports. My 2037/16th Feb. Your 1607/22nd Feb. TALMA not now required to proceed Basra but propose embarking Army details to capacity for India. 2. (?P.S.T.O. India's) 1018/18th Feb. Hoped EASTERN PRINCE will also be ready to sail ex Suez with TALMA and it is proposed to embark Army details to capacity for India. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 1937B/2 to C. in C.E.F.)

Movements, Bone. Bone arrival EASTON, MIAOULES, departure NEGRO. (S.O.I.S. 2004A/2 to C. in C.Med. Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)

/Movements...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Movements,
Algiers.Arrivals BICESTER, WHEATLAND, ROYAL SCOTSMAN,
ROYAL ULSTERMAN. Departures AMARAPOORA, JAUNTY,
L.C.T. 164 French S/M CASABIANCA.
(Cmdre. Algiers 2013A/2 to Admty. etc.)MAURO
CROCE.N.A.Madrid reports Italian MAURO CROCE left
Valencia Northbound 1600Z/2/3.
(D.D.I.C. 2105A/3 to C. in C.Med. F.O.Gib.)Malta
Air Report.A.I. 593 2 March 1943. T.O.O. 1950Z. C.S.R.
from Malta Part 1 Offensive.
Night 1st/2nd. March, no shipping target was
found.Part 2. Air Activity. 2nd March, 8 Spitfires were airborne
for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.Part 5. Operations by aircraft of other commands. Night 1st/2nd
March. 1 Liberator 344 Squadron U.S.A.A.F. was forced by engine
trouble to land at Malta having scored hits with 500 lb. bombs
across railway station at Naples and having damaged 1 of 4 Ju.
88s which attacked it. 2 Wellingtons 40 Squadron landed Malta
owing to engine trouble which prevented their attack on Palermo.
2 Wellingtons 70 Squadron scored hits with one stick of bombs
across Jetties at Palermo causing persistent fire and landed at
Malta owing to petrol shortage.
(A.H.Q. Malta 2109Z/2.)Movements,
Tripoli.March 2nd arrived PALADIN sailed PALADIN M.L.126.
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya) 2147A/2 to Admty.)

War Diary.

2.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

M.B. 26. Convoy M.B.26 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0438Z/2 to Admty., F.O.Ceylon,
Com. R.I.N., C. in C. E.F.)
Arrival LISMORE with M.B.26.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0502Z/2 to Admty., etc.)

Movements. Arrival BADORA.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 1120Z/2 to Admty.)
Colombo arrival 2nd 0330Z GAWLER.
Departure 1015Z ASTER; 1015Z OVERDALE WYKE.
(F.O. Ceylon, 1126Z/2 to Admty.)
Departure 2nd PULASKI. E.T.A. Durban 9th.
(N.O.I.C. Tamatave, 1335Z/2 to Admty.)

NARINGA. Transport NARINGA sailed, E.T.A. 8th.
(D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf, 1354Z/2 to S.T.O.
Karachi.)

India Air Report. (F) U.S.A. Report.
Photos 27th Feb. Confirm direct hit M/V South
of Moulmein ship armed modern 5/7000 tons left
burning. Military landing craft on deck.
(A.H.Q. India, 2031Z/2 to Air Min.)

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Independent oil burning ships, routeing. / Your 1603/27. B.M.S.M. are enquiring the source of your information regarding oil supplies at Norfolk your statement appears to be contrary to their advices. Request your remarks. (B.A.D., 0137Z/2 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty.)

H.X.227, WADE HAMPTON sunk. Your 1626/1st. In view of VERVAIN's 1430Z/1st rescue tug has been ordered to return to harbour. (A.C.I.C., 0224Z/2 to A.I.G.303, (R) M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4.)

O.N.168, U/Bs. Convoy O.N.168. Three or four U-Boats are shadowing and reporting convoy. Can air assistance from Greenland be anticipated. Unless LAURELWOOD is at today's R/V route will have to be shortended or escort will run out of fuel. Request amending route may be signalled. Number 22 ABRAHAM BALDWIN returned to Iceland with split hull 28th Feb. (HAVELOCK, 0452Z/2 to Connav, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.24, (R) Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C.)
O.N.168. If LAURELWOOD has joined make every effort to refuel and follow route my 1415/2nd (N.T. in W.D.) otherwise proceed direct to position P. Advise. (Cominch (C. & R.), 1921/2 to C.T.U. 24.1.19, (R) C.T.F. 24, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
O.N.166. LAURELWOOD not joined but intend continue toward (O) tonight weather conditions improving may be possible to refuel from Meline. Further signal will be made. (C.T.U. 24.1.19, 2302Z/2 to Cominch C. & R.)

U/B. Following received from Lands End Radio (begins): Intercept 0453 G.M.T. de NAU to CQ XXX RDO Trinidad CK 14 Urgent 0020 G.M.T./2. Warning sub. sighted lat. unread N, long. 61° W. at 1700 G.M.T. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0556/2 to Admty.)

Overdue Shipping. SS. CANANOVA due Jobos Feb. 25th and Schooner CACHACOT III due Havana Feb. 22nd have not arrived. (N.S.H.Q., 0741Z/2 to Admty., Connav, S.B.N.O. W.At.)

U.C. 1, MURENA, BRITISH FORTITUDE torpedo damage. This is re-encypherment of WESTON 1730/1. B.A.D., Cominch (C. & R.). MURENA and BRITISH FORTITUDE both extensive underwater torpedo damage. Ships can maintain 9.5 knots in fair weather only. BRITISH FORTITUDE engine room bulkhead badly buckled will be totally disabled if this goes. It is still intended for these ships to proceed to Curacao with convoy. They are reducing convoy speed by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a knot. (Radio Washington, 0920Z/2 to Admty. C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.

2.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

B.Y.M.S.66
and Tanker
collision.

B.Y.M.S.66 has been in collision with a tanker name unknown, damage to B.Y.M.S.66 superficial as far as can be seen, tanker holed above waterline.
(M/S New York, 1006Q/2 to B.A.M.R., (R) B.A.S.R. M/S 1.)

ALCANTARA,
WOODRUFF.

My P.C. and S. 012° 00' N. 035° 00' W. 268°, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots, leaving patrol E.T.A. Trinidad 1400Z/7th. WOODRUFF requires boiler cleaning. Request S.B.N.O. Trinidad arrange estimated time required 6 days with shore labour.
(ALCANTARA, 1101Z/2 to Comsolant, (R) Admty., Cominch, Cinclant, B.A.D., N.O.B. Trinidad, F.O.C.W.Af., S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)

Movements.

Arrived 2nd U.S. P.C.564 from Trinidad.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 1110/2 to Admty.)
Arrival 2nd March U.S.A.T. HUGH J. GALLAGHER.
(Puerto la Cruz, 1250/2 to Admty.)

Movements
Summary
1800 G.M.T.
2nd March.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
U.C. 1) WESTON)	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 55 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.	237°	10
ALCANTARA) WOODRUFF)	Returning Trinidad from patrol		
ANDES	35° N. 56° W.	095°	19
(D.O.D.(F), 1135Z/2 to Opnav, (R) Comnavu.)			

CHELSEA.

Your 1958Z/1st. Please sail CHELSEA direct to St. Johns N.F.
(C.C.N.F., 1220Z/2 to B.A.M.R., (R) Admty., C.T.24, CHELSEA, etc.)

T.G. 92.1,
T.G. 92.2.

Task Group designation Subron 50 will be 92.1. Desdiv 14 will be 92.2. These two changes in designation will become effective 12 hours Zebra March 15th.
(Comnavu, 1352/2 to Comsubron 50, Comdesdiv 14, (R) Cominch, Admiralty, Cinclant, Comnavnew, Comnob, Londonderry.)

MADOERA
(Dutch)
torpedoed.

MADOERA torpedoed large hole in bow ex O.N.166.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1416Z/2 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., Connav, C.O.A.C., C.T.24, Port Director New York, N.C.S.O. Montreal, W.L.E.T.U. for Cdre. 24.18.1.)

/R.B. TANEY ...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.R.B. TANEY
survivors.PENRITH CASTLE G 53 H picked up 28 survivors ex
SS. R.B. TANEY 1210/1st.
(Cominch (C. & R.), 1417/2 to Admty.)Polish
refugees
in Persia.My 2117/27th. Navy Dept. have now given
authority for Poles to be embarked.
(B.A.D., 1421Z/2 to P.S.T.O. Bombay, (R)
D. of S.T., C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. Persian
Gulf.)

In addition to personnel Vice Opnav 1439/27
provides transportation to San Francisco F.F.T. to Mexico for
Polish Civilians including women and children designated by
P.S.T.O. Bombay. Priority of personnel for passage to be
determined by P.S.T.O. Bombay. Desire to transport as many as
practicable but you are authorised to determine number and to
reject those who do not meet physical requirements as follows
(details).

Expedite departure. Advice Vice U.S. Chief of Naval Operations
and information addressees complete information passengers
embarked.

(Vice Opnav, 1439/2 to MONTICELLO, (R) U.S.L.O. Bombay, P.S.T.O.
Bombay, D. of S.T. London, Comsowestpac, Alusna Melbourne,
Comsoupac, C. in C. Pacific Fleet, Comdnt. 12th Naval District
San Francisco.)

S/M Estimate
March 2nd,
U.S. S/M
Notice.(Cominch, 1517/2, 1518/2, 1547/2, 1548/2,
1549/2.)L.S.T. and
L.C.I. Convoy
from Bermuda.

MATTOLE, U.S. Destroyer DALLAS, U.S. Destroyer
COLE, U.S. Destroyer BERNADOU, U.S. Destroyer
HERBERT, CHICADEE, MORENO, 10 British and 6 U.S.
L.S.Ts plus 24 U.S. L.C.Is depart Bermuda 15
hours Q 3rd March routeing Cominch (C. & R.) 17
18th Jan. S. of S. 8 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 14
hours Z 20th March. Air coverage requested Bermuda and request
confirmation of route. C. in C. U.S. Fleet pass to B.A.D.
Comnavu pass to N.C.X.F.
(C.T.F.32, 1606/2 to N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet,
C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Comnavu, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

ACHILLES.

When ready about March 8th route ACHILLES
onward to Bermuda. Advise time of departure,
route, S. of A. Onward route from Bermuda will
be signalled later.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1625/2 to Cdre. Panama Sea Front, (R)
C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, C.C.S.F., S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C.
W.A., Admty., N.Z.N.B., Cdr. Gulf S.F.)

/AJAX ...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.AJAX,
CORSAIR.Bermuda arrival and departure AJAX for New York.
Departure CORSAIR for Barbados.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1739Q/2 to Admty., etc.)Overdue
Ships.SS. CANANOVA due Jobos Feb. 25th and Schooner
CACHALOT III due Havana Feb. 22nd have not
arrived.
(N.S.H.Q., 1741Z/2 to Admty., Connav, S.B.N.O.
W.At.)

IROQUOIS.

Your 1213A/2nd. Weather report.
My P.C.S. 47° 43' N. 31° 41' W. 262°, 20 knots.
(IROQUOIS, 1801Z/2 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

ATTACKER.

C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.C.S.F., N.S.H.Q., Cominch
(C. & R.) (R) Admty. from N.R.O. Norfolk.
Expected departure 1200Z March 2nd ATTACKER.
Routed Kingston (Jam.) through position 036°
22' N. 073° 52' W., 313°, 8. 074° 17' 028° 25', 074° 35' 024°
02', 074° 35' 024° 02', 074° 05' 022° 52', 074° 30' 022° 02',
074° 47' 020° 06', 073° 43' 017° 50', 075° 58', S. of A. 15
knots. Refer to this as 1258/1st.
(Radio Washington, 1945/2 for information S.B.N.O.W.At., etc.)Dispositions. MASSACHUSETTS in South Pacific. CONCORD at
Balboa. COPAHEE at San Diego. SAN FRANCISCO
at Sea. MINNEAPOLIS at Pearl Harbour. PORTLAND
at San Francisco. ATLANTIC, SOUTH DAKOTA at
Norfolk. BOGUE at Argentia. MARBLEHEAD, MEMPHIS at Montevideo.
SAVANNAH, SANTA FE, PHILADELPHIA, ARKANSAS at sea. BROOKLYN at
Casco Bay.
My 2035/16 and 1457/23 Feb. are serials 61 and 62.
(Cominch, 2052/2 to Admty., (R) Commaveu.)Technical
Information
for French
Naval Forces.C. in C. Med. 1146A/28, question A, affirmative
S.A and S.F.
(Cominch, 2045/2 to Admty.)Information
to Masters
re U/Bs.Your 1719/27* Supply of chartlets has been
stopped Navy Dept. fully concurs in and has
adopted procedure.
(B.A.D., 2127Z/2 to Admty.)
* Re Commodores of independent ships not
supplied with chartlets, etc.

H.H.X.228.

Departure DUNDAS, BRANTFORD, GRANDMERE escorting
H.H.X.228.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 2133Z/2 to Admty., etc.)

/Sub. ...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. A. Plane from U.K. sights Sub. 60.30 N. 28.35 W. about 1100Z/02.
 Para. B. HAVELOCK sights two subs area 59.40 N. 40.00 W. about 1940Z/01.
 Para. C. Sub. sighted 03.42 S. 38.30 W. about 1503Z/01.
 Para. D. B.17 sights Sub. 13.00 N. 61.00 W. 1700Z/01. P.C. sound contact 11.34 N. 65.20 W. 1400Z/01. S.C.769 attacked two sound contacts 22.55 N. 78.47 W. about 2000Z/01. C.G.56017 sights sub. 40.49 N. 71.08 W. 0025Z/02. (Cominch, 2145/2 to Admty).

ATTACKER You may sight Auxiliary Schooner CELESTE M. 4th March course 225. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2157Z/2 to ATTACKER (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A.)

CAMPBELL (ex O.N.166) Tug TENACITY towing U.S.S. CAMPBELL P.C. and S. 047° 32' N., 048° 38' W. 280° 7½ knots altering to 267° in 049° 43' W. E.T.A. 1900Z/3. (Georgetown, 2201Z/2 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.T.F.24, C.O.A.C., Halifax, N.S.H.Q., MEDICINE HAT).

^{attacked}
 U/B ~~sunk~~ by ASSINIBOINE. Attacking S/M by ramming, my P.C. and S. 2000Z 049° 54' N., 027° 12' W. 090° 17½ knots. (ASSINIBOINE, 2300Z/2 to Whitehall W/T). Attacked U-boat 2250Z/2nd narrowly missed ramming but shallow pattern definitely destroyed S/M. Have suffered considerable damage starboard side and propeller P.C. and S. 049° 55' N., 026° 30' W., 055° 12. (ASSINIBOINE 2320Z/2 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.)

Australia & New Zealand.

ATREUS Your 1759/22nd Feb. If there are no immediate commitments for ATREUS in other area suggest vessel be retained in S.W. Pacific area for laying of C.M. Station 3 of which are now in store. This equipment is not required for existing bases in Australian waters but may be required for use at forward bases shortly. (A.C.N.B., 0642Z/2 to Admty. (R) N.Z.N.B.)

/Digest...

War Diary.2.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Digest
Serial No. 404 March 1st.

Convoy 14 vessels comprising 6 destroyers 2 medium merchantmen, 6 small unclassified ships with 3 Zeros overhead sighted 04° 30' S. 150° 45' E. course 270° at 0500Z/1. Approx. 4 hours later shadowing Fortress unsuccessfully bombed same ships 30 miles further West. Fortress striking force unable locate convoy due darkness and weather. 2 aircraft bombed Gasmata aerodrome. 2. Noon R/C Wewak reported nil aircraft visible on aerodrome. Photos Harbour area reveal minelayer previously reported 2 small merchant vessels 57 barges also supplies piled on wharf. 6. Patrol destroyed 4 large enemy barges area river mouth. 7. Afternoon R/C Liberator unsuccessfully bombed 1 destroyer 2 medium merchant vessels Waingapoe Harbour (Soemba). (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0715Z/2.)

Movements. Departure Espiritu Santo 0500Z/28 Feb. U.S.S. SOLACE for Auckland expected time of arrival 2200Z/3. Arrival Vita 0504Z/1 PIOKNEYYOY. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0003Z/2 to Admty.)

Arrival Fremantle 28th Feb. U.S. GOLDSTAR. (A.C.N.B., 1029Z/2 to Admty.)

Arrivals Sydney (N.S.W.) 28th Feb. MILDURA. Milne Bay 1st March WARRAMUNGA, KAPUNDA. Port Moresby 1st ARUNTA. Townsville 1st BROOME, SWAN. Darwin 1st CASTLEMAINE. Departures Milne Bay 1st WARRAMUNGA for Port Moresby.

(A.C.N.B., 1107Z/2 to Admty.)

Arrivals 1st Brisbane Hired Transport TAROONA. Darwin R.A.A.F. Store Ship WANAKA. 2nd Sydney U.S. Transport JAMES O'HARA. Brisbane U.S. Transport FREDERICK FUNSTON. U.S. Transport both departed Port Moresby 1st due Townsville 4th. Hired Transport DUNTROON departed Townsville 27th arrived Port Moresby 1st March.

(A.C.N.B., 1219Z/2 to Admty., Connav.)

MORMACDOVE. 1900Z/2 MORMACDOVE Colombo 1700Z/12 knots (A) (American) 13.75. (B) 14.5 days 38 "Chop" 110° East 1700Z/3. Furnace oil. Route. Vessel escorted by QUEEN OF BERMUDA. (N.C.S.O. Fremantle, 1907Z/2 to Admty.)

Troop Convoy.

Departure Lyttelton 1833Z/2 MONOWAI escorting H.T. WAHINE for Nukualofa E.T.A. 1900Z/7. Route through (A) 42.24 S. 178.42 E. (B) 35.18 S. 176.28 W. S. of A. 13 knots. Departure Wellington 2200Z/2 U.S.S. SHELDRAKE to R/V with convoy at 0400Z/3 and escort to destination. (D.N.I. Wellington, 2335Z/2 to Comsopac, (R) Admty.)

War Diary.

2.3.1943.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1350A/2. 1400A/2.)

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly
Summary.

My 1059/22nd July.

1. A submarine was reported by Algiers R.D.F. at 2125/20th Feb., range 21 miles. 3 destroyers and A.S.V. fitted aircraft were sent out and a constant patrol was then maintained in the area. U-Boat was sighted at 1609/21st Feb. by aircraft and at 0400/22nd Feb. by WHEATLAND but contact was lost. At 1013/22nd Feb. WESTRAY sighted a periscope and attacked it. U-Boat sighted again at 0630/23rd Feb. and at 1306/23rd Feb. BICESTER and 3 destroyers obtained contact and carried out a successful attack. Wreckage including a door with German script on it was found and possibly human remains.
2. Feb. 24th. Catalina aircraft D/202 in 38° 58' N. 16° 34' W. straddled a U-Boat whilst her stern was still showing. Large bubbles persisted for about 45 minutes.
3. Feb. 25th. Liberator aircraft Z/224 in 44° 21' N. 15° 48' W. carried out a promising attack with torpex charges.
(D.A/S.W., 1851A/2 to Cominch.)

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3.3.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Convoy R.A.53 is estimated to be about 230 miles North of Kola Inlet at 0800 today.

An advance party of the air-personnel intended to operate a torpedo striking-force in North Russia for the protection of J.W. and R.A. convoys has been refused permission to land from convoy J.W.53 by the Russian authorities and is to return in Cruisers to the U.K.

From 2117 until 2210 last night our coastal batteries engaged an Enemy Convoy leaving Boulogne for the northward which stopped when two miles North of Sangatte at 2215 and entered Calais at 2340. The Enemy Coastal Batteries replied between 2125 and 2255 with about 40 rounds, some of which fell in the Folkestone, Deal, and Dover areas, causing damage to Naval property in Folkestone and to Army buildings at the South Foreland, killing one Royal Marine and wounding another at Deal, and sinking the Drifter UT PROSIM at her berth in Dover Harbour.

At 1830 today M.T.Bs. 619 and 627 returned to Lerwick from Operation V.P. - K, having spent 9 nights in very heavy weather on the Norwegian coast and laid Mines in Krakhellesund; and at 2005 a force sailed from Lerwick to carry out Operation V.P. 2.

The search for survivors of the Norwegian M/V which attempted to reach U.K. from Norway was finally abandoned at 1230A today.

4 Mines were exploded by Sweepers today in the Yarmouth Area.

South Atlantic.

Convoy
D.N. 21
attacked by
U/B.

Convoy D.N. 21 (Durban northward and westward) escorted by NIGELLA (corvette), SONDRRA (A/S whaler), and VIVIANA (A/S trawler) was attacked by U-boats p.m. today and the following 6 ships were torpedoed:-

NORWICH CITY (A/S trawler)

/HARVEY...

War Diary.3. 3. 1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.South AtlanticConvoy
D.N. 21
attacked
by U/B.
(contd).HARVEY W. SCOTT U.S. 7176 tons torpedoed at 2025Z/
3 in 31.54 S. 30.37 E. and sank half an hour
later.TIBIA, Dutch tanker 10,356 tons in 32.00 S.
30.21 E. torpedoed at 2025 G.M.T./3 was damaged
but returned to Durban. Her position at 2200
G.M.T. was 31.36 S. 30.32 E.EMPIRE MAHSEER British 5087 tons, torpedoed at
2212Z/3 in 32.01 S. 30.48 E. sunk in 1½ minutes.NIRPURA, British 5961 tons was torpedoed in 32.47
S. 29.47 E. at about 2025Z today and sank later.MARIETTA, British, 7628 tons torpedoed at 0045Z/4
in 31.49 S. 31.11 E, sank 2½ hours later.SHEAF CROWN, British 4868 tons (torpedoed at 0045
/4) Reported in tow of tug PRUDENT for
East London escorted by BLACKMOOR, CATTERICK and
NIGELLA 7 March.Sinkings
near
Abrolhos
Rocks.
STAG HOUND
and AFFONSO
PENNA
(Brazilian).M/V STAG HOUND (American 8591 tons) was torpedoed
at 2215Z today and sank half an hour later by
a third torpedo off the Abrolhos Rocks, in
position reported variously as 16.44 S. 36.33 W.
17.30 S. 37 W. and 16.10 S. 37.20 W.SS. AFFONSO PENNA Brazilian, was torpedoed today
in 18.10 S. 37.30 W. near Abrolhos Rocks.
First indications are that 2 Italian submarines
were involved. Survivors were landed on 6th
March in Rio de Janeiro.Contraband
Control,
Dakar.Admiral Collinet's personal view is that there
would be no objection to the proposed contraband
control at Dakar if the matter was raised
officially, but owing to the poor facilities
the unloading of ships would be a very slow
process.

O.S. Convoys.

Unless there are special reasons, F.O.C.W.A.
prefers that dispersal orders for O.S. convoys
should be made by him. These are largely
dependent on local conditions, air cover
available and the U-boat situation. He reminds
the Admty. that convoys previous to O.S.43 when
dispersing in this Command always received their
orders from him.Mediterranean.

S/Ms

The Admty. informed C. in C. Mediterranean that
TRIBUNE and UNSHAKEN may be retained under his
command for the present if desired. C. in C.

/Ordered...

War Diary.

3.3.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

S/MS
(contd).

ordered them to be retained at Gibraltar and to sail from there on patrol as arranged by Capt. S.8.

TORBAY reports that she has only 1 torpedo left and has sunk 3 ships and 1 smallcraft.

ROMAIN

The German controlled French SS. ROMAIN left Valencia at 2030 on 3rd March for Marseilles.

Air
Operations.

Heavy bombers of the U.S.A.A.F. again attacked Messina in daylight today.

M.W. 21

The discharge of convoy M.W. 21, which arrived at Malta on 2nd Feb. (4 store ships and 2 tankers) was completed by 1400 today - 28,000 tons.

Tunis
Repatriations.

The U.S. Chiefs of Staff concur in the decision (see Feb. 24) that the request for the movement of French families from North Africa to France should be refused, and consider that no further action is necessary.

French Naval
Aircraft.

The terms of an agreement which C. in C. Med. is authorised to sign with the French for the supply of 20 Walrus aircraft are communicated by the Admty. today.

French Harbour
Defence.

The arrangements made for training the French Navy in Allied harbour defence equipment are described today by C. in C. Med. The main centre for training in British methods will be Algiers, and the main centre for training in U.S. methods, Casablanca.

America & West Indies.

Landing
Craft convoy.

A convoy of 16 L.S.Ts. with 24 L.C.Is. left Bermuda today with U.S. destroyer escort for Gibraltar, where it is due on 20th March.

GRIFFIN,
DECOY.

Ships companies for GRIFFIN and DECOY, which are being transferred to Royal Canadian Navy, will leave New York to take them over on 10th and 20th March.

/CAMPBELL...

War Diary.3.3.1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.America & West Indies. - Contd.

CAMPBELL

U.S. Sloop CAMPBELL, damaged in collision with a U-boat on 23rd Feb. when escorting convoy O.N. 166 arrived at St. Johns N.F. today in tow of tug TENACITY.

SANTA
BARBARA.

SS. SANTA BARBARA American, 6500 tons, reported being attacked by U-boat about 1952Z in 39.02 N. 52.26 W.

Australia & New Zealand.Attacks on
Japanese
Convoy.

The Japanese convoy heavily attacked yesterday was subjected to further successful attacks today, and at dusk the only ships still afloat, out of the 22 warships and M/Vs originally present, were 2 cargo vessels burning and 4 destroyers damaged, all 40 miles off Lae and making no headway. A later reconnaissance this evening could only find 1 cargo vessel burning and 1 stationary destroyer. Last night the convoy, then consisting of 15 vessels including probably 5 destroyers, 10 M/Vs, had proceeded south through the Vitiaz Strait, while 1 damaged destroyer remained in the area north of Rooke Island. During the forenoon, the convoy was attacked in the Huon Gulf area, heading towards Lae, by 17 Fortresses, 32 B.25s (Mitchell's), 12 Bostons, and 13 Beaufighters, covered by 16 Lightnings. Numerous hits were scored, especially by flights of 12 Mitchell's and 12 Bostons which claimed 26 hits from masthead level. Further attacks were made during the afternoon by 13 Fortresses, while several reconnaissance aircraft also dropped bombs. Of the heavy enemy fighter cover encountered during the day, 40 fighters were destroyed, plus 15 probably; our own losses were 1 Fortress and 3 Lightnings.

War Diary.

3. 3. 1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CAPE ARGONA,
LORD
MIDDLETON,
AYRSHIRE,
CAPE
MARIATO.

A/S Trawlers CAPE ARGONA, LORD MIDDLETON, ARYSHIRE and CAPE MARIATO have been detailed for Foreign Service and Admiralty has directed that they should have a short work-up before proceeding abroad.
Request if exercises and calibration can be arranged at Londonderry.
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 1124A/3 to Cdre. Londonderry).
Your 1124A/3 para. 4. Exercises and calibration will be arranged.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1458A/3 to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

Coastal
Force
allocations.

Cancel my 1901/28.
2. The following re-allocation of coastal forces is to take place and flotillas are to be sailed as soon as practicable.
3. 2nd and 23rd M.L. Flotillas to be based at HORNET. One division of one of these Flotillas will be operated by X.D.O. East. The remainder will operate as C.E. - C.W. Escorts.
4. 11th M.L. Flotilla will remain at Newhaven for the present and operate as C.E. - C.W. escorts.
5. HORNET will detail M.Ls. as requisite for C.E. and C.W. convoys.
6. Division of 4th M.L. Flotilla now at Newhaven to be based at Portland for patrols in place of 4th M.G.B. Flotilla which will shortly be paid off.
7. 18th M.G.B. Flotilla and 24th M.T.B. Flotilla will remain at Newhaven for the present.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1930A/3).

Russian
procedure.
A/C for
North Russia.

A.M. 1722/30th January para. 3. Permission for this advance party to disembark was refused by Russian authorities. They are therefore returning in Cruisers to U.K.
(A.C.N.S. H., 2150A/3 to C. in C. H.F.)

Movements.

S/M
Movements.

My 1205A/1. Sailed at 0830 (P.57)
(Capt. S.6., 0835/3).
Sailed 0724 TAKU and UNST. E.T.A. 2200/3.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0949/3).
Request you sail P.511 and P.556 escorted by KIHNA to Rothesay p.m./7th.
(Capt. S.7., 1010A/3 to C. in C. Plymouth).
My 1821/2. Sailed (0.15).
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1035A/3).
Your 2358A/1. Arrived 1009/3 (TRESPASSER, USURPER).
(A.C.O.S., 1037/3 to F.O.S.)
1. It is understood that the shortage of A/S training of S/M at Londonderry is acute at present.
2. As temporary measure GRAPH can be spared for this duty and Capt.(S) 3 is requested to sail her for Londonderry when result of engine repair is known about 5th March.
(F.O.S., 1046A/3 to Admty).

/Unable...

War Diary.3.3.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements

S/M
Movements.
Contd.

Unable to make headway and am putting into Dartmouth until the weather moderates. (TAKU, 1210A/3 to C. in C. Plymouth).
Your 1719/2. Entered owing to weather. (TAKU, UNST).
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1336A/3 to C. in C. Plymouth).
Your 2330/19. If Russian Submarines have left U.K. request position, speed of advance, and E.T.A. Kola Inlet. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1614A/3 to Admty).
Positions of submarines at 0800A/4th March and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) REGENT off Vigo.
(B) U.S.S. BARB in Zones K.505 and K.501 S. of 44° 25' N.
(C) TRIDENT 49° 30' N., 012° 15' W. dived by day through 49° 30' N. 012° 26' W, and 49° 10' N. 012° 54' W. due 43° 01' N. 012° 54' W. at 1400/7th.
(D) UNIVERSAL and DZIK escorted by CUTTY SARK leave Dundee 1530A/4th by standard route for Holy Loch 9 knots.
(E) TUNA in Zones K.5 and K.6.
(F) U.S.S.R. Submarine S.56 in 65° 28' N. 03° 40' E. probably on surface through 69° 01' N. 008° 52' E.
(G) U.S.S.R. Submarine S.55 68° 30' N., 006° 55' E. probably on surface through 69° 00' N. 07° 48' E. and 71° 30' N., 015° 00' E.
(J) TRUCULENT, SEANYMPH, SIMOON, SPORTSMAN, in North Norwegian waters East of 015° E. (F.O.S., 1629A/3 to Admty).
My 1336/3. Intend sailing TAKU escorted by UNST at 0500/4 to Portsmouth by standard route. E.T.A. Needles 1700/4. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1751A/3).
Your 1821/2. Arrived (0.15) (Capt. S.9., 1831A/3 to C. in C. Rosyth).
P.511 will be exercising south of Plymouth from 1000 till 1800 on 4th March. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1855/3).

FORMIDABLE A.M.1749A/2. Regret no destroyers available for period A. Further signal will be made concerning period B before 10th. (V.A.2., 1216A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

INDOMITABLE My 1810/2nd para. one. Condenser trouble caused by leaking stay bolt nut.
(2) Two hours full power trial completed satisfactorily. No further signs bulkhead distortion or plummer-block trouble.
(3) Intend proceed programme as in my 1544/1st. (INDOMITABLE, 1310A/3 to Admty).
MALCOLM, BADSWORTH are to R/V at Clyde Light vessel at 0930 A/4th to escort INDOMITABLE during trials.
2. R.A.(M) is requested to sail a 3rd destroyer if available to a R/V to be arranged by V.A.A. H.F. (C. in C. W.A., 1838A/3 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

War Diary.3.3.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

INDOMITABLE My 1838/3.
(contd). 1. First period of INDOMITABLE trials will last from March 4th to 13th.
2. If R.A. (M) can lend a destroyer he is requested to say for how long.
3. Commodore Londonderry is requested to relieve MALCOLM and BADSWORTH by ST. ALBANS and an ESSE as they become available. (C. in C. W.A., 1840A/3).
Arrived INDOMITABLE.
(N.O.I.C. Lamash 1855A/3 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Your 1838/3. Regret no destroyer at present available. ST. MARY's, with her only four-inch gun defective, could be sailed from Port Z.A. at 1900/5th. If required request R/V. (R.A.M., 2102A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1840/3 and my 2102/3. ST. MARY's is required to return Port Z.A. by p.m./14th. (R.A.M., 2320/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

METEOR (Group incomplete) E.T.A. 1740A/3. Request Hoxa Gate 1815.
(METEOR, 1501A/3 to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Coastal My 1121 A/2. "Device" arrived 0720A/3.
Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0741A/3).
M.T.B. 85 86, short notice Newhaven.
(7) LORD WAKEFIELD at St. Helens, ALBRIGHTON, FYLLA at Yarmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1229A/3 and 1815A/3).
M.Ls. 293 and 140 patrolling between Fairlight and Rye buoys.
(V.A. Dover, 1734A/3).

Search for Scapa arrival:- 0931 CHIDDINGFOLD.
survivors (A.C.O.S., 1043/3).
of Norwegian My 1955/27. Operation abandoned. Return to
M/V. Invergordon and resume normal duties.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1230A/3 to ST. ALBANS).

Enemy Convoy / At 2005 yesterday R.D.F. reported one large and
attacked by six smaller vessels leaving Boulogne Northwards.
Coastal Our Coastal Batteries engaged at 2117 until
Batteries. 2210 firing 166 rounds of 9.2 inch without known
Dover Area effect. Enemy Shore Batteries replied between
shelled. 2125 and 2255 with about 40 rounds some of which
UT PROSIM fell in Folkestone, Dover, and Deal Areas.
sunk. H.M.D. UT PROSIM was sunk by near miss at her
berth in Dover, one rating being missing and
two slightly injured. One Royal Marine killed
and one dangerously wounded in Deal. No other
Naval, Military, or civilian casualties. Extensive blast damage
to Naval and civilian property in Folkestone, and minor damage
to Army Buildings at South Foreland.
At 2215, when approaching Q. Z. X. 917 two miles North of Sangatte
enemy stopped, possibly due to mine being detonated by an

/Escort...

War Diary.

3.3.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy
Convoy
attacked by
Coastal
Batteries.
Dover Area
shelled.
UT PROSIM
sunk.
(continued).

escort vessel. Our 9.2 Batteries fired a further 10 rounds at a small stationary target but no known hits resulted. Enemy convoy resumed course at 2255 and entered Calais at 2340. Our Coastal craft, who were waiting to co-operate with Albacores of 841 Squadron in Dunkerque Channel, were thus balked of their target. The operating of two small enemy craft today from 0815 to 0900 approx. three miles to Seaward of convoy route between Wissant and Sangatte appear to indicate rescue work.
(V.A. Dover, 1054A/3 to Admty).

Operation
V.P. 2

Cancel my 1612/26. Carry out V.P. 2
(i) Patrol S. (ii) S. Jolivet and Lygrefjord
(iii) 2000A/3rd (iv) 2.
Mines to be laid 4 miles east of S. Air escort
R/V for return passage 0800A/7th, 065° Out Skerries
110 miles.
(A.C.O.S., 1702/3 and 0248A/7 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick)
My 1702/3. Sailed 2005/3.
(A.C.O.S., 2055/3).

Cable-work.
ALERT.

Your 1811/2 A.M. 1714/23 January and 1900/29th
Jan. Request you sail ALERT with LINCOLNSHIRE
as escort a.m./7th March or as soon after as
weather outlook appears settled.
ALERT may enter Eire Territorial waters, but
escort is not to do so except in emergency or in
compliance with C.A.F.O. 1028/42.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1805A/3 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

Operation
V.P. K.

My 0241A/13 and my 1445/22. M.T.B. 619 and 627
returned Lerwick 1830/3rd after 9 nights in
leads.
2. Mines were laid in Krakhellesund.
3. Target number 42 was investigated and found
derelict and deserted.
4. Boats were severely handicapped by very heavy weather
throughout the period on coast.
(A.C.O.S., 2050/3 to Admty).

Enemy Air Activity.

Thames
Estuary.

Following from KNOCK, JOHN FORT. Begins.
108 rounds 3.7 fired at hostile aircraft between
2025 and 2145. 16 targets engaged. Unseen
control used throughout. One aircraft after being
engaged appeared to go down in flames bearing 330
T.O.O. 2245/3. Ends.
(C. in C. Nore, 2351A/3 to Admty).

3.3.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining

Yarmouth LL sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine at 0847 in 292° 2 miles 3 B Buoy. Details.
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0911A/3) (Cdr. M/S Lowestoft 1326A/3).
 LL Sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine at 1130 in 301° 2½ miles 3B Buoy. Details.
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1251A/3) (Cdr. M/S Lowestoft 1725/4).
 LL Sweepers detonated 2 Red Magnetic Mines at 1329 in position 305° 3 miles from 3 C Bouy. Details.
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1413A/3 and 1505A/3)
 (Cdr. M/S Lowestoft 1604/4).
 F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1529/2.
 At 1510/2 one Mine exploded by sweepers in 000° South Haisboro Buoy 5 cables. Details.
 (Capt. M/S Gt. Yarmouth, 1515A/3).

Enemy Intelligence.

Raiders. No further reports of raiders.
 HERBORG. 2. Tanker considered to be ex Norwegian HERBORG was sighted by U.S. Liberator and subsequently sunk by SUSSEX at 1810A/26 Feb. in 41° 45' N. 20° 58' W.
 3. Further arrivals from Far East are to be expected during next few weeks and at least two ships in Biscay ports are believed ready to sail for the Far East.
 (D.D.I.C., 1012A/3).

Convoy off A/C report 2 large, 9 medium, vessels and 2
 Lister. escorts northbound off Lister at 1200 today.
 (F.O.S., 1514A/3 to TUNA).

SCHARNHORST. SCHARNHORST Gdynia Feb. 25th. Graded A.3.
 (N.A. Stockholm, 1701/3)

U-boats.

U-boats Am over enemy S/M in 47° 07' N., 4° 28' W.
 reported. (A/C 0209/3 to 19 Group).
 By D/F at 0033Z, U-boat possibly outward bound, anywhere within 45 miles of 61° 00' N., 1° 30' E.
 (D.D.I.C., 0210A/3).

Sighted Submarine. Submerged before attack. 44° 12' N. 23° 18' W. at 0953.

(A/C No T.O.O. to 19 Group).
 Indefinite D/F bearings at 1303Z/3 and 1325Z/3 indicate there may be a U-boat in your vicinity.
 (D.D.I.C., 1440A/3 to Escorts H.X.227).

War Diary.3.3.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- ASSINIBOINE Proceed with ADHERENT forthwith to assist
(Damaged P.C. and S. 2320Z/2, 049° 55',
2nd March). 026° 30', 055° 12 knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 0221Z/3 to DIANELLA).
P.C. and S. at 1000 G.M.T. 051° 23' N., 023°
16' W. 062° 11.
(ASSINIBOINE, 1033Z/3 to C. in C. W.A. DIANELLA)
Anticipate being without fuel about 200 miles from
Moville. Request tanker or towing vessel may meet in 054° 10' N.
014° 30' W.
(ASSINIBOINE, 1440Z/3 to C. in C. W.A.)
My P.C. and S. at 1652Z/3 was 051° 04' N., 022° 17' W.
037° 11 to position ref. C. in C. W.A. 1348A/3 052° 09' N.,
020° 55' W. thence Londonderry.
(DIANELLA, 1810Z/3 to ASSINIBOINE).
ASSINIBOINE's 1440/3. ASSINIBOINE is to arrange
suitable R/V for ADHERENT and DIANELLA.
(C. in C. W.A., 2307A/3 to ASSINIBOINE, DIANELLA).
- M.T.B. 656. Arrived Portland with defects to 0.5. turrets
R.D.F. and W/T. Approx. time 48 hours.
(ATTACK 1045/3 to F.O.I.C. Portland)
- MERIWETHER Your 1245/2 A/C search yesterday did not locate
LEWIS MERIWETHER LEWIS. Owing to weather no A/C
(torpedoed search is possible today. Two of 13th M/S F.
2nd March). are being sailed to search area for survivors dur-
ing daylight tomorrow. JOHN VINING reports a
vessel was torpedoed about 10 miles astern of
her at 0600/2. This position agrees closely
with position given in SSSS signal from MERIWETHER LEWIS.
(A.C.I.C., 1326A/3 to Admty).
My 1326/3. HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER sailed at 1455/3.
(A.C.I.C., 1616A/3 to Admty).
- EMPIRE Arrived with engine trouble ex WPB.303.
CROCUS. (N.C.S.O. Swansea 1730A/3 to Admty. C. in C.
Plymouth, F.Os. I.C. Cardiff, Falmouth).
- M.T.B. 80 My 1925A/2. Salvaged and is now slipped. Hull
badly damaged and propellers shafts and rudders
bent or missing.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1900A/3 to Admty)
- BELGOL Grounded in Hvalfjord a.m. today. She has
(Tanker) been refloated. Is holed in number 7 tank, and
rudder may be damaged. She is not available for
Fleet fuelling duties in present condition.
(A.C.I.C., 1956A/3 to Admty).

War Diary.3. 3. 1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

R.U.64 My 1451/1. Request information by 0900/4 of number of stragglers from H.X.227 to be included in R.U.64. Decision on sailing of CAMPION and MALLOW to reinforce will then be made.

(C. in C. W.A., 1118A/3 to A.C.I.C.)

Your 1451/1. Request CAMPION and MALLOW may be sent to re-inforce escort of R.U.64. Convoy expected to consist of at least 12 ships including 6 or more ex H.X.227.

(A.C.I.C., 1215A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

When ready CAMPION, MALLOW are to proceed at best speed Reykjavik to reinforce escort R.U.64. CAMPION, MALLOW to Liverpool on completion of escort.

(C. in C. W.A., 1619A/3 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)

K.M.F.10 B. From M steer for new Q 48° N. 16° W. new R.39.50 N. 16.20 W. then to O. Amend stragglers route. (Admty. 1127A/3 to Escorts of K.M.F.10 B).

Entry to Clyde and Mersey.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. and B.R.L.Os.

1. In order that early and accurate information of ships approaching the Clyde and Mersey may be transmitted to the harbour authorities concerned, Masters of all ships sailing for U.K. from overseas are to be instructed that

(a) When approaching the Clyde they must expect to be challenged by signal station situated at Kings Cross in Southern entrance to Lamash harbour, Isle of Arran. (Instructions for reply)

(b) When approaching the Queen's Channel, River Mersey, ships are without waiting for a challenge to identify themselves to the Bar Light Vessel by displaying their signal letters, by spelling out their names by morse lamp, or by hailing.

2. Connav is requested to arrange for U.S. Flag ships to be informed.

(D.T.D., 1217A/3 to S.O.Is).

TJALDUR

My 1015/1. Sailed with escort. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1335/3).

Atlantic Convoys.

Procedure for reforming scattered convoys and to assist stragglers.

(Admty. 1525Z/3 to Connav) See Lion Copy.

D.F.3 (LEINSTER).

My 1044A/28. Sailed Codeword "Faith". Route in accordance with A.C.O.S. 1010A/2. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1708A/3 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)

Air protection for ships in Bristol Channel.

The following procedure will be brought into force forthwith. Details.

(C. in C. W.A., 1723A/3).

SECRET

83A
deu

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.)

SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT

1525Z/3rd March

Addressed CONNAV.

Date 3.3.43.

U.S.K.

From Admiralty.

Control of Scattered Convoys.

Following is repetition of C. in C. Western Approaches 0959/25th February.

Addressed Cdre. Londonderry, Capt. (D) Liverpool, Capt. (D) Greenock. Repeated C.O.A.C. F.O.i/c Gibraltar, F.O.N.F. F.O.C. West Africa, Comtask 24, Admy. C.T.C. 24.7 C.T.G.24.6 C.T.G.26.3.

Begins - A.C.I. Article 35.

(1) It is always desirable to reform scattered convoys and to assist stragglers to rejoin as soon as possible but weather conditions frequently make it impossible to do so.

(2) S.O's of Escort. (After consultation with the Commodore) should, therefore, not request a B.A.M.S. to be broadcast until weather conditions make it reasonably likely that the convoy can reach the proposed position.

(3) The position requested is to be the Commodore's estimated position at 1200Z on following day and it should be borne in mind that in order to give ships a reasonable chance of making this position the request should reach operating authorities by 1700Z.

(4) If ships do not rejoin at this rendezvous a request should be made for following day.

(5) This signal is to be addressed to operational authority concerned and repeated to appropriate authorities.

(6) Unless there are circumstances which render proposed rendezvous undesirable, this position will be broadcast to Merchant ships and operational authority concerned will inform escorts of action taken.

When

SECRET

(7) When convoy is known to be shadowed S.O. of escort should not request a R/V to be broadcast to stragglers since in these circumstances stragglers will be ordered to proceed on a route well away from convoy route.

(8) In case of convoys bound for U.K. no request should be made for R/V to be broadcast to eastward of 020 degrees West in case of trans Atlantic convoys or to northward of 052 degrees North in case of convoys routed from southward it being assumed that stragglers will proceed to their destination independently.

(9) A.C.I.'s will be amended in due course. Ends.
(B) As it is desired to implement this A.C.I. amendment without delay request it may be promulgated as necessary.

1525Z/3

for D.T.D.(983)

- A.C.N.S.(U.T)(2)
- U.V.R.
- Capt.Pim.
- Ops.(3)
- O.D.(5)
- O.I.C.(2)
- D. of S.21.
- D.T.D.(4)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(C)
- D. of S.T.(2)
- I.P.(3)
- D.A./S.W.
- W.D.
- U.S.N.(3)
- Ad.Blake.
- NA.(Mails.)
- M.(2).

S/17.

3.3.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- R.A.53 Your 1215/1. Arrived Hvalfiord (VIVACIOUS)
(A.C.I.C., 1810A/3 to F.O.C. Des. Flot. H.F.)
- O.S.44.
COWSLIP. To proceed to Freetown with O.S.44.
(C. in C. W.A., 1854A/3 F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- S.C.120 B. Request you sail MOLDE to R/V S.C.120 B
portion escorted by LOOSESTRIFE. E.T.A.
position A 1300A/4.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2032/3 to LOOSESTRIFE,
FAY).
- O.N.S.167.
Loss of
Orders on
14th Feb. Following is a repetition of my 1107/3.
PAUL RYKENS on 14th Feb. position 270° Oversay
12 to 14 miles was ordered to pass convoy orders
for O.N.S.167 to S.O. convoy in ESCAPADE.
Attempt to do this was made at sea by veering
orders on a life buoy secured to a log line, but
apparently orders were not received by ESCAPADE
who continued with convoy. Veering line was severed probably
by ESCAPADE's propellers and orders were not recovered although
searched for by PAUL RYKENS. Compromise is therefore considered
possible. Orders were attached to a buoy in a small canvas
sausage-shaped bag.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 2140A/3 to Admty).

War Diary.

3.3.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

TRIBUNE,
UNSHAKEN.

Re retention at Gibraltar.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 0959/3, etc.)
See Mediterranean.

E.T.12.

Request destinations of following now arrived
in E.T.12 Gibraltar for orders.
(S.T.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1101A/3 to D.S.T.)

Dispositions.

Situation 2002A/3rd.

REGENT patrolling vicinity 42.30 09.15.

(2) URSULA 37.33 09.32 338 diving by day 2½ knots
surfacing by night 6½.

(3) PENTSTEMON, VETCH sailing 1200/4th direct Tagus 10.

(4) LAUREL 37.13 10.07 through Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar 15.

(5) LADY HOGARTH patrol off Cape Rocas.

(6) French ship SERGEANT GOUARNE, submarine LA PERLE, cable
ship ARAGO possibly 38, 09, 49 northbound coastwise 6½.

(7) O.T.2, C.T.U. 21.5, 33° 50' 10° 45' through 34.35 09.10
and 33.58 08.07 to 35.43 06.37 thence to Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar

13.8. 2 P.C. R/V a.m./4th to escort 1 tanker to Casablanca.

(8) 1 destroyer, 1 P.C., 3 merchant ships departed Casablanca
1600/3rd for Safi escort return with 1 merchant ship.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1107A/3.)

Situation 2002A/3rd.

(2) S.R.2, SPEEDWELL 026° 10' 015° 35' 016°, 7.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1119A/3 as amended 1824A/3.)

X.K. 2,
VANOC.

X.K.2 position at 0900A/3rd March 39.02 N. 13.10

W. (S) course 294° altering to 311° at 2000 and
002° at 0300/4th March, speed 6½ knots.

My position at 1200A/3rd March 38.48 N. 12.47 W.

(S) course 124°, altering to 113° at 0330/4th

March, speed 13½ knots.

E.T.A. Gibraltar 1730A/4th March.

Weather report.

(VANOC, 1200A/3 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

DERNA,
MAURO CROCE
(Italian)

Gibraltar please pass to Algiers.

Arrangements laid on for interception immediately
on report of preparations and sailings of Italian
DERNA and MAURO CROCE from Valencia.

These will be passed to you by W/T.

Within what time must report of sailing reach you
to be of any value?

(N.A. Madrid, 1213/3 to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.
Med.)

W.R. Note:- Passed to F.O.(S).

Convoy
C.G. 15.

Intend sail C.G.15 (consisting of DJEBEL AURES,
CAP PINEDE, CEVENNES (all French) plus three
L.C.Ts.) escorted by P.C.475 (Senior Escort) and
472 plus French Escort Vessel SABLAISE from Casa

/at ...

War Diary.3.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy at 0739/5 (0730A/5 ?) through Q.K.A.92 point (Q)
C.G. 15. 35.01 N. 06.41 W., Q.K.A.91 thence Gibraltar
(Contd.) S. of A. 6.5 knots, E.T.A. 4 miles south Tarifa
1700/6. Stragglers route as Convoy. F.O.C.
Gibraltar requested to return Escorts and
arrange L.C.Ts onward route to Oran. Convoy
codeword "Tabbat". Convoy guard 500 k/cs. Escort guard 2410
k/cs, 2333 k/cs South 35° N. 1579 k/cs. North 35° N. SABLAISE
guards 375 k/cs. Comfairwing 15 provide daylight air coverage
to 35° N, Missi, 45. This is re-encypherment of my 031331.
(C.M.S.F.F., 1336Z/3 to Comesunit, Comfairwing 15, Com N.O.B.
Casa, F.O.C. Gib., (R) A.H.Q. Gib., Com N.O.B. Oran, C. in C.
Med., Admty., Aluslo Gib., French Admty., Patron 92.)

Spanish Shipping. Spanish CRISTINA and MONTE MONJINCH leave Genoa
5th and 6th March respectively for Gibraltar:
not to be molested.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1437A/3 to UNA.)

Enemy A/C. Following has been read:- Addressed Gibraltar
W/T, from COREOPSIS. "Horse" is being shadowed
by one enemy aircraft bearing 160°, position 39°
17' N. 13° 43' W., course 294°, speed 6.
(Burnham Radio, 1526/3 to Admty.)
"Horse" being shadowed by one enemy A/C bearing 340° distant 3
miles TGLN 555 course 310°, speed 6.
(Gib. A/C duty E via Plymouth, 1540/3 to A.O.C. 19 Group.)

Movements. Following is a repetition of my 2041A/1 (received
indecypherable) (begins): Addressed Admty., C. in
C. Med., from F.O.C. Gibraltar.
Arrivals 1020 REDOUBT from Casablanca. 1445
ARCTIC RANGER from escort duties West, departures 1700 LADY
HOGARTH on escort duties Gibraltar/Lisbon. (Ends).
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1601A/3 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

EMBLA. Swedish EMBLA, 1053 G.T. speed 7 knots, usual
marking on side, sailed 1750/3rd for Marseilles
by approved route. Not to be interfered with
this voyage.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1755A/3 to S. & A. in Area G,
V.A. i/c Malta, Capt. S.10, E.A.C., A.O.C. Malta,
(R) Admty.)

Cadiz. Proposed French repatriations.
(Admty., 1759A/3 to C. in C. Med.)
See Mediterranean.

CLARE. CLARE parted company K.M.F.10A and entered
Gibraltar defective.
(2) Estimated at least 24 hours required for
completion of defects.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1838A/3 to C. in C. Med., (R)
F.O.I.C. Oran, Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.

3.3.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements,
Casablanca.

March 2nd QUEENBOROUGH, WOLVERINE arrived from W.S.27 departed to rejoin.
March 3rd U.S.S. LAUB, P.C.474, departed with ALCOA MASTER, PETER CARTWRIGHT, ESEK HOPKINS for Safi, P.C.472 departed Port Lyautey with export for Casablanca.
(S.N.O.C.A., 2000/3 to Admty.)

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals 1010 TRIBUNE from Algiers, 1257 CLARE ex K.M.F.10A.
Departures 1410 ZETLAND to join K.M.F.10A, 1840 IMPERIALIST with two M/Vs for Melilla, 1915 CIRCE, CADMUS, ESPIEGLE M/Vs Sweep.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2004A/3 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

U.G.S.5A.

U.G.S.5A consists of 26 ships, 6 escort vessels 1300Z/3rd position 035° 36' 020° 41'. S. of A. 9. E.T.A. swept channel 033° 55' 007° 53' 1400Z/6th.
(C.T.F.37, 2115Z/3 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) S.N.O. Casablanca.)

QUAIL,
RAIDER.

Following received via aircraft (begins).
N.O.I.C. Gibraltar from MALAYA. H.M.S. QUAIL and RAIDER will not fuel at Casablanca but will fuel at Dakar or Gambia on Saturday 6th March. Please arrange. T.O.O. 1012Z/3rd.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2336A/3 to S.N.O. Casablanca Area, Comar Dakar, F.O.C.W.Af., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.3. 3. 1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

A/A Guard Duties, Simonstown. Cmdre. Supt. Simonstown's 1620/2/2. (N.T. in W.D.)

1. Most recent assessment of scale of attack on South Africa is that it is limited to submarines and Armed Merchant Cruisers, so that aircraft attack is limited to a problematic single A/C, probably on R/C, which might be carried by an A.M.C. or Japanese U-Boat. In all probability not a single hostile A/C now within several thousand miles of South Africa.
2. Most undesirable that workpeople, particularly of skilled grades, should be employed on guard duties during Dockyard working hours.
3. Even in U.K. batteries corresponding to the Dockyard A/A guns are not continuously manned. Policy here is that production must not be reduced by "Home Guard" duties.
4. Request in view of 1 and 3 above that you will take up with Union Defence Force the question of whether manning of A/A guns at Simonstown should be continued.
(Head of L. 0157A/3 to C. in C.S.A. (R) C.S.Simonstown.)

Convoy D.N.21. Sailing telegram. 2. 0500Z/3rd. 4. 8 knots. 5. C. 031° 22' S. 030° 06' E. D. 034° 15' S. 034° 15' E. 6. NIGELLA, SONDRÁ, VIVIANA. (N.C.S.O. Durban 0552Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

ST. LOMAN, D.C.12. Sailed 0654Z/3rd ST. LOMAN to join D.C.12 in position Queen Victory? 2. Tables held S.P. 02272 23 and S.P. 02360 26. (N.O.I.C. East London 0657Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

U/B. Following received from Lands End Radio, Intercept 0557 G.M.T. de NAU (San Juan) to Radio Trinidad C.K.11 urgent S.M.R.D. 0541 G.C.T. war warning sub. attacked 11.02 N. 01.55 W. at 0325/3 G.M.T. (Plymouth C.C.O. 0659/3 to Admty.)

DILWARA W.S.26. My 1201/2, DILWARA returned to Port, and will not continue in W.S.26. (D.S.T.O., Durban 0831C/3 to S.S.T.O. Bombay, (R) D.S.T. P.S.T.O. India, etc.)

SUSSEX. E.T.A. 1615 tomorrow Thursday. Request gate at 1700. Fuel required 6600 tons. Ammunition required. Request sleeve target catapult unserviceable. (SUSSEX 1004Z/3 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Dakar, Contraband Control. A.M. 1736A/27. Collinet's purely personal view is that there would be no objection to proposal as in 3B of Secretary of State's 239 to Resmin if the matter was raised officially. 2. He states that owing to poor facilities unloading of ships would be a very slow process. (F.O.C.W.A. 1034/3 to Admty. (R) Resmin.)

/O.S....

War Diary.3.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

O.S. Convoys dispersal. A.M. 1129Z/28 1649A/1. O.S. Convoys. Unless there are special reasons prefer that dispersal orders should be made by me. These are largely dependent of local conditions, air cover available, U-Boat situation. Convoys previous to O.S.43 when dispersing in this Command have always received their orders from me.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1037Z/3 to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

Movements. Arrivals 3rd March, Simonstown GENISTA, NORMAN. Capetown HERO.
(C. in C.S.A. 1136C/3 to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. BRIDGEWATER, HYDRANGEA, CROCUS, FANDANGO, INKPEN, ORFSAY with R.S.2. 22.53 18.03 through 20.01 18.51 thence 184 8½.
SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, CONVULVULUS, NASTURTIUM with S.T.2. 24.44 (?16).23 to 25.26 15.49 thence 016° 6.
F.S. LA GRANDIERE escorting French S/M LA VESTAL French S/M ANTOIPE 21.33 17.21 to 22.20 (?16). 54 and 23.38 16.34 thence 049° 9½.
PELICAN, SENNEN, BURDOCK, ROTHER, SPEY, WEAR with O.S.43, 08.48 14.51 to Freetown 8½.
F.S. Fr. Sloop M/S COMMANDANT BORY 3 M.Ls. escorting 08.(33?) 13.37 297 6.
(F.O.W.A. 1139Z/3.)
DESPATCH on patrol 03 N. 10 W. 19 CARNARVON CASTLE 05.20 S. 20.01 to patrol about position equator 17 W. 15½.
6. Allied Naval Units on patrol in Ascension St. Paul's Rocks area. SARABANDE, CORINTHINA, 2 M.Ls. escorting S.T. 57, 03.54 04.48 082° 9 THYME, PICT escorting 06.25 20.10 290° 9. (See amendment 1834/3.) BELLWORT, COMMANDANT DROGOU, F.S. ARMERIA 04.28 03.04 257° 12.
CONSBRO 1 M.L. 04.14 06.39 to 04.08 07.46 thence Freetown 6.
(F.O.W.A. 1225Z/3.)
My 1225Z/3rd. *Cancel reference PICT. Add: PICT escorting 004° 10' 004° 11' to 004° 22' 001° 55' thence Takoradi 9.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1834Z/3.) *Situation report.

ORBITA, ARMERIA. 1000Z/3rd ORBITA escorted by ARMERIA sailed as in Lagos (Nigeria) 0802Z/1st March. ORBITA requires Freetown 1500 fuel oil 500 fresh water.
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi 1140Z/3 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

FITZJOHN PORTER. U.S. Ship FITZJOHN PORTER torpedoed and sunk in B.T.6 in 012° 10' S. 036° 50' W. at 0700 G.M.T. 1st March.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1251Z/3 to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.W.Af. N.S.H.Q.)

CILICIA. Simonstown departure 0825C/3rd CILICIA routed in accordance with F.O.W.Af. 1618/2nd. March. S.O.A. 14 knots.
(C. in C.S.A. 1253C/3 to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. Comsolantfor.)

/FITZJOHN...

War Diary.

3.3.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

FITZJOHN PORTER, MONTE IGVELDO, survivors. My 2115Z/2nd. American survivors are ex S.S. FITZJOHN PORTER, bound from Tortola to Dutch Guiana in convoy, and sinking has been already reported by U.S. N.A. Chief Maritime Police now says no definite confirmation of sinking of Swedish and British ships off coast Pernambuco but enquiries and search are proceeding.* Spanish ship MONTE IGVELDO was sunk 24th Feb. 1230 G.M.T. in 004° 09' S. 032° 01' W. 34 survivors 1 missing. U.S.N. Auth. have these particulars. (R.O.Pernambuco 1255Z/3 to Admty.) * No confirmation, see 1405Z/5.

DRANGEY. Walvis Bay arrival 3rd. (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1302Z/3 to C. in C.S.A. Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

Movements Pernambuco. Departure 1st March U.S. Destroyer JOWETT U.S. Destroyer KEARNEY Brazilian Submarine Chaser C.S. 51 and 52. (R.O. Pernambuco 1310Z/3 to Admty.)

S.L. 126. Advance sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1320Z/3 to Admty.)

GEORGES LEYGUES. Intend to sail Fr. Cr. GEORGES LEYGUES from Freetown at 1830Z/4th March to carry out blockade runner patrol in area between following position F. 06.19 N. 19.55 W. G. 07.18 N. 21.28 W. H. 04.01 N. 23.19 W. K. 04.00 N. 21.01 W. estimated speed made good 19 knots. GEORGES LEYGUES will leave patrol about 8th March to return to Dakar. E.T.A. Dakar will be signalled. (F.O.W.A. 1430/3 to Admty. Comar, Dakar. (R) DESPATCH, etc.)

BUTTERMERE. Following from Alusnob Belem. BUTTERMERE and five sweeps left Belem 1000Z/2. E.T.D. Salinas 2000Z/2. Coastal route. S.O.A. 8 knots. E.T.A. Recife 8th. (F.O.C.W.A. pass to Admiralty.) (Comsolant 1511/3 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty.)

Movements, Freetown. Arrival 1820/2nd March BUTSER and M.L. No. 142 with PETREL. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1702Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

A/A Defence Simonstown. My 1620/2nd Feb. (Manning of A/A guns in Simonstown Dockyard.) Request early approval as U.D.F. desire to withdraw their personnel. (C.S.Simonstown 1737C/3 to Admty.)

/QUEEN...

War Diary.

3.3.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. A.M. 1824/2 para. 2 QUEEN OF BERMUDA. F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to confirm that this accommodation is required. (D.O.D.(F) 1738/3 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C. in C.S.A.) Reply 1751/5.

YANKEE ARROW. YANKEE ARROW, U.S. due Freetown 6th March after discharging here intend sailing to Bathurst with sufficient fuel to replenish stocks. (F.O.C.W.A. 1835Z/3 to Admty.) Concur (Admty. 1835A/4.)

YANKEE ARROW cargo 12,082 tons Persian Marine furnace oil sailed Capetown 19th Feb. for Freetown to discharge on commercial account and repayment of Admiralty oil loaned to Oil Companies. (Director of Stores 1913A/3 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements Arrived BOREAS and JAMES PARKER. Dakar. (Comar Dakar 1901Z/3 to F.O.W.A.)

Movements, Departures 2nd March. U.S. Destroyer BORIE, Pernambuco. U.S. Corvettes COURAGE and TENACITY, Sub. chasers P.C. 575 and 592. Arrivals 2nd U.S. Destroyer JOUETT, Brazilian minelayers CARAVELAS and CARIOCA, Brazilian Sub. chaser C.S. 51 and 52 and survey vessel RIO BRANCO. Departures 3rd U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI U.S. Destroyer JOUETT arrivals 3rd U.S. Cruiser SAVANNAH U.S. Destroyer LIVERMORE, U.S. Destroyer EBERLE U.S. Aircraft carrier SANTEE. (R.O.Pernambuco 1920Z/3 to Admty.)

Movements, Arrival 3rd March M.Ls. 1042 and 1016. Takoradi. Departure ARMERIA. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1943Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

Attack on Intercept DE ZSC Slangkop Radio S S S WKZT Convoy (HARVEY W.SCOTT) torpedoed 2034 T.O.R. 2037/3 D.N.21 ends. 6 ships (Valentia Radio 2042/3 to Admty.) torpedoed. W.D.Note American, 7176 tons, left Durban 3/3 for Bandar Shapur.

Following has been read S S S S HARVEY W.SCOTT (U.S.) sinking. (Slangkop Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 2214/3.) BIVV BRTD (TIBIA) torpedoed 2030 G.M.T. returning to Durban position 2200 G.M.T. 31.36 S. 30.32 E. course 310°. (TIBIA (BRTD) via Burnham Radio 2230/3 to Admty. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.S.A.) W.D.Note: Dutch tanker, 10356 tons. For 4 other ships torpedoed in this convoy, see 4/3.

COMMANDANT Left convoy 2030Z/3rd in 004° 25' N. 003° 26' W. DROGOU. Forward boiler leaking, am proceeding to Freetown at approx. 9 knots. (COMMANDANT DROGOU 2351Z/3 to F.O.W.A.(R) Capt. D.18.)

War Diary.3.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.TRIBUNE.
UNSHAKEN.

TRIBUNE and UNSHAKEN may be retained under your command for the present if desired.
(D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S.(H) 0125A/3 to C.in C. Med., (R) F.O.S. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
Admiralty's 0125/3. Retain TRIBUNE and UNSHAKEN at Gibraltar.
(C.in C. Med., 0947A/3 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) S.8., F.O.S., Admty.)

My 1901A/1. Sailing of UNSHAKEN (P.54) delayed pending decision of C.in C. Med., reference Admty's 0125A/3.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 0950/3, to Admty, F.O.S.)

My 1904/1. (TCAO 16 - giving route of P.54). Sailing of P.54 delayed,

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1994/3, to R.A.F. Gib., H.Q.C.C.)

Your 0950/3rd not to TRIBUNE, TRIBUNE and UNSHAKEN are to complete with torpedoes at Gibraltar and to sail from there for patrol as arranged by Capt. (S) 8.

(C.in C. Med., 1904/3 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Capt.(S) 3, Capt. (S) 9, Capt. (S) 5, Capt. (S) 8, C.in C. Plymouth, C.in C. Portsmouth, TRIBUNE, Admty., UNSHAKEN.)

Movements.

Arrival CARADOC.

(Cdre. Aden 0610A/3 to Admty. etc.)

Arrival PALADIN.

(V.A. Malta 0715A/3 to Admty. etc.)

Arrivals 2nd March:

PETARD ISIS, ORION, NUBIAN, KINGSTON CRYSTAL, JAVELIN, WOLBOROUGH.
Departures 2nd March:

VULCAN, ANTWERP.

(S.O.I. Alexandria, 0911B/3 to Admty. etc.)

2nd March arrival CUMBRAE, ISLAY.

(S.O. (I) Beirut, 1045K/3 to Admty.)

Arrived M.L.126.

(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1152A/3 to Admty. etc.)

Arrived M.T.B's 95, 84.

(N.O.i/c Malta, 1616A/3 to Admty. etc.)

Arrivals Port Said March 3rd H.H.M.S. PANTHER, BURRA,

R.F.A. BADAPUR, BAGSHOT, CORDILA, VULCAN, ANTWERP.

(N.O.i/c Port Said, 1703B/3 to Admty. etc.)

Algiers Arrivals: LIDDESDALE, ABDIEL,

Departures: MOOSEJAW, M.L.444, L.C.I. (L) 161.

(Cdre. Algiers 2001A/3 to Admty. etc.)

Arrivals M.L. 444. Departures ABDIEL, BACHAQUERO, MISOA,

RHYL, BUDE, POLRUAN, BRIKHAM, LAMERTON, WILTON, ALGOMA.

(Comnob Oran, 2010A/3, to Admty. etc.)

Bone. Departure EASTON, LIGHTING, LOYAL, MIAOULES.

(S.O.I.S. 2014A/3 to C.in C. Med., etc.)

Arrived AMBER, APHIS M.L.356.

(N.O.i/c Tobruk, 2140B/3 to Admty.)

Departures SOUTHERN MAID, BARFORD, TREERN.

(N.O.i/c Benghazi, 2228B/3rd to Admty.)

B.A.38.

Convoy B.A.38 arrived.

(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0657Z/3 to Admty.)

War Diary.3.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- French Shipping. Intend sailing 1900/3 to Algiers routed through 34 and 100 LES ISSERS, KRISTEL, escorted by GOELAND, Chasseur 3. Speed of advance 6 knots. (Com. N.O.B. Oran Area, 0955A/3 to C.in C. Med.)
- EMPIRE GOLD. Admty's 1739A/1. (Re U.G.S.5, requesting information EMPIRE GOLD). EMPIRE GOLD now at Oran will be sailed in T.E.17 today Wednesday. Com. Algiers is requested to sail EMPIRE GOLD as soon as possible to Oran as it is expected to use EMPIRE GOLD about 9th March to transfer cargo of torpedoed SEMINOLE. (Com., N.O.B. Oran, 1011A/3, to Admty. etc.)
- Bi-weekly Night 1st/2nd March.
Opsum No.104.19 Wellingtons bombed Palermo Harbour. 4 Large fires started south of harbour and in town area. Burst across jetties started another fire. 1 Wellington unable to reach objective attacked Licata. Results unobserved. 2 Wellingtons carrying flames landed at Malta on outward journey with engine trouble. 2 Wellingtons crashed at base on return. Crews uninjured. March 2nd. Formations totalling 19 B. 24's despatched to attack Naples 9 bombed objective. Bursts across Railway station and on dock area. 1 of 4 attacking Ju.88s damaged by return fire. 2 B.24's respectively bombed Staletti and identified 2 (sic) near Amantea. Fires with black smoke started at both places. 1 B.24 bombed Soverato, 1 bombed Catanzaro, 6 returned without bombing due to technical trouble. Time over target 1632 to 1636Z hours. Due to corrupt signal wrongly reported that HE.111 was shot down over Tripoli in daylight March 1st. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1103Z/3)
- M.N.B.D.O.1. our 1526/14 Dec. Para.3. Arrangements already made for shipment of 5 boats required, consigned Force Overt, c/o F.O.I.C. Ceylon. Para.4, Landing Craft, 17 L.C.M. are already in India, 30 L.C.M.(3) will shortly be shipped from U.S.A. followed by further 90 before August. M.N.B.D.O's requirements should be met from those on the station. No more L.C.M.(1) will be shipped. (Head of M., 1112A/3 to C.in C. Levant, (R) C.in C.E.F. etc.)

T.E.17. Intend sailing for Bone EMPIRE HUNTER, HILDUR I

/ZAAN ...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

T.E.17. ZAAAN, MORAY COAST, VILLE DE BOUGIE (French).
(contd.) For Philippeville (? in convoy) LAC LA ROUGE,
LORD DELAWARE, EMPIRE SCOUT, ODYSSEUS, MARGA,
TITUS.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1119A/3 to N.O.1/c's Bougie,
Bone, Philippeville, (R) Connav etc.)

T.E.17. Sailed as in my 1420 1st Feb. as follows
MISOA (Cmdre.) 21, OCEAN VALENTINE (Vice Cdre. and Cdre. after
Philippeville) 11, PANAMA CITY 31, BACHAQUERO, 22, ORPHEUS 12,
EMPIRE GOLD 32, RHYL S.O. Escort.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1400A/3 to C.in C. Med., (R) Cdre. Algiers,
S.O.I.S., S.O. Force H, Admty, Connav, N.O.I.C. Philippeville).

S/M's 4 Destroyers pass 330° Cape Serrat 11 miles
information. at 1930 3rd and proceed through 038° 08 mins. 010°
50 mins. 038° 03 mins. 011° 22 mins. thence 2
destroyers proceed Malta and 2 return to Bone.
(Capt. (S) 8, 1140A/3 to UNA, (R) P.211.)

2 Hunts passing thro' Sicilian Channel tonight routed thro'
038° 03' 011° 22' 037° 07' 013° 15' to Malta, passing thro' 1st
position at 0030A speed 24 knots. They have orders not to
attack s/m's.
(Capt. (S) 10, 1150A/3 to 10 S/M F.)

TORBAY. You may have been sighted off Cape Corse at
0940 today.
(Capt. (S) 8, 1202A/3 to TORBAY)
See also 1809A/3.

SANTA. Your 1711/27th Feb. not to C.in C. E.F. and your
SAHRA. 1716/27th Feb. (N.T. of either in W.D.) SANTA and
SAHRA will complete by the end of March and will
be sailed for Malta when ready.
(C.in C. Levant, 1401B/3 to Admty., (R) V.A. Malta,
C.in C. Med., C.in C. E.F.)

AMARAPOORA. Your 1119/2nd (Re intend sailing Hospital Ship
AMARAPOORA.) ? arrived.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1450A/3 to Cdre. Algiers, etc.)

Operation My 2008/26. Total cargo of 28,000 tons completed
M.W.21. discharge at 1400 today.
(V.A. Malta, 1525A/3, to Admty.)
Discharge of M.W.21 completed.
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 1805A/3 to D. of S.T.,
(R) P.S.T.O. M.E.

/French ...

War Diary.3. 2. 1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

French Training in Harbour Defence. / Following arrangements have been made for training French Navy in Allied Harbour Defence Equipment.

2. Main Centre for Training in British methods will be Algiers for which 5 French Student Officers have been appointed.

3. Main centre for Training in U.S. methods will be Casablanca. N.O.I.C. Casablanca is requested to arrange similar instruction in American Equipment.

4. French Officers for Bone Bougie and Philippeville will be nominated later.

5. Instructions for release of British Secret material in accordance with A.M.0019/14th/Feb. were promulgated to port authorities concerned in my memorandum 132114/22nd dated 17th Feb.

6. Release of U.S. Secret material will be as authorized by Cominch. Attention to Cominch/1617/14th/Feb. being passed to N.O.I.C. Casablanca and N.O.I.C. Oran.
(C.in C. Med., 1601A/3 to N.C's 1/c etc.)

ABDIEL Minelaying. / ABDIEL leaves Bone p.m. 4th passing North of Galita Isles 1945/4th through 038° 04' North 011° 17' E. to lay in Gulf of Tunis, returning to Algiers on completion or to Malta if weather conditions necessitate.
(Capt. (S) 8, 1626A/3 to 8 S.F.)

GRADISCA, repatriations. / Your 1751/2nd. (N.T. in W.D.) Para.3. From position G thence to 035° 50' North 032° 50' E, 036° 00' N. 034° 00' E. thence to Mersin.
Para.4. Safe conduct for GRADISCA assured by British Naval Authorities for both outward and homeward voyages.
(C.in C. Levant, 1643B/3 to N.A. Ankara, (R) Admty.)
W.R.Note: Repatriation of British Naval Personnel and civilians.

Situation report No.67. / (1) Minelaying. RORQUAL off Marittimo. 25th Feb. ABDIEL off Ras Engelais.
M.T.B's off Plane Island 27th Feb. and Bizerta 1st March.
(2) E boats were active in Bone Area night 1st/2nd March. One group engaged by shore battery and retired. Other group intercepted and chased off by M.T.B's.
(3) STROM (?STROMA) attacked U-boat at 1300/2 in position 37 10 North 07 25 East. No details yet.
(4) UNRUFFLED reports sinking 2500 ton merchant at 0841/21 in position 36 56 North 11 23 East.
(5) THUNDERBOLT shelled schooner off Brindisi at 0625/8th Feb. In approaches to Split at 0931/12 fired 5 torpedoes at convoy. Explosions were heard but results unobserved. Several gun actions resulted as follows. 0905/14 in position 44 10 North 14 50 East sank small minesweeper. 1720/18 off Pola scored hits on small Naval auxiliary vessel 0805/19 hit tug and dredger off Ortona until forced to dive by shore battery. 1756/19 hit train and bridge at Penna Point. 0838/20 off Bari left Schooner derelict.
(C.in C. Med., 1656A/3 to Admty. etc.)

/TROOPER ...

War Diary.

3.3.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TROOPER, Onward route for TROOPER through 038° 01' 011°
TIGRIS, 30' at 1900/5th 039° 05' 012° 40' at 0330/6th
TURBULENT. thence 090° to patrol South of 040° N. and East of
015° E.

2. TIGRIS is to leave patrol through 039° 59' 013°
25' 2000/6th. 038° 50' 011° 34' at 0900/7th, thence course 263°
Onward route to Algiers follows.

3. TURBULENT has freedom of movement north of 040° N., east of
013° E. after 2000/6th.

4. Capt. S.10th pass to TROOPER.

(Capt. S.8 1704A/3 to TROOPER, TIGRIS, TURBULENT, (R) 8th S.F.
C. in C.Med. Capt. S.10th.)

SIBYL, P.217 (SIBYL) passes 038° 27' 010° 01' at 0400/7th
SAFARI. thence course degrees 90 to patrol between
longitude 011° 30' E. and 012° 30' E. South of
038° 40' N. and North of Q.K.B. 20 (Q.B.B. 255.)

2. P.211(SAFARI) leaving patrol through 038° 12' 012° 00' course
90°. To pass 010° E. at 0001/10th but may do so 2 or 3 days either
side of this date without warning previously.

3. Submarines are not to be attacked in P.217 (SIBYL) patrol area
until further directions.

4. Capt. S.10 pass to TROOPER P.212 (SAHIB.) THUNDERBOLT.

(Capt. S.8 1722A/3 to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C.Med., Capt. S.10,
TROOPER, P.212 (SAHIB) THUNDERBOLT.)

Proposed / Your 1730/23 which has been repeated to N.A.Madrid
French Considered most undesirable for North African
Repatriation French ships to visit neutral ports, especially
Cadiz. Spanish. Axis could procure from Vichy Govt. or by
pressure upon owners in France the legal arrest of
the ships, which Spanish Govt. might find it
difficult to release even if they wished.

2. Accordingly, we are opposed to SIDI BRAHIM and GOUVERNEUR
GENERAL LEPINE proceeding to Cadiz to embark refugees unless
Spanish Govt. are guaranteeing that ships will not be hindered by
any means whatsoever, including legal process, from sailing again.
Even then it may be wiser for ships to go in singly.

3. There is also possibility that Vichy undesirables or Axis
agents may be included amongst refugees. Assurance is therefore
required that adequate security examination will take place either
in Gibraltar or North Africa.

4. Urgency of removing bona fide French refugees from Spain is
appreciated, and if safety of French ships is not absolutely
guaranteed, possibility of sending a British ship to Cadiz for
the purpose may have to be considered.

(Head of M (1) Approved 1st Lord 1759A/3 to C. in C. Med. (R)
V.A.Gib. N.A.Madrid.)

Reply: C. in C.Med. 1620/5.

TORBAY. Your 1004/2nd. Intend following route ordered 48
hours early. One torpedo left. Three ships and one
small craft sunk. Request number index column of
S.P. 02440 (1) in force for March may be signalled.
(TORBAY 1809A/3 to Capt. S.8.)

P.R.U. March 3rd Visuals. 1540 Naples 2 cruisers. 1635
Taranto 2 Battleships, 2 cruisers. 1730 Messina
no major naval unit.
(V.A.Malta 1830A/3 to C., in C.Med. etc.)

/TAKLIWA...

War Diary.3.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

TAKLIWA TAKLIWA will call Berbera embark Italian evacuees 100 for Dar-Es-Salaam, 450 for Kilindini. Vessel should be sailed accordingly. Agreed G.H.Q.M.E. C. in C. pass to E.A. Command. (P.S.T.O. M.E. 1903/3, to D.S.T.O. Suez)

M.K.S.9. Your 1702/2nd. List of destinations. (D.T.D. 1911A/3 to Cdre. Algiers) Destinations of Oran ships. (D.T.D. 1912A/3 to F.O.I.C. Oran)

M.W.23,
M.W.25 Your 1201/1 1,000 tons being shipped in M.W.23 about 14th March. 2,500 tons in M.W. 25 about 5th April. Mideast 2030/2 (No trace in W.R. - repetition requested) to Governor Malta refers. (C. in C. Levant 1955B/3 to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.) W.D. Note - Reference concerns cement for Malta, see 1815B/6.

Movements
Oran Arrivals 444. Departures (DT(?)IRL), (As received verification requested.) BACHAQUERO, MISOA, RHYL, BUDE, POLRUAN, BRIXAM, LAMERTON, WILTON, ALGOMA. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2010A/3, to Admty. etc.)

Malta
Air Report A.I. 500, 3 March, C.S.R. Part 1, Offensive. Night 2nd/3rd March. No shipping target was found. Five Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily. Part 2. Enemy air activity. Day 3rd March. 1115 hours, 16 ME 109s approached Malta at great height and were intercepted by 8 Spitfire V's. Enemy had height and sun advantage and 1 Spitfire was shot down but pilot was rescued by R.A.F. Launch. Spitfires airborne on air/sea rescue search destroyed 1 JU 88 flying north. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2016Z/3.)

GUS.5 Intend to sail GUS 5 from Oran on 13th March and from Casablanca on 15th March. Request ocean route (C. in C. Med. 2201A/3 to Admiralty repeated N.O.I.C. Oran. S.N.O.C.A. Connnav.)

Enemy Units P.C.S. of enemy, 3 medium sized M/V, 3 destroyers, 39.03 N, 13.20 E, course 270° 12 knots. (A/C BUL/U 2150A/3 to Air H.Q. Malta)

/P.C.S. ...

War Diary.

3.3.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Enemy Units
(Contd.)

P.C.S. of one large M/V one medium sized M/V,
three destroyers, 38.50N, 13-15E 250° 18 knots.
(A/C BUL/U 2235/3 to Air H.Q. Malta.
My 2150 P.C.S. three medium sized M/V, three
destroyers 38.47N, 13.20E, 180° 15 knots.
(A/C BUL/U, 2240A/3 to Air H.Q. Malta.

French
Aircraft

Terms of agreement for supply and maintenance
of 20 Walrus Aircraft for French Navy.
(Admty. 2235A/3, to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.

SECRET

had
98A
lion

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.)

SECRET

M E S S A G E 2235A/3 March.
O.T.P.

To: C. in C. Mediterranean.

DATE. 3.3.43.

NAVAL CYpher O.T.P.

From. Admiralty.

Walrus Aircraft for French Navy

IMPORTANT

(NT. O.T.P.)

Your 1820/24. You are authorised to sign an agreement with the French on our behalf in the following terms. Begins:-

1. The Admiralty agree to supply 20 Walrus aircraft. 9 to be available in approximately 40 days, 11 to be available in approximately 70 days. Aircraft to be shipped as required by C. in C. Mediterranean in consultation with the French Authorities.

Necessary spare parts and stores will be provided from time to time to maintain one squadron of 12 Walrus plus 2 reserves.

In addition to the spares, certain hand tools etc., which are peculiar to the English type of aircraft, will also be supplied.

In case of urgency, additional spares, not available in Casablanca, should be demanded on Gibraltar.

2. The initial cost of the Walrus aircraft and accessory materials is to be borne by the French and is estimated as follows:-

20 operationally equipped aircraft at £13,000	260,000
4 spare engines at £1,750	7,000
Airframe Embodiment Loan Equipment	20,000
Spare airscrews	2,000
Major spares	30,000
Engine spares	15,000
Ancillary Equipment	10,000
Total:	<u>£344,000</u>

There shall be an agreed charge for maintenance.

3. The Admiralty have agreed to give training to certain French personnel in the upkeep and maintenance of Walrus aircraft. This personnel will consist of - 3 Officers, 3 Riggers, 3 Fitters, 3 W/T Mechanics and 3 Senior N.C.Os. (one for each trade). This personnel will be trained at Naval Air Stations and will be sent over to England as soon as possible. Admiral Amenrich will inform the Admiralty when they are likely to arrive.

4. It is agreed that while these French personnel are serving at Naval Air Stations they will be subject to the orders of the Officer Commanding the Naval Air Station concerned. The necessary rules and regulations affecting them while under Naval control will be transmitted through their Senior Officers.

5. It has been agreed, subject to approval, that these French personnel will be paid at the normal French rates of pay whilst training under the British Navy, and the cost will be recoverable from the French authorities. The Officers will be responsible for paying their own Mess bills, and all other expenses for their accommodation while at Naval Air Stations and for travelling to and from North Africa will be discharged by the French authorities.

6. On the completion of their training, which should last for approximately four to six weeks, arrangements will be made for the return of this personnel to North Africa.

7. It should be noted that the French Naval Authorities will arrange for the attachment of a French Liaison Officer to the Air Ministry, through whom negotiations can be conducted.

8. It is understood that the French Squadron shall operate from Morocco or North Africa according as the appropriate Naval and Air authorities decide. Ends.

Personnel may be sent here for training as convenient to you, Admiralty being informed of arrangements.

2235A/3.

Hd. of M.(1) (86)

Approved A.C.N.S.(A)

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.(2)
- D.F.S.L.
- 2nd. S.L.
- 3rd. S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.

- D.C.N.A.E.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- A.C.N.S.(A)
- Sec.
- Nav.Sec.
- P.A.S.(S)
- O.D.(5)
- Ops.(3)
- D.N.A.C.
- M.A.S.(4)
- D.A.W.T.
- D. of P.(3)
- M.(2)

- C.I.C.(3)
- Admiral Blako.
- D.M.H.(2)
- Air Branch.(3)
- I.P.(3)
- W.D.
- P.N.L.O.
- Admiral Mack.(4)
- U.S.N.(3)
- D. of P.(Q)

23.

War Diary.

3.3.1943.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Movements.

Arrival KARACHI.
 (N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0213Z/3 to Admty.)
 Arrival HAIDERI.
 (N.O.I.C. Madras, 0557/3 to Admty. etc.)
 Transport VARSOVA arrived 3rd. disembarked R.A.F. troop deck
 British other ranks 2.
 (S.T.O. Karachi, 0907Z/3 to P.S.T.O. India, (R) D. of S.T.)
 Arrival 0630Z SCOUT with one ship 0830Z MARGUERITE,
 MARYBOROUGH with P.B. 28.
 (S.O. (I) Bombay, 1142Z/3 to LATONA, F.O.C. R.I.N. F.O.
 Ceylon, etc.)
 FROBISHER arrived.
 (F.O. East Africa, 1236Z/3 to Admty.)
 BURNIE arrived 2nd. March.
 (F.O. East Africa, 1331Z/3 to Admty.)

Convoy
M.B.27.

M.B. 27 passes Cochin Swept Channel 0100Z/4th
 March, enter Bombay Swept Channel 0100Z/7th
 March at number 5 Buoy.
 (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 0506Z/3 to Admty.)

Ceylon
movement
summary
No. 40
3rd. March.

1. FALMOUTH and SHOREHAM escorting O.W. 4 to
 Persian Gulf. 2. SCOUT left Colombo 1st
 March escorting one transport to Bombay arrived
 3rd. March. 3. SUTLEJ left Bombay escorting
 B.P. 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ due Khor Kwai 7th.
 4. BATHURST left Aden 25th Feb. escorting A.P.
 21 due Khor Kwai 4th. 5. ASTER and OVERDALE
 WYKE left Colombo 2nd. escorting M.B. 27. ASTER due Bombay 7th
 OVERDALE WYKE due Cochin 4th to escort KEDAH to Colombo due 6th.
 6. MARGUERITE and MARYBOROUGH escorting P.B. 28 arrive Bombay
 3rd. 7. VERBENA left Bombay 1st. escorting B.M. 43 to
 Colombo due 5th. 8. TAMWORTH left Colombo 27th Feb. to R/V
 VERBENA and escort one ship from B.M. 43 to Colombo due 5th.
 11. BATHURST and JUMNA leave Bandar Abbas 8th escorting P.B.30
 12. RAJPUTANA left Calcutta 28th Feb. escorting one M/S to
 Madras due 3rd. 13. ORISSA escorting P.A. 26 due Aden 4th.
 14. IPSWICH left Aden 1st escorting A.P. 22 due Khor Kwai 8th.
 15. BOMBAY in Bombay (delete No. 10 my summary 39, ship did
 not sail.) 16. BARLANE leaves Trinco 4th. for Colombo.
 (F.O. Ceylon, 0656Z/3 to Admty.)

C.M. 39.

Arrival H.M.S. RANPURA with C.M. 39.
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0822Z/3, S.O.I. Bombay 0828Z/3
 to Admty.etc.)

Attacks
on U/Bs.

Report in accordance with Admty. 1845/9th July
 1942 is as follows:-

/E.F.6 ...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Attacks on U/Bs. (Contd.)	E.F.6 18th Jan.1943 U.S. Dest. HATFIELD 001° 06' N. 074° 02' E. H Nil (C. in C. E.F., 0954Z/3 to Admty.)	E.F.7. 10th Feb.1943 H.M.S.NORMAN 002° 05' S. 073° 15' E. H Nil (C. in C. E.F., 0954Z/3 to Admty.)	E.F.8. 18th Feb.1943. H.M.S. NOBLE 004° 36' S. 053° 59' E. L Nil (C. in C. E.F., 0954Z/3 to Admty.)
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P.B. 28. Convoy P.B.28, Bombay portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 1054Z/3 to Admty., etc.)

BRITISH VENTURE. BRITISH VENTURE released from non-commercial service at 0800/2nd March.
(P.S.T.O. India, 1139Z/3 to D.S.T.)

Movement Summary No. 45, 3rd March.

(1) CARTHAGE and QUALITY left Capetown in company 2nd March at 14½ knots, former routed 120 Madagascar and due Kilindini 13th March and latter due Durban 6th March.

(2) BIRMINGHAM, CERES and A/S vessels escorting RESOURCE and W.S.26 left Durban 1st March routed 816 Madagascar at 11½ knots, CERES proceeding to Diego Suarez for fuel.

(3) HAWKINS leaves Kilindini 4th March calling at Agalega Is. 7th March and Diego Suarez (? 8th) March relieving BIRMINGHAM north of Diego Suarez a.m./9th March to escort W.S.26B to Bombay.

(4) O.W.2 escorted by QUEEN OF BERMUDA leaves Fremantle 3rd March for Colombo at 12½ knots. GAMBIA sails Fremantle 4th March providing cover.

(5) WORCESTERSHIRE on patrol? (see summary number 42) relieves QUEEN OF BERMUDA in M.O.M.P. about 020° S. 090° E. QUEEN OF BERMUDA and GAMBIA thence to Durban.
(C. in C. E.F., 1241Z/3 to Admty., etc.)

Addu Atoll defences. / Your 0344/15 Feb. Concur generally except that A/T baffles and A/S boom will probably not be maintained. The whole subject of Indian Ocean bases is again under review and result will be promulgated shortly.
(Head of M.II, Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1856A/3 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O. Ceylon.)

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U/B attacked. Barbados W/T reports intercept DE NYS S/M attacked in 11.02 N. 61.55 W. at 0325Z. (Kingston 0125R/3 to Admty.)

Movements. Key West arrived p.m. first from Miami for training with Fleet Sound School H.M. M.Ls. 1171 and 1172. (N.S.H.Q. 0313Z/3 to Admty.)

U.S. Warship P.C. 564 left for Trinidad 0555Q/3rd. (Harbour Master Barbados 0749/3 to Admty.)

Arrival 2nd U.S. A.T. EL LIBERTADOR. (B.N.S.O. Curacao 0940QR/3 to Admty.)

Departure 3rd U.S.A.T. HUGH J. GALLAGHER Trinidad 4th. (Puerto La Cruz T.H.I. 1230/3 to Admty.)

Departure GABANOQUE for New York estimated stay five days arrivals M.L. 074 H.M.C. Tug ST. ANNE from Shelburne. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1310Z/3 to Admty.)

HERMITAGE (U.S.A.T.) arrived San Francisco March 2nd. (N.S.H.Q. 1946Z/3 to Admty.)

Bermuda departure U.S.S. MATTOLE, DALLAS, COLE, BERNADOU, HERBERT, CHICKADEE, MOYENO, 10 British L.S.T. 6 U.S. L.S.T. and 24 U.S. L.C.I.(L) E.T.A. Gibraltar 20 March. (S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic 2125Q/3 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. B.A.D. S.O.I. Jamaica F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med.)

STALKER. New York arrived 27th Feb. from Norfolk (Vir.) STALKER. (N.S.H.Q. 0236Z/3 to Admty.)

U/B. Following received (begins) Adm. Plymouth from Lands End Radio. Intercept 0354 G.M.T. De Nau to C.Q.X.X.X. R.D.O. Trinidad C.K. 20 urgent. War warning sub: sighted lat. unread dash 59 N. long. 62 dash 05 W. at unread G.M.T. (Plymouth C.C.O. 0456/3 to Admty.)

ATTACKER. Norfolk sailed 1948Z/2 ATTACKER. (N.S.H.Q. 0802Z/3 to Admty.)

Submarine estimate 0800Q/3. Following is C.E.S.F. 1908/2, addressed to the appropriate commands concerned with convoy movements: One possibly 35.30 N. 74.00 W. Three patrolling 25 N. 70 W. to Windward Passage. (Comnaveu 0811/3 to Admty.)

G.A.T. 46. Convoy G.A.T. 46 arrived. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad 0928Q/3 to Admty.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Movements summary	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed.
1800 G.M.T.	ALCANTARA)	11½° N. 41½° W.	268°	12½
3rd March.	WOODRUFF)			
	U.C.1.)	18° N. 59° W.	237°	10
	WESTON)			
	S.S. ANDES.	33½° N. 47½° W.	111°	19
	(D.O.D.(F) 1044Z/3 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)			

GRIFFIN My 1642/25. Personal for First Sea Lord. First
and ship's company to sail New York 10th March.
DECOY Second to sail New York 20th March.
for R.C.N. (C.N.S. Canada 1356Z/3 to Admty.)

STOCKPORT. STOCKPORT straggler from O.N. 166 has not arrived
St. Johns N.F.
(N.S.H.Q. 1402Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

Proposed J.S.M. 722 3rd March. Ref. C.O.S. (W) 493 (2355/24
Tunis Feb.)
Repatriations. U.S. Chiefs of Staff concur in the decision that
request for movement of French families from North
Africa to France should be refused and consider that
no further action is necessary.
(J.S.M. Washington 1435Z/3 to War Cabinet Offices,
London.)

L.C.I.(Ls) British L.C.I (L) C.T.F. 32 route Connav 1717/18th
C.T.F. 32. Jan. to point O. 3430 N. 17.40 W. thence via R.
40.55 N. 15.40 W. S. 46.30 N. 13.45 W. T. 50.10 N.
12.15 W. thence to destination Plymouth, England.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1500/3 to U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda,
(R) C. in C.W.A. S.B.N.O. W.A. V.A.Gib. C. in C.
Atlantic Fleet, C. in C.Plymouth, Admty. C.T.F.32
N.S.H.Q.)

ATTACKER My 2157/2nd. (Aux. Schooner CELESTE M.) You may
information. also meet northbound convoy G.N. 45 vicinity Windward
Passage during the night of 5th/6th March.
(N.S.H.Q. 1504Z/3 to ATTACKER, (R) S.O.(I) Kingston,
S.B.N.O. W.At. Admty.)

Submarine (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1525/3, 1526/3, 1601/3, 1602/3,
estimate 1603/3.)
March 3rd.
U.S.S/M
Notices.

Convoy At about 0100Z/5, it is intended that MAASKER
U.C.1. escorted by destroyer, be detached for Trinidad in
position 16.20 N. 62.25 W. (U.C.1.) MURENA and
BRITISH FORTITUDE escorted by EXE and FOLKSTONE, at
approx. 0700Z/6 will be detached for Guantanamo in position 14.00 N.
67.00 W. On arrival EXE requires repairs to leaks in Hull.
When her destination for repairs is known, HILARY P. JONES U.S.N.
destroyer will be detached.

/On...

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

- Convoy
U.C.1.
(Contd.)
- On arrival South of Curacao position 18.40 N. 58.10 W. course 236 speed 9.75 knots 2000Z/3, two escorts will be detailed for MOBILGAS and ECLIPSE. (WESTON 1530/3 to B.A.D. N.O.I.C. Trinidad, Cominch, C.C.S.F. (R) C. in C.W.A.) Amended Comnav 1154/5.
- Offensive Patrols against Refuelling S/MS.
- Your 2125/1. When available some of our submarines will probably be used on anti U-Boat operations in the Atlantic. It is unlikely to be in the manner suggested for reasons which V.C.N.S. can tell you. Various alternative schemes are being studied.
(D.A.S.W. Approved A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 1546A/3 to B.A.D. (R) F.O.S.)
- D'AUTEUIL overdue.
- Schooner D'AUTEUIL overdue Jamaica since 18th Feb. from Miami.
(N.S.H.Q. 1552Z/3 to Admty. Comnav.)
- Minesweepers, BUTTERMERE.
- Following is rep. of B.R.Liaison Officer Para 1137/2: S.B.N.O. West Atlantic 400 N.O.I.C. Trinidad Assistant B.N.S.O. Pernambuco from B.R.Liaison Officer Para departures 2nd destination Recife H.M. Trawler BUTTERMERE with minesweepers 107, 106, 105, 103 and 102.
(S.B.A.O.W.At. 1628Q/3 to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. Comsolant for C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)
- ANDES.
- ANDES N.K. Recommend change route immediately to pass through 25° N. 39° W. 25° N. 34° W. and rejoin route at Q.
(D.O.D.(H) 1656Z/3 to Comnav.)
- GREENWICH.
- Your 1450/28/2/43 release of GREENWICH still dependent on delivery of outstanding machinery listed in B.A.T.M. letter 28.4.2.2. of 24th August, 1942, amendment to Canadian requirements 786, amendment to O.S. 423 of 24.8.42.
Details for repair staff etc.
6. Request N.S.H.Q. inform B.A.M.R. as to date of requirements mentioned in paras. I and II can be complied with.
(F.O.N.F. 1826Z/3 to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty. C.O.A.C.)
- H.X.228, Escorts.
- Following is repetition of my 1511Z/3rd (Begins):
1. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17, HARVESTER, H/F D/F (S.O.) Polish Destroyer BURZA H/F D/F ESCAPADE H/F D/F H.M.S. GARLAND H/F D/F *SUNDEW, ACONITE, RENONCULE, NARCISSUS designated ocean escort for H.X. 228. HARVESTER may sail late to overtake.
(C.C.N.F. 1849Z/3 to Cominch C. and R. (R) C.T. 24. C.T.G. 24.7 C.O.A.C. Cmdre. Londonderry, N.S.H.Q. C.T.G.24.6 C. in C.W.A. C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17. Admty. C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.6.)
Amended F.O.N.F. 1305Z/4.

*Not Identified.

/U/B...

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

- U/B. Submarine sighted 039° 02' N. 052° 26' W. at 1952 G.M.T.
(C.O.A.C. 2007Z/3 to G.B. 7A (R) C.T.F. 24. Connav, Admty. etc.)
- Aircraft destinations. Your 1202Q/1. A. and B. Curacao, unless the proposals now under consideration to establish a R.N. Air Station at San Juan has been approved. In which case a further signal will be made. They should not be uncrated pending instructions from Admty.
- C. GOVERNOR will not arrive Curacao in time to transfer torpedoes to ATTACKER. Instructions for their disposal will be signalled later.
(D.N.A.O. 2052A/3 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)
Amended D.N.A.O. 1734A/4.
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. A. ASSINIBOINE attacks Sub. on surface area 49° 55' N. 26° 30' W. 2250Z/02.
Para. C. Greek AETOS attacks sub. 54° 27' N. 25° 43' W. 2300Z/02.
Para. D. Surface craft attacks sub. 38° 56' N. 73° 54' W. 2300Z/01 C.G.R. 30.80 makes sound contact 39° 55' N. 73° 05' W. 2045Z/02.
(Cominch 2053/3 to Admty. for O.I.C. action.)
- CAMPBELL (damaged 23/2.) Following for C.C.R.T.
My 1329/23rd Feb. TENACITY arrived St. Johns 2043/3 with U.S. C.G.C. CAMPBELL.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 2102Z/3 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- Shipping casualties. Connav serial 2 and 3. ROGER B. TANEY serial 26, 28 survivors picked up South Atlantic by PENRITH CASTLE. MADOERA arrived St. Johns N.F. ex O.N. No. 166 straggler torpedo damage. No further details known. MERIWETHER LEWIS H.X. No. 227 torpedoed March (garbled group) approx. 61 N. 25 W.
(Connav 2105/3 to Comnav.)
- U.S. and Mines Maintenance. Your 2245/27 addressed to V.C.A.S. para. 2 agree. 3. Mixed party of R.N. and R.A.F. Officers and ratings being organised to leave mid March. 4. Agree B.A.D. should continue to procure mines mark 24 on same basis as aircraft torpedoes and D.T.M. will be responsible for organising training and facilities for both services.
(D.T.M. 2122A/3 to B.A.D.)
- Polish refugees in Persia. Cancel my 1421/2nd. Poles may not now be embarked due to altering programme of ships movement. 2. Service personnel may be embarked.
(B.A.D. 2131Z/3 to P.S.T.O. Bombay (R) D. of S.T. S.T.O. Persian Gulf, C. in C.E.F.)

/Halifax...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Halifax convoys. / Your 1743/27. (N.T. in W.D.) Pending anticipated agreement following adjustments proposed consequent on S.C. and O.N. (S) terminal point Halifax. B.X. 1 sails Boston 15th March then 4 day interval. X.B. 1 sails Halifax 13th March, then 4 day interval. S.C.124 sails Halifax 23rd March, then 8 day interval. O.N. (S) 169 terminates Halifax 13th March.
2. B.X.1 may be delayed depending on arrival of X.B.1 but B.X.2 will sail 19th March.
3. U.S. and Canadian authorities agree that short titles of convoys should not be changed but separate serial numbers to be carried by O.N. and O.N. (S) convoys.
(B.A.D. 2155Z/3 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A.)
Reply: D.T.D. 1755/5.

U.G.S.6. 1. Sailing telegram part 1 U.G.S.6.
2. 1800Z/4th point Z seaward end of swept channel
3. Time at position R. 06 0900Z. S.O.A. 9 knots.
5. (Route). 6. Task Force 33. CHAMPLAIN U.S. Dest. MAYRANT U.S. Dest. ROWAN, TRIPPE, RHIND, DUPONT, HOBBY.
(Port Director New York 2240Z/3 to Connav, (R) C. in C.U.S. Fleet, C.E.S.F. C.W.S.F. T.F.33 Admty. N.S.H.Q. N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar U.S.N.O.B. at Bermuda.)

Washington Convoy Conference, Conclusions. / Following from V.C.N.S.
The following are the general conclusions so far reached, but final decision on all points will not be taken until next meeting of conference on Friday 5th March.
Please inform me whether arrangements in para 3 (D) (M) and (F) are agreed so that I can inform Canadians before next meeting.
2. U.C/C.U.Convoys. (A) U.S.Authorities are unable to make destroyer division 14 available for convoys after C.U.I (C.U.I) and escort must be regarded as a British commitment. (B) Convoys will be run on a 54 day cycle commencing with C.U.1 as follows:
Sailing Dates. D Day sail from Aruba, D plus 15 arrive U.K. D plus 21 sail U.K. D plus 36 arrive Aruba D plus 38 sail Aruba D plus 40 escort part company at Guantanamo D plus 44 tankers arrive New York D plus 48 tankers sail New York D plus 51 escort join tankers at Guantanamo D plus 53 convoy arrive Aruba D plus 55 sail Aruba.
C. U.S. Authorities will provide boiler cleaning repair and full training facilities for British Escort Group at Guantanamo.
D. C.U.1 will sail from Aruba on 20th March.
3. H.X/S.C. Convoys. (A) Cycle proposed in A.M. 1743/27 was agreed to (B) S.C. and O.N.S. Convoys to sail from and be received at Halifax.
(C) Western Local Escort Force will require reinforcements to provide three extra groups to Westomp.
(D) To effect this R.C.N. Authorities have intimated that 15 corvettes loaned for "Torch" must be returned as soon as possible and request that orders may be given to that effect.
(E) They will require in addition eight other vessels suitable for local escort duties and have suggested the detention of the eight Isles Class trawlers at present in Canada.

/F...

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Washington / Convoy Conference, Conclusions. (Contd.) (F) Immediate approval for this or the provision of eight other suitable vessels from the U.K. is essential if undue delay in implementing the proposed mid-ocean cycle is to be prevented. (G) It will further be necessary for destroyers of the Western Support Force to be absorbed in the W.L.E.F.

4. Iceland Shuttle Service. (A) Ships for Iceland (C) will no longer be sailed in alternate S.C. convoys but will proceed to U.K. in appropriate H.X. or S.C. proceeding thence by U.R. (B) Future use of existing U.S. Iceland Group is under consideration.

5. U.G. Convoys. (A) These convoys will be an American escort commitment.

(B) U.G.F. convoys will run on a 25 day cycle.

(C) U.G.S. Convoys will run on a 15 day cycle. This reduction in the cycle entails an increase of their present "Torch" escort commitment and will absorb the 14th Destroyer Division at present with U.C.T.1.

(D) There is general concurrence that U.G.S and K.M.S. cycles should be co-ordinated in order that onward escort from Gibraltar may be shared.

6. O.T/T.O. Convoys. These convoys will be an American escort commitment and will sail on a 28 shuttle with a 56 day turn round tankers will run a shuttle service from Aruba to New York during the lay-over of the escorts at Guantanamo as arranged for U.C/C.U convoys.

(B.A.D. 2305Z/3 to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.)

Minesweepers. This is Port of Spain's 1645/2. Cominch pass to B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and Admiralty. From Port Director Port of Spain addressed Cominch C. and R. A.L.O.N.O.B. Belem (R) Comcaribseafon Comsolant S.B.N.O.W.At. and F.O.C.W.A. have in another system for information. British M.S. 5,6,7 and 8 departed Port of Spain 1000/2 route Serpents Mouth. 10.01 N. 61.22 W. 4.58 50.54 0.10 S. 47.17 W. thence Belem E.T.A. point Atalaia 0 1800 knots 8. Total complement 130.
(Radio Washington 2307/3 to S.B.N.O. W.At. F.O.C.W.A.)

TRACKER. When ready about March 8th Cmdre. N.W. Sea Frontier sail TRACKER independently to Balboa. Advise time of departure route speed of advance. Action addressees furnish protection as practicable. There will be operating planes on board. Cmdre. Panama S.F. route onward to Norfolk (Virginia) in trade convoy or independently if satisfactory to other S.F. Commanders concerned.
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet 2315A/3 to Cmdre. North Western S.F. Cmdre. Panama S.F. Cmdre. Western S.F.)

Atlantic Shipping, Air Force priority. J.S.M. 776. 3rd March. At Combined Planners Meeting today U.S. Planners commented on fact that priority in Atlantic shipping is given to Canadian Army movement to U.K. over movement of U.S. S.O.S. and Air Forces. They suggested that as the bomber offensive is given high priority in A.N.F.A. decisions, build up and replacements for Eighth Air Force should have priority with British and Canadian air trainees

/above...

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Atlantic
Shipping,
Air Force
priority.
(Contd.)

above Canadian Army.
2. This matter may be raised by Arnold at C.C.S. Meeting on Friday, and we should like immediate guidance. We feel strongly with the Americans that air should have first priority.
(J.S.M. Washington 2341Z/3 to War Cabinet Offices London.)

Australia & New Zealand.

ANTARES.

Departure Auckland U.S.S. ANTARES for Noumea E.T.A 0600Z/7 S 31° 40' S. 173.11 T 24.25 168.33
U. 23.23 166.32. S.O.A. 10 knots.
(D.N.I. Wellington 0012Z/3 to Admty.)

Digest
Serial
No. 405
March 2nd.

Liberator sank one small probable ammunition ship Wide Bay forenoon.
3. Convoy 14 vessels with large fighter cover attacked to N.W. Cape Gloucester by 25 Fortresses 2 Liberators escorted by 16 Lightnings during morning. Two medium merchant vessels sunk, one large merchant vessel heavily hit and last seen with decks awash in sinking condition. One other merchantman, one destroyer, damaged. Five enemy fighters destroyed, eight additional probable during these attacks. One Fortress overdue. Fifteen vessels reported sighted N.W. Rooke Island afternoon indicating additional units possibly joined convoy. Evening sighting showed two warships preceding remainder convoy towards Vitioz Strait.
4. One medium cargo vessel reported 35 miles East of Lae, course West, morning same day.
7. 15 Fighters raided Darwin area afternoon destroying 1 Beaufighter damaging one in strafing attack on strip. 3 Fighters destroyed three others damaged by our intercepting fighters. One R/C aircraft over area after raid.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0550Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

80th U.S.
Air Raid
on Munda.

The Navy Department announces that American aircraft made their eightieth attack on March 1 on the Japanese base at Munda, in the central Solomons, the raid was made by Dauntless dive-bombers, escorted by Wildcat fighters. Several fires were started in the target area. All the aircraft returned safely.
(The Times 3rd March, 1943.)

GAMBIA,
QUEEN OF
BERMUDA
etc.

C.S.4 in GAMBIA departed Fremantle 0600Z/3rd to R/V with WORCESTERSHIRE, QUEEN OF BERMUDA and MORMACDOVE at 0900Z/7th in 020° 25' S. 091° 00' E. thence GAMBIA and QUEEN OF BERMUDA to Durban E.T.A. 17th March carrying out sweep on passage.
(Cmdre. W. Australia 0942Z/3 to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. F.O. Ceylon, Comsouwestpac Unit. C.S.4. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, WORCESTERSHIRE, Cmdre. Durban.)

/Movements...

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Movements.

Arrivals Brisbane AUSTRALIA U.S. Destr. BAGLEY, WAGGA escort U.S. Sub. Tender SUMNER Cairns 2nd. BOWEN Sydney (N.S.W.) 2nd. COLAC departure Brisbane 2nd. AUSTRALIA U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX U.S. Destr. PATTERSON, MUGFORD, BAGLEY. Townsville 2nd H.M.A.S. VENDETTA for Port Moresby. (A.C.N.B. 1041Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

Arrivals 2nd March Sydney H.T. KATOOMBA Townsville victualling stores issue ship MERKUR 3rd Sydney R.F.A. BISPENDALE, U.S. transport BANTAM. U.S. transport VAN der LIJN depart Cairns 2nd due Brisbane 6th. H.T. TAROONA depart Brisbane 2nd due Townsville 5th.

(A.C.N.B. 1117Z/3 to Admty. Connav.)

Arrival Auckland U.S.S. SOLACE.

(S.O.(I) Wellington 1951Z/3 to Admty.)

TRINITY
HORSHAM.

U.S. TRINITY departed Fremantle 1st March bound for Bahrein (Route.)

E.T.A. 26th March speed 9.7 knots.

HORSHAM (?directed to) provide local A/S escort until 1300Z/2nd.

(A.C.N.B. 1213Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C. 1352/3, 1353/3.)

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Convoy R.A.53 was estimated to be 90 miles S.E. of Bear Island at 0800 today; and U-Boats probably shadowing the Convoy were reported by Admty. at 0600Z, 1538Z, 1615Z, 1659Z and 1724Z.

344 of our A/C bombed Hamburg in daylight yesterday.

Convoy X.K.2 was attacked by one A/C at 1230A today in 41° 10' N. 15° 10' W.; CHATEAUROUX was damaged by near miss and U.X.B. (see 6th March).

Murmansk was bombed without damage or casualty from 1900C to 2000C yesterday.

The Canadian destroyer ASSINIBOINE, damaged while attacking a U-Boat on 2nd March, was in tow of ADHERENT at 1615Z today in 53° 02' N. 16° 27' W. with DIANELLA in company.

North Atlantic.

U-Boats,
Gibraltar
Straits.

9 U-Boat sightings, with 4 attacks by aircraft, were made west of the Straits of Gibraltar today. 4 destroyers have been hunting, and ILEX was sailed as an additional escort to convoy O.T.2 (Gulf or Caribbean to "Torch" Area), which at 1740A was ordered by F.O. Gibraltar to proceed at utmost speed.

At 2201A ILEX reported that she had not met the convoy, and intended searching back to position S, thence along the route to Gibraltar.

It is reported that M.V. CALIFORNIA STAR (8300 tons) (Wellington N.Z. for Liverpool via Panama Canal) was torpedoed at 2130 G.M.T. in 42.32 N. 37.44 W. (about 340 miles N.W. of Flores). The Master and 22 other survivors arrived in life-boats at Lagos, Flores.

/Convoy ...

War Diary.

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy
K.M.S.10.

Convoy K.M.S.10 was attacked by F.W. Kuriers at 1145 in 41.32 N. 13.25 W. and again at 1840 in about 40.50 N. 13° 20' W. No damage was caused to the convoy in either attack. During both attacks a Catalina was in company.

South Atlantic.

Attack on
Convoy
D.N. 21.

NIGELLA, corvette, escorting Convoy D.N.21, which was attacked by U-Boats from 2025Z/3 onwards and had six ships torpedoed (see list in 3rd March) was dispersed at 1530C/4. NIGELLA remained in the rear during the night. Trawlers, being unable to catch up, are assisting boats from Durban to pick up survivors. Air cover is being given to the convoy and will continue during the night if weather permits. At 1719, C. in C. S.A. asked C. in C. E.F. if he had any destroyers available for escort duties, and if so that they might be sent to Durban as soon as possible.

Mediterranean.

Force H.

Vice-Admiral Willis has assumed command of Force H in succession to Vice-Admiral Burrough.

Cdre.
Levant Area.

Cdre. B.C.B. Brooke, whose headquarters are at Beirut, and who has hitherto been known as S.N.O. Levant Area, is in future to be known as Commodore Levant Area, (short title C.O.M.L.A.)

Air
Operations.

7 Malta torpedo Wellingtons and 5 torpedo Beauforts were sent to attack enemy shipping sighted north of Palermo at 2050/3. At 0110, 1 torpedo hit was scored on a 7000 ton M/V, causing a fire.

/ U/B ...

War Diary.

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

U/B
probably
sunk.

C. in C. Med. reports that a R.A.F. Hudson aircraft probably sank a U-Boat at 1001 in 37.10 N. 00.05 E. (A.M. 1620A/9 gives the longitude 00.05 W.) About 25 bodies were seen after the attack.

Mining.

Mines were laid by M.T.Bs off Bizerta during last night.

America and West Indies.

Washington
Conference
Agreement.

The text of the agreement made with the Americans and Canadians at Washington as regards the command question and the control of convoys in the North Atlantic is furnished today by V.C.N.S.

(p. 145)

Australia and New Zealand.

Japanese
Convoy.

The annihilation of the Japanese convoy of 22 warships and merchantmen, attacked on 2nd and 3rd March, was completed today. The cargo vessel left burning on 3rd Mar. was sunk before midnight last night by motor torpedo boats, and the damaged destroyer was disposed of by a Fortress this morning. Another destroyer was located and destroyed later by 9 B.25s (Mitchells) 45 miles off Cape Ward Hunt. A Fortress sighted widespread debris and at least 30 life rafts. Some B.25s shot up 500 battle-equipped Japanese in boats or the water, inflicting heavy casualties. Others strafed 5 barges at Tymi Island, off Cape Cretin, where 3 Fortresses had earlier sunk 6 troop-laden barges. The following appreciation of the results of the operation was given by a special correspondent of "The Times" in Australia, dated March 5th:-

/This ...

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Japanese
Convoy.
(Contd.)

This battle of the Bismarck Sea is outstanding because it was so remarkably complete. It demonstrated the qualitative superiority of the allied fighter aircraft and pilots over those of the enemy, and it was also a striking success in a form of bombing which is notoriously difficult - the sinking of warships and cargo ships by aerial bombardment.

With regard to the results, the enemy was prevented from landing reinforcements of men and supplies at Lae. If these reinforcements had been landed a threat might have developed to our positions in the Wau Area. Otherwise the situation today is substantially what it was one week ago.

Limited as the Japanese reserves of merchant shipping may be, the loss of 12 transports and cargo ships will not change the present position radically. Nor does the sinking of 10 warships change overnight the balance of naval power in the Pacific.

It is not so much what has been done as what has been shown to be possible that is chiefly remarkable about the battle of the Bismarck Sea. (The Times, 6th March.)

War Diary.

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

5th M.L.F. A.M. 1819/26. As soon as the 5th M.L.F. is increased to 12 boats it is intended that, in addition to the Dungeness Patrol, the flotilla is to be trained in minesweeping with the mark V sweep which is in course of supply. (V.A.Dover 1045A/4.)

Russian procedure. Your 1314/2, para. 2. Ambassador has asked Molotov for urgent reply to his previous representations. (30 Mission 1316C/4 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

UGANDA. UGANDA is required to be available at Freetown not later than 27th March. (D.O.D.H. 1810A/4 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Dartmouth.
ABERDONIAN. Your 1832A/2/3. Consider it impracticable to surrender ABERDONIAN without relief by a similar type of ship if Dartmouth is to continue as a Coastal Forces operating base.
2. ABERDONIAN will require docking before being used as a Target ship.
3. Effect of withdrawal without relief would be as follows. (Details.)
(C. in C.Plymouth 1842/4 to Admty.)

Movements.

S/M
Movements. Leave at 0500A/4 for Gibraltar as routed by F.O.C.Gibraltar. (F.O.S. 0039A/4 to REGENT.)
Your 1205/1st. Arrival (P.57.)
(Capt. S.9 0907A/4 to Capt. S.6.)
Intend to sail B.I. escorted by KING HAAKON 7 from Rothesay at 1400A/7 via Minches and Searched Channels to Dundee. E.T.A. 1500A/9.
(Capt. S.7 0949A/4.)
P.556 escorted by CAPE COMORIN exercising off Plymouth in area D between 1000/5 and 1600/5.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1001A/4.)
Intend to sail H.28 escorted by VIDETTE at 2000/4 for Londonderry. E.T.A. 0800/5. Thence both vessels as ordered by Cmdre. Londonderry.
(Capt. S.7 1118A/4.)
S.O.S. Lerwick 1817/1st and 1751/2nd. Onward route for both S/Ms is through position L. 071° 58' 021° 39' M. 072° 13' 025° 01' E. N. 072° 13' 031° 26'.
Submarines estimated to cross 015° E. at 1600/5 and 1600/6 respectively. Speed 10 knots approx. (S.55 and S.56.)
(F.O.S. 1124A/4.)

/F.O....

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M F.O.Gibraltar's 1809/27. Onward route diving
Movements. by day on route "Red" to R/V with escort in
(Contd.) position X 180° Bishops Rock 10 miles at
0700/13.
(F.O.S. 1126A/4 and 1529A/4 to URSULA.)
My 1629/3 para B. Add leaving patrol p.m. 4th dived by day
through 44° N. 09° W. and 45° 01' N. 12° 26' W. (BARB.)
(F.O.S. 1423A/4 to Admty.)
Your 0949/3. Arrived Needles 1414/4. (TAKU.)
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1448A/4 to G. in C.Plymouth.)
H.28 escorted by VIDETTE leaves Clyde 2000A/4th for
Londonderry, speed 8 knots.
(C. in C.W.A. 1558A/4 to WREN.)
Positions of submarines at 0800A/5th and movements for
following 24 hours.
A. TRUCULENT, SEANYMPH, SIMOON, SPORTSMAN in North Norwegian
waters east of 15° E.
B. Russian submarine S.55, 71° 24' N. 14° 50' E. probably on
surface through 71° 30' N. 15° 00' E. 71° 58' N. 21° 39' E.
and 72° 13' N. 25° 00' E.
C. Russian submarine S.56, 68° 28' N. 08° 05' E. probably on
surface through 69° 00' N. 08° 52' E. 71° 10' N. 15° 00' E.
and 71° 58' N. 21° 39' E.
D. TUNA in zones K.5 and K.6.
E. DZIK and UNIVERSAL escorted by CUTTY SARK vicinity Noss
Head for Holy Loch, E.T.A. 1630/7th.
F. ULLSWATER leaves Scapa to join submarines in E. at eastern
end of Q.Z.S. 83 at 1200/5th for Holy Loch.
G. TRIDENT 47° 24' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day, due 43° 01' N.
12° 54' W. at 1400/7.
H. BARB 44° 52' N. 11° 58' W. dived by day through 45° 01' N.
12° 26' W. at 1800/5 and 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W.
(F.O.S. 1727A/4.)
Intend sailing BLACKFISH escorted by INCHGOWER, RADNOR
CASTLE at 1130/5 for Plymouth. E.T.A. 1730/5.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1756A/4.)
Intend sailing SHAD and HERRING escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE
from 180° Garroch Head 1 mile at 1400A/7 by standard route to
270° Bishop Rock 5 miles, E.T.A. 2000A/8.
(Cmdre. U.S. S/M Sqdn. 1805A/4 to A.I.G. 220.)
P.221 is to leave Sheerness as ordered by WOLSEY on 6th
March and proceed C.W. 161 to Portsmouth.
2. S.O. Mobile Balloon Barrage Vessels is to detail 1 Mobile
Balloon Barrage Vessel to act close escort to vicinity north
east Spit buoy when a M.L. to be detailed by N.O.I.C. Ramsgate
and sailed as necessary is to take over escort to destination.
3. Escorts are to take station eastern starboard column convoy with
P.221 astern escort.
(C. in C.Nore 1806A/4.)
Your 1614/3 to Admiralty crossed my 0959/3.
Add to para 1, estimate S.O.A. 10 knots.
Estimate position at 0800/5th. A. S.55, 071° 24' N. 014° 50' E.
B. S.56, 068° 28' N. 008° 05' E.
(F.O.S. 1809A/4 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
My 1629/3. Add new para. K. H.28 escorted by VIDETTE
leaves Rothesay 2000/4 for Londonderry, E.T.A. 0800/5.
(F.O.S. 1849A/4.)
My 1118/4. Sailed. (H.28.)
(Capt. S.7 2012A/4.)

/INDOMITABLE...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

- INDOMITABLE. Your 2102/3. This destroyer (ST. MARY'S.) will not be required before 8th. R/V will be signalled.
(R.A.A. H.F. 0740A/4 to R.A.M.)
Sailed INDOMITABLE.
(N.O.I.C. Lamlash 0800A/4.)
- INDOMITABLE sailed to R/V MALCOLM and BADSWORTH and for trials off Northern Ireland.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1008A/4 to C. in C.W.A.)
Intend remaining westward of southbound traffic route all night.
(INDOMITABLE 1435A/4 to C. in C.W.A.)
C. in C.W.A. 1840/3 para 3. SABRE will be ready to sail 5th to relieve BADSWORTH. Request R/V.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1552A/4 to C. in C.W.A.)
- FURIOUS. Your 1125A/2. MATCHLESS, RAPID detailed.
(R.A.D.H.F. 1015A/4 to V.A.2.)
- UGANDA. Scapa departure at 0848 UGANDA. E.T.A. 1100/6.
(A.C.O.S. 1148/4 to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- KENYA. 1. On completion of A/A firings A.M. 6th, proceed via Minches and searched channel to Plymouth.
2. Attention is called to A.M.Q.Z X 910.
3. In view of the danger from E.Boats latitude 050° N. is not to be crossed until daylight 8th March.
4. Comply with C. in C.Plymouth 1737/3.
(V.A.2 1230A/4 to KENYA.)
- CHARYBDIS. My 1216A/4. Add E.T.A. Gate 1300A/7.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1456A/4 to A.C.O.S.)
- Coastal Craft for Gibraltar. Sailed A/S Trawler GAVOTTE (S.O.) PIROUETTE and PRESIDENT HOUDUCE escorting EMPIRE MAIDEN, M.Ls. 554, 556, 557, 560, 561, 564 566, M.T.Bs. 635 and 638.
E.T.A. 11th.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1701A/4 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- JAMAICA. Scapa departures at 2227 JAMAICA, E.T.A. 0930A/5.
(A.C.O.S. 2343/4 to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Operations.

- Coastal Patrols. 1. Weather permitting intend M.G.Bs. 56 (S.O.) and 53 to patrol tonight Thursday on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1154A/4.)

/Cancel...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
Patrols.
(Contd.)

Cancel 1154/4. Owing to weather M.G.Bs. are remaining in harbour at short notice.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 1623A/4.)

Night 4/5th. M.Ls. 143 and 141 patrolling between D. and C.1 buoys. M.G.Bs. S.2 and 43 at No. 4 buoy from 1930.

(V.A.Dover 1712A/4.)

Proceed forthwith to patrol on line Start Point to Portland Bill. E-Boat activity suspected.

(C. in C.Plymouth 2249/4 to WENSLEYDALE.)

BARB
patrol.BARB is to leave patrol forthwith diving by day so as to pass through X 45° 00' N. 12° 26' W. at 1800/5, thence via route "Red" to R/V with an escort off Scillies p.m. 8th March. Estimated S.O.A. 150 miles per day.
(F.O.S. 1234A/4 to S/MS.)Exercises.Exercise
L.E.X.4th March an aircraft from 422 squadron is to carry out a D/F exercise procedure both transmit and receive with FLEETWOOD commencing at 1100A/5. The exercise is to be known as L.E.X. Details.
(15 Group 1130/4 to Oban.)

COTILLION.

Required for R.D.F. trial from 8th to 17th. Is proceeding Liverpool on completion of duties.
(C. in C.W.A. 1125A/4 to N.O.I.C. Belfast, COTILLION.)Allied Air Activity.Bombing
restrictions.
(BARB.)My 1234/4th. Details.
(F.O.S. 1301A/4 to H.Q.C.C.)Bomber
Command
operations.On day 3rd March 344 A/C bombed Hamburg.
(H.Q.B.C. 1700A/4.)Enemy Air Activity.C.H.L.
interference
- on night
3rd/4th.

Interference experienced by C.H.L. Stations WALTON, BAWDSEY, and Dunwich on night of March 3rd and morning of 4th coincided with the plotting of enemy aircraft crossing on this coast.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1125A/4 to Admty.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Convoy X.K.2. attacked. Convoy being shadowed by one enemy A/C bearing 090° 1 mile in 41° 10' N. 15° 10' W. Course 002° 6 knots.
(COREOPSIS 1228/4.)
Enemy A/C bombing convoy.
(COREOPSIS 1244A/4 to Gibraltar W/T.)

Murmansk bombed. Short air raid 1900 to 2000C/March 3rd. No damage or casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk 1337A/4 to Admty.)

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. Focke-Wolfe observed 1040 great height alongside south coast, returning west alongside north coast.
(A.C.I.C. 1650A/4.)

Thames Estuary. There was considerable enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary during night 3/4th. At 2100 a Police report states three parachutes were seen falling in the vicinity of No. 4 Yantlet Buoy, this was not confirmed by ships anchored in the vicinity. Between 2025 and 2145 Knock John Fort fired 108 rounds of 3.7" and 16 targets and reports that one aircraft seen and fired at appeared at 2115 to go down in flames near Foulness Sand. This was not confirmed by the 2 patrol Vessels nearest to this position.
H.M.S. TONGUE Fort fired with 3.7" and Bofors at hostile aircraft at 2049 and 2130 and again at 1535. Results were not observed.
At 0515 2 patrol vessels reported an aircraft crashing in flames in approx. east Spaniard Buoy. Search by an A.S.R. Launch failed to find any evidence of survivors or wreckage. Apart from the doubtful report of parachutes near No. 4 Yantlet Buoy there was no evidence of minelaying in the Estuary.
(S.O.T.L.D.F. 1712/4.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unidentified vessels. P.C.S. of 1 small vessel 46° 40' N. 4° 37' W. 040° 4.
(A/C 329 Sqdn. 2122/4 to 19 Group.)
Second unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in 240° Portland Bill, 17 at T.O.O.
(Portland 2239A/4 to Escorts P.W. 303 W.P.303.)

Unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in 248° Portland Bill 9, 2302 and 242° Portland Bill 17 at T.O.O.
(Portland 2302A/4 to Escorts P.W.303 W.P.303.)

Unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in 246° Portland Bill 14 at 2337.
(Portland 2337A/4 to Escorts W.P. 303 P.W.303.)

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boat attacked. SHARPSHOOTER made 3 attacks on enemy submarine in 063° 20' N. 025° 05' W. Contact lost 2200. Both ship's A/S temporarily out of action. Proceeding.
(HAZARD 0055A/4 to A.C.I.C.)

U-Boats reported. Am over enemy submarine in 46° 35' N. 15° 3' W. (A/C 3 Z.X.S. 1134/4 to 19 Group.) D/F bearing at 1738Z indicate U-Boat has probably reported convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 1906A/4 to Escorts O.N. 169.)

Casualties & Defects.

MERIWETHER LEWIS (Torpedoed 2nd March.) U.S. INGHAM and SKEGNESS, CINDER and KEWAYDIN are proceeding independently to search in the vicinity of 062° 10' N. 028° 25' W. and 062° 04' N. 030° 08' W. INGHAM E.T.A. a.m. 4th. (F.O.C. Iceland Reykjavik 0035A/4 to HAZARD.)

CITY OF OMAHA. See shipping.

Unknown ship torpedoed. Intercept 0113 G.M.T. C.D. 12 or C.L. 12. S S S S C.D. 12 or C.L. 12. Torpedoed. (C. in C.Nore 0213/4 to Admty.)

Unknown ship. D/F bearing automatic S.O.S. 125° (Gallonhead Radio 1340 G.M.T./4 to Admty. A.C.O.S.) Received from Tيرة Radio. 3 Grade 289° S.O.S. unknown ship. (Port Patrick Radio 1526 G.M.T/4 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Intercept. 1455 G.M.T. de unknown Station, bearing from Humber Radio 099° automatic S.O.S. signal (Humber Radio 1557 B.S.T/4 to Admty.) Intercept 1645 G.M.T. from unknown Station bearing from Humber Radio 098.5° Automatic S.O.S. Signal. (Humber Radio 1748/4 to Navy Charge.)

ASSINIBOINE (Damaged 2nd March.) P.C. and S. 0800/4, 052° 34' 018° 54' 067° 11½. (DIANELLA 0600A/4 to ASSINIBOINE, ADHERENT.) In tow ADHERENT. DIANELLA in company. P.C.S. 053° 02' N. 016° 27' W. 070° 9. (ASSINIBOINE 1615Z/4 to C. in C.W.A.)

ARIGUANI. A.M. 1652A/28. With tugs ABEILLE 21 and ABEILLE 4 will be ready to proceed to Tyne a.m. 6th. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1216A/4 to C. in C.W.A.)

SJONFA. Departure at 1527 tug YORKSHIREMAN to assist ST. MELLONS towing S.S. SJONFA to Humber. (F.O.Humber 1555A/4 to C. in C.Nore.)

Immingham Departure tug PRIZEMAN at 1905 escorted by M.L. 451 to assist YORKSHIREMAN towing SJONFA to Humber. (F.O.Humber 1950A/4 to C. in C.Nore.)

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- R.U.64. Your 1118/3. 5 stragglers have arrived Reykjavik to date but only 3 will be ready to sail on 6th. All five are referred to in my 2153/3. Intend sail R.U. 64 (consisting) 11 ships if the three referred to above are on 6th to R/V with ILEX and MALLOW during daylight 7th. Request these escorts sweep up track of convoy and report when they cross 060° N. in order that sailing time may be adjusted to effect R/V in daylight.
(A.C.I.C. 0046A/4.)
My 1619/3. CAMPION and MALLOW are to be sailed to sweep up track of R.U. 64 from 060° N. and R/V with convoy during daylight 7th. They are to report when crossing 60 N. in order that sailing time may be adjusted to effect R/V in daylight. Route of R.U. 64 P. 62.50 N. 22.30 W. Q. 60.10 N. 13.10 W. R. 58.50 N. 08.00 W. S. 000° Butt of Lewis 6 miles, 7½. A.C.I.C. 0046/4 refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 1127A/4 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
My 1236/5. Sailed CAMPION and MALLOW.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2338A/4 to C. in C.W.A. F.Os.I.C. N.I., Greenock.)
- W.S.28. Following is proposed embarkation programme for convoy W.S. 28 (N.A.) Details.
(D. of S.T. 0440A/4.)
- K.M.F.10B. Your 1339A/4 P.C.S. K.M.F.10B 2000, 045° 21' N. 018° 16' W. 215° 13¼ knots.
(C.T.U. 24.1.14 1950A/4 to C. in C.W.A.)
- R.A.53. My 1609/1. Cancel para. 4. VIVACIOUS, PYTCHLEY, LEDBURY, MEYNELL form local escort R.A. 53 in accordance with F.E. para. 10 (D).
2. My 2113/28 Feb. para. 3. This destroyer is not required.
3. Drifting ice was encountered on 2nd between 067° 19' N. 014° 40' W. 067° 10' N. 013° 24' W.
4. My P.C.S. are 072° 39' N. 010° 01' E. 230° 16 knots. Route through position 069° 59' N. 000° 01' W. 062° 27' N. 005° 15' W.
5. C. in C.Rosyth is requested to provide A/S air escort from daylight 6th.
6. Weather report.
(C. in C.H.F. 0645/4 to VIVACIOUS C. in C.Rosyth Capt. D.3.)
E.T.A. Akureyri 1000A/5.
(VIVACIOUS 0812Z/4 to A.C.I.C.)
D/F bearings at 0600Z indicate U/B may have been in general vicinity of R.A.53.
(Admty 1033A/4 to A.I.G.)
Unable to make for Akureyri. Hove to in 064° (?24') N. 024° 18' W. Wind force 10. Sea precipitous.
(VIVACIOUS 1801/4 to A.C.I.C.)
Inconclusive D/F bearings at 1538Z and 1615Z indicate U-Boat may be in general vicinity of C. in C.H.F. or of R.A.53.
(Admty 1830A/4 to A.I.G.)
D/F bearings at 1659Z and 1724Z indicate U-Boat is shadowing a formation probably R.A.53.
(Admty 1850A/4 to A.I.G.)

/QN....

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- O.N. 170. Sailed WHITEHALL, VANESSA, HEATHER, SWEETBRIAR, WHIMBREL, GENTIAN and Tankers NORVINN, BRITISH VALOUR for O.N. 170.
(Cmdre. Londonderry 0648A/4 to C. in C.W.A.)
- J.W.53. White Sea Section. Following ships berthed and discharging Molotovsk. BEACON HILL, BERING, ISRAEL PUTNAM, CITY OF OMAHA, TBILISI. MARATHON awaiting berth. PETROVSKI discharging Ekonomia. CITY OF OMAHA damaged propeller, and had to be towed through White Sea by MIKOYAN. KAGANOVICH attacked by two Ju.88s off Danilov. No damage.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 0847A/4 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- Spanish Trawlers. Intend sailing the Spanish Trawlers from Penzance at 1530/4 passing through the following positions.
A. Three miles S. of Runnelstone Buoy.
B. 50° 08' 00" N. 60° 05' 00" W. C. 50° 00' 00" N. 7° 00' 00" W.
Thence to fishing grounds, speed 6 knots, escorted through convoy route by SUSSEX COUNTY.
(R.N.O. Penzance 1030A/4 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
My 1030/4 sailed at 1615.
(R.N.O. Penzance 1616A/4 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
- Convoy escort instructions. Eastern Channel Convoy escort instructions issued jointly by C. in C.Nore and C. in C. Portsmouth dated 1st March, will come into force as from the sailing of convoy C.W. 161 on 6th, and convoy C.E. 159 on 7th.
All Channel convoy escort orders and communication orders previously issued by Captain D.1st Flotilla are cancelled from those dates and are to be destroyed.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1058A/4 to Admty. etc.)
- K.M.S.11 SNOWDROP. SNOWDROP is to proceed to Gibraltar with K.M.S. 11 for onward routing to Freetown.
(C. in C.W.A. 1122A/4 to N.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- TJALDUR. Your 1015/1. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1223A/4 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)
- TJALDUR, KRANJI. My 1145/3. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1602A/4 to A.C.O.S.)
- S.C. 118. Escorts report H.M. FLAGLER designated escort oiler for voyage, unsuitable for oiling at sea having canvas hose but no derrick or other gear required. R.L. HOPKINS in same convoy had rubber hose but does not appear to have been detailed.
(C. in C.W.A. 1857A/4 to Admty.)

/A.N.D....

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

A.N.D.
Procedure.

My 1814A/2nd March should be regarded as permissive only and not as an order.
(Admty. 1927A/4 to A.I.G. 19.)

K.M.F.11.

Request you will detail 2 destroyers to reinforce escort of K.M.F.11 which leaves U.K. 15th. These destroyers should be sailed to Londonderry to fuel and join convoy as required by C. in C.W.A.
(Admty. 2016A/4 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

O.N.S.C.171
BEAUREGARD.

Sailed at 2110 to overtake, BEAUREGARD.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 2111/4 to Admty.)
BEAUREGARD reported in collision with unknown steamer off Cumbræ. Tugs being sent.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 2325A/4 to Admty. C. in C.W.A.
N.C.S.O. Mersey.)

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- REGENT My 1629/3rd March. Amend para. (A) to read "REGENT off Vigo on passage to Gibraltar". (F.O.S., 0152A/4 to Admty).
Leave at 0500A/4th shifting to G.S. routine at 0700A/4th.
2. (Route to Gibraltar).
 3. Diving by day S.O.A. 150 miles per 24 hours until (?arriving) (?E) thereafter reduced speed so as not to pass (U) before 0702/8th.
 4. Submerged bombing restrictions will be arranged until 0700/7th, thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side of your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of your estimated position. Report if you are not able to keep within your bombing restriction.
 5. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C. (Passing action being taken by W.R.)
(F.O. Gibraltar, 0444/4 to REGENT (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, F.O.(S))
REGENT 041° 58' N., 010° 20' W., at 2000/4th course 180° speed 10 knots diving by day.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1124/4 to URSULA)
My 0444/4th. Proceed on the surface at your discretion after reaching position U. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C. (Passing action being taken by W.R.)
(S.O.(S) Gib. 1242/4 to REGENT (R) Admty. etc).
- ROMAIN German Controlled French ROMAIN left Valencia 2030 on 3rd March for Marseilles.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 0736/4 to S.O.(I) Algiers S.O. (I) Malta).
- Movements, U.S.S. LAUB and P.C.474 arrived. P.C.474 returned
Casablanca. to Casa. P.C. 472 arrived from Port Lyautey, P.C.481 from Agadir.
(C.M.S.F.F., 1001Z/4 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cominch, C. in C. Med).
- TRIDENT 1. T.C.A.O. 16. Submerged and total B.R. for passage to Gibraltar.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1031/4 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C. (R) Admty. F.O.S.)
(1) Route to Gibraltar.
(2) Dive by day S. of A. 135 miles per 24 hours until dusk March 10th thereafter proceed on surface making good 10 knots.
(3) Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged until 1900 March 10th thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side of your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of your estimated position. Report if you are not able to keep within your bombing restrictions.
(4) You should not pass position (S) before 0945/11th.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1032/4, to TRIDENT (R) C. in C. W.A., etc).

/Dispositions...

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4. 3. 1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- Dispositions. Situation 2001A/4th.
PENTSTEMON, VETCH 36.05 06.49 direct to (?Lisbon) 10 knots.
(2) LADY HOGARTH off Lisbon to R/V with 2 merchant ships at 2100/4th and escort coastwise to Guadalquivir 8 knots.
(3) French ship SERGEANT GOUARNE S/M French Minelaying S/M PERLE Cable Ship ARAGO 33.35 08.02 coastwise to Casablanca 6½.
(4) 2 tugs 37.35 10.18 through 37.01 10.01 thence 111° 7½.
(See amendment 1509A/4).
(5) C.G.15 P.C.475 sails from Casablanca 0830A/5th through Q.K.A. 92 thence 042° 6½.
(6) O.T. 2 C.T.U. 21.5 35.16 07.01 through Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar 10.
(7) G.C.3 LORD HOTHAM sail 0830/5th through Q.K.A.87 and 35.45 06.30 thence 214° 7.
(8) WISHART, VERITY 3 trawlers sail 0700/5th through Q.K.A.87 and 35.45 06.30 thence 244° 10.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1034A/4).
Amend para. 4 of my 1034A/4th to read 038° 20' 009° 43' through 38.20 09.15 thence coastwise to Cadiz 7½.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1509A/4)
Situation 1955A/4. X.K.2. COREOPSIS (e) 41.50 15.05 003° 6.
(2) ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM, LADY DENISON PENDER working Cagliari vicinity 32.24 16.09.
(3) URSULA 39.07 10.21 338° diving by day 2½ surfacing at night 6½.
(4) (Cancelled by 1315A/4).
(5) 2 Tugs 37.35 10.18 through 37.01 10.01 thence 111° 7½.
(6) U.G.S.5 A C.T.F.37 (E) 34.56 15.13 (?098°) 9.
(7) K.M.S.10 (ST. CROIX?) 40.38 13.32 through 39.56 13.31 thence 144° 8.
(8) LA GRANDIERE escorting F.S. LAVESTALE and F.S. ANTIOPE 24.(?35) 15.15 Northbound coastwise 9½.
(9) K.M.F.10 B, CHURCHILL 45.56 16.03 through 44° 01' 17° 30' thence 180° 13.
(10) REGENT 42.01 10.20 at 1940/4th 180° dived by day 2½ surfacing at night 10.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1045A/4 as amended 2124A/4).

VANOC

Am proceeding to sweep area 035° 51' N., 006° 28' W. Request aircraft originating 0943 may be ordered to co-operate with me using 2410 k/cs will arrive 1130.
(VANOC, 1040A/4 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

E.T.A.1850. Shall require 45 tons Boiler water. Request ambulance on arrival and hospital accommodation for one case.
(VANOC, 1507A/4 to F.O. Gib).

K.M.S.10

2 enemy A/C shadowing position 041° 50' N. 013° 37' W. Course and speed 177° 8.5.
(ST. CROIX, 1120Z/4 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib).
Am being shadowed by 3 enemy A/C bearing 310 (or 110) position 108° 41' N. 14° W. 4 course 197° speed 8.
(ST. CROIX, 1835Z/4 to Gibraltar W/T, (R) Admty).

/URSULA...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

URSULA

URSULA 039° 07' N., 010° 20' W. at 2000/4th
course 338° speed 6½ knots diving by day.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1122A/4 to REGENT).

U/B

Am over enemy S/M in 37° 29' N. 10° 17' W.
sighted on course N.E. speed unknown.
(A/C 2 Y9/B 1129A/4).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C R7GS 1220/4).Portuguese
Trawlers.Following for D.S.V.P. and D.N.I. Times March
1st page 3, British protest to Sweden. This
may imperil delivery of our remaining trawlers
in Portugal. Can it be denied?
(N.A. Lisbon, 1157/4 to Admty) (Reply: Admty.
0206A/11)LADY DENISON
PENDER.My 1508/24 Feb. (groups missing) LADY DENISON
PENDER expects to complete operation p.m. today
Thursday.
(2) Intend she should return Gibraltar for
inclusion in R.S.3.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1213A/4 to Admty. (R)
C. in C. Med. (W), F.O.C.W.A., S.N.O.C.A.)DERNA,
MAURO CROCE.Ref. N.A. Madrid 1213/3 addressed Admty.
Assumed this should have been addressed C. in C.
Mediterranean for action.
(N.I.D., 20 for D.N.I. 1251A/4 to N.O.I.C.
Gibraltar).

Mines

Following additional mines detonated in sweep
on dates given: 25 Feb. 43. Positions 35.57.1 N.
06.07 W. 35.58.2 N. 05.53 W. 26 Feb. 43 position
35.52 N. 06.03 W.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1257A/4 to C. in C. Med.,
(R) Admty. S.N.O.C.A.)

U/B

Am over enemy S/M in 37° 31' N., 10° 31' W. sighted
on surface and observed to submerge. When first
sighted was on course 240° speed 4 knots.
(A/C GHY/N 1447A/4).

U/B

Am over enemy S/M in 37° 47' N. 10° 18' W.
(A/C 9HC/O, 1510A/4).Damage to
WIVERN.C.S. Gibraltar 2151/2 Propose that DESTINY tow
WIVERN to U.K. in convoy M.K.S.10.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1511A/4 to C. in C. Med.,
Admty. (R) C.S. Gibraltar) Approved.
(C. in C. Med., 1027A/5).

/ILEX...

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- ILEX,
O.T.2. Destroyer ILEX sailed 1630/4 to R/V Convoy at about 2030A/4th and acting as additional escort.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1545A/4 to Escort O.T.2
(R) Capt. (D) 6, S.N.O. Casablanca Area,
C. in C. Med (W))
F.O.C.N.A., 1534A/4th (?1545 intended, ILEX to act as additional escort for convoy) Not met. My position 034° 55' N. 007° 17' W. Intend searching back position S at 28 knots thence along route Gibraltar at (?13) knots.
(ILEX, 2201A/4 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Capt. D.6th, Escort O.T.2).
- M.K.F.10 A Intend to sail ATHLONE CASTLE, CAMERONIA, TAWALI to join M.K.F.10 A. Request Algiers may include these ships and send routeing instructions and convoy papers by air.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1547A/4 to C. in C. Med.,
(R) Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, Admty. Connav)
- U/B Am over enemy S/M in 36° 03' N., 7° 57' W. sighted on surface. When first sighted was on course 020° speed 8 knots.
(A/C A7G/K 1630A/4).
- U/B Am over enemy S/M in 37° 22' N., 10° 21' W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 250° (another version says 150°) speed 8 knots.
(A/C 9HY/Z 1639/4).
- M.K.S.9 Intend sailing following ships to join (list) As speed of advance is 7½ knots it is not intended to include BRINKBURN 7 knots, YEABY, 8 knots.
Admty. is requested to signal destinations. Agreed M.W.T.R. and S.T.O.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1711/4 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., etc).
- O.T.2 Convoy O.T.2 is to proceed at utmost speed.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1740A/4 to Escorts O.T.2,
(R) Admty. S.N.O. Casablanca Area).
- U-boat Campaign. 8 U-boat sightings, with 4 attacks by aircraft have been made west of Strait today Thursday.
2. 4 destroyers hunting. ILEX sailed as additional escort to O.T.2.
3. A/S aircraft on patrol during dark hours.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1806A/4 to C. in C. Med.,
(R) Admty. S.N.O.C.A.)

/U/B...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

U/B Following read:- Addressed GFG2 From 5KPO
Am over enemy S/M 36° 20' N., 6° 50' W. periscope
only sighted, course 135. Speed 5.
(Gibraltar, 1922/4 to Admty).

Movements Arrivals 1948 VANOC ex convoy X.K.2.
Departures 1110 ESKIMO, ASHANTI, TARTAR, O.R.P.
BLYSKAWICA, on A/S sweep west. 1235 PENTSTEMON,
VETCH, on escort duties Lisbon Gibraltar. 1410
French ship LA BOUDEUSE, to Oran, 1645 ILEX as
additional escort no O.T.2.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2125A/4 to Admty. (R)
C. in C. Med).

U/Bs REGENT 2 U-boats sighted by aircraft 037° 22' N., 010°
21' W., at 1639/4th and 036° (20') N., 006°
50' W., at 1922/4th.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2201/4 to REGENT).

U.G.S.5 A. Your 1027A/3rd March. U.G.S.5 A estimated
position 0900Z/6th March 34.03 N., 08.22 W.
(C.T.F.37 2205Z/4 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)
S.N.O. Casablanca)

Air Report, A.I.214 4th March. Op. Summ. no 123 for 24
U/Bs. hours ended 1800/4th March.
Sightings and attacks. Catalina N/210 on A/S
patrol west sighted periscope of U-boat at 0931/4
in position KHVA4744 or FHVA4744? which
submerged before attack could be made. Catalina B/202 on A/S
escort to XK2 sighted U-boat on surface at 1129/4 in position
XTWD 2943 course N.E., no further details.
Aircraft still airborne. Hudson N/233 on A/S sweep West
sighted U-boat on surface course 010/8 position NHVA4411 at
1130/4. U-boat submerged too quickly to attack. At 1548/4
same aircraft attacked U-boat in position XTWD 3131 course 240/4
with Torpex D/Cs periscope was visible D/Cs explosions
obscured view no results seen. Hudson S//48 on U-boat hunt west
sighted U-boat on surface course 270/10 position NHHY? 4237
or NHHG? 4237 at 12194 aircraft attacked and dropped 4 torpex
D/Cs 12 seconds after U-boat had submerged. D/Cs dropped 150
ft. ahead of swirl (?No) results observed. 5 D/Rs brought to
area. Hudson O/233 on A/S sweep west sighted U-boat on surface
at 1510? 4 position XTWD4742, U-boat submerged too quickly to
attack Hudson K/48 on U-boat hunt sighted U-boat on surface
at 1630/4 position LBHY 0303. Aircraft attacked with 4 Torpex
D/Cs 16 seconds after U-boat had submerged. D/Cs exploded 100
ft. ahead of swirl. 3 hours later 2 oil patches observed in
area. 150X50 ft. and 1000X400 ft. course of U-boat 020°/8 Hudson
7/233 RN A/S sweep west sighted U-boat on surface at 634 position
XTWD2239 course 250°/8. Aircraft attacked with 4 Torpex D/Cs.
5 seconds after had submerged D/Cs exploded on leading edge or
swirl 20 seconds after explosion violent air bubbles rose to
surface
(A.H.Q. Gib. 2330/4).

/X.K...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

X.K.2

Cancel para. 5 of F.O.C. Gibraltar 1253/27.
Codeword for X.K.2 is "Polecat". Callsign B.L.E.
(C.O.W., 2357A/4 to Escorts of X.K.2, (R)
C. in C. W.Ap. C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.,
F.O.C. Gibraltar).

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SONTAY, / After Belgian Brigade have left Lagos for Middle
W.Africa East, 5000 Belgian native labour personnel remain-
Move, ing in Nigeria are to be moved back to Belgian
Belgian Congo. 2. Presumed that this movement is be-
personnel. yond troopship resources available on West African
coast. D.S.T.O. W.A. should confirm. (Confirmed)
(D.S.T.O.W.A. 2231Z/5.)

3. Therefore proposed that SONTAY now in South Africa should proceed to Lagos instead of India provided F.O.C.W.Af. has no objection to her being used on a ferry service between Lagos and Matadi. 4. If F.O.C.W.Af. concurs, P.S.T.O. Capetown should sail SONTAY accordingly.

5. P.S.T.O. Capetown should use this opportunity to move relief crew of CAP PADARAN from South Africa to Lagos.

6. G.O.C. in C. W.A. is requested to advise P.S.T.O. Capetown whether he could accept the 500 Italian P.O.W. to be moved from S. Africa to W. Africa in this ship.

(D.S.T. 0436A/4 to F.O.C.W.A. P.S.T.O. Capetown.)
Reply from P.S.T.O. Capetown 2011C/12.

Attack Convoy D.N.21 attacked by U/B, U.S. Ship HARVEY W.
on D.N.21. SCOTT sunk at 2025Z/3 in 31° 54' S. 30° 37' E.
and S.S. EMPIRE MAHSEER torpedoed at 2212Z/3 in
32° 01' S. 30° 48' E. and still afloat.
(C. in C. S.A., 0716Z/4 to Admty. etc.)

My 0716/4th. NIGELLA reports following ships torpedoed:-
HARVEY W. SCOTT, EMPIRE MAHSEER, NIRPURA, MARIETTA, SHEAF CROWN.
Last named believed still afloat.

2. Convoy dispersed at 1530C/4th. NIGELLA remained in rear during night. Trawlers being unable to catch up are assisting boats from Durban to pick up (? survivors).

3. Air cover being given to convoy which will continue during night if weather permits.

(C. in C. S.A. 1502C/4 to Admty.)

EMPIRE MAHSEER torpedoed by S/M in 32° S. 30° 48' E. at 2212Z/3. 33 survivors landed 1 died 17 missing. No S S S message sent as ship sank in 1½ minutes. S/M was unseen. C.B. were in weighted box and sank with ship.

(N.C.S.O. Durban. 0921Z/4, to Admty., C. in C.S.A.)

Hastings / Transfer of Hastings to Fleet Air Arm.
Aerodrome Following disposals agreed with A.O.C.W.A.
(? H.M.S. (Details.)
SPURWING.) After departure of 128 Squadron accommodation will be available for further 400 Naval personnel. Expected buildings etc. will be complete less refrigerator by end of May 1943. Propose to commission R.N.A.S.

/Hastings ...

War Diary.

4.3.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.Hastings
Aerodrome
(? H.M.S.
SPURWING.)

Hastings as independent command on convenient date as H.M.S. SPURWING. This is a type of winged goose frequenting the marshes around Hastings. Alternative KOLO a common vulture or OSIN a vulture fish eagle.
(F.O.C.W.A., 0849Z/4 to Admty.)

DRANGEY.

Departure 4th DRANGEY S. of A. 8 knots E.T.A. Capetown 1400/8. Only Feb. codes held.
(N.L.O. Walvis Bay. 1049C/4 to C. in C. S.A. Admty., (R) N.L.O. Capetown.)

LLANASHE
(torpedoed
17/2)

Interrogation of Chief Officer ex LLANASHE disclosed vessel was torpedoed and sunk at 0045Z/17 in approx. 33° 30' S. 28° 30' E.
2. U/B surfaced and Captain asked name of ship which was not given. U/B 300/550 feet long 1500/1800 tons large square shaped C.T. holding 12 persons. 2 5" guns, raised bow similar to British old King class, straight stern, jumping wires, no periscope visible, speed on surface 18/20 knots. 3. LLANASHE received diversion signal and acted on same. 4. CARTHAGE rescued 4 more LLANASHE survivors at 1210Z/3 in 38° 12' S. 21° 51' E.
(C. in C. S.A. 1054/4 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. etc.)

BOREAS,
JAMES
PARKER.

Intend to sail BOREAS escorting Weir & Co.'s JAMES PARKER 0900Z/5th for Freetown. Speed making good (? 17) knots E.T.A. 1530Z/6th. Routed from Ile-de-Gore through positions A, 11.20 N. 17.23 W. B, 09.19 15.(? 04) C, 08.29 13.39.
2. Patrol air cover until last light 5th. Request air cover thereafter. 3. Subsequent destination of PARKER is Monrovia. Request U.S. Army Marshall be given E.T.A. when known.
(Comar, Dakar, 1106Z/4 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty., etc.)

NORSOL
EGERO.

Tankers NORSOL and EGERO were dispersed in 05.40 N. 18.00 W. 0500Z/3 March to proceed independently to destinations by routes given in N.C.S.O. Takoradi's 1001Z/26 Feb.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1114Z/4 to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. CILICIA 029° 05' S. 011° 40' E. to 020° S. 010° W. 14 knots. ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY, STELLA POLARIS with C.N.11 032° 30' S. 017° 20' E. to Walvis Bay 8. ARTIC EXPLORER with D.C.12 035° 05' S. 024° 05' E. to Capetown 8. LE TIGER, VIK VEREENIGING, with C.D.7, 029° 30' S. 027° 10' E. to Durban 8. CARTHAGE, QUALITY 037° 10' S. 031° 40' E. to 034° 10' S. 037° 15' E. 14.7 knots. NIGELLA, VIVIANA, SONDRRA with D.N.21 033° 40' S. 033° 25' E. to 034° 15' S. 034° 15' E. 8. ROTHERHAM, FREESIA, JASMINE with M.C.5.028° 50' S. 035° 50' E. to Durban 8½. RELENTLESS, BLACKMOOR, CATTERICK, 034° 15' S. 033° 55' E. to Durban 20 knots. ETHIOPIAN 034° 20' S. (? 032°) 20' E. to (? Durban) 8. HILDESAY, NORWICH CITY, ST. LOMAN, Durban area.
(C. in C. S.A. 1123C/4.)

/Fleet ...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.

Dispositions. Fleet Unit QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, WOLVERINE, RAIDER, QUADRANT, with W.S. 27 24.47 16.22 to 24.00 17.05 thence 190° 12½.

BRIDGEWATER, HYDRANGEA, CROCUS, INKPEN, DUNCTON, FANDANGO with R.S.2 22.07 18.15 to 20 (?01) 18. 51 thence 194, 8.

LA GRANDIERE escorting French S/M LA VESTALE French S/M ANTIOPE 24.40 15.11 to 24.52 15.00 and 26.22 14.35 thence 049° 9½.

French Sloop M/S COMMANDANT BORY 3 M.Ls. escorting 09.35 15.39 to 10.01 16.29 thence 325 6. M.L. 251 off Bissagos Island to Freetown 10. 2 M.Ls. escorting off Bathurst to S.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1139Z/4)

Situation at 2000Z/4th March. French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES off Freetown to S.W. 19. DESPATCH on patrol about position 003° N. 019° W. (?19). CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about position equator 017° W. 15½. 6 Allied Naval Units on patrol in Ascension St. Paul's Rock area. ARMERIA, BELLWORT escorting 003° 20' 008° 09' 304° 12½. F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU about 003° 32' 006° 54' to Freetown 9. CONSBRO 1 M.L. (? 043°) 32' 008° 30' 299° 6.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1152Z/4.)

ARETHUSA. Intend sailing ARETHUSA 1800C/5th March for Freetown calling Pointe Noire for fuel. Routed A, 030° 55' S. 014° 25' E. B. 020° 55' S. 011° 05' E. C. 016° 25' S. 010° 30' E. thence Pointe Noire. 2. R.A. West Africa is requested to signal onward route from Pointe Noire. 3. E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0600Z/10th March. E.T. A. Freetown 0700Z/15th March. 4. ARETHUSA requests degaussing range on arrival Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A. 1237C/4th. to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty etc.)

MARIFCSA. D. of S.T's 1535/21st Feb. para. 3. not to F.O.C. W.Af. If you consider U/B situation in Cape area makes it advisable there is no objection to MARIPOSA calling at Freetown instead of Capetown on voyage to U.K. if insurance permits.
(D.O.D. (F) 1310A/4 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.W.A. P.S.T.O. Capetown, B.A.D.)

Minesweepers. V.P. 83 BORIE N O B Trinidad this from Alusnob Belem. S.O - 4 British Minesweepers returned Belem late 3rd. March. Will advise. Comsolant inform interested authorities. F.O.C.W.A. Info addressee pass to Admty. V.P. and BORIE have for action.
(Comsolantfor 1532/4 to F.O.C. W.Af. Admty.)

Freetown, B.A.D. 1631Z/4 to Admty.
development. See America and West Indies.

War Diary.

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

BURDOCK, 1. Intend to sail BURDOCK and THYME at 1700Z/5th
THYME, March escorting HOGGAR to Dakar route.
HOGGAR. (A) 010° 32' N. 017° 10' W. (B) 014° 26' N. 017°
33' W. Speed made good 11 knots. E.T.A. Dakar
p.m. 7th March. E.T.A. position B will be sig-
nalled. 2. Request BURDOCK and THYME be sailed as escort
to ALMANZORA to Freetown.
3. HOGGAR will be required to leave Dakar about 15th March to
join convoy S.L. 126.
(R.A.W.A. 1635Z/4 to Comar Dakar, (R) D.S.T.O. W.A. BUR-
DOCK, Admty., MALAYA, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

Docking In South African ports 4th March 1943.
situation. A. Capetown. B. Durban. C. Simonstown.
D. Diego Suarez.
(C. in C.S.A. 1647C/4 to Admty.)

QUAIL, 1. MALAYA detach QUAIL escorting ALMANZORA
RAIDER, to arrive Dakar p.m. 6th March, QUAIL reporting
W.S.27. E.T.A. position B. 014° 26' N. 017° 33' W. to
Comar, Dakar repeated R.A.W.Af.
2. Comar is requested to refuel QUAIL on
arrival and sail to rejoin escort of convoy W.S.27.
3. After QUAIL rejoins, MALAYA is to detach RAIDER to refuel
at Bathurst, RAIDER rejoins escort after fuelling. MALAYA
pass to Cmdre.
(R.A.W.A. 1653Z/4 to Comar, Dakar MALAYA, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C.
Bathurst, Escorts of W.S.27 D.S.T.O. W.Af.)

WASTWATER. Following from WASTWATER (Begins):
Arrived Recife 2330Z Tuesday 2nd March T.O.O.
1326Z/4th (ends.)
(R.O. Pernambuco 1710Z/4 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

Request for If you have any destroyers available for escort
Eastern duties request they may be sent to Durban as
Fleet soon as possible.
Destroyers. (C. in C.S.A. 1719C/4 to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty.)
Reply 0828/5.

STAG U.S. Ship STAG HOUND torpedoed and sunk this
HOUND morning in 017° 30' S. 037° W.
torpedoed. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1750Z/4 to Admty.
(R) C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.W.Af. N.S.H.Q.)

Movements, Departure 1852/3rd March French Sloop Minesweeper
Freetown. COMMANDANT BORY. M.Ls 302, 244 and 279. ABACO.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1809Z/4 to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Movements,
Takoradi.Arrivals 4th CORINTHIAN, PICT, SARABANDE, M.L.
271, 305.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1830Z/4th to Admt. etc.)YANKEE
ARROWYour 1835/3 reference YANKEE ARROW. Concur.
Request quantity sent forward be signalled.
(Director of Stores 1835A/4 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R)
N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)U.S.
Movements.Montevideo departure 4th March U.S. Cruiser
MEMPHIS, U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD, U.S. Destroyer
DAVIS.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1945Z/4 to Admt. (R)
S.O.(I) Freetown.)

QUADRANT.

QUADRANT with damaged Asdic dome ordered to
Bathurst to refuel. MALAYA proposes QUADRANT
should embark new dome at Freetown thence Lagos
to dock. My P.C. and S. 022° 20' N. 017° 22' W.
190° 26 knots, E.T.A. Gambia (?at present rate)
1830Z/5th.
(QUADRANT 2100Z/4 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) N.O.I.C.
Bathurst, MALAYA.)COMMANDANT
DROGOU
COMMANDANT
DETROYAT.Intend to sail F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU for refit
in U.K. on 12th March, ship joining escort Convoy
S.L. 126. Request information when F.S.
COMMANDANT DETROYAT will return to West Africa.
(R.A.W.A. 2127Z/4 to Admt. (R) B.N.L.O. W.Af. etc.)
Reply 2230/6.

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

TORBAY.

Your 1809/3rd. Well done.

2. Leave patrol passing (742°) 01' 008° 22' at 2100/4th direct to R/V with escort in 036° 57' 003° 04' at 0700/7th.

3. Column of S.P. 02440 (1) in force, 1253. (Capt. S.8., 0222A/4 to TORBAY (R) C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10, 8th S.F).

Enemy Units.

P.C. and S. of enemy 2 merchant vessels 3 destroyers 38.23 N. 13.17 E. 180° 15 knots. (A/C BUL/R 0311A/4 to A.H.Q. Malta). My 0310 38.18 N., 12.50 E. 180° 15 knots. (A/C BUL/R 0430/4 to A.H.Q. Malta).

ISLAY

3rd March departure ISLAY. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 0805B/4 to Admty).

Movements
Alexandria.

Arrivals 3rd March ALDENHAM, HURWORTH, HURSLEY departures 3rd March M.Ls. 351, 355, 1126 WOLBOROUGH Tug NEPTUNE. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0920/4 to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

ALBA
JULIA.

My 1035C/19. Report B.3 ALBA JULIA left Trieste for Istanbul Feb. 25th. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 0946C/4 to C. in C. Levant etc).

Cdre.
Levant Area.

Commodore B.C.B. Brooke, R.N., (Previous title S.N.O. Levant Area) whose H.Q. are at Beirut, is in future to be known as Commodore, Levant Area (short title C.O.M.L.A.)

2. Admiralty are requested issue necessary amendment to Naval Codes and Cypher.
3. G.H.Q., M.E., and H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. are requested inform Military and R.A.F. Authorities concerned. (C. in C. Levant, 0959A/4 to S. and A. Levant Station etc).

P.A. 26

Convoy P.A. 26 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 1017Z/4 to Admty).

ERICA

My 2019/9 Feb. para. 2 (Sit. Report 337 para. (2) sinking of ERICA by U-boat) and 1810/14 Feb. (not yet been established how ERICA was sunk). Loss of ERICA is now considered due to striking a mine. Full report follows by letter. (C. in C. Levant, 1024B/4 to Admty).

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - contd.

- M.K.S.9 My 1705A/1. Add WINSTON SALEM.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1030A/4 to C. in C. Med).
M.K.S.9 my 1705/1, add FORT CHILCOTIN. Request
Admiralty signal destination, also for WINSTON
SALEM.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1613A/4 to C. in C. Med).
- P.R.U. P.R.U. 662, 4th visuals 0800 Taranto 2 Battleships
2 cruisers 0925 Messina no major naval units.
Already passed to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant
F.O.I.S. Bone.
(V.A. Malta, 1042A/4 to N.O.I.C. Algiers, S.O.
Force I. S.O. Force Q).
- P.R.U. March 4th visual 0830, Naples 2 cruisers have
departed since 1540/3rd. Already passed to C. in C. Med.,
C. in C. Levant, F.O.I.S. Bone.
(V.A. Malta, 1045A/4 to N.O.I.C. Algiers, S.O. Force I.
S.O. Force Q etc).
- P.R.U. 4th March. My 1030 to 1st 3 addressees, 1045/4th
to remainder. Departures of 2 cruisers from Naples since 1540/
3rd confirmed by photograph.
(V.A. Malta, 1358A/4 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant,
F.O.I.S. Com. Algiers, S.O. Force I, S.O. Force Q,
N.O.I.C. Oran, (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H).
- P.R.U. 4th visuals.
1540 Taranto 2 Battleships 3 repeat 3 cruisers. 1620
Messina no major Naval unit.
(2) Already passed to C. in C. Med., Fleet C. in C. Levant,
S.O.I.S.
(V.A. Malta, 1821A/4 to N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran,
S.O. Force I, S.O. Force Q, DULVERTON)
- P.R.U. 4th March, My 1807/4 to first 3 addressees 1821/4
to remainder. Arrival of 3rd cruiser at Taranto confirmed by
photograph. Class not identified.
(V.A. Malta, 2016A/4 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant,
F.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers, S.O. Force I, S.O. Force Q,
N.O.I.C. Oran, DULVERTON, (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar,
S.O. Force H).
- Movements Arrived EASTON and MIAOULES.
Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1107A/4 to Admty etc).
- Ships ex My 2037/16 Feb. C. in C. E.Fs. 1607/22 Feb.
W.S.26. Owing to inclusion CITY OF PARIS and increased
numbers awaiting passage following is amended
programme of embarkations in returning vessels
W.S.26.
- (2) HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN (numbers).
(3) ARUNDEL CASTLE (numbers).
(4) D.S.T.O. Suez to sail vessels accordingly.

/(5)...

War Diary.4. 3. 1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Ships ex
W.S. 26
(contd).

(5) D.S.T. requested concur CITY OF PARIS proceeding Durban, as owing large amount cargo to discharge Suez HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN will be too late proceed with remainder W.S. 26 vessels and must be limited to unescorted numbers. (P.S.T.O. M.E., 1108/4 to F.O.R.S.C.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc) Concur Para. 5. (D.S.T., 0110A/19).

S/Ms

With approval C. in C. Med., to relieve congestion at Algiers S/Ms from U.K. designated for 10th S/M Flotilla will carry out one working up patrol in Western Med. from Gibraltar proceeding to Algiers on completion. Unless unfit they will subsequently proceed to Malta for further working up and blooding patrols as required by you. (Capt. S.8., 1242A/4 to Capt. (S) 10th (R) Admty. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 3rd F.O.C. Gibraltar, Capt. (S) 9, F.O. (S), S.O. (S) Gibraltar, C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1).

MAURO CROCE,
Italian.

Arrived Valencia.
(Barcelona, 1248/4 to D.S.T.)

Force H.

Vice Adm. Willis has assumed command of Force H in succession to Vice Adm. Burrough. (S.O. Force H., 1401A/4 to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. W.A., Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Malta, C. in C. E.F., F.O. 12th C.S., F.O. 15th C.S.)

Movements
Aden.

Arrival DAUNTLESS 0500Z ORISSA 0815Z.
Departure CARADOC.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1404Z/4 to Admty. etc).

PLANET

Arrival B.D.V. PLANET.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 1417Z/4 to Admty).

M.K.S.9
Escort,
R.C.N.
Corvettes.

Your 1807/3rd. Request you will detail other escort for HORONATO and sail BADDECK and ?REGINA as additional escort to M.K.S.9 to U.K. (2) Request you will detach MOOSEJAW from M.K.S.9 on passing Gibraltar to refuel and overtake convoy. (3) It is intended to sail remaining R.C.N. Corvettes to U.K. in next slow Convoy. (C. in C. Med., 1449A/4 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.S. Capt. F).

T.E.17

My 1119/3rd sailed less TITUS and EMPIRE SCOUT plus ZENA for Philippeville. All have K.Bs. except LORD DELAWARE. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 1527A/4 to N.O.I.Cs Bougie, Philippeville, Bone, (R) C. in C. Med., Connav, etc)

/T.E. 17...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

T.E.17 (contd). T.E. 17 EMPIRE GOLD, PANAMA CITY arrived. (Cdre. Algiers, 1657A/4 to Com. N.O.B. Oran, (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, Connav).

TROOPER Departure. (V.A. Malta, 1532A/4 to Admty. etc). TROOPER left Malta searched channel 1430A today March 4th routed through
 (i) 037° 09' 011° 35'.
 (ii) 038° 00' 011° 30' at 1900A/5th thence in accordance with Capt. (S) 8's 1704/3rd.
 (Capt. S.10., 1555A/4 to S/Ms on patrol (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8).

Fairmiles. Your 0221/23/3/41. Following is position regarding Fairmile launches in Egypt (details) Request Fairmile Company be informed. (A.S. Alexandria, 1604B/4 to Admty).

Tripoli Convoys. My 0959/27/2. C. in C. Levant has ruled minimum speed Tripoli convoys 9 knots.
 (2) EMPIRE CONRAD speed now 8 knots. Request permission return KAIKOURA in here.
 (3) Propose dry docking EMPIRE CONRAD for inclusion X.T.9. Agreed M.W.T.M.E., G.H.Q. M.E. (P.S.T.O. M.E., 1633/4 to D.S.T.) See also 2032/12.

Use of Mk.V. sweeps. Your 1643A/27 Feb. Five sets of Mk.V. Oropesa sweep and associated maintenance sets and cutters are being despatched as requested. Trials carried out in the U.K. have shown that slightly more robust equipment is required to obtain the best results from H.D.M.Ls.
 2. Details, drawings and sets of Mk.V equipment will be forwarded to you as soon as they become available. (D.M.S., 1643A/4 to C. in C. Med).

AVONVALE Request you will sail AVONVALE in tow of JAUNTY in M.K.S. 9 to Gibraltar. (C. in C. Med., 1715A/4 to N.O.I.C. Algiers (R) ACUTE Escorts of convoy M.K.S.9, N.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty).

Movements, Haifa. Arrival 4th March CUMBRAE, M.Ls. 350, 385, 384. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa) 1806B/4 to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

/Movements...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Movements,
Port Said, 4th March Port Said arrivals R.A.F. Launch 1132.
Departures SPETSAI, FAVOURITE Dredger ST.
LAWRENCE, PANTHER, BURRA, NOBLE NORA, ANTWERP,
M.L. 1007 R.F.A. BADAPUR.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1814B/4 to Admty.etc).
- M.K.S.9 My 1747A/1st sailed less THOMAS HAYWARD and
FACTO. Cdre. in 71. All have K/B except DORSET
COAST and ANTONIA.
(S.O.I.S., 1845A/4 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C.
Oran, etc).
- M.T.B.s M.T.Bs. 78, 84 and 95 are allocated to 7th
M.T.B. Flotilla.
(D.D.O.D. (C), 1856A/4 to C. in C. Med).
- Malta Air A.I.507 4th March. C.S.R. Part 1 Offensive.
Report. Night 3/4th March. Successful attack was made
on enemy shipping North of Palermo. 2 special
Wellingtons located 2050 hrs. a convoy of 3 M/S
and 3 D/Rs 39° 20' N., 13° 20' E. course West
speed 12 knots and 7 torpedo carrying Wellingtons and 5 torpedo
carrying Beauforts were despatched to attack. Haze and heavy
A.S.V. jamming hampered attack but at 0110 hrs. 1 torpedo hit
was scored on M/V 7000 tons causing flash smoke and fire
lasting 5 minutes. Smoke screen intense flak and night
fighters were encountered and 1 Wellington and 1 Beaufort are
missing but 1 of Beauforts crew was rescued in sea North of Malta
Part 2. Enemy air activity night 3/4 March 1 Beaufighter was
airborne for raids which did not approach close to Malta. Day
4th March 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned
back before reaching Island.
(A.H.Q., Malta, 1900Z/4).
- Movements,
Oran. Following ships arrived this date. FARNDALE,
OAKLEY, HAYDON, PUCKERIDGE, EGRET, ERNE, FISHGUARD
JAUNTY, ZETLAND, TEST. All above ships departed
less JAUNTY Plus M.L.444.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1935A/4 to Admty etc).
- K.M.F.10 K.M.F.10 (A) onward portion sailed.
(Com N.O.B. Oran, 2002A/4 to C. in C. Med).
- Movements
Algiers. Arrived RHYL L.C.T.170 160, 164 Departures
ABDIEL, LIDDESDALE, RHYL Submarine SIBYL
(P.217).
(Com. Algiers, 2009A/4 to Admty etc).

/FARNDALE...

War Diary.

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

?FARNDALE
U/B.

Large patches of oil fuel in 37.15 N. 00.00 E. on N.W. and S.E. line. Intend search towards Cartagena at 17 knots. Direction of search will be altered to Eastward about 2300. Further signal will be made at dawn.
(?FARNDALE, 2042A/4 to C. in C. Med).

ROMAIN

German controlled French ROMAIN left Valencia 2030/3rd for Marseilles.
(Capt. S.8., 2047A/4 to P.339 (TAURUS))

Situation
report No.
7.

Tripoli (L) Attacked by 17 enemy aircraft dusk 2nd March. Few bombs near Spanish Mole, pass near missed. 30 Military personnel killed. No naval casualties. PALADIN attacked shortly after leaving harbour no damage.
2. HURWORTH, HURSLEY, PETARD, SAKTOURIS and PRIMULA hunting U-boat north of Ras'el Daba.
(C. in C. Levant, 2102B/4 to Admty).

French
re-armament.

Lists of French requirements for all Naval activities (Other than re-armament of major units in U.S.A.) have been forwarded by C. in C. Allied Forces by air mail to C.C.S. Washington copy to British C.O.S. through Commanding General Etousa ref. A.G.336 3/307 French Re-armament, dated 2nd March.

2. C. in C. A.F's recommendations on various sections of this list contained in telegram No. 3729 timed March 1555/1 to C.C.S. Washington and Usfor for British C.O.S. confirms and amplifies forecast given in my 1052/7.
(C. in C. Med., 2126A/4 to Admty).

Movements,
Benghazi.

Arrival BARFORD, TREERN, sailed DELPHINIUM M.L. 359. Arrived and sailed SOUTHERLY MAID.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2359B/4 to Admty).

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Convoy Escorts. (? Intended) change of escort. JUMNA, BATHURST and SEA BELLE P.B. 30 FALMCUTH, P.A. (28) sail 0430Z/9th ocean route No. 2 SUTLEJ and BENGAL P.B. 31, SOLVRA and SOBKRA, P.A. 29, sail 0230Z/15 ocean route No. 1. These dates amend my 0647/26th Feb. (N.T. in W.R.) (ii) SEA BELLE to refit on arrival Bombay. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0907Z/4 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz, C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A. F.O. Ceylon, Com. R.I.N. Cdre. I/C Aden N.O.I.C. Karachi.)

Movements. HAWKINS departed.
(? N.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar) 1341Z/4 to Admty.)

Departure BARODA.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0026Z/4 to Admty.)
Arrival OVERDALE WYKE.
(N.O.I.C. Cochin 0824Z/4 to Admty.)
Departure NETRAVATI for Madras.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 0940Z/4 to Admty.)

Air Bases / A.X. 580, 19th Jan. (1422/19/1). Have discussed Ceylon and India. whole situation with C. in C. E.F. and we suggest following arrangements.

1. F.A.A. requirement as to accommodate (?total) disembarked squadrons and their repair yard so adjacent to Trincomalee that they can be embarked within 6 hours. This can only be met at China Bay. R.A.F. requirements are considerably less and for period of war at least proportion of T.B. requirements could be met at Koggala. As far as C. in C. E.F. is aware Navy only require these facilities for period of war. In these circumstances question is one of balance of administrative conveniences. Navy will be numerically much the larger contingent and it would be simpler for R.A.F. to be on lodger basis. Decision on this must rest between Air Ministry and Admty. but I would not oppose temporary turn over to Navy for duration of war.
2. To meet F.A.A. requirements big programme of works becomes immediately necessary at China Bay including extension of runway (necessary in any event) building of accommodation and construction of repair yard. Am instructing A.O.C. 222 group to put work in hand at once and am arranging despatch of labour force totaling 4100 from India to China Bay.
3. Adequate air defence of Trincomalee ensured by basing squadrons inland except for low flying raids which will be met by providing facilities for R.A.F. fighter squadron at China Bay, if necessary.
4. F.A.A. have further requirement of 20 squadrons in Ceylon and southern India of which 8 can be met at Katakurunda and Puttdlam,
5. R.A.F. requirements in Colombo area are 1. T.B. Squadron (T.B. refresher training school) G.R. and A.N. School. 2. Fighter squadrons X.R.A.F. commitments can be met at Ratmalanb.
6. Propose then that (a) Colombo racecourse be handed over to F.A.A. to accommodate 6 F.A.A. squadrons. These will be ready for embarkation. (b) Kyattar in Southern India to be handed over to F.A.A. for remaining 6 Squadrons. These will not be available at Fleet notice but C. in C. E.F., is prepared to accept this.

(Air H.Q. India, 1030/4 to Air Min. (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F., 222 Group.)

/Dispositions ...

War Diary.

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Dispositions, My 1103/26 Feb. U.S. Forces. The following
U.S. Forces. changes in Pacific dispositions:-
MASSACHUSETTS - South Pacific.
CONCORD - At Balboa.
COPAHEE - At San Diego.
SAN FRANCISCO - At sea.
MINNEAPOLIS - At Pearl Harbour.
PORTLAND = At San Francisco.
(D.O.D. (F) 1325A/4 to C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

E.G. 40
ABERDEEN,
Ice. Your 1521Z/2nd. Propose to follow track D westbound on chart 2058C until 45.30 N. 46.10 W. thence St. Johns N.F. passing south of Virgin Island. Am informed ice extends well south (? of) coast. Request confirmation. (E.G.40 in ABERDEEN, 0402A/4 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., etc.) Your 0402/4th approved. Southern limit of ice understood to be 047° 20' N. on 27th Feb. but you should obtain the latest ice situation on broadcast daily. (C. in C. W.A., 1120Z/4 to E.G.40 in ABERDEEN, (R) F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24, etc.)

Movements. Departure 4th March U.S.A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA Curacao 5th. (Puerto la Cruz, 0425/4 to Admty.)
Departure 4th U.S.A.T. EL LIBERTADOR. (N.C.S.O. Curacao, 0955QR/4 to Admty.)
San Diego departed 0047/3 ENGADINE. (N.S.H.Q., 1330Z/4 to Admty.)
Charleston arrived 1450Q/3 to M.T.B. 343. (N.S.H.Q., 1338Z/4 to Admty.)
Arrival 4th March U.S.A.T. COLONEL G.H. PENROSE. (B.R.O. Georgetown, 2030/4 to Admty.)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Your 1920/1. Owners of EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND advise that essential work need only take a fortnight and that remainder of work can be postponed until next overhaul, probably in August. 2. As EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND is urgently required to return to U.K. and than back to New York, request she be sailed as soon as possible after 14th March. Revised date of sailing should be reported. (D. of S.T., 0441A/4 to N.C.S.O. New York, (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)
Following from British M. of W.T. (begins):
Your 0441/4th. (1) Vessel completed discharge of passengers and fumigation 3rd March was scheduled to enter repair yards 4th March but delayed on account of weather and hopes to do so a.m. 5th March.
(2) Have consulted owners who agree to limit work this voyage to essential repairs which we and they anticipate should be completed at shipyard by 20th March.
(3) Vessel should be ready to embark 22nd March. (Ends). (N.C.S.O. New York, 2246Z/4 to D. of S.T., (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

U.S. S/M Notice, S/M Estimate 4th March. (Cominch, 0442/4, 1450/4, 1451/4, 1607/4, 1608/4, 1609/4.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	U.C. 1)	16° N. 63° W.	242°	10
1800 G.M.T.	WESTON)			
4th March.	ALCANTARA)	11½° N. 46½° W.	268°	12½
	WOODRUFF)			
	ANDES	31° N. 40° W. (may be diverted).	112°	19

(D.O.D.(F), 1101Z/4 to Opanav, (R) Comnav.)

T.O. 1. Convoy T.O.1 arrived.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1132Q/4 to Admty.)

H.X.229, Sail H.X.229 8th and H.X.229A (Special) 9th.
H.X.229A (special) (Cominch (C. & R.), 1305/4 to C.E.S.F.)

H.X.229A Admty. 2120/25, N.S.H.Q. 2211/26, C. in C. Lant
(Special) O11953, C.O.A.C. 1610/2.
Escorts. Comesastseafrom organise escort group and sail
special convoy H.X.229A from New York March 9th.
C. in C. Lant make 2 Lantflt destroyers available
plus CHELSEA if practicable as escort to Westomp.

N.S.H.Q. requested make FREDERICTON, OAKVILLE and SNOWBERRY
available as escort to Westomp. Escorts should arrive New York
by afternoon March 7th. S.O. present in above ships will be
escort Commander. British 40th Escort Group will relieve
escort at Westomp.
(Cominch, 1336/4 to C. in C. Lant, N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., (R)
Admty., C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Port Director New York,
C. in C. W.A.)

Overdue Shipping. ZEUS (Greek) in O.N.S.165 has not arrived
Halifax. ATLANTIC SUN (U.S.) in O.N.S.J.165
has not arrived New York.
(N.S.H.Q., 1355Z/4 to Admty., Connnav, C.O.A.C.)

S.O. 1. S.O.1 in Boca de Navios 04/1200Z.
(U.S. Port Director (Port of Spain), 1423/4 to
Cominch (C. & R.), (R) C.A.F.A.C., Admty., C. in
C. At. Fleet, (U.S.), Cdr. C.S.F.)

BURGESLAND Homeward bound from Far East. U.S. BURGESLAND or
or RIO GRANDE. RIO GRANDE may be expected to traverse boundaries
mentioned my 0049/3rd (N.T. in W.R.)
(Comsolant, 1436/4 to Task Unit 23.1.3 and
23.1.2, V.P.83, F.O.C.W.A., CARNARVON CASTLE.)

/Minesweepers ...

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Minesweepers
BUTTERMERE,
WASTWATER. Cominch passes Comsolantfor's 1208/26 action to Connav to C. in C. W.A. and F.O.C.W.A. for Info. (Begins). Your 1615/25. BUTTERMERE and five minesweepers at present in Belem rtd. 0900Z/28 for Recife after completion of repairs. WASTWATER escorting Brazilian transport to Fernando Nokonha from Recife returning on arrival with another Brazilian ship to Recife.
(Cominch, 1523/4 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.W.A.)

Freetown development by U.S.A. For Morrison from Seal. My 2115/27. In order to clear the stuff away quickly I have asked B.M. of W.T. to ship via U.K. as high priority the accumulation of workshop machines etc. for the Freetown base which have been awaiting shipment for some time. Direct sailings are rare and we do not want to place temptation in the way of the U.S. Request you will confirm priority to M. of W.T. London and arrange that they advise M. of W.T. New York. Meanwhile arrangements are being made to ship this in the first available vessel.
(B.A.D., 1631Z/4 to Admty.)

WADE HAMPTON torpedoesd 28th Feb. See p. 33 BEVERLEY p.m./3rd March in 60° 10' N. 34° 47' W. close to raft containing body of John Sandova and one survivor R.E. Dickey from WADE HAMPTON torpedoesd 2040/28th Feb. Dickey transferred to GOTALAND and making progress considers all other survivors were rescued night 28th Feb.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, 1705Z/4 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24, Admty., etc.)

O.N. 172, O.N.S.172 sailing dates. My 1743/27/2. In order that escort and convoy assembly arrangements may be made early information as to whether proposed sailing dates for O.N.172 and O.N.S.172 are concurred in is requested.
(D.T.D., 1721A/4 to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

BABBITT. Add U.S. Destroyer BABBITT to 24.6.3. My 1665Z/01 (? 1645/1 intended re C.T.U. 24.6.3 designated for Base SJ 171).
(C.T.G. 24.6, 1749Z/4 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.)

S.C. 122. 1. Sailing telegram part 1 S.C.122.
2. Position E at 2400Z/5.
3, 5, 8. Routes and R/V as per Comeastseafon's 01728/3 except all times 3 hours later.
6. Task Unit 24.18.1 THE PAS, S.O., RIMOUSKI, NEW WESTMINSTER, BLAIRMORE.
(Navcom Washington, 1800/4 to Admty.)

/ARETHUSA ...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

ARETHUSA. Request information as to whether ARETHUSA can be taken in hand in U.S.A. for extensive structural repairs between 33 and 53 stations port extending beyond middle line. Keel set up 3 feet between 30 and 53 stations, various bulkheads between 33 and 61 badly buckled or destroyed, considerable electrical work consequent upon flooding, also damage to gun mountings.

2. It is anticipated ship could arrive in U.S.A. by beginning of April.

3. Request early reply.
(D.O.D.(F), 1847A/4 to B.A.M.R. Washington.)

Polish
refugees
in Persia,
MONTICELLO.

My 2131/3rd.
U.S. Navy had to divert MONTICELLO to Canal and onward to New York after they had arranged to take Poles to West Coast. They are unwilling to allow such a ship in Atlantic with women and children on board and could see no possibility of moving them from canal zone to Mexico without delaying MONTICELLO which is very urgently required.

2. Since WEST POINT is also likely to proceed to east coast via canal U.S. Members of C.M.T.C. have been asked to examine possibility of embarking some Poles in West POINT for passage to canal zone and of trans-shipping them there to some suitable vessel for short passage to west coast of Mexico ports.

3. Would it be possible for NIEUW AMSTERDAM to embark as many Poles as possible on her return from next voyage - U.S. to Middle East.

(D. of S.T., 1931Z/4 to B.A.D.)

Your 2131/3. Presume you have in mind that MONTICELLO is to proceed to East Coast of U.S.A. instead of San Francisco.

2. As we are most anxious to avoid missing this opportunity of movement of Poles to Mexico request you will reconsider decision that none can be embarked.

(D. of S.T., 2008A/4 to B.A.D., (R) P.S.T.O. India, D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf, C. in C. E.F.)

U/B.

Periscope sighted at 1904Z/4th in 044° 21' N. 059° 32' W.
(C.O.A.C., 1940Z/4 to G.B. 7A.)

A.T. 38.

Sail A.T.38 to R/V 56° 10' N. 10° 01' W. at 0700Z/16 via:-
(P) 38.30, 70.05. (Q) 39.25, 59.20. (R) 40.15, 47.30. (S) 42.20, 32.55. (T) 49.20, 25.10.
(U) 56.10, 17.05. (V) 56.10, 08.15.
"Chop" 1800Z/13.
(Connav, 1955/4 to Port Director New York, (R) C. in C. Lant, C.E.S.F., C.T.F.24, Admty., etc.)

/Sub. ...

War Diary.

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary.	Para. C. SS. SANTA BARBARA reports sub. attack 39.02 N. 52.26 W. about 1952Z/3. RIO GRANDE DO SUL makes sound contact 13.25 S. 38.32 W. 0930Z/3. U.S.S. NELSON attacks sound contacts 11.37 N. 59.21 W. 2106 to 2305Z/4. Action to Admty. for O.I.C. From Cominch. Para. D. K.17 attacks bad contact 11.10 N. 61.50 W. 1439Z/3. (Cominch, 2020/4 to Admty.)
Armament requirements for French ships.	Your 1806/22 and F.O.C.W.Af.'s 1145/1. Lists now received and will be despatched by next Embassy air bag. (B.A.D., 2021Z/4 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af., N.C.X.F.)
H.O.N.167, Escorts.	Departures DIGBY, BARRIE, KAMSACK, NORANDA escorting H.O.N.167. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 2120Z/4 to Admty.)
L.S.T. and L.C.I Convoy from Bermuda.	C.T.F.32 1606/2nd. C.T.F.32 guards N.S.S. Fox and G.Y.W. transforms as required. All landing craft B.A.M.S. with (22) and (23). Full details forthcoming in the event vessels becoming stragglers. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 2206Z/4 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. At. Fleet, etc.)
Washington Conference, Agreement re Command and Convoy Control.	Personal for 1st S.L. My 1907/2 following is the text agreed with Americans and Canadians as regards the Command question and control of convoys in North Atlantic. Durston, Anderson (Canadian Air Force) and General Larson (U.S. Army Air Force) have agreed. B. I understand that Admiral Edwards will expand para. 9 to show what the situation in Iceland as regards the air actually is and this para. may be inserted higher up probably to follow para. 3 under heading "Discussion" otherwise text will be brought up tomorrow at full conference for formal agreement. To avoid duplication please pass this signal to C.A.S. C. Text begins - "Discussion. 1. Re allocation of forces in the past several months incident to opening of additional convoy routes and activities in the Mediterranean has caused the withdrawal of the majority of U.S. escort vessels from Task Force 24. Consequently it has become appropriate for Great Britain and Canada to take complete charge of the North Atlantic convoy system with primary responsibility assumed by Great Britain in view of the interest which Great Britain has in maintaining the inflow of imports.* 2. This report deals with measures for withdrawing the United States from participation in the Command of the U.K. - North-west North Atlantic convoy system and for establishing a new scheme of command.

* Deleted, 0015A/7, page 264.

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Washington Conference, Agreement on Command and Convoy Control. (Contd.)

3. In considering its recommendations concerning co-ordination of air and surface forces the sub-committee accepted as sound principles -
- (1) That A.S.W. aviation in any area should be under the operational direction of the Naval Commander responsible for protecting shipping in that area, and
 - (2) That general operational control of aircraft in that area be exercised by one Air Commander, in each local control area. However, these principles must be applied flexibly in order to use the mobility of aviation to the best advantage and to meet special conditions such as those created by the several distinct Canadian and U.S. responsibilities in the Greenland - Newfoundland - New York Region. Recommendations.
4. That the Admiralty, in co-operation with N.S.H.Q., be responsible for the control and protection of all U.K. - North Western North Atlantic Shipping, which is defined as the following when in service between the British Isles and ports on the East Coast of North America, North of Philadelphia.
- (A) Trade convoys (present H.X., S.C., O.N. convoys).
 - (B) Mercantile vessels sailed without escort ("Independents").
 - (C) Troop transports sailed without escort or in Trade convoys.
5. That the functions of protection and control of the above shipping be exercised by the following:
- (A) Operational control of escorts and ships.
 - (1) By the Admiralty through C. in C. Western Approaches eastward of Westomp (about 47th Meridian).
 - (2) By N.S.H.Q. through the Canadian North West Atlantic Command westward of Westomp.
 - (B) Routeing and diversions - by the Admiralty and N.S.H.Q. eastward and westward of Westomp respectively.
 - (1) The Admiralty, N.S.H.Q. and Cominch to keep each other informed of all routeing and diversions in the area of operation of U.K. - N.W.N.A. Shipping.
 - (2) The Admiralty and N.S.H.Q. to be authorised to divert U.S. controlled convoys or ships as necessary to keep them clear of Trade convoys. Diversions and routeing within the U.S. Eastern Sea Frontier to be satisfactory to the Frontier Commander.
 - (C) Air cover to be controlled by:
 - (1) U.K. to eastward of Westomp to limit of aircraft range from bases in U.K. and Iceland.
 - (2) Canada to limit of aircraft range from bases in Newfoundland and Canada.
 - (3) Commander Eastern Sea Frontier within his frontier.
 - (D) Convoy sizes and cycle - to be determined by Admiralty. Changes in cycle to be concurred in by Cominch and N.S.H.Q. in order that coastal convoy arrangements may conform.
6. That the following system of operational control of A.S.W. aviation be established in the Labrador - Newfoundland - Canada region.
- (A) All A.S.W. aviation of the Associated Powers in this region to be under the General Operational Control of the Canadian A.O.C. Eastern Air Command, Halifax who shall be responsible for the air coverage of all shipping within range including Greenland convoys and other shipping under U.S. control (except in E.S.F.)

/(B) ...

War Diary.4.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- Washington Conference, Agreement of Command and Convoy Control. (Contd.)
- (B) The Commander of the Canadian North-west Atlantic Command and the A.O.C. Eastern Air Command to operate a combined headquarters at Halifax to facilitate the co-ordination of all their surface-air A.S.W. Forces.
- (C) All A.S.W. Aviation in the Labrador - Newfoundland area to be under the local operational control of the Canadian A.O.C. St. Johns, who will be responsible for the air coverage of all shipping within range in his local area.
- (D) The Commander of the Canadian Naval Sub-Command St. Johns and the Canadian A.O.C. St. Johns to operate a combined headquarters for the co-ordination of all surface-air A.S.W. forces in the Labrador - Newfoundland Area. The A.O.C. to have on his staff officers of the U.S. Army and Navy Air Commands concerned.
- (E) U.S. to agree that A.S.W. planes may use U.S. airfields in Greenland in emergency.
7. That Canadian controlled vessels and convoys in Eastern Sea Frontier waters shall be subject to such orders and directions as the Frontier Commander may issue in the exercise of his authority over and responsibility for all Mercantile vessels in his frontier. The Frontier Commander to arrange with N.S.H.Q. for "Chop" lines and other details of co-ordination.
8. That the United States:
- (A) Retain Argentia and Londonderry as bases for U.S. Naval craft making excess facilities available for maintenance of escort vessels of R.N. and R.C.N.
- (B) Withdraw U.S. ships and escort commanders now in the escorts of the H.X., S.C., O.N. convoy system as soon as practicable.
9. That the United States continue to exercise strategic responsibility throughout the Western Atlantic Area and that all existing arrangements and agreements, particularly with and in respect to Iceland, Greenland, remain in effect except as specifically modified in the foregoing paragraphs. (V.C.N.S., 2209Z/4 to Admty.)

HUNTER.

Norfolk sailed 2130Z/3 HUNTER.
(N.S.H.Q., 2212Z/4 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

- Washington Conference, A/S aircraft, Gibraltar - Casablanca.
- Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S. - Durston has had signal (Webber W 203 Feb. 24th) from C.A.S. in which C.A.S. pointed out need for clarification regarding responsibility for A/S aircraft operations in Gibraltar - Casablanca area.
- (2) We have discussed this with Admiral (?Edwards) who agreed that situation is unsatisfactory and vague. As a result I am to bring question up at meeting of conference tomorrow Friday with suggestion that you and King might direct Kauffman - Mansfield board to go to Casablanca area discuss question with local authorities and make recommendations. I hope you agree to this.
- (3) Mansfield and I are seeing King tomorrow about A/S survey board's Chief of Staff and I hope to be able to arrange for Coastal Command group captain R.A.F. to be attached to them to balance an American Naval airman who has already been included

/as ...

War Diary.

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Washington
Conference,
A/S aircraft,
Gibraltar -
Casablanca.
(Contd.)

as a member.*
(4) Will you please inform C.A.S.
(B.A.D., 2237Z/4 to Admty.)
* Adm. King agreed. See 2151Z/5.

U/B.

U-Boat estimated your vicinity by D/F at 2128Z/04
has made sighting report of a convoy or important
unit X 4540 k/cs final position.
(Cominch, 2320/4 to C.T.F.36, (R) ANDES, C. in
C. Lant.)

Australia and New Zealand.

QUEEN MARY,
AQUITANIA,
ILE DE
FRANCE.

D. of S.T. 2006A/15 Jan. and my 0747Z/18th.
On the grounds of security the maximum number of
prisoners of war that can be carried in QUEEN
MARY and AQUITANIA is 4000 and 2726 respectively.
To increase this number extensive alteration to
cabin accommodation will have to be made which,
owing to shortage of labour, (? could not) be
carried out in Sydney (N.S.W.) in time available. Further
masters and permanent O.C. Troops would lodge formal protest
if above numbers are increased.
(2) Amend anticipated (? itinerary) given in my 0747/18th to
read (A) ILE DE FRANCE departing Fremantle 19th March to arrive
Durban 29th March allowing 2 days for embarkation E.T.A.
Capetown 2nd April. QUEEN MARY to depart Fremantle (? 23rd
March, E.T.A. Capetown 2nd April. (B) AQUITANIA to depart
Fremantle 28th March, (? E.T.A.) Capetown 7th April.
(3) N.C.S.O. Durban's 1127C/17th not to all addressees minimum
guard required in QUEEN MARY for 4000 prisoners of war is 25%,
in AQUITANIA for 2726 is 20%. QUEEN MARY has no rifles, tommy
guns or ammunition on board whilst AQUITANIA has 100 rifles only.
It is considered most undesirable to embark civilian passengers
in these ships (? from) Capetown.
(4) S.S.T.O. Durban pass to Deputy Chief Pretoria.
(A.C.N.B., 0045Z/4 to D. of S.T., (R) S.S.T.O. Capetown, S.S.T.O.
Durban, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., Deputy Chief Pretoria.)

/Digest ...

War Diary.

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Digest
Serial
No. 406
March 3rd.

2. Convoy reported my Digest No.405 para. 3 again attacked by Fortresses afternoon 2nd North Rooke Island where additional merchant ship sunk. 16 vessels including probably six destroyers, 10 merchant ships last sighted Teis area evening 2nd heading Vitiaz Strait indicating additional six to eight vessels primarily merchant ships joined convoy this area during afternoon. Convoy 15 vessels including probably five destroyers, ten merchant ships proceeded south through Vitiaz Strait during night hours while one damaged destroyer remained area North Rooke Island. Convoy again successfully attacked Huon Gulf area heading Lae afternoon 3rd by 17 Fortresses, 32 B.25s, 12 Bostons, 13 Beaufighters covered by 16 Lightnings. Numerous hits scored especially by flights 12 B.25s and 12 Bostons who claimed 26 hits from masthead level. Further attacks during afternoon by 13 Fortresses while several R/C planes also dropped bombs. At dusk only ships still afloat were two cargo vessels burning, four destroyers all damaged all 40 miles off Lae making no headway. Later night R/C could only find one cargo vessel still burning and one stationary destroyer. Heavy enemy fighter cover encountered during day and 40 fighters destroyed plus 15 probably. Our losses one Fortress three Lightnings.

- 3. Morning 2nd March 2 aircraft sighted Finschhafen strip where R/C Liberator bombed waterfront.
- 4. 13 aircraft parked Lae aerodrome afternoon 2nd March. Next morning 3 Bostons bombed this target followed by 29 dive-bombing Kittyhawks covered by 9 Lightnings at noon.
- 6. Aircraft sighted 2 submarines 5 miles off Mambare river mouth p.m./3rd.
- 7. Mid morning 3rd, 6 Hudsons successfully bombed Dobo.
- 8. Same time 9 B.25s attacked Tocal.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0715Z/4.)

Movements. Arrival Sydney (N.S.W.) 2nd STUART, 3rd Destroyer HENLEY. Port Moresby 3rd WARRAMUNGA, departure Port Moresby 3rd WARRAMUNGA for Townsville, ARUNTA for Thursday Island. Melbourne 4th ADELAIDE, U.S. OTUS for Fremantle. Fremantle QUEEN OF BERMUDA, GAMBIA both for Durban.
(A.C.N.B., 1044Z/4 to Admty.)

U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN arrived Townsville 3rd March. Oiler KURUMBA arrived and departed Townsville 3rd due Brisbane 6th. R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK departed Townsville 3rd due Brisbane 6th. Hired Transport DUNTROON departed Port Moresby 3rd due Cairns 5th. U.S. Transport CREMER departed Newcastle 3rd due Brisbane 6th.
(A.C.N.B., 1256Z/4 to Connv, Admty.)

Collision. SS. KOONDA (? 161 tons) collided with Greek vessel GEORGE M. EMBIRICOS (5,278 tons) (? 1415Z/3) when latter vessel was at anchor 1½ cables north-east

/of ...

War Diary.

4.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Collision.
(Contd.)

of Gellibrand Lighthouse Hobsons Bay. KOONDA returned safely to port with badly damaged stem. GEORGE M. EMBIRICOS was holed forward of bridge and vessel settled forward in 32-33 feet of water. Engine room bulkhead held. Anticipate that vessel will be refloated within 48 hours. (A.C.N.B., 1804Z/4 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1355A/4, 1420A/4.)

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.

The Admiralty have prepared a paper dealing with the losses of independently routed ships. A precis of this paper is contained in a message today to V.C.N.S. at Washington. The paragraph detailing the percentage losses of independently routed ships is somewhat obscure, but it would appear that the percentage loss of independently routed ships of 15 knots and over is nearly twice as high as that of ships in convoy. There is no indication whether the percentage losses are calculated on numbers of ships or tonnages, but if the percentages are based as is believed, on the number of ships sailing it must be borne in mind that the comparison moves still more unfavourably for independently routed ships, on account of their higher average tonnage.

Home Commands.Attack on
R.A. 53

At 0930A today, when Convoy R.A. 53 was in 72° 44' N., 11° 27' E, the American EXECUTIVE, 4978 tons, was torpedoed and sunk by a U-boat and the American RICHARD BLAND was damaged but is proceeding with the Convoy at 7½ knots. 53 survivors were rescued from EXECUTIVE; at 1400 the convoy was attacked without result by 12 Enemy A/C; and at 1656A SCYLLA reported that 3 U-boats were still in its vicinity.

At 1901 C. in C. H.F. was in 64° 40' N., 04° 14' W. steering South at 17 knots; and the 4 S/Ms in North Norwegian waters left their patrol at 2000 today to return to Lerwick.

E-boat
activity.

WINDSOR engaged 2 groups of E-boats off Lowestoft at 0337 this morning; SHELDRAKE drove away 3 more E-boats near 3C Buoy at 0400; and SOUTHDOWN heard another group near 55A Buoy at 0508. All these groups retired to the eastward at about 0520, and A/C sent out at daylight in pursuit report one E-boat damaged, one left in flames, and two awash and sinking in 52° 34' N. 04° 25' E. at 0810. Wreckage and German clothing were salvaged by M.T.B. 634 at 0740 in 52° 40' N. 02° 47' E.

In consequence of E-boat activity in Lyme Bay early this morning convoys P.W. 303 and W.P. 303 were diverted to Portland and Torbay respectively and KRAKOWIAK escorting W.P. 303 reports intermittent engagements with E-boats during the night. 2 rounds were fired at an unseen enemy during these operations by Blacknor Battery at Portland.

/Whilst...

5.3.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

Whilst M.T.Bs. 85, 242 and 86 were on passage from Newhaven to Dover at about 1500 today two F.W.190 attacked M.T.B. 86 with cannon fire in 217° Dungeness 712 miles causing some damage and wounding both officers and 4 ratings.

Convoy
X.K.2
attacked.
4 ships
torpedoed.

Convoy X.K.2 was attacked by U-boats at 1745A today in 43.56 N. 14.53 W. (240 miles W.N.W. of Cape Finisterre) and EMPIRE TOWER, TREFUSIS, SS. GER-Y-BRYN, FIDRA were torpedoed. Three of these ships were sunk and the fourth was left badly on fire. COREOPSIS obtained contact and made two attacks with no apparent result. After attack, the convoy kept well to the westward of the track for 24 hours and was not attacked again.

Bomber Command Aircraft laid 80 mines last night in the Frisian Is. west coast of France and Baltic areas.

North Atlantic.

K.M.S.10

In view of the U-boat situation in the approaches to the Straits of Gibraltar, F.O.C. Gibraltar intends to order convoy K.M.S.10 to proceed at best speed to position 37, where it should arrive at 2100/7.

Aircraft
Storage.

As the congestion caused by the storage of aircraft at Gibraltar is acute, F.O.C. Gibraltar intends to transfer a certain number to the R.N. Air Section, Tafaroui.

LIVADIA

SS. LIVADIA (German) left Bilbao at 2200 G.M.T. for France.

K.M.S.10

ST. CROIX, escorting convoy K.M.S.10, reported 2 enemy aircraft were shadowing in 41.50 N. 13.37 W. at 1120Z, and 3 were shadowing in 108° 41° N., 14° W. 4 miles at 1835Z.

War Diary.

5.3.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

REGENT S/M REGENT has been allocated to the Mediterranean Command. In view of her unsuitability for the Western Mediterranean, C. in C. Mediterranean intends to send her to the Levant.

Operation M.H. 8 The Malta section in this convoy operation (M.W.22) was attacked by 12 Ju.88 dive bombers at 1910 today (at dusk) and YORBA LINDA Panamanian tanker was damaged by near miss but was able to steam 8 knots, and the tanker ERINNA was also slightly damaged. APHIS (gunboat) and 3 storeships, unable to maintain speed of convoy, were detached to Tobruk and Benghazi. One enemy aircraft was destroyed by gunfire.

Mining ABDIEL carried out a lay in the Sicilian Channel today. She was attacked by 2 aircraft without damage. One Ju.88 was brought down by fighters.

Air Operations. 6 Middle East Liberators attacked shipping in Naples last night.

East Indies.

Destroyers. Replying to C. in C. South Atlantic's request yesterday for any destroyers available for escort duties, C. in C. E.F. regrets he can do little to help at present. He has only 4 destroyers at Kilindini. As soon as QUICKMATCH and QUIBERON arrive, it is probable that the Australian manned destroyers, 2 at a time, will have to go to Australia for leave and adjustment of complement. When convoy C.M.40 comes north it may be possible to detach FOXHOUND to Durban. NAPIER, now at Durban, should be ready to return to Kilindini with C.M.40, in which case CATTERICK would not be required.

War Diary.

5.3.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

W.L.E.F.

As the result of discussions at Washington, the Western Local Escort Force will be increased from 8 to 11 groups. In order to put this into effect and to provide for essential Canadian coastal convoys after the opening of navigation in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, it will be necessary for the 15 corvettes lent for "Torch" operations to be returned to Halifax as soon as possible, and not later than 1st April. The Royal Canadian Navy will continue to maintain 4 effective corvettes in 5 mid-ocean escort groups.

Overdue
Ship.

SS. ATLANTIC SUN, unreported since losing convoy O.N.165 on 17th Feb, is now overdue at New York.

O.N.168

U.S. THOMAS HOOKER was abandoned at 2025Z today in 53.20 N. 47.00 W.

U.S. Fleet
Organisation.

The U.S. Fleet is being re-organised into numbered fleets with a new Task Force organisation as from noon 15th March.
(Details in A.M. 1643A/9).

5.3.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Russian procedure.
Force "Grenadine".
Hospital Unit for North Russia.
"Meacon" equipment.

During a visit from Admiral Kharlamov yesterday A.C.N.S.(H) explained the situation concerning the North Russian convoys stating it as representing his personal views.
2. Kharlamov was told that the difficulties placed in the way of our running the convoys were intolerable, and that they would, unless removed, lead to sabotaging the convoys. He took this very seriously and asked for details, when the various items from "The Hospital Unit" to "Grenadine" were outlined to him.

3. It was made clear to him that the mere removal of the particular restrictions was not enough but that there must be a change of atmosphere to one of real co-operation and confidence in North Russia.
4. He was then asked to make it clear to the Russian authorities concerned that not only were the restrictions quite unacceptable but that all our needs were perfectly normal operational requirements for the security of the convoys. He agreed to do what he could to help.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 0030A/5 to Adm. Miles, S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Soviet Government reply to British Memorandum on "Grenadine" has now been received and signalled by Embassy to Foreign Office.
2. Reply is of considerable length and repeats refusal to accept "Grenadine". Following are principal points.

- (a) Lack of accommodation in North Russia for "Grenadine" personnel.
- (b) Soviet claim that they have ample experience in convoy protection.
- (c) A sufficient force for convoy protection will be provided by Russians. They point out that protection would be improved if we handed over "Grenadine" aircraft without crews.
- (d) Difficulty of arranging co-operation between British-manned torpedo bombers and Russian fighters.

(30 Mission, 1040Z/5 to Air Min.)

Your 2230/2. "Meacon". Consult gist of Molotov's reply to Ambassador. "Meacon" was imported in violation of Soviet customs regulations and on February 18th Chief of Murmansk customs officially brought this to notice of British Authorities. However, to meet wishes of H.M.Govt. and to assist in protection of convoys, instructions have been given for question to be re-examined and for permission to be granted for operation of "Meacon" on condition that its work is co-ordinated with Soviet naval authorities in the north.

2. Comment. Russians have climbed down while saving their face.
(Adm. Miles, 1231C/5 to Admty.)

13th and 2nd M.L. Flotillas.

It is desired to give the 13th and 2nd M.L. Flotillas a change of employment for a period of about 3 months. Arrangements.
(Admty., 1524A/5.)

/4th ...

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - Contd.

4th M.G.B. Flotilla. As soon as they have been relieved by a division of M.Ls the 4th M.G.B. Flotilla are to be withdrawn from operational service and re-allocated as follows. Details.
(Admty., 1748A/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Adm. Miles. Arrived Polyarno p.m./5th.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1805A/5 to Admty.)

NORTHERN
WAVE.

I am satisfied that the state of mind prevailing among the ship's company of NORTHERN WAVE makes it most desirable that this ship should pay off and commission with a fresh crew (including officers) next day.

Ship returns to Belfast on 7th or 8th March and it would be convenient if paying off could take place as soon as possible afterwards.

Letter follows.

(C. in C. W.A., 1810A/5 to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C.N.I., Antrim, Cdre. R.N.P.S.C.D.)

"Seawarn" Trials. C.A.F.O. 2261/42 reference "Seawarn" Trials. Reports received recommend adoption of this system.
(Admty., 1852A/5 to A.I.G. 12.)

Movements.

S/M My 1727/4th.
Movements. Add new para. (J). BLACKFISH escorted by INCHGOWER and RADNOR CASTLE leaves Falmouth 1130/5 for Plymouth. E.T.A. 1730/5.
(F.O.S., 0101A/5 to Admty.)
Your 1806/4. M.L.343 detailed. (SHAKESPEARE).
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 0805A/5 to C. in C. Nore, P.221, S.O. M.B.B.)
Arrived VIDETTE, H.28.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0855A/5 to S.7.)
Sailed 0735 ULLSWATER to R/V with DZIK, and P.57 escorted by CUTTY SARK for Holy Loch.
(A.C.O.S., 0942/5 to Admty.)
Intend to sail SHAD and HERRING escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE from Garrock Head at 1400A/7 to 000° Round Island 7 miles, E.T.A. 1800A/8th. Then submarines to westward, LA CAPRICIEUSE to Clyde escorting BARB, E.T.A. 2359A/9.
(Capt. S.3, 0951A/5 to F.O.S., Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O. I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.Cs. Belfast, Liverpool, Milford Haven, Falmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., S.5, S.7, S.3, Comsubron 50, (R) F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE, C. in C. U.S. Fleet in European Waters, SHAD, HERRING.)

/My ...

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M My 1805A/4 cancel. (SHAD, HERRING).
 Movements. (Comsubron 50, 0955A/5 to F.O.S.)
 (Contd.) P.556 escorted by CAPE COMORIN exercising off
 Plymouth in Area D between 1000/5 and 1600/5.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1001A/5 to Admty., F.O.I.C.
 Portland, Cdre. A.P., C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.S.,
 F.O.I.C. Falmouth, N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth,
 Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcast C.N. and Port Wave
 in Plymouth Command.
 Anticipate ULTIMATUM will be ready to sail a.m./16th.
 Request destination.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1012A/5 to Admty.)
 My 1756/4. Sailed (BLACKFISH).
 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1130A/5 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 Sailing GRAPH escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY from Clyde at
 1930A/6 to Londonderry, E.T.A. 0800A/7.
 (Capt. S.3, 1137A/5 to F.O.S.)
 Intend to sail TACTICIAN and ULTOR escorted by CUTTY SARK
 from Clyde at 1930/7 to 000° Round Island 7 miles, E.T.A.
 2000/9.
 (Capt. (S) 3, 1411A/5 to F.O.(S), Admty., C. in C. W.A.,
 F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Belfast, F.O.I.C. Liverpool,
 F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Falmouth,
 H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., S.5, S.7, S.3, Comsubron 50, CUTTY SARK,
 P.314 (TACTICIAN), P.53 (ULTOR).)
 My 1629/3rd para. (J) add. These submarines leave patrol
 at 2000/5th for Lerwick.
 (F.O.S., 1429A/5 to Admty.)
 Positions of submarines at 0800A/6th and movements for
 following 24 hours.
 (A) TRIDENT 45° 15' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day, due 43° 01' N.
 12° 54' W. at 1400/7.
 (B) BARB 47° 10' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N.
 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W.
 (C) SHAKESPEARE leaves Nore with C.W.161 for Portsmouth.
 (D) DZIK, UNIVERSAL and ULLSWATER escorted by CUTTY SARK vicinity
 Little Minch, due Holy Loch 1630/7.
 (E) GRAPH escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY leaves Holy Loch for
 Londonderry.
 (F) Russian S/M S.56 71° 19' N. 16° 10' E. probably on surface
 through 71° 58' N. 21° 15' E. for Kola Inlet.
 (G) Russian S/M S.55 72° 14' N. 27° 55' E. probably on surface
 for Kola Inlet.
 (H) TUNA in Zones K.5 and K.6.
 (J) URSULA passes through 43° 00' N. 12° 26' W. at 0330/7,
 thence dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W.
 (K) TRUCULENT 70° 56' N. 17° 50' E. probably on surface through
 70° 50' N. 15° 10' E. and 69° 00' N. 09° 56' E.
 (L) SIMOON 70° 34' N. 16° 02' E. probably on surface through
 70° 32' N. 15° 30' E. and 69° 01' N. 11° 02' E.
 (M) SPORTSMAN 71° 20' N. 20° 01' E. probably on surface through
 70° 50' N. 15° 10' E. and 69° 01' N. 09° 57' E.
 (N) SEA NYMPH 71° 06' N. 19° 05' E. probably on surface through
 70° 48' N. 16° 20' E. and 69° 00' N. 11° 01' E.
 (F.O.S., 1658A/5.)

/Four ...

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M
Movements.
(Contd.)

Four British S/Ms leaving patrol vicinity Soroy 071° N. 023° E. tonight proceeding to westward. Estimated position TRUCULENT and SPORTSMAN at 0800A/6th are 070° 56' N. 017° 50' N. and 071° 20' N. 020° 01' E. respectively, both steering for 070° 50' N. 015° 10' E.

SEA NYMPH and SIMOON are further to the southward.
(F.O.S., 1707A/5 to S.55, S.56, (R) S.B.N.O. North Russia, C. in C. H.F.)
Arrived BLACKFISH, INCHGOWER, RADNOR CASTLE.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1741A/5 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
Your 1012/5 to Admty. Holy Loch. (ULTIMATUM).
(F.O.S., 2219A/5 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
S.56 estimated position at 0800A/6 071° 20' N. 016° 10' E. proceeding probably on surface. S. of A. 10 knots routed through 071° 58' N. 021° 39' E. thence to eastward.
(F.O.S., 2227A/5 to S/Ms operating N. of 51° N.)

INDOMITABLE. Your 1552/4. Expects to arrive Lamash ?1800A/5. BADSWORTH can be detached 1600A/5 to Londonderry without relief.
(V.A.(A) H.F., 0157A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

PATHFINDER,
PENN,
PANTHER.

Propose work up at Scapa from about 15th until about 5th April.
(Admty., 1103A/5 to R.A.D.H.F.)
Your 1103A/5. Quite convenient.
(R.A.D., 1847A/5 to Admty.)

JAMAICA. Your 2343/4 arrived.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1125/5 to A.C.O.S.)

FURIOUS,
RAPID,
MATCHLESS.

Scapa departures at 0903 for exercises and Clyde in accordance with F.O. 2nd in C. H.F. 1125A/2.
(A.C.O.S., 1142/5 to Admty.)

OCEAN
ROVER.

Will be operating during daylight on 6th, 7th and 8th within 15 miles N. and W. of 55° 30' N. 07° 00' W. anchoring at Merville at night.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1654A/5 to C. in C. W.A., (R) F.O.I.C.N.I., Admty., R.N.A.S., H.Q.C.C., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. / Proceed with all despatch to 50.06 N. 1.46 W. then 180° to 49.48 N. 1.46 W. and patrol to intercept E-Boats returning to Cherbourg. Do not get under fire from shore batteries. Return so as to be within 20 miles of English coast by daylight. Do not proceed West of line joining Portland to Cape de la Hague. Codeword "Device".
 (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0110A/5 to M.G.Bs. 56, 53, 55.)
 My 0110A/5. "Device" sailed.
 (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0140A/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
 Intend M.Ls 205 (S.O.) and 246 to patrol tonight 5th on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W. Leave Portland at 1900 and proceed to patrol line via Q.Z.S.382. Leave patrol-line at dawn and return to base. Object - Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device. Request air protection be arranged.
 (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1059A/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
 (3) Chasseurs 11, 10 South of E.A.5.
 (4) KINGSTON TURQUOISE at St. Helens. FYLLA at Yarmouth.
 (5) 2 M.L. from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 05' W. and 1° 30' W.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1317A/5 to F.O.I.C. Portland, etc.)

Engagement with E-Boats off Lowestoft. 3 E-Boats claimed sunk by A/C. / 2 E-Boats in position 148 No.4 Buoy (off Lowestoft) 3.
 (WINDSOR, 0337A/5 to Harwich.
 3 E-Boats in position 1240 No.4 Buoy (off Lowestoft).
 (WINDSOR, 0350A/5 to Harwich.)
 E-Boat bears 127 approx. from 7/one G by R.D.F.
 (C. in C. Nore, 0407A/5 to S.E.E.C.D.S. of F.)
 4 M.G.Bs leave Yarmouth for A Buoy now.
 (C. in C. Nore, 0411A/5 to S.E.E.C.C., S. of F.)
 3 M.G.Bs leave Lowestoft now for Z.12 via 4 Buoy.
 (C. in C. Nore, 0421A/5 to S.E.E.C.C.D., S. of F.)
 E-Boat bears approx. 115/2 G.
 (Chatham, 0432A/5 to S.E.E.C.C.D., S. of F.)
 Suspected E-Boat activity (Spare Group 90)* Hearty Knoll.
 (Chatham, 0434A/5 to S.E.E.C.C.D., S. of F.)
 * Signification unknown.
 Unidentified vessels has been plotted by R.D.F. in 010° Lowestoft 20 miles.
 (Chatham, 0444A/5 to S.E.E.C.C.D., S. of F.)
 E-Boat bears approx. 112/2G.
 (Chatham, 0450A/5 to S.E.E.C.C.D., S. of F.)
 E-Boat bears approx. G 106/3.
 (Chatham, 0507A/5 to S.E.E.C.C.D., S. of F.)
 Unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in 019° Lowestoft 13 miles.
 (C. in C. Nore, 0529A/5 to S.E.E.C.D.)
 Harwich 5th Arrival. (WINDSOR, SHELDRAKE).
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0917A/5 to Admty.)

/3. Report ...

5.3.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagement
with E-Boats
off
Lowestoft.
3 E-Boats
claimed
sunk by
A/C.
(Contd.)

3. Report of E-Boat activity last night 4th/5th March.

1. Weather yesterday afternoon and early night unsuitable for coastal forces but wind dropped at midnight and then changed to N.W. freshening to nearly 5 in the open sea by daylight.

2. WINDSOR on patrol 6 engaged 3 E-Boats S.E. of 4 Buoy at 0337, and reported losing touch in position 100 Lowestoft 22 having been in action with 2 groups of 3 boats each mostly in smoke - no damage to enemy claimed.

3. SHELDRAKE on patrol 7 drove 3 E-Boats to the eastward in position 2 miles S.E. of 3C Buoy at 0400.

4. A third group was heard by SOUTHDOWN with F.S.53 near 55A Buoy at 0508.

5. Southern groups appeared to remain well east of the war channel until about 0520 when all groups retired to eastward.

6. A unit of M.G.Bs sent out from Lowestoft were not in time to engage enemy and reported sea condition still made gunnery extremely difficult.

7. 12 Group sent out Spitfires at daylight and report an attack on two E-Boats at 0800 in 52° 30' N. 4° 20' E. They claim one probably destroyed being left in flames, the other damaged. 12 Group Typhoons report attacking two more E-Boats at 0810 in 52° 34' N. 4° 25' E. They claim to have left both awash and sinking.

8. Although minelaying is a possibility it is thought more probable that E-Boats intended torpedo attack on F.S. convoy this convoy was 3½ hours late and was not found. There is little evidence of minelaying, until E-Boats were engaged by WINDSOR.

(C. in C. Nore, 1540A/5 and 2240A/5 to Admty.)

M.T.B.634 reports that in 52° 40' N. 02° 47' E. at 0740/5 a large patch of fuel oil and wreckage was sighted including a German sailor's reefer with pockets containing identity card and personal belongings. A certain amount of wreckage has been salvaged.

(C. in C. Nore, 1646A/5 to Admty.)

Engagement
with E-Boats
in Lyme Bay.

Position of your objective at 0144 is 114 Start Point 17 course 157, speed 25 WENSLEYDALE chasing E-Boats.

(19 Group H.Q., 0152/5 to A/C 'C' of 420 Sqdn.)

My 0152/5 don't illuminate.

(19 Group H.Q., 0223/5 to A/C 'C' of 420 Sqdn.)

Cancel my signals 0152, 0223, 0247.

(19 Group H.Q., 0340/5 to A/C 'C' of 420 Sqdn.)

E-Boat activity was detected at 2230/4 in Lyme Bay and continued until 0430/5. P.W.303 and W.P.303 were diverted to Portland and Torbay respectively. The latter became scattered and KRAKOWIAK escorting reported engaging E-Boats intermittently. WENSLEYDALE was sailed from Plymouth and M.G.Bs from Portland but neither made contact. No casualties have been reported and vessels are accounted for subject to confirmation. Convoys have now proceeded.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1824/5 to Admty.)

/During ...

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Engagement
with E-Boats
in Lyme Bay.
(Contd.)During anti E-Boat operations on night of 4th to
5th two rounds were fired at unseen enemy from
Blacknor Battery Portland. Result unknown.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1140A/5 to Admty. D. of L.D.)Sinking
of Tanker
(? HERBORG)
by SUSSEX
on 26th
February.

Your 1950A/27.

1. SUSSEX passed through 044° 30' N. 022° 07' W.
at 0900/26.
2. Aircraft report T.O.O. 0945A received at
0940Z as result of which course was shaped 163°
to intercept on assumption enemy's real course
easterly, speed being increased to 30 knots
and full power.
3. Sighted tanker 1449Z bearing 185°, course 080°,
and altered to take station on quarter keeping outside 14,000
yards range. F.W.200 aircraft sighted, this time approaching
from eastward. Aircraft came within 7,000 yards and then made
for tanker. This and general situation indicated tanker as
enemy.
4. Fired warning shot(s) and salvo(es) to hurry abandoning from
1506 until 1522, when fire was opened to hit at 17,000 yards.
Checked fire at 1600. Ship was on fire in bridge and after
superstructure. As there was no sign of sinking fire was
re-opened at 1630 and checked at 1645. Tanker finally sank at
1710.
5. Firing was carried out at 30 knots, mean range 16,000 yards
during first run, and 13,000 yards during second run.
6. Periscope reported once by officer 2000 to 4000 yards distant.
No confirmation.
7. Fortress aircraft arrived at 1649 and after reporting tanker
in sinking condition and four boats nearby, took departure at
1730.
8. Liberator aircraft arrived at 1830Z and returned to base at
1930Z.
9. Following are points of interest:
 - (a) Heavily laden tanker extremely difficult to hit in spite
of good percentage of straddles.
 - (b) Cargo was never alight and there was no explosion.
 - (c) No obvious sign of scuttling.
 - (d) Ship remained on apparently even keel until about the end.
 - (e) No W/T heard. Visibility very good.
 - (f) There is indication from plot that tanker steamed slow and
may have endeavoured to take avoiding action.
10. No homing signals in accordance with 'S' order 2/43 para. 164
were heard from 1000Z, when D/F watch was set on 385 k/cs.
(SUSSEX, 0633/5 to Admty.)

North
Norway
S/M Patrol.S/Ms are leaving patrol for Lerwick beforehand.
P.315 at 2000/5 through (A) 071° 18', 022° 25'
(B) 070° 50' 015° 10' thence by route "Black"
E.G. P.225 at 2000/5 through (C) 070° 32'
015° 30' thence by route "Orange". P.229 at

/0200/6 ...

War Diary.

5.3.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North
Norway
S/M Patrol.
(Contd.)

0200/6 through 071° 20' 020° 01' thence through (B) and route "Black".
P.223 at 0200/6 through 071° 06' 019° 05' and 070° 48' 016° 20' thence by route "Orange".
S/Ms to proceed diving by day when within 50 miles of Norwegian coast.
(Capt. (S) 9, 1601A/5 to S/M operating N. of 51° N.)

Allied Air Activity.

Search
for
dinghy.

Gt. Yarmouth departure H.S.L.2550. Lowestoft departure M.G.B.88 for rescue search in 53° 32' N. 3° 18' E.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0922A/5 to C. in C. Nore.)

Mining.

U/B
attacked.

4th March. Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. completed A/S Patrol. 1 Whitley sighted and attacked a U-Boat with 6 depth charges from 50 ft. 2 or 3 seconds after the conning tower had disappeared. Two minutes later a small patch of oil and small bubbles appeared in the centre of the swirl.

Mining.

Night 4th/5th. 10 Wellingtons and 5 Lancasters of 1 Group, 2 Stirlings of 3 Group, and 6 Lancasters of 5 Group, laid mines in enemy waters.
(H.Q.B.C., 1335A/5 to Air Min.)

Sweeping of
Q.Z.X. 771.

Request that 9th M.S.F. may be sailed to Portsmouth as soon as practicable to carry out sweeping of an additional passage through Q.Z.X. 771 in vicinity of 50° 00' N. 00° 15' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1530A/5 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U/B
attacked.

See H.Q.B.C. 1335A/5.

U-Boats
reported.

By D/F at 1944Z. Estimated anywhere within 75 miles of 45° 45' N. 15° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 2120A/5 to Escorts of X.K.2.)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 45° 43' N. 6° 8' W. from probable S/M.
(A/C of 172 Sqdn., Duty 'M'. 2125/5 to A.O.C. 19 Group H.Q.)

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Brightlingsea Port. Closed due to fog.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 0750/5 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

S/M Sanctuary. C.B. 03092 appendix 4 request additional S/M sanctuary may be instituted as follows:
(O) Edrachilles Bay chart 2386. Bounded on N. by 058° 23' N. S. by 058° 14' N. W. by 005° 30' W. E. by coast.
(F.O.S., 1918A/5 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

SJOFNA (Norwegian 619 tons) mined on 4th March. Arrival at 0130/5 in tow of tugs YORKSHIREMAN and PRIZEMAN escorted by M.L.451.
(F.O. Humber, 0150/5 to C. in C. Nore.)
Ex F.S.53. Arrived Humber.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 0736/5 to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)
At 1205/4, mined $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of 62G buoy.
Details.
(F.O. Humber, 1530/5.)

BLACKFISH. Following damage was incurred, in the depth charging experienced by this vessel. Details.
(BLACKFISH, 0930A/5 to Comsubron 50.)

M.G.B.605. Docked for repairs and alterations.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1015A/5 to D.C.F.M. London.)

ARIGUANI. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1216/4.
VIOLET from Londonderry is to act as escort to Tyne and is available for return escort if not unduly delayed.
(C. in C. W.A., 1233A/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, etc.)
C. in C. W.A. 1233A/5.
Request you will instruct VIOLET to R/V with ARIGUANI and tugs off Toward Point, Firth of Clyde at 1000A/7.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1538A/5 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

BLEASDALE. Damage. Details.
Intend repairing locally sufficient to make ships seaworthy for passage in fine weather. Ship will require docking and anticipate will be ready to sail a.m./6th. Propose sailing to Portsmouth then.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1235A/5 to Admty., C. in C. Portsmouth, Capt. D.1.)

/Intend ...

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

BLEASDALE. Intend sailing BLEASDALE for Yarmouth I.o.W. at
(Contd.) 1545 today. Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. Needles
1915/5.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1543/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth)
My 1543/5. Sailed 1601.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1648A/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Your 1543/5 arrived.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2046A/5 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

ASSINIBOINE Request port for repair.
(damaged (C. in C. W.A., 1813A/5 to Admty., ASSINIBOINE.)
2nd March) Admty. 1900A/5. Request you will sail
ASSINIBOINE for Liverpool when ready.
(C. in C. W.A., 2354A/5 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

M.G.B.326. Has returned with major defect in port engine
crank shaft assembly.
(HORNET, 1920/5 to D.C.F.M.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.P.303. After daylight and when convoy has been reformed
proceed with voyage to Portsmouth. Report state
of convoy as soon as possible and detach
WENSLEYDALE to Plymouth when no longer required.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0459/5 to KRAKOWIAK.)
See also Operations.

P.W.303. Your 1754A/3. Entered Portland 0415/5.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0545A/5 to C. in C. Ports-
mouth.)

O.N.S.C.171. My 2111/4 and my 2325/4. BEAUREGARD returned
BEAUREGARD. with collision damage to fore peak. Leaking
uncertain. Anchoring Rothesay Bay now for urgent
salvage and general examination. T.O.O. 0215/5.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0240A/5 to Admty.)
Cancel my 2353 G.M.T./4.
(C. in C. W.A., 0748A/5 to Admty.)

J.W. 53. Amend my 0847/4. All ships discharging Molotovsk.
MARATHON now discharging, BEACONHILL awaiting
berth.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1158A/5 to S.B.N.O. North
Russia.)

/K.M.S.11 ...

War Diary.

5.3.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.S.11. Convoy K.M.S.11 will leave U.K. from convoy assembly ports as arranged by C. in C. W.A. in accordance with my 2005/25 so as to R/V off Oversay p.m./14. Details. (Admty., 1410A/5 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)
- R.A. 53. Recall TRUCULENT, SIMOON, SEA NYMPH and SPORTSMAN to Lerwick. S/Ms to leave patrol after 2000/5. EXECUTIVE sunk. (F.O.(S), 1427A/5 to Capt. (S) 9.) RICHARD Probably reported by enemy A/C at 0740 and 0845 BLAND 5th. damaged. (Admty., 1518A/5 to A.I.G. 47.) R.A.53 in 072° 44' N. 011° 27' E. at 0930A/5. American ship EXECUTIVE sunk, S/M torpedo and American RICHARD BLAND damaged, but proceeding in convoy at 7½ knots. 53 rescued from former. At 1400 attacked by 12 Ju.88 medium level bombing. No hits. Three U-Boats still in the vicinity. (SCYLLA, 1656A/5 to H.F. Op.) GLASGOW with FORESTER E.T.A. Skaalefiord 0800A/6. 2. My P.C.S. 64° 40' N. 04° 14' W., 180°, 17 knots. Weather 5882 1675. (C. in C. H.F., 1901/5 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.) Arrived Akureyri at 1015/4 PYTCHLEY, MEYNELL, LEDBURY. (A.C.I.C., 2357A/4 to R.A.(D) H.F.)
- K.M.F.11, Your 2016/4. Escort. GOATHLAND and KRAKOWIAK detailed. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1511A/5 to Admty.)
- TJALDUR, Your 1145/3. Arrived with escort. KRANJI. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1616/5 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)
- X.K.2. X.K.2 attacked by S/Ms. 3 vessels sunk, 1 seriously damaged. My position 043° 56' N. 014° 53' W. (COREOPSIS, 1745A/5, 2009A/5 to Admty.) Note: Passed to C. in C. W.A. and F.O.(S). My 2009A. Damaged ship sunk. (COREOPSIS, 2031A/5 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.) Note: Passed to C. in C. W.A. and F.O.(S).
- Washington B.A.D. Washington's 2305/3. Conference, 1. Reference para. 3 (D) Convoy (A) SUMMERSIDE, ALBERNI, WOODSTOCK, LUNENBURG, Escort PORT ARTHUR will be ready to sail from Londonderry Proposals. 11th but LUNENBURG has been proposed for refit in U.K. in accordance with N.S.H.Q's 1717 Feb. 24. (B) CALGARY is due to complete refit in U.K. 29th
- March. VILLE DE QUEBEC is under repair at Gibraltar. (C) Date of return remaining 8 R.C.N. corvettes from Mediterranean is not known. They would require to clean boilers on return and should be ready to leave U.K. one week after arrival.

/(D) All ...

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Washington Conference, Convoy Escort Proposals. (Contd.) (D) All R.C.N. corvettes can be released on return to U.K. without prejudicing present commitments on the assumption that I can either retain four of 16th M/S Flotilla for K.M.S.12 or use my 24th Group for this purpose. The latter arrangements would entail not having corvettes available for J.W.55 till end of April.

(E) It is not clear whether it is now desired refit R.C.N. corvettes in U.K. in accordance with N.S.H.Q. 1717/24 February.

2. Reference para. 3 (E). W.A. are not affected.

3. Reference para. 3 (F). If para. 3 (E) is not agreed by Admiralty no suitable vessels can be spared from my command.

(C. in C. W.A., 1213A/5 to Admty.)

My 1213/5. C. in C. Med.'s 1449/4 refers.

(C. in C. W.A., 1413A/5 to Admty.)

The following comments are offered for Their Lordships' consideration with reference to B.A.D. Washington's 2305/3 and the proposal to withdraw U.S. escorts operating in North Atlantic.

1. U.C., C.U. Convoys.

(a) It is considered that long leg destroyers are the only suitable escorts.

(b) Sloops and frigates are unlikely to be able to maintain the requisite speed against the trade winds.

(c) Short leg destroyers would require to refuel at least twice, thus involving the risk of running out of fuel due to bad weather or sustained enemy action. It must also be noted that the necessity for refuelling escorts entails reducing speed of the convoy with consequent increase of risk.

(d) Assuming escort carriers will not accompany these convoys, a group of paper strength of 8 is required to give an average working strength of 6 per convoy. PENN, PATHFINDER, and PANTHER are the only destroyers in my Command likely to be available by the time U.C.2 sails.

(e) If it is essential to utilise fast sloops or frigates, this could be done by exchanging duties of first and 42nd Groups and exchanging PELICAN and SENNEN for EXE and NESS within the Groups.

(f) The proposed arrangements give a lay-over of 11 days at Guantanamo and 6 in the U.K. This is tantamount to basing the Group selected at Guantanamo. It would appear that the U.S. are providing all base requirements, but it will presumably be necessary to have a small R.N. technical staff there, and it is for consideration that personnel earmarked for Curacao should be diverted to Guantanamo.

2. Iceland (C) Shuttle Service.

Removal of the U.S. Iceland (C) Group will entail a general weakening of escort strength in mid-ocean area since these ships have frequently been used to reinforce mid-ocean groups. It will also necessitate the provisions of larger escorts for U.R. and R.U. convoys: since this is a regular commitment, it will be necessary to provide 3 groups for the purpose. It is considered that these groups should have a working strength of 2 destroyers and 3 trawlers each. 3 of these destroyers can probably be provided from serviceable ships of 21st Group, but 3 more short leg destroyers will be required from outside sources. In any

/case ...

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Washington
Conference,
Convoy
Escort
Proposals.
(Contd.)

case, this commitment will probably preclude me from providing escorts for vessels from other Commands which pass through or operate in Western Approaches as is now done.
3. Withdrawal of U.S. vessels from A.3 Group. It is proposed to reform this group as C.5 Group with the existing corvette and 4 destroyers and/or Frigates. These ships will have to be found from vessels not yet in service and it will be necessary for U.S. ships to remain until they can be provided.

4. Base Facilities.

It is understood that the U.S. base facilities at Argentia and Londonderry are to be retained for British and Canadian use. This is considered essential to meet repair requirements.

5. Escort Carriers.

The proposed employment of escort carriers with convoys calls for the provision of special escorts which are not at present available in my Command. It is requested that urgent consideration be given to this matter seeing that the first two carriers become available about March 15th.

6. Supporting Groups.

I would point out that apart from the above no further commitments which entail the use of additional groups can at present be undertaken by my Command without sacrificing the supporting groups. Such sacrifice would be viewed by me with the gravest concern since I consider that supporting groups are absolutely essential to the successful prosecution of the Battle of the Atlantic during the coming months.

(C. in C. W.A., 1807A/5 to Admty.)

K.M.S.10.

You were probably reported by enemy A/C at 1725 and 1853 5th.

(Admty., 2026A/5 to Escorts K.M.S.10.)

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Convoy O.T.2 Arrivals ESSO HARRISBURG, ESSO GETTYSBURG, SHELDON CLARK, escorted by U.S. ships ROPER, DECATUR, H.M.S. ILEX.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 0824A/5 to Admty.)

LIVADIA (German) LIVADIA left for France 2200 G.M.T. 4th March.
(Consul, Bilbao 1000/5 to Admty. etc.)

SERPA PINTO, German A/C. Master SS SERPA PINTO Portuguese reported at 1315 G.M.T. 3rd large 4-engine German seaplane flying low circled ship in position 250 miles westward Lisbon.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1048/5 to Admty.)

Aircraft Storage. Your 0959A/28. (Arrangements for disembarking F.A.A. Aircraft in Western Med.) Congestion caused by storage aircraft at Gibraltar is already acute and a further 21 Aircraft are expected.
2. Intend transferring 12 Albacores, to be modified in accordance with your 1219A/24/Jan./43, 3 Swordfish, 3 Martlets and 2 Seafires to R.N. Air Section, Tafaroui, as soon as practicable.
5. Ref. 826 Squadron's 1445A/3, suggest "Y" Party be transferred to Tafaroui to form Nucleus of storage Section.
4. Request I may be informed as soon as aircraft can be accepted Tafaroui.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1112A/5 to C. in C. Med.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1958A/5th.
LADY DENISON PENDER, ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM 34.43 12.31 through approx. 35.01 12.31 thence 81, 9.
2. REGENT 39.24 10.20 through 38.01 10.20 at 0435 6th thence 140° diving by day 2½ surfacing by night 10.
3. S.R.2 SPEEDWELL 31.13 12.01 through 33.12 09.34 thence 56, 7½.
4. URSULA 40.40 11.12 338° diving by day 2 surfacing by night 6½.
5. U.G.S.5A, C.T.F.No.37 34.30 10.50 through 34.26 09.45 and 34.03 08.22 at 1000 6th thence through 33.55 07.53 at 1500 6th to Casablanca 9.
6. K.M.S.10, ST. CROIX (E) 38.13 11.55 through 36.05 09.59 thence 95,
8. (see amendment 1944A/5)
7. French LA GRANDIERE escorted by U.S. Destroyer LEARY (Group missed) 27.46 13.30 Northbound coastwise 9½.
8. K.M.F.10B, CHRUCHILL (E) 40.18 17.30 through 37.59 1729 thence 111 13¼.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1120A/5)
My 1130A/5th para. 6 amend position and course to read 038° 30' 012° 38' 138°
(F.O. Gib. 1944A/5)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions Situation at 1959A/5th.
(Contd.) (2) H.M.S. PENTSTEMON VETCH off Tagus proceeding to R/V 3 merchant ships at 2100/5th in 235 Port Bugio light 5 and escort coastwise to Guadalquivir 8.
(3) LADY HOGARTH 2 merchant ships 37.03 07.31 coastwise at Guadalquivir thence through 35.56 06.20 and Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar 8.
(4) C (?G) 15, P.C.475, 34.33 07.11 through 35.01 06.41 and 35.45 06.30 thence Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar 6½.
(5) G.C.3 French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE 35.20 06.50 through 34.01 07.55 to Casablanca 7.
(9) WISHART, VERITY 3 trawlers 35.14 07.06 to R/V U.G.S. 5A in 34.03 08.22 at 1000/6th and escort Mediterranean section 042° 9.
(11) ARCTIC RANGER sailed 1900/5th through Q.K.A. and 35.56 06.20 to (? R/V) one merchant ship off Guadalquivir 1600/6th thence Westbound coastwise 8.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1203A/5)
My 1203/5th add new para (12) ESKIMO, ASHANTI, A/S hunt 280 Cape Spartel 27.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1505A/5)
My 1203/5th add new para (?13) HOLCOMBE, CALPE sails 0715 6th to R/V with K.M.S. 10 before dark 6th 19 knots.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1946A/5)

K.M.S.10 A.M. 1820/19 para 3.
In view of present P.C. & S. of K.M.S.10 and U/Boat situation in approaches to Strait of Gibraltar intend ordering convoy to proceed at best speed routed through (L) thence Q.K.A. 87 to position 37. E.T.A. 37, 2100/7.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1220A/5 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)
"Leveret" being shadowed by one enemy aircraft bearing 220° position 38° 52' E, 12° 44' W. course 165° speed 8 knots.
(ST. CROIX 1655/5 to Gib. W/T)

MIRROR Intend to sail MIRROR escorted by LORD NUFFIELD to carry out repairs to Lisbon- Gibraltar No.1 in 36° 17' N. 07° 25' W.
(F.O.C. Gib. 1608A/5 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. S.N.O.C.A.)
Cancelled by 1140A/8 q.v.

Movements Arrivals 0925 M.L. 444 from Oran. 1240 IMPERIAL-
Gibraltar IST with SS OCEAN ANGEL from Melilla. Departures
0720 WISHART, VERITY, KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE,
VISENDA, ROBESPORT, Mediterranean section U.G.S. 5A. 0750 WARD
HOTHAM, French ships DURMONT D'URVILLE, ENGAGEANTE, LA SETOUISE,
escorting G.C. 3, 1700 ARCTIC RANGER escort duties to Lisbon,
2020 TARTAR O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA from A/S sweep west to Mers-el-Kebir.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 2041A/5 to Admty. C. in C. Mediterranean).

/Movements ...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements March 4th U.S.S. BOYLE arrived from Safi. March 5th
Casablanca P.C. 472 and 475 departed with CG-15 for Gibraltar.
U.S.S. MC CORMICK P.C.473 departed with OCEAN
VALOR, DAVID HILL for Safi. SERGEANT GOUARNE arrived with LA
PERLE, ARAGO from Dakar.
(S.N.O. Casablanca Area 2045Z/5 to Cominch (R) Admty. etc.)

UNSHAKEN Intend to sail UNSHAKEN (P.54) p.m. March 7th for
Algiers.
(2) UNSHAKEN (P.54) passes through (p) 180°
Cape Calaburras 15 at 2125/7 (q) 180° Cape de Gata 15 at 2313/8
(r) 135° Cape de Palos 15 at 2143/9 shifting W/T watch at 0117/10
thence as ordered by (S)8.
(3) Communications. Gibraltar broadcast west of Greenwich merid-
ian. Algiers broadcast east of Greenwich shifting to read M.S.
routines.
(4) S. of A. 7 knots (108 miles per day).
(5) 8 mark 8 torpedoes in ready condition. Ready for patrol
100% fuel.
(F.O. Gibraltar 2301/5 to S.8 (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Air A.I.217 March Opsum No.124 for 24 hours ended 1800
Report 5 March.
U/B's. G. Sightings and attacks. Cat O/210 on U-Boat
hunt for U-Boats sighted and attacked in area west
of Cape St. Vincent sighted a U-Boat surfacing submerged immediate-
ly Co. 135/5 kts. at (1922/4 or 19 2/4?) LBVA2304. Cat arrived
too late to attack. Ref. our Opsum 123 4/3 sighting by B/202 at
1129/4 XTWD 2943 U-Boat submerged before attack could be made.
Cat. D/202 on A/S escort to K.M.S.10 at 1950/4 WNUB 3020 sighted 3
Dorniers 217 attacking convoy. Near misses estimated on C/V. A.A.
fire too intense for Cat to approach. 8 E/A disappeared in cloud.
Cat D/202 on A/S Escort to K.M.S. 10 signalled C/V shadowed by
E/A Condor TGJY0229 at 1500/5 A.C. still airborne (1) E/A activity
nil.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Gibraltar, 2355Z/5)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

ARETHUSA. Capetown arrived 4th March.
(C. in C.S.A. 0320/5 to Admty.)

Operation "Postmaster." Your 2210/17 and 1627/25/Feb. Operation "Postmaster" was carried out by VIOLET and officer and ratings awaiting passage. None of these is now available locally to swear necessary affidavits.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0830/5 to Admty. (R) Govr. Sierra Leone.)

TIBIA (Torpedoed 3/3.) TIBIA arrived torpedoed by submarine while in convoy D.N. 21 in 32° 00' S. 30° 21' E. at 2025Z/3. One torpedo fired hitting forward pump room port side. No casualties. C/bs still on board.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0837Z/5 to Admty. C. in C.S.A.)
My 1502/4. TIBIA has returned to Durban under own power after having been torpedoed.
(C. in C.S.A. 1155C/5 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

BOREAS, JAMES PARKER. Sailed BOREAS escorting JAMES PARKER in accordance with my 1106/4. F.O.C.W.Af. pass to A.O.C. W.Af. (Comar, Dakar 0939Z/5 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. etc.)

SUSSEX. Arrival 1745/4 March.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1007Z/5 to Admty. etc.)

OPS.43. Arrivals 1110/4 SPEY, PELICAN, WEAR, ROTHER, SENNEN, BURDOCK with O.S.43.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1009Z/5 to Admty. etc.)

Escort for Special Vessels. Your 2219/26 Feb. (Re provision of escort for special vessels detailed in B.A.D. 2355/26.) Propose ships join T.B. convoy as far as Rocas where Freetown escorts will momp and take over.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1045Z/5 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

HERO. Intended programme for HERO on completion of essential defects. Leave Simonstown p.m. 9th March arrive Pointe Noire for fuel a.m. 15th March thence to Freetown and U.K. as ordered by you.
2. ENDURANCE with 10% fuel remaining 15 knots 2000 miles, 18 knots 1870 miles, 20 knots 1700 miles, 25 knots 1250 miles.
3. Request onward route from Pointe Noire.
(C. in C.S.A. 1114C/5 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty.)

/Dispositions...

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. Situation 2002Z/4th.
GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about position 005° 30' 021° 30' 19.
DESPATCH about 004° 00' 019° 00' to Freetown 19.
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about position Equator 017° W. 15½.
4 Allied Naval Units on patrol in Ascension St. Paul's Rock position.
BELLWORT, ARMERIA 2 M.Ls. escorting 006° (?22') (?012°) 33' to (?Freetown) 12½.
COMMANDANT DROGOU F.S. about 005° 06' 010° 10' to Freetown 9.
CONSBRO, 1 M.L. 005° 52' 010° 58' 299° 6.
(R.A.W.A. 1145Z/5.)
Position at 2000Z/5th. CILICIA 026° 50' S. 006° 00' E. to 020° S. 010° W. 14 knots.
ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY, STELLA POLARIS with C.N. 11 029° 15' S. 016° 00' E. to Walvis Bay 8.
ARETHUSA 033° 00' S. 017° 30' E. to 030° 55' S. 014° 25' E. 19.
LE TIGER, PRETORIA, VERKEENIGING with C.D.7 032° 00' S. 017° 30' E. to Durban 8.
NIGELLA 031° 50' S. 032° 50' E. to Durban 10.
ROTHERHAM, JASMINE, FREESIA with M.C.5 029° 45' S. 032° 15' E. to Durban 8½ knots.
CARTHAGE, QUALITY 033° 20' S. 037° 30' E. to 031° S. 038° E. 15½.
CATTERICK, PRUDENT, SONDRRA Durban area.
ST. LOMAN 031° 30' S. 030° 05' E. to Durban 8.
(C. in C.S.A. 1255C/5.)

M.Ls. (?Request) (?permission) be obtained for 4 Fairmile motor launches to call at Lourenco Marques for fuel on passage to Tulear.
3. Estimated M.Ls will leave Durban about March 14th (C. in C.S.A. 1153C/5 to Admty.)
See Admty. 1932/6.

HERO to escort EMPRESS OF CANADA. If HERO is considered suitable it is desired to include her as escort for EMPRESS OF CANADA leaving Freetown not later than 20th March to join M.K.F. convoy from Gibraltar.
Request you will confirm that HERO can arrive Freetown in time for this duty.
(D.O.D.(F) 1306A/5 to C. in C.S.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)
Reply: Not suitable.
(C. in C.S.A. 1233C/7 to Admty.)

Reported sinkings off Pernambuco. My 1256Z/3rd. (?1255 intended.) No confirmation, from Chief Maritime Police or other quarter of sinking of Swedish and British ship and rumours appear unfounded.
(R.O. Pernambuco 1405Z/5 to Admty.)

/SUSSEX...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

SUSSEX patrol. Intend sailing SUSSEX at 1100Z/6th March to carry out patrol in area between following points A. 004° 19' N. 017° 41' W. B. 001° 00' N. 018° 00' W. C. 002° 57' N. 021° 42' W. D. 005° 01' N. 020° 10' W. estimated speed 20 knots. SUSSEX will leave patrol to arrive Freetown by 1200Z/10th March. Flying boat R/C in this area will be carried out.
(F.O.W.A. 1627Z/5 to Admty. (R) SUSSEX, DESPATCH, CARNARVON CASTLE, Comsolant.)

Movements, Takoradi. Departures 5th March CORINTHIAN (S.O.) SARABANDE, M.Ls. 272, 278 with T.S. 32 Freetown 11th. PICT, Lagos 7th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1645Z/5 to Admty. etc.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. A.M. 1738A/3rd March. Accommodation referred to in A.M. 1824Z/2nd March is required.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1751Z/5 to Admty.)

MARIPOSA. Your 1310/4th, MARIPOSA. Call at Capetown unnecessary. N.C.S.O. Bombay's 0842/26th Feb. (0824/26th to Connav,) stating endurance 35 days. Intend diverting to Freetown in due course.
2. Relevant parts of route signals will be passed to F.O.C.W.Af. (C. in C.S.A. 1745C/5 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. etc.)

ETHIOPIAN. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1801C/5 to Admty. etc.)

S.E. Convoys. It is (?Is it) intended that S.E. convoys shall sail 24 days after O.S. as in Admty. 1922B/2nd June, 1942, or with 26 days interval as in Admty. 1505A/16 Jan.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1903Z/5 to Admty.)
Reply: Admty. 1144A/9.

S.L.126. Your 1544A/3, not to Admiralty. Impossible to sail S.L. 126 earlier than 12th March without putting out many ships. Date was given in Admty. 1505A/16th Jan. Escorts are carrying out external boiler clean at Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1913Z/5 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty.)

Movements, Pernambuco. Departure 3rd March arrival 4th Brazilian Minelayer CARIOCA Departure 4th U.S. Cruiser SAVANNAH, U.S. Destroyers EBERLE, KEARNEY, LIVERMORE, U.S. Aircraft Carrier SANTEE.
(R.O. Pernambuco 1927Z/5 to Admty.)

/QUAIL...

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

QUAIL,
ALMANZORA.

Arriving with ALMANZORA in 014° 26' N. 017° 33' W.
at 1500/6th March.
(?QUAIL 2200Z/5 to Comar (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Move of
Belgian
Personnel.

D. of S.T. 0436/4. Confirm no possibility of
effecting move with local resources.
(D.S.T.O.W.A. 2231Z/5 to Admt.)

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

REGENT.

REGENT is allocated to your command.
(D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 0004A/5 to
C. in C.Med.)French
Naval
Air
Personnel.Your 1815/2. Appointment of Capitaine de
Vaisseau Sala is agreed. He will be accommodated
in Air Ministry, since French personnel under
training by Air Ministry will be much more
numerous than those under Admiralty. Presume
you will arrange air passage as convenient.
(Head of M.I. 0056A/5 to C. in C.Med.)
Approved A.C.N.S. (A).

DAUNTLESS. (?)

Departure.
(Cmdre. Algiers 0428Z/5 to Admty. etc.)

FARNDALE.

Sweep blank. My P.C. and S. 37.18 N. 1.40 E.
230° 17. E.T.A. Mers-el-Kebir 1600A/5th.
(FARNDALE 0701A/5 to C. in C.Med. (R) N.O.I.C.
Oran.)Movements,
Alexandria.Arrival 4th March M.L. 1100 and 59, departures
4th March HURWORTH, HURSLEY, PETARD, SOUTHERN
ISLE, M.T.Bs. 62, 73, 261, 309.
(S.O.I. Alexandria 0914Z/5 to Admty. C. in C.
Levant.)

MAMMY.

A. Intend sailing MAMMY for Bone at 0800A/6th
routed alongside the 100 fathom line.
B. Speed 9 knots. D. Codeword "Tooting."
D. Escort H.D. M.L. 1123 from Philippeville to R/V with Bone
escort 000°. Cape Tukush 6 miles at 1130A/6th.
E. Constant R/T loud speaker watch on 1579 k/cs.
F. Request fighter protection.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 0937A/5 to F.O.I.S. (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)

AVONVALE.

Intend sailing AVONVALE in tow of tug JAUNTY for
Gibraltar in M.K.S. 9 AVONVALE can use own
engines.
(Cmdre. Algiers 1016A/5 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)
AVONVALE, Admty. C. in C.Med. etc.)P.43 (UNISON)
P.51 (UNSEEN)
P.46
(UNRUFFLED.)P.43 leaves patrol as necessary to pass through
036° 03' 012° 52' and R/V with sweeper at
0830A/March 8th. Be East of 012° by dusk 7th.
2. P.51 moves into area vacated by P.43 at dusk
7th.
3. P.46 (UNRUFFLED) leaves Malta at 1500A/6th
routed through 035° 41' 012° 44' thence to patrol in area vacated
by P.51 (UNSEEN.)
(Capt. S.10 1021 A/5 to P.43 P.51 (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)

/WIVERN...

176

5.3.1943.

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

WIVERN.

Your 1511/4. (propose that DESTINY tow WIVERN to U.K. in convoy M.K.S.10.) Approved.
(C. in C.Med. 1027A/5 to F.O.Gibraltar.)

Ships and
Equipment
for Turkish
Navy.

Advance copies of Lists Turkish Naval requirements resulting from Adana meeting agreement forwarded without comment.
(N.A. Ankara 1033C/5 to C. in C.Levant, (R) Admty.)
Lists (N.A. Ankara 1802C/5.)

P.R.U.

P.R.U. March 5th visuals.
0830 Taranto 2 battleships 3 cruisers. 0820 Naples
0950 Messina no major naval units.
(V.A.Malta 1115A/5 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

P.R.U. March 5th visual. 1255 Naples 1340 Messina no major naval unit. 1306 Taranto. 2 Battleships 3 Cruisers one (E) perhaps (D) class one unidentified.
(V.A.Malta 1550A/5 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

EMPIRE
SNIPE.

A. Intend sailing EMPIRE SNIPE for Bougie at 0800A/6th routed one mile north of 100 fathom line.
B. Speed 8 knots. C. Codeword "Throgmort."
D. Escorts RUSKHOLM and H.D. M.L. 1132 to R/V with Bougie escort in 036° 59' N. 006° 04' E. 1200A/6th and return to Philippeville with 2 merchant ships from Bougie.
E. Constant watch on 1579 k/cs.
F. Request fighter protection.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1139A/5 to N.O.I.C. Bougie, (R)
C. in C.Med. Admty. F.O.I.S. Connnav, H.Q.E.A.C.)

T.O.2.

T.O.2. Request you will sail convoy T.O.2 on 10th March. Cominch 2201/5 refers.
(C. in C.Med. 1143A/5 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R)
S.N.O. Casablanca Area, Admty. Connnav.)

e/
TURBULENT,
TIGRIS.

1. TURBULENT if practicable patrol in vicinity Boda Piccola during daylight tomorrow Saturday.
2. TIGRIS is to patrol in vicinity 227° focal point A 19 miles from 0200/6th leaving as requisite to comply with para 2 of my 1704/3rd.
(Capt. S.8 1212A/5 to TIGRIS, TURBULENT, (R)
Capt. S.10.)

Spitfires report 2 medium size M/Ships, a tanker, and 2 destroyers coast crawling northwards speed 8 knots in 039° 36' 015° 49' at 0800A today. p.96
(Capt. S.10 1216A/5 to TURBULENT, TIGRIS, (R) C. in C.Med.
Capt. S.8th.)

K.M.S.10.

Destinations.
(C. in C.Med. 1232A/5 to ST. CROIX escorts of
Convoy K.M.S.10.)

/German...

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

German oil for Turkey. Following from Adm. Kelly. Standard Oil representatives Near East state 60 tons of lubricating oil for locomotives tested satisfactorily recently received in Turkey from Germany, more to follow.

Also 500 tons Kerosene from Roumania with more to follow. All these supplies in railway tank Axis wagons. (N.A. Ankara 1250C/5 to Admty.)

DULVERTON. Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft Bearing 340° Position 33° 22' N. 14° 13' E. Course 034° Speed 9 knots. (DULVERTON 1435A/5 to Malta W/T.) Received via Burnham W/T.

E.T.13. Intend to sail. (List.) (F.O.I.S. 1466A/5 to V.A.Gibraltar, Cmdre. Algiers, etc.)

K.M.F. 10A. Algiers section arrived (4 ships.) (Cmdre. Algiers 1451A/5 to Admty.)

Proposed French Repatriations, Cadiz. Your 1757/3rd (1759/3 intended re undesirability of French ships visiting neutral ports.) French reply as follows. (Begins): We have no written guarantee from Spanish Govt. this being impossible in present circumstances. But we have moral guarantee which allows us to envisage the stay of this ship in a Spanish port without much alarm. It is very desirable and has been asked by Spanish Govt. that transport of refugees should be undertaken by a French ship flying French flag. (Ends.) French further state postponement of present date (9th March) for arrival at Cadiz might give excuse to Spanish Govt. for making further difficulties. French far prefer to take minor risk of legal arrest foreseen in your 1757/3rd. This being so propose to proceed with arrangements now established with considerable difficulty. See my 1603/5th. (N.T. in W.D.) (C. in C.Med. 1620A/5 to Admty.) Reply: 1743/7.

Situation report No. 68. 1. At 1001/4 R.A.F. aircraft probably sank U-Boat in position 37° 10' N. 00° 05' E. About 25 bodies were seen.
2. M.T.Bs. laid mines off Bizerta during night 3/4th March.
3. ABDIEL carried out lay in Sicilian Channel on 5th March. Ship was attacked by two aircraft R.T. 151-4 without damage. One Ju. 88 was brought down by fighters.
4. EASTON and G.S. MIAOULES arrived Malta 4/3 from West. (C. in C.Med. 1624A/5 to Admty.)

/T.E.17...

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

T.E.17. Arrived MARGA, ZENA, RISYSSEUS, FORT, LAC LA ROUGE, LORD DELAWARE.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1703A/5 to C. in C.Med.)

Movements, Arrivals 5th March RORQUAL, Greek Destroyer
Haifa. PANTHER, BURRA Norwegian Minesweeper NOBLE
NORAH. Departures 5th March BURRA, PANTHER,
CUMBRAE.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 1728B/5 to Admty.
C. in C.Levant.)

Algiers To C.G. 8th Air Force, for Eaker, From Spaatz.
Air 9 B-26s escorts by P-38s attacked convoy at
Reports 0910 hours. Results unobserved. One P-38
(?4/3.) crashed in sea, cause unknown, 15 B-17s escorted
by P-38s attacked same convoy at 1440 hours and
report 4 vessels sunk and two damaged. Escort
attacked enemy aircraft over target probably
destroying one and damaging two. All planes returned safely.
Weather interfered with other missions on convoy and Bizerta.
A Hudson sank a surfaced U-Boat at 1018.*
(Algiers 1737Z/5 to Etousa.) * See C. in C.Med. 1624/5.
To Agwar and Usfor, From Spaatz, Signed Eisenhower.
Mediums and heavies attacked convoy and reported sinking of
4 vessels, damaged 2. Weather interfered with some shipping
strikes. 10/10th cloudcover over Bizerta.
(12 A.F.Algiers 1853Z/5 to Agwar, Etousa.)

Malta Air A.I. 522 5th March. C.S.R. Part 1, offensive.
Report. Night 4/5, bad weather restricted operations, no
shipping target was found. Day 5th March, no
offensive operations owing to very bad weather.
Part 2, enemy air activity, nil.
(A.H.Q. Malta 1955Z/5.)

Movements, Arrival MISOA, BACHAQUERO, POLRUAN, BRIXHAM.
Philippeville. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1955A/5 to Admty.)

Movements, Arrived today: QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX,
Oran. PUCKERIDGE, FARNDALE, OAKLEY, HAYDON, H.M.
Tug JAUNTY departed.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 2007A/5 to Admty. etc.)

E-Boat My 1657/3rd para 2. Engagement with E-Boat off
Action, Bone night 1st/2nd March had some interesting
1-2 March, interservice features.
2. E-Boats were detected by British Naval manned
type 271 set. Illumination provided by American
manned coast defence searchlights. Star shells
fired from British Army manned 4 inch Naval guns.

/Ex...

SECRET

med.
148A

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.)

SECRET. MESSAGE. 1825Z/5th March. IN

From: Algiers.

Date: 6.3.43.

Recd: 1403Z

SECRET CYPHER.

Addressed: (H.M. Ambassador Madrid (pass to U.S. Ambassador) BRITMILAT Ankara (for Marshal Chakmak))
Passed by Foreign Office. Resident Minister Achimota.
Passed by Colonial Office. (Minister of State Cairo.
Britman Washington (for Dill). Arminia (for Wavell)
P.A.I.C. Force Nairobi (for Platt)) Passed by Air
Ministry Special Signals Office. (Landforces Melbourne
(for Blamey) Defender Wellington (for Puttick)
Dechief Pretoria (for Smuts)) Passed by War Office.

U.S.202. ETOUSA.

North West Africa. Situation.

LINREP 26. Summary of Operations 28th Feb. to 3rd March.

(1) EIGHTH ARMY. Patrol activity with intermittent artillery fire from both sides continued throughout early part of the period. On 3rd March our covering troops six miles east of Mareth line attacked by about one battalion of enemy. This attack was repulsed.

(2) FIRST ARMY. In the south the enemy carried out a successful withdrawal. Our armored patrols have now regained contact with the enemy in the hills south of Faid. In northern Tunisia the enemy has withdrawn in the area Bou Arada - Goubellat but has continued his attacks north and east of Medjez El Bab, northeast of Beja, and along the Mateur-Tebarka Road. Our forces 10 miles northeast of Beja drove off repeated enemy attacks and on 3rd March made a counter attack. On the Mateur-Tebarka road the enemy has made some progress and heavy fighting continues in the vicinity of Ston De Sedjenane. The general picture is unchanged but the enemy appears to be determined to continue his hitherto costly offensive in the north.

(3) NAVAL. 2 groups of enemy E boats approached Bone during the night 1st/2nd March. 1 group was engaged by a shore battery and retired, and the other group was driven away by motor torpedo boats. Mines were laid off Bizerta on several occasions.

(4) AIR. Docks and shipping at Palermo were heavily bombed on 1st March and several ships were hit. Bombing attacks were also carried out on Bizerta, Tunis docks and airdrome, La Goulatte, rail and road bridges between Sousse and Sfax, and enemy landing grounds near Gabes. French bombers attacked enemy concentrations at Efta and Tozour. Our fighters, fighter bombers and medium bombers continuously attacked ground targets in Northern Tunisia. Direct hits were observed on enemy tanks, transport, and gun positions.

(5) POLITICAL. 3 of the members of the group arrested in connection with the Darlan assassination and later released, have been appointed to high police positions in Algeria. All were friendly to U.S. prior to and after the landing. Some members are being removed from police forces and a major house-cleaning among the Sous Prefets has taken place during the past few days.

1825Z/5

Recd: from War Office 1330/7

* A paraphrased text of this message was passed to all addressees as indicated.

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. (F)
A.C.N.S. (A)
A.C.N.S. (W)
D.A.W.T.
U.W.R.
O.D. (5)
C.C.L.S.
O.I.C. (3)
Ops. (3)
D. of P. (3)
M. (2)
I.P. (3)
C.N.I.
D.P.D.
W.B.
D.N.I. (5)
Admiral Blake.
D.D.O.D. (M)
A.L.O.

War Office Circulation.

Internal.
Brig. Jacob.
C.6 Tels. W/O.

External.
Foreign Secretary.
First Sea Lord.
A.M.C.S. (C)
Mr. Strang Foreign Office.
Mr. Radcliffe Ministry of Information.

D. of L.D.
D.M.S.
D.G.D. (2)
C.C.L.S.
D.A/S.W.
Ad. Mack. (4)

SD

5.3.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

E-Boat
Action,
1-2 March.
(Contd.)

Ex Alarm was available but not required as searchlights sufficient. Fire conducted by British Army manning 2 4.7 inch Naval guns ex ITHURIEL with Turkish range dial marking, S/M detection to range from Naval 271 set. 3. Organisation work efficient. Counter attacking M.T.Bs. were directed from 271 set on Naval plot. Hope shortly to have 2 additional American army type S.C.K. 582 sets feeding same plot. (C. in C.Med. 2028A/5 to Admty.)

Minelaying
by M.T.Bs.

The use of M.T.Bs for laying both ground and moored mines is likely to continue to be of value as an alternative to their normal offensive use.
2. Information is requested if suitable mines anti sweeping devices and sweep destructors are available for use from M.T.Bs. Mines must be fitted with flooders.
3. If these are available necessary fittings for converting boats of thirty second and thirty third M.T.B. Flotillas should be shipped to Bone at the first opportunity.
4. Flotilla staffs should be equipped and trained for employing moored and ground mines from M.T.Bs.
(C. in C.Med. 2033A/5 to Admty.)
Reply Admty. 1529/15.

Alexandretta
Defences.

Your 1629/17th Feb. and 1032/2nd March, latter not to Admiralty. Admiralty decision on inner A/S Fixed Defences at Alexandretta not yet received but if loops are laid minimum distance from gun position to loop Control Station in Licorice Factory is 200 yards.
(C. in C.Levant 2101B/5 to B.N.A. Ankara, (R) Admty.)

Movements,
Bone.

Bone arrival LIGHTNING, LOYAL, LAMERTON, WILTON, RHYL, BUDE, LIDDESDALE, ALGOMA (?NEGRO).
Departure SIRIUS, PENELOPE, LIGHTNING, LOYAL.
(S.O.I.S. 2127A/5 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

PAKENHAM,
PALADIN.

Departure PAKENHAM, PALADIN.
(V.A.Malta 2134A/5 to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Algiers.

Arrivals. EGRET, ZETLAND, ERIVE (?ERNE), FISHGUARD TEST, ABDIEL, French ships Chasseur Third, GOELAND.
Departures. ABDIEL, French ships Chasseur Fourth, LA SERVANNAISE.
(Cmdre. Algiers 2137A/5 to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

5.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,
Tripoli.

4th March arrival IMHOFF, BOKSBURG, 5th March
arrival COMMANDANT DOMINE F.S. BEAUFORT,
TETCOTT, EXMOOR.
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli 2205/5 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
Levant.)

Movements,
Tobruk.

Arrived DELPHINIUM, SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN MAID,
M.L. 359, 351, 355, AGHIOS GEORGIOS, M.T.Bs.
261, 309.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 2226B/5 to Admty.)

War Diary.

5.3.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Arrival 0530Z/4 TRAVANCORE.
 (S.O.I. Bombay 0254/5 to Admty)
 Departure OVERDALE WYKE and KEDAH. E.T.A. Colombo
 0330Z/7th S. of A. 6 knots.
 (N.O.I.C. Cochin 0445Z/5 to Admty.)

Departure at 1250Z/5th BARLANE for Colombo.
 (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1252Z/5 to Admty.)
 Kirriemoor arrived.
 (F.O. E.A. and Zanzibar, 1341Z/5 to Admty.)
 Colombo arrivals 5th March. 0135Z TAMWORTH. 0630Z VERBENA
 (F.O. Ceylon 1444Z/5 to Admty.)
 Sailing BALUCHISTAN for Addu Atoll E.T.A. 0500Z/11th. W/T
 Watch continuous on Group V.
 (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 1502Z/5 to C. in C. E.F.)

B.M. 44. (1) B.M.44 (2) 0330Z/5th. (3) Passing Cochin
 1330/7th (3A) E.T.A. Colombo 0230/9th.
 (4) 10 knots. (5) (A) 015° 29' 073° 11'
 (b) 010° 32' 075° 11' (c) 007° 55' 076° 58' thence Colombo.
 (6) LISMORE.
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0347Z/5 to Admty.)

EMPIRE PINTAIL. EMPIRE PINTAIL expected to complete 31st March.
 My 0412/24 Feb. refers.
 (C.S.D. Bombay, 0534Z/5 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.
 C. in C. E.F.)

C. in C. E.F. Intend sailing from Bombay in MAURITIUS p.m. 6th
 E.T.A. Kilindini p.m. Wednesday 10th.
 (C. in C. E.F. 0546Z/5 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N.
 (R) F.O. Ceylon, Comrin.)

Programme of troop movements. Para G of my 1115/15th Feb. NEVASA has been replaced by ERINPURA.
 (P.S.T.O. India 0605Z/5 to C. in C. E.F. (R)
 F.O. Ceylon N.O.I.C. Hormuz, N.C.S.O. Bombay
 D. of S.T.)

NEVASA. NEVASA replaces EASTERN PRINCE and numbers to be embarked are now as follows:- (details) Ship ready to sail 14th. Will escort be provided.
 My 1055/27th Feb. refers and my 1018/18th Feb. to D.S.T.
 (P.S.T.O. India 0805Z/5 to C.C. in C. E.F. (R) Com. Aden,
 P.S.T.O. M.E., D.S.T. Armindia.)

Request for Destroyers, South Atlantic. Regret I can do little to help you at present. Your 1719C/4 refers. I have only 4 Destroyers at Kilindini. As soon as QUICKMATCH and QUIBERON arrive, it is probable that the Australian manned destroyers 2 at a time will have to go to Australia for leave and adjustment of complement. 2. The "Q" and "R"s as they arrive are

/urgently ...

War Diary.

5.3.1943.

Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Request for Destroyers, South Atlantic. urgently needed for training for forthcoming operations. (3) Under present proposals you are using RELENTLESS, RACE HORSE and QUALITY until C.M. 40 comes N. It may be possible then to detach FOXHOUND to Durban. (4) NAPIER should be ready to return to Kilindini with C.M. 40 in which case CATTERICK would not be required:
Para. 5 of your 1203C/28th Feb. (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 0828/5 to C. in C. S.A. Admty.)

Labour Situation (? E.Africa) Further to my 1434/20th Feb. (N.T. in W.D.) Situation shows no sign of improvement. Consequently to prevent wholesale discharge of labour, with serious consequences to completion of all naval works programmes, consideration is being given to (?quietly) reducing (?civilian) rations by issues from naval stocks the cost being partially refunded from natives wages. (Further details).
(C. in C. E.F. 0921Z/5 to Admty.)

DUNERA, Polish refugees. DUNERA sailed 4th embarked Polish refugees (?1st class) 8 troop deck men (?683) women 252 over 10 years boys 321 girls 225 under 10 years 179. Requirements at Mombasa.
(D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf 1001Z/5 to D.S.T.O. Durban, (R) S.T.O. Mombasa, S.T.O. Beira, P.S.T.O. Middle East, P.S.T.O. India, D. of S.T.)

B.M. 43. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1005Z/5 to Admty.)

R.N. Air Bases, development. Finally established that water supply at R.N.A.S. Mackinnon Road will preclude the development of this station beyond that of a 2 Squadron base accommodating approx. 500 officers and men. Owing to better systematic training facilities, it is desired to retain R.N.A.S. Mackinnon Road in preference to R.N.A.S. Voi, where proximity of mountains make it suitable for night flying training. Propose therefore to develop R.N.A.S. Mackinnon Road as 2 Squadron base, R.N.A.S. Voi as in my 0831Z/16th Jan. para. 3 (c) item 4.
(C. in C. E.F. 1224Z/5 to Admty.)

Transports. Transports ROHNA and RAJULA sailed today. ROHNA embarked 1st class military, civilians, 791 Polish evacuees 11 2nd. class V.C.O. 58 Polish evacuees, 2 troop deck Poles men(?93 or 81) women 300 over 10 years boys 200 girls 300 children (?100) infants one. Requires 700 water. RAJULA embarked (military, civilians) Requirements.
(D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf 1418Z/5 to S.T.O. Karachi, (R) P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. Middle East, D. of S.T.)

War Diary.

5.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Persia,
Iraq, Forces
Strength.

Further to our 52801 of 15 Feb. 1. Decided
that forces under your command excluding Polish
Army in the East should be reduced to those
required for internal security commitment.

2. Local and internal security commitment in
your command is assessed at equivalent of two divisions.
3. New directive will be sent you shortly. 4. Instructions
for disposal of troops now rendered surplus will be issued
separately.

(W.O. 2055A/5 to C. in C. Persia/Iraq, (R) C. in C. M.E.
C. in C. India.)

Note by M.O.5: Telegram 52801 warned C. in C. Persia and
Iraq Command that certain units may be required for operational
purposes in Middle East and that instructions would follow.

War Diary.

5.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

L.C.I.(L) convoy. L.C.I.(L)s 169, 171, 172, 179, 181, 241, 245, 178 departed Bermuda 2100/4th for Plymouth via positions (details). thence to destination. S. of A. 10 knots.
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 0101Z/5 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (U.S.) (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, S.B.N.O. W.At. C.T.F.32, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A)

U-boat Campaign. Precis of paper for War Cabinet Anti-U-boat Committee dealing with losses of independently routed ships.
(Admty. 0240A/5 to B.A.D. for V.C.N.S.)
See Lion Copy.

Movements Arrival 5th U.S. A.T., STATE OF VIRGINIA.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 0946QR/5 to Admty).
4th arrived and departed Y.88.
(B.R.O. Antigua, 1030/5 to Admty).
U.S.S. PALMER arrived Havana 4th.
(B.R.L.O. Havana 1103/5 to Admty).
Arrival 5th U.S. Submarine Chaser S.C.503 from Trinidad.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 1205/5 to Admty).
Bermuda arrivals U.S.S. HOBSON U.S. SAM CHICOPEE.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 2049Q/5 to Admty).

Casualty Report. Your 1353/3 (Report that ship was torpedoed North of Port of Spain) Trinidad has no knowledge of ship being torpedoed. Request further information.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1022/5 to Admty).

Movements Summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T.	U.C.1)	14½° N. 66½° W.	243°	10
5th March.	WESTON)			
	ALCANTARA)	11½° N. 52° W.	268°	12½
	WOODRUFF)			
	SS. ANDES	25° N. 36½° W.	090°	19.
	(D.O.D. (F), 1030Z/5).			

Washington Convoy Conference. Personal for V.C.N.S. from 1st S.L.
Your 2305/3 was received with no indication of priority. Parts 1 and 2 only have been received. Reply to para. 3 (D), (E) and (F) follows.
In view of the importance of your having our views before things are settled at the final conference I feel very strongly that the latter should be deferred until Monday.
(1st S.L., 1051A/5 to B.A.D.)

184A AW1
lion

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

TO: B.A.D. Washington 479

DATE: 5.3.43

N.C.O.T.P.

RECIRCULATION AT
REQUEST OF 1st S.L.

FROM: Admiralty.

Personal for V.C.N.S. from 1st Sea Lord.

Following is a precis of a paper prepared for the War Cabinet Anti-U-Boat Committee dealing with losses of independently routed ships:-

- (A) Independent Ships of 15 knots and over.
1. Percentage losses January to December 1941: 1.8%; January to May 1942: Nil; June 1942 to January 1943: 3.5%; Absence of losses first half of 1942 due to concentration of U-boats East Coast America. Percentage loss during last 6 months of 1941 and 1942 when U-boats were operating in same areas 1.8% and 2.9% respectively. Increase related to number of U-boats operating.
 2. Loss in convoy 1942. Homeward: 1.7%; Outward 2.3%. Latter includes losses after dispersal. Former is correct figure for comparison.
 3. If loss of Independents becomes too high, may have to put them in convoy.
Disadvantages:-
 - (i) Number of fast personnel ships barely adequate; if convoyed homeward there would be delay affecting troop movements.
 - (ii) We have not the escorts to run more fast convoys. Fast tanker convoy from Dutch West Indies will be used when possible. Solution is to route independents from South Atlantic into West African coast and rely on effective air cover. Transatlantic traffic would have to go into ordinary convoy.

/(B) Independent ..

Boat
Spain.
7
independents
info.

2.

- (B) Independent ships above and below 15 knots. At present only 20% of shipping at sea in North Atlantic North of 10 degs north is sailing independently.
- (C) Analysis of losses by area July to December 1942. Of 548 ships lost by U-boat attack, 33% lost in convoy; 5% stragglers, 6% detached or dispersed from convoy; 56% sailing independently. Independent losses occurred mainly in focal areas. Trinidad 30% since decreased by convoys and air cover along North East coast Brazil. Azores, Cape Verde and Freetown 13%, bulk in September southward of Freetown. Indian Ocean and East Coast of South Africa 13% mostly in November. St. Pauls Rocks November and December 10%. Solution is to increase Air protection in focal areas and/or extend convoy system. Latter would weaken escorts in other threatened areas hence it is recommended that air protection to the maximum extent possible be given in focal areas such as Freetown, Trinidad, Bahia and the Cape.
- (D) If main attack is shifted from North Atlantic on to large volume of unescorted shipping in South Atlantic, it would be necessary to institute convoys between Freetown and the Cape withdrawing escorts from North Atlantic. Weakly escorted and group sailings have been successfully instituted in the Cape area. Small convoys are in being in between Bombay and Colombo. Group sailings from port to port are in operation in Indian Ocean. Limited escort would be provided in the event of increased U-boat activity.
- (E) Other measures to ensure reduction in losses:
1. Greater assurances that diversion signals are received. Only small number of ships have high frequency W/T and reception in certain areas on M/F is bad.
 2. Flexibility of routeing requires adequate stocks of fuel at Freetown, Pernambuco and Bahia.

/3. Smoke ...

MOST SECRET

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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

- 3. Smoke abatement. Fitting of simple apparatus to coal burning ships is proceeding.
 - 4. Fitting R.D.F. in independently routed ships over 15 knots. 200 to be fitted. Allocation 6 sets per month rising to 12.
 - 5. Fitting Asdics into new construction cargo vessels over 15 knots. 30 vessels of new construction will be fitted by January 1944. 4 vessels fitted, one of which has used her set twice with good effect.
2. Committee enclosed the recommendation that air protection to the maximum extent possible should be given in the focal area off Bahia. Request you will discuss this question with Admiral King.

0240A/5 *(BAD)*
(Sec. to 1st Sea Lord.)

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1st Lord | |
| 1st S.L. (2) | |
| D.F.S L. | |
| 4th S.L. | |
| 5th S.L. | |
| V.C.N.S. | |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | |
| A.C.N.S. (F) (2) | |
| A.C.N.S. (UT) (2) | |
| A.C.N.S. (A) | |
| A.C.N.S. (W) | |
| U.W.R. | |
| D. of P. (2) | |
| D. of P. (Q) | |
| D.O.D. (H) (2) | D.A.W.T. |
| D.O.D. (F) (2) | Hd. of Air |
| Duty Capt. (2) | Hd. of M. |
| D.N.I. (4) | Admiral Blake (4) |
| D.D.I.C. (2) | Admiral Usborne |
| D. of S. (2) | P.S.D. (2) |
| D.A/S.W. | I.P. (2) |
| D. of S.T. (2) | W.D. |
| D.T.D. (3) | C.M.S.R. |
| D.T.D. (M) | D.M.B. |
| D.C.N.A.E. | D.C.D. |
| D.N.A.O. | D.T.S.D. |
| | Hd. of M.S. Branch. |

War Diary.

5.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

P.553 N.S.H.Q.'s 1615/4 (N.T. in W.D.) P.553 is transferred from CORNWALLIS to D. Halifax for administration and operation. (C.O.A.C., 1225Z/5 to CORNWALLIS D. Halifax (R) F.O.N.F., Admty. F.O.C. Subs N.S.H.Q.)

H.J.38 1. H.J.38 sailing telegram.
2. Halifax 1400Z/5. 3. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 0700Z/8. 4. Nine K. 5. R.44.30 N. 62.10 W. S. 44.35 N. 57.00 W. T. 46.12 N. 52.35 W. U.47.33 N. 52.17 W. 6. MALPEQUE, WASAGA. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1405Z/5, 1409Z/5 to Admty). Amended 1435Z/6.

Polish Refugees in Persian, MONTICELLO. Your 2008/4th. I have asked Cominch to reconsider his decision but for reasons given in my 1931/4 he cannot. (B.A.D., 1441Z/5 to D. of S.T. (R) D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf, C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. Bombay).

Submarine estimate 5th March. U.S. Submarine Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1500/5, 1501/5, 1540/5, 1541/5, 1542/5).

ST. MARGARET (sunk 27 Feb) Admiralty's 1320/2/4/40. British ST. MARGARET sunk 1400 G.M.T. Feb. 27 in 27° 38' N., 43° 23' W. Masters and W/T Operators books thrown overboard in weighted and eyeletted bags in 2000 fathoms. No apparent possibility of compromise. Information obtained from statement made by Chief Officer to Executive Officer of U.S.S. HOBSON which picked up survivors. Survivors will be fully interviewed tomorrow and further report made if necessary. (B.R.L.O. Bermuda, 1519/5 to Admty (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q.) My 1519/5. 46 survivors landed Bermuda U.S.S. HOBSON. Master, D.M.S. Davies, taken prisoner. My 1549/5 in P/L contains names of survivors. (B.R.L.O. Bermuda, 1539Q/5 to Admty etc).

T.O.1 Following is a re-encipherment of N.O.B. Trinidad 1612/4 passed to you by Connav for information. "Convoy T.O. 1 arrived base D 0800Q/4 March". (Radio Washington, 1527/5 to Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.C.W.A.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Dispositions. Section East O.N.168. Task unit 24.1.19*
52.00 46.45 191° 7 Western Local escort Task
Unit 24.18.2 in vicinity of O.N.168 to junction.
Thence LAVENDER, SAXIFRAGE, BUTTERCUP to St.
Johns (corrupt group). O.N.168 NIAGARA, MEDICINE HAT
47.51 51.03 078° 9. (H.X.) 228 Western Local escort Task Unit
24.18.6 (E) 45.38 51.58 070° 9 altering to 024° in 50.10 W.
J.H.40 SARNIA, STRATFORD, RED DEER, 47.10 52.45 195° 7.
LADY CLIFFNEY, escorted by WESTMOUNT, MULGRAVE, 47.20 52.40
195° 12 T.U. 24.8.2., 47.12 54.08 224° 11 altering to (?207°)
in 46.48 N. and to 083° in 46.15 N. and to 018° in 52.46 W.
IROQUOIS 52.56 27° 265° 12. GEORGETOWN 44.54 57.31 254° 10.
U.S.S. BEAR, BLUEBIRD, FREDERICK LEE, ARVIK 46.37 54.23
154° 29' to 080° in 46.16 N. and to 018° in 52.50 W.
CHICOUTIMI 48.19 51.20 en route St. Johns MATAPEDIA vicinity
49.45 47.15 en route St. Johns PORT WYNDHAM 41.00 50.01 270°
13 GLENARTNEY 42.15 50.50 090° 16.5
(C.O.A.C., 1550Z/5 to G.B.7 A) *See Amendment, 0531Z/6.

Atlantic
Shipping,
Air Force
priority.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W)
Ref. J.S.M.776.

It would be very difficult to give priority
to U.S. Personnel over the Canadians who have
so often been disappointed by delays and setbacks
in their build-up.

(2) When firm bids are given by C.C.S. it may be
possible to ship during the second quarter of 1943 Canadians
R.A.F. Personnel and U.S. Air Corps and S.O.S Personnel
concurrently at a satisfactory rate to all.

(3) You should press C.C.S. to give us phased programme of
U.S. Air Corps and S.O.S troops ready for shipment during this
period. We will then examine question one more.
(Air Min. 1600Z/5 to Britman, Washington).

Dispositions. Section South west O.N.167 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4
42.48 62.09 260° 7 altering to 266° in 64.00 W.
Halifax portion O.N.167 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.3
vicinity 43.07 61.48 en route Halifax. New York
number 7 V.S.S. STANSBURY HAMILTON 41.15 66.31 066° 13.5 altering
to 047° in 59.35 W.
H.J.38 MALPEQUE, WASAGA 44.30 62.18 089° 9 altering to 063° in
57.00 W. H.F.40 MILLTOWN, KENTVILLE depart Sambro light vessel
2000Z/5th 230° 7.5 altering to 269° in 43.11 N. and to 325°
in 66.12 W.
U.S.S. ESCANABA AKLAK NUGAK U.S. aircraft tender SANDPIPER, PALM
Y.M.S.25.78 (?79), 42.36 66.58 262° 9. U.S.S. NORTHLAND Y.M.S.
22 NANUK, CLAMPAK 42.(?50) 67.40 085° 9 alter to 063° in 65.22 W.
Halifax portion H.X.228 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.7 43.55 61.12 en route
to Halifax P.T. DODGE Halifax Approach in bound Kyle vicinity
46.12 59.18 en route to Louisburg 8 Schooner ANGELUS departed
Louisburg 1300Z/5th southbound IRISH ASH 42.25 66.35 180° 7.
35 foot cabin cruiser disabled vicinity 43.14 65.06 GODERICH due
Liverpool p.m./5th.
(C.O.A.C., 1620Z/5 to G.B.7 A).

/W.L.E.F...

War Diary.

5.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

W.L.E.F. increase. Your 1903/2nd (re to use 4 R.C.N. Corvettes for "Torch" convoys (N.T. in W.D.)). As result of discussions at Washington conference and in order to implement Admiralty's 1513/27th the Western Local Escort Force will be increased from 8 to 11 Groups.

(2) In order to put this into effect and to provide for essential Canadian Coastal Convoys after opening of navigation in Gulf of (?St. Lawrence) it will be necessary for the 15 Corvettes lent for "Torch" operations to be returned to Halifax as soon as possible and not later than 1st April.

(3) The Royal Canadian Navy will continue to maintain 4 effective corvettes in 5 mid ocean escort groups. The number of escorts in these groups will be increased as soon as new construction ships become available.

(4) Request dates of arrival at Halifax of 15 corvettes, (including NASTURTIUM) may be signalled.

(N.S.H.Q., 1641Z/5 to C. in C. W.A. (R) C.T.G. 24.7. Admty. B.A.D. Naval Member Canadian Joint Staff Washington, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. C.T.F.24., N.O.I.C. Londonderry, Cdre. in C. Canadian Ships. NIOBE)

Washington Conference, A/S Aircraft Gibraltar Casablanca. Personal for V.C.N.S. from 1st S.L. Your 2237A/4. Para. 2 I concur. They should also be directed to keep in touch with Naval and Air Authorities at Gibraltar. (1st S.L., 1745A/5 to B.A.D.)

Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S. Question of linking up control of surface and air A/S forces in Gibraltar Casablanca area has been discussed by a sub Committee of Conference today.

2. Durston is sending report to Chief of Air Staff about this and has asked him to show it to you.

3. Main Conference is meeting again on Monday 8th. If things go well at this meeting I will try and reach New York on 9th and take passage in QUEEN ELIZABETH due to sail 10th. This would be more certain and probably quicker than waiting for air passage.

(B.A.D., 2307Z/5 to Admty).

O.N. Convoys, numbers. B.A.D.'s 2155/3 concur with paras 1 and 3. 2. My 1743/27 Feb. and 1721/4 in order to best meet shipping concerned it is proposed to make O.N.S.173 a fast convoy and sail it on 13th March as O.N.173.

3. Ref. B.A.D.'s 2155/3 para. 3. propose - (A) that O.N.S.174 becomes O.N.S. 1 then serially. (B) that O.N. 175 becomes O.N.174 then serially. (D.T.D., 1755A/5 to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.169, T.U. 24.12.2 O.N.169 T.U. 24.12.2 SALISBURY (S.O.) MONTGOMERY sailing St. Johns, N.F. 1030Z/6 to act as support until for O.N.169. (F.O.N.F., 1756Z/5 to C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.18, C. in C. W.A., C.T.24, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty).

/NEPTUNE...

War Diary.5.3.1943.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- NEPTUNE
foundered. SS. NEPTUNE foundered while in tow of Tug TENACITY on a bearing 245° 1½ miles from Fort Amherst Light. No casualties, C.Bs. in eyeletted weighted bag went down with ship in 85 fathoms of water.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1841Z/5 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., N.C.S.O. Sydney).
- U/B U.S. Aircraft sighted U-boat 1845/5th in 046° 53' N., 054° 55' W.
(C.O.A.C., 1918Z/5 to G.B.7 A).
- O.N.S.169 O.N.S.169 hove to in position 059° 09' N., 039° 20' W. BEVERLEY must leave for St. Johns N.F. daylight tomorrow Saturday. Weather report.
(M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, 1925Z/5 to Connav (R) C.T.F.24, Admty etc).
- KING 5 March 17 hours U.S.A.T. King New Orleans
13 March D. 10° 01' N., 82° 50' W. thence coastwise through Miskiti Channel and coastwise through the following points (route).
(U.S.R.O. Gristobal 1958/5 to Admty).
- O.N.168 F.O.N.F's 0121Z/5* and my 1701Z/4* O.N.168 054° 10' N., 046° 20' W. destroyers PIMPERNEL, GODETIA remaining with convoy until NIAGARA joins convoy partially scattered. BUTTERCUP proceeding independently to St. Johns, N.F. with weather damage. SWALE escorting SAXIFRAGE and LAVENDER who are short of fuel to St. Johns N.F. SWALE has asdic defects, may require docking.
(?E) T.U. 24.1.19, 1959Z/5 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.)
*N.T. in W.D.
O.N. (?168) amended position at 2000Z/5th 053° (?45') N., 046° 48' W., 190° 9 making good (?3).5 28 ships in company. Crew (corrupt group) taken off ship which is (?seriously damaged) breaking up. For information to TRAIL and NIAGARA.
(E.T.U. 24.1.19, 2152Z/5 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.)
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. C. Sub. contact 1932 N. 75.18 W. 1748Z/4.
Para. D. Sub sighted course N.W. 02.30 N. 50.30 W., 1700Z/4. P. by attacks sound contact 34.22 N. 75.55 W., 2133Z/4. Periscope sighted 44.21 N. 59.32 W., 1900Z/4. B.34 makes Radar contact 28.45 N. 80.00 W. 1428Z/5 C.G. 83327 attacks sub. 38.46 N. 74.34 W. 0710Z/5.
(Cominch, 2030/5 to Admty).

/Shipping...

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Shipping
Casualties.

Connav Serials 4 and 5. ST. MARGARET torpedoed sunk 27th Feb. 27.38 N. 43.23 W. GULFWAVE arrived Suva with torpedo damage 2nd March. No further details. ATLANTIC SUN unreported since losing convoy O.N.165 17th Feb. No overdue N.Y. (Connav, 2055/5 to Comnav).

H.X.227
MERIWETHER
LEWIS
torpedoed
2nd Feb.

H.X.227. Area in which SS. MERIWETHER LEWIS reported torpedoed (62.10 N. 28.25 W. at 0602Z/2) searched by INGHAM for 2 days. Sighted only wreckage including mounted automobile tyres in line extending 30 miles 55° true from 62.55 N. 27.05 W.
(C.T.G. 24.6., 2134Z/5 to Cominch (R) C.T.F.24, Connav, Admty. etc).

Greek
Shipping.

Intercepts received from Greek PANAGHIA SVVN Feb. 10th reporting position 38.05 N., 58.50 W. and Greek HERIKLIA SVBN Feb. 19th reporting position 38.11 N. 60.45 W. Can you identify and furnish any information as to movements.
(Opnav, 2146/5 to Admty).

TRACKER

On sailing from Puget Sound, keep wireless watch in accordance with A.M.1930/21st Nov. (751A) as amended A.M.1651/13th Dec. (889A).

(2) Report by signal before sailing anticipated time of entering south east Pacific area and shift wireless watch to Balboa at that time.

(3) On sailing from Balboa keep wireless watch in accordance with A.F.O. "S" series one/42.
(B.A.D., 2149Z/5 to TRACKER).

A/S Aircraft,
Gibraltar -
Casablanca.

Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.
My 2237/4th para. 3.
Admiral King has agreed to the attachment of a Coastal Command Group Capt. R.A.F. Durston is proposing to Air Ministry that Group Capt. R.A.F. Canning should be appointed.
(B.A.D., 2151Z/5 to Admty).

O.N.172,
O.N.S.172
sailing dates. W.A.)

Your 1721/4. Concur in dates proposed.
(N.S.H.Q., 2200Z/5 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C. in C.

MANSFIELD

Your 2150 (not received) Much regret we are returning to Harbour now. We have high density in all boilers and evaporator trouble as well.
(MANSFIELD, 2303/5 to C.T.U. 24.1.3).

/A.F.D...

War Diary.

5.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

A.F.D. 24 Direct N.O.B. Trinidad sail A.F.D. 24 when escorts and tugs ready about 13th Trinidad to Freetown via G. 08.20 57.55 H. 04.25 50.15 J. 00.50 46.35 K. 01.12 38.50 L. 01.35 31.30 M. 01.53 23.30 N. 02.10 16.35 all points North and West thence to destination ALCANTARA embark logistic requirements including spare depth charges for escort and tugs. 400 tons coal available Belem for trawlers. N.O.B. Trinidad inform British Consul Belem E.T.A. trawlers Belem assuming trawlers detached one at a time for fuel as arranged by S.O. of escort in ALCANTARA. (Cominch, 2310/5 to Com. Carib S.F. (R) N.O.B. Trinidad, Admty. Comsolant, ALCANTARA, S.B.N.O.W.At., F.O.C.W.Af. Cinclant.)

U.S. Fleet re-organisation. U.S. Fleet is being re-organised into numbered fleets with New Task Force Organization as from noon 15th March. Details can be obtained from Comnavu. Proposed amendments to Combined Call Sign books are being signalled by Navy Dept. (B.A.D., 2317Z/5 to Admty)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. U.S. 69 BOTH arrived Townsville 5th. V.S.I.S. MERKUR departed Townsville 4th for Dunk Island. U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN departed Townsville 3rd due Brisbane 7th. U.S. transport BONTEKOE departed Orobay 3rd due Port Moresby 5th. (A.C.N.B., 1019Z/5 to Admty). Departure Auckland U.S.S. GRAYSON for escort duty in Tasman Sea thence Wellington a.m./10th. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0230Z/5 to Admty). Arrival Melbourne 4th U.S. WESTPOINT. (A.C.N.B., 0311Z/5 to Admty). Arrival Auckland 0133Z/5 U.S.S. PINKNEY. Departure Auckland 2335Z/4 U.S.S. DRAYTON for Noumea E.T.A. 7th. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0426Z/5 to Admty). Arrival Sydney (N.S.W.) 3rd Destroyer MUSTIN U.S. destroyer HUGHES, Townsville 4th. H.M.A.S. VENDETTA, Thursday Island 4th Arunta (?H.M.A.S. WARREGO) departure Fremantle 4th U.S. Seaplane tender WILLIAM B. PRESTON for Exmouth Gulf. (A.C.N.B., 1913Z/5 to Admty).

Digest serial No. 407. March 4th. (2) One destroyer one possible minelayer 4 medium merchant vessels sighted 30 miles South of Kavieng course 300°. Also one destroyer one small merchantman in Gazelle channel (South of Kavieng) course 130°.

War Diary.5.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Digest (4) Liberator mid afternoon observed 10 fighters
 Serial airborne 39 miles West Ubili but no interception.
 No. 407 Afterwards bombed strafed barges lifeboats and
 March 4th. men off Finschhafen.
 (contd). (5) Barge activity continues Lae area where one
 Liberator attacked Aerodrome before dawn.
 (7) Remnants convoy Huon Gulf, ref. Digest No.
 406 para. 2. Burning cargo vessel sunk by
 motor torpedo boats before midnight third, and destroyer
 sunk by Fortress morning. Another destroyer located and
 destroyed later by 9 B.25s 45 miles off Cape Ward Hunt.
 Fortress encountered 20 fighters whereof four shot down
 also sighted widespread debris and minimum thirty life rafts.
 Some B.25s strafed 500 battle equipped Japs in boats or
 water inflicting heavy casualties. Others strafed five barges
 Tymi Island off Cape Cretin where three Fortresses earlier
 sank six troop laden barges.
 (8) Five Bostons bombed strafed Waria River mouth midday.
 (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0830Z/5).

Navigation Following are particulars of R.N.Z.A.F., A.S.V.
 Beacons used in N.Z. which it is understood
 are required for inclusion in world wide list.
 (N.Z.N.B., 1055 M/5 to Admty).

Unknown Master of PESHAWUR reports sighting tanker in
 Tanker. 035° 41' S., 058° 02' E., at 1355Z/3rd course
 135°. Description light grey raised forecandle
 had no other prominent feature. Unable to
 identify.
 (A.C.N.B., 1104Z/5 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.,
 C. in C. E.F., Comsowestpac Unit).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked

Situation. Precis of a paper for War Cabinet Anti-U-boat
 Committee on loss of independently routed ships.
 (1st S.L. 0240A/5 to B.A.D. for V.C.N.S.)
 See America & West Indies).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 1405A/5, 1406A/5).

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M.Ls. 104, 102 and 107 whilst in the final stage of a minelaying operation in the Dunkirk Channel at 0102 today were engaged and forced to retire by enemy T.Bs. The M.Ls. suffered minor damage and casualties. One hit with 3 pr. by M.L. 107 is reported on the enemy who turned away.

In view of the possibility that Hitler, if faced with imminent military disaster, might order chemical warfare to be used, the Admiralty today ordered anti-gas arrangements in the Home Commands and areas in the Mediterranean within reach of heavy German air attack to be overhauled.

C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with HOWE and 5 destroyers arrived at Scapa at 1806 from providing cover for R.A.53.

In an air raid on the docks and town of Murmansk from 1930C to 2020C today SS. EMPIRE KINSMAN received superficial damage and some casualties.

X.K. 2

CHATEAUROUX in convoy X.K. 2 which was attacked yesterday by U-boats, was reported at 1109A today to have 12 ft. of water in No.1 hold. Tug PROSPEROUS was sent and towed CHATEAUROUX to Milford Haven at 1032/10. CHATEAUROUX had a U.X.B. in No. 2 hold and was damaged by near misses during air attack at 1235A/4 (see 4 March)

60 Fortresses (B.17) of U.S.A. VIII Bomber Command attacked the power station at Lorient today and report hits on it. 15 Liberators (B.24) attacked Brest.

North Atlantic.

Attacks on
K.M.S.10.

Convoy K.M.S.10 was attacked at about 1430Z in 36.30 N., 10.17 W. FORT BATTLE RIVER, British 7133 tons was torpedoed and she sank during the night 6/7 March before tugs could reach her. British 7134 tons (A.N.D.ship) FORT PASKOYAC was also torpedoed, and was towed to Gibraltar by rescue tug SALVONIA (arrived 2245A/9). One report states that owing to temporary breakdown her portnet was not streamed: she was torpedoed on the port side, aft, but another report states that nets were streamed on the port side and that the torpedo struck on port side abaft the nets.

/Cadiz...

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Cadiz
Evacuation.

N.A. Madrid reports that the Spanish Government have at the last moment and under pressure cancelled the proposed French evacuations from Cadiz and have requested the French to suggest another plan.

South Atlantic.

BURDOCK,
ramming of
M.L. 251.

BURDOCK, corvette at 0131Z escorting convoy reported that in 09.01 N. 14.28 W. she sighted a suspicious vessel and obtained an R.D.F. contact. Heading for it, she rammed M.L. 251, No lives were lost, and the diplomatic mail was salvaged.

Mediterranean.

Air
Organisation.

The following summary of present organisation of Allied Air Forces in North Africa is promulgated for information by C. in C. Med today:-
2. The Mediterranean Air Command, established at Allied Headquarters, comprises the North West African Air Forces, the Middle East Air Command and the Malta Air Command.
3. Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder is the Air Officer Commanding in Chief Mediterranean Air Command.
4. The North West African Air Forces are commanded by Major General Carl Spaatz, and include:
(1) North West African Coastal Air Force, responsible for reconnaissance, A/S and anti-shipping operations, and fighter protection of ports and shipping.
(2) North West African Tactical Air Force responsible for support of land operations.
(3) North West African Strategic Air Force for strategic bombing operations.
5. The former Eastern Air Command has ceased to exist. All signals from Naval Authorities formerly addressed to Eastern Air Command should now be addressed to Headquarters, North West African Coastal Air Force (H.Q. N.W.A. C.A.F.)

/Malta...

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta and
Tripoli con-
voys.

Convoy M.W.22, 3 storeships and 2 tankers, escorted by DULVERTON, QUEEN OLGA, KELVIN, ROCKWOOD, PINDOS and R.F.A. CHERRYLEAF, arrived at Malta at 1446A.

6 Storeships, NEURALIA and a tanker arrived at Tripoli Libya.
A fast convoy of 3 personnel ships and 1 storeship has left Alexandria for Tripoli (L).

Motor
Flotillas.

Asking that all concerned may be instructed to press on with utmost energy all measures to get M.T.B. and M.G.B. flotillas from U.K. to their fighting station at Bone, C. in C. Mediterranean says that Coastal Forces there may soon have the chance to avenge Dunkirk, and he hopes the opportunity will not be missed through lack of any steps which ingenuity or drive may suggest.

Alarm Signal

C. in C. Levant, asks the Admiralty for a visual alarm signal for use by night in the Fleet and in convoys with the signification "Have sighted enemy aircraft probably about to attack with torpedo".

Air
Operations.

Successful attacks were made today on enemy shipping between Sicily and Tunisia. Two ships were sunk and 5 were damaged.

East Indies.

Four B.24s of the U.S.A.A.F. attacked two 3/4000 ton merchant ships in Rangoon River today; several near misses and a possible hit on the stern of the first ship were obtained and a near miss on the second.

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

French
Desertions
in U.S.A.

The U.S. Naval authorities are concerned about the desertions from North African French vessels now refitting in the U.S.A. To date, 51 from RICHELIEU and some more from other vessels have deserted to join Fighting French. If we cannot do something to prevent this easy method of desertion, the U.S. authorities may have to invoke their immigration laws, thus adding to the dissension between Fighting and North African French.

S.C.121

Transmissions between 1013 and 1629 G.M.T. indicate that a wolf pack may be forming for an attack on this convoy, which at 0800 was estimated in 54.45 N., 41.12 W. Three U-boats were attacked today in the area 55 N., 40.30 W. SS. EGYPTIAN was torpedoed at 2349Z today in 56.25 N., 37.38 W. (about 290 miles S.E. of Cape Farewell).

O.N.168

A U-boat was attacked about 1301Z today in 53.10 N., 45.30 W. At 1400Z. C.T.U. 24.1.19 escorting convoy O.N.168 reported that the crew of THOMAS HOOKER, American, 7176 tons was on board PIMPERNEL, and that salvage was doubtful unless the weather moderates. GODETIA is searching the area and will stand by if contact is made. Tugs are requested to be sent to the derelict in 53.28 N. 45.25 W. It had previously been reported that a ship in this convoy had been seriously damaged and was breaking up, but the cause of damage is not known.

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Force "Grenadine". / Re difficulty of ensuring that R.A.F. stores for A.9779 for special party at L are not landed owing mixed stowage, nationality of ships involved, and shortage of available supervising R.A.F. personnel.
(Sen. A.F. Off, North Russia, 0904A/6, S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1030A/6 both to Admiral Miles).

BRIGHTON Proposing she should be transferred to R.A.N.A.S. forthwith.
(R.A.M., 1104/6 to Admty).

Force J. / C.C.O's 1316/4. In view of difficulty in transferring crews with craft at Scapa and in Loch Erribol I suggest that no transfer be made and that 4th and 5th Flotillas be replaced by 6th and 11th in Force J.
(Capt. L.C.T., 1107/6 to S.O. Force J).

Your 1107/6. I do not concur, as this would mean that over six months of intensive training for Channel operations would be totally wasted. I feel that the difficulties of transfer can and must be overcome. F.O.4 and F.O.5. will be placed at your disposal to make arrangements.
(S.O. Force J., 1527/6 to Capt. L.C.T.)

Coastal / My 1930/3 para. 3 and 4 amend to read.
Force 3. 2nd M.L. Flotilla and one division 23rd M.L.
Allocations. Flotilla to be based at HORNET. One division of these will be operated by X.D.O.(E) the remainder will operate as C.E. - C.W. escorts.
4. 11th M.L. Flotilla and one division 23rd M.L. Flotilla will remain at Newhaven for the present and operate as C.E. - C.W. escorts.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1645A/6 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven).

DELHI Your 1058/25. F.O.I.C. N.I. should continue to administer DELHI until she is ready for service when she should be transferred to C. in C. Med.
(Admty. 2359A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

S/M All British S/Ms left Russian zone 2 and 2A
Movements. 2000/5th for Lerwick.
(F.O.S., 1039A/6 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)
Capt. (S) 3, 0951/5. SHAD to proceed by route Green to 045° N. thence patrol zone K.508 off Bilbao. HERRING to proceed by route Brown to 045° N. thence patrol zone K.505 and K.501 S. of latitude 044° 25' N.
(F.O.S., 1559A/6 to Capt. S.3).

/My...

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements

S/M My 1234/4th. R/V LA CAPRICIEUSE in position (Y) Movements. 000° Round Is. 7 miles at 1800/8. (contd). HERRING and SHAD will part company with LA CAPRICIEUSE at the same time proceeding on route Brown and Green respectively. Your may proceed on the surface E. of 008° W. (F.O.S., 1602A/6 to BARB).

Your 1411/5. Onward route for P.314 route Green transferring to route Red in 047° N., P.53 route Brown transferring to route Green in 047° N. (F.O.S., 1603A/6 to Capt. S.3).

DZIK, ULLSWATER (P.31) and UNIVERSAL (P.57) escorted by CUTTY SARK on passage Minches to Clyde during dark hours tonight. (C. in C. W.A., 1714A/6 to KENYA, CHARYBDIS).

Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/7 and movements for following 24 hours.

(a) SPORTSMAN 69° 24' N., 11° 06' E. Speed 9 knots through 69° 01' N., 09° 56' E., and 62° 00' N., 00° 11' E.

(b) SEANYMPH 68° 52' N., 10° 47' E. speed 9 knots through 62° 02' N., 01° 03' E.

(c) TRUCULENT 68° 26' N., 09° 02' E. speed 10 knots through 62° 00' N., 00° 11' E.

(d) SIMOON 67° 38' N., 08° 46' E. speed 9 knots through 62° 01' N., 01° 03' E.

The above submarines are proceeding probably on the surface.

(e) TUNA in Zones K.5 and K.6.

(f) ULLSWATER, UNIVERSAL, and DZIK escorted by CUTTY SARK vicinity Mull of Kintyre due Holy Loch 1630/7.

(g) GRAPH escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY arriving Londonderry from Eastward.

(h) TACTICIAN and ULTOR escorted by CUTTY SARK leaves Clyde 1930/7 due 360° Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 2000/9 speed 9½ knots.

(j) Norwegian S/M B.1. escorted by KING HAakon leaves Rothesay 1400/7 through Minches due Dundee 1500/9th.

(k) SHAKESPEARE with C.W.161 for Portsmouth.

(l) BARB 49° 10' N., 11° 34' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W. to R/V 000° Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 1800/8 probably proceeding on the surface after crossing 8° W.

(m) TRIDENT 43° 12' N., 12° 54' W. dived by day due 43° 00' N. 12° 54' W., at 1400/7 thence to Gibraltar.

(n) URSULA 43° 30' N., 12° 26' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W.

(o) SHAD and HERRING escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leave vicinity Garroch Head 1400/7 due 360° Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 1800/8.

(p) JUNON escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leaves Dundee 1100/7 for Lerwick. E.T.A. 1500/8 speed 10 knots.

(q) P.556 and P.511 escorted by KIHNA sail Plymouth 1030/7 for Rothesay 8 knots. (F.O.S., 1717A/6 1839A/6 2139A/6 to Admty). Intend to sail P.556 and P.511 escorted by KIHNA at 1030/7 to Rothesay. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1833A/6 to Capt. S.7 etc). Sailed GRAPH escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY for Londonderry in accordance with S.3s 1137A/5. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1904A/6 to A.I.G.216) At 0900/6. We crossed 15th Meridian. (S.55, 2300Z/6 to Admty).

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

GLEANER Sailed for Hvalfiord. E.T.A. 0800A/9th.
(F.O.C. Destroyer Flot. H.F., 0852A/6 to A.C.I.C.,
A.C.O.S., 1808/6).

CHARYBDIS My 1216A/4. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1200A/6 to A.C.O.S.)

BUCCANEER Your 1043A/6 (not received) Serial 227.
Estimate her position at 1500 as 104° JJ 6 miles
course 284°.
(A.C.O.S., 1250A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

RAPID,
MATCHLESS. Detached from Clyde area to Scapa.
E.T.A. 0700A/7.
(FURIOUS, 1315A/6 to C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S.,
N.O.I.C. Greenock).

FURIOUS Arrived Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1616A/6 to A.C.O.S.)

VIMY Intend to sail VIMY from Lough Foyle p.m./7th
by Great Circle route at best speed arriving St.
Johns, N.F., 12th to refuel and rejoin B.4.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1811A/6 to F.O.N.F.)

BANDIT My 1725/4. Sailed with B.P.T.25 escorted by
B.P.T.25. STELLA PEGASI for Montrose E.T.A. 1400/7.
(A.C.O.S., 1820/6 to N.O.I.C. Dundee).

DUKE OF YORK Intend sailing from Rosyth at 1800/14. Request
escort be sent to R/V at Inchkeith at 1900/14.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2140A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 1059A/5. "Device" returned 0810/6.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0817A/6 to C. in C. Portsmouth)
Intend M.G.Bs. 55 (S.O. and 53 to patrol
tonight on lat. 50° 20' N., from 2° 00' W. to
2° 35' W. in company and under orders of MELBREAK.
2. Leave Weymouth at 1900 via Q.Z.S. 382 for patrol line.
M.G.Bs. to leave patrol line at dawn. 3. Object anti-E-boat
patrol.
4. W/T watch.
5. Codeword "Jovial". Request air protection be arranged.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1040A/6 1359A/6 to C. in C. Portsmouth, (R)
Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

/Coastal....

War Diary.6. 3. 1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations

Coastal Patrols. (contd). My 1434/6* sailed MELBREAK. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1626A/6 to F.O.I.C. Portland, C.N.C. Plymouth). M.T.Bs. 94 (S.O.) 96, 227, 239, 204, 202 and M.G.B.6 are to leave Dartmouth at 1830/6 for St. Malo Area passing through positions (Q) 294° Roches Douvres 13 M. (R) 076° Roches Douvres 8 M. to position (S) 348° Frehel Light 12 M. Force is to remain in vicinity of (S) until about 0200/7. Object: to attack enemy shipping on coastal passage. On return passage S.O. has discretion to return by reverse route or to pass south of Barnovic and thence to Dartmouth being within 20 M. of our coast by first light. Latest intelligence from R/C E-boats at Cherbourg. Communications Harbour defence craft appear to be on patrol round Channel Islands and off St. Malo. If forced to return owing to damage or any other cause boats are to return to Plymouth and not Dartmouth if arriving before dawn. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1533A/6 to M.T.Bs. 94, 96, 227, 239, 204, 202, M.G.B.6, (R) N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, Admty).
Orders for Patrol tonight 6th.
Force employed, Force A TANATSIDE S.O., ALBRIGHTON, WENSLEYDALE, Force B. KRAKOWIAK S.O., MELBREAK, M.G.B.s 55 and 53.
3. Force A to patrol Q.Z.S. 391 between 02° 55' W., and 03° 25' W. Force B to patrol latitude 50° 20' N., between longitude 02° 05' W., and 02° 35' W.
4. Object to intercept and destroy E-boats.
5. Information own Swordfish aircraft will carry out patrol I.A. as in D.C.I.55 from 2000/6 to dawn/7 with orders not to bomb or machine gun surface craft. Convoy W.P.304 sails from Dartmouth at 0500/7. 6 M.T.Bs. and 1 M.G.B. leave Dartmouth at 1830/6 to Southward returning at dawn. Enemy E-boats from Cherbourg or Guernsey may operate on Convoy routes.
6. Execution. Force A is to R/V at Dart Buoy at 2200/6. Force B. to sail from Portland as ordered by F.O.I.C. Portland. Q.Z.X. 834 is clear N. of 50° 15' N., and remainder may also be crossed if in close pursuit of enemy. Dan Buoys are laid on 50° 14' N., approx. Patrols are to be discontinued at dawn ALBRIGHTON is to join W.P.304 as escort to Needles. MELBREAK, WENSLEYDALE, and TANATSIDE return to Plymouth, KRAKOWIAK to proceed to Dartmouth. M.G.Bs. to Portland.
7. Codeword Force A "Wheel", Force B "Jovial".
8. Communications as in my 1437A/6.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1535A/6 1805A/6 to TANATSIDE, ALBRIGHTON, WENSLEYDALE, MELBREAK, KRAKOWIAK, F.O.I.C. Portland, (R) C. in C. Portsmouth, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 10, 1, 16 Groups, Admty. M.T.B.94).
Dover dispositions for night of 6/7th March.
M.Ls. 139 and 137 patrolling in vicinity of Bullock Bank.
M.G.Bs. 43, and S.3 at No.4 Buoy.
(V.A. Dover, 1741A/6 to Admty. C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, N.O.I.C. Newhaven).
*(sailing MELBREAK for Portland)

/C. in C...

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal
Patrols.
(contd).

C. in C. Plymouth's 1533A/6 M.T.B. 203 is to take M.T.Bs. 202 and 204 and M.G.B.6 under his orders and sail to patrol at 1830/6.

2. Patrol on a line joining 000° Sept Iles 4 miles and 300° Les Triaggoz 4 miles. Speed to patrol line not to exceed 20 knots.

3. Force is to leave patrol so as to be within 20 miles of our coast by first light/7.

4. Force will return to Plymouth and at no time is to proceed east of 3° 25' W. except when in contact with the enemy.

5. Information enemy E-boats at Cherbourg. Harbour Defence Craft may be on patrol near St. Malo of Channel Islands area Own. 4 M.T.Bs. (S.O.) 94 patrolling off Frehel. They have orders not to proceed W. of 3° W. unless in contact with the enemy.

6. Codeword "Neutral 11". Communications.

7. In the event of any boat of the force mentioned in para. 5. breaking down during dark hours they will return to Plymouth not Dartmouth.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1701A/6 to M.T.B. 203 (S.O.) 204, 202, M.G.B.6 (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland).

Your 1533/6 and my 1701/6 "Neutral 1" and "Neutral 11"

Sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1844/6 to C. in C. Plymouth).

My 1535/6 sailed TANATSIDE.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1857A/6 to Admty).

See Allied Air Activity 1431A/6.

Allied Air Activity.

Patrol off
French
Coast.

Patrol 1A will be flown tonight by Swordfish A/C from 2000/6 till dawn/7.

2. Aircraft will only carry flares and have been instructed not to machine gun or bomb surface craft
3. Communications.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1431A/6 to TANATSIDE, MELBREAK, WENSLEYDALE, ALBRIGHTON, KRAKOWIAK, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, (R) Admiralty, 10 Group, 16 Group, 19 Group, C. in C. Portsmouth, M.G.B. 55, M.G.B. 53)

(Attack on vessels off Blanc Nez. See Enemy Intelligence 0311A/6)

R/C of
Brest.

G. 294/7th. Sortie dated 6th March time 1412 hours shows:- Brest Port fully covered on Obliques but partly obscured by smoke screen. Shipping present 5 possibly 7 M class minesweepers now visible, Two possibly three Naval Vessels in

T/B harbour (perhaps ELBING class destroyer, one T/B and M class minesweeper) No statement on U-boats possible, and as on last full cover. Only small part Rade de Brest seen. (R.A.F. Medmenham, 1705A/6 to Air Min. etc).

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on M.T.Bs. 85, 242, 86. While on passage 5th from Newhaven to Dover, M.T.Bs. 85, 242 and 86 were attacked at about 1500 in 217° Dungeness 7.2 miles by two F.W.190 from fine on port quarter. Both A/C fired shot burst of cannon fire at M.T.B. 86 at low altitude wounding both officers and four ratings and damaging mast, R.D.F. and W/T fittings. Casualties not considered serious. M.T.Bs. 85 and 86 opened fire with machine guns, but claim no hits.
(V.A. Dover, 1116A/6 to Admty).

Jan Mayen Aircraft observed together past N. of Island flying low westerly direction.
(A.C.I.C., 1944A/6 to Admty).

Mining.

Q.L.(1) A. My 1204A/1. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.L.(1) A tonight. Alternative operation Q.L. (2) A.
Q.L.(2) A. 2. Close support one Unit 8th M.G.B. Flotilla with one fully silenced M.T.B. of 21st Flotilla, if available.
Unit has freedom of action to support M.T.Bs. or attack targets located by them after operation has been completed.
3. M.T.B. support one Unit in vicinity Q.J.W.Z 1010.
(C. in C. Nore, 1052A/6 to BEEHIVE).

Harwich 1 ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1047 in 52° 19.5' N. 01° 51.5' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1153A/6 and 1844A/8 to Admty).

Great Yarmouth. One red mine exploded by sweepers at 1526 in 096° 6A buoy 1.5 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1553A/6 1300A/7 to Admty).

Minelaying Operation by M.Ls. Lay was interrupted in the final stage by 2 enemy ships westbound possibly T class Torpedo boats. M.Ls. retired under smoke screen suffering minor damage and casualties 1 hit with 3 pounder obtained on enemy.
(V.A. Dover 1742A/6 to Admty).

Note by War Registry. The above is an extract from a report of a minelaying operation of M.Ls. 104, 210, 213, 102, 107 a complete copy of which has been circulated to D.D.O.D. (M) only.

Sweep off West Coast of Iceland My 1157/27. Owing to adverse weather no further progress has been possible. 15th M/S Flotilla have returned to (H) to fuel. Two ships are in hand for boiler cleaning.
(A.C.I.C., 1800/6 to C. in C. H.F., Admty).

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy off Blanc Nez. ✓ At 2340/5 R.D.F. detected four small vessels three miles N. of Blanc Nez proceeding westward at fifteen knots. An Albacore A/C of 841 Squadron attacked, but claims no hit. A/C identified target as seven or eight E/R-boats. Plot faded off Gris Nez at 0040/5. (V.A. Dover, 0311A/6 1202A/16).

Suspicious Ship. Investigating in 46.16 N., 12.02 W. welldeck uplift structure one funnel 2 goalpost masts speed 10 knots course 070°. (A/C 3AHH 1319/6 to No. 19 Group C.C.)

U-boats.

U-boat reported. An over enemy S/M in 45.36 N., 15.13 W. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge course 130°. (A/C C. of 18 Group, 1431/6)

Technical.

Use of Gas. Though the chances of chemical warfare being started by the Germans are still considered to be small, they are less remote than hitherto. The possibility cannot be excluded that Hitler, if he were to be faced with imminent military disaster, might order it to be introduced.
2. In consequence it is desirable that anti-gas arrangements in the Home Commands and areas in the Mediterranean within reach of heavy German air attack should be overhauled. Request you will take action accordingly.
(D. of P. Approved 1st S.L. 1317A/6 to A.I.G. 21, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta).

Casualties & Defects.

ASSINIBOINE Arrived with VIRGINIA, DIANELLA and Tug ADHERENT. (Cdre. Londonderry, 0905A/6 to C. in C. W.A.) Sailed. E.T.A. Liverpool, 0900A/7. (Cdre. Londonderry 1625/6 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

ARIGUANI A.M. 1652A/28th Feb.
1. Intend to sail ARIGUANI in tow of tugs ABEILLE XXI and ABEILLE IV at 0830A/7th to R/V with VIOLET off Toward Point at 1000A/7th thence in company to Tyne sheltering as necessary S. of A. approx. 4 knots. ARIGUANI has been instructed to report E.T.A. Tyne as soon as known.
2. A. B. Communications.
3. A.C.O.S. and C. in C. Rosyth are requested to transmit weather reports when passing through their respective areas.
4. F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to arrange for two tugs to meet ARIGUANI on arrival.
5. Codeword "Mavis".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0954A/6).

/ARIGUANI...

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

ARIGUANI (contd). ARIGUANI sails from Clyde at 0830A/7th in tow of two tugs via searched channels and Minches North-about to Tyne.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1104A/6 to Admty).
Sailed VIOLET arriving Clyde 1000A/7 in accordance with your 1538/5.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 2130A/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Unknown Ship Intercept 0904 G.M.T. 500 k/cs de IAC to EACA R S O S QTH?*(C. in C. Plymouth, 1004/6 to Admty).
*Undecipherable in War Reg.

MERIWETHER LEWIS, (torpedoed 2nd March.) My 1326/3. HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER returned from search. Quantity of small wreckage seen but no survivors. A/C searched area on 4th for five hours with negative result.
(A.C.I.C., 1136A/6 to Admty).

CAMPION. T.O.A. 060° N. 1400A/6. MALLOW in company.
(CAMPION, 1345A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

KITE My 1436A/3. Delayed by defects. Estimated time making good 3 days.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1432A/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

BELGOL (grounded in Hvalfjord). My 1956/3 BELGOL will have to be docked on account of bottom damage.
3. Temporary repairs to make the ship seaworthy can be completed in about ten days and it is proposed that BELGOL should return to U.K. for docking when these repairs have been carried out.
(A.C.I.C., 2222A/5 to Admty).

M.L.214 Dover 6th. Arrival. Damaged in collision with LOCUST.
(V.A. Dover, 2341A/6 to Admty).

Shipping & Convoys.

STIRLING CASTLE. If not required to replace any vessel of W.S.28 or W.S.28 (N.A.) will be required to be ready to sail on 16 March. She will embark not more than 500 personnel on 16 March.
(P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports, 0040A/6 to D.S.T.)

/R.A.53...

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

- R.A.53 Arrived Akureyri at 1800/5th VIVACIOUS.
(A.C.I.C., 0044A/6 to R.A.D. H.F.)
W/T activity between 0400Z and 0500Z indicates
U-boats in vicinity of R.A.53.
(Admty. 0632A/6 to A.I.G.47)
Your 1901/5 arrived in Skaalefiord (GLASGOW, FORESTER).
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 0940A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
Faeroes departure FORESTER to Southward.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1230A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
Faeroes departure GLASGOW to southwards.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1340A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
Present weather conditions preclude fuelling destroyers
at sea. Captain D.8 with IMPULSIVE, ECLIPSE, OPPORTUNE are
therefore being sent on to Seidisfjord at 1900A today.
2. Request local escort be sailed as soon as possible to join
R.A.53. Present estimated position course and speed 071° 26' N.
003° 00' E. 236° 4 knots.
3. If bad weather continues intend sending INTREPID, OBEDIENT,
BOADICEA tomorrow.
4. Weather 76729358.
(SCYLLA, 1603A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
Force R. E.T.A. Seidisfjord 0800A/7.
(F.O. 10th C.S., 1800A/6 to A.C.I.C.)
My 1800A/6. Unless orders to the contrary are received
intend to send NORFOLK to Scapa independently on completion of
oiling.
(F.O. 10th C.S., 1801A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
Scapa arrivals. C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V, HOWE,
ICARUS, ONSLAUGHT, OFFA, MUSKETEER, O.R.P. PIORUN.
(A.C.O.S., 1809/6 to Admty. C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.I.C.)
Local escort comply with SCYLLA's 1603.
(C. in C. H.F., 1854A/6 to VIVACIOUS, PYTCHLEY).
D/F bearings at 1733Z/6 indicate U-boat may be in your
vicinity.
(Admty. 2030A/6 to Escorts R.A.53 etc).
- D.S.38 LETITIA due Tail of the Bank about 12 March is
required to be ready to sail again as convoy
D.S.38 on 16 March.
2. She will embark approximately 1400 personnel
at the Tail of the Bank on 15 March and 16 March.
3. LEINSTER on completion of present voyage will be taken in
hand for repairs.
(D.S.T., 0110A/6 to P.S.T.O. Scottish Ports).
- X.K.2 Request tug to assist CHATEAUROUX which has
CHATEAUROUX. 12 feet of water in number one hold. LOCH
etc. OSKAIG and ANCHUSA have 106 survivors from
GER-Y-BRYN, TREFUSIS, EMPIRE TOWER, and FIDRA.
Ship first reported as damaged did not sink
but was left badly on fire and may still be
afloat. P.C. and S. of convoy 045° 40' N., 016° 08' W., 050°
6. Stragglers SCHIAFFINO, MERS-EL-KEBIR, SAINTE MAXIME.
5571 3024.
(COREOPSIS, 1109A/6 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

/Your...

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- X.K.2
CHATEAUROUX
etc. (contd). Your 1109/6. Inform Commodore N.P. alter course forthwith to (D).
(C. in C. W.A., 1417A/6 to COREOPSIS).
COREOPSIS's 1109/6. Request you will sail rescue tug with escorting trawler to assistance of CHATEAUROUX.
(Admty. 1525A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S. J.171,
S.C.121. Request you will consider sailing escort designated for O.N.S.J. 171 direct to reinforce escort of S.C.121 which is threatened. In this case ROCKINGHAM and WATCHMAN would be available as escort for O.N.S. J, 171.
(C. in C. W.A., 1241Z/6 to C.T.G.24.6. (R)
Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7. Ships escorting O.N.S.171, Ships escorting S.C.121, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., C.T.G.24.7 H.M.S. WATCHMAN, ROCKINGHAM)
- S.C.121 Your 1214Z/6 INGHAM and BIBB will be sailing at midnight to augment escort of S.C.121. WATCHMAN and ROCKINGHAM not due until Sunday afternoon and will be sailed after fuelling to overtake O.N.S.J.171 departing 1200Z/7 with BABBITT as escort. (C.T.G.21.6., 1740Z/6 to C. in C. W.A., (R) C.T.U. 24.1.15, C.T.U. 24.1.3., WATCHMAN, ROCKINGHAM, C.T.F. 24., Connav, Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7 H.Q.C.C.)
- K.M.F.11 Convoy K.M.F.11 will leave U.K. in company with W.S.28 on 15th March and will part company as directed.
2. Ships for Algiers. SS. ORMONDE, NEA HELLAS, BANFORA, ORION, WINDSOR CASTLE, CUBA, J.V. OLDENBARNVELT, RANGITATA.
3. ULSTER MONARCH will sail from Clyde with convoy to Gibraltar then to Suez in accordance with A.M.1511/21 Feb.
4. Speed of slowest ship BANFORA 14½ knots.
6. Escort will be provided by:-
(a) 2nd Group consisting of CYGNET, WREN, WOODPECKER.
(b) Temporarily attached to 2nd Group DOUGLAS, GOATHLAND, KRAKOWIAK.
(c) Joining C. in C. Med., EGGESFORD, WHADDON, BADSWORTH.
7. The duties of S.O. of escort will be carried out by S.O. of 2nd group in CYGNET.
8. Various arrangements to put above into effect.
13. Fighter protection codeword "Conifer".
(D.O.D. (H), 1342A/6).

/W.S...

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

- W.S.28 Convoy W.S.28 will leave U.K. on 15th March in company with K.M.F.11 parting company as directed to proceed to Freetown and South Africa.
2. Composition of convoy KEREN, BULOLO, LARGS, SS. REINA DEL PACIFICO, SOBIESKI, STRATHNAVIR, TEGELBERG, WINCHESTER CASTLE, PERTHSHIRE, EMPIRE MIGHT. SS. BRITANNIC, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, ORONTES, OTRANTO, WAIPAWA.
4. Speed of slowest ship H.M.S. LARGS 14 knots.
5. Admiralty will promulgate route.
6. A/S escort from U.K. to convoy splitting points will be provided by:-
- (a) 2nd group consisting of CYGNET, WREN, WOODPECKER.
- (b) Temporarily attached to 2nd group GOATHLAND, KRAKOWIAK, DOUGLAS.
- (c) Joining C. in C. Med's command EGGESFORD, WHADDON, BADSWORTH.
7. Duties of S.O. of escort from U.K. to convoy splitting point will be undertaken by S.O. of 2nd group in CYGNET.
8. On convoys parting company the escort listed in para. 6 will proceed with K.M.F.11. From convoy split to Freetown escort for W.S.28 will be supplied by:-
- (a) QUADRANT, REDOUBT, joining from Gibraltar.
- (b) WOLVERINE joining from Casablanca.
- (c) MALCOLM, WITCH joining from Casablanca.
9. S.O. of escort from convoy split to Freetown will be MALCOLM.
10. Ocean escort of W.S.28 from Freetown will be KENYA.
- 11 - 14. Various arrangements to put above into effect.
15. Fighter protection codeword "Cocoanut".
16. Combined convoy will use fighter protection codeword "Conifer" until K.M.F.11 parts company.
- (D.O.D. (H), 1429A/6).
- CRAGPOOL O.N.S.169. CRAGPOOL arrived endeavouring to put into O.N.S.J.171.
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 1411A/6 to A.I.G.191 etc).
- Convoy W.N.1 Estimated positions 1802/6.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1501A/6 to General Rosyth Command etc).
- P.W. and W.P. convoy Routes. D.C.I.28. Cancel para. 4 (A) and (B) and substitute
- (A) P.W. convoys are to be sailed from Portsmouth to arrive D.1 buoy at 0600 the following day. Ships from Falmouth are to be sailed so as to R/V with Portsmouth section as it passes D.1 buoy.
- (B) W.P. convoys are to be sailed to arrive Needles at 1900.
2. D.C.I.33 route A. P.W. convoys are to proceed from position (C) 180° Start Pt. 4 miles through positions (DD) 032° Eddystone 6 miles (EE) F6 buoy - to position (E) D.1 buoy in Q. Z. S.347 route B.

/W.P...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys

P.W. and W.P. convoy Routes. W.P. convoys are to proceed from position (O) D.1 buoy in Q.Z.S. 347 through position (PP) F.6 buoy (QQ) 049° Eddystone 3.6 miles to position (Q) 180° Start Point 4 miles.
3. Navigation lights may be burnt by P.W. and P.W.F. convoys to effect R/V at D.1 buoy and by W.P.M. and W.P.B. convoys to effect their R/V.
4. W.P. convoys. Ships for Falmouth, Fowey, Plymouth and Dartmouth are to be detached as necessary.
5. P.W. convoys. Ships from Dartmouth, Plymouth and Fowey will be sailed to Falmouth the same day as A.P.W. sails from Portsmouth.
6. The above alteration will come into force with P.W.305 and W.P. 305.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1811A/6).

North Atlantic and North Russia Convoys. A.M. 1332A/19. The following trawlers will be ready for sea in all respects having completed short work up by a.m./15th. CAPE MARIATO, CAPE ARGONA, AYRSHIRE, LORD MIDDLETON, PAYNTER.
Completion of ST. KENAN delayed due to non delivery of dynamo. Anticipate ST. KENAN will be ready to sail a.m./15th. but without a work up. Request instructions.
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 1848A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.S.44 Sailed COWSLIP as extra escort.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2014A/6 to Admty. C. in C. W.A., etc).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B. Following has been read: Am over enemy S/M in 35° 33' N. 8° 58' W.
(A/C HG7/W via Gibraltar W/T, 0355/6.)
Enemy S/M previously reported was on the surface.
When first sighted was on a course of 090°, speed 8 knots.
(A/C HG7/W, 0410/6.)

Convoy BRANDON in R.D/F contact with U-Boat 12 miles
K.M.F.10B, 040° from convoy at 0500. P.C. and S. 038°
U/B. 07' N. 017° 10' W. 160°, 14 knots. Weather
report.
(CHURCHILL, 0520A/6 to Admty., F.O.I.C. Gib.,
C. in C. Med.)

C.G. 15. Following a re-encypherment of my 0517/25 (?0517/
5) begins. My 03/1331, C.G.15 sailed.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to Aluslo Gibraltar.
(C.M.S.F., 0805/6 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
Admty., Aluslo Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Com.
N.O.B. Oran.)

Dispositions. (1) 2002A/6th.
TRIDENT enters area in 43.01 12.54 at 1400A/7th
thence 160° diving by day (? 6½) surfacing by
night 8½.
(3) URSULA 42.15 12.03 to 43.01 12.26 at 0330/7th thence
northbound diving by day surfacing by night 6½.
(4) K.M.F.10B, CHURCHILL (E) 036° 14' 013° 52' through 035° 01'
12° 01' and 35° 01' 10° 01' to Q.K.A.87, 14.
(5) Hospital ship ATLANTIS 029° 18' 019° 22' through 033° 01'
019° 01' thence 011°, 13½.
(6) S.R.2, SPEEDWELL 032° 57' 009° 56' through 033° 12' 009°
34' and 034° 06' 008° 02' thence 034°, 7½.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1023A/6 as amended 1532A/6.)

Situation report for Area 'XA' of Western Mediterranean.
Situation 1959A/6th.
REGENT 037° 11' 009° 30' to 36.51 09.13 at 2215/6th, 36.37
07.24 at 0700/7th approximately 36.21 07.01 at 2000/7th and
35.53 06.15 at 0700/8th diving by day 2½ surface by night 10.
(2) ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM, LADY DENISON PENDER 35.30 08.32
through Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar 9.
(3) S.R.2, SPEEDWELL 32.57 09.56 through 33.12 09.34 and 34.06
08.02 thence 034°, 7½.
(4) U.G.S.5A (Mediterranean section) WISHART 35.23 06.50 through
35.47 06.30 and Q.K.A.87, 9½.
(5) LA GRANDIERE French submarine ANTIOPE, F.S. LA VESTALE
29.45 10.18 northbound coastwise 9½.
(7) PENTSTEMON, VETCH, 3 merchant ships 36.59 08.41 coastwise
to Guadalquivir thence through (?35).(756) 06.20 and Q.K.A.87
to Gibraltar 8.
(8) ARCTIC RANGER, 1 merchant ship 37.05 06.58 coastwise to
Tagus, 8.

/ (9) ...

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Dispositions. (9) K.M.S.10, ST. CROIX (E) 36.10 10.05 through (Contd.) 36.05 09.59 and Q.K.A.87 thence eastbound 8.

(10) KENOGAMI, 2 merchant ships 37.01 09.16 to Cape St. Vincent thence coastwise to Lisbon 9½. KENOGAMI then return direct to Gibraltar.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1149A/6 as amended 1824A/6.)

My 1149A/6th. Add new para.

(1) ILEX stays on patrol vicinity 36.01 07.01 proceeding approx. 0330/7th through 35.01 10.01 thence 270° to R/V with K.M.F.10B at 1030A/7th 25 knots.

(12) ESKIMO sails 0730/7th through Q.K.A.87 and 35.50 06.39 thence 253° 25 knots to R/C K.M.F.10B, 25 knots.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1912A/6.)

URSULA,
U/Bs.

4 or 5 U-Boats may be crossing your course between 42 and 45° north.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1216A/6 to URSULA.)

UNSHAKEN.

My 2301/5. Amend route to clear M.K.F.10A as follows. After passing position P, UNSHAKEN (P.54) is to proceed to position 36.37 N. 4° W. and thence to position Q, the remainder of the

route is unaltered except that UNSHAKEN may be up to one hour late in passing through position Q.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1329/6 to S.8, (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, S.10, UNSHAKEN (P.54), F.O. H., Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, TRIBUNE.)

P.54 (UNSHAKEN) sails for Algiers at 1600/7th routed 180° Cape Calaburras 15 at 2125/7th, 036° 37' N. 004° W. at 0230/7th, 180° Cape de Gata 15 at 0013/9th, 135 Cape Palos 15 at 2143/9th thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 8. Time Zone minus 1.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1411/6 to UNA, (R) Capt. (S) 8, P.54 (UNSHAKEN), TRIBUNE.)

KENOGAMI,
M/Vs.

KENOGAMI and 2 merchant ships leave 36.57 N. 10.37 W. at 1300/6th (Zone minus 1) bound Cape St. Vincent and Lisbon 9 returning to Gibraltar after reaching Cape St. Vincent.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1337/6 to REGENT.)

Movements,
Casablanca.

Arrived G.C.3 SCHIAFFINO FRERES, SIDI BRAHIM, MARIE LOUISE LE BORGNE, DUGUAY, TROUIN, JOSEPHINE LE BORGNE, MEDIE.

(2) GALLIUM, Escorts LA SETOISE, French M/S ENGAGEANTE, French Sloop DUMONT DURVILLE.

(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1340Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

/SPEEDWELL ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

SPEEDWELL,
S.R. 2. Request you will send escort one merchant ship and 2 troop transports being detached in position V 034° 06' N. 008° 02' W. for Casablanca. E.T.A. reach V 1000 tomorrow Sunday. Weather. (SPEEDWELL, 1415A/6 to N.O.I.C. Casablanca.)

K.M.S.10
attacked Convoy attacked, one ship torpedoed. Position 36.
by U/B. 30 N. 10.17 W.
FORT BATTLE My 1430Z/6th. (ST. CROIX, 1430Z/6 to F.O. Gibraltar.)
RIVER and FORT BATTLE RIVER torpedoed
PASKOYAC sinking. (? FORT) PASKOYAC torpedoed and
torpedoed. afloat but cannot move engines. Request tugs
be sent immediately. SHEDIAC standing by.
(ST. CROIX, 1529Z/6 to F.O. Gibraltar.)
FORT BATTLE RIVER very low by stern but may
possibly be seaworthy. PASKOYAC in very good
shape. cannot start engine.

(ST. CROIX, 1640Z/6 to F.O. Gibraltar.)
My 2001/6th (N.T. in W.D.) Proceed at full speed to
assistance of FORT BATTLE RIVER and FORT PASKOYAC torpedoed
in 036° 30' 010° 17' at 1530/6th.
(2) BADDECK pass para. 1 and 9 of my 1149/6th to SALVONIA.
(3) NIMBLE escorted by REGINA will be sailed to overtake.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2031A/6 to BADDECK, SALVONIA, (R) Admty.,
Escorts Convoy K.M.S.10, C. in C. Med., (W), Escorts
Convoy K.M.F.10B, ASHANTI, ILEX, REGINA, NIMBLE.)

TRIBUNE. Intend sailing TRIBUNE p.m March 8th for Algiers.
2. TRIBUNE pass through: P. 180° Cape Calaburras
15 at 2100/8th. Q. 180 Cape de Gata 15 at
1824/9th. R. 135 Cape Palos 15 at 0612/10th
shifting W/T watch at 1453/10th thence as ordered by Capt.
(S) 8th.
3. Communications.
4. S. of A. 9½ knots (144 miles per day).
5. 17 Mark VIII torpedoes in ready condition. Ready for patrol,
100 per cent fuel.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1509A/6 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med., V.A.
Malta, Capt. (S) 10, TRIBUNE, UNA, ?C.O.I.S. Malta, S.O. Force H,
N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran.)

UNA,
Spanish Spanish submarines are exercising in vicinity of
S/MS. Cartagena March 9th to 11th as follows:
(1) GENERAL MOLA, trials by day off Cape Tinos.
(2) C.4 in Masarron Area torpedoing.
See Mediterranean Pilot Vol. 1 page 35.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1544/6 to UNA, (R) Capt. (S) 8,
TRIBUNE, UNSHAKEN (P.54).)

L.S.T. and Your 2125/3. Request estimated P.C. and S. and
L.C.I.(L) route.
Convoy. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1745A/6 to S.B.N.O.W.At., (R)
Admty.)

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- ALMAACK
(torpedoed
15th Nov.
1942.) Your 2002/30th Nov. 1942 to V.A.C.N.A.
U.S.S. ALMAACK docked 3rd March in No.1 Dock
for temporary repairs to torpedo damage, port
side in engine and boiler room. (Details of
damage).
(C.S. Gibraltar, 1814A/6 to Admty., (R) C. in C.
Med., etc.)
- K.M.F.10B. A.C.I. article 28. After passing (A) K.M.F.10B,
8, CHURCHILL, RESTIGOUCHE, BRANDON, AMHERST,
COLLINGWOOD, CELANDINE, 14 knots 1030/6th 090°
35.01 10.16. (V) 35.01 10.01. (Q) 35.50 06.39
through Q.K.A.87, adjust speed to arrive position 37 where
ASHANTI, ILEX are to part company and enter Gibraltar.
(ii) Convoy codeword "Manicure".
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1955A/6 to ASHANTI, ILEX, (R) Admty., S.O.
Force H, Capt. (D) 6, C. in C. Med.)
- U.G.S.5A. Casablanca section U.G.S.5A escorted by Taskfor
37 arrived 1830A/6th March, designation of ships
will follow (see 1232/7).
(S.N.O.C.A., 2022Z/6 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C.
Gibraltar, N.O.B. Oran, Cominch, Admty., C.E.S.F.,
N.S.H.Q.)
- K.M.S.10. Your 1149A/6th. KENOGAMI has orders to rejoin
convoy from Cape St. Vincent.
(ST. CROIX, 2125A/6 to V.A. Gibraltar.)
- Cadiz. Proposed French repatriations cancelled.
(N.A. Madrid, 2142/6 to C. in C. Med.)
See Mediterranean.
- Movements,
Gibraltar. Arrivals 1035 ESKIMO from A/S sweep west. 1115
CIRCE CADMUS, ESPIEGLE from M/S sweep. 1234
LADY HOGARTH escort duties Lisbon/Gibraltar.
Departures 0723 HOLCOMBE, CALPE to R/V K.M.S.10,
0725 ILEX to join ASHANTI on A/S sweep.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 2155A/6 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
- MADOERA
(torpedoed
24th Feb.) 61 survivors from SS. MADOERA are reported adrift
in 3 lifeboats and 2 rafts. Ship torpedoed on
24th Feb. in 46° 02' N. 39° 20' W. Probably
attempting to reach Azores. No British ships
in vicinity.
(D.O.D.(F), 2335A/6 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
British Consul Ponta Delgada, N.A. Lisbon,
Cominch, F.O.N.F.)

War Diary.

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- DESPATCH. My position 005° 43' N. 017° 52' W. 18.5 knots. E.T.A. 1800Z/6th March. Weather report. (DESPATCH 0100Z/6, to F.O.C.W.A.)
- M.L. 251, Rammed by BURDOCK. In position 009° 01' N. 014° 28' W. sighted suspicious vessel. Switched on navigation lights. R.D.F. contact obtained. Headed same and rammed M.L. 251. No lives lost. Diplomatic mail salvaged, wreckage still afloat. Rejoining convoy. (BURDOCK 0131Z/6 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Capt. D., THYME.)
- ARETHUSA. C. in C. S.A., 0139/6. See 1447/7.
- M.C. 5. Arrived ROTHERHAM with M.C.5. (N.O.I .C. Durban, 0621Z/6 to Admty. C. in C. S. A. , C. in C. E.F., F.O.I.C. East Africa.)
- THYME. Arrival 0708/4th March THYME from escort duty. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0917Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Lagos.)
- Convoy. Sailing telegram.
D.N.22. (2) 0800Z/6th. (4) 8 knots. (5) (b) 028° 34' S. 032° 32' E. (c) 032° 00' 038° 00' (6) JASMINE, FREESIA, SPHENE, NORWICH CITY. (N.C.S.O., Durban, 0934Z/6 to Admty., etc.)
- Trawlers. A.M. 1946/13/2 (N.T. in W.D.) Concur 2. It is intended to employ these trawlers for
(A) Moored contact minesweeping.
(B) Examination steamer. (C) Patrols of creeks etc. possibly used by U/Bs. 3. As 4 trawlers would not be fully employed if only used for these duties, it is intended, subject to the concurrence of Belgium Authorities, that while all will be based on the Congo, 2 will normally be detached for training and similar duties at other ports, being relieved periodically by those operating in the Congo.
4. It is hoped that later it will be possible to fit these trawlers with L L sweeps so as to provide an efficient reinforcement to the meagre M/S facilities in West Africa. (F.O.C.W.A. 0959Z/6 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A. B.N.L.O. West Africa.)
- QUADRANT. QUADRANT has damaged asdic dome. Intend docking Dakar 8th March for replacement, sailing thence to join escort of MALAYA to Gib. (F.O.C. W.A. 1030Z/6 to Admty., (R) MALAYA, N.O. I.C. Bathurst, Comar, Dakar.)

/ARETHUSA ...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.

ARETHUSA, Request destination in U.K. of ARETHUSA and QUEEN
QUEEN OF OF BERMUDA.
BERMUDA. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1107Z/6 to Admty.)

Dispositions. Situation at 2003Z/6th. Fleet Unit WOLVERINE, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER with W.S. 27, 013° 53' 018° 02' to 012° 01' 18°. 03' thence 146° 13. QUAIL off Dakar to join W.S. 27. RAIDER leaves W.S. 27, for Nigeria when QUAIL rejoins BRIDGEWATER, CROCUS, FANDANGO. INKPEN, DUNCTON with R.S. 2 013° 01' 019° 04' 152° 9½. HYDRANGEA about 013° 42' 017° 33' to Bathurst 12. 2 M.L.s about 016° 50' 017° 15' to S.10. French Sloop Minesweeper Cdt. BORY 3 M.Ls. escorting 013° 18' 017° 12' to Dakar 6. BURDOCK, THYME, escorting 011° 06' 017° 13' (096°? 199°?) 11 M.L. 287 M.L. 296 escorting 009° 09' 014° (30'?) to Freetown 7½. French Sloop Minesweeper GAZELLE leave Dakar 1930 for Cas- amance through 014° 06' 017° 03' and 012° 41' 017° 03' 12.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1121Z/6)

Situation at 2004Z/6th. SUSSEX 006° 38' 015° 35' to pat- rol about position 003° N. 019° W. 20. GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about position 05.30 21.30 19. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about position equator 017° W. 15½. 8 Allied Naval unit on patrol in Ascension St. Paul's Rocks area COMMANDANT DROGOU about 006° 56' 012° 32' to Freetown 9. CONSBRO 1 M.L. about 007° 02' 013° 05' to Freetown 6. CORINTHIAN, SARABANDE 2 M.Ls. with T.S. 32, 003° 58' 004° 42' 262° 7½. PICT about 005° 22' 001° 00' E. to Lagos 7.
(R.A.W.A., 1220Z/6.)

Weekly state S.A. Station 6th March 1943. Capetown to Freetown, CILICIA, Capetown to Pointe Noire, ARETHUSA, Capetown to Walvis Bay, ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY, STELLA POLARIS. Capetown to Durban, CARTHAGE, QUALITY. Walvis Bay to Capetown DRANGEY. Durban Area, RELENTLESS, QUIBERON, NIGELLA, JASMINE, LE TIGER, ST. LOMAN, NORWICH CITY, SPHENE, SONDRRA, PRUDENT, HILDA. ?Walvis Bay NORTHERN ISLES. ? Saldanha Bay FERNMOOR, MANCHESTER CITY, SPINDRIFT. Capetown, NORTHERN DUKE, NORTHERN DAWN, WELLARD, ARTIC EXPLORER, LADY ELSA, CHALLENGER, FRITILLARY, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, WAYLAND, M.L. 830. Simonstown CHITRAL, NORMAN, HERO, GENISTA, LADY ROSE- MARY, HERTFORDSHIRE, CAPE WARWICK, ST. ZENO, P. 552, P. 614, M.Ls. 380, 381, 382, 383, 329, and 1150. Port Elizabeth Armament Store Issuing Ships KHETI and BIND, CECILE MAPLESON. East London, SARKA, SATSA, STORMWRACK, NORTH- ERN CHIEF. Durban EREBUS, ALBATROSS, NAPIER, MEAD, INTEGRITY, RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH, (?BLACK) MOOR, CATTERICK, ETHIOPIAN, IND- IAN STAR, VIVIANA, FREESIA, CANTON, ROTHERHAM.
(C. in C. S.A. 1402C/6.)

Movements. Departure 5th, S/M Chaser GURUPY.
(S.O. Bahia, 1155Z/6 to Admty.)

/Arrival ...

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements. Arrival 6th Y.M.S. 60 and 76.
(Contd.) (R.O. Para, 1158/6 to Admty.)
Rio de Janeiro departure 6th U.S.S. HUMBOLDT.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1828Z/6 to Admty.)

BURDOCK, Departures 1707/5/3. BURDOCK and THYME
THYME, escorting F.S. HOGGAR to Dakar.
HOGGAR. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1208Z/6 to Admty., Comar
Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

VOLENDAM. J.11, VOLENDAM, sailed 6th March, E.T.A. Freetown
26th March. Personnel embarked.
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 1237C/6 to D.S.T.O.W.A.)

AFFONSO Survivors from Brazil Ship AFFONSO PENNA are
PENNA being landed in Rio de Janeiro.
(Torpedoed Ship was torpedoed near Abrolhos Rock and first
2nd March) report indicates there were 2 Italian S/Ms.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1425Z/6 to Admty., (R)
C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af., N.S.H.Q.)
W.D. Note: See also Cominch 2100/6, America
and West Indies.
Survivors ex AFFONSO PENNA, Brazilian, landed today by TENNESSEE,
U.S. Master reports his ship struck by torpedo at 2200Z on 2nd
March in 016° 14' S. 036° 03' W. 5 minutes after torpedo 2
rounds were fired destroying W/T aerials and bridge and ship was
abandoned. U/B later approached boats and is estimated by Master
to be about 700 tons and although no Italian was heard Master is
convinced that U/B was of this nationality and this is borne out
by other survivors. U/B subsequently disappeared on surface,
no prisoners being taken. One lifeboat containing 8 survivors
landed at Porto Seguro today and present estimate is that 31
crew and 84 passengers missing.
(B.R.L.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1551Z/6 to Admty., (R) B.N.S.O.
Rio de Janeiro.)
My 1425Z/6. Master reports only one S/M sighted about
700 tons, probably Italian.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1806Z/6.)

Brazilian My 1245Z/14th Feb. (Decree placing Brazilian
Merchant Marine under jurisdiction of Ministry
Ships. of Marine). Amplifying instructions for control
of merchant shipping have now been issued.
Please see Mast. 110 and 118 from Rio de Janeiro.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1434Z/6 to Admty.)

D.N. 21. Request you will signal details of attack on
Convoy D.N. 21.
(D.T.D., 1446A/6 to C. in C. S.A.)
Reply: 1759/8.

/Chilean ...

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Chilean Examination Service. / My 2030/14th and 1523Z/27th Feb. (Examination Service for ships.) Orders cancelled by Chilean Govt. and Vessel returned to Punta Arenas 4th March.
(B.R.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1455Z/6 to C. in C. S. A., (R) Admty.)

NIGELLA, PRUDENT, QUIBERON, (attack on D.N.21) PRUDENT now towing, course 35° speed to counteract set and drift.
(NIGELLA, 1711Z/6 to Force "Q" (R) N.O.I.C. Durban.)
Not met in position given in NIGELLA's 1409Z/6th (No trace in War Reg.) As I have no further special information for CATTERICK and in view of your 1454C/6th am returning to Durban without further search RELENTLESS in company.
(QUIBERON 1740Z/6 to Cdre. I/C Durban (R) CATTERICK)

R.S.2 (1) Convoy R.S.2 is to split at position (S) 009° 19' N., 017° 02' W.
(2) From position (S) BRIDGEWATER and INKPEN are to escort EMPIRE GIANTESY (?GERAINT) tug MASTERFUL and STANHILL to Freetown.
(3) From position (S) CROCUS, FANDANGO and DUNCTON are to escort EMPIRE NAIRN, NORTON EMPIRE STRAIT, EMPIRE SEDGE and SOUND FISHER to dispersal 6th (?T) 005° 020° N. 012° 25' W.
(4) Independent routes from position (T) to Takoradi. EMPIRE NAIRN (Z) 003° 38' N., 008° 42' W. (A) 003° 32' N., 001° 58' W. 10 knots. NORTON (B) 003° 00' N., 008° 44' W. (C) 003° 36' N. 002° 35' W. 10 knots. EMPIRE STRAIT (D) 002° 25' N., 008° 55' W. (E) 003° 14' N., 002° 17' W. 10 knots. EMPIRE SEDGE (F) 003° 52' N. 007° 54' W. (G) 004° 30' N., 001° 38' W. 9½ knots. SOUND FISHER (H) 003° 16' N., 008° 45' W. (K) 003° 21' N., 001° 42' W. 9½ knots.
(5) CROCUS is to report time and position of dispersal to F.O.C.W.Af. repeated N.C.I.C. Takoradi, Admiralty, when well clear. Escorts are then to return Freetown independently at best speed.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1756Z/6 to BRIDGEWATER, (R) F.O. Gibraltar, CROCUS, Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos).

SUSSEX Departure 1059/6th March. SUSSEX on patrol.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1801Z/6 to Admty. Comsolantfor)

Signalling Congestion. / The security of Naval Codes and cyphers is endangered by the present overloading. Every effort is to be made (A) to reduce code and cypher traffic and (B) to ensure that the rules laid down in S.P. 02201 and S.P. 02472 are well known are complied with.
(2) Following are some of the ways in which to reduce traffic and increase security.
(C. in C. S.A., 1809C/6 to S.A. Stn).

/CARNARVON...

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

CARNARVON CASTLE. Carry out new patrol in area between the following points (A) equator 17 W. (B) 01 N. 18 W. (C) 03 N. 22 W. (D) equator 21 W. (F.O.C.W.A., 1813Z/6 to CARNARVON CASTLE (R) SUSSEX Admty. Comsolantfor).

QUADRANT Your 1030/6 (N.T. in W.R.) QUADRANT will require 7 days boiler cleaning on arrival at Gibraltar. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1855Z/6 to F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty).

M.Ls. fuelling, Lourenco Marques. Request you take action on C. in C. S.A.'s 1153/5. 2. It is assumed that the usual rule that no more than three vessels may be in port at the same time applies, but that fuelling by rotation will be permitted. (Head of M.I. 1932A/6 to N.A. Lisbon).

M.L.277 My position 2000 090° 01' 014° 28'. Commenced to search. (M.L. 277 (?) 2000Z/6 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Capt. (D) 18, C.O. Coastal Force).

Air R/C 1. Following aircraft R/C will be carried out during daylight until further directions
(a) Between positions (x) 03.29 N. 19.47 W. and (z) 01.15 N., 21.48 W. datum (p) (?02).(??00) N. 21.00 W.
(b) Between positions (s) 08.05 N. 21.22 W. and (t) 05.40 N. (?23).40 W. datum Gibraltar 07.00 N. 22.00 W.
2. Sighting report will be transmitted by aircraft in R.A.F. Syko on 8885 k/cs, reference datum point.
3. Call signs aircraft on patrol A on 7th March. DW YT
Call signs for subsequent days will be signalled to ships address.
4. Call signs aircraft on patrol B, DWXX odd dates DWXY 8516 5209.
(F.O.W.A., 2031Z/6 to SUSSEX, CARNARVON CASTLE, (R) Admty. (?N.O.I.C. Bathurst) Comsolant, A.O.C. W. Africa).

HYDRANGEA E.T.A. oiler 0900Z/7th.
(HYDRANGEA 2105Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) F.O.I.C. W.A.)

COMMANDANT DETROYAT. Your 2127/4th March. It is intended that C. DETROYAT returns with O.S.45 due depart U.K. 15th April.
(D.O.D. (F), 2230A/6 to F.O.C.W.A.)

/COMMANDANT...

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

COMMANDANT
DROGOU.

E.T.A. 0730Z/7th.
(COMMANDANT DROGOU, 2304Z/6 to F.O.C.W.Af.
(R) Capt. (D) Freetown).

Convoy
S.T.58.

Sailing telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2345Z/6 to Admty. amended
1254Z/7).

U/B

Following has been read. S/M contact 00.04 N.
44.46 W. at 0200 G.C.T./06. Portions missed.
(Cominch No T.O.O. Recd. 0030/7).

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

P.R.U. P.R.U. 5th March. Photographs. My 1550/5th. 3rd cruiser identified as "E" Class departed Naples since 1540/3rd. (V.A. Malta, 0047A/6 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

K.M.F.10B. Convoy K.M.F.10B sailed from U.K. 1st March comprising following troopships: DURBAN CASTLE, STAFFORDSHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, DUCHESS OF YORK, SAMARIA, EMPIRE PRIDE, MORETON BAY, TAMAROA. Personnel on board. Destinations of personnel, etc. 3. MORETON BAY and TAMAROA after disembarkation etc. should proceed to Casablanca to join convoy G.U.F.6 for New York. A.M. 2012/18/2 refers. Remaining vessels should return direct to U.K. (D.S.T., 0106A/6 to P.S.T.O.X.F.)

SIRIUS. Fighters delayed by weather. (F.O.I.S., 0703A/6 to SIRIUS.)

S/Ms. Your 0248/6 acknowledged (N.T. in W.D.) A convoy is arriving Malta about noon. P.212 (SAHIB) will be exercising in sanctuary. P.46 (UNRUFFLED) sails for patrol 1500. 2. You are to remain on surface after entering sanctuary. (Capt. (S) 10, 0716A/6 to P.37 (UNBENDING).)

ISLAY. 5th March arrival. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 0820B/6 to Admty.)

Tripoli Discharges. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Discharge figure 5th March. Tripoli - 3995 tons. Benghazi - 1016 tons. All fresh convoy safely in to Tripoli this morning. (Mideast, 0820Z/6.)

T.E.17. Arrived 1900/5th. (F.O.I.S., 0909A/6 to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 5th March HYACINTH, HURWORTH, HURSLEY, PRIMULA, SAKTOURIS G.S., G.D. SPETSAI, PROTEA, ST. MONANCE, WOLBOROUGH, PETARD, ANTWERP, M.L. 1007, Tug FAVOURITE (U.S.N.) (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0912B/6 to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

MAX BERENDT. My 1206/3/1 (N.T. in W.D.) MAX BERENDT salvage completed and arrived Alex. for repairs. (Supt. Salvage Alex., 0927B/6 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

/Bi-Weekly ...

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Bi-Weekly Opsum No. 105, Part III. Night 4th/5th. 6 Liberators despatched to attack shipping in Naples harbour. 5 aircraft dropped 30 x 1000 lb. H.E. between 0114Z and 0207Z hours, all bombs bursting in or near harbour. 2 small fires started. 1 Liberator missing. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1042Z/6.)

ALBA JULIA. My 0946C/4. ALBA JULIA at Piraeus now expected Istanbul between March 15th and March 20th. B.3. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1051C/6 to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

TROOPER. Try and be in position 183° focal point A 80 miles by 1400 today. Freedom 241° 21 miles. (Capt. (S) 8, 1134A/6 to TROOPER.) My 1134 proceed to your patrol area after dark tonight. (Capt. (S) 8, 1202A/6 to TROOPER.)

TIGRIS. Onward route from 038° 50' 011° 34' at 0900/7th through 038° 10' 004° 28' at 2200/9th thence on surface at your discretion R/V escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 18' at 0700/10th. (Capt. (S) 8, 1204A/6 to TIGRIS, (R) 8th S.F., C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers.)

GRADISCA, safe conduct. Your 1643/3 March. Request confirmation that all Air Authorities concerned have been informed. (D.O.D.(F), 1206A/6 to C. in C. Levant, (R) B.N.A. Ankara.)

REGENT. In view of REGENT's unsuitability for the Western Mediterranean intend to send her to Levant. (C. in C. Med., 1210A/6 to C. in C. Levant, (R) F.O.(S), Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.1, S.10, S.8.)

German Morale. From Adm. Kelly. Report from Turkish official returned from Berlin, etc. (N.A. Angora, 1231C/6 to Admty.) See Lion and Tiger copies.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 1 medium vessel, 3 small vessels and 4 escort vessels 39.22 N. 13.54 E., 190°, 10. (A/C ANX/S, 1240A/6 to Air H.Q. Malta.) W.D. Note: Another version gives 39.22 N. 14.54 E.

/M.T.Bs ...

219A
Med
Lisr.

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 (2310/6th March).

MOST SECRET **H E S S A G E** **IN**
(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

From N.A. Angora

Date. 7.3.43

Recd. 0532.

German
Morale

I.D.C. by cable. (O.T.P. 3114).

CORRECTION

Addressed Admiralty repeated O. in C. Levant, H.M. Ambassador Angora).

Following from Admiral Kelly, *last before (around 1235C/E)*
Following from Turkish Official, just returned from Vienna Berlin Lisbon Madrid Berlin Ankara (?perceived) no German hopes to win war. Optimists hope British will be first to arrive at Berlin to save from Russians. Suroptimists think Britain will join the Germans against Russians. Astonished at absence of hatred of England and by refusal of Germans to take Americans seriously. Arrived in Berlin just after raid that of March 1st, everybody much shaken. Berlin all gloom, never a smile, only conversation war and food, latter quite sufficient, better than previous years. No alcohol of any sort available except on black market, a little non alcoholic beer and watered wine in best hotels. No tobacco three cigarettes daily allowed not available. Tobacco in Greece and Turkey but no transport available except for purely war purposes. Plenty of war material available more than can be used and quantities being sent to Turkey. Hope stage offensive this spring but what is use of sufferings and depredations which lead nowhere. Universal state of war had started, everything closing down but nothing to be bought in shops before that; no clothes, no anything, except black market which offers best prices for American dollars and English pounds. Dollar value 25 marks, pound about 100 marks, gold sovereign 400 marks. Women with less than five children to work wherever ordered. No choice.

(2) Military Attache stated General Staff's hair greying on decision to hold Stalingrad and says more military mistakes than in all German history. Greatest loss was in technical troops tank and W/T experts and other irreplaceables. Paulus, made Field Marshal to die fighting great disgust when surrendered next day. Upper class at any rate know of horrors perpetrated in Poland and Yugoslavia and are frightened of reprisals from which English expected to protect them. Turkey expected to enter against them, (group omitted). Leading Austrian asked why Turkey did not come in and then explained against us to finish war, not for us. French prisoners well clothed working Berlin streets no British seen. German millionaire friend expects ruin having had to transfer great tractor factory with personnel complete from Berlin to Viasma. Last daylight raid on Berlin on day of meeting, expected. 4,000 persons evacuated for day.

/ Good

- 2 -

Good discipline . Great circus bombed during performance people ordered to remain seated until animals secured then evacuated while roof on fire. No night life or gaiety in Germany but Budapest same as ever nominal eleven p.m. closing. Everything to be found in Hungary, food clothes cigarettes and hatred of Germans, as in Vienna. 8 Hungarian divisions lost but very few killed seeing no reason for fighting. Happy that Roumanians have lost more. Few wounded in Berlin but in Vienna constant processions in groups all missing right arm or left leg or both eyes all same disablement in one group: Probably for re-educational purposes but heart-rending. Von Papen household only dignified amongst upper class. Madame Von Papen and daughter do all housework and live strictly on rations.

12310/6

Advance copy D.N.I.

1st Lord
1st S.I. (2)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
Sec.
U.W.R.
P.A.S. (S)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D.S.D. 9 (2)
D.E.W.D. (3)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (0)
Hd. of M. (6) for Col. Jacob.
W.D.
I.P. (2)

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.Bs., N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1701/4. It is noted that
M.G.Bs. only two M.T.Bs have sailed and no M.G.Bs.
2. Request all concerned may be instructed to
press on with utmost energy all measures to get
these M.T.B and M.G.B. Flotillas to their
fighting station at Bone at the earliest possible date.
3. Coastal Forces there may soon have the chance to avenge
Dunkirk and I hope this opportunity will not be missed through
lack of any steps which ingenuity or drive may suggest.
(C. in C. Med., 1301A/6 to Admty.)
Reply: 1634A/8.

Use of Admty. 1317A/6.
Gas. See Home Commands, Technical.

Axis Arrivals 5th CONAM Sete sulphate of ammonia.
Shipping. Departures 5th ALCORA Sete onions. CASTILLON,
GALLANT, ROSE OF MOROCCO, ILLUECA, Sete oranges.
(Corrupt group) Departures 4th TARRAGONA Sete
oranges.
(Valencia, 1402/6 to Admty.)

M.W.22. Arrived Convoy M.W.22 DULVERTON, G.S. QUEEN OLGA,
KELVIN, ROCKWOOD, PINDOS, R.F.A. CHERRYLEAF.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1446A/6 to Admty., etc.)

ADVENTURE. ADVENTURE is being sailed for U.K. in a few days
time. Request she may complete with mines and be
sailed for Mers-el-Kebir. (? Tunnel) for stowage
of complete mine units will be ready for use by
20th March.
(C. in C. Med., 1500A/6 to Admty., (R) ADVENTURE,
F.O.I.C. Oran, F.O. H.)

M.K.S.9. Algiers section arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 1514A/6 to N.O.I.C. Bone,
N.O.I.C. Philippeville, (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

Malta Fuel My Cosup 2944, not to Admiralty. Cosup 2953
Stocks. Padoc 2330. Coal. Total deliveries ex M.W.22,
23 and 25 should be in following proportion.
Welsh - 1500. Domestic - 1150.
I am assuming 850 tons M.W.22, 500 tons M.W.23
(including 200 gas coal (vide your MR/349)) and 1500 tons M.W.25.
Types of coal on M.W.22 and 23 not known. Grateful is this
information could be telegraphed immediately and loading of M.W.
25 arranged suitably.
2. Foundry Coke. Expenditure now 20 tons per week. Requirements
for M.W.25, assuming 50 tons M.W.22 and 50 tons M.W.23, are 300
tons to bring Island to Mid-October.

/Gas ...

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta Fuel Stocks. (Contd.) Gas Coke. I have assumed none being sent on M.W.22 and 23. We require 150 tons to bring us to Mid-October. 3. Essential that above quantities should be loaded. Grateful if you would telegraph if any difficulty about supply. Suggest above quantities be shipped on deck. If necessary, a cut of 200 tons can be accepted on this in view of 400 tons bring included on M.W.23. (Govr., Malta, 1520Z/6 to Minstate Cairo for Padley, (R) Adnty.)

PAKENHAM, PALADIN. Following is a repetition of my 1121/6 begins: "Arrived PAKENHAM and PALADIN". (V.A. Malta, 1522/6 to Adnty., etc.)

ABDIEL, SAFARI, SIBYL. ABDIEL leaves Bone at 2100/7th through 038° 04' 010° 55', 038° 02' 011° 17', 037° 53' 011° 17' to lay off Skerki bank proceeding Malta on completion. P.211 (SAFARI) and P.217 (SIBYL) keeping well clear. (Capt. (S) 8, 1528A/6 to 8 S.F.)

TORBAY. CORIOLANUS will be your escort. (Capt. (S) 8, 1534A/6 to TORBAY.)

Shipping from West Africa in R.S. and O.S. Convoys, and G.U.S. Convoys. Following for M.W.T.R. Med. from M.W.T. (Refers to use of surplus tonnage in North Africa to meet deficiency of vessels available in West Africa for loading homeward). Adnty. are making arrangements for escort either by R.S. Convoys or in O.S. Convoys, qualifying speed 8½ knots. Please advise number of French vessels expected engaged on this route both ways and likely speeds. Adnty. advise that we are to be allotted 6 places in G.U.S. convoys for ships not less than 9 knots. Please advise names of likely vessels. Please advise us immediately if C. in C. Med. anticipates any difficulty in arranging necessary places in G.U.S. convoys. (D.T.D., 1540A/6 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O. Gib., F.O.W.A.)

DOLFIJN. Leave patrol so as to pass 038° 40' 009° 01' at 1959/8th, 038° 04' 004° 25' at 2001/10th thence proceed on surface at discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 13' at 0700/11th. (Capt. (S) 8, 1552A/6 to DOLFIJN.)

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

P. 46
(UNRUFFLED),
P. 37
(UNBENDING).
Sailed P.46, arrived P.37.
(V.A. Malta, 1630A/6 to Admty., etc.)

ABDIEL.
My 1850/5th (N.T. in W.D., evidently not to Admty.) Para. 4 for 11° 54.5' E. read 10° 54.5' E.
(C. in C. Med., 1632A/6 to ABDIEL, (R) Capt. (S) 10, etc.)
Passed to Admty. for information by Gibraltar.

TASSOS
(Greek,
German
control)
Report B.4 TASSOS expected to sail for Salonica via Dedeagatch March 9th.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, ?1717C/6 to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.10, D.N.I.)

MACOMA,
BADARPUR.
As soon as discharged sail oilers MACOMA and BADARPUR to Haifa to load full cargoes Admiralty furnace oil.
(C. in C. Levant, 1743B/6 to R.A. Alexandria.)

TOM
(Spanish).
Arrival Cartagena March 6th 8 a.m. Valencia Spanish cargo TOM loaded oranges German destination. Probable departure March 8th.
(Cartagena, 1745/6 to Admty.)

Movements,
Port Said.
6th March port arrivals WOLBOROUGH, H.H.M.S. PANTHER, BURRA. Deaprtures SOUTHERN ISLE.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1756B/6 to Admty., etc.)

Equipment
for Turkish
Navy.
Your 2021/3rd March and B.N.A. Ankara's 1802/5th March. Majority of lists already in transit. Gunnery, torpedo, mining and medical section outstanding and will follow as soon as received.
(C. in C. Levant, 1800B/6 to Admty., (R) B.N.A. Ankara.)

M.W. 23,
M.W. 25.
Your 0745/5th (originated by W.R. calling for or requesting subject of Mideast's 2030/2 quoted in 1955/3 from C. in C. Levant). Reference concerns Cement required in Malta.
(C. in C. Levant, 1815B/6 to Admty.)

Proposed
French
Repatriations,
Cadiz.
/ If my 1620/5th is approved arrangements will be made with French Authorities for security examination on arrival in North Africa.
(C. in C. Med., 1823A/6 to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid.)

/Malta ...

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Malta
Intelligence
Summary.

2000A/5 - 2000A/6.
 Naval. Convoy M.W.22 escorted by 5 D/Rs arrived safely today. Attacked by 15 Ju.88 110 miles south of Malta at dusk 5th March. One Ju.88 shot down by ships. Two M/V slightly damaged by near misses.
 (Govr. Malta, 1900Z/6.)

Visual
Alarm
Signal.

My 1844/27 Feb. to Admt. only (Re need for a standard alarm signal in Signal Manual - N.T. in W.D.) Request a visual alarm signal for use by night in the Fleet and in Convoys with signification, "Have sighted enemy aircraft probably about to attack with torpedo".

2. On Levant Station and in Western Fleet a green Verys light is at present being used for this purpose but has led to confusion with emergency turn when made in convoy.
3. In Home Fleet short flashes on fighting lights are used but majority of convoys escorts are not able to make this signal.
4. Propose short flashes on masthead flashing lamp be introduced and that this be promulgated by signal and be brought into force at an early date.
5. Authorities to whom this signal is repeated are requested to inform Admt. by signal whether the above proposal is concurred in.
 (C. in C. Levant, 1941B/6 to Admt., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)
 Concur. (C. in C. H.F., 1003A/14.)

Movements,
Oran.

Today received following vessels: TARTAR, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA, ABDIEL.
 Sailed these ships: PRINSES BEATRIX, QUEEN EMMA, TARTAR, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA.
 (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1950A/6 to Admt., etc.)

French
Aircraft.

Reply to Admt. 2235/3 re agreement for supply and maintenance of 20 Walrus aircraft for French Navy.
 (C. in C. Med., 2020A/6 to Admt.)
 See Lion Copy.

AVONVALE,
COWDRAY.

Your 0950 of 15th Jan. and 1715 of 4th March. Permanent repairs to AVONVALE and COWDRAY can be undertaken at Chatham Dockyard. Request you will signal anticipated dates of arrival in U.K.
 (D.O.D.(F), 2028A/6 to C. in C. Med.)
 Reply: C. in C. Med., 2145A/8.

M.K.F.10A.

Sailing telegram.
 (2) and (3) 2100A/6. (4) 12 knots.
 (5) and (8) as in C. in C. Med.'s 1031A/3.
 (6) EGRET, TEST, FISHGUARD, ERNE, WHEATLAND.
 (Cdre. Algiers, 2037A/6, 2038A/6 to F.O.Gibraltar)

/Malta ...

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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

2020A/3th March

IN

Date 7. 3. 43.
Recd. 0017

From C. in C. Mediterranean

Naval Cypher (XD) by cable

Addressed Admiralty.

Supply of Walrus Aircraft for French Navy.

IMMEDIATE.

Your 2235/3. To negotiate this agreement as a whole in form proposed would probably involve interminable delays since it is not at present the practice of Army, Royal Air Force or United States Forces to present Bills to the French for each item of equipment lent or handed over. The whole question of financial adjustment between allied nations and French North Africa including possible application of Lease Lend is under discussion.

2. Meantime arrangements have been made for French personnel as in para three to sail for United Kingdom on 8th March on terms given in your 2235/3 paras. 4, 5 and 6 which are accepted by Admiral Manrich and stated by him to be identical with provisional agreement signed by him in London.

3. Formal agreement for signature by Admiral Michelier has therefore been divided into two parts

(A) Arrangements for training of personnel

(B) Agreement for transfer of aircraft and stores.

4. In (B) the following wording is proposed - it is agreed that this sum is formally accepted for record purposes as a liability against the French North African authorities for this service. Method of payment or adjustment of accounts to be settled later as may be determined between the Allied authorities - request very early reply.

5. With reference to para One I should be glad of further guidance as Admiralty policy in this matter does not appear to be in line with general policy.

1st Lord.

2020A/6.

1st S.L. (2)

D.C. (2)

5th S.L.

D.N.I. (4)

V.C.N.S.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

A.C.N.S. (F) (2)

D. of P. (2)

A.C.N.S. (H)

D. of P. (Q)

A.C.N.S. (A)

Hd. of M. (2) for action

Secy.

Hd. of Air

P.A.S. (S)

Ad. Blake.

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

Ad. Mack (4)

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

W.D.

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. A.I.526, 6th March C.S.R.
Part 1. Offensive night 5th/6th March. Bad weather restricted offensive operations, no shipping target was found.
Day 6th March. 4 Spitfires on offensive sweeps over South-east Sicily destroyed one locomotive in railway station at Sampieri. Further operations were prevented by 10 tenths low cloud and heavy rain.
Part 2. Enemy air activity day 6th March. 36 Spitfire sorties were made to protect Malta convoy approaching from South. Convoy was first located 0510 hours 40 miles south-west of Malta and thereafter continuous escort was provided in bad weather conditions until convoy's arrival in harbour at 1145 hours. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2059Z/6.)

Situation Report No. 8. My 2027/1st March, para. 2. Operation M.H.8. 6 store ships, NEURALIA, and a tanker have arrived Tripoli, Libya. 3 store ships and 2 tankers have arrived at Malta. Malta section attacked by aircraft at dusk on 5th March, Panamanian tanker YORBA LINDA damaged by near miss but able to steam 8 knots. APHIS and three store ships unable to maintain speed of Convoy were detached to Tobruk and Benghazi.
(2) A fast convoy of 3 personnel ships and 1 store ship has left Alexandria for Tripoli, Libya.
(3) My 2102/4th March, para. 2 D/F fix indicate that U-Boat escaped to northward.
(C. in C. Levant, 2138B/6 to Admty.)

French Repatriations, Cadiz. Your 1730 Feb. 23rd to Admty., and Admty. 1759 March 3rd (re undesirability of French ships visiting neutral ports). Spanish Government have at last moment and under pressure cancelled Cadiz evacuation and requested French to suggest another plan.
(N.A. Madrid, 2142/6 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., F.O. Gibraltar.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrivals ACUTE, QUANTOCK, MAN-O'-WAR, KUMAON, MOOSEJAW, ATHERSTONE, Tug JAUNTY, BROCKLESBY, KATHIAWAR. Departures ACUTE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, MAN-O'-WAR, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, MOOSEJAW, ATHERSTONE, Tug JAUNTY towing AVONVALE, EGRET, WHEATLAND, TEST, ERNE, FISHGUARD, L.C.Ts 160, 170, (? 164).
(Algiers, 2036A/6 to N.S.H.Q., Admty.)

Movements, Bone. Arrival SIRIUS, PENELOPE, LIGHTNING, LOYAL. Departures RHYL, BUDE, LAMERTON, WILTON, LIDDESDALE, AIGOMA.
(S.O.I.S., 2203A/6 to Admty., etc.)

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SAFARI.

You may have been sighted 1930 today.
(Capt. (S) 8, 2254A/6 to P.211 (SAFARI).)

Movements,
Tobruk.

Sailed DELPHINIUM, SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERNSEA,
AMBER, GEORGIOS AGHIOS, M.L.351, M.L.355.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2333B/6 to Admty., (R) C.O.M.
L.A.)

Air
Organisation.

Following summary of present organisation of
Allied Air Forces in North Africa is promulgated
for information. (See Situation Report).
6. T.C.A.O. will be amended on reprint, pending
which this message supersedes T.C.A.O. No.2,
paras. 1 and 2.
(C. in C. Med., 2359A/6 to Med. Stn., (R) Admty.)

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements Departure SITAKHOOND.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 0059Z/6 to Admty.)
Departure MAURITIUS.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0846Z/6 to Admty.)
Departure RAJPUTANA escorting CITY OF SINGAPORE.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 1050Z/6 to F.O.I.C. Ceylon, Admty. etc.)
Arrival 0500Z ASTER with (?M)B.27 0645Z BARODA. Departure
0910Z SONAVATI.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 1106Z/6 to Admty.)
Colombo departures 6th March 0400Z Dutch S/M 0.21. My
1444/5 add departures 1130Z ZUIDERKRUIS.
(F.O. Ceylon 1115Z/6 to Admty.)

MAURETANIA Request if practicable you embark in MAURETANIA
102 Fighting French Air Force personnel for U.K.
(D. of S.T. 0100A/6 to S.T.O. Diego Suarez (R)
C. in C. E.F.)

Convoy M.B.27 Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0502Z/6 to Admty.)

DRAVA,
TRAVANCORE. 02/7th DRAVA Karachi 10th escorted by TRAVANCORE
knots 7.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0644Z/6 to A.I.G. 89, Cominch,
C. & R., N.C.S.O. Karachi)

JOSEPH
WHEELER Following has been read UM S DE KHMR SS JOSEPH
WHEELER course 28 trke (?true).
(Colombo W/T 0831Z/6 to Whitehall W/T)

Embarkation of Polish refugees,
MONTICELLO From N.O.I.C. Nancowry MONTICELLO reports that he
is unable to embark any Polish families owing to
lack of galleys and domestic staffs. Your
2008/4th March refers and in view of B.A.D.
2131/3rd all arrangements for the movement of
Polish families from Karachi to Bombay to connect
with MONTICELLO are cancelled.
(P.S.T.O. India 0906Z/6 to D. of S.T. (R) B.A.D.
D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf.)

ADAMANT,
LUCIA ADAMANT should arrive Colombo on 29th March. My
1253/4th Jan. (N.T. in W.R.) refers.
(2) Request arrangements for release of LUCIA
may be expedited to enable her to sail for Kilindini as soon as
possible after arrival of ADAMANT. LUCIA is required at
Kilindini on 14th April.
(C. in C. E.F. 1621Z/6 to F.O. Ceylon, (R) Capt.(S) 4, Admty.
F.O.(S) C. in C. Netherlands Forces in the East, F.O.I.C. E.A.
& Zanzibar, ADAMANT.

/Sitrep ...

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Sitrep
No.125. Arakan. No change Donbaik - Rathedaung front.
Japanese occupied village 6 miles Kaladan 3/3 and
patrolled to within 6 miles of Paletwa. Naval
patrol encountered 5 enemy M.L.Cs in Mayu River 1 mile north
Foul Point night 3rd/4th. March. One M.L.C. carrying supplies
and ammunition captured but later sank in tow. Three Japanese
p.w. taken belong 55 Div.
(C. in C. India received 1723/6 to W.O.)

CARADOC

Acknowledged your 0820Z/6th (N.T. in W.R.)
Amended E.T.A. 1530C/9th.
(CARADOC 1950Z/6 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.E.A. & Z.)

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements. New York arrived 4th AJAX.
(N.S.H.Q. 0106Z/6 to Admty.)
Arrival 6th CORSAIR.
(Harbour Master Barbados 0645/6 to Admty.)
Arrival 5th NORSEMAN British cable ship.
(B.R.L.O. St. Thomas 0932/6 to Admty.)
Arrival IROQUOIS from U.K.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 1300Z/6 to Admty.)
Kingston arrival ATTACKER 0900.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 1543R/6 to Admty.)
Arrivals 1700QR/6th. WESTON, NESS, TOTLAND, U.S. Destroyers
MADISON, HUGHES,
(S.B.N.O. Curacao 1802QR/6 to Admty.)
Bermuda departures. U.S.S. HOBSON and CHIWKOFEE.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 2133Q/6 to Admty.)
Norfolk arrived 1200/5 L.S.T. 419 and L.C.I (L) 266, 296,
297, 298, 299 and 301.
(N.S.H.Q. 2303Z/6 to Admty.)

Washington / Personal for C.A.S. from Durston.
Conference Ref. WEBBER 203 24 Feb.
A/S King has asked the Committee to consider and make
aircraft recommendations on the organisation and control of
Gibraltar. A/S aircraft in the Gibraltar-Morocco area.
Casablanca. Proceedings of this Committee are as follows.
"Secret report of Sub. Committee on N.W.Africa
A.S.W. matters statement of the problem.

1. To examine existing Command relations between Anti-Submarine forces in the Gibraltar Morocco area and to recommend necessary modifications thereto. Discussion.
2. "Torch" operations have served to create in the sea area between 26.10 N. to 43 N. and between 2° W. and 40 W. A shipping focal area similar in all basic respects to those in U.K. N.W. Atlantic and Caribbean.
3. In each of the 3 Focal areas named control of surface and air A.S.W. forces has been centred in 1 Commander with subordinate air and surface forces. In the case of the Casablanca Gibraltar area this has not been done and there exist in that area 3 Authorities namely F.O. Gibraltar. A.O.C. Gibraltar and Commander Moroccan Sea Frontier who function on a common mission without complete co-ordination. Conclusion.
4. Provided a command relation similar to that existing in other Focal areas mentioned above could be set up it is felt that whatever difficulties of co-ordination now exist would be resolved. Recommendation.
5. It is recommended that A. The area in question be designated an area of control under the command of a F.O. subordinate to N.C.X.F.
B. That this F.O. have complete responsibility for all shipping and A/S measures and exercise operational control of all A/S forces both air and surface of all Allied Nations in the area."
2. I would appreciate your views on this at earliest possible moment as final Conference has now been postponed until Monday.
3. Ref. O.N.S. 2237Z/4. King has agreed to Morre's suggestion that a Coastal Command Group Captain should be attached to the

/Anti...

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Washington
Conference
A/S
Aircraft
Gibraltar,
Casablanca.
(Contd.)

Anti-Submarine Survey Board. I suggest Canning should be appointed as he has spent a year here getting American A/S forces organised and is very highly spoken of by them and has necessary contacts.

Will you please pass to C.N.S.
(Rafdel Washington 0245Z/6 to Air Min.)

O.N. 168.

Section East. My 1550Z/5th (Situation report.)
O.N. 168 T.U. 24.1.19 Amend position at 2000Z/5th
(E) 53.45 46.48 190° making good 3.5.
(C.O.A.C. 0531Z/6 to Admty.)

Movements
Summary
1800 G.M.T.
6th March.

Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed.
ALCANTARA } WOODRUFF }	11½° N. 57° W.	268°	12½
S.S. ANDES.	26½° N. 28½° W.	074°	19.

(D.O.D.(F) 0910Z/6 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)

W.L.E.F.
increase.

Request you will reply N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1641/5th.
(Re corvettes lent for "Torch" operations.)
Information now in my hands is contained in my
1213/5th.
(C. in C.W.A. 0956Z/6 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.
B.A.D.)

Dispositions. Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic.
Operating in Northern Waters: BELFAST, CUMBERLAND,
NORFOLK, SCYLLA 11 destroyers.
Area Iceland (C): BERWICK, KENT, 1 destroyer.
Area Scapa: KING GEORGE V, HOWE, ANSON, GLASGOW, BERMUDA, 5
destroyers.
Area Clyde: FURIOUS, INDOMITABLE, 1 destroyer.
Area Plymouth: UGANDA.
Area Gibraltar: NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, PENELOPE,
SIRIUS, ABDIEL, ADVENTURE, 7 destroyers.
(D.O.D.(H) 1117A/6 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

ST. MARGARET
sunk 27 Feb.)

My 1519/5 and 1539/5 March. Following particulars
supplement previous reports. Attack was by two
torpedoes from submerged submarine. First torpedo
struck at 1256 G.M.T. Ship abandoned 1325 G.M.T.

Second torpedo struck at 1401 G.M.T. Ship sank at 1411 G.M.T.
Submarine last seen 1600 G.M.T. lying to. Casualties. Description
of submarine. No number but wolf's head and Swastika painted on
C/T, estimated tonnage 500 tons, guns and one three inch forward,
two machine guns on C/T one small A/A gun aft, confirmed all C.Bs.
thrown overboard in steel chests.

(B.R.L.O. Bermuda 1259Q/6 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q.)

/S.C....

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- S.C.121,
U/Bs. D/F bearings on Series 8 at 1014Z, 1059Z and 1119Z indicate that there is a U-Boat in your vicinity probably reporting you.
(D.D.I.C. 1301A/6 to Escorts S.C. 121, (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C.)
Nine transmissions on series eight 13768 k/cs from 1133Z/6th to 1557 indicate Wolf pack may be forming for an attack.
(Cominch 1801/6 to Ships escorting S.C.121, U.S.S. SPENCER, (R) Admty.)
Transmitting at 1013, 1058, 1117, 1215, 1316, 1337, 1355, 1536, 1537 and 1629 G.M.T. on Series 8 indicated you have been contacted and that at least three U-Boats are in your vicinity.
(N.S.H.Q. 1805Z/6 to Ships escorting S.C. Convoy 121, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.At.)
- O.N. 166,
MADOERA
torpedoed
24th Feb. O.N. 166, 61 survivors from MADOERA in three lifeboats and two rafts still adrift. Ship torpedoed in 46.02 N. 39.20 W. on 24th Feb. Request whether any action can be taken from Azores. Survivors probably attempting to reach Azores.
(F.O.N.F. 1301A/6 to Admty. (R) Cominch.)
- O.N. 168,
PORT SAINT
JOHN
"S" Report. Following received addressed to C.O.A.C. from Camperdown 1440 G.M.T. following intercepted from V.C.M. - S S S S GBGZ + submarine sighted and attacked position 53.10 N. long unreadable 1442 G.M.T./6. V.C.M. uncertain if call sign correct due to weak signals not heard at V.C.S Sgd. O.I.C.
(Halifax N.S. 1326/6 to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. A.I.F. Admty. E/C Londonderry.)
- E.G.40. Pass through f. 052° N. 037° W. g. 051° N. 041° W. h. 049° N. 044° W. thence St. Johns N.F. as necessary. 2. Carry out anti-submarine sweep from f. to h.
(C. in C.W.A. 1332Z/6 to E.G.40 (R) A.I.G.303, Cmdre. Londonderry.)
- O.N.168,
THOMAS
HOOKER. My 2152Z/5th. O.N. No. 168 crew of THOMAS HOOKER on board PIMPERNEL. Salvage doubtful unless weather moderates. GODETIA searching area will stand by if contact is made. PIMPERNEL will remain prudent limit endurance. Request tugs be sent to derelict position at 1100Z 053° 28' N. 045° 25' W. 8.
(C.T.U. 24.1.19 1400Z/6 to Connav, (R) Admty. PIMPERNEL, GODETIA, C.T.F. 24. H.Q.C.C. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. C.T.G. 24.17 C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q.)

/C.T.U...

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

O.N.168
THOMAS
HOOKER.
(Contd.)

C.T.U. 24.1.19 1400Z/6th. Not immediately available. In view of expressed doubt concerning possibility of salvage and (2 corrupt groups) around for your group unless circumstances decide otherwise direct GODETIA and PIMPERNEL rejoin convoy or proceed St. Johns N.F. or Argentia for fuel. Aircraft search for ship will be made when weather permits and tug despatched if future conditions warrant.
(C.T.24, 1935Z/6 to C.T.U. 24.1.19 (R) Cominch C.C.R. C. in C.W.A. Admty. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. GODETIA, PIMPERNEL.)

RADHURST. O.N.S. 165. RADHURST has not arrived New York. (N.S.H.Q. 1431Z/6 to Admty. Connav, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

L.23. 1. Submarine L.23 escorted by NANAIMO sails St. Johns 1230Z/8 for Philadelphia routed through D. 47.32 N. 52.32 W. E. 46.37 N. 52.50 W. F. 44.58 N. 56.57 W. G. 44.47 N. 61.02 W. H. 40.43 N. 67.00 W. J. 38.47.27 N. 74.37.48 W. thence by swept channel. Q.J.C. 122 to Philadelphia. Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. a.m/14.
2. Submarine is unable to dive gun and shield have been removed thereby considerably altering the submarines silhouette.
3. Request total bombing restrictions en route.
(F.O.N.F. 1505Z/6, 1909Z/6 to No. 1 Group R.C.A.F. N.B.C. C.T.F. 24, Canadian Army H.Q. C.O.A.C. A.O.C. E.A.C. Cominch, C.E.S.F. B.A.R.M. Washington. (R) F.O.C. Submarines, Admty. NANAIMO, L.23 N.S.H.Q.)

Submarine estimates 6th March, U.S.S/M Notices.

No indication of U-Boats off Cape Hatteras. U.S. Submarine notice. S.16 and O.6 escorted in area 43.30 43.38 and 69.30 70.00 until 2100 today and 1200 to 2100 tomorrow going to and from Casco Bay via Swansea. (Cominch 1550/6 amended 1911/6, 1551/6, 1621/6, 1622/6, 1623/6.)

Dispositions. Section East O.N. 168 Task Unit 24.1.19 plus 24.18.2 (E) 052° 21' 047° 12' 190° 3.5 NIAGARA, MEDICINE HAT escorting W. O.N. 168 in vicinity 050° 21' 047° 47' to junction. (See amendment 0025Z/7.)

SWALECROSS, SAXIFRAGE, LAVENDER, BUTTERCUP vicinity 050° 38' 050° (corrupt group) on route St. Johns N.F.

Section East WITHERINGTON, MATAPEDIA, CHICOUTIMI, GRANBY. (See repetition in 1710Z/7.)

M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17 and Task Unit 24.4.1 047° 55' 049° 02' 024° (?9). altering to 036° in 049° 58' N.

BITTERN 047° 18' 052° 00' 306° en route St. Johns N.F.

FENNEL 046° 08' 052° 37' en route Halifax (?12.)

Section East J.H. 40 REDDEER, MAKFORD, SARNIA 046° (?21') 055° 40' 218° 7.5 altering to 264° in 045° 00' N. (See amendment 0810Z/7.)

LADY RODNEY, WESTMOUNT, MULGRAVE 044° 55' 057° 31' 264° 12.

Task Unit 24.12.2 049° 25' 050° (?27') to join O.N. No. 169.

Section East H.J. 38 MALPEQUE, WASAGA 044° 35' 057° 23' 089° 9 altering to 064° in 057° 00' W.

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Dispositions. S.S. PORT WYNDHAM 041° 00' 057° 00' (?187°) 13
(Contd.) altering to 261° in 062° 50' W.
S.S. HIGHLAND BRIGADE 042° 40' 053° 25' 064°
13 altering to 087° in ?048° 15' W.
(C.O.A.C. 1554Z/6 to Admty.)

Section east my 1554Z/6th amend "Chop" MEDICINE HAT escorting
W. O.N. 168 48.28 47.51 190° 9 altering to 207° in 48.00 W.
(C.O.A.C. 2210Z/6 to Admty.)

IROQUOIS. N.S.H.Q.'s 1545/26/2. IROQUOIS will leave
HALIFAX 13th March and will visit St. Johns
N.F. from the 15th to 18th.
2. Propose IROQUOIS be sailed from St. Johns a.m. the 19th
direct to U.K. for service with Home Fleet.
3. Request you will indicate destination of ship and whether
she should be sailed direct or via Londonderry.
(N.S.H.Q. 1619Z/6 to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F. N.O.I.C.
Londonderry, F.O.N.F. C.C.S. IROQUOIS.)

Unknown ship "S" Report. Intercept 1301 G.M.T. S S S S GBXZ*5312 N.
45.30 W. Submarine sighted.
?(Call sign C.K.) 1621Z/6 to A.I.G. 302.)
*Indecypherable in W.D.

Limits on numbers of passengers. Your 1605/6th Feb. and N.S.H.Q. 2211/18th Feb.
Chiefs of Staff (Canada) have requested to be
advised of latest developments regarding
proposed new rules.
(N.S.H.Q. 1636Z/6 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

Freetown development by U.S.A. For Seal. Your 1631/4. Request earliest
information re tonnage involved. Without this
we cannot arrange priority.
(Head of M.B.II 1658A/6 to B.A.D.)

NORSEMAN. British Cable Ship NORSEMAN sailed to repair
San Juan to St. Thomas cable 018° 33' N. 065°
50' W. escorted by Coast Guard Cutter.
(B.R.L.O. St. Thomas, 1715/6 to Admty.)

VICTORIOUS (A/C crash and fire 25/2.) My 2150/25th. (?2050/25 intended. Re aircraft
crashing on deck.) Propeller of A/C going over
Port side severed petrol fuelling hose, which
wrongly had pressure on. Petrol escape was
ignited by engine exhaust, flames and resultant
fire caused following damage to ship:
A. Port crane (?rendered) unserviceable.
B. Various electrical circuits and equipment damaged.
C. A/C number 4125 and motor cutter burned out and traversing
gear damaged.
2. Main fighting efficiency not impaired. American Authorities
making good damage. Written report following.
(VICTORIOUS 1730Z/6 to Admty. (R) B.A.M.R.)

/S.C....

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- S.C.119. Request report of arrival of S.C.119.
(N.S.H.Q. 1732Z/6 to Admty.)
- SAN PABLO. Departure Port Puerto Limon 6th Salvage steamer CRUSADER U.S. towing refloated SAN PABLO Panamanian Key West 15th Mobile 21st.
(R.O. Port Limon 1739/6 to R.O. New Orleans, (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica R.O. Key West, N.S. Ottawa, Admty.)
- U.C.1. Arrival 6th Curacao portion U.C.1. less ATHEL PRINCESS (British), EMPIRE NORSEMAN (British), ESSO BATON ROUGE (U.S.A.) all sunk, BRITISH FORTITUDE and MURINA (Netherlands) torpedo damage to Guantanamo Bay.
(N.C.S.O. Curacao 1752QR/6 to Admty.)
- Algerine Class M/S building in Canada. Your 0008/28, policy is to fit Hedgehogs in all R.C.N. Algerines at present authorized in view of their employment as Escort Vessels. Present orders on Admiralty for Hedgehog equipment will cover estimated requirements for this additional commitment in 1943.
(N.S.H.Q. 1803Z/6 to Admty. (R) C.C.C.S. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. C.O.P.C.)
- O.N. 167 survivors. O.N.S.167. Rescue ship RATHUN arrived Halifax a.m. 6th March with following survivors (Pan.) H.H. ROGERS, 66, (U.S. ROSARIO 30, Total 96.
(N.C.S.O. 1810Z/6 to Admty. (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)
- Escort Unit 24.6.3. My 1645Z/1st, escort unit 24.6.3. will be composed of WATCHMAN (S.O.) ROCKINGHAM and U.S. Dest. BABBITT.
(C.T.G. 24.6 1819Z/6 to C.T.F. 24 (R) U.S. Dest. BABBITT, ROCKINGHAM, WATCHMAN, 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.)
- Desertions from French Vessels re-fitting in U.S.A. U.S. Naval Authorities are in some anxiety as to desertions now taking place from North African French Vessels now refitting in U.S.A.
2. Up to date 51 from F.Batt. RICHELIEU and some more from other vessels have deserted to join Fighting French. They have proceeded to Halifax for passage to U.K. U.S. Naval Authorities point out if we cannot do something to prevent this easy method of deserting their ships they may be forced to prevent them doing so through medium of their Immigration Authorities which method of course will bring with it further dissention between Fighting French and North African French.
3. As this matter has up to date been subject of exchange of telegrams between Foreign Office and Ambassador, perhaps

/matter...

War Diary.6.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Desertions from French vessels re-fitting in U.S.A. (Contd.) matter could be taken up with Foreign Office now. 4. I have informed Ambassador Washington of this and passed him copies of this signal. (B.A.D. 1843Z/6 to Admty.)

Convoy sailings. 1. Admty. 1755/5. If proposal in para. 1 is implemented request O.N. 173 fast terminate at Halifax to avoid W.L.O.F. having to produce an extra group to escort convoy F.T.O.F. home to New York.

2. Assume sailing dates of convoys will be as follows:-
O.N.S. 1. 15th March, O.N.S.2 28th March, thence every eight days. O.N. 173 13th March, O.N. 174 21st March, O.N. 175 25th March then six day intervals to O.N. 178 12th April, then five day intervals.
(C.O.A.C. 1946Z/6 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. B.A.D. C. in C.W.A.)

T.U. 24.8.2. Task Unit No. 24.8.2 STORIS, MODOC, TAMPA, ALGONQUIN, TAHOMA. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 0930Z/7th.
(C.T.U. 24.8.2. 2015Z/6 to C.C.N.F.)

JONATHAN STURGES. O.N. 166 my 2154/3 Cmdre of convoy reports JONATHAN STURGES U.S. Straggler 24th Feb. Has not arrived New York.
(B.R.L.O. New York 2035Z/6 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. A. STAG HOUND torpedoed sunk 16.10 S. 37.20 W. a.m./04 March. ST. MARGARET torpedoed sunk 27.38 N. 43.23 W. 1256Z/27 Feb. AFFONSO PENNA torpedoed area 18.10 S. 37.30 W. a.m./03 March. B-18 Attacks sub 10.59 N. 62.05 W. 2300Z/05.

B-18 attacks sub 10.59 N. 62.05 W. 2307Z/02.
Para. B. B-18 attacks sub 11.02 N. 61.55 W. 0325Z/03. Panam plane sights sub 16 N. 68.40 W. 1700Z/04.
Para. C. Lookout sights sub 19.07 N. 18.17 W. 1400Z/05 P.C. 488 attacks sound contact 00.04 N. 44.46 W. about 0200Z/06.
Para. D. Aircraft attacks sub 46.53 N. 54.55 W. 1845Z/05.
(Cominch 2035Z/6 to Admty.)

H.H.ROGERS. Attack by S/M 1. H.H.ROGERS (Pan.) Balboa. 2. Panama Transport Company. 3. 2040Z/21 Feb. in O.N.S.167, 50.13 N. 24.48 W. 4. Not seen. 7. Ship abandoned but still afloat. 8. List of survivors to follow. 10. Torpedo. 11. Br. 697 left onboard. All S.Ps. dumped except (corrupt) for S.P. 2479 and C.B. 3082.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 2037Z/6 to Admty. Cominch, (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/Shipping...

War Diary.

6.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Shipping
Casualties.

Connav Serial 6. MADOERA serial 3 torpedoed
46.02 N. 39.20 W. 24th Feb.
(Cominch C. and R. 2100/6 to Comnav.)

H.F.40.

MILLTOWN with KENTVILLE and 7 ships of H.F.40.
E.T.A. 0900Z/7th. In addition ROYALITE (corrupt
group) straggler 15 miles astern.
(MILLTOWN 2201Z/6 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.B.)

Washington
Conference.

Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S. My 2209Z/4.
Text to be laid before main conference on Monday
is as follows:-

Paras. 1, 2 and 3 same as para C. sub paras. 1, 2
and 3 of my 2209Z/4.

4. That U.K. and Canada take complete charge of Trade convoys
between the British Isles and New York and ports north thereof
(H.X. and S.C. and O.N. convoys), with the understanding that
the United States is to retain strategic authority and
responsibility throughout the Western Atlantic area and that all
existing arrangements and agreements are to remain in effect
except as specifically modified herein.

5. That the Admiralty, in co-operation with N.S.H.Q. control and
protect H.X, S.C. and O.N. convoys in accordance with the
following plan:

a. Western Ocean meeting point (Westomp) to be established at
about the 47th Meridian as the line where Western local escorts
are to join westbound and leave eastbound H.X. S.C and O.N.
convoys.

b. Routeing of H.X, S.C. and O.N. convoys. 1. Admiralty to
route both ways eastward of Westomp. 2. N.S.H.Q. to route
both ways westward of Westomp, with concurrence of Commander
Eastern Sea Frontier as to parts of routes that lie within that
frontier.

c. Diversions of H.X., S.C. and O.N. convoys. 1. Admiralty to
control diversions eastward of Westomp. 2. N.S.H.Q. to control
diversions westward of Westomp, except in the Eastern Sea
frontier where all diversion are to be made by the frontier
commander. 3. Diverting authorities as defined above to have
authority to divert any convoys or ships whatsoever in the areas
where they control diversions as may be necessary to keep same
clear of H.X., S.C. and O.N. convoys.

d. Information as to routeing and diversions.

i. The Admiralty, N.S.H.Q. and the C. in C.U.S. Fleet to keep
each other informed of all routeings and diversions in the
Western Atlantic Area.

e. Surface escorts of H.X., S.C. and O.N. convoys.

i. To be under operational control of the Admiralty and N.S.H.Q.
respectively, eastward and westward of Westomp.

f. Air cover of H.X., S.C. and O.N. convoys to be the
responsibility of the following: i. U.K. to the limit of
aircraft range from bases in U.K. and Iceland. ii. Canada to

/the...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Washington
Conference.
(Contd.)

the limits of aircraft range from bases in Labrador Newfoundland and Canada. This to be part of the general air cover of the region as set forth in para. six.

iii. Commander Eastern Sea Frontier to limit of range of aircraft based within that frontier, in co-ordination with A.O.C.E.A.C.

g. Convoy size and cycle. i. To be determined by the Admiralty. Changes in cycle to be subject to concurrence of the C. in C. U.S.Fleet, and N.S.H.Q. in order that Coastal Convoy arrangements may be modified to conform.

h. Rescue. i. U.K. and Canada to provide for rescue and salvage along the general route of H.X., S.C. and O.N. convoys.

6. That the following system of operational control of A.S.W. aviation be established in the Labrador-Newfoundland-Canada region. In the Canadian Coastal zone, elsewhere by the C. in C.U.S.Fleet. To provide air cover not only for H.X., S.C. and ON. convoys but for all shipping within aircraft range.

a. All A.S.W. aviation of the associated powers based in this region to be under the general operational control of the Canadian Northwest Atlantic Command, shall be responsible for the air coverage of all shipping within range (except in the Eastern Sea Frontier), including Greenland convoys and other shipping under U.S. control.

b. The C. in C. of the Canadian Northwest Atlantic Command and the A.O.C. Eastern Air Command to operate a combined headquarters at Halifax to facilitate the co-ordination of all their surface air A.S.W. forces.

c. All A.S.W. aviation based in the Labrador-Newfoundland area to be under the local operational control of the Canadian A.O.C. St. Johns who, under the local operational direction of the Flag Officer Newfoundland, will be responsible for the air coverage of all shipping within range (except in the Eastern Sea Frontier.)

d. The Commander of the Canadian Naval Sub-Command, St. Johns, and the Canadian A.O.C. St. Johns, to operate a combined headquarters for the co-ordination of all surface-air A.S.W. forces in the Labrador Newfoundland area. The A.O.C. to have on his staff, officers of the U.S. Army and Navy Air Commands concerned.

e. U.S. to agree that A.S.W. planes of U.K. and Canada may use U.S. air fields in Greenland in emergency.

7. That the following arrangements be placed in effect - or be confirmed where already in effect - in order to co-ordinate control of other shipping with the control of H.X., S.C. and O.N. convoys.

a. "Chop" for all repetition all Atlantic shipping to be based on line as follows., from the South Pole North on the 26th meridian to lat. 00° 35 N. thence to 29.00 N. 47.00 W. thence North on 47th meridian.

b. Independents (merchant vessels and troop transports sailing without through escorts) between U.K. and Canada-United States to be routed by appropriate authority of the country of departure, this route to be concurred in by the appropriate authority of the country of destination. These vessels to be chopped for diversion purposes to the country who is responsible for diversion within their areas, on crossing the "Chop" line as herein laid down.

/c...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Washington
Conference.
(Contd.)

- c. Greenland convoys to be operated by the Commander-in-Chief U.S. Atlantic Fleet, who is to furnish escorts and designate the officer to be in direct control. Air cover to be provided by aviation under the control of the U.S. Naval Commander in Greenland within range of Greenland to supplement the general cover provided in accordance with para. 6 (A). Routeing and diversions to be controlled by the C. in C. Canadian Northwest Atlantic Command in the Canadian Coastal zone, elsewhere by the C. in C. U.S. Fleet.
- d. Iceland shuttle (if maintained) to be operated by a U.S. Naval Commander in Iceland, designated by Cinclant, who will provide the escorts, local air cover, and route Shuttle convoys to and from meeting points with trade convoys to be designated by the Admiralty. Diversions to be controlled by the Admiralty.
8. That the U.S. a. Retain Argentia and Londonderry as bases for U.S. Naval craft, making excess facilities available for maintenance of R.N. and R.C.N. escort vessels.
b. Withdraw U.S. ships and Group Commanders now in the escorts of the H.X., S.C. and O.N. convoy system as soon as practicable.
9. A note is appended to the text giving definition of U.S. Eastern Sea Frontier zone and Canadian Coastal zone, but it is not considered necessary to include details in this signal.
10. Please pass to C.A.S.
(B.A.D. 2251Z/6 to Admty.)

GRANBY.

E.T.A. 1100/7th.
(GRANBY 2255Z/6 to F.O.N.F.)

V.C.1.

Convoy V.C.1 arrived Curacao 2000Z/6th.
(Curacao 2200/6 to Connav.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements Departure Noumea U.S.S. TRACY, U.S.S. HENRY T. ALLEN, U.S.S. LIBRA for Wellington. E.T.A. 2100Z/9th. Direct route 14 knots. (D.N.I. Wellington 0500Z/6 to Adnty.)

Departure U.S.S. TALAMANCA. E.T.A. Noumea 1930Z/8. (D.N.I. Wellington 0734Z/6 to Adnty.)

Arrival 5th Townsville WARRAMUNGA Melbourne U.S. Dest. HELM Port Moresby BENDIGO Maryborough KALGOORLIE departure 5th Darwin INVERELL for Thursday Island. (A.C.N.B.1051Z/6 to Adnty.)

Arrival 5th March Port Moresby U.S. Transport BONTEKOE. CAIRNS Hired Transport DUNTROON. Townsville Hired Transport TAROONA. R.A.A.F. Store Ship WANAKA departed Darwin 5th due Thursday Is. 8th thence Townsville. (A.C.N.B.1212Z/6 to Adnty.)

Digest Medium vessel sighted off Cape Saint George course
Serial 12° forenoon.
No.408 3. Morning R/C Fortress reported possible submarine
March 5th. thirty miles W. by S. of Gasmata course 230°. Later sighted four submarines east of same place
course 270°.

4. Photos 5/3 reveal new 1600 yard landing strip two miles east of Wewak also large camps nearby and Anti aircraft installations. Lightning over Wewak morning saw one destroyer or minelayer one cargo vessel in harbour also nine aircraft on old aerodrome.

7. Motor torpedo boat unsuccessfully attacked large submarine six miles N.E. Merobe Harbour morning but located and destroyed three boats 200 Japs. Aircraft morning and afternoon sank many barges and boats with supplies and survivors of convoy Huon Gulf area.

9. No shipping visible Koepang and Saumlaki mid morning recco. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A.0720Z/6)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C.1416A/6, 1424A/6)

War Diary.

7.3.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

BERWICK sailed from Hvalfiord at 1121A today to establish Patrol White. Air patrols were asked for to intercept a ship passing North Cape at about 0001/8.

R.A. 53

VIVACIOUS, PYTCHLEY, LEDBURY and MEYNELL sailed from Akureyri at 0201A. At 0432A C. in C. H.F. ordered C.S.10 (BELFAST) to fuel with all despatch and proceed with Force R (CUMBERLAND and NORFOLK) to cover R.A.53: Force R arrived at Seidisfiord at 0740 from covering R.A.53. FURIOUS was ordered to make good defects with the utmost despatch and reported that she would be ready for operations by midnight today. V.A.2 in ANSON with BERMUDA, MATCHLESS, ICARUS and PIORUN left Scapa for Hvalfiord at 1031A.

South Atlantic.

SS. SABOR (Durban to Table Bay and Rio de Janeiro) was torpedoed and sunk by a U-boat in 34.30 S. 23.20 (or 10) E. (about 120 miles S.W. of Algoa Bay) this morning.

A Ventura made a promising attack on a U-boat at 1455C today in 34.58 S. 23.50 E (east of Mossel Bay).

Mediterranean.

PAKENHAM and PALADIN sailed from Malta at 2300 to a position to the north-eastward of Pantellaria to assist ABDIEL if necessary. ABDIEL left Bone p.m. today and carried out a minelaying operation in the Sicilian Channel, after which she proceeded to Malta in company with the two destroyers (arrived Malta 0908/8). During the minelaying operation, which was probably unseen, ABDIEL encountered and shot up a small assembly of motor barges or landing craft proceeding towards Sicily, in position near Keith Reef.

/Air...

War Diary.

7.3.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air
Operations.

A Malta aircraft set on fire and destroyed a merchant ship late tonight in 37.52 N. 12.05 (703) E. (in the Sicilian Narrows) - and left it burning fiercely and low in the water: no further attack was considered necessary by aircraft despatched to finish off the ship. 12th Air Force, Algiers report that at 0920 6 B.25s escorted by 14 P.38s attacked an enemy convoy from 2000 ft. with 35 x 500 lb. bombs. No position is given. One small merchant vessel was sunk, one large merchant vessel was left in a sinking condition, one small merchant vessel and a naval vessel were left on fire, and 5 or 6 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 2 damaged. All our aircraft returned safely. The enemy was located and again attacked, by 19 B.17s escorted by 19 P.38s at 1245, 228 x 500 lb. bombs being dropped from 14,500 ft. Hits were seen on 3 vessels, one of which blew up and sank. Two ships were left burning. On the same day 16 escorted B.17s attacked Sousse harbour and obtained hits on a large merchant ship and on the docks, warehouse and marshalling yards. All aircraft returned safely. Eighteen enemy aircraft raided Tripoli (L) at dusk today: H.M. tug BRIGAND was damaged by a near miss.

East Indies.

Eastern
Fleet
destroyers.

The Admiralty today asked C. in C. Eastern Fleet to maintain, if possible, a total force of at least 6 destroyers under the orders of C. in C. S.A. for the present. Unless the presence of U-boats in the Cape area can be rendered unprofitable the Admiralty expect that more and more will be sent there. The following Eastern Fleet destroyers are in the Cape area at present:- NAPIER (S.O.(D)), QUALITY, NORMAN, RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE. QUIBERON and QUICKMATCH are on passage to Kilindini. The Eastern Fleet will be short of one N class destroyer for the period mid-March to the end of August and a second from the end of April to mid-July. (Note. This was altered, see 10th March)

9 Blenheims escorted by Hurricanes bombed Akyab today.

War Diary.

7.3.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Convoy
O.N.168.

The tanker EMPIRE LIGHT from Convoy O.N.168 was torpedoed at 1840Z today in 53.57 (750) N. 46.14 W. Rescue tug TENACITY sailed from St. Johns N.F. at 1116/8 to assist her.

SS. THORSTRAND (Liverpool to St. John N.B. independently) was reported sunk in 41.23 N. 42.59 W. today (about 540 miles S.E. of Cape Race).

Convoy
S.C.121.

The U.S. cutter JOHN C. SPENCER escorting the convoy, attacked a U-boat this morning in 57.03 N., 36.40 W. but the result of the attack is not known. At 1730Z CLUNEPARK, a straggler 24 miles astern of S.C.121 in 57.34 N. 35.22 W. reported engaging a submarine which submerged during a south-west gale and high seas.

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M
Movements. TACTICIAN and ULTOR leaving Scilly Isles at 2000A/9 diving by day.

A. TACTICIAN route "Green" to 047° N. thence route "Red" to 043° N. arriving 0330A/14.

B. ULTOR route "Brown" to 047° N. thence route "Green" to 043° N. arriving 2100A/15. 110 miles per day.
(Capt. S.3 1047A/7 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
Sailed P.511 and KINA. E.T.A. Cumbrae 1600A/9.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1123A/7.)
Owing to weather my P.C.S. are estimated 070° 12' 014° 32' 6 knots. Weather 44718366.
(SEANYMPH 1201A/7 to Capt. S.9.)
My 0949/4. Sailed. (B.1.)
(Capt. S.7 1409A/7.)
Comply with F.O.C.S/M 1559A/6, making good 160 miles per day. 1. SHAD passing through X. 045° 01', 012° 54' at 2100A/11.
Y. 044° 10' 003° 30' at 0330/14.
2. HERRING passing through R. 045° 01' 013° 22' at 2300/11
S. 044° 10' 009° 01' at 0200/13.
(Capt. S.3 1509A/7 to SHAD, HERRING.)
Sailed SHAD, HERRING escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with S.3's 0951A/5.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1554A/7.)
Positions of submarines at 0800A/8 and movements for following 24 hours.

A. SPORTSMAN, 66° 22' N. 06° 05' E., speed 9 knots through 62° 00' N. 00° 11' E. to Lerwick.

B. SEANYMPH 68° 52' N. 10° 33' E. speed 6 knots through 62° 01' N. 01° 02' E. to Lerwick.

C. TRUCULENT 64° 55' N. 03° 56' E. speed 10 knots through 62° 00' N. 00° 11' E. to Lerwick.

D. SIMOON 64° 32' N. 04° 19' E. speed 9 knots through 62° 01' N. 01° 03' E.

The positions of the above submarines are very approximate as they may have been delayed by weather. SEANYMPH's position is based on report at 1200/7. They are proceeding probably on the surface.

E. TUNA in zones K.5 and K.6.

F. JUNON escorted by LOCH MONTEITH 59° 18' N. 01° 48' W. due Lerwick 1500/8.

G. B.1 escorted by KING HAakon 7th 56° 53' N. 07° 05' W. through Minches to Dundee. E.T.A. 1500/9.

H. TACTICIAN and ULTOR escorted by CUTTY SARK 54° 07' N. 05° 08' W. due 360° Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 2000/9.

J. SHAD and HERRING escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Smalls due 360° Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 1800/8, thence independently dived by day: 1. SHAD through 49° 30' N. 09° 00' W. and 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W. 2. HERRING through 49° 50' N. 09° 01' W. and 49° 50' N. 12° 34' W.

K. P.511 escorted by KIHNA vicinity A Smalls for Rothesay speed 10 knots.

L. BARB 49° 36' N. 07° 52' W. probably on surface, due 360° Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 1800/8, thence escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE to Clyde.

/M...

War Diary.

7.3.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M Movements (Contd.) M. URSULA 45° 10' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W. (F.O.S. 1703A/7 and 2319A/7.) Sailed TACTICIAN and ULTOR escorted by CUTTY SARK in accordance with S.3's 1411A/5. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1928A/7.)

INDOMITABLE. Your 1840/3. No destroyers will be required as screen for INDOMITABLE before 15th March. (?V.A.A.H.F. 1136A/7 to C. in C.W.A.) Arrived R.A.(A) H.F. in INDOMITABLE. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1648A/7.)

VIMY. My 1811A/6. Sailed VIMY at 1520A/7 speed 15 knots. (Cmdre. Londonderry 1540A/7 to F.O.N.F.)

Canadian Corvettes. Request you will sail R.C.N. Corvettes ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR, SUMMERSIDE and WOODSTOCK in accordance with para. 1 (a) of A.M. 1330A/7. (D.O.D.H. 1830A/7 to C. in C.W.A.)

Dispositions of Main Units. Disposition of available Capital Ships Cruisers and aircraft carriers at 1800A/7. KING GEORGE V, HOWE at Scapa. ANSON, BERMUDA from Scapa to Hvalfjord E.T.A. 1200A/9.

CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK, BELFAST at Seidisfjord sailing about 0001/8 to cover R.A.53.

KENT at Hvalfjord.

BERWICK on patrol Denmark Strait.

GLASGOW at Scapa. FURIOUS at Clyde- ready service 0001A/8.

INDOMITABLE at Clyde- ready service 1200A/8.

2. P.C.S. of R.A. 53 70° 12' N. 02° 05' W. 236° 5 knots at 1800A/7. Escort of SCYLLA and 12 Fleet Destroyers. (D.O.D.H. 1908A/7 and 0334A/8 to Cominch.)

Operations.

Denmark Straits Patrol. Establish patrol "White" with one ship forthwith. (C. in C.H.F. 0507A/7 to C.S.1.) Your 0507A/7 BERWICK detailed. (C.S.1 0753A/7 to C. in C.H.F.) C.S.1's 0753. Sailed. (A.C.I.C. 1121A/7 to C. in C.H.F.)

Coastal Patrols. 1. 3 M.Ls patrolling between positions St. Catherines, 50° 20' N. 1° 35' W. 50° 20' N. 2° 21' W. Kimmeridge Bay.

7.3.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal
Patrols.
(Contd.)

2. ALBRIGHTON, LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth. ASIE at St. Helens.
3. Chasseurs 14 and 13 to patrol South of E.A.5. Constant watch 245 k/cs.
4. M.G.Bs. 616 and 611 to anti-E-Boat patrol between longitudes of C.2 and 3 buoys 10 miles south of convoy route. Keep southward of convoy during passage and return Newhaven after it has left Portsmouth command. Constant watch on 1700 k/cs.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1212/7.)

P.C.74
patrol.

P.C.74 leaves Falmouth 1900/7 to operate vicinity of 049° 40' N. 008° 33' W. from 0800/8 to 1700/12 closing Scilly Isles each night to fixed position.
(F.O.S. 1421A/7 to S/Ms.)

M/Ls
attacked
off
Dunkirk on
6th March.

My 0942A/6 and 1742A/6.
E.15 D. identified as two probable T.Class Torpedo Boats sighted M.Ls. 104, 102 and 107 at 0102/6 then carrying out operation N.L. 81 laying mines eastward midway between No. 3.W. and 6.W. Buoys in Dunkirk Channel. Remaining mines were laid simultaneously and M.Ls. returned to northward.

Enemy opened fire with 4 inch machine gun and starshell, obtaining hits on one craft who however only suffered minor damage and casualties.

M.L. 107 obtained one hit with 3 pdr. before being covered by smoke screen laid by M.L. 104, at which the enemy turned away.
2. M.Ls. 213 and 210 were returning in the vicinity of No. 1.W. Buoy having laid mines westward from No. 3.W. Buoy when they also were sighted by the enemy. Accurate fire was observed but the M.Ls. evaded the enemy under a smoke screen laid by both craft through which the enemy did not attempt to pass. No casualties or damage was suffered by these.
(V.A. Dover 1101A/7 to Admty.)

Operation
V.P.2.

My 1702/3. SJOLIVET returned Lerwick 1100/7.
2. Shipping Channel east of Olaskjaer (61° 43' 30" N. 04° 57' 15" E.) mined 2130/5.
3. LYGREFJORD not yet returned.
(A.C.O.S. 1155/7 to Admty.)

Exercises.

MYOSOTIS.
Hedgehog
trials.

A.M. 1631A/26/2. Intend to sail MYOSOTIS 1800A/9 to carry out special Hedgehog trials in 220° Oversay 7 miles and area enclosed by positions following.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1504A/7.)

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.

Air Patrols. / Request air patrols today 7th March in the following order of priority:-
 a. "Sentry II" from 1000/7
 b. Cross-over patrol to cover R.A. 53 at right-angles to a line joining convoy to Stadlandet not less than 100 miles from convoy. c. "Bear" or "Fox" to intercept a ship passing North Cape at about 0001/8 also "Rovik II" and I p.m/7th.
 2. It is not desired that aircraft should be with-drawn from threatened convoys.
 (A.C.N.S.H. 0555A/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk bombed.
 EMPIRE KINSMAN damaged.
 Air raid over dock and town 1930C to 2020C March 6th. EMPIRE KINSMAN, bridge and base of funnel hit by small bombs. One man killed few others received minor injuries. Seaworthiness of Ship not impaired. Small quantity British Naval ammunition on quay destroyed. Two thirds of Arctica Hotel burnt out. No casualties.
 (N.O.I.C. Murmansk 1414A/7.)

Eastbourne bombed. / MARLBOROUGH, Eastbourne, reports at 1250/7 enemy air attack short duration by a small number of planes. Slight damage to glass and roofs.
 (C. in C.Portsmouth 1600A/7.)

Mining.

Operation Q.L.1A. / Weather permitting carry out operation Q.L.1 A. tonight as ordered in my 1052/6.
 (C. in C.Nore 1058A/7 to BEEHIVE.)

Thames Estuary. / Following 3 Mines exploded by sweepers yesterday:-
 At 1454/6 in 273° N.E. Spit Buoy 7 cables
 At 1456/6 in 282° N.E. Spit Buoy 9 cables
 At 1627/6 in 230° Foreland Buoy 3½ cables.
 (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1230/7, 1235/7, 1240/7.)

Harwich. / M.M.S. detonated 1 ground mine at 1432/7 in 52° 9.5' N. 1° 51.7' E. Details.
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1629A/7 and 1852A/8.)

Yarmouth. / L.L. sweepers detonated one magnetic mine at 1652 in 274° 4 miles 3 C Buoy. Details.
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1725A/7) (Cmdre. M/S Lowestoft 1210A/8.)

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Cherbourg. P.R.U. 1230/7 Cherbourg shows 3 Narvik Class
Havre. Destroyers present. Le Havre 1 Narvik Class
Destroyer in dry dock and 2 "T" Class T.Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1652A/7)(C. in C.Plymouth 1705/7.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats Following has been read from convoy call sign J.V.
reported. 4.sub. sighted close Port bow.
No bearing obtained. R.A.F. informed.
(Burnham Radio No. T.O.O. Recd. Admty. 0107/7.)
Am over enemy S/M in 60° 33' N. 16° 48' W.
(A/C 220 Sqdn. Duty M 1615A/7.)
Have dropped sea markers in 60° 33' N. 16° 48' W. at
1615.
(A/C 220 Sqdn. Duty M 1635/7 to 15 Group.)

U-Boats Am over enemy S/M in 57° 05' N. 26° 00' W.
attacked. (A/C 179 Sqdn Duty J 0929A/7.)
Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges.
(A/C 179 Sqdn Duty J 0929A/7.)
Sea Markers dropped over enemy S/M in 57° 05' N. 26° 00' W.
at 0935.
(A/C J 220 0935/7 to 15 Group.)

Casualties & Defects.

P.556. My 1833A/6. Owing to damage to starboard
propeller P.556 will not sail as arranged.
(C. in C.Plymouth 0015A/7.)

ARIGUANI. Sailed ARIGUANI in tow of ABEILLE XXI and
ABEILLE I escorted by VIOLET in accordance
with my 0954A/6.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1056A/7.)

ASSINIBOINE. Arrival ASSINIBOINE 1000.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1102A/7 to Cmdre. Londonderry.)

INDOMITABLE. My 1310/3. After 3 days steaming speed to 28
knots further trouble has been experienced with
P.4. Plummer block when steaming 26 knots.
Ship is returning to Greenock to open Thrusts
for examination.
(INDOMITABLE 1110A/7 to Admty.)

/ADONIS...

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- ADONIS. Your 1633/3. Arrived 1210/7.
(F.O. Humber 1150/7 to F.O. Harwich.)
- Unknown vessel. Intercept at 1259 G.M.T. de unknown station begins (unread) - Vessel split across after decks, serious conditions. Stand by Q.S.L. Ends. Q.S.A. 3. Ends.
(Wick 1403/7 to R.A.F. Wick.)
- CAMPION. Main steam-pipe joint leaking badly which necessitates proceeding to Reykjavik to effect repairs and fuel. E.T.A. Reykjavik 1000A/8.
(CAMPION 1520A/7 to C. in C.W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- R.A. 53. Akureyri departure at 2300/6, VIVACIOUS with PYTCHLEY, LEDBURY and MEYNELL.
(A.C.I.C. 0201A/7 to SCYLLA.)
- Fuel with all despatch and proceed with Force R to cover R.A.53.
(C. in C.H.F. 0432A/7 to C.S.10.)
Your 1037/6. Make good defects with utmost despatch and be ready for immediate operation. Report probable time of completion.
(C. in C.H.F. 0502A/7 to FURIOUS.)
Proceed to pass Hoxa gate at 0930/7 in ANSON with BERMUDA and three destroyers detailed by R.A.(D) H.F. to Hvalfjord routed through 060° N. 017° W. and Reykjanes passage. S.O.A. 16 knots. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange A/S air escort from Butt of Lewis.
(C. in C.H.F. 0527A/7 to V.A.2.)
Force R arrived Seidis Fjord (Iceland). Oiler cannot get alongside.
(C.S.10 0740A/7 to C. in C.H.F.)
Scapa arrivals GLASGOW, FORESTER.
(A.C.O.S. 0846/7 to C. in C.H.F.)
Your 0502A/7. Expect to be ready in all respects by midnight today.
(FURIOUS 0850A/7 to C. in C.H.F.)
Scapa departures for Hvalfjord V.A.2 in ANSON, BERMUDA, MATCHLESS, ICARUS, PIORUN.
(A.C.O.S. 1031A/7.)
SCYLLA's 1603/6. During passage to Seidis Fjord each group of destroyers is to carry a sweep on as broad a front as possible.
(C. in C.H.F. 1050A/7 to Capt. D.8 INTREPID.)
C. in C.H.F. 0527/7. One Sunderland will escort you from 1520A/7 to 2000A/7.
(C. in C.W.A. 1206A/7 to V.A.2.)
My 1206/7. Aircraft will keep additional continuous watch on 2410 k/cs R/T.
(C. in C.W.A. 1238A/7 to V.A.2.)

/My...

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.R.A.53.
(Contd.)

My 2222/5. Constructor Commander on C.S.1's staff is of opinion that BELGOL could be docked in A.F.D. 17.
He requests that following information may be signalled.

These particulars are required on account of the small stability of BELGOL in this very light condition and total lift required being 15 tons in excess of stated maximum lifting capacity of dock.

(A.C.I.C. 1246A/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F.)

Sea entirely covered with broken up pack ice. Many large pieces. Unable to force passage. Am endeavouring to (?work) round to southward. My position 067° 50' N. 012° 50' W.

VIVACIOUS asdic completely out of action. Weather 90909757.

(VIVACIOUS 1327A/7 to C. in C.H.F.)

My 1152/7. Aircraft report unclassified A.S.V. contact in 070° 30' N. 001° 03' W. at 0525. Contact considered submarine.

(C. in C.Rosyth 1411/7 and 1612A/7 to Escorts R.A.53.)

In view of BELGOL being out of action propose to withdraw CULPEPPER from Akureyri to Hvalfjord when R.A. 53 has passed 065° North.

Only tankers now at Hvalfjord are EMPIRE GARDEN and SCOTTISH AMERICAN and the latter will not be mobile until about 11th March owing to defective capstan.

(A.C.I.C. 1553A/7 to C. in C.H.F.)

D/F bearings at 1517Z indicate U-Boat may have reported convoy R.A.53.

(D.D.I.C. 1640A/7.)

My 1411 and 1612/7. On interrogation pilot of aircraft stated 8 contacts all considered to be of submarine obtained within radius 5 miles of revised position 070° 20' N. 001° 03' W. at 0515/7.

(C. in C.Rosyth 1808A/7 to Escorts R.A. 53.)

Request that another Tanker may be sent to Iceland to relieve SCOTTISH AMERICAN. This vessel is in bad condition as she has been aground and has several slight leaks in her hull and pipe lines and an early refit is recommended. Master states he has a good crew but reports they are becoming restless in consequence of being on board for fifteen months with rare opportunities for shore recreation.

(A.C.I.C. 2329A/7 to Admty.)

RANGITATA.

A.M. 1342/6. RANGITATA will not now be ready to leave Bristol Channel until p.m. 13th March and is to be sailed to arrive Clyde a.m. 15th.

(D.O.D.H. 1702A/7 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy C.G.15 arrived.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 0212A/7 to S.N.O.C.A. (R)
C. in C. Med., (W), Admty. Com. N.O.B. Oran).

Movements, This is a re-encypherment of my 2048/6. (begins)
Casablanca. 6th March, arrivals Casablanca Escorts of
G.C.3 LORD HOTHAM, ?LA SETOISE, L'ENGAGEANTE,
DUMONT D'URVILLE, Escorts U.G.F.5 A, U.S.S.
GHERARDI, BAINBRIDGE, BROOME, MURPHY, JEFFER,
SIMPSON. Departed Safi U.S.S. McCORMICK P.C.473 (ends).
(S.N.O.C.A., 0304Z/7 to Admty).

SHEDIAC Request you order SHEDIAC proceed to Gibraltar
K.M.S.10 escorted by BADDECK. SS. ATLANTIC COAST has no
Mediterranean charts. Request relief escort
be provided with chart for her.
(ST. CROIX, 0740Z/7 to F.O.C. Gibraltar).

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 35° 26' N., 8° 10' W.
sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
When first sighted was on a course N.W. estimated
speed unknown.
(A/C HG7/A, 0845/7).

U/B attack Your 2031/6th. FORT BATTLE RIVER sank during
on K.M.S.10. night. FORT PASKOYAC still in good condition.
On arrival H.M.C.S. BADDECK proposes to proceed
Gibraltar. Am out of depth charges.
(SHEDIAC, 0900A/7 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)
Admty. K.M.S.10, BADDECK).
Your 0900/7th not to ST. NECTAN. Not approved. Remain
as additional escort.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1230A/7 to SHEDIAC, (R) Admty.
Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.10, BADDECK, ST. NECTAN).
Part company forthwith and proceed at best speed to
assistance of FORT BATTLE RIVER and FORT PASKOYAC torpedoed in
036° 30' N., 010° 17' W.
2. SALVONIA escorted by BADDECK sailed 2200A/6th and NIMBLE
escorted by REGINA sailed 0001A/7th to assist.
3. REGENT approaching Q.R.A. 87 from N.N.W. at 0700, may be
ahead of position.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1015A/7 to ST. NECTAN (R) Escorts of
K.M.S.10, BADDECK, Admty. REGINA, C. in C. Med (W))
EMPIRE FLAMINGO has 47 survivors from FORT BATTLE RIVER,
SHEDIAC 8, FORT YORK 9. It is thought one S/M entered convoy
from ahead.
(ST. CROIX, 1131Z/7 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
EMPIRE FLAMINGO has defective steering gear and 47 survivors
will proceed to Gibraltar.
(ST. CROIX, 1337Z/7 to F.O.C. Gibraltar).
One ship has sunk. SALVONIA, BADDECK return to Harbour.
ST. NECTAN join REGINA and NIMBLE.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1210A/7 to BADDECK, NIMBLE, SALVONIA,
ST. NECTAN, REGINA, SHEDIAC (R) Admty. Escorts of convoy
K.M.S.10 Escorts of convoy K.M.F.10 B. C. in C. Med).

/SALVONIA...

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B attack on K.M.S.10. (contd). SALVONIA took damaged ship in tow at ?2230 course 102° speed 4 knots. Am returning to Harbour in accordance with your 1855A/7. REGINA had not joined tow by 2330. My P.C. and S. at midnight 036° 36' N., 010° 10' W., 103° 13.5 (BADDECK, 2359A/7 to F.O.C. Gibraltar).

Dispositions. Situation 2002A/7. Coastal force convoy 045° 10' 013° 41' through 44.58 13.41 thence 179 8½.
2. TRIDENT 042° 40' 012° 44' 161° diving by day 2½ surface night 8¾ 135 miles day.
3. Hospital ship ATLANTIS (?034°) 52' 018° 33' through 37.(?01) 17.59 thence 014° 13¾.
4. REGINA BADDECK 2 tugs searching for 2 damaged merchant ships vicinity 36.30 10.17. On finding proceeding to Gibraltar merchant ships in tow.
5. ST. NECTAN 35.59 07.05 to join REGINA 9. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1013A/7)
Situation 2001A/7. LA GRANDIERE F.S. ANTIOPE, F.S. LA VESTALE 32.48 09.08 coastwise to (?Casablanca) 9½.
(2) K.M.F.10 B CHURCHILL 35.19 08.45 through 35.50 06.39 and Q.K.A. 87 eastbound 13¼.
(3) REGENT (?36).21 07.01 through (?35).53 06.15 at 0700/8th diving by day thence on surface through Q.K.A. 87 to arrive Gibraltar 1045/8th 10 knots.
(4) S.R.2 SPEEDWELL 34.57 07.19 through 35.49 06.34 to Gibraltar 7½.
(5) ARCTIC RANGER One merchant ship 38.22 09.16 coastwise to Tagus 8. H.M.S. ARCTIC RANGER then returns direct to 35.56 06.20 10 knots.
(6) M.K.S.9 ST.CROIX passes Europa Point approx. 1900/8th westbound 7½.
(9) C.G.16 LORD HOTHAM sailing Casablanca 1200/8th through Q.K.A. 92 thence 032° 9. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1032A/7)

K.M.S.10 Following will be sailing to join for Bone VOLTURNO for Oran SAN CIRILIO (T) for Algiers SAN AMADO (T), DJEBEL AURES, SIDI IFNI. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1027A/7 to Escorts of K.M.S.10 (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. Connav).
K.M.S.10. Ships sailed to join as in my 1027/7th less VOLTURNO, SAN AMADO, DJEBEL AURES. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2143/7 to Escorts of convoy K.M.S.10 (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. Connav).

U.G.S.5 A,
arrival.

My 2022/6. CHEMUNG, JOHN HARVEY, MARYMAR, EPHRAIM BREVARD, F.A. LUCKENBACH, ALEXANDER LILLINGTON, WILLIAM MCKINLEY, ANDREW G. CURTIN, NATHANIEL MACON, MEMPHIS CITY, LEIV ERIKSSON, FRITHJOF NANSEN, GEORGE DAVIS, T.F.37, GHERARDI, JEFFERS, BAINBRIDGE, MURPHY, BROOME, SIMPSON. (S.N.O. Casablanca, Area, 1232/7 to C. in C. Med., (W), (R) F.O.C. Gib. Com. N.O.B. Oran, Cominch, Admty. C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q.)
My 1232Z/7. Also arrived JAMES MONROE. (S.N.O.C.A., 1535Z/7).

/U/B...

War Diary.

7.3.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 36° 21' N., 13° 03' W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 340°. Speed 10 knots.
(A/C 5KP/P 1745A/7).

UNA, UNSHAKEN, information. LAFOREY and LOOKOUT left Algiers 1044/7th 22 knots and TARTAR and O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA leave Philippeville 2000/7th approx. 28 knots all bound for Gibraltar. They are informed of your movements.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1817/7 to UNA, UNSHAKEN).

Portuguese Ships, Newfoundland. Admty. 1923A/7 to N.A. Lisbon. See America and West Indies.

Movements, Casablanca. March 7th. P.C.471 departed for Moulag Bou Selham: U.S.S. McCORMICK P.C.473 arrived Casa. from Safi: S.C.525 departed with MELUSINE and SUNFLOWER for Port Lyautey.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1947Z/7 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. Cominch, C. in C. Med).

FARNDALE P.C. and S. at 2359A/7 35° 42' N., 3° 10' W. 083° 17.
(FARNDALE, 2009A/7 to WISHART).

Movements Gibraltar. Arrivals 2315/6 U.S. P.C.472 475, French ship LA SABLAI L.C.T.15, 16, 177 with C.G.15 0859/7. French ship LA BOUDEUSE with one M/V from Oran. 1015 VERITY ex U.G.S.5 A. 1045 PENTSTEMON, VETCH, with three M/Vs from Lisbon. Departures. 0135 U.S. P.C. 472, 475 for Casablanca. 0745 ESKIMO to join K.M.F. ten B. 0725 CIRCE for M/S Sweep West. 1305 VANOC, VERITY, FOXTROT, TANGO, STELLA CARINA, LADY HOGARTH to R/V and escort K.M.S.10 1612 UNSHAKEN for Algiers, Q.K.43 less 42, Q.K.B.57 less 55. 2000 PENTSTEMON, VETCH with Gibraltar Section K.M.S.10.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 2304A/7 to Admty. C. in C. Med., Cominch).

Air Report. W.X.4730. A.I.223 7 March. Op. summ. No. 126 for 24 hours ended 1800 7th March.
(G) Sightings and attacks. Catalina A/202 on escort to K.M.F.10 B. sighted U/B on surface course N.W. at 0845/(7 or 6?) 35.26 N. 8.10 W. submerged before attack could be made. Hudson P./233 on sweep West sighted U/B on surface course 360/7 kts. at 1739/7 36.21 N. 13.03 W. 4 DCN dropped 2 seconds after U/B submerged, explosions obliterated swirl, 2 minutes later large mass of large bubbles close together lasting 3 mins. 8 minutes after attack streak of oil 300 yards by 10 yards on U/B course, did not increase.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 2359Z/7).

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

QUADRANT. F.O.C.W.Af's. 1030/6th. Estimated time of sailing QUADRANT 0900/7th, E.T.A. Dakar 1300/7th. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 0050Z/7 to Comar, Dakar, F.O.C.W.Af. Admty.)
Arrived QUADRANT 1530/7th. Intend docking her 0730Z (?tomorrow) 8th. Estimated time to complete major defects will be (?reported) immediately ship is docked.
(Comar Dakar 1856Z/7 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. (?N.O.I.C. Freetown) N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

SHEAFCROWN SHEAFCROWN torpedoed by submarine in 31° 49' S. 31° 11' E. at 0045/4. One torpedo fired striking, No. 1 hold port side. Ship was abandoned by officers and crew who were all picked up and landed here including Master, except three who are missing. Submarine was not seen and fire was not opened by ship. No S S S S Message sent. Ship is still afloat and is in tow. C/Bs were removed from ship and have been returned to this office.

(N.C.S.O. Durban 073Z/7 to Admty. C. in C.S.A.)

Tug PRUDENT has SHEAFCROWN in tow. Only No. 1 hatch appeared damaged and steam party is aboard raising steam. Intention is to tow her into East London escorted by BLACKMOOR, CATTERICK, NIGELLA.
(C. in C.S.A. 1220C/7 to Admty. C. in C.E.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Durban, N.O.I.C. East London.)

SABOR Following has been read from *S S S S 34.20 S. 23.30 E. in lifeboats.
sunk. (Slongkop W/T T.O.R. 0806C/7 to Admty.)
* SABOR.

Following has been read S S S S from SABOR 34.30 S. 23.20 E. in lifeboats 53 men, ship sunk.

(Slangkop W/T 0817C/7 to Admty.)

At 0517Z/7th SABOR sunk by U-Boat in 034° 30' S. 023° 20' E. 53 members of crew in lifeboats.

(C. in C.S.A. 0815Z/7th to Admty. C. in C.E.F. Cmdre. i/c Durban, (R) N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth.)

British SABOR position 34.30 S. 2310 E. 7th March 0500 torpedoed and sunk by submarine 3 torpedoes fired 52 survivors. No return fire made, no S S S S signal made, survivors at Mossel Bay.

(R.O. Mossel Bay 2320C/7 to C. in C.S.A. Cmdre. Durban, Admty.)

QUAIL, Arrived QUAIL escorting ALMANZORA 1730Z/6th.
ALMANZORA. Sailed QUAIL 0025Z/7th to rejoin W.S.27.
(Comar Dakar 0819Z/7 to F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.W.A. Admty. C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, F.O.Gibraltar.)

/PICT...

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

PICT.

Arrival 7th March.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 1020Z/7 to Admty.)

Dispositions.

Position at 2000Z/7th.

CILICIA 022° 10' S. 005° 10' W. to 020° S. 010° West, 14.

ARETHUSA 020° 55' S. 011° 05' E. to 016° 25' S. 010° 30' E. 17.

ROCKROSE, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY off Walvis Bay.

DRANGEY 032° 40' S. 017° 20' E. to Capetown 7.7.

JASMINE, NORWICH CITY, SPHENE with D.N. 22 029° 40' S. 034° 50' E. to 036° S. 038° E. 8.

GENISTA M.Ls. 380, 382, 383, 829, 034° 55' S. 020° 10' S. to Port Elizabeth 11.

BLACKMOOR leaves East London p.m. 7th for Simonstown.

(C. in C.S.A. 1034C/7.)

Situation 2001Z/7th.

BRIDGEWATER, INKPEN escorting about 09.18 17.01 W. to Freetown 10.

CROCUS, FANDANGO, DUNCTON escorting about 09.16 17.00 131 9 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Fleet Unit WOLVERINE, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER with W.S.

27 09.02 15.57 to Freetown 13.

French Sloop Minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE 12.35 17.16 through 11.10 17.16 and 10.40 16.50 thence 113 14.

French Sloop Minesweeper GAZELLE escorting 13.37 17.03 to Dakar 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

2 M.Ls. Southbound between Port Etienne and Bathurst.

(R.A.W.A. 1311Z/7.)

Situation at 1958Z/7th.

BELLWORT, ARMERIA, ARRAN 2 M.Ls. with S.T. 58 007° 24' 014° 00' 126° 9.

CONSRON, 1 M.L. approaching Freetown from Southwest 6.

CORINTHIAN, SARABANDE 2 M.Ls. with T.S. 32 003° 50' 008° 12' 302° 9.

F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about position 005° N. 021° 30' W.

SUSSEX on patrol about position 003° N. 020° W.

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about position 001° N. 020° W. (?8).

Allied naval units on patrol in Ascension St. Pauls Rocks area.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1453Z/7.)

MARIETTA E
(sunk 4/3.)
Convoy
D.N. 21.MARIETTA E torpedoed by S/M in 31° 49' S. 31° 11' at 0045Z/4. One torpedo fired striking No. 2 hold port side ship sank 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours later. S S S message sent out but no acknowledgement received. C/Bs. in holed steel box jettisoned by master. S/M subsequently surfaced but not

seen close enough for description. Disappeared heading south at high speed. Five of ships crew unaccounted for, balance landed here.

(N.C.S.O. Durban 1038Z/7 to Admty. C. in C.S.A.)

NIRPURA
(sunk 4/3.)
Convoy
D.N. 21.

NIRPURA torpedoed by S/M in 32° 47' S. 29° 47' E approx. at 2025Z/3. One torpedo fired, striking boiler room, ship sinking seven hours later. S S S S sent out. C/Bs sank with ship in locked weighted box. S/M not seen. Survivors will be signalled later.

(N.C.S.O. Durban 1052Z/7 to Admty. C. in C.S.A.)

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements. Simonstown departure 0800C/7th? March GENISTA escorting M.Ls. 380, 382, 383, 829 for Port Elizabeth E.T.A. 0800C/9th.
(C. in C.S.A. 1051C/7 to Admty., etc.)

**BURDOCK,
THYME,
ALMANZORA,
W.S.27.** Subject to timely arrival of BURDOCK and THYME intend to sail them escorting ALMANZORA to Freetown about 1900Z today 7th.
2. Routed from Goree Island direct to position Y 012° 01' N. 018° 03' W. thence along route of W.S.27.
3. Speed made good and E.T.A. Freetown will be made by Commodore in ALMANZORA through escort when known.
4. Request British air cover.
(Comar, Dakar 1103Z/7 to F.O.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, MALAYA, BURDOCK, THYME, Cmdre. in ALMANZORA.)
Arrived BURDOCK and THYME escorting HOGGAR 1800.
2. My 1103Z/7th Sailed ALMANZORA escorted by BURDOCK and THYME.
3. Survivors of M.L. 251 have been transferred from BURDOCK to ALMANZORA for passage Freetown.
4. ALMANZORA requires water and 750 tons oil fuel at Freetown.
(Comar Dakar 2302Z/7 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst)

**Movements
Dakar.** Arrived FORT ARCHAMBAULT, ST. LOUIS, Q.C. CHELMA escorted by COMMANDANT BORY M.Ls. 302, 244 and 279
2. Proposed M.Ls. be sailed for Bathurst to Horta further escort after 100 hours overhaul.
(Comar 1209Z/7 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

**JAMES
PARKER.** Arrival 6th March.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1211Z/7 to Admty. (R) Connav.)

**HERO
(proposed
to escort
EMPRESS OF
CANADA.)** Your 1306/5. HERO is not considered suitable for this duty. Ship cannot reach Freetown before 21 March. Experience shows that she requires approx. 3 days at each port for boiler tube repairs and evaporator overhaul. Generally ship is in a poor condition from the engine room point of view.
(C. in C.S.A. 1233C/7 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

HERO at Capetown is due to leave for Freetown 9th March. She will be taken in hand for refit at Portsmouth in mid April.
2. F.O.C.W.Af. and F.O.C.Gibraltar are requested to arrange onward sailing.
3. HERO's endurance is limited to 2000 miles at 15 knots and her machinery is not reliable.
4. A.M. 1306/5 is cancelled in view of C. in C.S.A's. 1233/7th March.
(D.O.D.(F) 1732A/7 to C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.C.Gibraltar.
(R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, C. in C.Portsmouth, A.S. Portsmouth, HERO.)

/Movements...

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Movements,
Freetown.Departure 0858/7th March. ARRAN, ARMERIA,
BELLWORT, M.Ls. 290, 256 with S.T. 58.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1252Z/7 to Admty. etc. as
amended 1819Z/8.)HYDRANGEA
etc.Estimated time of sailing H.M.S., HYDRANGEA,
ORSAY (?ORFASY), AIMWELL escorting S.S. CAP
PADARAN and NEW BROOKLYN 1800Z/8th "Purple"
route. E.T.A. Freetown a.m. 11th March.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1430/7 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Comar,
Dakar, Admty.)

CHESHIRE.

CHESHIRE sailed 1430 G.M.T. for Maldonado Bay
where she will remain until dry dock is ready
for sea about 12th/13th March.
(N.A. Montevideo 1445Z/7 to Admty. (R) C. in
C.S.A. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

ARETHUSA.

Following is a repetition of my 0139/6th (Begins)
Capetown departure 1500Z/5th ARETHUSA in
accordance with my 1237/4th March.

2. (?Passed) to W/T organisation for area P at 1200Z/9th.
3. Requires on arrival Pointe Noire 600 tons furnace oil.
140 tons (?diesel) 50 tons drinking water. (Ends.)
(C. in C.S.A. 1447C/7th to Admty. F.O.I.C. W.Af. B.N.L.O.W.Af.)

ARAWA.

Following received from British ship ARAWA
(begins) position 118° 146 P steering 110°
as ordered by aircraft (ends.) Have instructed
her to rejoin her ocean route unless ordered
to the contrary.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1527/7 to Comsolant (R) Admty.
Connav, N.O.I.C. Ascension.)ALBATROSS,
CARTHAGE,
QUIBERON,
QUICKMATCH.Sailed A. ALBATROSS, B. CARTHAGE, C. QUIBERON,
D. QUICKMATCH in company routed through position
A. 027° 50' S. 041° 00' E. B. 011° 20' S. 042°
10' E.
2. CARTHAGE and QUIBERON shift to group V 1415Z/
11th and part company at (position?) 025° S.
thence to Kilindini through position B. for 14.5 knots after
parting company. E.T.A.. 0600Z/13th.
3. ALBATROSS? and QUICKMATCH speed 13.5 knots. Through position
A. to Tulear E.T.A. 0300Z/10th. Disembark petrol. Expected

/time...

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- ALBATROSS,
CARTHAGE,
QUIBERON,
QUICKMATCH.
(Contd.)
- time of sailing 1100Z/10th. Coastwise to Majunga E.T.A. 0900Z/12th. Disembark petrol. Expected time of sailing 1400Z/12th. Thence through position B. to Kilindini E.T.A. 0500Z/15th. Shift group V after arriving at Majunga. C. in C.S.As. 1225/4th and C. in C.E.F. 1656/4th re petrol refer.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1531Z/7 to Admty. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. F.O.E.A. and Zanzibar, N.O.I.C. Tular, N.O.I.C. Majunga.)
- NIGELLA. (?Arrival) 1612Z/7th.
(N.O.I.C. E.London 1613Z/7 to Admty. etc.)
- BOREAS,
JAMES
PARKER. Arrival 1600/6th March BOREAS escorting JAMES PARKER.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1700Z/7 to Admty. etc.)
- EMPRESS OF
CANADA. EMPRESS OF CANADA due shortly destination Liverpool.
(D.T.D. 1748A/7 to N.C.S.O. Freetown.)
- DESPATCH. Intend sailing DESPATCH at 1200Z/8th March to carry out patrol in area between following points.
E. 004° 19' N. 017° 41' W. F. 001° 00' N. 018° 00' W.
G. 002° 57' N. 021° 42' W. H. 005° 01' N. 020° 10' W.
Estimated speed made good 19 knots. DESPATCH will leave patrol on 11th March to return to Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 2015Z/7 to Admty. (R) DESPATCH, SUSSEX, CARNARVON CASTLE, Com. Dakar, Comsolant.)
- CATTERICK. Should arrive 1000C/8th.
(CATTERICK 2020Z/7 to N.O.I.C. Durban.)
- MARIPOSA. My 1754/5. MARIPOSA. Following received from Master - (Begins) Stores and water low. Your order could be executed only by very severe rationing, which I consider inadvisable due to large number of hospital cases. One death 6th March, probably Typhus (Ends.)
2. Ship has been instructed to proceed to Capetown.
(C. in C.S.A. 2151C/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.W.Af. B.A.D. Connav.)
- S.L.126.
Numbers. Owing to CITY OF DIEPPE and Tug INTENT ordered Gibraltar, HOGGAR joining from Dakar for Gibraltar and STANHILL diverted to load Pepel for U.K. number of ships for S.L. 126 between Dakar and Gibraltar may reach 43. Request approval for this excess. A.Ms. 1824/15 Jan. refers.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 2359Z/7 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.C.Gibraltar.)
Concur (D.T.D. 2357A/10.)

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Movements,
Beirut.6th March arrival CUMBRAE.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 0835B/7 to Admty).Force K,
sweep,
PAKENHAM,
PALADIN.2 destroyers of Force K leaving Malta 1615 today
to operate north of Pantellaria from 2300 to
0200/8th by which time they will be east of
Pantellaria.(V.A. Malta, 0915A/7 to C. in C. Med., 201 N.C.
Group, ABDIEL, H.Q.E.A.C., H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.,
(R) C. in C. Levant, Admty).2 Fleet destroyers sail from Malta 1615A carrying out sweep
to northward of Pantellaria tonight returning to Malta dawn.
ABDIEL arrives Malta dawn 8th from Q.K.35 routed 10 miles north
of Pantellaria. All have orders not to attack S/M.

(Capt. S.10., 0952A/7 as amended 1207A/7 to 10th S/M F).

To avoid embarrassing ABDIEL destroyer(s) will not
operate as in my 0915/7th but will sail 2300/7th to be in
036° 26' 012° 42' at 0500/8th to assist her if necessary thence
returning Malta.(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1353A/7 to C. in C. Med., 201 N.C. Group.
H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., ABDIEL, H.Q.E.A.C. (R) C. in C. Levant,
Admty).PAKENHAM and PALADIN codeword "Bosom" sailed 2300 through
035° 42' 014° 19' to be in 036° 26' 012° 42' at 0500/8th thence
returning by reverse route. Object to help you if necessary.
If forces are in sight after daylight they should concentrate.(2) Friendly submarine may be encountered on your route and
one is expected to arrive Malta from 10 miles North of Linosa
about 0830/8th. All informed of your movements. Observe
(?Sanctuary) rules.(3) Keep constant watch on M routine and 4205 k/cs from 0100
to 0700/8th.(R.A. Malta 1401A/7 to ABDIEL (R) F.O.I.S. Capt. (D) 12
?C. in C. Med).Sailed PAKENHAM and PALADIN on operations.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2343A/7 to Admty etc).

AMARAPOORA

AMARAPOORA is ready for sea. Request instructions
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1100A/7 to C. in C. Med.,
(R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty).Your 1100/7. Request you will sail AMARAPOORA
for Avonmouth.(C. in C. Med., 1400A/7 to Com. N.O.B. Oran,
(R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty).Intend sailing AMARAPOORA to Avonmouth at 0700A/8. Routed
through 93,82,28,57 and Q.K.A. 87 ocean route through 36.31 N.
09.02 W. 40.13 N., 13.13 W., 54.01 N., 13.15 W. 55.30 N.,
08.30 W. Speed of Advance 12 knots.

(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2045/7 to Admty).

/M.K.S.9...

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7.3.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

- M.K.S.9 Sailed. For Gibraltar for U.S.A. CARTER BRAXTON, LEWIS MORRIS, ETHAN ALLEN, JOHN HATHORN, CHARLES CARROLL, WINSTON SALE. H.M.Y. CHARLES MACIVER. Gibraltar for U.K. - MANCHESTER COMMERCE, EMPIRE SHEARWATER, BRITISH CHIVALRY, FORT RELIANCE, FORT GIBRALTAR, FORT CHILCOTIN, MARY LENSEN, H.T.S. GUARDIAN. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1146A/7 to C. in C. Med.(R) Admty. etc).
- GRADISCA Your 1206/6 (Requesting confirmation that air safe conduct. authorities have been informed) Authorities will be informed as soon as reply to para. 2 in B.N.A. Ankara's 1747/5th is received. (Capt. on Staff, Alexandria, 1241B/7 to Admty. (R) N.A. Ankara).
- Movements, Arrived and sailed QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, Philippeville. BICESTER, ZETLAND, L.C.T's 160, 164, arrived L.C.T.170. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1303A/7 to Admty).
- L.C.P. 106 L.C.P. 106 wrecked 15 miles east of Tubruki 4th March and considered total loss. (C. in C. Levant, 1304B/7 to Admty).
- UNSHAKEN, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 2301/5th and 1329/6th. DOLFIJN. Onward route through 037° 43' 000° 01' East at 0130/10th 037° 50' 001° 43' E. at 2200/10th. To R/V escort Algiers and 036° 58' 003° 03' at 0800/11th.
(2) My 1552/6th to P.47 (DOLFIJN) P.47 is to R/V in position given in para above at 0800/11th.
(3) 1st S/M to arrive is identified broadcasting to escort and enter harbour unescorted. 2nd S/M will be escorted into harbour.
(4) P.54 (UNSHAKEN) may be late.
(5) None of the signals quoted are to all addressees.
(6) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to TRIBUNE.
(Capt. S.8., 1358A/7 to P.54 (UNSHAKEN) P.47 (DOLFIJN) (R) C. in C. Med., 8th S/M F. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers, S.O. S/M Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Oran, TRIBUNE). See also 1300A/10.
- TRIBUNE F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1509/6. Onward route through 038° 27' 001° 10' at 0300/11th 038° 27' 003° 04' at 2200/11th thence on the surface at your discretion to R/V escort for Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 04' at 0700/12th.
(2) All positions North and East.
(3) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to TRIBUNE.
(Capt. S.8., 1418A/7 to TRIBUNE (R) P.54, N.O.I.C. Oran, 8th S.F. C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers).

/Tripoli...

War Diary.

7.3.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Tripoli and Benghazi. Reply to Admty. 0334A/27 Feb. re tonnage required for maintenance.
(P.S.T.O. Middle East 1557/7 to Admty for D.S.T.)
See Lion Copy.
- M.K.F.10 B. N.O.I.C. Algiers is requested to sail convoy M.K.F. 10 B at 1800A/10th escorted by CHURCHILL RESTIGOUCHE, BRANDON, AMHERST, COLLINGWOOD, CELANDINE.
2. S. of A. overground 13 knots. Route through 75, 12, 76, 57, letter L to O. Stragglers route as convoy.
 3. From 57 through Q.K.A.87 thence standard Ocean route letter P to U. Standard stragglers route letter B to G.
 4. Gibraltar Section join in position 57 at 0400A/12th.
 5. Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Harper".
 6. 1st 2 letters of W/T call sign B.S. Outcon 4 2 7.
(C. in C. Med., 1655A/7 to N.O.I.C. Algiers (R) N.O.I.C. Oran, C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.W.A.C.A.F., H.Q.C.C., S.O. Force H, Admty. Connav).
- SAHIB Onward route through 038° 18' 011° 01' at 0300/10 038° 18' 002° 58' at 2300/12th thence on the surface at your discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 58' 002° 58' at 0700/13th.
(2) Capt. (S) 10 pass to P.212 (SAHIB) F.O.C. Gibraltar pass to TRIBUNE.
(Capt. S.8., 1658A/7 to P.212 (SAHIB) (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, 8th S/M F. Cdre. Algiers).
- P.R.U. P.R.U. March 7th visuals. 1435 Taranto 2 Battleships 3 cruisers. 1530 Messina no major naval units.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1659A/7 to C, in C. Med etc).
- ORDUNA My 1108/4th March (Amended programme of embarkations in returning vessels of W.S.26) ORDUNA destination in Madagascar is Tamatave. Agreed G.H.Q. Middle East Forces. Kilindini pass to E.A. Command.
(P.S.T.O. M.E., 1714B/7 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. etc).
- Proposed French Repatriations Cadiz. Your 1620/5 and 1603/5. In view of French anxiety to seize this opportunity and as we understand that:- (a) only one ship will now be at risk, and (b) adequate security examination will be provided in North Africa, we do not press our objection.
(Head of M.I. Approved 1st Lord, 1743A/7 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Oran, N.A. Madrid).

/Malta...

MOST SECRET

259A

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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

M E S S A G E

IN

MOST SECRET

1557/7th March

From P.S.T.O. Middle East.

Date 8/3/43
Recd. 0056

Naval Cypher X by Cable

Addressed Admiralty for D.S.T.

Tonnage for Tripoli & Benghazi.

IMPORTANT 928.

Your 0334/27/2 has been fully considered in conjunction with Mideast and M.W.T. Present minimum requirements for Benghazi until 31st March (repetition 31st March) are 1000 (repetition 1000) tons per day stores and cased petrol. Thereafter indefinite as to quantity and date. Bulk petrol requirement is additional. Army agree cut Benghazi tonnage earliest possible date.

2. Minimum requirements Tripoli 4000 (repetition 4000) tons per day stores and cased petrol. This requirement is firm for five months ending July 31st thereafter indefinite dependent on military developments. Bulk petrol requirement is additional.

3. Benghazi minimum speed requirement reliable 7 knots. Turnround is 36 days for one complete cycle under existing convoy arrangements.

4. Tripoli minimum speed requirement reliable 9 knots. Present turnround 36 days which includes some waiting time for escorts. Tripoli convoys must include vessels with derricks capable lifting lighters tugs tanks and other heavy equipment. After end March anticipate two ships each convoy will cover heavy lifting requirements. Chiefly tanks both West and Eastbound.

5. In calculating tonnage required for above commitment regard must be had to stowage factor of stores which averages 80 cubic feet excluding tanks also to breakdowns accidents and losses for which latter C. in C. Levant recommends 15 percent margin.

6. Of small ships which are normally available from sea transport and commercial feeder services approximately 20 are under repair chiefly in consequence of marine damage sustained in Western desert ports.

7. Although no date can yet be planned army will require 800 (repetition 800) tons per day to be landed at Sfax.

8. Our opinion is that Tripoli should chiefly be served by ocean ships having regard requirements of speed, derricks, lighterage and handling facilities and proposal is form each convoy 7 ocean ships and three feeder ships which we consider most economical method.

9. On foregoing basis and allowing convoy sailings to Tripoli every 11 or 12 days require 28 (repetition 28) ocean ships of types to meet conditions of paragraph 4 plus 12 (repetition 12) feeder ships all excluding bulk tankers.

10. For Benghazi service require 12 (repetition 12) feeder service ships plus small bulk tankers as present employed.

11. Foregoing programme requires 24 (repetition 24) small ships. From 50 small type ships presently operated by sea transport some of which cannot make required speed we may expect gradual release of six feeder ships apart from those under repair. Foresee these vessels will all be required to cover casualties and for commercial services, Turkey commitments and other sea transport requirements.

12. Must leave you to suggest how your paragraphs (d) (e) and (f) can best be met. For the Tripoli service the requirements can be crystalised as ships to carry 6000 (repetition 6000) tons of 80 cubic feet on draft of 24 feet reliable 9 knots and good cargo working gear to discharge overside average about 750 (repetition 750) tons per day and thereby allowing time for backloading. Limitations of harbour capacity, facilities and technical personnel preclude working tonnage required from large number of small (repetition small) ships within the convoy cycle.

MOST SECRET

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- 3 -

13. Mideast consider any reduction in tonnage or rate of discharge at Tripoli would be operationally dangerous.

14. Agreed M.W.T.M.E. and Mideast.

1557/7.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
- Upper War Room
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.T.D.(3)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D. of S.T.(2)
- Head of M.(4)
- D. of P.(2)
- D.C.(2)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- Admiral Blako (4)

GMM

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta Air Report. A.I. 535 7 March. C.S.R. Part 1., Night 6/7. No offensive operations possible owing to 10/10 cloud and heavy rain. Day 7th March. 16 Spitfires on offensive sweep over Comiso area Sicily found no enemy aircraft. Continuing bad weather prevented further offensive operations. Part 2. Enemy air activity. Day 7 March. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. (A.H.Q., Malta, 1800Z/7 to Air Min etc).

Movements, Port Said. 7th March Port Said. Departures: H.H.M.S. PANTHER, BURRA, WOLBOROUGH. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1802/7 to Admty etc).

Movements Bone. Bone arrival ABDIEL departure ABDIEL, LIGHTNING, LOYAL. (S.O.I.S., 1958A/7 to C. in C. Med., etc).

Movements, Algiers. Arrived MULL, TORBAY. Departures D.19 in LAFOREY, LOOKOUT, BICESTER, ZETLAND, TARANA. (Cdre. Algiers, 2001A/7 to Admty etc).

SIBYL, information. Malta A/C searching in south west corner of your area from 2230 tonight. Air torpedo strike will follow if target is found. (S. 10, 2009A/7 to P.217 (SIBYL) (R) Capt. (S) 8)

Movements, Oran. Today departures were ABDIEL, HAYDON, STORNOWAY H.M.Y. CHARLES. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2105A/7 to F.O. Gibraltar etc).

Movements Haifa. Arrival 7th March CUMBRAE, ISLAY M.L. LORD IRWIN, departure 7th March M.Ls. 350, 384, 385, FIRMAMENT, ISLAY, Norwegian Minesweeper NOBLE NORA. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 2210/7 to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

Enemy M/V. Following received. Addressed Air H.Q. Malta. From A/C C/S FFD/E position of 1 merchant vessel 37° 52' N., 12° 05' E. (Alexandria, 2300/7 to Admty). Following received. Addressed Air H.Q. Malta. From A/C C/S FFD/E. Ship burnt, no attack needed. (Alexandria, 2345A/7 to Admty).

/Movements...

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements.
Tobruk.

Arrived BEAUFORT, EXMOOR, TETCOTT.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2315B/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
Levant).

Movements
Oran.

Repetition of my 2105A/7 (begins).
Following arrived: HAYDON, AVONVALE, JAUNTY,
Departures: ABDIEL, HAYDON, STORNOWAY, GUARDIAN,
OAKLEY, PUCKERIDGE, FARNDALE, H.M.C. CHARLES
MACIVER, (ends).
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2359A/7 to F.O. Gibraltar etc).

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Movements. Departure KONKAN escorting STORVIKEN.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 0126Z/7 to Admty.)
Arrival NETRAVATI.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 0612Z/7 to Admty.)
Arrival 0730Z/7th TAMWORTH.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1017Z/7 to Admty.)
BALUCHISTAN arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 1230Z/7 to Admty.)
BRITTANY arrived.
(F.O. East Africa and Zanzibar 1241Z/7 to Admty.)
Colombo arrival 7th 0330Z OVERDALE WYKE, KEDAH at 0350Z.
(F.O. Ceylon 1649Z/7 to Admty.)

"S"
Report U/B. Following read.
All stations taking part in Group N. from ?
Bombay W.T. Kilindini W/T.
SSSS SSSS SSSS DE JSQT (indecypherable)
Periscope sighted 22 R 27 N 60 R + 27 E at 0430
DE VWK.
(Colombo W/T 0442Z/7 to Admty.)

ARONDA Polish families to embark. Owing to Orphans being unable travel ARONDA will also embark 300 Polish families for Tanga in addition to 500 families for Mombasa. Revised date of sailing 9th. My 0604/4th refers.
(P.S.T.O. Bombay 0507Z/7 to P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

B.P. 71. Departures 0150Z/ TRAVANCORE 0330Z, MARYBOROUGH, HINDUSTAN, with B.P. 71.
(S.O.I. Bombay 0621Z/7 to Admty.)
Sailing telegram 0353/7 1345/7.

MONTICELLO. Have you any authority subsequent to V. Opanav 1439/5 Jan. for sailing MONTICELLO to Melbourne. If so request you will pass signal to me.
D. of S.T. 2008/4 para 1 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 1014Z/7 to Com. R.I.N. (R) F.O.C. R.I.N., D. of S.T., B.A.D. A.C.N.B.)

Dispositions. Eastern Fleet disposition signal number 26.
(A) (B) (C) DEVONSHIRE due to sail from Colombo for Kilindini via Seychelles 11th GAMBIA sailed from Fremantle for Durban 3rd. HAWKINS Kilindini to Diego Suarez thence relieves BIRMINGHAM and escort W.S.26B to Bombay. FROBISHER Kilindini to Aden escorting W.S.26A. BIRMINGHAM and CERES to Kilindini latter via Diego Suarez. MAURITIUS Bombay to Kilindini. CARADOC Aden to Kilindini. DAUNTLESS Aden to Bombay.
(C. in C. E.F., 1409Z/7 to C. in C. S.A., Admty., etc.)

/LANCASHIRE ...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

LANCASHIRE. Departure 7th LANCASHIRE escorted. E.T.A. Diego Suarez 0500Z/9th.
(N.O.I.C. Tamatave, 1622Z/7 to A.I.G.89, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, (R) N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez.)

Destroyers reinforcements. / Following is a recyphered version of my 0346Z/6. A.C.N.B. report in view of manning position it is not possible to provide new crew for two destroyers simultaneously and that destroyers should be sent promptly to Sydney for period of six weeks each.

2. Propose to send NEPAL, NIZAM and NORMAN to Sydney at six weekly intervals. First destroyer to leave Kilindini mid-March. Last destroyer should rejoin Eastern Fleet by end of August.

3. Para. 4 of your 2240/19 Feb., cannot be met and it will have to be accepted that the Eastern Fleet will be short of one N class destroyer for period mid-March to end August and a second from end of April to mid-July.
(C. in C. E.F., 1843Z/7 to Admty., (R) A.C.N.B., Com. (D) E.F.)

Request for Destroyers, South Atlantic. / Your 0828/5 addressed C. in C. South Atlantic. While appreciating the necessity of training, in view of the U-Boat situation in the Cape area I hope you will find it possible to maintain a total force of at least 6 destroyers under the orders of C. in C. S.A., for the present. Unless we can make the presence of

U-Boats in the Cape area unprofitable, we shall find more and more being sent there.
(1st S.L., 1912A/7 to C. in C. E.F.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Washington
Conference,
Agreement
re Command
and Convoy
Control.

For V.C.N.S.

We concur generally in the text set out in your 2209Z/4 with the exception of the withdrawal of U.S. forces which is dealt with in the reply to your 2305/3.

2. The wording of para. 1 of the text implies that Great Britain only is interested in the maintenance of imports to U.K., whereas in fact it was laid down in C.C.S. 94 para. (f) that the security of the British Isles is a first charge upon the military resources of both the U.K. and the U.S. We suggest that this paragraph should end - "with primary responsibility assumed by Great Britain" and the remainder expunged.

(1st S.L., 0015A/7 to B.A.D.)

Personal for V.C.N.S.

1. It was laid down in C.C.S. 94 para. (f) that the security of the British Isles is a first charge upon the military resources of both the U.K. and U.S. We cannot have security without adequate imports.
2. It was also agreed at "Symbol" that the defeat of the U-Boat must remain first charge on the resources of the United Nations.
3. In my 1513/27 Feb. the effect on our escort position of the need to increase the flow of trans-Atlantic shipping and the consequent urgent necessity of help from the U.S. were emphasized.
4. At "Symbol" the inadequacy of an escort of 6 vessels for the trans-Atlantic convoys was recognised and that 65 more escorts were required in order to bring the escort groups up to the minimum necessary. It was agreed that the U.S. and U.K. should each use their best endeavour to provide half of the deficit of 65 escorts.
5. Far from any improvement in the escort situation by the implementation of the agreement referred to in para. 4 above, we are now faced with a more dangerous position due to the following proposals contained in your 2305Z/3:-
 - (a) Withdrawal of U.S. ships from A Group.
 - (b) Withdrawal of Destroyer Division 14 from the U.C./C.U. convoys.
 - (c) Withdrawal of U.S. Iceland (C) group which has provided much need reinforcement in mid-ocean on many occasions.
 - (d) Reinforcement of the escorts of the larger R.U./U.R. convoys by 3 short-legged destroyers and some trawlers due to discontinuing the Iceland (C) Shuttle Service.
 - (e) Provision of one extra long-legged group to enable O.S./S.L. cycle to be reduced to 15 days to conform with U.G.S.
6. The action referred to in paragraph 5 will increase the strain on our escort resources beyond our capacity, particularly as the U.S. forces withdrawn from the various services in the North Atlantic will not be employed in such a way as to reduce any of our other commitments.
7. In order to maintain our minimum imports as agreed with the U.S. it will be necessary, as pointed out in my 1513A/27, to run convoys of up to 60 ships on a much reduced cycle.
8. At "Symbol" we were calculating escorts for 40 ship convoys. We now have to make provision for 60 ship convoys and the minimum seagoing strength of an escort group ought to be increased from seven vessels to nine.

/9. It ...

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(Contd.)

9. It is recognised, however, that at the present time it would not be possible to bring the strength of the increased number of escort groups which are required up to a seagoing strength of nine for each convoy.
10. If we attempt to run these large convoys with an escort of six or seven vessels without the possibility of reinforcement we shall suffer quite unacceptable losses. The only alternative is to provide support groups and the minimum number which could meet the situation in two on each side of the Atlantic. The provision of the support groups is in our opinion essential not only for the protection of the convoys but also because they will give us a means of killing the U-Boats thereby gaining the upper hand. It is quite impossible for us to provide all four. The U.S. should be asked to provide two support groups in the North Western Atlantic.
11. Without these support groups our losses may well force us to take drastic emergency steps to increase the escorts. This could only be done by reducing the number of convoys which would be disastrous from the imports point of view.
12. As stated in para. 5, the reduction in American help, if carried out as proposed, would throw a burden on us which is quite beyond our capacity and it is essential therefore that the U.S. should -
- (a) take over the whole responsibility for the U.C./C.U. convoys.
 - (b) supply two support groups in the North Western Atlantic.
 - (c) not withdraw the Iceland (C) group until we have been able to provide 2 support groups in the North Eastern Atlantic.
 - (d) not withdraw any destroyers or escort craft from the North Atlantic convoy escorts until we have been able to replace them by ships of similar classes from new construction.
13. It is not clear whether the U.S. intend to withdraw their two escort carriers from the North Atlantic, though in view of para. 8(B) of 2209/4 this seems to be probable. We are strongly of the opinion that this will be a most serious setback just as these ships are at last coming into service. In view of the situation in the North Atlantic it appears to us essential that not only any escort carriers now employed in protecting trade convoys in the Atlantic should be retained, but also that others should be provided as soon as possible. Should it be found that when the shore-based aircraft working from Newfoundland have been provided up to requirement and have proved effective (R) proved effective, the question of the withdrawal of escort carriers should be considered.
14. The above requirements are considered the minimum for the North Atlantic convoys and give no consideration for the provision of escorts for future operations.
15. A further signal will be made giving our views on the effect on the oil situation of the new proposals for the U.C./C.U. convoys.
16. The arrangements in para. 3 (d), (e) and (f) are concurred in. The anticipated programme for the return of the 15 R.C.N. corvettes is being signalled to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and repeated to you.

/17. The ...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Washington
Conference,
Agreement
re Command
and Convoy
Control.
(Contd.)

17. The escort problem cannot of course be separated from that of air cover and it is important we should know now what is being done to establish air covers from Newfoundland and Greenland both immediately and long term.
(1st S.L., 0120A/7 to B.A.D.)
Personal for 1st S.L. from Vice C.N.S.
Your 0120/7th para. 15. Explanation of effect on oil situation of the new proposal for the U.C./C.U. convoys is given in "Bilge" 1711.
(B.A.D., 1503Z/7 to Admty.)

Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.
Your 0120/7.

1. There are certain misunderstandings implicit in your message which are dealt with paragraph by paragraph.
2. Ref. para. 5a. These ships are not to be withdrawn until DECOY and GRIFFIN can be made available to R.C.N. to take over A.3 as a Canadian Group. Late April was given as earliest date for this transfer.
3. Ref. para. 5c. The U.S. Iceland Group is not to be withdrawn and will be used as a support group.
4. Ref. para. 5d. It was not considered that any large increase in the escort of R.U./U.R. convoys would be needed. Iceland ships are at present estimated at 16 a month of which a proportion are ships for J.W. convoys which would not be required to proceed beyond Loch Ewe. A maximum of 3 to 4 ships would be added to U.R. convoys.
5. Ref. para. 5e. It was not suggested that O.S./S.L. convoy cycle be reduced but should remain as arranged at 20 days. The proposal was that K.M.S. maintenance combined with O.G. on a 30 day cycle being sailed to meet every other U.G.S. at Gibraltar. This was not made clear in my 2305/3.
6. As we saw it the only American forces being withdrawn from the H.X./S.C. convoys were the three cutters in A.3 Group. These are to be employed on America/Greenland convoys which will become an increasing commitment during the summer owing to American air requirements.
7. Ref. para. 10. The principle of support group is agreed to by all authorities. From Admiralty messages 1531/27 and 1743/27 we understood that the 14 groups named therein were regarded in the absence of further escorts being available as of acceptable strength to run the new cycles with the two supporting groups mentioned in para. 7 of 1743/27. There was no indication that a further two supporting groups were even contemplated. The two groups referred to in para. 7 of A.M. 1743/27 and the Iceland group will give us three supporting groups. A fourth group could be found if the Americans will take over the U.C./C.U. commitment.
8. Ref. para. 13. It is the intention of the U.S. to keep A.M.C.Vs BOGUE and CARD on the North Atlantic convoy routes. They will have a special escort of two destroyers each which is an extra destroyer commitment. They agree with us that they should work as part of a supporting groups rather than with a convoy.
9. Ref. para. 15. See my 1503Z/7.

/10. Ref. ...

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Washington Conference, Agreement re Command and Convoy Control.
(Contd.)

10. Ref. para. 17. I have been trying to get the assignments of V.L.R. aircraft on to a firm basis but have failed so far. I am raising it again with Adm. King when I see him early tomorrow. I think it is safe to assume that the U.S. Army anti-submarine Air Force will have sent 12 V.L.R. to Newfoundland by 1st April and further 12 by 1st July. There will be a further 80 by 1st July which they plan to deploy on American side of Atlantic, but so far we have failed to get a definite assignment.

11. I am trying to get Americans to take over U.C./C.U. commitments possibly by delaying temporarily new construction destroyers going to Pacific until the flow of American manned D.Es gives them enough margin.

12. A.M. 1743/27 made no specific proposals for escorts of K.M. convoys but it was considered that these must have been taken into consideration when making your proposals.
(B.A.D., 2203Z/7 to Admty.)

O.N. 168. Section East. My 1550Z/6th (1554Z/6 intended). Amend O.N. No.168 050° 37' 047° 33' 190°, 8.
(C.O.A.C., 0025Z/7 to Admty.)

Movements. San Francisco departed 5th B.Y.M.S. 27, 26, 22, 19 and 9s.
(N.S.H.Q., 0055Z/7 to Admty.)
Arrival March 7th GORLESTON at 0630QR.

(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1012QR/7 to Admty.)
U.S.S. PALMER left Havana 6th destination unknown.
(B.R.L.O. Havana, 1020/7 to Admty.)
Trinidad arrivals 7th ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1202Q/7 to S.B.N.O.W.At.)
Departure 1800/7th CORSAIR for Trinidad.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 1811/7 to Admty.)

U.C. 1. / (?U).C.1. Aruba section arrived 1900Z March 6th.
(U.S.R.O. Curacao, 0110/7 to N.O.B.(?Trinidad), C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, N.S.H.Q., Admty.)

O.N.168
EMPIRE LIGHT,
torpedoed.
(1) TENACITY sails a.m. 7th to assistance EMPIRE LIGHT in 54° 28' N. 46° 17' W. at 1200Z/6.
(2) No escort at present available for TENACITY.
(3) Your 1607A/5 propose sailing CLEMATIS a.m. 8th to escort EMPIRE LIGHT and TENACITY.
(F.O.N.F., 0110Z/7 to C. in C. W.A., (R) C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Cominch (C. & R.), C.T.F.24, CLEMATIS, Admty.)

/Intend ...

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O.N.168 Intend to sail CLEMATIS a.m. 8th to escort rescue
EMPIRE tug TENACITY to assistance of EMPIRE LIGHT in
LIGHT 054° 28' N. 046° 17' W. CLEMATIS will return
torpedoed. St. Johns in time to sail with your group.
(Contd.) (F.O.N.F., 1335Z/7 to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, (R)
C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)
My 0110/7. TENACITY delayed. Now sails 1030Z/8
escorted by CLEMATIS.
(F.O.N.F., 1431Z/7 to C.O.A.C, C.T.F. 24, C. in C. W.A.,
(R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q., CLEMATIS, Admty.)
O.N.168 not met. My estimated P.C. and S. at 1000Z/7th
48° 47' N. 48° 05' W., 190°, 16 knots. One straggler sighted.
Request position course and speed of convoy.
(NIAGARA, 1050Z/7 to F.O.N.F., C.T.U. 24.1.19, Connav, (R)
C.T.F.24, Admty., etc.)
HAVELOCK and VOLUNTEER now proceeding St. Johns N.F.
NIAGARA in company convoy.
(C.T.U. 24.1.19, 1628Z/7 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24, Admty.,
etc.)
Ship torpedoed 053° 57' N. 046° 14' W. at 1840 G.M.T.
(C.O.A.C., 1850Z/7 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.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7,
H.Q.C.C.)
Rescue ship DEWSBURY O.N.168 proceeding St. Johns N.F.
Returning damaged and short of coal. Escort pass to Cdre.
(HAVELOCK, 2301Z/7 to F.O.N.F., (R) Admty., Cominch (C. &
R.), W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.2, C.O.A.C., B.R.O. New York.)

HUNTER. New York arrived from Norfolk, 4th March.
(N.S.H.Q., 0131/7 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

Troop Ref. No. R.6444, 7th March.
transport, 1. In connection with additional shipping capacity
shipping for U.K. something new has been added. Request
priority. you submit by cable a co-ordinated Troop List in
the amount of 90,000 in numerical priority for
the next 3 months - April, May, June.
2. We shall then place a bid for this amount of
shipping to transport these units. It is understood your
priority list is on the way but the time factor in submission of
bid for this shipping makes the above procedure by cable
necessary.
(War Washington, 0437Z/7 to Etousa for action.)

S.C.121 S/M attack S.C.121 N.R (? 43 or 64) EGYPT* reports
EGYPT torpedoed starboard side about 0115Z/7, 56.31 N.
torpedoed. 37.40 W., 053°, 7. Survivors being picked up.
Details later.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 0445Z/7 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., A.C.I.C., C.T.24.6)
* Amended by 1630Z/7, q.v.

/ S/M ...

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S.C. 121 S/M sighted 0845Z/7th S.C.121, 057° 03' 036° 40'
EGYPT 058°, 7. SPENCER attacking.
torpedoed. (C.T.U.24.1.3, 0900Z/7 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24,
(Contd.) Admty., etc.)
INGHAM M.F/D.F. departed 0944/7th for S.C.121.
(C.T.G.24.6, 1045Z/7 to C. in C. W.A., C.T.24,
(R) Connav, C.T.U. 24.1.3.)
Sub. sighted and attacked by SPENCER 1120Z/7th. S.C.121, 057°
03' 036° 40', 058°, 7.5. Result unknown. Correct 0445Z/7th
read EGYPT torpedoed 2349Z/6th 056° 25' 037° 38'. Only 3
survivors accounted for to date.
(C.T.U. 24.1.3, 1630Z/7 to Connav, A.C.I.C., C.T.G.24.6, (R)
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.,
C.T.F.24, Admty.)

HUNTER,
STALKER.

New York departed 5th March in U.G.6, HUNTER,
STALKER.
(N.S.H.Q., 0450Z/7 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., F.O.C.
Gibraltar, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

O.N.169,
U/Bs.

D/F bearings at 0441Z, 0638Z and 0644Z indicate
O.N.169 may have been reported. Signal not made
to convoy.
(D.D.I.C., 0738Z/7 to Cominch, (R) N.S.H.Q.,
C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C.)

J.H.40.

My 1554/6 section east amend J.H.40 (E) 46.16
55.43, 7 at 0300Z/7.
(C.O.A.C., 0810Z/7 to G.B.7A.)

Movements
Summary
1800 G.M.T.
7th March.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
8 L.C.I.(L)s	30° N. 52° W.	110°	10
(D.O.D.(F), 1026Z/7 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)			

ARCOLA,
TAIGETE.

To ease congestion at Aruba, Admty. intends send
Italian tankers ARCOLA and TAIGETE to Kingston
Bay, St. Vincent to await onward voyage. Sailing
date to be notified later. Request Connav may be
asked to issue route.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 1029Q/7 to B.A.D., (R) Admty.,
B.R.L.O. Curacao, Aruba.)

U.C.1,
EMPIRE
NORSEMAN
torpedoed,
23rd Feb.

U.C.1. Request you will enquire from Commodore
whether EMPIRE NORSEMAN had N.D. streamed when
torpedoed. If not streamed request reasons.
(D.T.D., 1031A/7 to B.R.L.O. Curacao.)

/Convoy ...

270

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Convoy Arrived p.m./6th.
B.T.5. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1147Z/7 to Admty.)

HELENE. Your 1901/26th Feb. Although employment of HELENE at Georgetown is not vital I would prefer to have a vessel there unless it is impossible to fulfil army requirements from other sources. Her suitability for proposed employment is doubtful. She is a very bad seaboard. Only 105 feet long, refrigerating machinery was removed before ship was taken over and refrigerating space is only 53 feet capacity (S.B.N.O. W.At., 1302Q/7 to B.A.D., (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, Admty.)

W.L.E.F. / Your 1641/5. 1. (a) Orders are being given for increase. ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR, SUMMERSIDE and WOODSTOCK to sail from U.K. 11th. (b) LUNENBURG was due to refit in March in accordance with N.S.H.Q. 1717/24. Owing to pressure on Dockyards due to winter weather damage there is some doubt as to whether she could be taken in hand before April and she could be included in this first group if required. 2. (a) CALGARY is refitting in U.K. D/C 25/3. (b) BADDECK, REGINA and MOOSEJAW could be sailed on their return with M.K.S.9 after boiler cleaning about 25th. 3. Provided that VILLE DE QUEBEC now under repair at Gibraltar can be included - the remainder should be ready to leave U.K. about 10th April. (D.O.D.(H), 1330A/7 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., B.A.D. - pass to V.C.N.S., N.M.C.J.S. Washington, C.O.A.C., etc.)

O.N.S.J.171. O.N.S.J.171. (A) 1230Z/7th. (B) 7 knots. (G) (BABBITT ?). C.T.U. 24.6.3 WATCHMAN, ROCKINGHAM sailing to overtake. (C.T.G.24.6, 1440Z/7 to C.T.F.24.)

DAUPHIN. My P.C. and S. at 1400/7 56.43 N. 35.(15'?) W.(143?) 11 knots. (SIGNPOST) system.* Will transmit for one minute every hour commencing 1600Z/7th. (DAUPHIN, 1500Z/7 to C.T.U. 24.1.3, Admty.)
* as received.

S/M Estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1518/7, 1519/7, 1601/7, 7th March, 1602/7, 1603/7, 2345/7, 2348/7.)
U.S. S/M
Notice.

BEVERLEY. My observed position at 1400Z 054° 38' N. (034° ? 044° ?) 30' W., course 218°, speed 9.5 knots.
Weather.
(BEVERLEY, 1545Z/7 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24, Admty., etc.)
Closing position 053° 57' N. 046° 14' W. to search for survivors.
(BEVERLEY, 1701/7 to C.C.N.F.)

Greek Shipping. Your 2146/5. Further to my 1855/6 addressed Connav following Greek ships in vicinity of positions given: 10th NEREUS - SVVS; 19th THETIS - SVNJ; 19th STARVROS - SVUM - all eastbound. 19th HELENE KULUKUNDIS - SVXN westbound.
(D.T.D., 1555Z/7 to Opnav.)

/O.N.168 ...

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.O.N.168,
S.C.123.

T.U.24.18.8 Western local escort south for O.N. 168 due to depart New York with S.C.123 on 13th. Because of delay of O.N.168 intend routeing this convoy to Cape Cod for disposal conditions in accordance with Cominch (C. & R.) 2107/1st. (C.O.A.C., 1556Z/7 to Connav.) Approved. Cominch (C. & R.), 1610/8 to C.O.A.C.

T.U.
24.4.1,
H.X. 228.

Following is repetition of C.T.F.24's 0051/4. (Begins): Addressed Comfairwing Lantflt, Cinclant, Cominch, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.T.U. 24.1.17 from R.D.O. Argentina. My 2103Z/19 Task Unit 24.4.1 consisting of BOGUE (Senior Officer), GEORGE E. BADGER, BELKNAP joins H.X.228 at 1000Z/6 in 47.41 N. 49.09 W. as mid-ocean Escort Carriers Group. Group will remain under operational control C.T.F.24, operation being directed as submarine and fuel situation dictates. Command and operational relationship in accordance Article 16 A.C.I. Tentative operational instruction issued to Carrier Group and Escort Commander. (Ends). (B.A.D., 1615Z/7 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy
Sailings.

C.O.A.C's 1946/6 para. 1. Concur. Request permission to send ships in O.N.173 fast to New York by X.B. convoy.
2. Consider assumption correct. (N.S.H.Q., 1619Z/7 to Admty., (R) C.O.A.C., B.A.D., C.C.W.A.)

L. 23.

Your 1505/6. C.E.S.F. requests that L.23 be routed to Philadelphia via Cape Cod Canal and Long Island Sound.
2. Request you re-route 23 accordingly.
3. C.E.S.F. is supplying relief escort for NANAIMO at Cape Cod Canal.
4. C.E.S.F. is requested to designate R/V and name of escort. (C.O.A.C., 1639Z/7 to F.O.N.F., (R) C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q., Cominch, C.E.S.F., B.A.M.R., F.O.C. Subs., A.O.C.E.A.C., Admty.)
My 1505/6. L.23 has developed defects which will delay sailing three days. Further signal will be made. (F.O.N.F., 1800Z/7 to No.1 Group R.C.A.F., N.B.C., C.T.F.24, etc.)

Dispositions
6th March.

Ref. your 1058/7 (sent by W.R. requesting repetition of second part (received corrupt) of 1554/6 from C.O.A.C.)
Following is a repetition of my 1554/6 (begins). My 1554, part 2. WITHERINGTON, MATAPEDIA, CHICOUTIMI, GRANBY vicinity 48.20 49.30 en route St. Johns.

/H.X.228 ...

7.3.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Dispositions H.X.228, T.U. 24.1.17 and T.U. 24.4.1, 47.55
6th March. 49.02, 024° 9 altering to 036° in 49.58 N.
(Contd.) T.U.24.18.6, 47.18 52.00 306° en route St.
Johns.
FENNEL 46.08 52.37 en route Halifax 12.
(Message ends).
(C.O.A.C., 1710Z/7 to Admty.)

ATTACKER. Kingston Jamaica departure ATTACKER.
C.A.F.A.C. pass to S.B.N.O. Curacao.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica, 1810R/7 to Admty.,
(R) Cominch, B.A.D., etc.)

ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF. ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF arrived Base D 1142Q/7th.
(U.S.N.O.B. Trinidad, 1815/7 to Comsolant, (R)
Admty., Cominch, F.O.C.W.Af., etc.)

BUTTERCUP. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1500Z/8.
(BUTTERCUP, 1920Z/7 to C.C.N.F., (R) T.U.24.)

Neutral Shipping, routeing. / Your 1950/19 Feb. Routeings approved and should
be adhered to until further notice. Position is
being explained to Portuguese Ministry of Marine
and matter is also being taken up with Spain
and Eire (reactions of Eire Government cannot
be forecast but it is hardly likely that they
will raise objections).

2. It may be necessary in near future to amend routeing of
neutral ships as it is understood that Germans have established
new route for all neutral vessels navigating between U.S. East
Coast and limits of German zone of operations as declared on 26th
June, 1942. New route runs mainly along 34th parallel and is
being referred to you in separate telegram.
(Head of M.I., Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 1921A/7 to N.S.H.Q., (R)
F.O.N.F.) Amended 1058A/8.

Portuguese Ships, Newfoundland, Routes. / Your 1758/10 Feb. In an endeavour to secure
uniformity of routeing for all neutral ships
N.C.S.Os in Canada and Newfoundland were instructed
to route all neutral vessels from Canadian Ports
and St. Johns N.F. to Europe along course 180° to
38° 10' N. thence along parallel 38° 10' N. to
46° 40' W., thence to destination. This
coincided with routes at present followed by Swedish ships
engaged on Greek Relief. This was intended as permanent measure
for eastward and westward voyages.

2. For your information we are informed by Swiss that Switzerland
Spain and Portugal are negotiating concerning trans-Atlantic
routes and that route when ultimately agreed will be submitted to
German naval authorities. Until then, Germans insist that vessels

/under ...

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Portuguese
Ships,
Newfoundland,
Routes.
(Contd.)

under Swiss control should sail along 38th parallel. Presumably same conditions apply to Portuguese vessels. Request you will make enquiries.

3. Route given at St. Johns N.F. therefore appears to coincide with present German requirements and it does not involve much deviation from course.

4. A further point is that Germans have requested agreement to Swedish ships engaged on Greek Relief following route from St. John N.B. to 38° N. 66° 35' N. thence along 38th parallel to 65° W. thence to 34° N. 61° W., thence to 34° N. 61° W., thence to 34° N. 39° W., thence to destination. This will be accepted if Connav agrees. It is also reliably reported that Germans wish all neutral vessels to pass through same positions. Request you will ascertain whether this route is the route referred to in para. 2. If so, consideration will be given to adopting this route for all neutral vessels.

(Head of M.I., Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 1923A/7 to N.A. Lisbon.)

E.G. 40.

My P.C. and S. 051° 48' N. 032° 40' W., 230°, 8 knots. Altering shortly for position (G) if present weather improvement continues. Weather. (E.G.40 in ABERDEEN, 2000N/7 to C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., N.S.H.Q.)

HAVELOCK,
BUTTERCUP.

My E.T.A. St. Johns 0730Z/8th urgent defects. BUTTERCUP E.T.A. St. Johns 1500Z/8th with serious leaks from weather damage.

(Corrupt group) (might be TIMMINS or NANAIMO) has joined O.N.168.

(HAVELOCK, 2000Z/7 to F.O.N.F., (R) C.T.24, Admty., C. in C. W.A., BUTTERCUP.)

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

A. EMPIRE LIGHT torpedoed 53.57 N. 46.14 W. 1840Z/7. EGYPTIAN torpedoed 56.22 N. 37.40 W. about 0115Z/7. Plane attacks sub 41259 57.05 N. 26 W. about 1000/7. P.G. SPENCER attacks sub. course 058° 57.03 N. 36.40 W. 0845Z/7. Surface craft attacks 3 subs. area 55 N. 40.30 W. of 6th. C. Sub. attacked 53.10 N. 45.30 W. about 1301Z/6. (Cominch, 2015/7 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrivals New Orleans March 5th JOHN L. CLEM, JOHN R.R. HANLEY both U.S.A.Ts. Departure March 4th CUBA for Colon. (N.S.H.Q., 2017Z/7 to Admty.)

/H.X.229 ...

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War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

H.X.229. 1. Sailing telegram Part 1. H.X.229.
2. Position (D) at 2300Z/8th. C.E.S.F. pass to C.O.A.C.
3, 5, 8. Route and R/V as per C.E.S.F's 1704/4 except all times three hours later.
6. Task Unit 24.18.9 CHELSEA S.O., U.S.S. KENDWICK, H.M.C.S. FREDERICTON, H.M.C.S. OAKVILLE.
N.O.B. Iceland pass to C.T.G. 24.6 for information.
(Port Director New York, 2046Z/7 to Admty., (R) Cominch (C. & R.) C.E.S.F., C.T.F.24, C.T.G.24.6, N.O.B. Iceland, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

B.Y.M.S. Cdr. N.W.S.F. sail B.Y.M.S. 13, 14, 24, 28 when ready about 12th to San Francisco. C.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 U.S.N.O.B. Trinidad to Freetown via Belem and Recife. Action addressees advise times of departure, route, speed of advance. Vessels have a radius of 1700 to 1800 miles at 9 knots using 30 gallons fuel per hour. Total tank capacity 5700 gallons. Can carry 1200 gallons additional fuel as deck cargo if sailed on favourable weather report.
C.W.S.F. pass to B.N.L.O. San Francisco.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2136/7 to Cdr. N.W.S.F., C.W.S.F., Cdr. Panama S.F.) Amended 2209/9.

GEORGETOWN. Boston arrived 1300Z/7.
(N.S.H.Q., 2138Z/7 to Admty.)

FOLKESTONE, E.T.A. off Windward Point Guantanamo 1530Z/8
BRITISH FORTITUDE and MURENA in
company. Latter cannot go astern.
MURENA. (EXE, 2235Z/7 to N.O.B. Guantanamo, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.C.S.F., Admty., C. in C. W.A., WESTON.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departures Auckland U.S.S. SOLACE 1755Z/6 E.T.A. Espiritu Santo 0730Z/10. U.S.S. TRYON 1911Z/6 E.T.A. Espiritu Santo 0830Z/10.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0005Z/7 to Admty.)

/Arrivals ...

War Diary.7.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals Milne Bay 6th WHYALLA, BALLARAT. Port
(Contd.) Moresby 6th BENDIGO. Thursday Island 6th LATROBE.
Cairns 6th ARUNTA. Townsville 5th U.S.(D)
BAGLEY, 7th WARREGO, U.S.(D) RALPH TALBOT.
Brisbane 6th GOULBURN, WAGGA, BUNDABERG, GEELONG,
MILDURA. Sydney 6th March U.S.(C) HELENA. Fremantle 6th
KANIMBLA. Exmouth Gulf 7th U.S. S/P Tender WILLIAM B. PRESTON.
Departures - Milne Bay 6th KAPUNDA for Oro Bay, BALLARAT for
Townsville. Port Moresby 6th BENDIGO for Oro Bay. Townsville
5th VENDETTA for Port Moresby. Sydney 6th BUNGAREE for
Geelong. Port Melbourne 6th U.S.(D) HELM for escort duty thence
Palm Island. Exmouth Gulf 6th U.S. S/P Tender CHILDS for
Fremantle.

(A.C.N.B., 0358Z/7 to Admty.)

Arrival Brisbane 6th R.A.F.As AASE MAERSK, KURUMBA, U.S.A.
Transport CREMER, Hired Transport TAROONA, U.S.A. Transport
MAETSUYCKER.

Departed Townsville 5th due Port Moresby 7th.

Hired transport NIEUW AMSTERDAM departed Melbourne 6th due
Wellington 10th.Hired transport DUNTROON departed Cairns 6th arrived Townsville
6th.Hired transport KATOOMBA departed Sydney (N.S.W.) 6th due
Brisbane 8th.U.S.A. Transport JAMES O'HARA departed Sydney (N.S.W.) 7th
due Brisbane 8th.U.S.A. Transport SWARTENHONDT departed Brisbane 7th due
Townsville 11th.

(A.C.N.B., 1103Z/7 to Admty.)

Arrivals Brisbane 6th GYMPIE. Melbourne 6th COLAC. Port
Moresby 7th SWAN, KATOOMBA. Departures (? Sydney) 6th
DELORAINIE for Broken Bay. Thursday Island 6th LATROBE for
(? Darwin). (? Sydney) 6th STUART for Brisbane. Cairns 7th
ARUNTA for Townsville.

(A.C.N.B., 2236Z/7 to Admty.)

WEST POINT.

U.S. Naval Transport WEST POINT left Port
Melbourne 0101Z/6th for Bombay. S. of A. 21.5
knots. Route Q.F.A.108 thence through position
(a) 036° S. 116° E. (b) 032° S. 101° E. (c)
Equator 070° E. (d) 016° 01' N. 070° E. E.T.A.
Bombay 0300Z/18th.

(A.C.N.B., 0303Z/7 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., S.O.
(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay, Connnav.)

Digest
Serial
No. 409
6th March.

R/C Liberator noon sighted one small vessel in
Lorengau Harbour and one off Manus Island course
east.

3. Two submarines sighted forenoon Gasmata Area
and third Huon Gulf afternoon. All on surface
one unsuccessfully bombed.

/5. Four ...

7.3.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No. 409
6th March.
(Contd.)

5. Four Bostons thoroughly searched Huon Gulf found no living Japanese among convoy debris. Attacked Waria River Mouth Area morning. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0605Z/7.)

EXETER,
enemy
intelligence.

For M.I.2. Extract dated 2nd March, 1942, from document captured Buna "British ships sunk Java included cruiser EXETER and three destroyers. Picked up Captain of EXETER and 437 others. Did not treat them as enemies. Handed them to army guard at Banjermasin, Borneo". Message ends. That is all.
(L.H.Q. Melbourne, 1800Z/7 to W.O.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1355A/7, 1405A/7.)

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8.3.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Engagement
with
E-Boats.

MACKAY sighted and chased two E-Boats at 0105 today off Smith's Knoll. At about 0130 today M.G.Bs 21, 20 and 17 under the command of Lieut. J.S. Price, R.N.V.R., who had sighted MACKAY's starshell, engaged a number of E-Boats about 30 miles east of Great Yarmouth. One E-Boat was sunk in 52.42 N. 02.33 E.; no survivors were found. Our forces sustained no casualties and only very slight damage.

Home Fleet
at short
notice.

TRUCULENT and SIMOON on passage home from North Norway patrol were diverted this morning to patrol off the approaches to Trondheim. At 2037A FURIOUS was brought to one hour's notice for operation. D.8 was ordered to remain at Seidisfjord at two hour's notice unless required to screen convoy R.A.53. V.A.(2)'s force (see 7th March) was ordered to continue to cover the Iceland - Faroes passage to prudent limit of endurance of his destroyers.

P.R.U. of Gydnia today showed that SCHARNHORST was no longer present.

Russian S/Ms S.56 and S.55, which sailed from Lerwick on 26th February, arrived at Kola Inlet today.

URSULA reports that she unsuccessfully attacked a U-Boat in 44.48 N. 12.13 W.

Convoy
S.C.121.

SS. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA, a straggler 72 miles astern of S.C.121 reported at 0756Z today that a torpedo had missed her in 58.08 N. 33.52 W. SS. GUIDO, a straggler 10 miles off the starboard bow of S.C.121 was torpedoed by a U-Boat and sunk at 1030Z today in 58.21 N. 31.08 W.: SPENCER made asdic contact and attacked with depth charges, but the result is not known. SS. VOJVODA PUTNIK made a distress signal and reported that she was abandoning ship at 1621 in 58.42 N. 31.25 W. The ship was 55 miles astern of S.C.121 at the time, and C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3 was unable to spare any of the 5 escorts for the extended period necessary to assist her, owing to the critical U-Boat situation. Two U-Boats were sighted, at 1940Z and 2048Z respectively in mean position abeam of the convoy and SPENCER attacked with depth charges.

/SS. CLUNEPARK ...

8.3.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy
S.C.121.
(Contd.)

SS. CLUNEPARK (straggler) reported at 1730 G.M.T. that she engaged a U-Boat on the surface in 57.34 N. 35.22 W. in a south-west gale and high sea and that the enemy had now submerged.

R.A. 53.

Aircraft reports today indicated that the convoy had been scattered during bad weather, but was reassembling.

SS. J.L.M. CURRY, a straggler from R.A.53 was abandoned at 1000A today and left breaking up and sinking owing to heavy weather in about 69.10 N. 03.40 E. ST. ELSTAN took of the crew. At 1700 J.H. LATROBE was proceeding to the nearest port with steering gear defective; OPPORTUNE reported at 1146A/11 that the ship was in tow; ST. ELSTAN was in company. J.H. LATROBE was finally towed to Seidisfjord.

Rescue tug AMSTERDAM which went to the assistance of the tanker EL MIRLO off the Tyne this evening went aground Redcar Rock and was abandoned. However, she returned to the Tyne at 0845/9 and damage does not appear to warrant immediate docking.

/ Twelve aircraft of Bomber Command out of 20 detailed, laid mines last night in the Frisian Islands and Elbe areas. Two aircraft are missing.

South Atlantic.

Patrols.

DESPATCH sailed from Freetown today to patrol in the Atlantic Narrows until 11th March. Ships on patrol in the area comprise GEORGES LEYGUES, SUSSEX, CARNARVON CASTLE; and U.S. naval units in Ascension - St. Paul's Rocks area.

SS. JAMES B. STEPHENS was torpedoed by a U-Boat in 28.53 S. 33.18 E. (about 150 miles N.E. of Durban) at 1978Z today, broke in three, caught fire and was abandoned; The midship section sank, but the other two portions when last seen were still afloat.

8.3.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

PAKENHAM and PALADIN sailed from Malta at 1545A to operate north of Pantellaria during the night. One F-Boat was sunk at 2340/8.

Coastal
Craft
reinforce-
ments.

C. in C. Med. on 6th March pointed out to the Admiralty the importance of getting his M.T.B. and M.G.B. reinforcements from the U.K. to their fighting station at Bone at the earliest possible date, as the coastal forces there may soon have the opportunity to avenge Dunkirk. Only two M.T.Bs have sailed from the U.K. to date, and no M.G.Bs. The Admiralty explanation of the delay is given in A.M. 1634A/8.

East Indies.

C. in C. E.F. intercepted a signal from The Vice Consul, Mormugao (Portuguese territory, India) reporting that the German Hansa Line M.Vs EHRENFELS, BAUNFELS and DRACHENFELS, which arrived at Mormugao a few days before the outbreak of war, are on fire at 2242Z.

Four U.S.A.A.F. B.24s dropped 30 x 500 lb. bombs on Bassein docks today.

Australia and New Zealand.

A.C.N.B. reports K.P.M. vessel JACOB sunk by submarine at 0240Z today in 08.55 S. 149.08 E. G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. report that Dutch SS. 'S. JACOB (2939 tons) was sunk off Porlock Harbour (north side of New Guinea) early this afternoon, during an attack by 9 enemy bombers escorted by 13 fighters. Allied fighters shot down 1 bomber and 1 fighter.

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Coastal
Craft for
Milford
Haven.

It is requested that the passage of M.T.Bs of the 32nd and 33rd Flotillas and M.G.Bs of the 19th and 20th Flotillas from equipping ports to Milford Haven is not delayed as all these boats are urgently required at Milford Haven at the earliest possible date.
(D.D.O.D.C., 1630A/8.)

Movements.

FREEBOOTER.

Intend to sail FREEBOOTER at 1000A/9 with B.P. Target No.34 in tow for Scapa in accordance with A.C.O.S. 1542/10 Feb. and F.O.I.C. Greenock 1345A/19 routed via Minches and searched channels. S.O.A. 10 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Lamash, 1221A/8 to A.C.O.S.)

S/M
Movements.

Russian submarine S.56 arrived Kola Inlet 1130A/8 and S.55 at 1400A/8.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1415A/8.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/9 and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) SEA NYMPH 65° 40' N. 05° 50' E. probably on surface through 62° 01' N. 01° 02' E. to Lerwick.
(B) SPORTSMAN 63° 26' N. 02° 01' E. probably on surface through 62° 00' N. 00° 11' E. to Lerwick.
(C) TRUCULENT and SIMOON on patrol vicinity 63° 08' N. 06° 50' E. and 63° 07' N. 06° 23' E. respectively.
(D) TUNA in zones K.5 and K.6.
(E) B.1 escorted by KING HAAKON VII vicinity Kinneirds Head due Dundee 1500/9.
(F) P.511 escorted by KIHNA 54° 46' N. 05° 21' W., E.T.A. Cumbræe 1600/9.
(G) BARB escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Smalls for Clyde.
(H) TACTICIAN and ULTOR escorted by CUTTY SARK vicinity Milford Haven due 360° Round Island Scillies 7 at 2000/9, thence independently dived by day through -
(1) TACTICIAN 49° 30' N. 09° 01' W. and 49° 30' N. 12° 25' W.
(2) ULTOR 49° 50' N. 09° 02' W. and 49° 50' N. 12° 34' W.
(J) HERRING 49° 50' N. 11° 08' W. dived by day through 49° 50' N. 12° 34' W. and 49° 10' N. 13° 22' W., due 45° 01' N. 13° 22' W. at 2300/11.
(K) SHAD, 49° 30' N. 11° 06' W. dived by day through 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W., due 45° 01' N. 12° 54' W. at 2100/11.
(L) URSULA, 46° 15' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W.
(F.O.(S), 1721A/8 and 1756A/8.)
Your 1153A/8. Request total bombing restriction may be extended. My P.C.S. 065° 40' N. 006° 23' E., 197°, 4 knots, base fixed on 5th. Delayed by bad weather,
(SIMOON, 2001A/8 to F.O.S.)

/CARLISLE ...

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War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

CARLISLE. A.M. 1550/26 para. 3.
Route for CARLISLE through position L 55.01 N.
10.30 W. M 50.02 N. 14.58 W. N 39.59 N.
15.02 W. O 35.03 N. 14.10 W. P 35.00 N.
10.05 W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Med.
2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail her for position L
when ready for sea.
(D.O.D.H., 1633A/8.)
V.A.2 1810/3. Proceed to Clyde to arrive a.m./10th.
(2) Route via Minches. Attention is called to Q.Z.X.910.
(C. in C. H.F., 2243A/8 to CARLISLE.)

Operations.

E-Boats Following from MACKAY. Two E-Boats 160° Sunk
engaged Light Vessel 10 miles.
by M.T.Bs (Nore, 0107/8 to Admty.)
17, 20 and Enemy is proceeding towards approx. ? Z.15.
21. (Nore, 0111/8 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)
One E-Boat Am proceeding to reinforce 5 patrol.
sunk. (MONTROSE, 0115A/8 to C. in C. Nore.)
Hydrophone effect is being heard from war motor
boat bearing 200°, course 090°, "Orange".
(Force J, 0117A/8 to Yarmouth W/T.)
Taking over 4 patrol.
(COTTESMORE, 0122/8.)
Have lost touch with enemy. Enemy last seen in 154, 10
miles, steering 070°, speed 35. Am returning to patrol.
(MACKAY, 0126/8 to Yarmouth W/T.)
Cancel my 0122. Resume number 3 patrol.
(COTTESMORE, 0138/8 to C. in C. Nore.)
Am engaging E-Boats in 55° 55' N. (? 52° 55' N.) 2° 40' E.
(M.G.B.21, 0145/8 to Yarmouth W/T.)
Your 0120. If nothing found remain Z.54.
(C. in C. Nore, 0153A/8 to B.X.N.L.)
Have lost contact. E-Boats driven off in general
direction east.
(M.G.B.21, 0156A/8 to Yarmouth W/T.)
E-Boat sunk. Searching for survivors in 52° 42' N.
2° 33' E.
(M.G.B.20, 0203A/8 to Yarmouth W/T.)
Hydrophone effect is being heard from War Motor Boat
bearing 000°, course 270°, "Orange".
(100th Aux. M/C Group, 0245/8 to Yarmouth W/T.)
Following received - Yarmouth W/T. From 3PHJ. Hydrophone
effect is being heard from war motor boat bearing 020 "Orange".
(Nore W/T, 0355/8 to Admty.)
Following addressed Yarmouth W/T from 3PHJ.
My 0355. Course of enemy 090°.
(Nore, 0401A/8 to Admty.)
Patrol position at S.T. contact return (? your) position.
(C. in C. Nore, 0422A/8 to Yarmouth W/T.)

/At ...

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

E-Boats engaged by M.T.Bs 17, 20 and 21. One E-Boat sunk.
(Contd.)

At about 0130 this morning M.G.Bs 21 and 20 and 17 engaged a number of E-Boats in approx. 52° 45' N. 2° 40' E.
At about 0200 M.G.B. 20 found one E-Boat stopped and down by the head. M.G.B. 20 engaged without reply after which E-Boat blew up aft and sank. No survivors found. A few small pieces of wreckage brought back to harbour. No casualties and only very slight damage sustained by our forces.

(C. in C. Nore, 1252A/8 to Admty.)

Preliminary report of E-Boat activity last night.

1. Wind easterly force 4 freshening. Sea 3 to 4. This was very nearly the limit of wind and sea in which M.G.Bs could be fought.
2. At 0105 MACKAY (D.16) on patrol 5 sighted 2 E-Boats 10 miles 160° from Smiths Knoll Bell Buoy. These had been detected by Type 271 at 0043 East of 56A buoy and stalked. E-Boats were chased to eastward. No damage to enemy claimed but many H.E. bursts were close.
3. At 0117 M.G.Bs 21, 20, and 17 on Z.16 who had sighted MACKAY's starshell detected H.E. bearing 200°. Correct drill was carried out (N.O.M.17 102 para. 5.)
0123 R.D.F. contact obtained. 0130 one E-Boat was sighted stopped and closely engaged by all boats many hits being scored. Contact lost in smoke at 0135. Immediately after R.D.F. contact was made with 2 more E-Boats possibly those driven off by MACKAY. Although bumping heavily M.G.Bs increased to 24 knots and set course between them. 0142 sighted 2 E-Boats in quarter line on similar course to M.G.Bs.
0144 engaged nearer E-Boat to port. Enemy took avoiding action. M.G.Bs 21 and 17 then engaged starboard E-Boat until lost in smoke and spray at 0148. M.G.B. 20 held port E-Boat until 0154 then turned to starboard to rejoin unit. Almost at once M.G.B. 20 sighted E-Boat stopped. M.G.B. 20 circled round firing all guns receiving no reply then switched on searchlight. E-Boat seen to be sinking by the head with propellers out of water. Stern of boat blew up and boat finally sank at 0210. No survivors seen either then or during search at daylight when aircraft assisted, but sea and spray made visibility very bad. During action enemy returned heavy but inaccurate fire. No casualties and only slight hull damage to 21 and 20. 4 H.E. obtained by M.G.B. 606 on Z.54 at 0245 may have been one E-Boat disengaging to the North from M.G.Bs.
5. M.G.Bs 21 and 17 sighted 5 star yellowish green pyrotechnic at 0144 duration 5 seconds. This burst on ascent to usual 2 star cartridge. Height.
6. x - x. E-Boats were outside range of K sets who however provided useful information of own destroyers and convoys.
7. Number of E-Boats operating uncertain but only 3 thought to have been sighted. Object also uncertain but from proximity of F.S. convoy it is thought to have been torpedo attack.
8. Consider M.G.Bs did extremely well in most difficult conditions of wind and sea. Credit is also due to MACKAY.
(C. in C. Nore, 2128A/8 to Admty.)

/TRUCULENT ...

War Diary.

8.3.1943.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

- TRUCULENT & SIMOON Patrol.
- (1) TRUCULENT and SIMOON proceed forthwith as follows:
 (a) TRUCULENT through 064° 08' N. 006° 01' E. to patrol 063° 08' N. 006° 50' E.
 (b) SIMOON through 063° 46' N. 005° 02' E. to patrol 063° 07' N. 006° 23' E.
- (2) TRUCULENT keep east and SIMOON west of 006° 35' E. and SIMOON north of 063° N.
- (3) TUNA is operating between 061° N. and 063° N.
- (4) Object cruisers and above, but U-Boats are to be attacked provided a full salvo is kept for cruisers and above.
 (F.O.(S), 1112A/8 to S/MS.)
 My 1703/7 paras. (C) and (D). These two submarines diverted about 1300/8 to patrol vicinity 63° 08' N. 06° 50' E. and 63° 46' N. 05° 02' E. respectively.
 (F.O.(S), 1116A/8 to Admty.)
- Coastal Patrols.
- 2 M.G.Bs from Portland on patrol 50° 20' N. between 2° 10' W. and 2° 20' W.
 5. LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth. FYLLA at St. Helens.
 6. Chasseurs 15 and 10 patrolling south of E.A5.
7. 2 M.G.B., 2 M.T.B. short notice Newhaven.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1220A/8, 1828A/8, 1621A/8.)
 1. Intend M.G.Bs 55 (S.O.) and 53 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 02° 10' N. and 30' W. (sic).
 2. Leave Weymouth at 1900 by Q.Z.S.382 and patrol line at dawn/9.
 3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol.
 5. Codeword "Arena".
 (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1400A/8 and 1612A/8.)
 Patrol tonight.
2. M.T.B.94 (S.O.), 96, M.G.B. 10, 6.
 3. Patrol 8 miles 070° and 250° from 097° Berry Head 16.
 4. Object to intercept enemy forces attacking convoys.
 5. Enemy destroyers or E-Boats may operate from Cherbourg or Guernsey.
 6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth to reach patrol-line at 1945. Leave patrol datlight/9th and return to Dartmouth. Craft are not to proceed South of the line Portland Bill to Start Point except in pursuit of the enemy. Q.Z.X.834 is clear North of 50° 15' N. and remainder may be crossed in action.
 7. Codeword "Obstacle".
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1401A/8.)
 M.Ls 140 (S.O.) and 923 patrolling at Bullock Bank.
 M.G.Bs 41 (S.O.) and S.3 at No.4 Buoy.
 (V.A. Dover, 1729A/8.)
 My 1603A/8. Add P.C.74 patrolling West of Scillies.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 2139/8.)
- Unknown operation.
- Proceed at best speed that weather permits and fuel with all despatch.
 (C. in C. H.F., 1259A/8 to Capt. D.8.)

/Due ...

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Unknown Operation. (Contd.) Due Seidisfjord 0100A/9 OBEDIENT, OB DURATE, BOADICEA in company. My P.C.S. are 067° 21' N. 008° 50' W., 225°, 21 knots. (INTREPID, 1302A/8 to A.C.I.C.) Your 1032A/7.

1. INDOMITABLE at 8 hours notice with one Albacore and one Seafire squadron. FURIOUS at 4 hours notice with 2 Albacore and one Seafire squadron.

2. After 11th March INDOMITABLE will have 2 Albacore and 2 Seafire squadrons. FURIOUS one Albacore, one Swordfish and one Seafire squadron.

3. INDOMITABLE will however not be worked up.

(V.A.A.H.F., 1619A/8 to C. in C. H.F.)

Continue to cover passage between Iceland and Faroes to prudent limit of endurance of your destroyers, subsequently refuelling at Hvalfjord.

(C. in C. H.F., 2033A/8 to V.A.2.)

Come to one hours notice for operation.

(C. in C. H.F., 2037A/8 to FURIOUS.)

Unless required to screen R.A.53 remain at Seidisfjord at two hours notice.

(C. in C. H.F., 2040A/8 to Capt. D.8.)

Exercises.

C.D.L. Trials. PRINCESS ASTRID. Intend to commence C.D.L. trials on 9th March including bombarding Kilbride Beach and night illumination. Trials will be repeated daily thereafter, weather permitting until April 10th. (PRINCESS ASTRID, 1037A/8 to Capt. L.C.T.)

Allied Air Activity.

Convoys P.W.305, W.P.305. Swordfish and Sunderland aircraft will fly following patrols tonight from 2000/8 till dawn/9. Details. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1411A/8 to Convoys.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Haslemere bombed. S.S.E. Haslemere reports air raid on 0130/8. A. Slight minor damage at Lythe Hill House Gardeners Lodge, roof severely damaged by blast. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1030/8.)

Mining.

Clearance of Q.Z.X. 910. Your 2026/6 and my 1157/7. 15th M/S will be available to clear A.M. Q.Z.X.910 after rest period and before returning to Iceland. (C. in C. H.F., 1008A/8 to Admty.)

/Dover ...

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.Dover
area.One red mine detonated in 51° 02' 54" N. 01° 15' 48" E.
(V.A. Dover, 1132A/8.)

S.N. 90A.

Intend to carry out operation S.N.90A as follows:

(A) Surface minefield from North to South.

(D) (1) MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, NEWARK, WELLS, ST. MARYS another destroyer as

detailed by Admiralty and SCOTT.

(2) C. in C. H.F. is requested to detail one cruiser.

(E) Initial R/V 060° 05' N. 005° 30' W. at 0700A/16. Codeword "Crocodile".

(F) From 065° 00' N. 012° 20' W. to 064° 30' 12" N. 012° 06' 30" W.

(G) 1700A/15. (1) as for (E).

(J) Through position (A) 059° 45' N. 005° 30' W. (B) 060° 30' N. 005° 30' W. (C) 062° 22' N. 006° 00' W. (D) 064° 40' N. 010° 00' W.

(K) 12½ knots. (L) 1245A/17.

(M) Through position (E) 064° 35' N. 011° 00' W. to position (C) 062° 22' N. 006° 00' W., thence to the reverse of outward passage.

(O) and (P). Port ZA 0940A/19 except AGAMEMNON (escorted by one destroyer) who proceeds Scapa.

(R.A.M., 1204/8.)

My 1204A/8. As I have only 3 destroyers available request a fourth may be detailed to complete the screen, and that she may arrive Port ZA by 0800/15.

(R.A.M., 1206/8 to Admt.)

My 1204A/8. Intend sailing SCOTT from Port ZA at 2000A/12 routed West of declared mined area to Seidisfjord. E.T.A. 1800/14. She will sail thence as requisite to fix mark(ed) beacons for S.N.90A and return to Port ZA after laying by route given in para. N.

(R.A.M., 1210/8 to A.C.I.C.)

Iceland.

Your 1157/7. As no progress was possible last week on account of weather and as sweeping is possible today intend available sweepers continue operations as in para. 3 of my 1804/18 returning to Hvalfjord to fuel and to be ready to sail on 13th March.

2. By that date FRASERBURGH will have completed boiler-cleaning and therefore intend that 15th M/S. Flotilla consisting of FRASERBURGH, LYME REGIS, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR, BOOTLE and PETERHEAD sail for Scapa.

3. This will leave HOUND, HAZARD, SHARPSHOOTER and GLEANER to continue sweeping operations in Iceland.

(A.C.I.C., 1740A/8 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Lyme ...

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.Lyme Bay
clearance.

Operation completed. Negative results today. Owing to discovery of mines in S.W. corner of area and sinking of Belgian Trawler in reported 166° Berry Head 15 miles intend tomorrow to carry out a search across a line joining 50° 13'36" N. 03° 17'06" W. and 50° 08'30" N. 03° 24'36" W.

(M/S.4, 1953A/8 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.Destroyers
at Christian-
sand on 1st
March.

Two KARL GALSTER class destroyers reported Christiansand about March 1st. Abreast foremost gun was one broad vertical white stripe from deck to water line similar to Swedish neutrality mark. Graded C.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 1849/8.)

SCHARNHORST,
PRINZ EUGEN,
EMDEN,
GNEISENAU.

P.R.U. of Gdynia 1200/8 shows SCHARNHORST departed. PRINZ EUGEN remains at previous berth at French Wharf. EMDEN and two SCHLESIIEN class ex Battleships also unchanged at same wharf. Partly dismantled battle cruiser GNEISENAU unchanged alongside. Large floating dock contains small floating dock. (D.D.I.C., 2045A/8.)

HIPPER,
SCHEER.

Photographic R/C Wilhelmshaven 1450 today shows SCHEER and HIPPER still present. (D.D.I.C., 2155A/8.)

U-Boats.U-Boats
reported.

SSSS 294°, class one. (Portrush Radio, 0756 G.M.T./8 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Am over enemy S/M in 58° 00' N. 30° 00' W. (A/C 1KTR, 1655A/8.)

Am over enemy S/M in 58° 32' N. 30° 47' W. (A/C 1K7 Duty O, 1715A/8.)

Am over enemy S/M in 58° 42' N. 28° 48' W. (A/C 1KTR, 2008A/8.)

U-Boat
attacked.

Unsuccessfully attacked U-Boat in 044° 48' N. 012° 13' W., course 070°, speed seven knots. (URSULA, 1451A/8 to Admty.)

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Edrachilles F.O.(S) 1918A/5. Request sanctuary from
S/M 0600A/16 until noon 4th April.
Sanctuary. (BONAVENTURE, 1046/8 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

CAMPION. Your 0245. Proceed to Hvalfjord for fuel.
(A.C.I.C., 0420A/8 to CAMPION.)
Hvalfjord arrived CAMPION at 0903.
(A.C.I.C., 1048A/8.)

HAMBLEDON. HAMBLEDON can be docked forthwith at the Humber
Graving Dock, Immingham and should get there
within next 48 hours.
(D.O.D.H., 1109A/8 to C. in C. Nore.)

Admty. 1109/8.
HAMBLEDON cannot be spared for docking at the present owing to
acute shortage of destroyers.
Ship is considered fit to run operationally for the next few
days when it is hoped to dock her at Sheerness during her
next boiler cleaning period in about 10 days time.
(C. in C. Nore, 1542A/8 to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE. My 1110/7. It will be necessary for INDOMITABLE
to remain at the Tail of the Bank so that
emergency repair overseers can visit ship.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1115/8.)

My 1110/7. Spare pad pieces have been fitted and severe trial
up to and including full power with considerable rudder has been
carried out successfully.
(INDOMITABLE, 2207A/8 to Admty.)

ARIGUANI. N.O.I.C. Greenock's 1018A/8. My position 1140A/8
055° 42', 006° 49' hove to. Tow under present
conditions fairly good. Intend putting into
Oban if weather does not moderate. Request 2
local tugs and pilot outside boom.
(ARIGUANI, 1155A/8 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Your 1155/8. Tug and pilot will meet you. Anchor Lynn
of Lorne.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1656A/8 to ARIGUANI.)

MASTADONTE. Rescue Tug MASTADONTE proceeded to sea today at
1347 to carry out first operational duty since
arriving Harwich. At 1437 she requested a tug
to assist her return to port as boiler tubes
had collapsed.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1520A/8.)
My 1347. MASTADONTE returned to Harwich. Boiler
defects.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1543A/8.)

/Unknown ...

War Diary.

8.3.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- Unknown Ship. Received at 1515 G.M.T. de Gallon Head Radio. Begins. Following intercepted 1510 G.M.T. de 22 sinking. Q.S.A.2. Ends. (Wick, 1616/8 to Adm. Lyness.)
- EL MIRLO. EL MIRLO broken down at 18A Buoy at about 1300. (VALOROUS, 1731A/8 to C. in C. Rosyth.) Your 1731A/8. AMSTERDAM proceeding to assistance. (N.O.I.C. Tyne, 1820/8 to VALOROUS.)
- AMSTERDAM. Rescue Tug AMSTERDAM sailed to investigate tanker reported not under control in position 1 mile N.N.E. 18A Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1755A/8.) Intercept 2005 G.M.T. from AMSTERDAM. S O S. Aground Redcar Rock. Taking to boat. Captain and me only left on board. (North Foreland Radio, 2105/8 to Admiral Chatham.) Following from Niton Radio. Intercepted 2010 G.M.T. de AMSTERDAM. Must leave ship with Captain. Goodbye (unread). (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2110/8 to Admty.) Following from N.O.I.C. Tees begins. Redcar Lifeboat launched to assist AMSTERDAM reported ashore Redcar. NORTHNESS proceeding from Tees Bay to assist. Tug from M'boro. arranged for early morning tide. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2125/8 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- ANTIETAM. My 1150/28. On completion discharge Scapa request ANTIETAM be ordered Clyde for repairs. (D. of Stores, 1921A/8 to A.C.O.S.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- R.U. 64. Your 0023A/8. Your 1024/7.
O.N.J.171. Proceeding to R.U.64 on A.C.I.C's 1531A/7. (MALLOW, 0250A/8 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 0250/8. You are to escort O.N.J.171 thence to R.U.64 on relief by ROCKINGHAM and WATCHMAN. (C. in C. W.A., 0506A/8 to MALLOW.) Your 0506A/8. My P.C.S. 062° 35' N. 021° 44' W., 024°, 12 to O.N.J.171. E.T.A. 1300A. (MALLOW, 0605A/8 to C. in C. W.A.) NORCO put back leaking. (N.C.S.O. Iceland, 1844A/8.) American M/V BENJAMIN WILLIAMS returning Reykjavik with cargo shifting. VIZALMA detached to escort her. Position R.U.64 at 1700Z 061° 35' N. 020° 30' W., course 112°, 8½ knots. NORCO not in company. (BLACKFLY, 1935Z/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

8.3.1943.

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

- R.A. 53. Your 2331/7. When you have rounded Eastern limit of ice proceed to join R.A. 53. (C. in C. H.F., 0330A/8 to VIVACIOUS.)
J.L.M. CURRY abandoned. J.L.M. CURRY straggler from R.A. breaking up due to heavy weather. Abandoned at 1000A/8. Crew safe. Ship left sinking. Rejoining convoy.
P.C.S. at 1400A/8, 069° 10' N. 003° 40' E., 244°, 11 knots. (ST. ELSTAN, 1400A/8 to Admty.)
- X.K. 2. As CHATEAUROUX present destination Loch Ewe request she may proceed nearest west coast port where urgently needed repairs can be effected. (COREOPSIS, 0935A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)
CHATEAUROUX. As it is imperative for CHATEAUROUX to make nearest port request convoy or CHATEAUROUX only may proceed south of Ireland. Little headway is being made against strong N.W. gale. (COREOPSIS, 1519A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)
- S.C.121. Request you will sail CAMPION to join S.C.121 as soon as she is ready. (C. in C. W.A., 1108Z/8 to A.C.I.C.)
My P.C.S. at 1700A/8, 063° 45' N. 023° 10' W., 192°, 12½ knots. Estimate joining S.C.121 at 2200A/9. (CAMPION, 1740A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)
- YARRAWONGA, Greek relief vessels YARRAWONGA and AKKA have arrived Piraeus.
AKKA. (N.A. Stockholm, 1211/8.)
- SUSSEX. Intend sailing SUSSEX 1400Z/9. Route to Colon. Estimate passing 007° approx. 0500Z/10. "Chop" 040° W. 15th March. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1535Z/8 to Admty.)
- S.C.121. Following from Valentia Radio:-
VOJVODA S O S from VOJVODA PUTNIK, position 58.42 N. 31.25 W., abandoning ship, 1621. R.A.F. informed. (Burnham Radio, T.O.R. 1628 G.M.T./8 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
PUTNIK.
- O.S. 44. BOSWORTH returned Clyde with engine defects.
BOSWORTH. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1628/8.)

/Atlantic ...

War Diary.

8.3.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Atlantic
Convoy
Cycle.

The cycle of mid-ocean convoys is to be reduced to 6 days for fast convoys and 8 days for slow convoys.

2. When plan is in full operation 8 groups will escort fast convoys with lay-over of 12 days in U.K. and 6 days in Newfoundland. 6 groups

will escort slow convoys with lay-over of 14 days in U.K. and 7 days in Newfoundland.

3. Order of sailing. Details.

4. My 1808/5. O.N.S.174 has been renumbered O.N.S.1.
(C. in C. W.A., 1757Z/8.)

S.C.119.

S.C.119 arrived off Oversay 0400Z/21.

All arrived.

(D.T.D., 1814A/8 to Connnav.)

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

K.M.S.10. Arrivals ST. CROIX, BURWELL, NAPANEE, BATTLEFORD, KENOGAMI, TYNE DALE, FORT YORK, WEDGEPORT, QUALICUM, CALPE, HOLCOMBE, with Gibraltar section K.M.S. 10.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 0020A/8 to Admty. as amended 1744A/8.)

K.M.S.10. Arrivals SPERO, THURLAND CASTLE, EMPIRE FLAMINGO, WELLINGTON COURT, FORT HUDSON'S HOPE, HARBURY, SUNCREST.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 0034A/8 to Admty.)

FORT PASKOYAC.
(torpedoed K.M.S.10.) SALVONIA commenced towing FORT PASKOYAC at 2130/7 in 036° 35' N. 010° 35' W. speed 5 knots. Foll. is uncoded weather report.
(REGINA 0212Z/8 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)
K.M.S.10. Request you will report whether FORT PASKOYAC had nets streamed when torpedoed and if not reason why.
(D.T.D. 1811A/8 to F.O.Gibraltar.)
Reply 1126A/10.

Your 1704/8 (N.T. in W.D.) BADDECK with tow. My P.C. and S. 36.07 N. 07.12 W. 100° 13 knots. E.T.A. 0600/9th. NIMBLE in company.
(REGINA 1900A/8 to F.O.Gibraltar, (R) BADDECK, Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.9.)

S.S. ANDES. E.T.A. 0730Z/9.
(S.S. ANDES 0400Z/8 to S.N.O. Casablanca.)

M.K.F.10A. M.K.F.10A entered Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 0711A/8 to Cmdre. Algiers, (R) Admty. Connav, etc.)

Sailed EGRET, ERNE, CLARE, TEST, FISHGUARD escorting M.K.F.10A
Local escorts HOLCOMBE, CALPE.

(F.O.Gibraltar, 1706A/8 to Admty. C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C.Med.)

M.K.F.10A sailed Gibraltar 1730/8 as in Cmdre. Algiers 2038A/6 and 2037A/6 plus ATHLONE CASTLE (?speed) 17, personnel 750, CAMERONIA, speed 16 personnel 270, TAWALI speed 14, ballast.

(F.O.Gibraltar 1733/8 to Admty. (R) Connav, C. in C.Med.)

M.K.F.10A proceeded 1700/8. CALPE, HOLCOMBE sailed as additional escorts until 2000/9 then returning to Gibraltar at best speed.

(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1835A/8 to C., in C.Med. (R) Admty. F.O.H. C. in C.W.A.)

S.R.2. S.R.2. arrived (11 ships).
(F.O.C.Gib. 0933A/8 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. S.N.O.C.A. Connav.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. Situation 1959A/8th.

ARCTIC RANGER 036° 05' 006° 51' through 35.56
06.20 to Gibraltar 10.2. TRIDENT 040° 31' 011° 44' through 40.01 11.28 at 2345/8th
thence 150° surfacing by night 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ submerging by day 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.3. M.K.S.9 Gibraltar section ST. CROIX sailed 1800/8th through
Q.K.A. 87 to R/V M.K.S.9 Mediterranean Section West of swept
channel. After R/V Mediterranean escorts return Gibraltar 12.4. M.K.S.9 Mediterranean section passes Europa Point about
2030/8th through Q.K.A. 87 and 35.44 06.30 thence 285° 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.5. C.G. 16, U.S.S. OVERTON, 34.36 07.22 through 35.45 06.30
to Gibraltar 9.6. P.C. 471, L.C.T. 19, off Tarifa to Gibraltar 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.7. Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA passed Europa Point about 0300/9
through Q.K.A. 87 and 36.30 09.02 thence 318° 12.

8. REGINA, NIMBLE 035° (758') 006° 58' to Gibraltar 11.

9. SHEDIAC, BADDECK, ST. NECTAN, SALVONIA towing one merchant
ship 36.13 08.25 to Gibraltar 5.10. M.K.F.10A EGRET 35.55 06.52 through 36.20 10.02 thence
295° 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.

(F.O.Gibraltar 1131A/8.)

Situation 2002A/8th

Hospital ship ATLANTIS 40.14 16.58 014° 13 $\frac{3}{4}$.2. Coastal Force convoy 41.43 13.34 through 40.05 13.30
thence 142° 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

(F.O.Gibraltar 1215A/8.)

MIRROR.

Cancel my 1608/5.

2. Intend sailing MIRROR when escort available
to repair Tangier - Gibraltar cable in 35° 51'
30" N. 05° 37' 30" W.3. On completion intend MIRROR when escort available repair
Lisbon - Gibraltar No. 1.

(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1140A/8 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

REGENT.

Arrival.

(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1142A/8 to Admty. F.O.S. (R)
C. in C.Med. etc.)MADOERA
(search.)Your 2335/6th. (Re survivors from S.S. MADOERA
adrift.) Portuguese Navy are carrying out air-
craft searches from Azores.2. N.C.S.O. Lisbon has routed Greek S.S. THETIS
(bound for Philadelphia) so as to carry out search en route.
She sailed today and should reach position in 5 or 6 days.(N.A.Lisbon 1237/8 to Admty. (R) F.O.Gib. N.C.S.O. Ponta
Delgada.)Your 2335/6th. Local Naval authority despatching aircraft
to search in direction of position when weather conditions
permit.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1604/8 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

/FORMIDABLE...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- FORMIDABLE. Partial steam trials of FORMIDABLE satisfactory.
(S.O.Force H 1254A/8 to Admty. C. in C.Med.
(R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, FORMIDABLE.)
- U/B 6/3. Master Portuguese Motor Vessel ALVARO MARTIN HOMEN reports at 0550Z/6th in position 039° 32' N. 034° 25' W. almost submerged submarine demanded name by flashlight then disappeared.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1536/8 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)
- M.K.S.9. BURWELL, PRESCOTT. M.K.S. 9. BURWELL defective, estimate repairs will take minimum three days.
2. Intend sailing PRESCOTT as ocean escort to U.K.
3. My 1812/6. PRESCOTT requires docking but can make passage to U.K.
(C.S.Gibraltar 1610A/8 to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.W.A. Admty.)
1. M.K.S. 9. List. Cargoes. Destinations.
(F.O.Gibraltar 1742A/8 to Admty.)
1. M.K.S. 9 (Sailing telegram.)
2. 1800/8th. 3. 7½ knots. 6. ST. CROIX, NAPANEE, BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC, PARRSBORO, QUALICUM, WEDGEPORT, BURWELL, KHISORA, FORT YORK.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1746A/8 to Admty. (R) Connav, C. in C.Med.)
Sailed ST. CROIX, NAPANEE, BATTLEFORD, KENOGAMI, PRESCOTT, FORT YORK, WEDGEPORT, QUALICUM escorting M.K.S.9.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1901A/8 to Admty. C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C.Med. N.S.H.Q.)
M.K.S.9. Following arrived. (list of M/Vs.)
(F.O.C.Gib. 2217A/8 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. Connav. etc.)
- Movements, Casablanca. U.S.S. OVERTON, U.S.S. MCCORMICK H.M.T. LORD HOTHAM, French L'ENGAGEANTE and LE SETOISE departed with C.G.16. MCLEISH departed for Safi. French LA GRANDIERE arrived from Dakar.
(C.M.S.F.F. 2017/8 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cominch, Admty.)
- Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals: 0845 HAARLEM with cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER 0835 EGRET, TEST, FISHGUARD, ERNE, WHEATLAND, HAYDON, with M.K.F.10A. 0940 LAFOREY, LOOKOUT from Algiers. 0945 AMHERST, CELANDINE, K.M.F.10B. 1015 CIRCE from M/S sweep. 1105 ASHANTI, ESKIMO, ILEX from K.M.F.10B. 1220 MOOSEJAW ex M.K.S. 9. 1530 TARTAR, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA from Philippeville. 2015 CHARLES MCIVER from Oran. 2115 ARCTIC RANGER ex escort duties to Lisbon. Departures: 1136 AMHERST, CELANDINE to rejoin K.M.F.10B., 1630 TRIBUNE to Algiers. 2330 CIRCE, CAMROSE on escort duties to West.
(F.O.Gibraltar 2345A/8 to Admty. C. in C.Med. N.S.H.Q.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HARVEY W. SCOTT. (D.N.21.) HARVEY W. SCOTT torpedoed by submarine in 31° 54' S. 30° 37' E. at 2024Z/3. 1 torpedo hit port side No. 2 hatch, ship sinking half an hour later. No casualties to personnel. C/Bs. jettisoned in weighted box by Master and seen to sink. S/M not seen. SSSS message sent. (N.C.S.O. Durban 0751Z/8 to Admty. C. in C.S.A.)

Dispositions. Situation Report at 2001Z/8th of ships in area P of S. Atlantic.

PORTSDOWN off Freetown to Marshall 9.
BELLWORT, ARMERIA, ARRAN, 2 M.Ls. with S.T.58.
05.18 11.05 126° 9.

CORINTHIAN, SARABANDE 2 M.Ls. with T.S. 32, 05.38 11.02 302° 8½.
CROCUS, DUNCTON and INKPEN escorting 06.26 13.44 181° 9¾.

DESPATCH about 06.59 15.14 232 19.

SUSSEX on patrol about 03.30 N. 19.30 W.

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 01.30 N. 20.30 W.

Eight Allied Naval units on patrol in Ascension St. Pauls Rocks area.

(R.A.W.A. 0944/8 to Admty. etc.)

HYDRANGEA, ORFASY escorting off Bathurst to 11.47 17.50 thence 149 9.

BURDOCK. THYME escorting 10.08 16.46 to 09.04 16.06 thence Freetown 12½.

AIR FRANCE THIRD 16.22 17.02 to Dakar 10½.

French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES about 08.20 20.01 to Dakar 19.

PORTSDOWN off Freetown to Marshall 9.

FANDANGO searching about position 09.01 14.28.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1117Z/8.)

Position at 2000Z/8th. ARETHUSA 014° 10' S. 010° 45' E. to Pointe Noire 11 knots.

CILICIA 019° 40' S. 010° 15' W. to 003° S. 012° W. 14.

GENISTA, M.L. 380, 382, 383, 829 034° 20' S. 025° 00' E. to Port Elizabeth 11.

NIGELLA, PRUDENT 031° 30' (?S) 030° 00' E. to Durban 9.

JASMINE 030° 30' S. 036° 40' E., to Durban 12.

SPHENE, NORWICH CITY 030° 40' S. 037° 10' E. to Durban 8.

(C. in C.S.A. 1124C/8.)

DRANGEY. Capetown arrival 8th.
(Simonstown W/T 1036C/8 to Admty. N.L.O.
Walvis Bay.)

Convoy procedure. Convoy A.J.K. escort procedure in force on South Atlantic Station. C. in C.W.A. 0757/48 Nov. 18, 1942, refers.
(C. in C.S.A. 1049C/8 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.
F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.W.A.)

/Movements...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.Movements,
Para.Arrivals 8th U.S. Destroyer GOFF, U.S.
Aircraft tender THRUSH, Y.M.S. 76.
(R.O.Para 1129/8 to Admty.)Dakar,
Dispositions.Weekly state 8th March.
Dakar. (?French Sloop BOUGAINVILLE French
Despatch Vessel CALAIS) CANADA, QUERCY, MOUCHEZ.
French Submarines LE CENTAURE, ARGO, LA SULTANE,
ATALANTE, ARETHUSE.Dakar Area. French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT BORY, French
Sloop M/S GAZELLE, AIR FRANCE 1 and 4.

2. KONAKRY. French Sloop M/S LA GRACIEUSE.

3. On patrol French (C) GEORGES LEYGUES.

(74) Port Etienne, French Sub. JULES VERNE. Between Dakar
and Port Etienne, VICTORIA, AIR FRANCE 3.5. Jara. French Sloop M/S ANNAMITE. Casablanca Area French
Sloops DUMONT D'URVILLE, DELAGE. Between Dakar and Casablanca,
French Submarines LA VESTALE, ANTOIPE, GRANDIERE.
(Comar Dakar 1206Z/8 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)** Sunk at Libreville 9/11/40 -
9 a.m.c.*U/B
attacked.Ventura of S.D.9 made promising attack on U-Boat
at 1455C/7 in 34° 58' S. 23° 50' E. 4 depth
charges set at 36 feet were dropped 100 feet
ahead of swirl 8 seconds after U-Boat had crash
dived. After attack brown patch about 200 feetin diameter was observed. Bubbles were seen coming to surface
in patches for five minutes. Aircraft searched area for 25
minutes without further results.

(C. in C.S.A. 1209C/8 to Admty.)

U/B
assessment.Your 1141/1 March. (No assessments made during
Feb. of attacks on U-Boats in your area.)
Request information if assessment has been made
for attack on a U-Boat by Hudson N200 on 28th
October 1942.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1255Z/8 to Admty)
(Reply 1655A/14.)Movements,
Freetown.Arrival 0901/7 March. Free French ship F.S.
COMMANDANT DROGOU.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1439Z/8 to Admty. R.N.O. Lagos,
(R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

ARETHUSA.

On arrival at Freetown about 16th March ARETHUSA
should be sailed to Trinidad for onward routing
to Charleston S.C. where she will be taken in
hand for permanent repairs.
(D.O.D.(F) 1508A/8 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Cominch etc.)

/R.B.2...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

R.B.2. Serial number 18. Convoy R.B.2 sailed Pernambuco 1700Z/6th ORBIS, U.S. ARATAIA (?INPOLE), 2 Brazil, for Bahia, EDWIN CHRISTENSON, U.S. ALMIRANTE JACEGUAY, Brazil, for Rio de Janeiro. To join off Maceio, ITAPACE, ITAPE 2 Brazil for Bahia. NORTELOIDE, MIDOSI, TAQUI, 3 Brazil, for Rio de Janeiro. (A/S.O.(I) Recife 1548Z/8 to Admty.)

EMPRESS OF CANADA, escort. Urgently required to lift approx. 2,000 R.A.F. personnel now in West Africa awaiting passage to U.K.
2. If escort can be provided, approx. 1,500 can be cleared in EMPRESS OF CANADA. No other equivalent opportunity can at present be foreseen.
3. F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to remark on possibility of escorting EMPRESS OF CANADA to Gibraltar on following assumptions
a. She should reach Gibraltar in time for inclusion in M.K.F.11 due to pass the Straits 27th March.
b. No change can be accepted in present arrangements for escorting W.S.28.
c. MALAYA should be escorted by at least three destroyers.
4. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to inform F.O.C.W.Af. if he can assist.
(D.O.D.(F) 1650A/8 to F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.W.A.)
Reply from F.O.Gibraltar 1231A/10. F.O.C.W.A. 1035Z/10.

STAG HOUND (torpedoed 4/3.) My 1750Z/4th survivors from ship report that she was torpedoed in 016° 44' S. 036° 33' W. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1745Z/8th to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A. etc.)

U/Boat attack on D.N.21. A.M. 1446/6. (Re details of attack on convoy D.N.21.) Some Warships concerned have not returned to harbour yet. I am personally investigating at Durban. Report will be signalled later. (C. in C.S.A., 1759/8 to Admty.)

STAG HOUND (torpedoed 3/3.) Entire crew of STAG HOUND U.S. landed here today by RIO COLORADO, Argentine. Master reports his ship struck by 2 torpedoes at 2215Z/3rd March in 016° 44' S. 036° 33' W. Ship settled and was abandoned 2225 and sunk by 3rd torpedo at 2245Z. First torpedo observed coming from bearing 090° ship steering 227° 16 knots. U-Boat did not approach boats but exhaust was heard 2245. Ship had been steering steady course since 1100Z/3rd March. A ship's smoke was sighted ahead at 1500Z and lights of same ship were visible 7 miles distant on same bearing at time of attack. Ship had last broken wireless silence on night of 27th Feb. to report on H/F being 100 miles astern of plot. Visibility at time of attack good, weather fine. (B.R.L.O. Rio de Janeiro 1814Z/8 to Admty.)

/BURDOCK...

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

BURDOCK M.L. 251. E.T.A. Freetown 1400Z/9th. Survivors from M.L. 251 still on board. Weather report. (BURDOCK 1957Z/8 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Capt. D.)

CORINTHIAN. My P.C. and S. 005° 04' N. 010° 05' W. A 302° 8½ knots. (CORINTHIAN 2001Z/8 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements, Recife. U.S. Sloop HUMBOLDT arrived and left same day 6th March. Departure 6th Brazilian Survey Vessel RIO BRANCO. Arrival 7th Brazilian Submarine Chaser C.S.53. (R.O.Recife 2002Z/8 to Admty.)

SHEAFCROWN (torpedoed 3/3 in D.N.21.) Your 1220/7 and N.C.S.O. Durban's 0731/7. It would appear that SHEAFCROWN was prematurely abandoned. Request report. (D.T.D. 2150A/8 to C. in C.S.A. (R) N.C.S.O. Durban.)

JONATHAN EDWARDS. Overdue shipping JONATHAN EDWARDS U.S. Durban 9th Feb. for Bahia 2nd March not arrived. (S.O.(I) Recife 2317Z/8 to Admty. etc.) At Port Elizabeth, see 1044C/10, 1343Z/11.

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MondayFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

WISHART U/B. Sighted and attacked S/M in 35.51 N. 02.05 W. No results. (WISHART 0130A/8 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O. Gibraltar, F.O.Oran.)

D.N.C.X.F. Request rate (?percentage) money payable to Admiral (?Ramsay) abroad. Admiral's mess is being established and Flag is being hoisted. (D.N.C.X.F. 0804B/8 to Admty.)

FLAMINGO. Suez 8th March FLAMINGO in tow of S.S. STAR OF CAIRO sailed at 0730 for Aden and Bombay. (F.O.R.S.C.A. 0813/8 to C. in C.Levant, (R) C. in C.E.F. Com. Aden, Admty. etc.)

ABDIEL minelaying. Operation completed. Mines laid 5 miles to eastward of position ordered owing to causes not yet ascertained. Operation probably unseen. Encountered and shot up small assembly of motor barge or landing craft proceeding towards Sicily in position close to south eastern limit of Q.K. 34 near Keith Reef. (ABDIEL 0816A/8 to C. in C.Med. etc.) Passed to Admty. for information by Gibraltar.

Movements, Malta. Arrival ABDIEL, PAKENHAM, PALADIN. (V.A.Malta 0908A/8 to Admty. etc.)

AMARAPOORA. My 2045A/7th. Sailed at 0845A/8th. (N.O.I.C. Oran 0915A/8 to Admty. etc.)

Air report (?7th March.) For Eaker, From Spaatz.
1. At 0920 hours convoy was attacked by 6 B.25s. escorted by 14 P.38s. 35 500 pound bombs dropped from 200 feet. Entire convoy was stopped. 1 small Merchant Vessel sunk, 1 large Merchant Vessel left in sinking condition, 1 small Merchant Vessel and 1 Naval Vessel left on fire. 5 enemy aircraft destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and 2 damaged. All our planes returned. 1 B. 26 crash landed at base. (See also 1857Z/8 p. 301)
2. 19 B.17s escorted by 19 P.38s located same convoy which was circling as bombers approached. At 1245 hours 228 500 pound bombs dropped from 14,500 feet. Hits were observed on 3 vessels 1 of which blew up and sunk, 2 left burning, 1 of which was destroyed. 1 probably destroyed and 1 damaged. (sic.) (see also A.H.Q. Malta 1857/8.)
3. 16 B.17s escorted by 16 P.38s attacked Sousse Harbour and R.R. yards. Hits observed on 1 large Merchant Vessel, on Dock, Warehouse and Marshalling Yards. All returned safely. (12th Air Force, Algiers 0937Z/8 to Etousa.)

/PAKENHAM...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

PAKENHAM, PALADIN sweep. PAKENHAM and PALADIN leave Malta 1545 today 8th to operate North of Pantellaria during the night.
(V.A.Malta 0954A/8 to C. in C.Med. H.Q. R.A.F. H.Q.N.W.Africa, 201 Group (R) C. in C.Levant. Admty.)
Sailed PAKENHAM and PALADIN on operation.
(V.A.Malta 1545A/8 to Admty. etc.)

Equipment for Turkish Navy. Your 2021/3rd March and my 1802/5th March. Following items of equipment and stores are among the main items asked for: (list of 26 items)
(N.A.Ankara 1120/8 to Admty.)

P.R.U. P.R.U. March 8th. visuals. 0800 Messina no major naval unit. Taranto obscured by cloud.
(V.A.Malta 1146A/8 to C. in C.Med. F.O.I.S. etc.)

E.T.13. E.T.13 Algiers (?section) arrived. EMPIRE GOLD and PENSHURST sailed to join.
(Cmdre. Algiers 1203A/8 to N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Philippeville.)

UNSEEN P.51 (UNSEEN) keep south of 036° 40' in your area during darkness tonight. 2 fleet destroyers are carrying out a sweep north and west of Pantellaria tonight.
2. Cruiser and destroyer will be exercising South and East of 035° 50' 013° 55' between 1630 and 0100 tonight. Submarines are keeping well clear of this area.
(Capt. S.10 1208A/8 to 10 S.F. (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. S.8.)

SIBYL. Be in position 249° focal point F 60 miles by 1900 today.
Freedom 083° 23 miles.
2. P.211 (SAFARI) informed. 3. You have freedom of movement in your area after 2359/8th.
(Capt. S.8 1208A/8 to P.217 (SIBYL.))

SAHIB. P.212 (SAHIB) leaves Malta 1400A today Monday routed 10 miles north of Pantellaria to pass 038° 00' 011° 30' at 0001/10th thence to Algiers in accordance with Capt. S.8's 1658/7th.
(Capt. S.10 1215A/8 to Submarines on patrol, (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8.)

Movements, Oran. Arrived today M.K.S. 9 (list) U.G.S.5A (list)
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 1300A/8 to C. in C.Med.)

/French...

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

- French S/Ms. Your 1033/26th Feb. VESTALE, ANTIOPE and LA GRANDIERE arrived.
(S.N.O. Casablanca 1430Z/8 to Comar Dakar. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. Admty.)
- EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA. Following is a repetition of my 1637/28 (begins) S.T.O. Liaison reports your 1619A/27th, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA preliminary trials 25th Feb. satisfactory. Installation second general armature proceeding. Vessel will be ready to proceed to U.K. 2nd March. Agreed. (Ends.)
(Com. N.O.B. Oran Area, 1515A/8 to D.S.T.)
- M.T.Bs. Your 1301/6. Postponement of date forecasted
M.G.Bs. in para. 1 of A.M. 1757/8th Jan. has been caused mainly by delay in production of upper deck petrol tanks which need to be fitted to enable boats to make the passage from U.K. to Gibraltar.
2. Your requirement for these craft is appreciated and every effort has been and is being made to expedite their arrival.
3. Hoped that four M.T.Bs. and four M.G.Bs. will sail from U.K. about 16th March and a further five M.T.Bs. and four M.G.Bs. at end of March.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 1634A/8 to C. in C.Med.)
- UNISON, Arrival UNISON, Departure SAHIB.
SAHIB. (V.A.Malta 1644A/8 to Admty. C. in C.Med. S.1 S.8 (R) C..in C.Levant.)
- P.R.U. P.R.U. 8th afternoon visuals. 1350 Taranto 2 battle-ships 3 cruisers. Messina not covered by (corrupt group.)
(V.A.Malta 1710A/8 to C. in C.Med. etc.)
- Movements, Arrival 8th March Greek Destroyer PANTHER, BURRA
Haifa. departure 8th March BIGLIERI, M.L. 358, CUMBRAE, LORD IRWIN, Greek Destroyer PANTHER, BURRA.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 1734B/8 to Admty. C. in C.Levant.)
- SPLENDID. Intend to sail P.228 (SPLENDID) 1830/11th for patrol off North coast of Sicily routed through 038° 25' 004° 10' at 0530/12th and 038° 25' 010° 01' at 0530/14th.
On completion of patrol about 26th P.228 (SPLENDID) will proceed to Malta for 6 months' docking.
(Capt. S.8 1740A/8 to C. in C.Med. (R) 8.S.F. Admty. etc.)

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- T.E.18. N.O.I.C. Oran is requested to sail convoy T.E. 18 at 1000/10th.
2. Speed of ship 7 knots, of advance 8 knots. (sic)
3. Route through 109,44,100,92,96, letter M to P to Bone, stragglers route as convoy.
4. Sections join and detach with local escort as follows
Algiers in 036° 55' N. 003° (710') E. to 1200/11th. Bougie in 037° 07' N. 005° 05' E. to 0001/12th. Philippeville in 037° 12' N. 006° 54' E. to 1100/12th. (?Tripoli) E.T.A. 1800/12th.
5. First 2 letters of W/T callsign T.X.
6. Escort TYNEDALE, LIDDESDALE, (?ALGOMA), KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA.
7. Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Bruce."
8. (?All) times A.
(C. in C.Med. 1805A/8 to F.Os.I.C. and N.Os.I.C. French North Africa except S.N.O. Casablanca, H.Q. Eastern Air Command, etc.)

Malta A.I. 552, 8th March, C.S.R. Part 1 Offensive.
Air Night 7th/8th March. 1 special equipment
Report. Wellington 3 torpedo carrying Wellingtons and 4 bomb carrying Wellingtons were despatched to locate and attack M/V damaged by aircraft of N.W.African Air Force between Cape Bon and Sicily day 7th March. At 2132 hours a large M/V was sighted 37° 52' N. 12° 03' E., burning fiercely and low in water. No further attack was necessary. The special equipment Wellington also searched Marittimo Palermo area but made no sighting. Day 8th March. Bad weather prevented offensive operations.
Part 2 Enemy air activity. Nil.
(A.H.Q. Malta 1857Z/8.)

Air Sqdns. A.633 March 8th.
proposed Following for C.A.S. from A.O.C. in C.
transfer Most important at this stage that all single-
from Aden engine fighter squadrons under my command should
and Mombasa be fully trained and available to meet any of the
to Egypt. following commitments: A. To assist in clearance
of enemy from North Africa.
B. For defence of ports in Tripolitania,
Cyrenaica and Egypt and for protection of shipping in Mediter-
ranean. C. To meet any additional commitment such as despatch
of Air Forces to Turkey.
2. D.I.O. (42) 110? and C.O.S. (42) 344 forwarded under D.O.Ops/
C.S. 13876/4154 dated 1 August 1942 has approved that the only
threat by enemy aircraft to our East African Bases is from R/C
by aircraft from A.M.Cs. or submarines.
3. In view of further reduction in air threat to East Africa
and consequently to Aden since August appreciation I recommend
that No. 3 S.A.A.F. Sqdn. at Aden and No. 41 S.A.A.F. Sqdn. at
Mombasa could be more usefully employed in Egypt to stiffen
our defence of ports and for protection of shipping in
Mediterranean.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

<p>Air Sqdns. proposed transfer from Aden and Mom-basa to Egypt.</p>	<p>4. Unless therefore there are over-riding policital reasons for retention of these 2 Squadrons in their present location I propose to move them Egypt. Grateful to know your reactions to this proposal. (Middle East 1914Z/8 to Air Min.)</p>
<p>Spain, operations from Balearics if Axis attack.</p>	<p>5067, cypher 7 March, 106343. For Combined Chiefs of Staff, signed Eisenhower. This is my N.A.F. No. 170 from G.3 Section A.F.H.Q. In event of Axis attack through Spain operation of Allied forces from bases in Balearic Islands would be of great importance. Occupation of Islands by assault would not be possible but possibility of moving in air forces with Spanish assent in these circumstances might be explored - initially fighter squadrons and warning system would be established, followed by bomber aircraft. Suggest Spanish Government be approached on these lines. (A.F.H.Q. Algiers No. T.O.O. to Agwar Washington (R) W.O. (for British Chiefs of Staff. Recd. 1915/8.) Reply 0920Z/11.</p>
<p>Situation Report No. 9.</p>	<p>My 2138/7th March para. 1. Malta section of convoy was attacked by twelve Ju.88 dive bombers at 1910/5th March in 34° 00' N. 14° 34' E. One aircraft destroyed by gunfire. Tanker ERINNA also suffered slight damage in this attack. Para. 2. Tripoli (L) raided by 18 enemy aircraft dusk 7th March. H.M. Tug BRIGAND damaged by near miss. One Bofors direct hit, three killed, three injured. Flares dropped for the first time. (C. in C.Levant 1920B/8 to Admty.)</p>
<p>Floating Dock Oran.</p>	<p>C. in C.Med. 1535/21 Feb. para. 2. P.B.E.O. informs me that the 2750 ton dock is required primarily to relieve the congestion on available docking facilities for destroyers and small merchant vessels. * (R.A.(V) 1925/8 1814A/10 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. (W) * and for fleet of L.S.Ts. both U.S. and British, which are coming to this station.</p>
<p>Movements, Bone.</p>	<p>Bone arrivals LIGHTNING, LOYAL, L.C.I. 175, L.C.I. 177, L.C.T. 170, departures LIGHTNING, LOYAL. (S.O.I.S. 1948A/8 to C. in C.Med. Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)</p>

/Movements...

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Algiers.	Algiers arrivals RHYL, LAMERTON, POLRUAN, M.M.S. 85, L.C.Ts. 160,164. Departures RHYL, LAMERTON, ROTHESAY. (Cmdre. Algiers 2001A/8 to Admty. etc.)
Movements, Oran.	Following ships arrived: WISHART, AVONVALE, JAUNTY, KING SOL, VISENDA, REIGHTON WYKE. Departures: H.M.H. Ship AMARAPOORA. (Com. N.O.B. Oran. 2014A/8 to Admty. etc.)
Gibraltar Freight Congestion.	Request you will confirm that arrangements are being made to meet the requirement in C.S. Gibraltar's 2120A/17th Feb. (Small Coaster required for shipment of naval stores from Gibraltar N. Africa.) from M.F.A's already on the station, and report arrangements made. (Head of M.II 2024A/8 to C. in C.Med.)
Movements Tobruk.	Arrived M.T.Bs. 62 and 73. Sailed M.T.Bs. 261 and 309 p.m/7th, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, EXMOOR, APHIS today. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 2112B/8 to Admty.)
COWDRAY AVONVALE.	Ref. A.M. 2028/6th (repairs to AVONVALE and COWDRAY can be undertaken at Chatham Dockyard. Request date of arrival.) COWDRAY 7th May. F.O.C.Gibraltar is requested to signal date for AVONVALE. (C. in C.Med. 2145A/8 to Admty. etc.)
Movements, Benghazi	Arrived DELPHINIUM, AMBER, SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN SEA, M.L. 357 M.L. 355 M.T.B. 261 M.T.B. 309. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi 2258B/8 to Admty.)
Tunis Repatriations.	N.C.X.F.'s 0900/13/2. On further consideration it has been decided that French proposal is unacceptable. If you are again pressed on this question you should say that for operational reasons it has been found impossible to comply with the French request. (Head of M.I. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 2330A/8 to N.A.Madrid (R) C. in C.Med.)
Movements, Malta.	(Word omitted (?Sailed) ROCKWOOD and PINDOS. (V.A.Malta 2335A/8 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements.

Departure ASTER.
(S.O.I. Bombay 0137Z/8 to Admty.)
BALUCHISTAN left.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 0731Z/8 to Admty.)
Arrived CARNATIC.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0746Z/8 to C. in C. E.F.)

Movement
Summary
Number 46.
8th March.

(1) U.S. Oiler TRINITY left Fremantle on 1st due at Bahrein on 26th routed between Maldive Is. and Chagos Archipelago. (2) U.S.N. Transport WEST POINT left Melbourne on 6th due Bombay on 18th routed west of (? Maldive Is.) and Lacadine Is. (3) DAUNTLESS left Aden on 5th due at Bombay on 10th. (4) MAURITIUS left Bombay on 6th due Kilindini p.m. 10th. (5) FROBISHER leaves Kilindini a.m. 9th to meet W.S. 26 10th. escorting Middle East section to Aden due 16th. (6) CARADOC (?left) Aden 4th due Kilindini 9th. (7) KANIMBLA (?R) O.W. 5 due to leave (?Fremantle) 8th for Colombo S. of A. 12 knots. (8) Summary No.45 CARTHAGE diverted. ALBATROSS, QUICKMATCH, CARTHAGE, QUIBERON, left Durban 7th (? together). Former pair part company in 025° S. calling at Tulear 10th. Latter pair due Kilindini p.m. 12th. (9) CERES due to leave Diego Suarez on 8th escorting S.S. KUTSANG and probably 1 other vessel to Kilindini.
(C. in C. E.F. 0745Z/8 to E.F. 200Y, Admty., etc.)

Troop
Movements.

Para.1 of 1115/15 Feb. FELIX MAJORSEL (?revised) date of sailing is 16th. Following additional movements are being arranged - (a) B.A.40 one personnel ship ROHNA sailing 23rd. (b) Karachi to Colombo NARINGA, sailing about 25th.
(P.S.T.O.Bombay, 0808Z/8 to C. in C. E.F.)

MONTICELLO.

U.S.S. MONTICELLO sailed 0800/8th due Melbourne 23rd. S. of A. 16 knots escorted by SCOUT to vicinity of equator routed through (d) 016° 03' 072° 22' (e) 010° 40' N. 074° 58' (f) 001° 79' S. 077° 40' (g) 025° 20' 097° 02' (h) 038° 37' 115° 30' (j) 039° 10' 138° 25'. "Chop" 19th.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay. 0824Z/8 to Admty., F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F. A.C.N.B., Com. R.I.N. Cominch, C. and R.)

JOSEPH
WHEELER,
"S" Report.

Following has been read S S S S DE KHMR S.S. JOSEPH WHEELER submarine sighted in 5° 56' N. 76° 5' E.
(Colombo W/T, T.O.R. 0954/8 to Whitehall W/T.)

Air Report
India.

(E) U.S.A.A.F. Operations 6th March.
4 B. 24s attacked 2 3/400 feet M/Vs in Rangoon River from 18,000 feet ITY 33 X 500 pound INST bombs. Several near misses and possible hit on stern of first M/V. 1 near miss on second M/V. A/A encountered from this vessel. Observations 1 sunken M/V 1 mile north of Elephant Point in Rangoon River.
(A.H.Q. India, 1215Z/8.)

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

C.T.U. 24.12.2 Intend reaching O.N.S.169 by 1000Z/9th.
O.N.S.169. Estimated both ships will then have about 63% fuel remaining. My P.C. and S. 051° 54' N., 047° 27' W. 018° 11 knots. Weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.12.2 0030Z/8 to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav, Admty).

MANSFIELD E.T.A. 1030Z/8th.
(MANSFIELD, 0230Z/8 to F.O.N.F.)

U/B Submarine sighted 1730Z/7th in 57.34 N. 35.22 W.
(C.O.A.C., 0232Z/8 to G.B. 7 A).

S.C.121 Following received from Resolution Island
CLUNEPARK, (begins). Intercepted following from CLUNEPARK
S Report. between 1740 and 1805 G.M.T. "SSSS position at
1730 G.M.T. 057° 34' N., 035° 22' W. S/M on
surface on port side have engaged enemy who
has now submerged south west gale and high sea".
Signal too weak for bearings (ends).
(N.S.H.Q., 0318Z/8 to Connav (R) Admty.
C. in C. W.A., C.T.F.24, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

MIGUEL Following has been read: SSSS MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA
DE LARRINAGA 58° 08' N. 33° 52' W. torpedo passed starboard
S report. bow.
(Burnham Radio, 0756/8 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)
Shiegra Radio 0757 G.M.T./8
Received 0801Z/ SSSS VUDD 53.08 N. 33.52 W. de
CZP.
(C.O.A.C., 0845Z/8 to A.I.G.308) W.D. Note -
different position.

Movements Kingston arrivals U.S.A.T. STATE OF MARYLAND
U.S.P.C. 463 departure U.S.C.G. LOTUS.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1011/8 to Admty).
Arrival and departure seventh (U.S.A.T.)

ENGLEMAN for High Seas.
(B.R.O. Aruba, 1201QR/8 to Admty).
A.T.s YARMOUTH (U.S.) and H.J. GALLAGHER (U.S.) arrived
Port of Spain 4th.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1655Z/8 to Admty).
A.T. FLORIDA (U.S.) arrived Cristobal 8th.
(N.S.H.Q. 2044Z/8 to Admty).

IROQUOIS Your 1619/6. Request IROQUOIS be sailed a.m./19th
from St. Johns direct to Scapa for service with
Home Fleet.
(D.O.D. (H) 1046A/8 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C.
H.F., R.A.D., H.F., N.O.I.C. Londonderry,
F.O.N.F., C.C.C.S., IROQUOIS).

/S.C. ...

War Diary.

8.3.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

S.C.121
GUIDO
torpedoed.

GUIDO Straggler 10 miles starboard bow S.C.121 torpedoed and sunk by U-boat 058° 21' 031° 08' (S). SPENCER made asdic contact and attacked with depth charges. Result unknown. 35 survivors including Master in SPENCER. 11 missing. Weather report.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3 1050Z/8 to A.C.I.C., Connav (R) C.T.F.24, Admty. C. in C. W.A., NS.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C.) amended 0400Z/9.

ARCOLA,
TAIGETE.

Your 1029/7th. Presume ship will load at Kingstown (St. Vincent.)
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 1133QR/8 to B.S.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty. B.A.D., B.R.L.O. Aruba).

Movements
Summary
1800 G.M.T.
8th March.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
8 L.C.I.(L)s 40th Escort Group.	28° N. 48° W.	125°	10
(D.O.D. (F), 1145Z/8 to Opnav (R) Comnavu).	51½° N. 37° W.	262°	8

Washington
Conference,
Agreement
re Command
and Convoy
Control.

Personal for V.C.N.S. from 1st S.L.
A. Having read your 2203/7 we are of the opinion that North Atlantic situation can only be met if U.S.
1. Take over U.C./C.U. convoys.
2. Supply two support groups in N.W. Atlantic to work with escort carriers.
3. Leave Iceland (C) group until we can supply two support groups in N.E. Atlantic.

B. Your para. 2 is noted.
C. Explanatory telegram follows.
(1st S.L., 1346A/8 to B.A.D.)

For V.C.N.S. from 1st S.L. Your 2203/7. To deal with your 2203/7 para. by para.

A. Para. 2. The fact remains that the escort forces in Atlantic will be reduced by the number of U.S. ships withdrawn.

B. Para. 3. This is good news.

Para. 4. The ships for J.W. convoys are in addition to the 16 you mention. We have no doubt that 3 extra short-legged destroyers will be required for R.U./U.R. convoys.

C. Para. 5. "Torch" maintenance is now 20 ships plus 14 colliers a month.

If combined with O.G. convoys, which consist of small slow ships, sailing on a 30 day cycle, the convoy will be too large and ill-assorted. Also this large number of ships together with those of the U.G.S. will cause congestion in North African ports. Moreover the number of ships presenting for O.S/S.L. convoys is likely to increase to such an extent that the cycle will have to be reduced to 15 days in any case.

It is intended therefore to combine K.M.S. with O.S. convoys on a 15 day cycle which will necessitate the provision of an extra group.

/D...

War Diary.

8.3.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Washington
Conference,
Agreement
re Command
and Convoy
Control.
(contd).

D. Para. 7. The strength of these 14 groups had to be accepted in the absence of further escorts being available. Now the provision of an extra group for the O.S/S.L. convoys referred to in para. C. above will delay the formation of the support groups. It was thought to be clear that the failure of both ourselves and the U.S. to make up the strength of the mid-ocean groups to a working strength of 9 ships each made it necessary to form support groups as a half-way measure pending the full number of escorts becoming available. This the Americans do not seem to have realised.

E. Para. 12. A.M. 1256/18 Feb. to N.C.X.F. repeated B.A.D. explains our intentions regarding K.M. convoys. (1st S.L., 1427A/8 to B.A.D.)

Washington
Conference
A/S Aircraft
Gibraltar -
Casablanca.

Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.

A. The following report by the sub committee detailed to examine command relations in regard to control of A.S.W. in the North West Africa region was laid before the conference this morning and I have accepted it.

B. Begins "Discussion.1. "Torch" operations have served to create in the sea area between 26.10 N. to 43 N. and between 2° W. and 40° W. a shipping focal area similar in all basic respects to those in U.K., N.W. Atlantic and Caribbean.

2. In each of the three focal areas named control of surface and air A.S.W. Forces has been centred in one commander with subordinate air and surface forces. In the case of the Casablanca - Gibraltar area this has not been done and there exist in that area three authorities namely F.O. Gibraltar, A.O.C. Gibraltar and Commander Moroccan Sea Frontier, who function on a common mission without complete co-ordination.

Conclusion.

3. Provided a command relation similar to that existing in other focal areas mentioned above could be set up, it is felt that whatever difficulties of co-ordination now exist would be resolved.

Recommendation.

4. It is recommended that (A) the area in question be designated an area of control under a F.O. under the command of the C. in C. Allied Expeditionary Force in North Africa. (B) That this F.O. have complete responsibility for all shipping and A/S measures, and exercise operational direction of all A/S forces, both air and surface, of all Allied Nations, in the Area". Ends.

C. You will notice that the final decision as to who is to exercise operational direction lies in a choice between our F.O. at Gibraltar and the American F.O. at Casablanca.

D. The Americans are taking up the question with General Eisenhower and if you agree I suggest that a telegram be sent to N.C.X.F. as soon as possible informing him of the views of yourself and C.A.S. on this question so that he may be fully prepared when the matter is discussed.

(B.A.D., 1851Z/8 to Admty) (Amended B.A.D., 2005Z/8 to Admty).

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.EMPIRE LIGHT
torpedoed
7th March.

My (?corrupt group) position 1400Z 052° 37' N.
047° 50' W. Course 214° speed 8 knots.
Request towing vessel may be available to R/V
with me before dark Tuesday. If weather improves
might still have sufficient fuel. Iceberg in the
vicinity. Weather report.
(BEVERLEY, 1403Z/8 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.)

My position at 1500Z was 054° 03' N., 045° 42' W. Am
searching area my mean course and speed is 200° 8 knots.
Weather report.

(SHERBROOKE, 1545Z/8 to Connav (R) C.T.F.24., Admty. etc)
Following for C.C.R.T. H.M.R.T. TENACITY sailed St. Johns
1116/8th to assist EMPIRE LIGHT torpedoed in position 53° 57' N.
46° 14' W.

(F.O.N.F., 1807Z/8 to Admty etc).

Am standing by EMPIRE LIGHT in 054° 12' N. 045° 50' W.
can only remain for 24 hours with safety. Request BEVERLEY
report whether life boats were picked up. Intend taking off
remainder of crew when weather moderates unless otherwise
ordered. Request E.T.A. of escort and tugs. Weather report.

(PENNYWORT, 1907Z/8 to F.O.N.F., Connav, (R) C.T.F.24,
Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7.
H.Q.C.C., BEVERLEY, SHERBROOKE).

Your 1907Z/8th. Boats not found.

(BEVERLEY, 2250Z/8 to PENNYWORT, 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., SHERBROOKE).

Submarine
estimate
March 8th.
U.S.
Submarine
notice.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1501/8, 1502/8, 1520/8,
1521/8, 1522/8, 1834/8).

O.N.168
Escort.

Q.N.168. Your 07/1556 approved.
(Cominch C. and R. 1510/8 to C.O.A.C.)

U.C.1.,
EMPIRE
NORSEMAN
torpedoed
23rd Feb.

Your 1031/7th. Following from Cdre. U.C.1.
EMPIRE NORSEMAN ordered to stream net day 23rd.
During this operation boiler trouble developed
reducing speed to 8 knots.
Subsequently defects made good and ordered to
stream net port side only and maintain convoy
speed. First torpedo hit port side forward of
net defence engine stopped steering out of
control another torpedo starboard and amidships 3rd torpedo
starboard hand right aft. Ship abandoned derelict astern convoy.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1553QR/8 to Admty).

/LANDGUARD...

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

LANDGUARD ABERDEEN 1937Z/5th. Direct LANDGUARD proceed direct to Argentina where repair will be taken in hand.
(C.T.24. 1555Z/8 to ABERDEEN (R) LANDGUARD, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.) Amended 1945Z/8.

A.F.D. 24 Trinidad arrivals 8th MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, YESTOR escorting A.F.D.24 CORSAIR. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1602Q/8 to S.B.N.O.W.At).

Dispositions. Section East O.N.168 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.2
45.17 50.56 248° 8.5.
W. O.N.168 MEDICINE HAT 44.24 53.53 248° 9.
CLEMATIS escorting H.M. Rescue Tug TENACITY
48.55 51.29 033° 10 to salvage EMPIRE LIGHT now derelict 53.49
46.22.
U.S.C.G. EASTLAND Y.M.S.22 ATAK MANOK 46.45 54.49 en route for (?Argentina).
NIPIGON 46.15 55.43 230° 12 alter to 280° in 57.00 to R/V
BURGEO BACCALIEU 1000Z/9th off Louisburg.
S.G.21 Task Unit 24.8.2. 47.50 51.(?30) 072° 9 altering to 354°
in 48° 20' W.
SHERBROOKE, PENNYWORT vicinity 53.22 47.08 47.08 en route for St. Johns N.F.
Steamship CLAN LAMONT 43.46 48.25 067° 13 altering to 087°
in 47.15 W.
THORSTRAUD (Norwegian) 42.52 58.40 271° 13.6.
BEVERLEY 52.(?23) 49.10 214° 10 en route St. Johns N.F.
GODETIA 49.44 (?49).(?52) 225° 8.
(C.O.A.C., 1605Z/8 to Admty).

WOLFE My 1906/20th Feb. WOLFE will be ready to leave Norfolk (Virginia) for New York p.m./13th.
(B.A.M.R., 1618Z/8 to Admty. (R) Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q., WOLFE).

B.Y.M.S. At 1700Z/8th sailed B.Y.M.S.15 and 16 to St.
15 and 16. Johns N.F. through A. 44.30 N. 61.30 W.
B. 45.00 N. 56.00 W. C. 46.00 N. 53.00 W.
D. 46.30 N. 52.30 W. E. 47.30 N. 52.05 W.
Speed 9, E.T.A. 1000Z/11th.
(C.O.A.C., 1800Z/8 to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.M.R., C.E.S.F., Cominch, Admty).

H.X. 229 H.X. 229 N.P. for Commodore from position (E)
proceed direct to new position (A) 44.10 N.
51.32 W. thence to (H) omit (F) and (G).
(2) ANNAPOLIS sailing 1900(?Z)/10th to join
T.U. No. 24.18.9 in 41.52 N. 60.01 W. at 1400(?Z)/11th. On
relief CHELSEA proceed direct to St. Johns N.F. best speed.
(C.O.A.C., 1851Z/8 to C.T.U. 24.18.9 (R) Admty. ANNAPOLIS,
Cominch, C. and R. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.T.24., F.O.N.F., C.E.S.F)

/Helicopter...

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.Helicopter
Trials.

Your 1402/5.

1. The Helicopter situation has undergone a radical change. The U.S. Naval Authorities are now thoroughly interested in the project and it is understood that Adm. King has instructed the U.S. Navy to take over three of the first 6 Y.R. 4 A's built which would include our 2.

2. Adm. King is understood also to be directing the formation of a Test Board with members of his staff, the Bureau of Aeronautics and the B.A.D. representing Admiralty on it.

3. This Test Board would carry out all trials with the Y.R. 4 A and Cominch has requested the War Shipping administration to make typical Merchant Ship available for the tests to be fitted with a suitable platform and the necessary gear for Helicopter operations. This ship to be available as necessary for the tests.

4. Under the circumstances suggest that the fitting of platforms to British Merchant Ships be deferred pending the first trials which may determine changes in desirable characteristics of the platform as well as the Helicopter.
(B.A.D., 1855Z/8 to Admty).

F.F. ratings,
transport to
U.K.

Re my memo No. 132 F.N.F.L. 1 of 18th Feb. and B.N.L.Os. memo No. M.W.T./B/2 of 19th of Feb. 100 Free French Naval Ratings awaiting transport to U.K. in Halifax. 40 of these having left French Ships from North Africa, in U.S.A. have been waiting for transport in Canada for 1 month in spite of assurances given by M.O.W.T. As it is of utmost importance for the morale of these men and of those who have followed that they should not be kept inactive any longer, request F.S. ROSELYS or ACONITE or RENONCULE at present at St. Johns may be diverted to Halifax to embark part of these men and join escort of next convoy bound to U.K. (F.N.F.L. London, 1900A/8 to Admty. (R) P.N.L.O., B.N.L.O)

TAMESIS
sunk in
collision
7th March.

Admiralty's 1320/2/4/40. TAMESIS Norwegian sank in collision with vessel in convoy G.S.6 0405 G.M.T./7th in approx. 200 miles N.E. of Bermuda. 50 crew and 7 passengers comprising entire complement landed in Bermuda from RICHARD H. ALVEY American today. Ship operated by Nortraship. All C.Bs. went down in ship. C.O. and Radio Operator declare no possibility of compromise. Owing no casualties propose not incurring expense of despatching nominal list survivors. Full report will follow after interviewing Master tomorrow.
(B.R.L.O. Bermuda, 1917Z/8 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q.)

CYRUS FIELD,
WESTMOUNT.

1800/8th sailed CYRUS FIELD escorted by WESTMOUNT to cable break vicinity 44.51 N. 60.07 W. Duration absence estimated three days.
(C.O.A.C., 1921Z/8 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., Cominch, N.O.I.C. Sydney).

/Sub...

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.- Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. (A) MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA torpedo miss 58.08 N. 33.52 W. 0756Z/08 unidentified torpedoed sunk 58.21 N. 31.08 W. 1030Z/08. Surface craft attacks Sub. 57.34 N. 35.22 W. 1730Z/07. Para. (C) SPENCER attacks sound contact area 58.21 N. 31.08 W. 1030Z/08. Surface craft attacks sound contact 19.33 N. 75.16 W. 1348Z/04. (Cominch, 2100/8 to Admiralty).

S.C.121,
U/Bs

2 S/Ms sighted 1940Z and 2048Z/8th mean position abeam A/C aid (?requested) SPENCER attacking with depth charges. S.C.121. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 2115Z/8 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.)

Weekly
Summary.

Your 1059B/22 Sept. Following promising attacks reported week ending 2400Z/7. March 2nd Greek destroyer AETOS reported ramming U-boat approx. 450 miles southwest of Rockall. Same day ASSINIBOINE reported missed ramming U-boat but shallow pattern destroyed it approx. 720 miles S.W. of Rockall. (Radio, Washington 2119/8 to Admty).

W.L.E.F.
increase.

Your 1330/7 para. 1 (B). It is desired that LUNENBURG should refit in U.K. as early as practical. 2. Ref. 837 3. Would it be possible for VILLE DE FILIPINOS and remaining 5 Corvettes to be sailed direct from Gibraltar to Halifax instead of via U.K. R.C.N. Commitments as result of the opening of St. Lawrence will commence on the 15th April. Corvette returning "Torch" operation will no doubt require a short refit. (N.S.H.Q., 2156Z/8 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., C.C.C.S., NIOBE, Naval Member Canadian Joint Staff Washington. B.A.D. C. in C. Med. Cdre. Londonderry).

Shipping
Casualties.

Serials 7 and 8. THOMAS HOOKER derelict 7th 053° 28' N., 045° (?25') W. ALCOA GUARD collision 7th stopped afloat 035° 09' N. 062° 50' W. EMPIRE LIGHT explosion 7th 053° 50' N., 046° 14' W. SABOR torpedoed sunk 034° 30' S., 023° 20' E. H.H.R.'s serial 22nd February sunk. (Connav, 2159/8 to Comnav).

ATTACKER

1. Your 1810/7 omits route and destination of ATTACKER without which compliance by N.S.H.Q., with Admiralty 1704/6 June para. 6 is not possible. 2. Latter signal requires that H.M. ships before sailing be advised by Intelligence centres of Merchant shipping which they may encounter. (N.S.H.Q., 2228/Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Jamaica, (R) S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty)

/AJAX...

War Diary.

8.3.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- AJAX Previous to receipt of AJAX 2330/28 Feb. no intelligence received by N.S.H.Q. of ships presence in this area rendering compliance with Admiralty 1704/6 June para. 6 (B) impossible. (N.S.H.Q., 2229Z/8 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At).
- SARNIA With OMAHA and FREDEN E.T.A. 0800Z/9. Urgent defects (corrupt group) mess deck leaking. (SARNIA, 2245Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Halifax (R) F.O.N.F.)
- H.X.228. H.X. 228. In view of change in route it is doubtful if U.S. Destroyer BABBITT will have sufficient fuel to meet convoy in accordance with my 1145Z/7. Request INGHAM when released from previous duty be assigned to escort MEDINA to Iceland instead of U.S. Destroyer BABBITT. Connav 1520/08. (C.T.G.24.6., 2300Z/8 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Cominch, C. and R. C.T.24, Admty. C.T.U. 24.1.17).
- A.C.Vs. assignment. Following changes in A.C.V. assignment have been agreed to in the interests of both Navies.
(1) Firm assignment of A.C.V32 with completion date of July 1st in lieu of tentative assignment of A.C.V.39, A.C.V.32 will be named SLINGER.
(2) Tentative assignment of A.C.Vs. 40, 50 and 52 completing September 20th 1943 March 1st and April 1st 1944 in lieu of A.C.Vs. 42, 49 and 54 names allotted are SPEAKER, TROUNCER and SMITER.
(3) Vessels thus assigned to U.K. will all complete at Willamette Iron and Steel Works, Portland Oregon.
(4) Kaiser A.C.Vs. 67 and 74 completing August 28th and September 18th 1943 respectively have now been firmly assigned to U.K. (B.A.D., 2315Z/8 to Admty).
- Rescue Tugs. When available request that A.T.R.41 ADVANTAGE be allocated to St. Johns N.F. A.T.R.42 ASPIRANT to Bermuda. B.A.T.14 WEAZEL to C. in C. E.F.
(Capt. i/c Rescue Tugs, 2343A/8 to B.A.D., (R) F.O.N.F. Cdre i/c Bermuda, S.B.N.O.W.At. C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary.8.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

O.W.5 C.B. 04024/(41) para. 88.
Sailing (1) O.W.5 (2) 0001Z/8th. (3) 1400Z/18th
Telegram. at position F. (4) 13½ knots to (F) thence
CAPE CHARLES (A) 13 (B) 14. (Route).
(6) KANIMBLA.
(N.C.S.O. Fremantle, 0305Z/8 to Admty).

Digest Noon photos Rabaul harbour revealed 63 vessels
Serial including 9 destroyers 2 naval auxiliaries 1
No. 410 minelayer 51 merchant vessels comprising 13
March 7th. large 33 medium 5 small plus numerous small
harbour craft also two floatplanes. Four
unclassified vessels also sighted 20 miles North
of Rabaul course 330°.

4. Liberator forenoon attacked 8,000 ton merchant vessel in
Stephan Strait. (4° 08' S., 144° 52' E). course 90.
(H.Q., S.W. P.A., 0716Z/8).

Movements. Departure Fremantle 7th U.S. GOLD STAR for
Melbourne.
(A.C.N.B., 0801Z/8 to Admty).
Arrivals Brisbane 7th U.S.S. SELFRIDGE Townsville
7th ARUNTA, Port Moresby 7th VENDETTA Milne Bay 7th PIRIE
departures Sydney N.S.W. 6th U.S.S. NEW ORLEANS for Somoa U.S.S.
HENLEY for Brisbane.
(A.C.N.B., 0954Z/8 to Admty).

CAPE CHARLES. Your 1345A/7th. Intend CAPE CHARLES to leave
Fremantle in convoy 8th escorted by KANIMBLA to
Colombo. C. in C. E.F. is endeavouring to
arrange onward escort from Colombo.
(A.C.N.B., 1046Z/8 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F.)

'S. JACOB K.P.M. Vessel 'S. JACOB (3617 tons) sunk by
submarine 0240Z/8th in 008° 55' S. 149° 08' E.
(A.C.N.B., 1252Z/8 to Admty).

CYGNUS Departure Auckland U.S.S. CYGNUS for Nukualofa.
E.T.A. 0100Z/13th. (E) 32.42 S. 178.23 W.
(F) 26.43 S. 176.08 W. (G) 22.28 S. 174.40 W.
(H) 21.09 S. (I) 75.27 S.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1852Z/8 to Admty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions,
(D.D.I.C., 1416A/8, 1422A/8).

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

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

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

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

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

ADH 199

2257

War Diary.

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Photographic R/C of Trondheim at 1100A today showed TIRPITZ in Lo Fiord.

In addition to FURIOUS, INDOMITABLE (who is not worked up) was at 0103A today ordered to keep steam for 25 knots at one hour's notice for operation; both ships were brought to 2 hours notice at 1330A. TRUCULENT and SIMOON were ordered to leave patrol after dark today. V.A.2 was ordered to return to Scapa with his force without fuelling at Hvalfjord at 1847A, but at 2317A C. in C. H.F. cancelled these orders and instructed V.A.2 to proceed to Hvalfjord and complete with fuel. Patrol "White" was withdrawn at 1903A.

Convoy
O.N.170.

SS. KATY was incorrectly reported torpedoed in 61.34 N. 27.43 W. (240 miles S.W. of Reykjavik) at 0645 today. DAHLIA was detached from O.N.S. 171 to search for the ship or her survivors. Owing to the weather aircraft could not be sent. KATY arrived at New York on 21 March with convoy O.N.170.

Convoy
R.A.53.

SS. PUERTO RICAN in R.A.53 was torpedoed in 66.47 N. 10.10 W. at 2106 today and sunk.

Convoy
S.C.121, 3
ships
torpedoed.

The convoy was attacked by U-boats again and SS. MALANTIC and British tanker ROSEWOOD were reported to have been torpedoed in about 58.37 N. 22.32 W. at 2128Z today. VIZALMA was sent to assist the latter on 11 March. SS. COULMORE was torpedoed at 2210Z (but C.T.U. 24.1.3 gives time 0005Z/10 to 0010Z/10) in 58.30 N. 20.50 W. (?19.31 W) C.T.U. 24.1.3 state that COULMORE was abandoned prematurely. On 11th March she was reported to be salvable and BIBB which had been detached from the escort to assist ROSEWOOD was ordered to stand by, and AUBRETIA with tugs EMINENT and SAMSONIA were diverted from HARVESTER after the latter was sunk (see 11 March). At 1944Z/11 VIZALMA was ordered to proceed to her. She arrived at the Clyde on 20th March in tow of SAMSONIA and EMINENT.

Five mines were detonated in Lyme Bay today and two off Lowestoft.

/Fuelling...

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

Fuelling
at sea.

C. in C. W.A. in a message to the Commanding Officers of Escort Vessels today states that our success in meeting the heavy U-boat threat against the north Atlantic convoys in the next few months may largely depend upon our ability to fuel expeditiously at sea. The closest attention is to be given to the operation.

South Atlantic.

C. in C. S.A. reported on 18 March that Norwegian SS. TABOR (Aden to Capetown and Lagos independently was sunk by a U-boat at 0640C today in 37.30 S. 23° E. (about 210 miles S.E. of Cape Agulhas)

Mediterranean.

Attack on
K.M.S.10.

Convoy K.M.S. 10 was attacked at 1747 G.M.T. today in 36.51 N. 01.09 E. (about 90 miles west of Algiers) and SS. FORT NORMAN and EMPIRE STANDARD were torpedoed. VETCH is standing by the latter and PENTSTEMON by the first named. Both ships arrived at Algiers.

Part in profile.
TORBAY reports that she gunned a minesweeper off Ajaccio at 1151/25 and the vessel stranded after being hit. At 0312/26 she sank the French OASIS by gunfire in 43.20 N. 08.15 E. Next day she sank an A/S schooner by gunfire and demolition charges in 47.37 N. 09.25 E. 0152. On 28 she sank a 5000 ton vessel by torpedo off Portofino at 1256. At 1814/1 she bombarded the olive oil tanks at Imperia without much result and a shore battery obtained a hit on her after casing, though no damage resulted.

M.T.Bs. laid mines off Bizerta today after several days inactivity on account of the weather.

War Diary.

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

28 out of 35 Wellingtons bombed Palermo last night; many bursts were seen in the harbour, but effective smoke screen prevented observation of damage.

Enemy aircraft attacked Algiers harbour at 1932 today, as convoy K.M.F.10 B was entering. No damage or casualties occurred.

America & West Indies.

Experiments in disguising tankers to resemble freighters are being made by the U.S. Navy Department.

U/B attack
on convoy
B.T.6. 8
ships
torpedoed.

Eight ships were torpedoed when convoy B.T.6 (Bahia - Trinidad) was attacked by U-boats in the area 07.11 N. 52.30 W. (north of the Amazon) about 1100Z today, viz:-

Br. KELVINBANK - sunk
Am. JAMES K. POLK - ~~towed to Trinidad~~ *sunk*
JAMES SMITH - Towed to Trinidad.
THOMAS RUFFIN - Towed to Trinidad
MARK HANNA - towed to Trinidad.
TABITHA BROWN -
JOSEPH R DRAGE
GEORGE G MEADE.

The tugs and escort of A.F.D.24 which arrived at Trinidad yesterday evening were used to assist the torpedoed ships. This delayed the departure of the dock.

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

General

U.S. Task Fleet organisation. The U.S. Task Fleet organisation has been revised as follows, to come into effect at noon G.C.T. Monday 15th March, 1943.

Fleets

U.S. 00,01
02
03
04
05
06
07
08,09

Pacific (first) 10 to 19
Atlantic (second) 20 to 29
Third (now Sopacfor) 30 to 39
Fourth (now Solantfor) 40 to 49
Fifth 50 to 59

Sixth 60 to 69

Seventh (now Sowest-
pacfor) 70 to 79

Eighth (now Northwestafrica-
Force) 80 to 89

Ninth 90,91

92
93
94
95 to 99

Task Forces

(For assignment by Cominch)
(Eastern Sea Frontier)
(Gulf Sea Frontier)
(Caribbean Sea Frontier)
(Panama Sea Frontier)
(Western Sea Frontier)
(Northwest Sea Frontier)
(blank)

(For assignment by Cincpac as desired for forces operating in Central and North Pacific).
(For assignment by Cinclant as desired for forces operating in Central and North Atlantic).

(blank)
(Forces in European Waters)
(South east Pacific Force)
(Naval Transportation Service)
(For assignment by Cominch)

Each Fleet Commander is directed to allocate at least one Task Force number to "Miscellaneous Force" (or equivalent) which will include small groups operating directly under Fleet Commander.

The U.S. Atlantic Fleet Task Force and Task Group designations will be changed at 1200Z, March 15th, as follows:-

Present

Taskfor 30
" 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, }
29
" 23

" 32 to 39

Taskgroup 26.5
" 26.1. to 26.4

" 26.6

" 31.1; 31.2; 31.9

" 26.7; 26.8

New

Taskfor 20
" 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28,
29 respectively.

(4th Fleet, designations of Task Forces 40 - 49 as may be assigned by Comsolantfor)

Taskfor 62 to 69

Taskgroup 26.1
" 26.2 to 26.5
respectively.

" 26.6
Taskunit 21.9.1; 21.9.2;
21.9.9 respectively.

Cancelled as of 1st March.

New Taskfor 23 will be "Operational Training Command, Atlantic Fleet" (Otlant) - Rear Adm. D.B. Beary.
(Hd. of M. 1643A/9).

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

NEWCASTLE Your 1128/7. NEWCASTLE is required to be ready for service by 15th April.
2. It is requested that her trials may be expedited if possible.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1320A/9 to C. in C. Plymouth).

NORTHERN C. in C. W.A. 1810/5 approved. Commodore
WAVE. Lowestoft is to prepare a fresh Crew.
(2 S.L., 1439A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

S/M Intend sailing SHAKESPEARE escorted by ASIE from
movements. Needles at 1100/10 to position (a) 180° Lizard Head
10 miles by Spithead convoy route thence to
position (X) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, E.T.A.
position (X) 0800/11.

2. Escort then proceed Falmouth. N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail her to R/V URSULA at 0700/13 in position (X) to escort URSULA to Portsmouth.

3. P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) proceeding diving by day to position (b) 049° 30' N. 009° 00' W, thence by Green route to position (c) 043° 01', 012° 54'. E.T.A. position (c) 0001/17, thence as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
(Capt. S.5, 0930A/9).

My 1419/28th Feb. After arrival at Port H H Z, TRESPASSER is to be sailed for Holy Loch escorted by ALECTO.

(F.O.S., 1356A/9 to BONAVENTURE).

On return from patrol H.M.S TRUCULENT and SEA NYMPH are to be retained at Lerwick. They will probably be required to sail about 24th March.

(F.O.S., 1537A/9 to S.O. S/M Lerwick)

Request Escort may be provided for passage of SURF Birkenhead - Clyde leaving a.m./16th.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1542A/9 to Capt. S.3).

My 1721/8 para. (C) and my 0119/9. TRUCULENT and SIMOON are leaving patrol for Lerwick after dark 9th.

(F.O.S., 1602A/9 to Admty).

My 1308/22 para. 5. On return from present patrol you will remain Lerwick and will be required to sail again on 24th March for patrol lasting about three weeks.

(F.O.S., 1651A/9 to TUNA).

Positions of submarines at 0800A/10th and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) URSULA 48° 10' N., 12° 26' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 09° 26' W.

(B) SHAD 48° 12' N., 12° 54' W. dived by day due 45° 01' N. 12° 54' W. at 2100/11th.

(C) HERRING 48° 30' N. 13° 22' W. dived by day due 45° 01' N. 13° 22' W. at 2300/11th.

(D) TACTICIAN 49° 30' N. 09° 00' W. dived by day through 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W. 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W. thence to southward.

(E) ULTOR 49° 50' N. 08° 48' W. dived by day through 49° 50' N. 09° 01' W. 49° 50' N. 12° 34' W. and 49° 10' N. 13° 22' W. thence to southward.

/(F)...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements

S/M
Movements
(contd).

(F) SHAKESPEARE escorted by ASIE leaves Needles 1100/10th due 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0800/11
(G) BARB escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE arriving Roseneath from Southward.
(H) JUNON leaves Lerwick 0800/10th proceeding probably on surface through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, 62° 00' N. 00° 38' W. and 69° 01' N. 08° 52' E.
(J) TUNA in zones K.5 and K.6.
(K) SPORTSMAN probably arriving Lerwick from Northeastward.
(L) SEA NYMPH approx. 62° 40' N. 01° 50' E. probably on surface to Lerwick.
(M) TRUCULENT and SIMOON returning probably on the surface to Lerwick from patrol off Grip Holen.
(F.O.S., 1711A/9).
Capt. (S) 3 1041/8. OXLIP is to escort DZIK H.M.S. P.S. from Holy Loch p.m./10th to Scilly Isles.
(C. in C. W.A., 1713A/9 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
Remain in Tay Sanctuary until 0700A/10. Keep West of Bell Rock. Do not enter harbour before 0800A/10.
(Capt. S.9., 1717A/9 to B.1).
Intend to sail DZIK escorted by OXLIP from Clyde at 1930A/10 by standard route to 000° Round Island 7 miles, E.T.A. 1800A/12.
2. Thence DZIK to westward.
(Capt. S.3., 1731A/9).
My 1528A/9. For SHAD and HERRING escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE read BARB escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1854A/9 to Admty).
My 0930/9. Owing to convoy movements sailing of SHAKESPEARE and escort is delayed 24 hours. Add 24 hours to all times except that in para. two.
(Capt. S.5., 1901A/9).
My 1711/9. para. (L). For 01° 50' E. 01° 01' E.
(F.O.S., 1922A/9).
My 1711/9. Delete para. (F) sailing delayed 24 hours.
Add new para. (N) DZIK escorted by OXLIP leaves Clyde 1930/10 by standard route toward 000° Round Island 7 miles, speed 9½ knots
(F.O.S., 2342A/9 to Admty).

13th M/S
Trawler
Group.

A.M. 1746/4. BONITO, MULLET, CRAYLING, WHITING are to sail to Milford Haven as soon as ready and without waiting for convoy.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1655A/9 to N.O.I.C. Leith).

HOWE

Intend to sail HOWE to Greenock to give night leave and to be at 12 hours notice daily from 1600 - 0800 beginning 11 ending 0800/17.
(C. in C. H.F., 1907A/9 to Admty).

War Diary.

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Unknown operation. Keep steam from 25 knots at one hours notice for operation.
(R.A.A. H.F., 0103A/9 to INDOMITABLE, FURIOUS).
Seidisfjord arrival INTREPID, BOADICEA, OBEDIENT, OB DURATE at 0050.
(A.C.I.C., 0748A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)
My 0103/9th. Continue training, but remain at one hours notice.
(R.A.A. H.F., 0955A/9 to FURIOUS)
My 2037/8. Keep steam at 2 hours notice.
(C. in C. H.F., 1330A/9 to FURIOUS, INDOMITABLE)
Cancel my 2033/8.

2. Return to Scapa without fuelling Hvalfjord if endurance of destroyers permits.
(C. in C. H.F., 1847A/9 to V.A.2)
Seidisfjord departure at 1558/9 INTREPID, OB DURATE, OBEDIENT
(A.C.I.C., 1939A/9 to C. in C. H.F.).
Complete with fuel to full stowage and join me 0800A tomorrow in 349° GLETTINGANES 28 miles.
(Capt. D.8., 2144A/9 to BOADICEA).
Cancel my 1847/9. Proceed Hvalfjord and complete.
(C. in C. H.F., 2317A/9 to V.A.2)

S/M Patrol off Trondheim. My 1721/8 para. (C). Cancel reference to SIMOON and add new para. (M) SIMOON approx. 64° 50' N. 05° 50' E. proceeding probably on surface to patrol vicinity 63° 07' N. 06° 23' E.
(F.O.S., 0119A/9 to Admty).
TRUCULENT and SIMOON are to be ordered to leave patrol after dark tonight and return to Lerwick.
(F.O.S., 1558A/9 to Capt. S.9).
1. SEA NYMPH to transfer to route "Black" forthwith.
2. SIMOON to leave patrol for Lerwick at 2100A/9 through position (A) 063° 30' N. 006° 05' E. (B) 063° 30' N. 002° 55' E, thence by route "Orange".
3. TRUCULENT to leave patrol at 2300A/9 through 063° 01' N. 002° 15' E, thence by route "Orange" to Lerwick.
(Capt. S.9., 1641A/9 to S/Ms)

Coastal Patrols. My 1400A/8. "Arena" returned to harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0735A/9).
Intend sailing M.G.B.324 at 1830/9 to the southward returning 0800/10. Request surface bombing restrictions 10 miles each side of a line joining Start Point and Ile de Base. Codeword "Arena"
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1125/9).
M.Ls. 140, 293, patrolling at Bullock Bank. M.Ls. 104, 102, 107, 210, 128 and M.G.Bs. 110, 113, 108 from Dover carrying out Operation N.L.82, routed via "V" buoy each way, E.T.D. 0020/10, E.T.R.0640/10. M.G.Bs. 43, 40 at No.4 buoy until daylight.
(V.A. Dover, 1639A/9).

/N.W....

9.3.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

N.W. Norway
S/M patrol.
JUNON.

Intend sailing JUNON 0800A/10 routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence by route "Pink" to 070° 12' N., 012° 10' E. thence direct to carry out patrol in vicinity 069° 37' N. 017° 02' E, proceeding on surface at C.O's discretion when more than 80 miles from Norwegian coast thereafter diving by day.
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 0931A/9 to A.C.O.S.)

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

Your 0507A/9. Intend KENT should relieve BERWICK on patrol "White" p.m./12th.
(C.S.1. 1106A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)
Withdraw patrol "White".
(C. in C. H.F., 1903A/9 to C.S.1)
Comply with C. in C. H.F's 1903A/9.
(C.S.1 2136A/9 to BERWICK)

E-boats

Suspected E-boat activity 022 FRB 8.
(MACKAY 2019/9 to Yarmouth W/T)

Exercises.

Exercise
"Famous".

Operation "Famous" postponed pending contact R.A.F.10 Group. E.T.A. Falmouth 0800A/10.
(P.C.74 2115A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen

Following from Jan Mayen. Focke Wolf observed 1028, East of Island course S.E.
(F.O.C. Reykjavik, 2056A/9).

Humber

Between 2130/9 and 2240/9 approx. 8 hostile A/C plotted in Humber area approaching coast between Flamborough and Spurn, flying inland. No evidence of minelaying. Very few bomb incidents reported. Evidence of photographic R/C and intruder patrol.
(F.O. Humber, 2257A/9).

Mining.

GOLDFINCH

A.M. 1652A/5. GOLDFINCH is engaged on urgent trails. She can be sailed from Portsmouth for Liverpool about 22nd March.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1116A/9 to Admty).

/Yarmouth...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

Yarmouth LL Sweepers detonated one red mine at 0958 in 180° 4 miles A Buoy. Details. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1141A/9) (Cdr. M/S Lowestoft 1150A/10).
LL Sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine at 1155 in 198° 3 miles A Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1235A/9).

Lyme Bay M.S.4 reports following mines detonated or sunk. 3 in approx. 50° 12' N. 03° 17' W. 2 in approx 50° 10' N. 03° 19' W. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1741/9).

Casualties & Defects.

ASLOEG (Swedish) Intercept at 0130 G.M.T. S O S from NEPTUN.. Steamship ASLOEG in distress danger to life. (Wick 0233 B.S.T./9).
Intercept at 0132 G.M.T. from NEPTUN.. ASLOEG lying off Viksten in distress, danger of loss. (Wick 0238 B.S.T./9)
Intercept at 0139 G.M.T. from NEPTUN.. ASLOEG is filling with water. (Wick, 0242 B.S.T./9).

ARIGUANI My 1155A/8. My position 0520A/9, 056° 15' 007° 16' Weather moderating. Am proceeding en route. S.O.A. estimated about 3 knots. (ARIGUANI, 0617/9 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
My position 1805, 056° 54' N., 007° 17' W. course 112°, estimated S.O.A. 3 knots. Request third tug. Intend to shelter in Tobermory. (ARIGUANI, 1842A/9 to Admty).
E.T.A. Tobermory 0800A. ARIGUANI can neither steam or steer. Has one anchor. (ARIGUANI, 2005A/9 to WESTERN ISLES)

AMSTERDAM My 1755/8 and 2125/8. AMSTERDAM returned to Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0845/9).

VIMY Propose returning base. Have fractured dome and defective oscillator. Require dry docking. (VIMY 0945Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0945/9. Approved. (C. in C. W.A., 1245A/9 to VIMY).
Cdre. Londonderry 1811/6. VIMY is returning to Londonderry with A/S defects. (C. in C. W.A., 1246A/9 to Cdre. N.F.)

/M.M.S...

War Diary.

9.3.1943.

Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

M.M.S. 1005, 1017, 1023. Following received from S.I.D.G. East Scotland. Surveys M.M.S.1005, 1017, 1023 disclosed existing D.G.coil not entirely satisfactory. It is desired to carry out a further trial. One whole day would be required and 3 days notice of the probable date of the ship being available. T.O.O. 1547/8. (Ends).

Date of completion of repairs to M.M.S.1005 is 14th March. Request instructions.

(Capt. Port Edgar, 1032A/9 to Admty).

Your 1032/9. One day's delay in sailing M.M.S.1005 can be accepted.

(D.M.S., 1949A/9 to Capt. Port Edgar).

A.M.1810/5. As ship is seaworthy and is urgently required for operational duties intend sailing her in F.S.60 on 11th March, but she will require docking at first convenient opportunity. Capt. i/c Port Edgar's 1032/9 refers.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1951A/9 to Admty (R) M.M.S.1017)

Lifeboat Am over a ship's lifeboat containing 20 live persons. Position 48° 56' N., 20° 35' W. (A/C 59 Sqdn. 1125A/9 to Chivenor) Detach COWSLIP to proceed to assist lifeboat containing 20 living persons reported by aircraft in 48.56 N. 20.35 W. at 1125A/9.

(C. in C. W.A., 1227A/9 to Escorts O.S.44)

Following received. From: A/C C/S P7XA. Have directed ship to lifeboat.

(Plymouth, 1300A/9 to Admty).

BEACONSTREET. Repairs cannot be completed in time to sail in N.64. Repairer now indicates p.m./11 as earliest possible date.

(N.O.I.C. Sunderland, 1230/9 to Admty).

M.S.L.2585. My 1624/8 and 1116/9. Returned owing to engine defects.

(R.N.O. Penzance, 1544A/9)

O.14 Owing to lack of crange facilities O.14 will be delayed at least 4 days. Every endeavour being made to complete by p.m. 17 March.

(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1551/9 to Admty).

BRIDPORT Your 1034A/9. Neither Naval nor Civilian labour available for top overhaul BRIDPORT. BRIDPORT completes defect ex trails 15 March.

(F.O.I.C. Humber, 1658/9 to C. in C. Nore).

/ANTHONY...

War Diary.

9.3.1943.

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

ANTHONY My 1706A/8 and your 2124A/8. Sailing delayed 24 hours owing to defective rangefinder and non completion of dynamo trials.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1702A/9 to C. in C. Nore).

M.G.B. 58 Arrival M.G.B. 58 with engine trouble.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1837/9)

ASTERIA Coaster SS. ASTERIA ashore south of Ardrossan close to Eagle Rock and reports badly holed. No vessel here can close ASTERIA with safety. Troon lifeboat has been launched and rockets brigade summoned.
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 2335/9)

Shipping & Convoys.

R.A. 53 Seidisfjord arrivals FAULKNOR, IMPULSIVE, ECLIPSE, PUERTO OPPORTUNE at 2027/8.
RICAN (A.C.I.C., 0030A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)
torpedoed. Following is recoded version of LOTUS's 2355A/8 to C. in C. H.F., (R) A.C.I.C., Capt. (D) 3, SCYLLA, INTREPID. From Capt. (D) 8.
FAULKNOR, OPPORTUNE, ECLIPSE, IMPULSIVE will be completed to full stowage by 0230A/9. Oiler will then have only 2300 tons remaining. Request decision whether INTREPID's party should complete to full stowage in view of (?date of sailing of) destroyers and SCYLLA commitments.
(A.C.I.C. 0614A/9 to C. in C. H.F., D, 3 SCYLLA, INTREPID)
Inconclusive D/F at 0624Z indicates U-boat may be in vicinity of R.A. 53.
(D.D.I.C., 0813A/9 to A.I.G. 47).
Capt. (D) 8th D.F. 2355/8. INTREPID, OBEDIENT, OBDURATE proceed to Scapa after taking in sufficient fuel for passage.
(2) SCYLLA refuel at Akureyri where approximately 4500 tons is available.
(3) Fuel not available at Seidisfjord for Force "R".
(C. in C. H.F., 1120A/9 to Capt. D.8., INTREPID, C.S.10, SCYLLA)
A/C report 8th March indicated convoy had been scattered during bad weather but was re-assembling.
(2) At 1000/8 J.L.M. CURRY abandoned and sinking due to weather damage.
(3) At 1700/8 J.H. LATROBE in 068° 52' N., 002° 40' W. steering-gear defective, proceeding Akureyri or nearest Port.
(4) Capt. (D) 3rd D.F. has reported expected position convoy to be 066° 35' N. 011° 15' W. at 2000A/9.
(C. in C. H.F., 1402A/9 to H.F.)
Capt. (D) 3rd's 1235/9th. INTREPID's group to comply with my 1120/9.
2. Capt. (D) 8th Group augment local escort to Butt of Lewis.
3. VIVACIOUS, MEYNELL, PYTCHLEY rejoin convoy after fuelling Seidisfjord.
(C. in C. H.F., 1655A/9 to Capt. D.8., INTREPID, VIVACIOUS)
1. Return to Scapa.
2. CUMBERLAND proceed to Clyde to disembark passengers.
(C. in C. H.F., 1838A/9 to Force R).

/SSSS...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- R.A. 53
PUERTO
RICAN
torpedoed.
(contd).
- SSSS de WKYL. PUERTO RICAN 66.47 N. 10.10 W.
torpedoed de GCK 2106/9. T.O.R. 2109 G.M.T./9.
(Burnham Radio, 2211/9 to Admty).
- K.M.S.11
- Orders for F.S. LA MALOUINE.
(1) Arrive Heysham daylight 10th and escort
MOORDALE to Milford Haven for inclusion in convoy
to Portsmouth.
(2) Escort Milford Haven portion of K.M.S.11 to Oversay R/V.
(C. in C. W.A., 0905A/9 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).
Intend to sail LA MALOUINE 0700A/10 for Lune Buoy to R/V
1100A/10 with MOORDALE and escort her to Milford Haven for onward
routing in convoy to Portsmouth
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1442A/9).
- O.N.170.
KATY
torpedoed.
- Detach 1 escort to search for KATY Norwegian or
survivors reported torpedoed in 061° 34' N. 027°
43' W. at 0645/9.
(2) Escort detached is to rejoin O.N.S.171 when
convoy reaches vicinity of search.
(C. in C. W.A., 1032Z/9 to Escorts O.N.S.171)
Report your position and condition without delay.
(C. in C. W.A., 1350 G.M.T./9 to KATY).
- Oiling at
Sea.
- Pass to C.O's of Escort Vessels on arrival.
There is no question that our success in meeting
heavy U-boat threat against the North Atlantic
Convoys in the next few months may largely depend
on our ability to fuel expeditiously at sea. I
am aware of the deficiencies of equipment and training in the
Oilers, but all possible steps are being taken to improve this.
The Masters of Oilers naturally dislike this operation with the
attendant risk of straggling. Only confidence gained from
carrying out this operation successfully at sea will remove this
prejudice. If an Oiler makes the Atlantic passage without
carrying out this operation it may be months before she is
required to do so. C.O's of all escorts are to give this
operation their closest attention and to miss no opportunity of
carrying out this evolution at sea.
Only in this way can we hasten the day when we can confidently
count on being able to fuel a large number of escorts within 24
hours. Highest priority is being given to the manufacture of
rubber hose and fitting out of Oilers.
(C. in C. W.A., 1045A/9 to C.Os of Escort Vessels, (R) Cpts., (D))

/O.N.173...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- O.N.173, A.M. 1124/5 and 2055/5.
O.N.S.1. 1. Five tankers should be available for
Tankers. sailing in O.N.173 or O.N.S.1 according to
declared speeds. Allocation is proposed as under.
O.N.173. BENITE MAERSK, FERNCOURT, MOSLI.
- O.N.S.1 COWRIE, BEACONSTREET.
4. No substitute is in sight for any of the above which may
fail to carry out programme.
5. Destination of all ships named is New York.
(D.T.D., 1147A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)
- S.C.122 If BENEDICK can be spared from oiling duties
she should be detached to Iceland to relieve
SCOTTISH AMERICAN. Decision may be left to
S.O. Escort Group and should be taken when nearing
breaking-off point. It is requested that decision may then
be communicated at first opportunity direct to A.C.I.C. (R)
Admiralty and C. in C. W.A.
(D.T.D., 1205A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Use of (C. in C. W.A., 1302A/9 to Admty) See C.in C.
A.N.D.gear. W.A., 2312A/10.
- O.N.175 My 1735/7. O.N.175 will sail 24th March. Ships
with a minimum speed of nine knots are to be
included in this convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1410Z/9).
- O.N.S. 171 Not met. My P.C.S. are 060° 20' N., 021° 58' W.
085° 6.5 knots.
(WATCHMAN, 1510Z/9 to C.T.U. 24.1.15)
- FAIRLAND Master of SS. FAIRLAND 16 knots at Avonmouth does
not wish to sail independently. Request instruc-
tions.
(D.T.D., 1525A/9 to Connav).
- Stationing Commencing with O.N.173 until further orders ships
of Ships in in column are to be stationed 4 cables apart.
Convoy. (2) Cdres. have discretion to close ships up if
desired.
(C. in C. W.A., 1532Z/9).
- D.S.38 SS. LEPITIA is allocated for convoy D.S.38 leaving
Clyde p.m./18th.
(D.O.D. H., 1658A/9).

/P.S.

War Diary.

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

P.S.10,
S.P.10.

P.S.10 cancelled. S.P.10. SS. SHELLBRIT II for
Southampton, escort UNST.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1735A/9).

K.M.S.10
attacked.

C. in C. Plymouth 1848/9 See Mediterranean.

S.C.121.
MALANTIC
torpedoed.

Submarine attack. MALANTIC torpedoed port side,
2128Z/9. Course 154° speed 7.5. 058° 37' N.
022° 32' W.
(M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3., 2230Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M. 1012A/3rd March.
No further reports of raiders.
2. Unidentified tanker sighted in 36° S. 58° E. on 3rd Feb. If homeward bound blockade runner estimated tanker would have crossed Equator in Atlantic in first few days of March.
3. OSORNO, PORTLAND and HIMALAYA at Bordeaux probably ready to sail for Far East.
(D.D.I.C., 1155A/9 to A.I.G.13, etc.)

North Atlantic.

Convoy T.O. 2. BAINBRIDGE designated an additional escort for T.O.2. Plan sail SEAKAY and BAINBRIDGE 10th March to R/V T.O.2 as directed by you and requested my 1559/08.
(C.M.S.F.F., 0750Z/9 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med.)

SHEDIAC, FORT BATTLE RIVER, (K.M.S.10) E.T.A. 1230Z/9th, NIMBLE in company. Have 8 survivors from FORT BATTLE RIVER on board. (SHEDIAC, 0835Z/9 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) K.M.S.10, FORT BATTLE RIVER torpedoed and sunk 7th March. No casualties. Form S.1533 follows by air mail.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1554A/9 to Admty.)

MADOERA, (search). STAVROS, Greek, Swiss chartered, 9½ knots, sailed p.m./8th for Philadelphia. She has been ordered to pass through the following positions and to keep a good lookout for boats of MADOERA
A 036° 20' N. 025° 00' W. B. 037° 30', 030° 40'. C 034° 00', 065° 00'.
From C to 038° 00' N. 065° 00' W. thence ref. A.M. 2330/25th November.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 0956/9 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gib.)

Dispositions. Situation 2002A/9th.
TRIDENT 038° 32' 010° 26' to 036° 51' 009° 13' at 1400/10th thence 099° diving by day 2½ surfaced by night 8¾.
2. HOLCOMBE, CALPE 037° 25' 012° 55' to Gibraltar 20.
3. Coastal forces convoy 038° 44' 012° 09' through 036° 30' 010° 02' thence Gibraltar 8½.

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Dispositions. 4. Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA 36° 30' 08° 57'
(Contd.) through 36° 31' 09° 02' and 40° 13' 13° 13'
thence 000°, 12.
5. M.K.S.9 ST. CROIX 36° 14' 08° 48' through
36° 30' 10° 01' thence 310. 7½.
BADDECK, SHEDIAC, sail from Gibraltar p.m./9th to overtake.
6. LA BOUDEUSE, 1 merchant ship sail from Gibraltar 1630/9th
through 35° 45' 06° 30' and 33° 59' 07° 54' thence Casablanca
8 knots.
7. 1 P.C. sail from Gibraltar 1830/9th route as in para. (6)
15 knots.
(V.A. Gib., 1027A/9.)
Situation at 2002A/9th.
(4) M.K.F.10A EGRET 037° 25' 012° 55' through 037° 40' 013° 30'
and 040° 01' 016° 15' thence 002°, 13½. HOLCOMBE, CALPE part
company 2000/9th return Gibraltar 20.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1123A/9.)

M.K.S.9. DE LA SALLE did not sail.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1053/9 to Escorts of Convoy
M.K.S.9, pass to Cdre., (R) Admty., C. in C.
Med., Connav.)
Sailed to overtake M.K.S.9, REGINA, 1340 BADDECK, 2020 SHEDIAC.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2030A/9 to Admty.)

Swiss My 1308/2. Sailing of CRISTINA and MONTE
Shipping. MONJUICH postponed until 10th.
(D.E.W.D., 1210A/9 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
C. in C. Med.)

Convoy C.G.16 arrived (7 ships).
C.G.16. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1408A/9 to S.N.O.C.A., (R)
C. in C. Med., Admty.)

Convoy Intend to sail convoy T.O.2 at 1800/10th escorted
T.O. 2. by U.S. Destroyers ROPER, DECATUR; local escort
to Casablanca, U.S. Destroyers McCORMICK,
OVERTON.
(2) Route. (Cancelled by 2259A/10, q.v.)

S. of A. 13 knots.
(3) Cominch is requested to signal destination and onward route
from position (H).
(4) "Chop" 10° West 1700/11th. "Chop" 40° West 0030/18th.
(5) Codeword "Empty".
(6) Radio Washington pass to C.C.S.F., C.A.F.A.C. and U.S.R.O.
Aruba.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1537A/9, 1620A/9 as amended 2259A/10 to
Admty., Cominch, (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)
T.O.2. Intend to sail (A) From Gibraltar ESSO HARRISBURGH
(T), ESSO GETTYSBURGH (T), SHELDON CLARK (T). (B) From
Casablanca SEAKAY (T).
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1648A/9 to Connav, (R) Admty., etc.)

/Escort ...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy Escort SEAKAY sailing Casablanca 0500A/11 to
T.O. 2. R/V with convoy T.O.2 in 34.01 N. 08.14 W. at
(Contd.) 0900A/11. Upon arrival R/V position report to
Comtask 21.5 for duty as additional convoy
escort. Onward routing in accordance with
Admty. 1246A/9th.

(N.O.I.C. Casablanca, 2120/9 to U.S. Dest. BAINBRIDGE, (R)
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty., C.T.F.
37, C. in C. Med., C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

K.M.S.10, K.M.S.10. Following arrived EXCHESTER FORT,
E.T. 13. STRIKINE, SAN CERULIA, TRISTAM DALTON, WILLIAM
BRADFORD, DELRIO. Following sailed AUDUN
for Bone.

E.T.13. Following arrived MISOA, BACHAQUERO,
EMPIRE GOLD, JOSHUA SENEY, NARVA, PENSHURST, DUX, MAHOUT, FACTO,
THOMAS (? HEYWARD), ALPERA.
(Gibraltar, 1600A/9 to C. in C. Med.)

Attacks Weekly Summary.
on U/Bs. (D.A/S.W., 1620A/9.)
See U-Boat Campaign.

STURGEON STURGEON will be carrying out A/S exercises
M.Ls. with Motor Launches in area BB tomorrow 10th
March. (1) Floating mine reported at 070°
Europa Point 5 miles at 0800/9.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1621/9 to UNA.)

NORDFELS. German 62 arrived 9th.
(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 1732/9 to Admty.)

U/B, Following received from aircraft:
TRIDENT. Am over enemy S/M in 036° 52' N. 008° 53' W.
Sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
When first sighted was on course 259° estimated
speed 4 knots. Request instructions.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2031A/9 to TRIDENT.)

TASAJERA, Oran's 1717/5th not to Admiralty. In view of
repairs. considerable shipments plates etc. already made,
none of the material required for repairs
TASAJERA can be spared from Gibraltar. In view
of para. 4, N.C.X.F. 1052/7 Feb, your 1631/27,
also Admty. 1106/3 March, instructions requested whether Admty.
should be asked to supply repair material now required or whether
Oran will obtain supply direct from U.S.A.
(C.S. Gibraltar, 2037A/9 to C. in C. Med., (R) Com. N.O.B.
Oran, Admty.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements, Arrivals U.S. P.C.471, L.C.T.19 from Casablanca.
Gibraltar. BADDECK from escort duties West. QUEEN EMMA,
PRINSES BEATRIX from Philippeville. U.S. Ships
McCORMICK, OVERTON, French Ships LA SETOISE,
ENGAGEANTE, H.M.T. LORD HOTHAM with Convoy
C.G.16. SHEDIAC, Tug NIMBLE from West.
BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, ATHERSTONE from M.K.S.9. CIRCE, CAMROSE,
ST. NECTAN escorting SALVONIA towing SS. FORT PASKOYAC.
Departures HAARLEM escorting two M.Vs to Melilla. LORD
NUFFIELD escorting two M.Vs to Almeria. F.S. LA BOUDEUSE
escortng SS. AMERICAN PRESS to Casablanca. Tug NIMBLE to
R/V T.E.18 for Philippeville. TYNE DALE for Oran. U.S. P.C.
471 to Casablanca.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2125/9 to Admty., etc.)

FORT Arrived SS. FORT PASKOYAC in tow of Tug
PASKOYAC, SALVONIA.
K.M.S. 10. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2245A/9 to Admty., C. in C.
(torpedoed W.A., C. in C. Med.)
6th March.)

Air Report. A.I.227, 9th March. Ops. Summ., No. corrupt -
24 hours ended 1800 hours 9th March.
(K) Sightings and attacks. Beaufort A.W.374 in
transit from Portreath sighted a U-Boat on
surface at 1205/9 39.50 N. 09.05 W. U-Boat appeared stationary
and facing North not attacked.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 2350Z/9.)

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Convoy D.C.13. Sailed FREESIA, ST. LOMAN, ODBER^G, PRETORIA escorting convoy D.C.13 to Capetown. N.C.S.O. Durban's 0621/9 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
2. Shifts to Group A.L. at 0500C/10.
3. FREESIA parts company in 26° E. and returns to Durban.
(Com. i/c Durban 0804C/9 to Admty. etc.)

C.D.8. Sailing telegram. 2. 0630Z/9th March. 4. 8.
5. Coastal reference positions O.P. Saldanha Bay 1 to 8.
6. F.F.S. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, ARCTIC EXPLORER, LADY ELSA.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 0835Z/9 to Admty. etc.)

~~ARETHUSA,~~
~~MARIGOLD.~~ Onward route from Pointe Noire D. 001° 45' N. 008° 20' W. E. 007° 40' N. 014° 20' W. thence Freetown. Report estimated speed, "Chop" and E.T.A. before sailing.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0848Z/9 to ARETHUSA, ~~MARIGOLD,~~ B.N.L.O.W.Africa, Admty. C. in C.S.A.)

Dispositions. CORINTHIAN, SARABANDE 2 M.L. with T.S. 32 06.50 12 (53 or 54) to 07.40 14.11 thence Freetown 8½.
WOLVERINE escorting 07.09 13.12 120° 16.
BELLWORT, ARMERIA, ARRAN 2 M.L. with S.T.58. 03.22 08.27 to 02.55 07.49 thence 076° 9.
CROCUS, DUNCTON, INKPEN about 07.10 13.50 to Freetown 10.
SUSSEX about 05.01 17.13 to Freetown 20.
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 01.30 N. 20.30 W. 15½.
DESPATCH on patrol about 04 N. 20 W. 19.
ARETHUSA 09.23 S. 11.10 E. to Pointe Noire 17.
(R.A.W.A. 0909Z/9.)
Positions at 2000Z/9th.
CILICIA 14.00 S. 10.45 W. to 03 S 12 W. 14 knots.
ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY, STELLA POLARIS with N.C.6 off Walvis Bay to Capetown.
F.F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, ARCTIC EXPLORER, LADY ELSA with C.D.8 34.55 S. 19.30 E. to Durban 8 knots.
FREESIA, ST. LOMAN, PRETORIA, ODBERG with D.C.13, 31.40 S. 31.10 E. to Capetown 8 knots.
RACEHORSE, QUALITY, RELENTLESS with D.C.14, 31.05 S. 30.55 E. to Capetown 12½ knots.
JASMINE 30.10 S. 31.40 E. to Durban 12 knots. NORWICH CITY, SPHENE 30.20 S. 32.10 E. to Durban 9 knots.
(C. in C.S.A. 1101C/9.)

/U-Boat...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.U-Boat
believed
sunk by
ADRIAS
13/2.

Following message for Greek C. in C. (begins)
In 003° 52' N. 006° 33' W. at 1615Z/13th Feb.
I located a U-Boat. I attacked twice with 10
depth charges each time depth 100 and 225.
After 2nd pattern oil patch was seen but lost
touch due to asdic failure at 1629. After 3
minutes I repaired and search was resumed.

At 1728 I located again and started a series of
attacks of 10 depth charges. 3rd attack, 250 385 4th, 350 550.
After this U-Boat was seen attempting to surface and during
other 2 a wake moved rapidly. I closed to ram and carried out
attack of 10 depth charges, 100, 225. Later a further attack
with 5 dept charges. During these there were no hydrophone
effects and echo faded slowly. Lost echo at 1759. Searched for
2 hours without finding any echo. At 1952 left to meet convoy.
Fired all my depth charges including asdic l. 52. Was unable
to see wreckage probably due to darkness that followed. Believe
I sank this one. Am submitting report. T.O.O. 0026Z/14th Feb.
(ends.)

(ADRIAS 1024Z/9 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

W.D.Note See also reference in C. in C.Med. 1543/9.

Movements
Para.

Departure 9th U.S. Aircraft Tender THRUSH
U.S. Destroyer GOLF.
(R.O.Para. 1039/9 to Admty.)

Convoy
N.C.6.

List of ships.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1049C/9 to Admty. etc.)
ROCKROSE, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY, sailed
1130/9th escorting convoy N.C.6 to Saldanha Bay,
E.T.A. 0800/13th.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1251C/9 to C. in C.S.A.
(R) Admty. N.C.S.O. Saldanha Bay.)

ADRIAS,
interception
of MONTE
NARANCO.

Following message for Greek C. in C. (begins)
On special mission with Cruiser DESPATCH,
Spanish Merchant Ship MONTE NARANCO was captured
near Cape Verde Is. I escorted her for 28 hours
and later arrived Bathurst to fuel 1500Z/20th
Feb. T.O.O. 1537Z/20th.
(ADRIAS 1125Z/9 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

CARNARVON
CASTLE.

1. Proceed through position K. 002° 00' N. 023°
00' W. to patrol area bounded by following points
L. 006° 19' N. 019° 55' W. R. 007° 18' N. 021°
28' W. U. 004° 01' N. 023° 19' W. V. 004°
00' N. 021° 01' W.
2. Presume present patrol by daylight 12th March.
3. Unless there is good reason to the contrary steer north-
west during dark hours while on patrol.
(R.A.W.A. 1133Z/9 to CARNARVON CASTLE, (R) DESPATCH, Admty.
Comsolant.)

/S.L....

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- S.L. 126. Your 1903/5. S.L. 126 should sail 12th March and subsequent convoys 24 days after sailing of O.S. Convoy from Liverpool provided escorts have minimum of four days in Freetown.
(D.T.D. 1144A/9 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C.W.A. etc.)
- S.L. 126. i. Intend amending position (g) to 020° 00' N. 017° 30' W. ii. Intend sailing FORTOL to fuel SPEY, WEAR and ROTHER at Port Etienne to avoid prolonged absence if detached to Casablanca for fuelling. 2 trawlers will reinforce escorts in Port Etienne area. PELICAN and SENNEN will refuel at Dakar. iii. If it is not intended to resume inclusion of (?another) oiler in O.S. and S.L. convoys, it is essential that an additional (?suitable) tanker be based at Freetown as it will seldom be possible to spare FORTOL without delaying at Freetown. (F.O.W.A. 1326Z/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. etc.)
- W.S. 27. Arrivals 1005/8th March. MALAYA, RAIDER, QUEENBORO, WOLVERINE, QUAIL with W.S. 27. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1149Z/9 to Admty. etc.)
See also 1710Z/9.
- U/B,
GEORGES
LEYGUES. Aircraft sighted S/M in 008° 48' N. 020° 30' W. at 1045Z/9th March. F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES has been informed.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1258Z/9 to Comar Dakar, Admty. (R)
F.O.I.C. Bathurst, CARNARVON CASTLE, DESPATCH.)
- QUADRANT. QUADRANT's 1900/8th not to C. in C.Med. (Request Asdic Oscillation shaft for QUADRANT). Ship undocks 1800Z/9th ready to sail 2359/9th if required.
(Comar Dakar 1303Z/9 to R.A.W.Af. (R) C. in C.Med. Admty. QUADRANT, Adm. Gibraltar.)
- D.C. 14. Sailing telegram. (3 transports. DEVONSHIRE, DILWARA, CITY OF CANTERBURY.) 2. 1400Z/9th.
3. 11 knots. 5. A. 030° 35' S. 031° 12' E.
B. 031° 22' S. 030° 43' E. C. 033° 40' S. 028° 15' E.
East. D. 034° 45' S. 025° 35' E. E. 035° 05' S. 023° 40' E.
F. 034° 55' S. 020° 00' E. G. 034° (?26') 15" S. 018° 26' 30" E.
Ref. 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay O.P. 6. RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, QUALITY
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1417Z/9 to Admty. etc.)
Convoy D.C. 14 sailed 9th March for Capetown E.T.A. p.m. 12th March. Personnel on board for onward conveyance to U.K.
A. DEVONSHIRE. B. DILWARA. C. CITY OF CANTERBURY.
(D.S.T.O. Durban 1741C/9 to S.T.O. Capetown, (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.O.S.T.)
Sailed RACEHORSE, (RELENTLESS?) QUALITY escorting convoy D.C.14, routed as N.C.S.O. Durban's 1417/9th. 2. Shifts to group S.L. at 0700C/10th.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1821C/9 to Admty. etc.)

/U/B...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- U/B. U.S. aircraft reported sighting submarine in 001° 58' S. 008° 00' W. at 1110Z/9th. Course 150° Reliability unknown. (R.A.W.A. 1516Z/9 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Ascension.)
- Convoy D.68. Your 1635/4th. Request R/V for convoy D.68 composed following ships to join S.L. 126 off Dakar: HOGGAR for Gibraltar 12 knots, DUNKERQUE and CHELMA for Casablanca, 9 knots. (Comar Dakar 1523Z/9 to F.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)
- W.S.27. Intend sailing SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, QUAIL PETUNIA and CROCUS at 0830Z/11th March to escort convoy W.S.27 consisting of 9 ships.
2. Route: A. 007° 46' N. 014° 20' W. B. 004° 38' N. 010° 00' W. C. 002° 58' N. 008° 26' W. D. 003° 07' N. 000° 29' E. E. 000° 47' S. 005° 58' E. F. 004° 48' S. 009° 56' E. G. 020° 01' S. 009° 57' E. Estimated S.O.A. 12.5 knots.
3. Intend QUAIL to be detached as necessary to escort JAMES PARKER from Marshall Liberia to R/V and join convoy in 005° 06' N. 010° 37' W. at 1300Z/12th March.
4. QUAIL will be detached to escort JAMES PARKER to arrive Accra p.m. 14th, QUAIL then (?refuel) at Takoradi and rejoin convoy.
5. N.O.I.C. Lagos is to sail BELLWORT, ARMERIA escorting SIBAJAL. RUYS, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, to R/V and join convoy in 003° 05' N. 000° 10' W. at 1700Z/14 March. After R/V BELLWORT, ARMERIA will be detached to proceed to Takoradi.
6. QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, QUAIL will be detached to refuel at Pointe Noire. After they have rejoined PETUNIA, CROCUS will proceed to Pointe Noire.
7. Escort shifts to area Q W/T organization at 0800Z/18 March.
8. C. in C.S.A. is requested to signal onward route from position G and orders for splitting convoy in cape Area. (F.O.C.W.A. 1710Z/9 to Admty. C. in C.S.A. etc.)
- Water Transport Freetown. Cmdre. i/c Freetown reports port operation working of convoys increasingly handicapped by water transport failures. Pending arrival Dorman engines Capt. Wharton recommends following immediate supplies. (details.) (F.O.C.W.A. 1725/9 to Admty. (R) Cmdre. i/c Freetown.)
- SUSSEX. My P.C. and S. 005° 59' N. 016° 23' W. 045° 19 knots., E.T.A. 1015/10th. Request gate at 1100. Fuel required 1500 tons. Request Walrus may be disembarked to Hastings after anchoring to carry out essential repairs to Catapult, estimated time required 24 hours. Weather report. (SUSSEX 2157Z/9 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Freetown.)

/HERO...

War Diary.

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

HERO. Simonstown departure 1630Z/9th HERO for Freetown calling Pointe Noire for fuel. Routed A. 033° S. 017° E. B. 020° E. 011° E. C. 015° S. 011° E. D., Pointe Noire thence as routed by F.O.C.W.Af. expected time of arrival Pointe Noire 0800Z/15th requires 420 tons oil fuel and 20 tons water on arrival Pointe Noire (?pass) to W/T organization for Area P at 0100Z/14th.
(C. in C.S.A. 2359C/9 to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. B.N.L.O. W.Af.)

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9.3.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

U/B. CHURCHILL, RESTIGOUCHE, BRANDON. One S/M on surface 010° 5 miles ahead of Commodore being chased by RESTIGOUCHE, P.C. and S. 36.03 N. 01.35 W., 065°, 14. (CHURCHILL, 0015Z/9 to Gibraltar C.C.O.) 2nd S/M located by BRANDON and has now dived my P.C. and S. 036° 06' N. 001° 15' W., 065°, 14 knots. RESTIGOUCHE put down first S/M and is now rejoining. (CHURCHILL, 0235A/9 to C. in C. Levant, Gibraltar C.C.O., C. in C. Med.) See also 0731A/9.

U/B. Following read. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 35.51 N. 02.06 W. probably a S/M. (A/C 3LT/O, 0135/9.)

Enemy Units. Following received addressed Air H.Q. Malta. From A/C AQA/F. P.C. and S. of 4 medium sized M/Vs, 6 destroyers 39.38 N. 15.30 E., 190°, 10 knots. (Alexandria, 0710A/9 to Admty.)

Tripoli Discharges. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Discharges 8th March. Tripoli 2514 tons, low figure due to completion of three ships, landing of personnel and air raid damage. Benghazi 2070 tons includes 1600 bulk petrol. (Middle East, 0714Z/9.)

CHURCHILL enemy A/C. 1 Junkers 88, 10,000 feet, my P.C. and S. 036° 37' N. 000° 01' E., 065°, 14 knots. (CHURCHILL, 0731A/9 to C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)

PAKENHAM, PALADIN F-Boat sunk. PAKENHAM and PALADIN returned from operation. (V.A. Malta, 0901A/9 to Admty., C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant.) My 0934/8 (PAKENHAM and PALADIN leave Malta 8th to operate north of Pantellaria during the night). One F-Boat sunk north of Pantellaria at 2340/8. (V.A. Malta, 0947A/9 to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

Enemy Units, TROOPER. A/C report 4 merchant ships, 6 destroyers at 0710 in 39° 38' 15° 30' course 190°, 10 knots. (Capt. S.8, 0903A/9 to TROOPER.)

/T.E.18 ...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

T.E. 18. Intend sailing T.E.18 1000A/10th as in C. in C. Med.'s 1800A/8th (1805/8 intended, re sailing of T.E.18). MISOA, BACHAQUERO, EMPIRE DACE, WINFIELD, SCOTT. All for Philippeville.
(N.O.I.C. Oran, 0915/9 to C. in C. Med.)
T.E. 18. For Philippeville EMPIRE SNIPE, EVVIVA. For Bone EMPIRE TERN.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1009/9 to N.O.I.C. Philippeville.)

Movements, Arrivals 8th SOUTHERN ISLE, ABERDALE, FAREHAM, Alexandria. WOLBOROUGH, RAGLAN CASTLE, M.L.1046, HARROW.
Departures 8th March CROOME, HURSLEY, ANTWERP, Tug FAVOURITE (U.S.N.), Greek Destroyer SPETSAL.
(S.O.(I) Alex., 0915/9 to Admty., C. in C. Levant)

Black Sea. (1) Sea.
(A) Enemy S/M sighted off Akem Chiri March 1st and another off Sichi March 4th. 1 submarine reported sunk in my 1147/22nd February must have been either German U.9 or U.24.
(B) Russian Fleet activity (group corrupt) B escorting (corrupt) up and down coast.
(2) Air Operations.
(A) Russians have kept up attack on enemy troops and transport in Taman Peninsula. Ports Surgan, Kerch, Anapa, almost continuously raided.
(B) Enemy transport aircraft and gliders working from Geaeon aerodromes are bringing supplies to and evacuating troops from Taman area.
(3) Land.
(A) Russians have good foot-hold in coastal region S. and W. Novorossisk. Front. from Novorossisk now N.W., North East to Gianmskaya and fighting is in progress on outskirts of this town. From here there is a bulge in line to eastward and it swings back to vicinity of Krisnoarmeiskaya. Russians have advanced southwards from Azojj coast and are threatening enemy's rear in vicinity of Slavyanskaya.
(B) Enemy has strongly defended coast of Kerch Peninsula.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 0930C/9 to Admty., etc.)

ADRIAS. Messages for Greek C. in C. Alexandria, 1024Z/9 and 1125Z/9.
See South Atlantic.

TROOPER, If circumstances permit be close North of Cape Enemy Units. Milazzo between 2100 today Tuesday until 1500 tomorrow Wednesday thereafter you have freedom in your patrol area.
(Capt. (S) 8, 1134A/9 to TROOPER, (R) Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med.)

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- TROOPER, enemy units. (Contd.) My 1134. Aircraft report 1 destroyer, 7500 ton tanker and 4000 ton merchant ship in 038° 54' 017° 28' course 200° speed about 13 knots at 1244. Enemy may be bound Tunis via Messina. (Capt. (S) 8, 1458A/9 to TROOPER, (R) Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med., 8th S/M.F.)
- H.D.M.L. for French at Algiers. Your 0019/14, para. 2. Request authority to make formal transfer of one H.D.M.L. to French Navy, Algiers, for training purposes and to form nucleus of their harbour defence force.
2. Request overall value so that formal acknowledgement of liability may be obtained in same terms as proposed for Walrus aircraft in my 2020/6 March para. 4. (C. in C. Med., 1136A/9 to Admt.)
- Enemy units. P.C. and S. of 2 medium vessels, 1 destroyer, 7 planes 38.54 N. 17.28 E., course 200° speed unknown enemy previously reported are 1 QTKR (signification unknown) 6000 tons and 1 M/V 4000 tons. (A/C UQU/A, 1144A/9 to A.H.Q. Malta.)
- Bi-Weekly Opsum No. 601, Part 3. Night 7th/8th March. About 15 enemy aircraft bombed Tripoli harbour, majority of bombs fell in sea but 1 burst on jetty, another on gun pit. 3 more bombs on land destroyed 1 wireless truck. Service casualties 7 killed 12 wounded 3 missing. 1 bomb burst in native quarter causing some civilian casualties and damage. 3 Beaufighters 4 Hurricanes up. 1 enemy aircraft intercepted by Beaufighter which fired good burst but makes no claim. 1 enemy aircraft destroyed, another probably destroyed, by A.A. fire. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1207Z/9.)
- THUNDERBOLT, UNBENDING. (1) THUNDERBOLT leaving Malta at 1500A/9th by P.212 (SAHIB) route in my 1215/8th, thence patrol as ordered by Capt. (S) 8.
(2) P.37 (UNBENDING) leaves Malta at 1600A/9th routed South of Q.K.B.6 through 035° 20' 015° 27' thence course 010° into his patrol area between 037° 20' and 038° 20' North-west of line 040° from 037° 20' 016° 24'. (Capt. (S) 10, 1228A/9 to S/Ms on Patrol, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, N.O.I.C. Malta.)
- THUNDERBOLT, P.217 (SIBYL). (1) THUNDERBOLT after passing Q.K.B.20 about 2100/10th is to patrol in vicinity 037° 55' 011° 43' from 0500 Thursday 11th until 1200/11th keeping west of 012° E. Freedom 286° 24 miles, sector 5.

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

THUNDERBOLT, P. 217 (SIBYL). (Contd.)

(2) P.217 patrol close to north of Marittimo from 0400/11th until 1000/11th keeping east of 012° E.

(3) THUNDERBOLT subsequently proceed through 038° 46' 011° 50' at 2300/11th thence 090° to operate east of 015° E. and south of 040° N. P.217 (SIBYL) keeping clear.

(Capt. (S) 8, 1242A/9 to THUNDERBOLT, P.217, (R) 8 S/MS., Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med.)

Later instruction to SIBYL, see 0408/10.

ADVENTURE, minelaying. Your 1500A/6 and 1033/14/2 (mine depot at Mers-el-Kebir).

1. ADVENTURE will be sailed as requested.
2. Proposed she shall also embark a further supply of aircraft mines fitted with period delay mechanism and capable of being fitted with sterilizers.*
3. Assumed you will require ADVENTURE to carry out a further trip, but early information of probable date of completion of layout referred to in para. 3 of your 1033/14/2 would be appreciated to enable shipment of unassembled units by freight to be arranged. *
4. Request you will also state whether any sinkers with 500 or 1000 fathom moorings would be of value for future operations. If so these would be shipped additional for marrying to mines as required.

(D.D.O.D.(M) Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 1350A/9 to C. in C. Med.)

* Concur. (C. in C. Med., 1110A/11.)

Situation Report No. 69. *position impossible*

1. TORBAY. Gunned minesweeper off Ajaccio at 1151/25. Vessel stranded after being hit. At 0312/26 in position 43° 20' N. 08.15 E. sank French OASIS by gunfire. In position 47.37 N. 09.25 E. at 0152/27 sank A/S schooner with gun and demolition. Sank 5000 ton vessel by torpedo off Portofino at 1256/28. Fired at Olive Oil tanks at Imperia at 1814/1 with little result. Shore battery obtained hit on after casing without causing damage.
2. ABDIEL carried out further lay in Sicilian Channel on 8th March and then proceeded to Malta.
3. M.T.Bs again laid mines off Bizerta on 9th March after several days inactivity owing to weather.

(C. in C. Med., 1500A/9 to Admty.)

UNITED. Your 1331/9th (N.T. in W.R.) acknowledged. If no sweepers at R/V enter unescorted. One fleet from south may arrive Malta at dawn.

(Capt. (S) 10, 1543A/9 to UNITED.)

/Greek ...

9.3.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Greek Navy discipline; ADRIAS success. Ref. disturbances in Greek Army. Greek C. in C. informs me that there are no signs of it in Greek Navy where strict discipline is maintained. He considers this is a suitable time to make known any successes of Greek Navy and wishes to publish the sinking of a U-Boat by Greek destroyer ADRIAS off Freetown in February* without mentioning time or place. If this is confirmed and there is no objection request a communique on this Greek success may be published at once.
(C. in C. Levant, 1543B/9 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. Med.) See also 1536B/12.
* For details, see ADRIAS 1024Z/9 in South Atlantic.

Sale of German Ship. Ref. M.E.W. telegram to Madrid Arfar No.600 March 4th about sale of German ship to Spain and transfer flag, anything Admiralty can do to help early conclusion this matter.
(N.A. Madrid, 1600/9 to Admty.)

ANDES. Route for SS. ANDES from Casablanca through positions - L 32°, 14°. M 30°, 21°. N 30°, 40°. O 36°, 54°. P 39°, 71° all degrees North and West, thence to New York. Fighter protection codeword "Corncrake".
(D.O.D.(H), 1601A/9 to Commander Morocco Sea Force Frontier, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Connnav, etc.)

G.U.S. 5. Request you will sail G.U.S.5 at 0500/13.
2. Route through 52, 28, 57 lettered B to D through Q.K.A.87 then - (E) 35° 16' N. 07° 45' W. to R/V with Casablanca section in position (F) 34° 24' N. 08° 22' W. at 1400/15. Stragglers route as Convoy.
3. S. of A. 8 knots.
4. Gibraltar section joins in position 57 at 1500/14 with local escorts.
5. Ocean route as ordered by Admiralty.
6. Escorts from Oran to R/V WISHART, ANTELOPE, BUDE, CLACTON, ROTHESAY and two ships of 12th M/S Flotilla as detailed by F.O.C. Gibraltar, returning to Gibraltar on completion.
7. Fighter protection priority 2 codeword "Trafford".
8. All times A.
9. First two letters of W/T call sign W X, Outcon 28.
(C. in C. Med., 1615A/9 to N.O.I.C. Oran, (R) S.N.O.C.A., F.O.C. Gib., F.O.H., Admty., Connnav.)

Movements, Malta. Sailed ABDIEL, THUNDERBOLT, UNBENDING.
(V.A. Malta, 1631A/9 to Admty., etc.)

/Movements ...

9.3.1943.

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

- Movements, Port Said. 9th March Port Said arrivals H.H.M.S. PANTHER, CUMBRAE, BURRA, LORD IRWIN, H.M.L. 358, H.H.M.S. SPETSAI, H.M.R.T. FAVOURITE, BIGLIERI. Departures CENTURION, BAGSHOT, H.H.M.S. SPETSAI, H.M.M.L. 358. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1638B/9 to Admty., etc.)
- PETARD. My P.C. and S. at 1800A/9th "heel" 005° 16 knots. E.T.A. 0600A/10th. Acknowledge. (PETARD, 1700A/9 to V.A. Malta, (R) Capt. (D) 12, Capt. (D) 14, S.O.I.S., Eastern Med., N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya), F.O. 15th C.S.)
- Movements, Haifa. Arrivals 9th March HURSLEY, CROOME. Departures 9th March CROOME, RORQUAL, HURSLEY. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 1730B/9 to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)
- K.M.S. 10. Forward portion. Intend to sail for Bougie MELAMPUS, DELANE, ALCOA PILOT, FORT ST. JOHN, EMPIRE FLAMINGO. ?For Philippeville TOPDALSFJORD, JADE, COXWOLD. For Bone, HOUSTON CITY, MACHARDA, EMPIRE DEL, CITY OF PERTH, TIBA, WEARPOOL, ATLANTIC COAST, ANTONIA (T), EMPIRE BAIRN, H.M.S. LASSO. (Cdre. Algiers, 1829A/9 to N.O.I.C. Bone, Bougie, Philippeville, (R) C. in C. Med., S.O.I.S., Admty., Connav, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- K.M.S. 10 attacked. FORT NORMAN, EMPIRE STANDARD torpedoed. Following intercept received (begins). 1747 G.M.T. de H J 84 SSSS (ship of K.M.S.10) torpedoed. Acknowledged by unnamed station. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1848/9 to Admty.) FORT NORMAN and EMPIRE STANTON (? STANDARD) torpedoed 36.51 N. 01.09 E., both afloat, request tugs. (VANOC, 1918A/9 to C. in C. Med.) VETCH standing by EMPIRE STANDARD. PENTSTEMON standing by FORT NORMAN. Repeat my 1918A to PENTSTEMON and VETCH. STELLA CARINA is with straggler SS. AUDON searching. (VANOC, 1943A/9 to C. in C. Med., (R) PENTSTEMON, VETCH.)
- K.M.F.10B. K.M.F.10B arrived. (Cdre. Algiers, 1918A/9 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., Connav, F.O.C. Gib.)
- Movements, Oran. Following ships departed VENOMOUS, FELIXSTOWE, JAUNTY, AVONVALE. Received ships as follows: RHYL, BUDE, BACHAQUERO, MISOA, BRIXHAM, ALGOMA, LIDDESDALE, ROTHESAY. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1931A/9 to Admty., etc.)

/SAFARI ...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

SAFARI. P.211 (SAFARI) pass 010° east by reverse route 0600/10th speed of advance 180 miles day. (3 corrupt groups).
(SAFARI, 1945A/9 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) P.212 (SAHIB), P.217 (SIBYL).)
Reply: Capt. (S) 8, 0324/10.

Ore Ship for Valencia. Request your views on feasibility of sending one medium sized merchant ship per month to load ore at Valencia.
(D.T.D., 1946A/9 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O. Gibraltar.)
Reply: 1946/13.

French Naval Air Personnel. Following is Movement Programme for French Naval Air Personnel proceeding to U.K. for training in accordance with arrangements made between Admiralty, Air Ministry, and Admiral Amanrich when in London. (Details).
(C. in C. Med., 1957A/9, 1411A/10 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.561, 9th March C.S.R.
Part 1 Offensive.
Night 8th/9th March. No shipping target was found.
Day 9th March. 8 Beauforts and 10 Beaufighters were despatched to attack 1 tanker 6000 tons, 1 M/V 4000? tons escorted by 1 D/R sighted by Baltimore 1044 hours 38° 54' N. 17° 28' E. course 200° but all aircraft had to be recalled owing to sudden deterioration in weather over Bone and 10/10ths low cloud descending to ground level. 4 Spitfire bombers on offensive operations over S.E. Sicily destroyed 2 shipping sheds south of Avola, scored direct hits on railway bridge and railway line south of Sciacca, and strafed and damaged goods trucks, signal boxes and block houses.
Part 2. Enemy air activity - nil.
Part 5. Operations by aircraft of other Commands.
Night 8th/9th March. 4 Wellingtons of 70 Sqdn. from Libya landed at Malta owing to petrol shortage and engine trouble. 3 had bombed Palermo harbour but observed no results owing to cloud. 1 had bombed Licata and gun positions at Gela, results being unobserved.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2008B/9.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrivals BICESTER, ZETLAND, LIGHTNING, LOYAL, OAKLEY, PENELOPE, LAMERTON, WILTON, CHURCHILL, COLLINGWOOD, BRANDON, AMHERST, RESTIGOUCHE, CELANDINE, French Escort Chasseur 3, LA SERVANNAISE. Departures AURORA, L.C.T.160. (Cdre. Algiers, 2011A/9 to Admty., etc.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,
Bone. Bone arrival H.M.S. AURORA. Departure H.M.S. PENELOPE, departure L.C.I.175 and 177. (F.O.I.S., 2012A/9 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

RORQUAL. C. in C. Levant's 0950/9th (N.T. in W.D.) Amend to read: para. H, 035° 50' N. 032° 50' E. para. J, 036° 00' N. 034° 00' E., para. 6, day of sailing Wednesday 10th March at dawn. (Capt. (S) 1, 2036B/9 to RORQUAL, (R) N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports.)

Movements
Tripoli (L). March 9th departures PETARD, M.L.168, L.C.T.139, 154. Arrivals JERVIS, NUBIAN, ISIS, PETARD, BELVOIR, ROCKWOOD, JAVELIN, PINDOS. (N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya), 2125A/9 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

AVONVALE,
VENOMOUS,
FELIXSTOWE. Sailed AVONVALE towed by JAUNTY escorted by VENOMOUS and FELIXSTOWE through positions 109, 86, 78, 16 to Gibraltar, S. of A. 6 knots. Codeword "Rathnure". (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2200A/9 to F.O.C.N.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers.)

Movements,
Cyrenaica. Arrived high speed launch 2516. Sailed DELPHINIUM, SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN MAID, AMBER, BARFORD, TREEERN, EL HANNEN. (S.N.O. Cyrenaica, 2233B/9 to Admty.)

Movements,
Oran. Following is a re-encypherment of my 2014A/8. Following ships arrived: WISHART, AVONVALE, H.M.T. JAUNTY, KING SOL, ISONDA, REIGHTON WYKE. Departures a.m. AMARAPOORA. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2301/9 to Admty., etc.)

MOST SECRET

Red
344A
9/3

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: 07582/9 March.)

~~MOST SECRET~~ "O.T.P." are excepted from the rule.)

I N

From: Algiers

Date: 10.3.43.

Recd. 1217Z

CYPHER

Addressed: USFOR

H.M. Ambassador, Madrid (pass to U.S. Ambassador)	}	* Passed by
Britmilat Ankara (for Marshal Chakmak)		
Resident Minister, Achimota)	* Passed by Colonial Office.
Minister of State Cairo	}	* Passed by Air Ministry Special Signals Office
Britman Washington (for Dill)		
Arminia (for Wavell)		
P.A.I.C. Force Nairobi (for Platt)		
Landforces Melbourne (for Blamey)	}	* Passed by War Office
Defender Wellington (for Puttick)		
Dechief Pretoria (for Smuts)		

U.S. 210.
INCOMING MESSAGE
BFOUSA.

Tunisia, Situation Report.

ROUTINE

Reference No. 5364 (LINREP NO. 27)
Summary of operations 4th to 7th March, 1943.

1. Eighth Army. Patrol activity continued on 4 and 5 March with our carrier screen 6 miles East of Mareth. Considerable movement of enemy transport and tanks South of Gabes was reported by our aircraft during this period. On 6th March the enemy launched several strong armoured attacks on our positions West and Northwest from Medinine. These attacks were supported by artillery and air bombardment, but failed to penetrate our positions. 50 enemy tanks remain in our hands of which 33 were destroyed; our casualties were negligible. The enemy is now withdrawing towards Toujane.

2/.....

2. First Army. In the South our patrols have been in contact with the enemy in the vicinity of Gafsa, where about 100 Italian prisoners were captured and also in the Pichon area. In the centre our patrols advanced to Ousseltia without contact. In the North, the enemy attacks begun 26th Feb. continued in the Beja and Sedjenane areas. Bitter fighting took place at Sedjenane and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy before our withdrawal from the village. Our forces have regained the initiative south of Medjez El Bab and northeast of Beja, but the enemy continues on the offensive in the North.

3. Naval. Minelaying was carried out off Bizerta and in the Sicilian Channel. A submarine during patrol in the Gulf of Genoa sank 2 ships with torpedoes and 2 by gunfire. Personnel convoy from U.K. arrived safely Algiers and Oran without loss.

4. Air. Successful attacks were made on enemy shipping between Sicily and Tunisia. On 6th March, 2 ships were sunk and 5 were damaged. Weather was generally unfavourable for bombing, but a heavy attack was made on Scousse where an additional ship was hit. Our fighters and fighter bombers made many raids on motor transport behind the enemy lines in both Northern and Southern Tunisia. During the course of anti-submarine patrols, 1 enemy U-boat was sunk.

5. General Giraud has issued a decree that Vichy laws have no force in North Africa. This is expected to result in the abrogation of laws discriminating against Jews and the agency has been abolished that was formerly charged with their enforcement.

07582/9

* A paraphrased version of this message was passed to all addresses as indicated.

Received in War Registry at 1245/11.

1st Lord	D.C.(2)
1st S.L.(2)	Hd. of M.
4th S.L.	D.N.I.(4)
5th S.L.	I.P.(2)
D.C.N.A.E.	D.P.D.
V.C.N.S.	C.N.I.
A.C.N.S.(A)	W.D.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	Ad. Blake
A.C.N.S.(W)	D.D.O.D.(M)
U.W.R.	D.A.W.T.
D.O.D.(F)(2)	D.A./S.W.
D.O.D.(H)(2)	C.C.L.S.
D.D.I.C.(2)	Ad. Mack (4)
D. of P.(2)	Ad. Osborne

CIRCULATION -

Brig. 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.

War Diary.

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements. Departure SITAKHOOND for Calcutta.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 0102Z/9 to Admty.)
Arrivals 0420Z PUNJAB, RATNAGIRI with P.B. 29,
0520Z DAUNTLESS.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0938Z/9 to Admty.etc.)
Departed FROBISHER, CARADOC arrived.
(F.O.E.Af. 1246Z/9 to Admty.)
Colombo arrival 9th 0245Z LISMORE, 0500Z RAJPUTANA, depart-
ure. 0330Z DEVONSHIRE 1030Z LISMORE.
(F.C. Ceylon 1305Z/9 to Admty.)

Q.C.A. 166. Persian Gulf. (details)
(S.O.I. Colombo 0418Z/9 to Q.C.A. 166)

P.B. 30. P.B. 30 20 C. and 18 A.
(A) 0430Z/9th. (E) 023° 22' N. 062° E.
(F) 9 knots.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz 0515Z/9 0520Z/9 to Admty.)

Convoy Bombay portion arrived.
P.B. 29. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0554Z/9 to Admty.)

B.P. 71. Karachi portion B.P. 71 sailed 0530Z/9th to R/V.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi 0614Z/9 to Admty.)

CARNATIC. Sailed CARNATIC to Seychelles to fuel and thence
direct Bombay. Your 1002/6th and 1414/6th and F.
O.C. R.I.N. refers. E.T.A. Seychelles 1000Z/11th
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 0826Z/9 to C. in C. E.F.
(R) Admty., F.O.C. R.I.N., F.O.I.C. E.A. F.O.
Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Seychelles.)

Landing C.O.S. India No. 112 of 1st Jan. para 3. Request
Craft details of personnel and equipment required for
Base typical permanent base maintenance unit for 250
Unit. landing craft of various types assuming no exist-
ing repair facilities. Present intention is to
establish 1 base maintenance unit at Bombay and 1
at Mandajam.
(D.C.O.I. 1002Z/9 to Admty., for C.C.O., (R) F.O.
C. R.I.N.)

Convoy Colombo portion arrived.
B.Y. 44. (N.C.S.O. Colombo 1049Z/9 to Admty.)

Polish Position re Polish refugees most unsatisfactory.
Refugees ARONDA has sailed from Karachi with refugees for
unacceptable Mombasa, and E. Africa will not accept under any
in E. Africa. circumstances owing to food-stuff situation.
Request instructions be issued that before ships

War Diary.

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Polish
Refugees
unacceptable
in E. Africa.

embark for E. Africa or the Rhodesias full approval is obtained from Governor (? concerned at) Nairobi. Agreed Consgov Nairobi.
(D.S.T.O. Kilindini, 1301Z/9 D. of S.T. (R) S.S. T.O., Capetown.) etc.

Air Report,
India.

6 Hurricanes damaged river craft in Kaladan River. 1 Hudson bombed and machine gunned Sampans S. of Ramree Island. 2 X 250 lbs. N I T I from 1,200 ft. C.U. 1 Sampan sunk - others damaged.
(c) P.R.U. results. 7 March 2 U.S.A.A.F. sorties. No shipping Rangoon Docks. 1 M/V 375 ft. Rangoon River. Moulmein Da Homs M/V 200 ft.
(A.H.Q. India 1400Z/9 to Air Min.)

German
Shipping.

Following has been intercepted (Begins) F.O.C.R.I. N., S.O.I.'s Kilindini, Colombo from S.O.I. Bombay. Vice Consul Mormuga report EHRENFELS, BRAUNFELS and BRACHENFELS on fire. T.O.O. 2242Z/8th (ends)
(C. in C. E.F. 1423Z/9 to Admty.)

347

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

O.N.168,
EMPIRE
LIGHT
torpedoed
7th March. Your 1930Z/8th* TENACITY escorted by CLEMATIS expected to R/V with EMPIRE LIGHT at 0400Z/11th. Remain with EMPIRE LIGHT till prudent limit of endurance.
(F.O.N.F. 0019Z/9 to PENNYWORT (R) C. in C.U.S. Fleet, C.T. 24 Admty. C. in C.W.A. C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. C.T.G. 24.7 BEVERLEY, SHERBROOKE, CLEMATIS.)

Proceeding in field of ice 18 inches thick. If situation does not improve request approval to proceed eastward and attempt to reach EMPIRE LIGHT by circling ice field. My P.C. and S. 050° 03' N. 049° 53' W. 034° 2 knots. Weather report.
(CLEMATIS 1120Z/9. to F.O.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C. PENNYWORT.)
(Corrupt group). Estimated position EMPIRE LIGHT at 1500Z 054° 23' N. 045° 22' W. Drift one knot. Am proceeding St. Johns N.F. my course and speed 210° 7 knots. Unable to take (missing group) remainder crew due to weather. No sign of ship's boats. Weather report.
(PENNYWORT 1630Z/9 to C.C.N.F. Connav.)

S.C.121. My Radar not operating. Cruising your vicinity until daylight then will close you.
(INGHAM 0040Z/9 to S.O.E.U. 24.1.3.)

S.C.121 0756Z/8th MIGUEL DA LARRINAGA straggler 72 miles astern 058° 08' 033° 53' reported torpedo passing starboard bow. 1730Z/7th CLUNEPARK straggler 24 miles astern 057° 34' 035° 22' reported engaged enemy who submerged during south west gale and high seas. No further information.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 0340Z/9 to A.I.G. 303, A.C.I.C. C.T.F. 24.6.)

1710Z/8. U.S. Destroyer GREER proceeded best speed practicable to assistance of sinking ship and survivors reported by plane 1705Z/8 to bear 270° 22 miles from S.C. 121 or in 058° 35' 030° 18'. U.S. Destroyer GREER searched until dark without success. Previously 1632Z/8 received S.O.S. (or straggling Number 22? the) VOJVODA PUTNIK 55 miles astern abandoning ship 058° 42' 031° 25' at which time unable to spare any of 5 escorts for extended period due to (?critical) U-Boat situation. Believe foregoing reports are same ships.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 0345Z/9 to C. in C.W.A. A.C.I.C. C.T.G. 24.6. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.)

Considerable W/T activity on Series eight, including transmissions at 0811Z, 0850Z and 0908Z indicate a number of U-Boats in vicinity of convoy and probably reporting it.

(D.D.I.C. 1050A/9 to Escorts of S.C.121, CAMPION, U.S.S. BABBITT, (R) C. in C.W.A. Cominch, N.S.H.Q. A.C.I.C. H.Q.C.C.)

S.C.121 BIBB, INGHAM U.S. Destroyer BABBITT joined 1400Z/9th P.C. and S. 058° 37' N. 024° 20' W. 090° 7.5. At 2035Z/9th 154° at 0435Z/9th 102° 40 ships considerably scattered. 7 escorts 1 rejoining. 4 sighted and attempted attack last night. 3 attempted attacks today including sighted. Majority close aboard convoy. Work by escorts superb.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 1730Z/9 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24. Admty. etc.)

/Tankers...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- Tankers, Your 1814/21/2. Navy Dept. strongly favours the
disguise. proposal to disguise tankers. Experiments are
now being made and general adoption of this
principal is anticipated.
(B.A.D. 0055Z/9 to Admty.)
- Lights. Following observed at 0030Z/9th in 44.35 N. 66.19
W. bearing 175° 15 miles. 3 white lights
resembling parachute flares or star shells of
golden glow, single display at intervals of
about 4 minutes. Duration, first 40 seconds, 2nd 2 minutes and
consistent 1½ minutes. Came into view at top height and viewed
to float slowly down to horizon. Position probably near Long
Island.
(MILLTOWN 0110Z/9 to C.O.A.C. (R) (?N.O.I.C. St. John N.B.)
Amended 0845Z/9.
- L.C.I. 169. This has been broadcast as B.A.M.S. to Area 2
B for L.C.I. 169. Alter course immediately
for new (C) 34.01 N. 35.59 W. Rejoin route at (N).
(Cominch C. and R. 0331/9 to C. in C. Lant.
Admty. etc.)
- U.S. S/M (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 0415/9, 1518/9, 1519/9,
notice. 1605/9, 1606/9, 1607/9.)
S/M Estimate
9th March.
- U/B S/M reported attacked in 45° 15' N. 59° 38' W.
attacked. (C.O.A.C., 0545Z/9 to G.B. 7A. C.T.F. 24 (R)
Connav, Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.
C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.)
My 0545/9th attack carried out on probable sound contact at
1915Z/8th.
(C.O.A.C. 1223Z/9 to G.B. 7A.)
- Dispositions. Following is Cominch 2101/8th. Dispositions of
Atlantic Units not in Training or repairs status.
BOGUE With H.X. 228. BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
Escorting U.G.F. 6.
ALABAMA, AUGUSTA At Casco Bay. TUSCALOOSA Due Casco 10th March.
RANGER, SOUTH DAKOTA Due Casco Bay 11th March. SANTEE,
CINCINNATI, MARBLEHEAD, SAVANNAH, MEMPHIS, MILWAUKEE
Patrolling south of Equator.
OMAHA Due Trinidad 9th March. TEXAS Ready Norfolk 12th March.
(Comnav 0718/9 to Admty.)

/Movements.

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Movements. Departure March 9th U.S.A. A.T. EL LIBERTADOR due Trinidad 11th.
(B.N.S.O. Curacao 0905QR/9 to Admty.)
Arrived ATTACKER.
(N.C.S.O. Curacao 1015QR/9 to Admty.)

Trinidad departures 9th. MILFORD, Tugs FRISKY and ZWARTE ZEE.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1832Q/9 to S.B.N.O.W.At.)
Departure SASKATOON, QUESNEL, KENORA for New York via Cape Cod estimated stay three days.
(N.O.I.C. 2156Z/9 to Admty.)
San Diego arrived 2000/7 B.Y.M.S. 9, 19, 22, 26 and 27.
(N.S.H.Q. 2115Z/9 to Admty.)
A.T. F.C. JOHNSON (U.S. arrived Balboa March 7th.
(N.S.H.Q. 2214Z/9 to Admty.)

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed
Summary	8 L.C.I.(L)s.	26½° N. 48½° W.	109°	5½
1800 G.M.T.		(position doubtful)		
9th March.	40th E.G.	49½° N. 43° W.	224°	10½ kt
	(D.O.D.(F) 1033Z/9 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)			

Convoy sailings. N.S.H.Q.'s 1619/7. Concur.
2. Sailing dates detailed in C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1946/6 are confirmed except that it is now desired to make O.N. 175 a none-knot convoy and sail it on 24th March.
(D.T.D. 1148A/9 to N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. (R)
C.O.A.C. B.A.D.)

S.C.122 Ocean escort (T.U. 24.1.19.) S.C.122 T.U. 24.1.19 HAVELOCK, H/F D/F (S.O.) SWALE, SAXIFRAGE, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL, BUTTERCUP, LAVENDER, VOLUNTEER designated Ocean escort for S.C.122. VOLUNTEER requires docking and may sail up to 24 hours late to overtake.
(F.O.N.F. 1254Z/9 to Cominch C. and R. (R)
C.T.24. C.T.G. 24.7 C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.6.
N.S.H.Q. Cmdre. Londonderry, C. in C.W.A.
C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.7 Admty.)

ARCOLA TAIGETE. S.B.N.O.W.A. 1029Q/7. Request minimum of 3 days notice of sailing date.
(B.R.O. Aruba 1431ZR/9 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W.At. B.A.D. S.N.O. Curacao.)
Your 1133/8th. Await instructions from Admty.
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 1833Q/9 to B.N.S.O. Curacao (R) Admty. B.A.D. B.R.L.O. Aruba.)

O.N.S.168 THOMAS HOOKER. THOMAS HOOKER (U.S.) abandoned at 2025Z/5 in 53° 20' N. 47° 00' W. Complete crew 62 landed here. Master states all C.Bs. dumped overboard in steel perforated chest.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1428Z/9 to Admty. Cominch, (R) N.S.H.Q.)

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Washington
Conference
A/S air-
craft
Gibraltar,
Casablanca.

Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.
My 2005/8 and your 1329/9. Reason for change from
N.C.X.F. to C. in C.Allied Force in North Africa
was an objection by General Marshall. Admiral
Edwards tells me that this question has arisen
before between the American Navy and Army and
the latter always insist on naming the Commander
in Chief when dealing with Army aircraft.

2. Edwards and I are in complete agreement that the Flag Officer
selected will be under Cunningham.

(B.A.D. 1443Z/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

RHEXENOR
torpedoed
3rd Feb.

Master of RHEXENOR torpedoed 3rd Feb. reports
that missing boats had no navigating instruments
and that if north westerly set was not corrected
course made good would be about 268°. At
1500Z/4th Feb. their position was 024° 26' N.
044° 20' W. speed 3.3 knots.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 1516R/9 to Admty. Opanav.
S.B.N.O. W.At. S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)

Dispositions. Change my 2052/2. Serial 64. PACIFIC,
MISSISSIPPI, VICTORIOUS at Pearl Harbour.
LONG ISLAND in South Pacific. SANTE FE, SALT
LAKE CITY at Sea. Atlantic. BIRMINGHAM at Norfolk. Also see
my 2101/8.

(Cominch 1530/9 to Admty. (R) Comnav.)

Cinclant's 2037/08 informs as follows:

Atlantic Fleet Location Sheet No. 41

SOUTH DAKOTA and 3 Destroyers arrive Casco Bay 12 March.

AUGUSTA, ALBAMA and 5 Destroyers at Casco Bay 9 March.

TUSCALOOSA and 1 Destroyer arrive 11 March at Casco Bay.

RANGER and 3 Destroyers Narrangansett Bay commencing 10 March.

(Comnav 1539/9 to Admty.)

B.T.6.
U/B attack.
A.F.D. 24
delayed.

N.O.B. Trinidad 1315/9th re-encyphered to you
for information by C. in C.U.S.Fleet. "BORIE
1145/9th tugs ZWARTE ZEE, FRISKY and ORIANA
towing A.F.D. 24 now in port can be diverted.
Will delay departure dock about 7 days. Do
you approve their use for that purpose. Planes

will report on condition of damaged ships for approval.

(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1543/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Atlantic
Fleet (U.S.) S.B.N.O. W.At. Comsolant, F.O.C.W.Af.)

W.D.Note: Following 7 ships in B.T.6 were torpedoed
about noon on 6th March - JAMES SMITH, JAMES K.POLK,
JOSEPH RODMAN DRAKE, TABITHA BROWN. THOMAS RUFFIN, MARK
HANNA, GEORGE G.MEADE - all U.S. about 7,100 tons each.
(D.O.R. 1300)

N.O.B. Trinidad 1315/9th approved including use of
British escorts of A.F.D. 24 as available and required. B.A.D
Washington concurs.

(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1542/9 to C.Caribbean S.F. C. in C.
Atlantic Fleet, S.B.N.O. W.At. Comsolant, F.O.C.W.Af.
N.O.B. Trinidad.)

/1...

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.B.T.6.
U/B attack.
A.F.D.24
delayed.
(Contd.)

1. As a result of U-Boat attack on B.T.6 in 7° 11' N. 52° 30' W. 5 ships are damaged but seaworthy and urgently require tugs.
2. I have agreed to towing train and if necessary escorts of A.F.D. 24 now at Trinidad being used for this purpose. This will delay departure of dock from Trinidad about 7 days. (B.A.D. 1547Z/9 to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af.)

Re J.I.V.
accommodation
Palisadoes
R.N. Air
Station.

Ref. my air mail letter to W.O. 1708/Q 21st November regarding construction temporary camp for J.I.V. am informed R.N. air station Palisadoes has at present unused accommodation in hutted camp 400 all ranks. If this situation it to continue or R.N. Air Station Personnel to be reduced to A.R.P. party this would provide possible alternative accommodation for J.I.V. in addition and would save cost proposed camp approximately £70,000 essential Admiralty agreement if obtainable should be on semi permanent basis as immediate provision alternative accommodation for J.I.V. in the event that Admiralty subsequently required whole station would be difficult. For tactical and training reasons originally proposed camp is preferred. Quick decision essential as work on new camp about to begin. (Commr. N.Caribbean Area 155OR/9 to W.O.)

Dispositions. Section South West.

H.X. 229 T.U. 24.18.9 040° 08' 068° 40' 089°
9.5 altering to 070° in 066° 01' W. S.C. 122
W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.7 043° 08' 060° 33' 060° 7
altering to 062° in 060° 16' West Halifax portion S.C. 122 W.L.
E.T.U. 24.18.1 043° 08' 061° 32' en route Halifax 7 F.H. 41
MILLTOWN, KENTVILLE 043° 04' 065° 24' 083° 7.5 altering to
052° in 065° 20' W.
Special Cape Cod Convoy SASKATOON, KENORA, QUESNEL depart
Sambre Light Vessel 2000Z/9th 233° 8 altering to 267° in 065°
38' W. WEST MOUNT screening CYRUS FIELD cable repairs vicinity
044° 51' 060° 07' CAMPOBELLO 044° 32' 059° 40' 089° 10
altering to 064° in 057° 00' W. COBALT vicinity 044° 00' 061°
23' to join O.N. 168 in 043° 32' 056° 48' united south of
Sable Island 13 U.S.S. BARMEGAT 042° 27' 068° 21' 081° 15
altering to 043° in 060° 15' W. THORSTRAND 043° 00' 065° 54'
13.5 en route St. John N.B. LIVERPOOL RIVER vicinity 044° 57'
061° 17' on route Halifax 8.
(C.O.A.C. 1640Z/9 to Admty.)

TAMESIS
and
ALCOA
GUARD.
collision
7th March.

My 1917/8. TAMESIS bound independently Lobite to New York was in collision with ALCOA GUARD American, proceeding in convoy U.G.S.6. TAMESIS was steering 309° true from new position Q (established by B.A.M.S. diversion signal broadcast from Freetown and Rugby) to rejoin her route at position G. Approx. position of collision 35° 07' N. 62° 45' W. Time 0435 G.M.T. 7th

/Entire...

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.TAMESIS
and
ALCOA
GUARD
collision
7th March.
(Contd.)

Entire crew and all passengers picked up by vessel in U.G.S. 6 RICHARD H. ALVEY American at 0730 G.M.T. and landed Bermuda. Confirmed all books went down in ship. W/T operator reports he attempted to pass ships position by H/F to W.S.L. on night of Feb. 4th. 8280 and 12420 k/cs but was unable to make contact. Again tried night of Feb. 5th and although again unable make contact broadcast message on 12420 k/cs. H/F transmitter tested Lagos Feb. 3rd. (B.R.L.O. Bermuda 1649Q/9 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q.)
See also 1437Q/10.

U/B.

S/M sighted by coast watcher in approx. 47° 08' N. 55° 49' W. heading in northerly direction at 1530Z/9th.
(C.O.A.C. 1826Z/9 to G.B.7A)
Classified B.4 (1330Z/10.)

Washington
Conference,
Escorts
for North
Atlantic
Convoys.

Personal for C.N.S. Ottawa and 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S. Brodeur tells me that he thinks you might be able to move some minesweepers from West Coast Canada round to Saint Lawrence and thus release about six corvettes at present earmarked for escort work in St. Lawrence.
2. As you know we are finding great difficulty in this conference in arranging for sufficient escorts for the North Atlantic Convoys and it would be of great assistance if you could make these extra ships available.

3. I have given Brodeur a copy of this signal.

(B.A.D. 1841Z/9 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty.)

Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.

Present arrangements are that I am meeting Edwards tomorrow Wednesday forenoon to tidy up the Conference conclusion other than Convoy escorts.

2. General Conference is due to meet in afternoon but I have told Edwards that I cannot deal with convoy escort problem until I get further instructions from you.

3. I am sending you in my 1947/9* the breakdown of how Americans propose to use their escorts in Atlantic subject to certain proposals being agreed to by the Conference.

(B.A.D., 1941Z/9 to Admty.)

* See Lion and Tiger copies.

Proposed allocation of escorts in N. Atlantic by U.S.

(B.A.D., 1947Z/9.) See Lion Copy.

RADHURST
(overdue.)

My 1431/6. (RADHURST from O.N.S. 165 not arrived New York) Commodore's report shows RADHURST parted company in gale at 1600/19 February in 19° 40' N. 44° 05' W.
(N.S.H.Q. 1925Z/9 to Admty. Connav, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

/U.G.S....

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1947Z/9th March IN

From B.A.D. Washington, Date 9.3.43.
Reed, 2355.

NAVAL CYPHER 'XF' PLUG BY CABLE CORRECTION

Addressed Admiralty.
650.

North Atlantic Escort Groups.

From V.C.N.S. My 1941Z/9. Following is how the Americans would allocate their escorts in North Atlantic subject to certain proposals being agreed by the Conference.

2. Convoys.

<u>Convoys</u>	<u>Groups</u>	<u>Escorts</u>	<u>Spares</u>	<u>Total Escorts</u>
HX/SC/ON (Screen for A.C.V's)	2	4	0	4
NF/Sydney/Greenland (Including 4 from A 3 and Iceland)	2	8	0	8
UC/CU (4 destroyers 2 cutters from Iceland for UC.2. 6 destroyers only for later convoys)	1	6	0	6
UGF/GUF (Torch Fast)	2	18	0	18
UGS/GUS (Torch Slow)	4	24	0	24
OT/TO (Torch Oil)	2	8	0	8
NK/KN (New York - Key West)	4	16	4	20
NG/GN (New York - Guantanamo)	7	28	5	33
HK/KH (Key West - Galveston)	4	16	4	20
KG/GK (Key West - Guantanamo)	2	8	2	10
GZ/ZG (Guantanamo - Panama)	2	8	2	10
GAT/TAG (Guantanamo - Aruba - Trinidad)	5	20	5	25
TB/BT (Trinidad - Bahia)	5	20	5	25
Totals	42	184	27	211
Destroyers for fleet use including RANGER				<u>15</u>
Total				<u><u>226</u></u>

This compares with a total at mid January of 198.

(B.A.D. 1947Z/9. to Admiralty)

~~Advance copy sent 1st S.L.~~

1st Lord	A.C.N.S.(A)	Secretary	D.N.I.(4)	D.A/S.W.
1st S.L.(2)	A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	D.O.D.(H)(2)	D.D.I.C.(2)	D.T.D.(3)
D.F.S.L.	A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)	D.O.D.(F)(2)	Duty Capt.(2)	D.T.D.(M)
V.C.N.S.	A.C.N.S.(W)	D. of P.(2)	Head of M.(2)	I.P.(2)
A.C.N.S.(H)	Naval Secretary	D. of P.(Q)	Adm. Blake (4)	W.D.

M.L.

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- U.G.S.6A. My 2141/23rd Feb. (N.T. in W.R.) and your 1438/(?6th) (N.T. in W.R.) Provide escort for convoy U.G.S.6A expected ready to sail New York 19th. Route via Bermuda if desired. Convoy will consist approx. of following. For West Africa Ports 5 A.Ks. and French Naval Tanker ELORN. For Mediterranean Ports 12 A.Ks. 1 A.O. 12 U.States L.S.Ts. not more than 8 British L.S.Ts. 20 U.States L.C.I.(L)s. Additional U.States L.S.Ts. and U.States L.C.I(L)s may be included if ready by above dates. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1927/9 to C. in C.Atlantic Fleet (R) Admty. Cmd. U.S. Naval Force in Europe, B.A.D. C.E.S.F. N.O.B. Bermuda, N.O.B. Oran, C. in C.Med. Port Director New York, V.A.Gibraltar, Cmd. Morocco S.F. C. in C.A.F.)
- A/S Trawlers. Your 1616/16/2. A/S Trawlers AYRSHIRE, CAPE ARGONA, CAPE MARIATO, LORD MIDDLETON, APYNTER and St. KENAN are expected to sail on 15th March with O.N.S. 174. (D.A.S.W. 2006A/9 to C.N.S. Canada (R) C.O.A.C. C. in C.W.A. F.O.I.C. N.I.)
- A.C.V.14. A.C.V. 14 expects to be ready to leave San Francisco for Norfolk (Virginia) on 2nd April. (B.A.M.R. 2030Z/9 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.A. A.C.V.14.)
- Shipping Casualties. Serial 9. Serials 4 and 5 GULFWAVE torpedoed 1st 22° 30' S. 174° 45' E. TAMESIS collision 7th 35° 09' N. 62° 50' W. No further details. Correction serials 7 and 8. H.H. ROGER not confirmed sunk - request information. (Connav 2125/9 to Comnav.)
- O.N. 168. My 1315Z/9th (N.T. in W.D.) Regret fuelling operation unsuccessful due to fuel line parting, intend leaving at 0200Z/10th. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 2100Z/10th. Commodore reports 40 ships present and requests broadcast of stragglers route. Following unaccounted for WILLIAM BREWSTER, EL ALMIRANTE, MELIN, PRINCESS MARIA, PIA HOPE, CROWN, MOUNT KYLLENE. Weather report. (W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.2 2131Z/9 to C.T. 24 F.O.N.F.)
- Sub attack and sighting summary. A. Kelvinbank. JAMES SMITH, JAMES K.POLK torpedoed sunk area 07.11 N. 52.30 W. about 1100Z/09. JOSEPH R.DRAKE, TABITHA BROWN, THOMAS RUFFIN, MARK HANNA, GEORGE MEADE torpedoed area 07.11 N.

War Diary.9.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Sub attack 52.30 W. about 1100Z/09. KATY torpedoed 61.34
and sighting N. 27.43 W. 0645Z/09. Liberator sights sub
summary. 58.32 N. 30.47 W. 1615Z/08. Plane attacks sub
12.38 N. 54.49 W. 1802Z/08. Plane sights sub
05.36 N. 51.08 W. 1320Z/08. USCG SPENCER makes
two attacks sub area 58.43 N. 30.40 W. 1940Z/08
58.46 N. 30 34 W. 2048Z/08. British plane attacks sub 58.18 N.
29.04 W. 1555Z/08. British plane sights sub 58.42 N. 28.48 W.
1908Z/08.
C. HUGH GALLAGHER sights sub 10.45 N. 53.45 W. 0030Z/04, Plane
sights sub 11.30 N. 61.50 W. 1745Z/08. Plane sights sub 19.30
S. 39.00 W. 1230Z/08. Action to Admiralty for O.I.C. from
Cominch.
D. Blimp makes sound contact 34.50 N. 75.34 W. 1900Z/09.
USCG NORTHLAND attacks sound contact 45.19 N. 59.38 W.
1915Z/08. Fisherman sights two subs 18.10 S. 39.29 W. about
1100Z/08.
(Cominch 2150/9 to Admty.)

A.T.38. 1. A.T. 38. 2. 1630Z/10 at point Z seaward
QUEEN end of swept channel.
ELIZABETH. 3. 2330Z/10 at point P 38° 30' N. 70° 05' W.
S.O.A. 26½. (Route.)
15. Fighter protection codeword Sparrow used
with associated three letter call sign B.N.U.
(Port Director New York 2330Z/9 to Cominch C. & R.)

Washington Your 2251/6th. Concur in text of proposed
Conference. agreement except as follows:-
Para. C. 1 see my 0015/7th.
Para. 7 b We have not up to now submitted the
routes of independents for concurrence prior to issue and the
system has worked very well. The proposal in this paragraph
will only add to the amount of signalling and unless there are
strong reasons for its inclusion it is suggested that the first
sentence should end with the words "country of departure."
2. It is presumed that this new agreement will supersede that
contained in "BUSRA."
(1st S.L. 2340A/9 to B.A.D.)

GEORGETOWN. (?GEORGETOWN) departs Boston March 9 at 1100Q
en route to Charleston South Carolina via Cape
Cod Canal and Buzzards Bay and Narragansett
swept channels thence direct to F.L.W. (2AC)
buoy of Charleston swept channel thence by way of swept channel
to destination. Speed 18 knots.
(Radio Washington 2351/9 to Admty.)

355

9.3.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Auckland U.S.S. PINKNEY for Noumea
E.T.A. 0700Z/11. Route direct. Speed of advance
18.1.
(D.N.I. Wellington 0151Z/9 to Admty.)

Arrivals 8th Thursday Island INVERELL, CAIRNS, GLENELG Fremantle
U.S.S. CHILDS.

Departures Brisbane 8th U.S. SELFRIDGE for Sydney (N.S.W.)
(A.C.N.B. 0941Z/9 to Admty.)

Arrivals 8th Brisbane U.S. transport WILLARD A. HOLBROOK,
hired transport KATOOMBA U.S. transport JAMES O'HARA Thursday
Is. R.A.A.F. storeship WANAKA. Hospital ship MANUNDA departed
Brisbane 8th due Port Moresby 12th. U.S. transport BRIDGE
departed Townsville 8th due Cairns 9th. Dutch Naval Store ship
SOEDOE arrived Gladstone 8th.
(A.C.N.B. 0942Z/9 to Admty.)

Arrivals Wellington HT NIEUW AMSTERDAM U.S. Destroyer
GRAYSON.
(N.Z.N.B. 1907Z/9 to Admty.)

Arrival Wellington T.U. 62.4.1. My 0500Z/6 refers.
(D.N.I. Wellington 2100Z/9 to Admty.)

Arrival Suva MONOWAI and S.S. OAHIME escorted by U.S.S.
SHELDRAKE.
(D.N.I. Wellington 2124Z/9 to Admty.)

Digest Photos Wewak noon show two small Vessels one
Serial patrol craft 25 barges in harbour and 4 service-
No. 411 able fighters on aerodrome.
March 8th. 4. Nine Enemy Bombers escorted by 13 Fighters
attacked Allied Shipping off Porlock Harbour
early afternoon sinking Merchant Vessel S'JACOB.
OROBAY also bombed but no damage or casualties.
Allied Fighters shot down 1 Bomber 1 Fighter.

5. Small parties of survivors from recent Huon Gulf Convoy
reported drifting ashore in small craft along N.E. Papua coast
and on Goodenough Island. Majority killed or captured by our
Patrols.

6. One Liberator attacked Kaukenau area. Another unsuccessfully
attacked 1 or 2 medium Merchant Vessels at Babo during morning
while 3rd Liberator bombed Saumlaki during evening with
unobserved results.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 0651Z/9.)

TRINITY. Following has been received from C.T.F.51 begins:-
U.S.S. TRINITY has been directed to proceed
Bombay for docking via following route. E.T.A.
Bombay March 21 S.O.A. 9.5 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Fremantle 0831Z/9 to A.C.N.B.
F.O.C.R.I.N. C. in C.E.F. Dir. Gen. of Shipping
and Repairs.)

/GEORGE...

War Diary.

9.3.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

GEORGE M.
EMBIRICOS.

My 1804Z/4th. Attempts to refloat vessel to date have failed. Vessel now settled on bottom with only superstructure above water. Salvage work proceeding. Cargo of 9,000 tons of Ironstone will have to be discharged. Anticipated that it will take several weeks to refloat vessel. (A.C.N.B. 0911Z/9 to Admty.)

LEANDER.

Departure Auckland LEANDER, for Espiritu Santo E.T.A. 0500Z/13. S. 22° 12' S. 174° 08' E. T. 17° 27' S. 171° 31' E. U. Selwyn Straits. S.O.A. 19 knots. (D.N.I. Wellington 2311Z/9 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1340A/9, 1404A/9.)

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly
Summary.

My 1059/22nd July.
1. On the 4th an aircraft attacked a U-Boat in 37.10 N. 00.05 W. and saw about 25 bodies after the attack.
2. On the 4th in the Outer Straits of Gibraltar there were 9 sightings and 4 attacks by Hudson aircraft; one saw patches of oil 150 x 50 ft. and 1,000 ft x 40 ft. (D.A.S.W. 1620A/9 to Cominch etc.)

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Weather
damage.

BOADICEA, proceeding to join the 8th D/F, reports extensive damage from ice which has reduced her safe speed to 15 knots. BELFAST (C.S.10) has weather damage and her 6 inch turrets are out of action owing to reduction to 2 dynamos. TUNA on Norway patrol in zones K.5 and K.6 abandoned patrol this evening on account of weather damage.

Protection
of U.K. -
Gibraltar
convoy route.

P.R.U. of Cherbourg at 1230/7 showed 3 NARVIK class destroyers present. P.R.U. of Bordeaux at 1400/9 and at p.m./11 showed 3 NARVIK class destroyers (?the same 3) present. In view of our inability to provide adequate escorts against surface attack on our convoys between U.K. and Gibraltar, and the further possibility that the destroyers at Bordeaux may be employed to assist blockade runners, the Admiralty today asked Coastal Command to make special efforts to destroy them.

The following forces are being placed under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth for the protection of convoys on the U.K. - Gibraltar route against surface attack and for operation "Regulation":
(a) CARLISLE whilst on passage through the area to the Mediterranean (sailed from Clyde 0920A/11)
(b) MUSKETEER and METEOR detailed from the Home Fleet

(c) KENYA (to sail for Freetown via Gibraltar on 12th March) and UGANDA until sailed, and NEWFOUNDLAND after arrival at Plymouth (she arrived at 1041/12) from Scapa until sailed for the Mediterranean.

It is estimated that between 11 and 15 March 4 convoys (M.K.F.10 A, M.K.F.10 B, M.K.S.9, O.S.44) will be passing through the area between the parallel 42° N. and 50° N.

Coastal
Force
operation.

M.T.Bs. 624 (S.O. Lieut. K. Gemmel R.N.V.R.), 617 and 622 at 2310/9, whilst searching for a convoy sighted and engaged with gunfire 3 M class sweepers or trawlers in 53.31 N. 05.04 E. (off Terschelling) and left one of the enemy burning fiercely and one seriously damaged. At 0116/10 a convoy of 2 merchant vessels (one apparently a tanker) escorted by about 5 A.A. trawlers was sighted ahead: the M.T.Bs. attacked with torpedoes and it is considered that the tanker was destroyed and one escort vessel damaged. After the M.T.Bs. had disengaged astern of the convoy they were attacked by 2 enemy destroyers believed to be of the KARL GALSTER class and M.T.B.622 is missing and must be considered lost. M.T.B.624 had 3 slight casualties and very superficial damage: M.T.B.617 had no damage or casualties.

/Convoy...

War Diary.

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

Convoy
S.C.121,
2 more ships
torpedoed.

The U-boat attacks on S.C.121 continued and at about 0005Z today NAILSEA COURT (4946 tons) and the Norwegian M.V. BONNEVILLE (4665 tons convoy flagship, sank in 15 minutes) were torpedoed in 58.45 N. 21.57 W.

e/ At 1233 Galeon Head passed on a message that the British tanker ROSEWOOD was 350° 30 miles from R still floating.

ROSEWOOD herself (see 9 March) made a distress signal at 1624 B.S.T. and asked for immediate assistance in 58.30 N. 22.00 W. Tug EMINENT escorted by AUBRETIA was ordered to assist her and on the orders of C. in C. W.A. BIBB was detached from S.C.121 to screen her until the arrival of a tug: her position as given by C. in C. W.A. was 58.28 N. 22.35 W. at 1130Z/10. At 1710Z/11 BIBB reported that she had sunk two wrecks which she believed were the stern and bow of ROSEWOOD in 58.30 N. 20.50 W. and 58.36 N. 20.12 W. respectively. C. in C. W.A., however, did not think these were portions of ROSEWOOD. Seven ships in the convoy have now been torpedoed. (The orders for EMINENT and SAMSONIA were cancelled at 1014Z/11 (see A.W.I.) and ADHERENT, when available, was ordered to proceed to ROSEWOOD, escorted by CLOVER).

At 1500A EMPIRE BUNTING was reported hove to and disabled in 58.35 N. 23.00 W. Tug SAMSONIA escorted by CLOVER was ordered to proceed to her. This order was cancelled later. At 1445Z/11 TRILLIUM reported that she was proceeding via North Channel with EMPIRE BUNTING in hand steering. BIBB relieved TRILLIUM at 1900Z/11. EMPIRE BUNTING arrived at the Clyde in tow of ADHERENT at 1528A/14.

Convoy
R.A. 53

*Ostles
East
A@*

RICHARD BLAND in convoy R.A.53, who was damaged by torpedo on 5 March was torpedoed again at 1542 G.M.T. today in 66.53 N. 14.10 W (about 25 miles N.E. of Langanaes, Iceland (C) and broke in two: and whilst engaged in salvage of half the ship H.M. rescue tug HORSIA grounded on Ostles Rock, N.W. Iceland at 1700/15 and subsequently sank.

At 1900A J.H. LATROBE (see 8th March) was reported drifting with steering gear and propeller disabled in approx. 66.10 N. 12.20 W. (about 40 miles S.E. of Langanaes) but reached Seidisfiord at 2056/11 in tow of OPPORTUNE.

MILNE, ORWELL and ORKAN, with air assistance, are to search for stragglers tomorrow.

At 1515 a ship reported that she was damaged and required help in 59.14 N. 02.45 W.

/ 42 out of 62 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night in the Baltic, Heligoland Bight and off the west coast of France.

/There...

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

/ There was a simultaneous high and low level air raid on Murmansk at 1200C today but no British or American casualties or damage occurred. One low flying aircraft was shot down by a merchant ship.

South Atlantic.

/ SS. RICHARD D. SPAIGHT is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk by a submarine in 28 S. 37 E. at 1622Z today. (200 miles S.W. of Cape St. Mary, southern Madagascar)

/ The blockade runner KOTA NOPAN inward bound from the Far East was intercepted and sunk by U.S. forces at 1727 today in 7 S. 21 W. (about 400 miles W.N.W. of Ascension Island).

Mediterranean.

/ It is reported that the Spanish SS. BARTOLO, which sailed from Valencia on 26 Feb. for Marseilles in ballast was torpedoed and sunk on passage and 8 of the crew are missing. The master and one officer are believed to have been landed from a submarine at Palamos.

/ Convoy M.E.19 sailed from Malta for Port Said at 1817 today, escorted by DULVERTON, KELVIN, EASTON, MIAOULES, WHITEHAVEN and CROMARTY.

TIGRIS lost. TIGRIS is overdue at Algiers this morning from patrol off Naples and must be considered lost.

/ TAURUS sank by torpedo a 2,000 ton ship off Sete at 1721.

Torpedo bomber aircraft attacked the ferry service at 0804 today without success.

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

C. in C. E.F. reports that he was not able to investigate the destroyer situation (see 7 March) until his return to Kilindini. He intends to suspend training exercises and send every available destroyer to South Africa until the U-boats operating there have withdrawn. Details of his intentions are given in his 1656Z/11 and 1537/17.

America & West Indies.

H.X.228.
2 ships
torpedoed.
U-444 sunk
by HARVESTER.

U.S.S. BOGUE's aircraft attacked a U-boat 10 miles on the port beam H.X. 228 at 0300 today. The depth charges jammed, the aircraft crashed on landing, and the carrier and escort then left the convoy.

The convoy was attacked by U-boat at 2025 (dusk) today in 51.20 N. 29.29 W. (about 750 miles west of Cape Clear) and ANDREA.F. LUCKENBACH and TUCURINCA were torpedoed, the former was sunk and the latter sank later. HARVESTER forced to the surface by depth charges the U-boat (U.444) and rammed and sank it, taking 5 prisoners. ESCAPADE gives the time of attack as 0110Z/11, position 51.38 N. 29.18 W. and the preliminary report of Capt. D. Greenock (2346A/15) gives time shortly after 0115/11.

HARVESTER was considerably damaged; ACONIT stood by her and ESCAPADE took over Senior Officer of the group. Prisoners reported 12 U-boats in the neighbourhood of the convoy. It is reported that ACONIT also sank a U-boat about this time, namely U.444, though it is at present uncertain whether this is identical with the U-boat rammed and sunk by HARVESTER.

Convoy
K.W.123 ^{?KH123}
attacked.

Convoy K.W.123 was attacked by U-boats today and SS. JAMES SPRUNT was torpedoed and sunk in 20.02 N. 74.38 W. at 0812Z (about 30 miles South of Cape Maysi, Western Cuba) and U.S. Tanker VIRGINIA SINCLAIR was torpedoed and sunk in the area 20 N. 74.10 W. at 0510Z (about 15 miles south of Cape Maysi)

War Diary.

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Four Fortresses attacked shipping and buildings at Wewak (New Guinea) at dawn today and left one merchant vessel smoking.
A Liberator set on fire a 7,000 ton merchant ship south of the Celebes today.

War Diary.

10.3.1943.

Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Russian procedure. / Your 1316/4. (?Local Authorities) have released incoming mail without other formality than counting bags. This is understood to have been done on instructions from Head of Customs Murmansk. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0838A/10 to 30 Mission.)

Movements.

S/M My 1711/9. Cancel para. (G) (BARB.)
Movements. (F.O.S. 0801A/10 to Admty.)
DZIK leaves Scilly Isles at 1800A/12 dived by day by route "Brown" and arrives in 043° N. at 2200A/18.
(Capt. S.3 0951A/10 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
(corrupt group) F.O.S. 1419A/28 and Capt. S.3rd 1559/9th March. Intend to sail TRESPASSER escorted by TEKOURA 2000/11 by searched channels and Minches to Rothesay. E.T.A. Cumbræes 1200/13.
(A.C.O.S. 1258A/10.)
Positions of submarines at 0800A/11 and movements for following 24 hours.
A. SPORTSMAN, SIMOON, TRUCULENT, SEANYMPH. Positions very indefinite but they should all be approaching Lerwick probably on the surface from N.E. in the order given above.
B. JUNON 63° 32' N. 01° 14' E. probably on the surface through 69° 00' N. 08° 52' E.
C. TUNA in zones K.5 and K.6.
D. DZIK escorted by OXLIP vicinity Calf of Man, due 360° Round Island 7 miles at 1800/12.
E. SHAKESPEARE, escorted by ASIE leave Needles 1100/11, due 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0800/12.
F. ULTOR 49° 50' N. 11° 35' W. dived by day through 49° 50' N. 12° 34' W. and 49° 10' N. 13° 22' W. thence to southward.
G. TACTICIAN 49° 24' N. 12° 34' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W.
H. URSULA 49° 10' N. 11° 43' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W. due 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0700/13.
J. HERRING 46° 06' N. 13° 22' W. dived by day, due 45° 01' N. 13° 22' W. at 2300/11, thence to 44° 10' N. 09° 01' W.
K. SHAD 45° 42' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day, due 45° 01' N. 12° 54' W. at 2100/11, thence to 44° 01' N. 03° 30' W.
(F.O.S. 1652A/10.)
Estimate position 2359/10.
1. TUNA 061° 49' 001° 47' E. thence through Y 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles to Lerwick.
2. TRUCULENT 061° 31' 000° 23' E. through Y to Lerwick.
3. SIMOON 062° 02' 001° 10' E.. through Y to Lerwick.
4. SPORTSMAN, SEANYMPH approaching Lerwick from North.
(Capt. S.9 2111A/10 to S/Ms.)
A. My 1711/9th March.
Para. J. Add TUNA in 62° 10' N. 02° 43' E. at 1930/10 proceeding through 61° 59' N. 02° 30' E. towards 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence to Lerwick.
B. My 1652/10. Amend para. C. to read TUNA 60° 58' N. 00° 15' W. through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles to Lerwick, speed 8 knots.
(F.O.S. 2132A/10 to Admty.)

/My...

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.S/M
Movements.
(Contd.)

My 1652/10. Add new para. L. TRESPASSER escorted by TAKOURA leaves Scapa 2000/11 by searched channels and Minches to Rothesay, speed 10 knots. (F.O.S. 2216A/10 to Admty.)

HOWE.

Your 1907/9 - Concur at your discretion, depending upon the situation at the time. (D.O.D.H. 1002A/10 to C. in C.H.F.)

HOWE proceed to Clyde passing Hoxa Gate at 2200A/10. Route via Minches. Attention is called to Q.Z.X. message 910.

2. R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to sail MUSKETEER, METEOR and 2nd class H.F. Destroyer to screen. MUSKETEER, METEOR to be detached to Plymouth on passing number 5 Clyde Channel Buoy. My 1121/10 refers. The third Destroyer to remain at Clyde available to escort HOWE or carriers.

3. C. in C.W.A. is requested to provide A/S air escort during daylight 11th.

5. While at Clyde HOWE is to be at 12 hours notice from 1600 until 0800 daily. The defects referred to in my 1345/6 may be undertaken.

(C. in C.H.F. 1622A/10.)

C. in C.H.F. 1622A/10. para. 3. Regret no A/S air escort available.

(C. in C.W.A. 0003A/11 to HOWE.)

Scapa departure HOWE escorted by MUSKETEER, METEOR, MIDDLETON E.T.A. Clyde 2130A/11.

(A.C.O.S. 2204A/10 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Proceed to Plymouth passing Hoxa Gate 1600/10th, routed via Minches and searched channel.

3. Attention is drawn to A/M Q.Z.X. 910.

4. Owing to possible presence of E-Boat(s) lat. 50° N. is not to be crossed until daylight 12th.

(C. in C.H.F. 1051A/10 to NEWFOUNDLAND.)

Scapa departure NEWFOUNDLAND. E.T.A. 0900A/12.

(A.C.O.S. 1605/10 and 2240A/10 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

On completion of preparation for service, about 13th March, NEWFOUNDLAND should proceed direct on a voyage to North Africa calling at Gibraltar for orders.

(D.S.T. 1705A/10.)

Coastal
Craft and
L.C.Ts.
for
Mediterranean.

C. in C.Rosyth's 1655/9 and C. in C.Med's 1301/6. Anticipate BONITO, MULLET, GRAYLING, and WHITING should arrive Milford Haven from Granton about 15th March and PRODIGAL from Tobermory about 12th March.

2. Within the next month it is desired to sail coastal force craft and L.C.Ts. from U.K. to Mediterranean to the following approx. programme.

/(1) Craft ...

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

Coastal Craft and L.C.Ts for Mediterranean. (Contd.)	(1) Craft	(2) To sail from	(3) Escort	(4) Approx. sailing date.
	a. All coastal craft available.	Milford Haven.	2 Fish Trawlers & PRODIGAL.	16th March.
	b. More coastal craft.	Milford Haven	2 Fish Trawlers	23rd March.
	c. More coastal craft.	Milford Haven.	2 or 1 escorts arranged by C. in C.W.A.	Early April.
	d. 24 L.C.T.(4) 2 L.C.F.(L)	a Port in Plymouth Command.	2 escorts as arranged by C. in C.W.A. & 2 tugs.	1st April.
	e. 12 L.C.T.(3) 2 L.C.F.(L)	a Port in Plymouth Command.	2 escorts as arranged by C. in C.W.A. & 1 Tug.	8th April.

3. Approx. S.O.A. of coastal craft 10 knots, and of L.C.T.6 knots.

4. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail coastal craft as required by 2(a) and 2 (b) and (subject to para. 2 (c).)

5. C. in C.W.A. is requested to confirm that escorts can be provided for 2 (c), (d) and (e) and to arrange a convenient date at the beginning of April for 2 (c).

6. C.C.R.T. is requested to confirm that tugs can be provided for commitment 2(d) and (e).

(D.O.D.H. 2203A/10 to C. in C.W.A.)

Operations.

Biscay Patrol. / Request you will sail two Fleet destroyers to Plymouth as early as possible.

2. These ships are required to work with a cruiser under the orders of C. in C.Plymouth for the protection of convoys against attacks by surface craft in the Bay area and for operation "Regulation."
(1st S.L. 0350A/10 to C. in C.H.F.)

A.M. 0330/10 and 1350/10.

The three Narvik-class destroyers are now located at Bordeaux and Admiralty appreciate that their most probable courses of action at present are:- A. to attack the U.K./Gibraltar convoys
B. to assist the passage of blockade runners.

2. Reference para. 1 a. above, the most dangerous area is considered to be between 42° N. and 50° N. It is estimated that between the 11th and 15th March, 3 convoys will be passing through this area - M.K.F.10A, M.K.S.9 and O.S.44.

/3...

10.3.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay
Patrol.
(Contd.)

3. The following additional forces are placed under your orders:-
 a. CARLISLE, while on passage through the area.
 b. The 2 destroyers referred to in A.M. 0350/10.
 c. Cruisers as follows:- i. KENYA until sailed in accordance with A.M. 1214/28 paras. 4 and 5 and while on passage through the area. ii. UGANDA, until sailed to comply with A.M. 1810/4 and while on passage through the area. iii. NEWFOUNDLAND, after arrival in Plymouth Command.
 4. Request you will operate these forces (a) for the protection of convoys in the area against surface attack and (b) for operation "Regulation."
 5. The primary object is as in para. 4 (a) above.
 (A.C.N.S.H. 2320A/10 to C. in C.Plymouth.) *[See also air: p. 268]*

Coastal
Patrols.

- ✓ M.T.Bs. return from R.B. 26 due 4 buoy about 0700.
 (C. in C.Nore 0443A/10 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)
 Arrival M.G.Bs. 61, 64, 115, 80, 111 from patrol.
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0908A/10.)
1. N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail force to comply with following orders and give them latest intelligence.
 2. Object. Destruction of enemy patrols and small coastal shipping.
 3. Force. 4 A.M.Gs. as detailed by N.O.I.C. Newhaven.
 4. Execution. Leave Newhaven 1930/10 and proceed through passage two in Q.Z.X.771 to carry out sweep of enemy coast between Cap D'Antifer and Le Treport.
 5. Withdrawal. Force is to withdraw through passage two in time to take up patrol 10 miles to Southward of convoy C.W.162 while it is proceeding between the longitudes of C.2 and C.3 buoys, and thence return to Newhaven. Convoy passes C.2 at 0315/11th March. This withdrawal is at S.Os. discretion and he may continue the sweep if he considers that this might be profitable. In either case force is to be within 20 miles of English coast by daylight.
 (C. in C.Portsmouth 1041A/10.)
 Intend sailing M.G.B. 318 at 1800/10 proceeding to southward returning to Falmouth 0830/11.
 Air cover is arranged with St. Eval.
 Request surface bombing restrictions 10 miles each side of a line St. Anthony Point - Isle Des Vierges. Codeword "Warrant."
 (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1124A/10.)
1. Intend M.G.Bs. 55 (S.O.) and 53 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. to 02° 25' W.
 2. Leave Weymouth at 1915 via U.Z.S. 382 to patrol-line returning at dawn.
 3. Object. Anti E.Boat patrol. Codeword "Device."
 (F.O.I.C. Portland 1205A/10.)

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Coastal
Patrols
(Contd.)

1. 4 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven patrolling 10 miles to southward of C.W.162 during passage between C.2 and C.3 buoys. These are carrying out independent patrol prior to passage of convoy.
2. Chasseurs 11 and 13 southward of E.A.5 buoy.
3. FYLLA at St. Helens. KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth.
4. 2 M.G.Bs. from Portland on 50° 20' N. between 1° 45' W. and 2° 25' W.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1307A/10 and 1740A/10.)
M.G.Bs. 316, (S.O.) 312, 608 and 613 will proceed in accordance with your 1041A/10.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1646A/10 to C. in C.Portsmouth.)
My 1646A/10. M.G.B. 312 reports forward pom-pom defective. Repair expected complete 2030/10. Intend postponing sailing until 2030/10 so that M.G.B. 312 may proceed in company.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1731A/10.)
Patrol tonight. 2. M.G.Bs. 10 and 6. 3. Patrol 8 miles 090° and 270° from 214°. Start Point 7 miles.
4. Object to intercept enemy forces attacking convoys.
5. Execution. Leave Dartmouth for Patrol Line after P.W. 306 has passed Dart Buoy. Leave Patrol Line to arrive Dartmouth by 0600/11.
6. Code word "Scent."
(C. in C.Plymouth 1547/10.)
M.Ls. 143 and 141 patrolling at Bullock Bank. M.G.Bs. 41 and 40 at No. 4 Buoy from 2130. M.Ls. 104, 102, 107, 210, 128 and M.G.Bs. 174 and 108 from Dover carrying out operation N.L. W82. Route "V" buoy each way. E.T.D. 0001/11. E.T.R. 0640/11.
(V.A.Dover 1724A/10.)
M.T.Bs. 96 and 94 are to leave Dartmouth at 1830/10 for patrol passing through positions A. 180° Start Pt. 6 miles. B. 215° Start Pt. 20 miles. To patrol 8 miles 080° and 260° from 320° Les Sept Isles 5 miles. Speed on passage not to exceed 20 knots.
2. Object to attack enemy shipping on coastal passage.
3. Force is to leave patrol so as to be within 20 miles of our coast by first light. On return passage S.O. has discretion to return by reversed route or to proceed to Plymouth so as to keep clear of convoys.
4. If one boat breaks down both boats are to return in company.
6. Codeword "Occasion."
(C. in C.Plymouth 1759/10.)
My 1205A/10. "Device" sailed at 1934.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 2020A/10.)

S/M Patrol
off Tromso. /
JUNON.

F.S. JUNON left Lerwick 0810A/10 unescorted and on surface at C.Os. discretion until within 80 miles of Norwegian coast, thence dived by day routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, then by route "Pink" to 070° 12' N. 012° 10' E. thence direct to patrol in vicinity 069° 37' N. 017° 02' E (S.O. S/M Lerwick 0813A/10 to S/MS.)

/Denmark...

War Diary.

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Denmark / Hvalfjord arrival BERWICK at 0944/10.
Straits (A.C.I.C. 0955A/10 to C. in C.H.F.)
Patrol.

Operation Returning. Operation completed.
V.P.2. (Ship at sea 1130/10 to Lerwick C.C.O.)
Ship damaged, send help, 59.14 W. 02.45.
(Ship at sea 1515/10 to Lerwick C.C.O.)

My 1155/7. LYGREFJORD arrived Wick 1732/10. Further signal
will be made if any mines have been laid.
(A.C.O.S. 1854/10 to Admty.)

Attack on 2 / Following is preliminary report of C/F activity
Convoys. One on night 9th/10th March.
Tanker and 1. P.R.U. aircraft reported a westbound convoy
and one Escort 15 miles north of Wangeroog at 1250/9. M.T.B.
Vessel sunk. 624 with M.T.Bs. 617 and 622 were sailed to
Two Escort search for and intercept in area north of
Vessels Terschelling. Last light R/C by 16 Group confirmed
damaged. presence of convoy and A/C were sent to drop flares
M.T.B. 622 and attack if possible, between 2330 and midnight.
lost. 2. At 2310 in 53° 31' N. 05° 04' E. M.T.Bs.

sighted three vessels now reported as either "M"-
class sweepers or trawlers and took evasive action
but were sighted. M.T.Bs. attacked with gunfire
and left one burning fiercely and one seriously damaged. M.T.B.
617 lost contact and never subsequently rejoined.
3. M.T.Bs. 624 and 622 disengaged to S.W. and circled round to
the eastward when at 0030/10 aircraft flares were sighted to
the eastward and course was altered to close. At 0116 a convoy
was sighted ahead consisting of two merchant vessels with an
escort of about 5 flack trawlers. One merchant vessel was
considered to be a tanker of about 6,500 tons. M.T.B. 622 was
ordered to attack this target while 624 searched for another,
but on closing in came within short range of a flack trawler.
M.T.B. 624 swung clear and attacked the same tanker from 800
yards firing one torpedo, the other tube misfiring. M.T.B., 622
was abeam of 624 and it is considered that she fired both torpedoes
at the same target. A heavy explosion was felt and a large
pillar of smoke was observed from the target. M.T.Bs. disengaged
astern of the convoy, 622 being 3-4 cables on quarter of 624 when
two destroyers believed Karl-Galster class were sighted coming
up astern and attacked M.T.Bs. M.T.B. 622 was last seen about
1,000 yards astern and a similar distance from destroyers, and
making smoke. A few minutes later a large pillar of flame was
seen in this direction. M.T.B. 624 was chased for about 1/2 hour
being straddled by heavy guns up to a considerable range before
evasive action was successful. M.T.B. 622 was called by W/T
but failed to answer, but contact was established with M.T.B.
617 and unit returned together.

4. From evidence available C.O. MIDGE states that it appears
in the first action one vessel was destroyed and one damaged and
in the convoy action the tanker was destroyed and one escort
vessel damaged.

/5...

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Attack on 2
Convoys. One
Tanker and
one Escort
Vessel sunk.
Two Escort
Vessels
damaged.
M.T.B. 622
lost. (Contd.)

5. Air search has failed to locate M.T.B. 622 who must be considered lost. Other casualties M.T.B. 624, three slightly wounded and very superficial damage to ship. M.T.B. 617 no damage or casualties.
(C. in C. Nore 1802A/10 to Admty.)

Operations
V.P.R.
V.P.X.

Carrying out V.P.R.
1. Through 55 miles west of R to patrol R, possibly leaving through N. 2.
3 boats. 3. 1200Z/12th March or 1st suitable day there after. 4. 7. 5. No. 6. No.
7. 0700A 065°. Out Skerries. 110 miles.

Carrying out V.P.X.

1. Through 062° 24' N. 003° 00' E. to patrol X, possibly leaving through V.
2. 2 boat. 3. BALTA 0900A/12 or first suitable day there after.
4. 3. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 045°. Out Skerries 110 miles.
(A.C.O.S. 1858A/10.)

S/M Patrol
off Trondheim.
TUNA.

Negative patrol owing to weather and damage to upper conning-tower hatch. Suspect 2 cracked cylinder-liners. my P.C.S. 062° 10' N. 002° 43' E. 233° 8 knots. Nothing further to report.
(TUNA 1930A/10 to F.O.S.)

Exercises.

Exercise
"Famous."

My 1325A/4. Exercise "Famous" finished.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1805A/10.)

Allied Air Activity.

Biscay Area.

The move of 3 enemy Fleet Destroyers to the Channel - Biscay area presents a serious threat to our lines of communications between the U.K. and Gibraltar, for which traffic we are unable to provide adequate escorts to protect our convoys against surface attack.
2. These ships may also be used to assist valuable cargoes to break in or out from the Bay ports to the Far East.
3. Request these vessels may be treated as Class One target and special efforts made to destroy them.
(D.O.D.H. 0330A/10 to H.Q.C.C.)

/Northern...

War Diary.

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.- Contd.

Northern
Norway R/C.

R/C of Alten Fjord and Narvik are urgently required. Request you will use your best endeavour to arrange for Russians to undertake this on high priority.
(D.O.D.H. 1535A/10 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Convoys
P.W.306
and W.P.
306.

Patrols X and X.A. as in my 1411A/8 will be flown tonight by Swordfish Aircraft from 2000/10 till dawn/11.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1544A/10 to Convoy Escorts.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Biscay area.

Enemy aircraft in 43° 45' N. 08° 58' W.
(A/C C.8.C.G. 1143/10 to 19 Group.)

Murmansk
bombed.

(Corrupt group) simultaneous (?high) and low level raid 1200C/10. Weather clear, wind 2 to 3, no balloons flying. No British or American damage or casualties. One low (?flying) plane shot down by merchant vessel.
(?S.N.O. Murmansk 1633/10 to Admty.)

Convoy
P.W.306.

You were reported by enemy aircraft at 1815/10.
(C. in C.Plymouth 2101A/10 to Escort P.W. 306.)

Mining.

S.O. 90A.

Request you will detail one destroyer to arrive Port Z.A. by 0800/15 to act under orders of R.A.(M) until about 19th March.
(D.O.D.H. 1422A/10 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 1422/10. CHARLESTOWN detailed.
(A.C.O.S. 1603/10 to Admty.)

Cancel my 1454/10. Request CHARLESTOWN may be fuelled and sail to arrive Port Z.A. during daylight 14th.
(A.C.O.S. 2006/10 to N.O.I.C. Invergordon.)

Humber.

At 1028/10 one Mine exploded by sweepers in 160° East Dudgeon Buoy 1 mile. Details.
(F.O. Humber 1851/10.)

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ,
PRINZ EUGEN.
EMDEN,
SCHARNHORST.

Photographic R/C 1100A/9 Lo Fjord TIRPITZ present. Foetten Fjord obscured by cloud. Gdynia at 1530A/9 PRINZ EUGEN present EMDEN and one SCHLESIEEN class departed since 8th, SCHARNHORST not present.
(D.D.I.C. 0005A/10 to A.I.G. 47.)

/Enemy...

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

Enemy Destroyer dispositions. Present disposition of destroyers and torpedo boats as seen by air R/C 9th March. Le Havre 1, Narvik destroyer in dock, 1 T Class T/B: Brest 1 Elbing destroyer refitting, 2 Moewe, 2 T Class T/Bs: Bordeaux, 3 Narvik destroyers. La Pallice: 1 Elbing destroyer, 3 T Class T/Bs.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1329/10.)

My 1329/10. Air R/C 10/3 show Narvik Destroyer at Le Havre now undocked.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1557/10.)

Narvik class destroyer at Le Havre had left dry-dock and was berthed in Bassin Bellot at 1100/10. T/B was seen in dry-dock.
(D.D.I.C. 1656A/10 to A.I.G. 21.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Received at 0009 G.M.T. DE Gallonhead Radio begins. Intercepted at 0001 G.M.T. from unknown station begins (unread) Submarine sighted (unread) 10.30 S. (remainder unread) ends.
(Wick 0111 B.S.T/10 to Admiral, Lyness.)

Oil sighted 49° 48' N. 10° 00' W.
(A/C C.8C.V. 1019/10 to 19 Group.)
Am over U-Boat in 57° 42' N. 20° 21' W.
(A/C F.C.37 1345/10 to 15 group.)
Full ship signature obtained 1813 on C.M. guard loop.
Boom closed. Asdic search being carried out by WIDGEON and A/S trawler.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1856A/10.)
Departure WIDGEON.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1903A/10.)

U-Boat attacked. S S S S bearing by D/F 3rd class 282° (corrupt group) J.V.52.
(Sheigra Radio 1026 G.M.T/10 to A.C.O.S.)
Important intercept 1028 G.M.T. DE J.V. 52.
S S S S Sub. consider definitely rammed.
(Port Patrick Radio 1128/10 to Greenock.)

Technical.

Bombardment Range at Scapa. Consider that Stack Skerry has proved to be of only limited value as a target for bombardment practices and another range, not so elaborate as the original Cape Wrath one, would be of considerable value. Main requirements are as follows.
(details.)

3. Request investigation now to find out if such a range can be established. Ideal location would be in Orkneys but North coast of Scotland would be acceptable.
(C. in C.H.F. 0939A/10 to A.C.O.S.)

War Diary.

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- ASTERIA. My 2335/9. Vessel now abandoned in exposed position broadside on to rocks. All crew, 15 in number, have been landed at Ardrossan by Troon lifeboat, which has returned to station. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 0221/10.)
- KATY. DAHLIA 0420Z/10 to C. in C.W.A. see America & West Indies.
- ARIGUANI. Your 2005/9. BLOODY BAY tug is being sent from Oban. (WESTERN ISLES 0542A/10 to ARIGUANI.)
- AMALA destroyed. Request early replacement of Firefloat AMALA, which has been destroyed by fire. (C. in C.Nore 1015A/10 to Admty.)
- CHATEAUROUX. Arrived CHATEAUROUX in tow of Tug PROSPEROUS. Escorted by SOUTHERN SPRAY. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1032/10.)
CHATEAUROUX now at Milford Haven with U.X.B. in No. 2 hold. Request Bomb Disposal Officer and working party be provided to discharge such cargo as is necessary for bomb to be removed. (D.T.D. 2021A/10 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- AMSTERDAM. My 0845/9. Diver reports three small indentations of hull plating. No cracks or other apparent damage. Damage does not appear to warrant immediate docking. AMSTERDAM has resumed station. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1340/10 to C. in C.Rosyth.)
My 1340/10. Intend to dock R/T AMSTERDAM at 0730 tomorrow for inspection. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1750/10.)
- MOSLI. My 1556A/9. MOSLI is unable to sail for Merville due to windlass trouble and ship repairs. It is expected that she will be ready for allocated convoy. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1754A/10 to Admty.)
- VIMY. Proceed forthwith to Liverpool. (Cmdre. Londonderry 1801A/10 to VIMY.)
Sailed VIMY. E.T.A. Bar 1000A/11. (Cmdre. Londonderry 2145A/10 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

/TESTBANK...

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

TESTBANK. Intend sailing at 1930A/10 TESTBANK 10 knots to Clyde for repairs. E.T.A. 0800/12. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1828A/10.)

ATHABASKAN. Proceed passing Switha 0730/11 to arrive Greenock 0700/12 for hull repairs. (R.A.D. 2138A/10 to ATHABASKAN.)

Search for Lifeboat. Now patrolling in vicinity of 048° 56' N. 020° 35' W. Have carried out search on bearings 065° for 80 miles from that position. Nothing to report. Request A/C assistance at daylight if possible. (COWSLIP 2230A/10 to C. in C.W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.121. 058° 45' N. 021° 57' W. (?154°) 7.5. Submarine NAILSEA COURT, attack 0005Z/10. NAILSEA COURT and BONNEVILLE BONNEVILLE, convoy flagship torpedoed. ROSEWOOD (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 0135Z/10 to C. in C.W.A.) torpedoed. ROSEWOOD torpedoed about 2128Z/9 058° 37' N. EMPIRE BUNTING 022° 32' W. She reports still afloat 1115Z/10 damaged. in 350° 30 miles from Point (R) or 058° 28' N. 022° 24' W. Report all boats gone. Do not think will hold. (?Send) assistance if possible. Have ordered BIBB to close ROSEWOOD. Perhaps planes be directed to search for ROSEWOOD and direct BIBB to her. BIBB about 50 miles east of ROSEWOOD at 1200Z/10. My 0135/10. P.C.S. 058° 55' N. 020° 12' W. 102° 7.5.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 1215Z/10.)

S.C.121. COULMORE torpedoed 2210Z/9th in port bow. 5 survivors in BIBB, 2 in DAUPHIN, 2 in S.S. MELROSE ABBEY, 42 unaccounted for. Previously reported NAILSEA COURT was torpedoed twice at Port beam. 2 survivors in DAUPHIN. One in MELROSE ABBEY, 49 unaccounted for. Previously reported BONNEVILLE has 2 survivors in BIBB. No further details available. If COULMORE was in convoy at time of torpedoing her position was 058° 39' 022° (?W. by N.)

(C.T.U. 24.1.3. 1305Z/10 to C. in C.W.A.)

D/F bearings at 1210Z indicate at least one U-Boat still operating against convoy.

(D.D.I.C. 1408A/10 to Escorts S.C.121.)

S.O.S. de ROSEWOOD position 58.30 N. 22.00 W. wants immediate assistance. Ends.

(Wick 1624 B.S.T/10 to A.C.O.S. Lyness.)

Tug is being sent.

(C. in C.W.A. 1631Z/10 to ROSEWOOD.)

/Tug...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.121 Tug EMINENT is to proceed to Londonderry forthwith
 NAILSEA COURT, and is to be escorted thence by AUBRETIA to
 BONNEVILLE, Derelict ROSEWOOD reported at 1230A/10 in 58.28 N.
 ROSEWOOD 22.35 W.
 torpedoes. (C. in C.W.A. 1708A/10 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
 EMPIRE BUNTING Detach 1 of your Iceland destroyers to screen
 damaged. ROSEWOOD in 58.28 N. 22.35 W. at 1130Z/10 until
 (Contd.) arrival of Tug leaving Londonderry a.m. 11th.
 (C. in C.W.A. 1815Z/10 to SPENCER.)
 Received at 1732 G.M.T. De Gallonhead Radio
 begins: At 1727 from ROSEWOOD begins. Do you
 know if anyone is coming to our aid ends.
 (Wick 1833/10 to A.C.O.S.)
 D/F bearings at 1711Z indicate convoy was probably reported
 by U-Boat.
 (D.D.I.C. 1839A/10 to Escorts S.C.121.)
 ROSEWOOD cargo 7730 tons Admiralty Furnace Oil due Clyde
 13th March, for discharge retaining 600 tons on board. Thence
 New York for orders.
 (D. of Stores 1938A/10 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
 When ready tug SAMSONIA escorted by CLOVER is to proceed
 to EMPIRE BUNTING hove to and disabled in 058° 35' N. 023° 00' W.
 at 1500A/10.
 (C. in C.W.A. 2147Z/10 to Cmdre. Londonderry.)
 Request you will sail H.M.R.T. SAMSONIA with despatch to
 Londonderry.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2153A/10 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)
 Your 2153A/10. Sailed (SAMSONIA.)
 (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 2350A/10 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

R.A.53. Northrop aircraft will be carrying out sweep
 RICHARD in vicinity of 066° 44' N. 010° 41' W. from
 BLAND 0915 until 1915 today for survivors from
 torpedoes. PUERTO RICAN.
 (A.C.I.C. 0136A/10 to Escorts R.A.53.)
 Your 2144/9. BOADICEA reports extensive damage
 forward due to ice. Safety speed reduced to 15 kts.
 (A.C.I.C. 0234A/10 to Capt. D.8.)
 Steering engine smashed.
 (J.V.D.4 0425/15 to J.V.D.1 Cmdre. R.A.53.)
 Departure Seidis Fjord. My 0030/9 at 1415A/9.
 (A.C.I.C. 0636A/10 to C. in C.H.F.)
 Your 1838/9. As passengers, Airmen, and others are divided
 between NORFOLK and CUMBERLAND, intend bringing both ships to
 Scapa where passengers can transfer and go south in which ship
 you desire. Owing to weather damage BELFAST is reduced to 2
 dynamos, 6-inch turrets at present out of action in consequence.
 (C.S.10 0907A/10 to C. in C.H.F.)
 A.C.I.Cs. 2329/7. This is considered most desirable.
 (C. in C.H.F. 1048A/10 to A.C.I.C.)

/My...

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

R.A. 53. My P.C. and S. 066° 54' N. 010° 23' W. 240°, 17 knots. IMPULSIVE in company. No trace of survivors torpedoes. Am rejoining convoy. (ECLIPSE 1126A/10 to H.F.) Completed with fuel. Intend to proceed with LEDBURY and CORNELIUS HARNETT at (1430A) to join you. My maximum 15 knots in fair weather. (BOADICEA 1250A/10 to Capt. D.8.) D/F bearings at 1138Z indicate U-Boat probably in vicinity of R.A. 53 and may have reported it. (D.D.I.C. 1300A/10 to A.I.G. 47.) My 0136/10. Cancelled owing to weather. (A.C.I.C. 1303A/10 to Escorts R.A. 53.) E.T.A. Hvalfjord 1730/10. (V.A.2 1411A/10 to A.C.I.C.) 1045A/10. On completion of fuelling intend to proceed in MILNE with ORWELL and ORKAN to search for stragglers. (Capt. D.3 1412A/10 to C. in C.H.F.) R.A. 53. P.C. and S. 355° Glettinganes 18,000°, 4 knots until weather clears sufficiently for east coast passage. Local escort refuel. Intend they should patrol up longitude 013° W. to seaward convoy. BOADICEA to bring out CORNELIUS HARNETT on convoy passing Seidisfjord. Corvette will be detached to fuel later. Weather 5537 7568. (Capt. D.8 1457A/10 to C. in C.H.F.) Following is a repetition of H.M.S. BOADICEA's 0215/10 addressed Capt. D.8. Wind Force 8 - 9. Unable to oil. Weather unsuitable for proceeding owing to damage and flooding forward. Intend to comply with your 2144A/9 when weather moderates. (A.C.I.C. 1528A/10 to Capt. D.8.) SSSS 335° Class 1, RICHARD BLAND. (Wick 1541/10 to Ad. Lyness.) Received at 1630 G.M.T. RICHARD BLAND 66.53 N. 14.10 W. standing by with boats in water Q.M.L? ends. (Wick 1618/10 to Admiral Lyness.) PYTCHLEY and MEYNELL will be ready to sail midnight. VIVACIOUS has engine defect which will be completed at 0600. Intend sail ships at those times. (VIVACIOUS 1630A/10 to Capt. D.8.) Received 1547 G.M.T. De Gallonhead Radio. Intercepted at 1542 G.M.T. RICHARD BLAND torpedoed Lat. 66.53 N. Long. 14.10 W. (Wick 1653/10 to R.A.F. Wick, Admiral Lyness.) D/F bearings at 1644Z indicate convoy has again been reported. (D.D.I.C. 1810A/10 to A.I.G.47.) Received at 1714 G.M.T. on 375 k/cs de Sheigra Radio begins S.O.S. de RICHARD BLAND. Ship settling slowly, 2 boats alongside, 2 boats adrift. New positions 66.53 N. 14.17 W. ends. (Wick 1816/10 to A.C.O.S.) My 1412A/10. Intend MILNE, ORWELL, and ORKAN carry out search for straggler in area between 066° 20' N. 067° 00' N. 008° 30' W. 014° 00' W. Request air co-operation throughout daylight tomorrow. (Capt. D.3 1842A/10 to C. in C.H.F. A.C.I.C.)

/Arrived...

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

R.A.53 Arrived Seidisfjord at 1028 H.M.S. LEDBURY with
RICHARD BLAND CORNELIUS HARNETT.
torpedoed. (A.C.I.C. 1845A/10 to C. in C.H.F.)
(Contd.) Standing by J.H. LATROBE in approx. 066° 10' N.
012° 20' W. drifting S.S.W. 3 knots, steering-
gear and propeller disabled, ship helpless.
Attempting to tow when weather moderates. Request
tugs. I have only 4 days coal remaining.
(?ST. ELSTAN 1900A/10 to Admt.)
A.C.O.S. 1031/7. Arrived (ANSON, BERMUDA, MATCHLESS,
ICARUS, PIORUN.)
(A.C.I.C. 1916A/10 to C. in C.H.F.)
Following observed in 067° 50' N. 006° 18' W. at 1240A/8
bearing 240° 10 miles, approx. course, 240° speed of advance
over 24 knots. Tall mast of cruiser or large unit hull down.
RD/F interference but no I.F.F. shown. Object could not be
closed and contact was lost in closing visibility. Considered
likely to be (?word omitted) of our own forces making Seidis
Fjord. 2 observers claim mast was of Trellis type but this
cannot be confirmed. Chase was maintained until 1300A/8.
(LEDBURY 1920A/10 to C. in C.H.F.)
Join me with all despatch, on completion fuelling.
(Capt. D.8 2017A/10 to MEYNELL, PYTCHLEY.)
Force R E.T.A. 0330A/11.
(S.O.Force R 2019Z/10 to A.C.O.S.)
E.T.A. Seidis Fjord Boom 2230A/10.
(INGLEFIELD 2108A/10 to A.C.I.C.)
NORTHERN PRIDE arrived Seidis Fjord 1232.
(A.C.I.C. 2111A/10 to C. in C.H.F.)
Arrived Seidis Fjord 1601/10 MEYNELL, PYTCHLEY, VIVACIOUS.
(A.C.I.C. 2317A/10 to C. in C.H.F.)
ST. ELSTAN 1900A/10. OPPORTUNE now standing by to tow at
daylight.
(Capt. D.8 2325A/10 to Admt.)
My 2017A/10. Anticipate VIVACIOUS and PYTCHLEY should be
ready to sail at 0610A/11 and MEYNELL about 3 hours later. Your
2014A/10 contaminated. Oiler has only 600 tons in a fresh tank
remaining, all of which will be required.
(VIVACIOUS 2334A/10 to Capt. D.8.)

A.T.38. Convoy A.T. 38 is due Clyde 16/3.
2. Total of approximately 10500 personnel will
disembark 17/3.
3. Approximately 5700 personnel will embark at the
Tail of the Bank on p.m. 18.3 and 19.3.
4. Convoy should be ready to sail p.m. 19/3.
(D.S.T. 0140A/10.)

D.S.38. My 0110/6. LETITIA is not now due Tail of the Bank
until 14/3.
2. Convoy D.S. 38 will therefore sail 18/3 and not
16/3.
(D.S.T. 0145A/10.)

/RANGITATA...

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- RANGITATA. Cancel my 1138/9.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0917A/10 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Admty. 1702/9. Intend to sail RANGITATA escorted
by TRENT at 1700/13 from Breaksea Light Vessel
by standard route to Clyde. E.T.A. 1900/14.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1239A/10.)
- H.X. 228. Submarine sighted by air R/C 050° 45' N. 031°
A.F. LUCKENBACK 30' W.
sunk. (HARVESTER 1047Z/10.)
TUCURINCA 1020 enemy submarine sighted. One sub. close
damaged. right ahead.
(Portrush D/F station 1155A/10 to Port Patrick.)
P.C. and S. 2100Z, 051° 23' N. 029° 18' W. 048° 9'.
A.F. LUCKENBACK sunk. TUCURINCA salvable.
(HARVESTER 2032Z/10.)
- K.M.S. 11. Amend my 1211A/7 para. 3 to read: 3. Noon 15th
055° 12' N. 010° 28' W. Noon 16th 053° 12' N.
013° 08' W.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 1100A/10 and 1947/10.)
Ships now in Loch Ewe for K.M.S. 11 are to be sailed forthwith
to Oban to wait. They should be in all respects ready to sail
thence to the Oversay R/V.
(D.T.D. 1635A/10 to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.)
- J.W. 54. Owing to delays on passage of J.W. 53 and R.A. 53
and other necessary employment of destroyers the
sailing of J.W. 54 must be postponed at least
3 days. 2. Revised date is 27th March.
(C. in C.H.F. 1101A/10 to Admty.)
- U.R. 66. Sailing postponed owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1102A/10.)
- X.K. 2. 1. Loch Ewe Section is to be escorted to 57° N.
07° W. thence independently.
2. VILLE D'ORAN is to proceed independently to
Mersey from 07° W.
(C. in C.W.A. 1131A/10 to Escorts X.K. 2.)
SS AGEN has lost both anchor and all cables. Convoy E.T.A.
Cumbrae 0200A/12.
(COREOPSIS 2039A/10.)

/K.M.F. 11...

War Diary.

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

K.M.F.11 and W.S. 28. A.M. 1342/6th, 1429/6th, 2115/6.
1. A/S escort, A. From Liverpool WOODPECKER, WREN
B. From Clyde CYGNET S.O. C. From Londonderry
to join Oversay R/V GOATHLAND, BADSWORTH, DOUGLAS,
EGGESFORD, WHADDON, KRAKOWIAK.
2. DOUGLAS, EGGESFORD, WHADDON are to proceed Clyde to London-
derry to fuel after convoy conference.
(C. in C.W.A. 1221A/10.)

O.N. 170. My 1820/9. Ship was stopped for over 3 hours
EMPIRE with engine trouble and subsequently ordered to
BOMBARDIER. return to U.K. by escort in 21° W. proceeding
to rejoin convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1225/10 to C. in C.W.A.)

O.N. 170. Your 0420/10. Regret A/C unable to assist because
KATY. of weather.
(A.C.I.C. 1244A/10 to DAHLIA.)

O.N. 172. BURNHAM departed Londonderry 1800A/10 to rejoin
O.N. 172.
(C.T.G. 24.7 1817A/10 to JED.)

Use of A.N.D.gear. / Your 2106/10, following is repetition my 1302/9:-
Admiralty's 1814/2 and 1927/4. It is considered
that this may result in some Commodores reducing
speed unduly for the benefit of a small number
of ships. This is undesirable as it will increase
the chances of enemy attack and thereby increase
the general risk to the convoy.

2. It is proposed therefore that para. 3 of I.C.O.C. 73 be
amended to read as follows:- In Ocean convoys nets should only
be streamed if the convoy is threatened with attack and
occasionally for drill purposes when circumstances admit. Whilst
it is highly desirable that ships should stream nets whenever the
convoy is threatened, consideration must be given to the fact
that if a reduction of speed is involved the chances of enemy
attack are increased and consequently the general risk to the
convoy. Factors affecting this consideration are the numbers of
ships present which are equipped with N.D. and the amount of
reduction in speed entailed. In order that Commodores may obtain
a good appreciation of the speed capabilities of each N.D. ship in
the convoy, nets should be streamed for trial on the first
suitable occasion after the start of the voyage. Depending on
the results of this trial it can be determined

- A. Which ships should stream both nets.
- B. Which ships should stream one net.
- C. Which ships should not stream nets at all when attack
threatens the convoy.

In general it may be stated that it is undesirable that the speed
of the convoy should be reduced by more than half a knot unless
by so doing a very large proportion of the ships present can be
afforded protection.

3. Last sentence of para. 2 of I.C.O.C. 73 to be deleted. 2032A/9
Ends.

(C. in C.W.A. 2312A/10 to Admty.)

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U-Boat. Following read: Am over enemy S/M in LBWD 2065 (36° 20' N. long. undecypherable). When first sighted S/M was on surface and observed to submerge, was on course 350° speed unknown.

(A/C G7G/N, 0145A/10 to Gibraltar).

Following received from aircraft (begins): Am over enemy S/M in ?051° (?036° intended) 20°N.010° 05' W. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 350° speed unknown.

(F.O.C. Gib., 0354A/10 to TRIDENT)

Distress Report. Following has been read. Portion missed. S.O.S. at 0600 G.M.T. 37° 52' 10" 26' W. (Gibraltar W/T, 0747A/10).

ANDES. ANDES sailed 0800A/10th routed in accordance with Admiralty's 1601A/9th. 1st "Chop" 20° W. 2030A/11th, 2nd "Chop" 40° W. 0330A/14th.

Fighter code word my 1700Z/9th amended to

"Corncake". Gibraltar pass to ANDES.

(S.N.O. Casablanca, 0820Z/10 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty. etc.)

M.U.S.9. D/F bearings on 4540 K/cs at 0210Z/10 indicate U-Boat probably in area 40 miles either side of line joining 38° N. 12° W. and 35° N. 13° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 0850A/10 to M.K.F. 9(R) M.K.F. 10 A. SHEDIAC etc.)

Dispositions. Situation 2002A/10th. Hospital ship AMARAPOORA 40° 04' 13" 02' through 40° 13' 13" 13' (?thence) (?294°) 12.

(2) M.K.S. 9, ST. CROIX, 37.48 11.54 310° 7½.

(3) T.O.2, U.S. destroyer ROPER, sailing 1800/10th through Q.K.A. 87, 35.48 06.19, 34.01 08.14, 33.20 09.20 through 215° 13. Casablanca Section R/V in 34.01 08.14 (corrupt group) 0900/11th. (4) SHEDIAC, RANPURA 32°, 10.51 to join M.K.S.9 Cape Amber 11th, 12½. (5) M.K.F. 10, EGRET (E) 39.40 16.01 through 40.01 16.15 thence 003° 12.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1014A/10) Amended 0910A/11.

Situation at 2001A/10.

Coastal Force S 36.22 09.17 to Gibraltar, 8½. (2) TRIDENT 36.47 08.47 through 36.37 (?61). 24 at 0240/11th and (?35 or 39). 53 06. (?15 or 73) at 0945/11th 35. (?49) 06 06.5 at 1035/11th to arrive Gibraltar 1500/11th on the surface.

(4) C.G.17, U.S. destroyer, leaves Casablanca 1200A/11 through Q.K.A. (?92) thence 045° (?10). (5) M.L.443, 173, sailing 0700/11 to R/V with one merchant ship off Guadalquivir at 1900/11 and escort to Gibraltar 8.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1032A/10 to A.I.G.63)

My 1032A/10th. Amend course to read 037°.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1455A/10).

FORT PASKOYAC/ ...

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)

FORT PASKOYAC. Your 1811/8 (Requesting if FORT PASKOYAC had nets streamed when torpedoed). Port net streamed, Starboard net not streamed owing to temporary breakdown of winch. Torpedo hut (?hit) abaft net near propeller port side. (F.O.Gibraltar, 1126A/10 to Admty.)

EMPRESSES OF CANADA, Escort. A.M.1650/9 para. 4 (see South Atlantic, 8th). Request you will reply. (2) It would appear ANTELOPE could be made available. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1231A/10, to C. in C. Med. (W) (R) Admty., F.O.C., W. Af., C. in C. W.A.). Concur C. in C. Med. 1647/10)

BURWELL, MOOSEJAW, HORORATA. Intend sailing BURWELL and MOOSEJAW as requisite to escort HORORATA from Horta to join SL.126 for U.K. (F.O.Gibraltar, 1617A/10 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy T.O.2. My 1620/9th. Sailed, Radio Washington pass to C.A. F.A.C., C.C.S.F. U.S.R.O.Aruba. (F.O.Gibraltar, 1845A/10 to Admty.)

Movements, Casablanca. March 10th, arrivals U.S.S. MACLEISH from Safi, P.C.471 from Gibraltar, LA BOUDEUSE from Gibraltar, U.S.S. BROOME departed with S.S. ANDES. (S.N.O.C.A., 1900/10 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) Cominch, C. in C. Med. (W) Admty.)

S.S. BARTOLO Torpedoed. Ship Agents Valencia state S.S. BARTOLO (BACHILIN) torpedoed and sunk whilst on passage Spain from Marseilles in ballast. 8 crew missing. Master and 1 Officer believed landed from Submarine at Palamos. Will confirm. (N.A.Madrid, 1917/10, to Admty.(R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

HORORATA Your 1704/8th (?1704/8 from R.O. Horta intended) At least 48 hours notice will be given. (2) Anticipate sailing HORORATA to join S.L. convoy in about 10 days time. (F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 1920A/10 to Admty.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals ACUTE, STORNOWAY, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, MAN O WAR, from M.K.S.9 UNA from Malta. CALPE HOLCOMBE from M.K.F.10A. Departures nil. (F.O.Gibraltar, 1955A/10 to Admty., etc.)

Convoy T.O.2. Gibraltar ships sailed as in my 1648/9 plus FINISTERRE for Casablanca. Above ships hold S.P.02272,(22) and (23) and all four tankers INCON 315. Following One ship pads held

SHELDON CLARKE 864, ESSO GETTYSBURG 372, ESSO HARRISBURG 1093. (F.O.Gibraltar, 2009A/10, to Connav (R) S.N.O.C.A. etc.)
Cancel/ ...

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoy T.O.2. Cancel para. 5 of my 1854/9th not to all
(Contd.) addressees (N.T. in W.D.) Insert new para. 5.
(Begins) Route. Proceed through
(A) 31.58 11.02 (B) 29.01 12.30 (C) 24.57 17.03
(D) 22.59 24.37 (E) 21.03 34.04 (F) 18.05 43.56 (G) 15.02 51.55
(H) 11.30 60.02. S. of A. 13 knots. Thence as ordered by
Cominch C. and R. (Ends.) (2) Pass to Cdre. of convoy.
(3) Amend stragglers route as convoy route.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 2242A/10 to U.S.S. ROPER, U.S.S. DECATUR,
(R) N.O.I.C. Casablanca, Admty., Cominch.) Amended 1756A/11.
T.O.2, cancel para. 2 my 1620/9th. Insert new para.2
(begins) 31.58 11.02 (B) 29.01 12.30 (C) 24.56 17.03
(D) 22.59 24.57 (E) 21.03 34.04 (F) 018° 05' 043° 56'
(G) 015° 02' 051° 55' (H) 011° 30' 060° 02'. (End.)
(F.O. Gibraltar, 2259A/10, to Admty. Cominch)

Air Report. A.1.230. Op. Sum. No.129 for 24 hours ended
1800 hours 10th March. (G) Sightings and attacks
Wellington O.179 on A/S patrol N.W. sighted
U/B visually at 1938/9 in 36.52 N, 08.53 W.
course 100°. T.U/Boat submerged too quickly to
attack. ?S/L Catalina N.210 on A/S patrol in vicinity of
convoy M.K.S.9 at 0145/10 in position 36.20 N. 10.05 W. had
suspicious S/E contact. Aircraft investigated and at height
of 500 feet large wake and swirl was illuminated by S/L.
Impossible to attack. (I) E/A activity Nil.
(A.H.Q., Gibraltar, 2020Z/10)

U-Boat S/M sighted 4 miles south of Sao Miguel
Sullivan Islands 10th steering westward (A.1.
P.U.F.).
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 2055/10 to S.O.I. Gibralt-
tar, (R) Admty.)

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

MAURETANIA As it is now most likely that MAURETANIA will have to be used to clear the 2,000 personnel from West Africa to U.K., request you will leave accommodation vacant for this number on leaving Capetown.

2. For D.S.T.O. West Africa's guidance, MAURETANIA will not arrive Freetown until about 23rd March which will allow more time for concentration of personnel. My 1832/7 refers. (D.S.T. 0150A/10 to S.T.O. Capetown)

Minesweepers Belem Following received from U.S. Naval Observer at Belem. (Quote) Four British minesweepers 5,6,7,8, arrived Belem 1400Z. Total British sweeps now Belem 9. BUTTERMERE also here. Expected to be ready for sea shortly. (Unquote) (From U.S.N.O. Belem 0350/10 to F.O.C. W.Af., Admiralty.)

Convoy D N 23. Sailing telegram.
(2) 0500Z/10th
(4) 9 knots
(5) Y 028° 34' S 032° 30' E
Z 031° 00' S 038° 00' E
(6) LE TIGER, SONDRRA, INDIAN STAR.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0611Z/10 to Admiralty etc.)

KING WILLIAM U/B. Following has been read on 500/kc/s, from KING WILLIAM 31.44 S. 30.49 E. submarine sighted on surface dived at 0614GMT/10. (Capetown W/T 0718GMT/10)
Ref. SSSS from KING WILLIAM at 0614/10th in 031° 44' S 030° 49' E. If ship arrived Durban, request you will report whether Master received my 1927/7th diverting him to Capetown.
2. Ship was considerably ahead of her estimated position by Capetown plot based on Master's declared speed of 9 knots. Master should be asked to confirm that this was his estimated maximum speed not allowing for current or heavy weather. (C. in C. S.A. (?) 1210/10 to N.C.S.O. Durban (R) Admty., S.O. (I) Callao, Connav).

CORINTHIAN E.T.A. 1330Z
(CORINTHIAN 0755Z/10 to F.O.C. (R) Capt, (D) Freetown).

ARETHUSA Arrival Pointe Noire 0700Z/10th.
(B.N.L.O. W.A. 0845A/10 to F.O.C. W.A. Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

QUARANTIN Request QUARANTIN be sailed Bathurst for fitting A/S directing gear, QUARANTIN report when completed.
(F.O.C. W.A. 0858Z/10 to Connav, Dakar (R) Admty. etc.)

/CILICIA...

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WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

CILICIA. From position Z 003° S 012° W at 20 (?00)Z 11th March proceeded through positions B 001° N 018° W and C 003° N (?022°). W thence Freetown estimated 14 knots. You will be informed if any Allied merchant ships are routed near your route.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 1014/10 to CILICIA (R) Comsolant Admty. CARNARVON CASTLE).

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/10.
ROCKROSE, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY with N.C.6 027° 15' S (?014°) 50' E to Saldanha Bay 7½.
COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S., LADY ELSA ARCTIC EXPLORER with C.D.8. (?033°) (?45') S (?023°) 15' East to Durban 8. RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, QUALITY with D.C.14 034° 20' S 026° 40' E to Capetown 12½.
ST. LOMAN, NORTHERN CHIEF, PRETORIA, ODBERG with D.C. 13 033° 35' S 027° 30' E to Capetown 8.
LE TIGRE, INDIAN STAR, SONDRRA with D.N. (?23) 028° 30' (?South) 032° 30' East to 031° South 038° East 8.
JASMINE, NORWICH CITY, SPHENE (?about) 030° 30' S 035° 30' East. (?escorting) S/M.
HERO 027° 50' South 014° 30' East to 020° South 011° East 15.
(C. in C. S.A. 1029C/10).
Situation 2000Z/10th.
BELLWORT, ARMERIA, ARRAN (?2) M.Ls with S.T. 58 003° 38' 005° 02' 076° 9.
ARETHUSA off Pointe Noire 287° 17.
CILICIA 008° 40 S 011° 20' 353° 14.
DESPATCH on patrol about position 003° 00' 019° 30' 19.
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about position 005° 021° 30'.
Allied Naval units in Ascension St. Pauls Rocks area.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 1151Z/10)
Situation at 2000Z 10th.
HYDRANGEA, ORFASY escorting 008° 58' 014° 34' to Freetown 8.
(?MALAYA) escorting 009° 40' 014° 24' 292° 6.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 1147Z/10)

EMPRESS OF CANADA escort Your 1650A/8.
1. Propose retaining BOREAS to escort EMPRESS OF CANADA. Ship to sail from West Africa to arrive Gibraltar about 25th March in order to
(A) Reduce water requirements waiting at Gibraltar.
(B) Enable 700 R.A.F. personnel now at Takoradi to be embarked. Diversion of ship to Takoradi or alternatively air transport to Freetown being investigated.
(2) No other escort than BOREAS available.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 1035Z/10 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)
Approved. (D.O.D.(F), 1531A/11.)

JONATHAN EDWARDS. Your 2317/8th. (overdue report) JONATHAN EDWARDS put into Port Elizabeth 13th February.
(C. in C. S.A. 1044C/10 to A.S.O. (I) Recife
(R) Admty. Connav.)

/ARETHUSA...

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Wednesday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

ARETHUSA. Admty. 1508A/8th. Maximum speed for direct passage to Trinidad 14½ knots. Request consideration be given to fuelling at an intermediate point or possible routing through Ponta Delgada and Bermuda. (ARETHUSA 1044Z/10 to F.O.C.WA (R) Admty.)

QUADRANT. Your 0040/10th and 0858/10th (N.T. in W.D.) Oscillator shaft has been supplied from French source and fitted. QUADRANT in all respects ready for sea. (Comar Dakar, 1111Z/10 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R)Admty.etc.)

French Warships for Casablanca. Intend sailing French S/M ARETHUSE French Light Cruiser (? LE TIGRE) and S/M SULTANE escorted by French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT BORY for Casablanca 1400Z/12th. Anaof* cover arranged to latitude Cape Bojador.

2. Convoy speed made good 9½. Routed to pass through following positions at G.M.T. stated.

Between these positions convoys will keep 5 and 10 miles coast.

- A. 14.45 N 17.37 W 1600/12th. B. 20.00 N 17.16 W 0600/14th.
- C. 24.56 N 15.04 W 0900/15th. D. 28.15 N 13.15 W 0945/16th.
- E. 29.41 N 10.29 W 0545/17th. F. 31.24 N 09.54 W 1830/17th
- G. 33.41 N 07.50 W 1410/18th.

F.O. W.Af. pass to A.O.C.

(Comar Dakar, 1151Z/10 to F.O.C. W.Af. Admty etc.)*(as recd. ?Air)

GEORGES LEYQUES. Arrived French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES 0900. (Comar Dakar 1203Z/10 to F.O.C. W.Af. S.N.S.O. Casablanca Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

MALAYA
BOREAS
WOLVERINE
ADRIAS
CITY OF
CAPETOWN
QUADRANT.

1. Intend to sail MALAYA at 1000Z 11th March for Gibraltar escorted from Freetown by BOREAS, WOLVERINE, ADRIAS. Escort will be provided to CITY OF CAPETOWN to Gibraltar.

2. Route (E) 08.57 N 15.34 W (F) 10.01 N 16.59 W (G) 12.00 N 17.59 W (H) 20.57 N 18.00 W (K) 24.26 N 16.52 W (L) 28.08 N 13.16 W (M) 33.29 N 08.47 W (A) 35.49 18 N 06.06 30 W thence by searched channel to Gibraltar speed made good 14½ knots, E.T.A. a.m. 17th March.

3. WOLVERINE will be detached to arrive Bathurst at dusk 12th March WOLVERINE rejoins escort after refuelling.

4. N.O.I.C. Bathurst is to sail QUADRANT to R/V and join escort in 012° 16' N 018° 00' W at 1300Z 12th March.

5. After QUADRANT joins ADRIAS is to be detached to refuel at Dakar subsequently QUADRANT escort ADRIAS will report E.T.A. position 014° 26' N 017° 33' W to Comar Dakar.

6. After ADRIAS rejoins BOREAS will return to Freetown.

7. Ship shifting to North Atlantic W/T organization at 2000Z 14th March. Codeword ? "Flatiron".

(F.O.C. W.Af. 1204Z/10 to Admty N.O.I.C. Bathurst). Amended see 1210Z/11.

/My...

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.MALAYA,
BOREAS,
WOLVERINE,
ADRIAS,
CITY OF
CAPETOWN,
QUADRANT.
(Contd.)My 1204Z/10.
While WOLVERINE is refuelling at Bathurst,
only two destroyers will be available to
screen MALAYA.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 1311Z/10 to Admty.)Movements,
Bahia.Arrival 9th U.S. Destroyer HUMBOLDT U.S. Destroyer
KEARNEY Brazilian Escort Vessel RIO BRANCO
Submarine Chaser GURUPY. Arrival 10th Brazilian
Light Cruiser RIO GRANDE DO SUL Brazilian
Destroyer MARANHAO Minelayers CANANEA CAMAQUAM.
(R.O.Bahia 1225Z/10 to Admty.)

CHESHIRE.

Your 1227/8th. CHESHIRE. If you have in mind
date given in para. 3 of a.m. 1725/15th, delay
can be accepted and CHESHIRE should continue with
floating dock to the Cape. Thereafter she would
be sailed for U.K. without delay.
(D.O.D.(F) 1625A/10 to C. in C. S.A.(R) F.O.C.W.A.)
Reply 1607/11.

Movements.

Arrival 1639 G.M.T. 10th GENISTA and M.Ls 380,
382, 383, 829.
(N.L.O. East London 1641Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

S.L.126

(1) Intend to sail convoy S.L.126 at 1130Z/12th
March. Estimated speed made good 7 knots.
(2) Escorts from Freetown PELICAN, WEAR, SPEY,
ROTHER, SENNEN, COMMANDANT DROGOU. (3) Intend
BURDOCK escorting HOGGAR for Gibraltar and CHELMA and F.B.S.
DUNKERQUE for Casablanca to join from Dakar in 014° 26' N. 017°
43' W. at 1130Z/15th March if bare escorts can be provided in
the Gibraltar Area to escort these ships to their destinations.
(4) Intend PELICAN to arrive Dakar at daylight 15th March and
SENNEN p.m. 15th March to refuel. (5) Intend WEAR SPEY and
ROTHER to refuel from FORTOL at Port Etienne p.m. 16th and
a.m. 17th March escort being augmented in the Port Etienne
area by BUTSER and BIRDLIP. (6) Intend BURDOCK, BUTSER and
BIRDLIP to be detached from convoy about 19th March to return
Freetown with FORTOL. (7) Request two additional escorts
may R/V with convoy about position K to provide escort with
COMMANDANT DROGOU to CHELMA and DUNKERQUE to Casablanca and
HOGGAR and CITY OF DIEPPE to Gibraltar. Early reply is
requested. Request COMMANDANT DROGOU be sailed to rejoin convoy
to U.K. after refuelling at Gibraltar. Escorts shift to
North Atlantic W/T organisation at 2000Z/19th March and to
Home Station W/T organisation at 2000Z/26th March Codeword
"Child".
(F.O.C.W.A. 1648Z/10 as amended 1124Z/12 to Admty. C. in C.
Med. (R) PELICAN etc.)

/Intend...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy for Intend to sail BURDOCK, BUTSER and BIRDLIP at
Dakar. 1200Z/11th March escorting PALACCIO, ZAREMBO,
BURDOCK etc. and YANKEE ARROW, for Dakar, MARY KINGSLEY for
Dakar, and FORTROL for Port Etienne.

(2) Route (W) (?008° or 009°) 37' N. 015° 40' W.
(X) (corrupt group) 56' N. 016° 42' W. (Y) 001° 47' N., 017° 49'
W. (Z) 013° 17' N. 017° 13' W. (A) 014° 26' N. 017° 33' W. (B)
014° (?40') N. 017° 40' W. (C) 020° 30' N. 017° 32' W, thence
Port Etienne, estimated speed made good 7½ knots.

(3) PALACCIO, ZAREMBO and YANKEE ARROW will be detached at posi-
tion Z to arrive Bathurst a.m./14th March.

(4) From position (A) BURDOCK with MARY KINGSLEY proceed Dakar.
E.T.A. position (A) will be signalled.

(5) BUTSER and BIRDLIP escorting FORTROL arrive Port Etienne p.m.
16th March. Request JULES VERNE may be informed.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1705Z/10 to Comar Dakar (R) BURDOCK, Admty. N.O.I.C.
Bathurst, BUTSER)

Attack on U.S. informs me that convoy B.T.6 was attacked by
B.T.6. U-boat yesterday 9th North of Amazon and 7 ships
torpedoed. Further details will be signalled
when available.

(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1744P/10 to Admty).

Connav serial 10. Convoy B.T.6 attacked 9th March 007° 11'
N. 052° 30' W. Following torpedoed sunk:- KELVINBANK, JAMES
SMITH, JAMES K. POLK. Following torpedoed, believed still afloat
JOSEPH R. DRAKE, TABITHA BROWN, THOMAS RUFFIN, MARK HANNA,
GEORGE G MEADE, TAMESIS serial 9 sunk.
(Connav, 2136/10 to Comnav).

W.S.27. N.O.I.C. W. Africa 1710/9th Q route for W.S.27
SUSSEX, from position G through H 023° 00' S. 012° 30' E.
QUEENSBOROUGH, K. 033° 13' S. 017° 36' E. L. 033° 47' S. 018° 14'
RAIDER, QUAIL, E. M. 034° 00' S. 018° 14' E. thence by Q.G.A.109
PETUNIA, to N. 034° 26' S. 018° 26' E. O. 034° 55' S.
CROCUS. 019° 26' E. P. 034° 55' S. 023° 40' E. Q. 034° 35'
S. 025° 28' E. R. 033° 31' S. 028° 05' E. S. 031°
17' South 030° 32' E. T. 030° 40' S. 031° 02' E. thence to Durban
2. Capetown portion part company in position L and enter
harbour.
(C. in C. S.A., 1824C/10 to N.O.I.C. W.A. Admty. SUSSEX N.O.I.C.
Takoradi B.N.L.O.W.A.)

CHESHIRE Mast 1626. Your 706. (1318/27/2) Admiralty
A.F.D.24. perturbed at delay to CHESHIRE. Can you now give
us firm date for docks departure and reasons for
falling back during last two weeks in view of
earlier emphasis on need to get her away before the end of
February. (M.W.T. 2355/10 to Chadwick Buenos Aires).

S.L.126 Your 2359/7. Concur.
excess (D.T.D., 2357A/10 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).
numbers.

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

UNSEEN During daylight 10th patrol vicinity 040° "TT" 57.
(Capt. S.10., 0035A/10 to P.51 UNSEEN)

SAFARI Your 1945/9th well done.
Onward routeing through 038° 12' 010° 02' at 0600/10th 038° 12' 004° 57' at 2100/11th to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 04' at 0700/12th.

TRIBUNE from northward R/V same escort at same time. Cancel my 2248/9th to P.211 (N.T. in W.D.)
(Capt. S.8., 0324A/10 to P.211 (SAFARI) (R) 8th S.F. Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med)

SIBYL My 1242/9th. After 1000/11th patrol area south of 048° 42' between 012° 30' and 014°.
(Capt. S.8., 0408A/10 to P.217 (SIBYL) (R) 8th S/M F. Capt. (S) 10)

P.A.27 Convoy P.A.27 arrived less BRITISH DUCHESS diverted to Durban.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0710Z/10 to Admty).

TURBULENT 1. Start of your refit has been delayed a fortnight.
2. Leave your present area p.m./12th coast up to Giglio Island thence East Coast Corsica in approx. lat. 042° 25' thence coastwise to Cavoli.
3. Report in due course your E.T.A. in 038° 45' 009° 35' when onward routeing will be signalled.
(Capt. S.8., 0852A/10 to TURBULENT (R) 8th S/M F. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10).

TROOPER Patrol North of 040° N. and East of 013° E. from 0001/13th.
(Capt. S.8., 0906A/10 to TROOPER, (R) 8th S.F., Capt. (S) 10).

TIGRIS, CORIOLANUS. CORIOLANUS is to remain at R/V until 1000. If not met proceed into harbour unescorted. Convoy is to anchor in bay. Acknowledge.
(Capt. S.8., 0908A/10 to TIGRIS (R) Cdre. Algiers)

Tripoli Discharges. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Discharges 9th March Tripoli 3072 tons. Benghazi 2127 tons. Some small craft losses due bad weather.
(Mideast, 0910Z/10).

/Movements...

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 9th March BAGSHOT. Departure 9th March WOLBOROUGH. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0912B/10 to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

PETARD. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0930A/10 to Admty etc).

German M/V German Vessel arrived load fruit pulp for Germany via Marseilles probably sailing Thursday 11th, repeat Intelligence Centre. (Alicante 1000/10 to Admty).

T.E.18 T.(?E) 18 sailed as in (C. in C. Med's) 1800A/6th and my 1028/9th plus (?JAN) Pendant 13, EDWARD PREBLE, Pendant (?23). Both for Philippeville. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1000A/10 to C. in C. Med).
Pass to Cdre. and Escort. Intend to sail NASPRITE for Philippeville, EMPIRE LASS for Bone.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1652A/10 to S.O. Escorts T.E.18 (R) N.Os.I.C. Bougie, Philippeville, Bone, F.O.I.S. F.O. Gibraltar, Admty. Connav).

Bi-weekly Opsum No. 106. Part 4. Night 8/9 March. 35 Wellingtons despatched to attack shipping in Palermo Harbour. 6 Aircraft returned early, another unable to reach Palermo bombed Licata and Gela with unobserved results. 28 Wellingtons bombed objective but although many bursts seen in harbour effective smoke screen prevented observation of damage. Incendiary bomb dropped on Agrigento started medium fire. 4 Wellingtons landed Malta owing? to engine trouble and petrol shortage. 1 Wellington crashed near Homs one of crew killed 4 injured. 50 tons bombs dropped on Palermo between 2332A and 0035A hours. Shortly after dark 3 Ju.88s approached Tripoli but turned back when within 5 miles. 3 Beaufighters, 4 Hurricanes up, 1 Beaufighter sighted 2 Ju.88s and damaged 1. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1106Z/10).

Washington Conference - A/S Aircraft Gibraltar, Casablanca. Personal for 1st S.L. After reading V.C.N.S. 1443/9 (See America and West Indies) I am more than ever convinced that we must insist that the original wording should stand and that we must resist all attempts to put the Allied C. in C. in a position to interfere in a sphere of British strategic and Admiralty responsibility. (C. in C. Med., 1112/10 to Admty).

/UNSEEN...

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.UNSEEN,
UNRUFFLED,
UNBROKEN.

P.51 (UNSEEN) leaves patrol (?proceeding on surface) through position 10 miles north of Pantellaria thence direct to R/V with sweeper at 0830A March 12th.

2. P.46 (UNRUFFLED) moves unto area vacated by P.51 (UNSEEN) at dusk 11th.

3. P.42 (UNBROKEN) leaves Malta 1500A/11th routed 15 miles south of Lampedusa thence to patrol in area vacated by P.46 (UNRUFFLED)

(Capt. S.10., 1123A/10 to 10th S/M F. (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8th)

A.N.D.
Depots.

Your 0003/11 Dec. (Re consideration to establish small depots for repair and changing of A.N.D. nets in North Africa) and my 1610/18 Dec.

(Establishment of small depots for repair could only be undertaken at expense of turn round of shipping). Level ground and occasional berth at temporary Boom Depot Algiers could be used for A.N.D. Defence.

2. Flat topped lighters are available.

3. Special small stores could be stowed with Boom Defence Gear. (C. in C. Med., 1201/10 to Admty).

UNSHAKEN,
DOLFIJN.

(1) My 1358/7th para. 3. Escort will be trawler CAVA.

(2) Convoy due Algiers from Westward at 1200/11th.

(3) One trawler and one H.D.M.L. leaving Algiers bound eastwards at 0600/11th.

(4) Keep a good lookout for U-boat near Algiers.

(Capt. S.8., 1300A/10 to P.54 (UNSHAKEN) P.47 (DOLFIJN) (R) Cdre. Algiers, X.D.O.)

Port Said,
Movements.

10th March, Port Said arrivals: WOLBOROUGH H.M.M.Ls 1124, 1135, R.F.A. BADAPUR.

Departures: AETOS, BURRA, CUMBRAE, H.M.M.Ls. 1156, 1226, JOHN WILLIAMSON, R.F.A. BADAPUR, KOUNDOURIOTIS, H.M.M.L. 1032.

(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1518B/10 to Admty etc).

Spanish
Shipping.

Spanish CRISTINA and MONTE MONJUITO reported left Genoa 10th March. Not to be molested on approved route.

(Capt. S.8., 1526A/10 to TAURUS)

P.R.U.

P.R.U. March 10th visual. p.m. Taranto, Messina, Naples. No results, 10/10 cloud.

(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1543A/10 to C. in C. Med.etc).

/TASSOS...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

TASSOS, EINTRACHT. A. My 1717C/16 (1717/6 intended. Re sailing of TASSOS). TASSOS still here awaiting sailing orders.
B. German EINTRACHT (ex Greek VASSILIKI) also ready to sail but not yet certain whether for Black Sea or Aegean. Description.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1623C/10 to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.l D.N.I.)

ANTELOPE to escort EMPRESS OF CANADA. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 1231/10th para. 2, concur. (C. in C. Med., 1647/10 to F.O.C.W.A.)

?Axis Shipping. Your 1643/8th (N.T. in W.D.) Attempt will be made to give 6 hours warning. Both vessels out at present. They are seldom more than 1½ miles from coast on passage.
(N.A. Madrid, 1653/10 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty).

CELENO (Italian) My 1607/19th Feb. CELENO sailed for Bourgas and Constanza 0830 G.M.T./10th N.L.O. Black Sea informed.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1708C/10 to S.O.(I) Levant, (R) Capt. S.l. Beirut, D, of N.I.)

TASAJERA repairs. Ref. C.S. Gibraltar's 2037/9 March and Com.N.O.B. Oran's 1717/5 March. Quantities of materials ordered for TASAJERA appear excessive. Request revised minimum requirements be forwarded C.S. Gibraltar (R) Com. Algiers. On receipt of this message Com. Algiers to report quantities of materials which can be spared from Algiers stock and arrange for earliest despatch. C.S. Gibraltar to supply balance. Essential TASAJERA repairs be expedited. Materials held for SCYTHIA repairs should be utilised as necessary and replaced. Until bulk supplies or repair materials are received at Oran from U.S.A. orders for known commitments should be placed as soon as possible with Gibraltar. Maximum notice should be given before vessel is docked. Stocks of repair materials at Gibraltar should be maintained at a high level to meet such demands.
(C. in C. Med., 1752A/10 to Com. N.O.B. Oran, C.S. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. Com. Algiers).

KATSONIS KATSONIS (G.S.) leaves end of searched channels at 1800B/11th March (route)
To operate in western Aegean south of 037° 03' N. and west of line 326° from position 035° 20' N. 026° 54' E. S. of A. 200 miles for first 24 hours proceeding on surface during daylight 12th March then 110 miles per 24 hours.
(Capt. S.l., 1808B/10 to C. in C. Levant, (R) Cdre. (D) C.F.E., Capt. (S) 10, PAPANICOLIS G.S.) Cancelled, by 1637/18 q.v.

/Captured...

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Captured Axis Ports, Working. / (Sent to Gen. Eisenhower as No. 2047) Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. (M.E.) 363.

Request information of the experience gained in opening up and operating captured ports, Benghazi and Tripoli in particular.

2. Details required include:-

(a) Method of control and division of responsibility between Army and Navy Sea Transport.

(b) Chairmanship, composition, and working of Port Committees.

(c) Types of craft, equipment and material used, particularly of successful improvisations, adaptation of standard material e.g. bridging and quick temporary expedients.

(d) Numbers and trades of technicians and labour employed.

(e) The form and extent of blocking and demolition carried out by the enemy and comparative effect of different methods on port operations.

3. Short reports should be signalled and full reports in writing should be forwarded as early as convenient. Recommendations for future operations under Mediterranean conditions will be welcome especially for details under (c) and (d) of para.2. (Air Min. 1810Z/10 to Cs. in C. M.E., A.F.H.Q. Algiers).

Floating Dock, Oran. / Add to R.A.(V)'s 1925/8 (2750 ton dock required) "And for Fleet of L.S.Ts. both U.S. and British which are coming to this station". (C. in C. Med. 1814A/10 to Admty. (R) R.A.(V))

M.E.19 Sailed convoy M.E.19. DULVERTON, KELVIN, EASTON, MIAOULES, WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1817A/10 to Admty. etc).

Malta Air Report. A.I.571 C.S.R. Night 9/10 March. Very bad weather and 10/10ths low cloud prevented offensive operations. Day 10 March. 16 Spitfires on offensive sweep over Comiso area Sicily found no enemy aircraft. Further operations were prevented by bad weather. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1840Z/10)

Movements, Oran. TYNEDALE arrived today LIDDESDALE, TYNEDALE, MISOA, BACHAQUERO, ALGOMA, KING SOL, VISENDA, REIGHTON WYKE and FLUELLEN all departed. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1950/10 to Admty etc).

Algiers, Movements. Arrived VANOC, VERITY, FOXTROT, TANGO, PUCKERIDGE, STELLA CARINA, LADY HOGARTH, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, FARNDALE L.C.I.(L) 67, 210, 163, 242, RESTIVE. Departures LIGHTNING, LOYAL, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, VANOC, VERITY, FOXTROT, TANGO, PUCKERIDGE, STELLA CARINA, LADY HOGARTH, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, FARNDALE, LASSO, CHURCHILL, RESTIGOUCHE, BRANDON, AMHERST, COLLINGWOOD, CELANDINE. (Cdre. Algiers, 2023A/10 2026A/10 to Admty. etc)

/TIGRIS...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TIGRIS
lost. Regret to report TIGRIS due Algiers this morning has not arrived, has failed to answer signals and must be considered lost.
(2) TIGRIS left Malta 18th Feb. for patrol in area off Naples North of 40° N. E. of 012° 30' E. and was instructed to patrol at his discretion by day near Boca Picola or Carena, withdrawing at least 15 to 20 miles from coast by night. TIGRIS had carried out one previous patrol in this area.
(3) There is indication that TIGRIS was sighted off Capri at 0730 and 1630/24th, 1650/27th and at 0640/1st March and was informed accordingly.
(4) TIGRIS was ordered to leave patrol p.m./6th and return to Algiers.
(5) Am unaware of any Italian claim to indicate cause of loss.
(6) Capt. (S) 1 and Capt. (S) 10 are requested to take necessary action as regards casualties.
(7) C. in C. Levant pass to Capt. (S) 1, V.A. Malta pass to Capt. (S) 10.
(Capt. S.8., 2204A/10 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. etc).

Enemy Unit Following received addressed A/C BUN/V BUN/R
From Malta Air H.Q. Your objective is in 37.50 N.
12.20 E. at 2100 hrs. steering 180° speed unknown.
(Alexandria W/T, 2210A/10 to Admty).

Movements, Sailed JERVIS, NUBIAN, ISIS, M.Ls. 135 L.C.M.105.
Tripoli. (N.O.I.C. Tripoli, 2221A/10 to Admty)

Movements, Arrived M.T.B.62 M.T.B.72.
Benghazi. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2244B/10 to Admty).

UNITED Following is a repetition of my 1529/10 (begins)
Arrival submarine UNITED (ends).
(V.A. Malta, 2341A/10 to Admty. etc)

War Diary.

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ASTER.

Arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0337Z/10 to Admty.)

MONTICELLO.

Your 1014/7 not to P.S.T.O. India.
It is now definite that MONTICELLO will proceed to East Coast of U.S. via Australia and Panama Canal.
(D. of S.T. 0417A/10 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N. Cdre. R.I.N., B.A.D. A.C.N.B. P.S.T.O., India.)

M.B. 28.

RAJPUTANA escorting M.B. 28 consisting of SHWEDAGON and EUROPE leaves Colombo p.m. 10th E.T.A. Bombay 0230/15. Both tankers for B.P. convoy.
(F.O. Ceylon 0417Z/10 to Com. R.I.N. S.O. Persian Gulf, F.O.C., R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Bombay.)

ARONDA,
Polish
families.

Further movements of Polish families to East Africa suspended for present at request of Confgov Nairobi. My 0451/1st. (0541/1 intended.) Para. C. is cancelled my 0507/7 ARONDA only embarked 500 families for Beira.
(P.S.T.O. India 0554Z/10 to P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

Request for
Destroyers,
S. Atlantic.

Personal for 1st. S.L.
(i) I was not able to investigate the destroyer situation referred to in your 1912/7th until I returned to Kilindini.
(ii) It is my intention to send every available destroyer to S. Africa and suspend training exercises until U/Bs have withdrawn.
(C. in C. E.F. 0651Z/10 to Admty.)

U.S. vessels classification. Following U.S. vessels operating in Indian Ocean are classified as major war vessels and use appropriate recognition procedure.

Tanker TRINITY transport WEST POINT, transport MONTICELLO. See C.B. 3060 and Movements Summary.
(C. in C. E.F. 0701Z/10 to E.I. Station (178 C.) (R) Admty)

Movements
summary
No.47 March
10th.

(1) U.S. Naval Transport MONTICELLO escorted by Scout to latitude equator left Bombay 8th. due Melbourne 23rd. routed East of Maldive Is. (2) DEVONSHIRE left Colombo 9th calling Seychelles 13th due Kilindini 15th.

War Diary.

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Movements
summary
No. 47.
March 10th.

(3) CARADOC leaves Kilindini 10th due Diego Suarez 12th. (4) CERES left Diego Suarez 9th escorting H.T. LANCASHIRE due Kilindini 12th. The following Y messages are cancelled 209Y of 19th Feb. 211Y of 23rd Feb. 214Y of 26th Feb. (C. in C. E.F. 0803Z/10 to E.F. Admty., C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.R.S.F., N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Programme
of Troop
Movements.

Cancel my 1115/15th March (Feb. intended) and amendments. Following is a revised and section programme of troop movements.

(A) B.A. 39 - Hospital ship TALAMBA and Transport NERVASA with Italian sick and wounded.
Sailing 14th March. (B) B.P. 73 - 7 personnel ships RAJULA VARELA, KOSCCUSZKO, SALWEEN, YOMA, ASCANIUS, VARSOVA, sail 23rd March. (c) B.A. 40 1 personnel ship ROHNA sailing 23rd March.
(d) B.P. 74 1 personnel ship EL MADINA sail 10th March.
(e) Karachi to Addu Atoll via Bombay. One personnel ship ISLAMI embark Karachi 950 Indian other ranks sail 1st April and embarked Bombay 250 Indian other ranks. 4th April.
(f) Karachi 60 Colombo one animal ship with (?152) mules and approx. 50 personnel sail about 25th March.
(g) Bombay to Basra via Gwadar. JASK and MASIRAH - BANDRA embarked at Bombay 110 labourers for Basra and 120 R.A.F. levied (?at) GWADAR for JASK and MASIRAH sailing 13th March.
(h) Bombay to Capetown and U.K. FELIX ROUSSEL with service personnel up to the limit allowed for an unescorted ship sail 16th March.

(P.S.T.O. India 1201Z/10 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, N.C.S.O., Karachi, D. of S.T. N.O.I.C. Hormuz., Comdre., Aden, Armindia.)

Dispositions. My 1325/4th. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Pacific:-
MISSISSIPPI and VICTORIOUS at Pearl Harbour.
LONG ISLAND in S. Pacific. SANTA FE, SALT LAKE CITY, at Sea.
(D.O.D. (F) 1240A/10 to C. in C. E.F.)

Ceylon
movements.

Summary No. 41 March 10th.

1. FALMOUTH left Bandar Abbas 9th escorting P.A. 28 to Aden due 16th. 2. SHOREHAM patrol P.9.
3. SCOUT left Bombay 8th escorting MONTICELLO to vicinity of Equator, thence R/V with WORCESTERSHIRE escorting MARMADUKE to Colombo due 13th. 4. HINDUSTAN left Bombay with MARLBOROUGH 7th escorting B.P. 71 due Khor Kuwai 13th.
5. SUTLEJ due to leave Bandar Abbas 15th with BENGAL escorting P.B. 31. 6. JUMNA left Bandar Abbas 9th with BATHURST and SEABELLE escorting P.B. 30 due Bombay 15th.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Ceylon movements. 7. SONAVATI left Bombay 6th for Trincomalee 10th
8. ASTER left Bombay 8th for Karachi to escort NEVASSA to Bombay.
9. MARGUERITE with PANGKOR leaves Bombay 11th escorting B.P.72.
10. (?) QALMORE left Colombo 9th escorting J.C. 8, to Vizag thence proceeding to Madras.
11. OVERDALE, WYKE and KEDAH arrived Colombo 7th from Cochin.
12. BARLANE arrived Colombo 8th. 13. PUNJAB and RATNAGIRI arrived Bombay 9th.
14. MADRAS leaves Bandar Abbas 15th escorting P.A. 29.
15. GERALDTON left Bandar Abbas 3/3 escorting P.A. 27 due Aden 10/3.
16. KONKAN left Madras 7/3 escorting STORVIKEN to Calcutta due 10/3.
17. RAJPUTANA arrived Colombo 9/3 from Madras leaves 10/3 escorting M.B.28.
18. ORISSA leaves Aden 13/3 escorting A.P. 24.
19. TAMWORTH leaves Trincomalee 10/3, escorting CLYDEFIELD to Colombo. Leaving Colombo, 12/3 escorting M.P. (?29).
(F.O. Ceylon, 1607/10 to Admty.)

M.C. 6. 1. Returning ships of W.S. 26A referred to in your 1108/4 para.3 will form convoy M.C.6, from Aden. 2. Handling of convoy will be much facilitated if all personnel for Dar-Es-Salaam can be embarked in one ship which if possible should be the ship calling Madagascar.
3. If arrangements in para.2 can be made ARUNDEL CASTLE, MALOJA and CITY OF PARIS will call at Kilindini. ORDUNA will omit Kilindini and call at Dar-Es-Salaam, Diego Suarez and Tamatave rejoining M.C.6 on passage to Durban.
(C. in C. E.F. 2027Z/10 to P.S.T.O. M.E. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. Com. I/C Aden. Admty, etc.)

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

L.S.T. Baltimore departed for Norfolk 1200/6, L.S.T. 420.
(N.S.H.Q., 0100Z/10 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)
Baltimore departed 1300Z/10 L.S.T.429 for Norfolk.
(N.S.H.Q., 0507Z/10 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

TRACKER. Your 2149Z/5th (Instructions to keep wireless watch). E.T.A. South East Pacific Area 0500 G.M.T. March (? 11th). Wireless watch 500 k/cs continuous, (? amend) routine and Bilbao broadcast.
(TRACKER, 0103Z/10 to B.A.D., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

TRAIL. C.O.A.C. Halifax 0231Z/9th. TRAIL estimates E.T.A. 43.33 N. 56.48 W. at 0700Z/10th.
(NIAGARA, 0125Z/10 to COBALT, (R) F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., etc.)

A.T. 38 If A.T.38 sails in time to make R/V my 041955, 1800 troops will be left behind owing to train delays. Is it acceptable to delay ship 24 hours?
(QUEEN ELIZABETH)
(Cominch C. & R., 0345/10 to Admty.)
C. in C. U.S. Fleet is asking you if A.T.38 may be delayed 24 hours in order to allow 1800 troops to embark who are held up by train delay. Agreed B.A.S.
(B.A.D., 0401Z/10 to Admty.)
Your 0345/10. Yes, delay of 24 hours is acceptable.
(D.O.D.(H), 0820Z/10 to Cominch C. & R.)
Cancel my 0345/10. As majority of troops have arrived it is intended to sail ship as originally scheduled. (C.E.S.F. pass to Port Director New York for info.)
(Cominch C. & R., 1150/10 to Admty.)
Cancel my 0401/10th, majority of troops having arrived ship will sail as originally arranged. Agreed B.A.S.
(B.A.D., 1205Z/10 to Admty.)
A.T.38. NK amend route from (P) to new (A) 36.01 57.59 thence (R) omitting (Q). Estimated P.C.S. large convoy at 2000Z/10 37.58 69.41 284, 13.5 altering on 70 W. to 30.7.
(Cominch C. & R., 1434/10 to A.T.38 QUEEN ELIZABETH, (R) Admty., etc.)
A.T.38 departed Ambrose 1610Z/10.
(Port Director New York, 1802/10 to Cominch C. & R., (R) Cominch, etc.)
1. Sailing telegram A.T.38 Part 2. 10 Brit. 261 - 2
QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 10261 troops, 1033 Mail 12 U.K.
(Port Director New York, 2050Z/10 to Cominch C. & R., (R) Cominch, etc.)

/Washington ...

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Washington
Conference,
Atlantic
Imports,
Convoys,
Escort
Groups.

Personal for V.C.N.S. from 1st S.L.
Your 1355/9th (N.T. in W.D., Hush.)
Imports in January and February were so low
that it was necessary for those in March, April,
May and June to be at an increased rate of 15
million tons per half year, if we were to attain
our target of 12 million tons.

2. As pointed out in my 1556/14th Feb., as
amended by my 1110/19th Feb., we were expecting
an increase in amount of shipping presenting
for convoy, but it was not until 24th Feb. that M. of W.T.
were in a position to give us the figures given in my 1513/27th
Feb. It was then evident that number of convoys would have
to be increased to an extent which require 14 escort groups
in May.

3. The size of O.S. convoys depends on shipping requirements
for Middle East, which are not yet firm and depend on whether
the Americans provide this tonnage or we do. Present calcu-
lations indicate that increase will be such as to necessitate
adoption of 15-day cycle, and it was considered preferable to
provide for this contingency now rather than have to bring it
up again in near future.

4. Further signal follows on points raised in your 2245/8th
March.

(1st S.L., 0400A/10 to B.A.D.)

Personal for 1st S.L. from Vice Chief of Naval Staff.
I told Edwards of instructions given to me in your 1615/10th
(Hush, Most Secret). We agreed to keep question out of meeting
of main conference this afternoon. He is now talking it over
with his officers. The fact he is doing this gives me some hope
they may play. I do not expect to hear tonight as he will
have to see King about it later.

3. Conference this afternoon accepted report of sub-committee
on air support which I am sending in my 2201/10th. It has
been the subject of prolonged discussion and amendment and is
the best I could get towards tying down American air to work
in Newfoundland.

4. Conference also discussed question of Gibraltar - Casablanca
area. Ref your 1053/10th, the American Army refuse to accept
original wording. Eventually I put up an alternative draft
which I think meets our point and I got Army General to agree
to it. He has now gone away to see if General Marshall will
accept it. As soon as I get a draft agreed here I will signal
it to you and repeat to C. in C. Med. for concurrence.

(B.A.D., 2117Z/10 to Admt.)

Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.

My 2117/10.

(A) Following is text of sub-committee's report on air
support agreed to by Conference p.m. today.

(B) (Begins) - Recommendation.

(1) It is recommended that measures to accelerate production
(up to 1st July 1943) of "Immediate minimum requirements" of
A/S aircraft be limited to such action as the services
concerned can take without interference with production
schedules. There should be no large diversion of aircraft
earmarked for other theatres of war.

/(2) It ...

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Washington
Conference,
Atlantic
Imports,
Convoys,
Escort
Groups.
(Contd.)

(2) It is recommended that countries concerned estimate A/S aviation requirements for the period subsequent to 1st July 1943 for their respective areas of A/S air responsibility, and take steps to insure procurement as rapidly as possible.

Comment.

(3) Special equipment for A/S planes is not prospectively available in quantity materially exceeding the planned output of A/S aircraft up to 1st July 1943.

(4) In view of the shortages of aircraft in all theatres of active operation it would be most undesirable to divert to A.S.W. any large number of aircraft now earmarked for these theatres.

(5) The situation with respect to M.R. and L.R. A/S aircraft is not bad. Planes of this type will suffice for the time being in the less active submarine zones - that is - in all areas except N.W. Africa and the North Atlantic convoy route where V.L.R. aviation is urgently needed.

Present plans provide for concentrating in these areas all V.L.R. to become available (ready to operate) within the next few months. This will provide for the following distribution which is not too inadequate -

(A) N.W. Africa. U.S. Army now has two squadrons of B.24s (L.R) in this area. These will be replaced at an early date by B.24s (L.R.) and will be maintained at a level of 24 operational planes.

(B) U.K. - Iceland. British (as stated by Air Vice Marshal Durston) plan following deployment of V.L.R. planes - now in operation fifteen, by 1st April fifteen, by first June fifteen, 1st July fifteen, total sixty.

(C) Newfoundland. U.S. plans following deployment of V.L.R. planes (data as to planned deployment furnished by Vice Admiral Edwards for U.S. Navy and by Brigadier General E.L. Eubank for the U.S. Army Air Force) - by 1st April twelve (Army L.R. to be replaced by V.L.R. beginning in April), 1st May twelve (Army), 1st May twelve (Navy), 1st June twelve (Army), total 48.

(6) The maximum possible use of A.C.V. is necessary to augment the scanty escorts and air cover that can be provided for convoy protection. It is understood that U.K. and U.S. contemplate assigning the maximum possible number of A.C.Vs to convoy protection duty.

(7) With respect to Canada's responsibility for the Labrador - Newfoundland - Canada A/S air area (as outlined in A.C.C. - N.E.) it must be recognised that Canada does not have - now or in prospect - any V.L.R. aircraft but does have about 200 crews trained in A.S.W. and familiar with flying conditions in the area. Assignment of U.S. planes to operate under Canadian control, as now contemplated, is necessary to take care of the immediate situation. It would appear appropriate for Canada to bring before the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff the question of allocating V.L.R. to R.C.A.F.

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Washington
Conference,
Atlantic
Imports,
Convoys,
Escort
Groups.
(Contd.)

8. U.S. representatives submit as a matter of record that the U.S. policy is to avoid freezing any A/S aviation to any particular area. The general plan is to regard all A/S air unity as available for shifting from time to time to areas where the need is greatest. However, in view of the critical situation on the northern convoy route it is agreed that there should be a definite commitment of U.S. V.L.R. planes to the Newfoundland area for the period ending 1st July 1943 when the situation should be re-examined". Ends.

(C) Please pass to C.A.S.
(B.A.D., 2201Z/10 to Admty.)
Reply: 1350A/12.

MOYOLA,
defect.

Dome and oscillator A/S Type 144 in H.M.S. MOYOLA carried away. Ship requires quick docking to replace. Request instructions. My P.C. and S. 50.25 N. 42.50 W., 236°, 11.

Demonstration to attract fighters carried out but no luck. Weather forecast.
(E.G.40 in ABERDEEN, 0400Z/10 to C.T.F.24, (R) C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., MOYOLA.)
See also 1510/10.

DAHLIA,
search
for KATY.

Your 1032Z/9th (Norwegian KATY torpedoed). E.T.A. position 061° 34' N. 027° 43' W. 1200Z/10th. Request aircraft assist search.
(DAHLIA, 0420Z/10 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav., etc.)
W.D.Note: For reply see Home Commands.

Movements,
New York.

Your 0515/9 (originated by War Reg.)
Following is a repetition of my 0452/7. (Begins).
Admty., (R) B.A.D. from N.S.H.Q.
New York arrived 4th March for Norfolk (Virginia) L.S.T.421. New York departed in S.C.122 5th March L.S.T.305, 365. 0452/7 ends.

(Ottawa C.C.O., 0500Z/10 to Admty.)
Your 0515/9 (originated by War Reg.) Following is a repetition of my 1223/7. Begins: Admty., B.A.D. from N.S.H.Q.
Boston departed for New York 5th March L.C.I.(L) 133.
1223/7. Ends.
(Ottawa C.C.O., 0501Z/10 to Admty.)

U/B
attacked.

U.S. Y.P.447 reports sound contact at 0330Z/10th in 43.53 N. 67.20 W. and 2 attacks carried out at 0425Z/10th. Result unknown.
(C.O.A.C., 0530Z/10 to G.B.7A, C.T.F.24, (R) Connav, Admty., etc.)

/ U/B ...

War Diary.

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B. Submarine reported attacking in 20.02 N. 74.38 W. at 0812Z/10.
(Kingston, Jamaica, 0545R/10 to Admty.)

ACHILLES. This is ACHILLES' 0230/10.
"Action Cominch C. & R. Info. Admty., B.A.D. and S.B.N.O.W.At., N.Z.N.B. and N.O.C.A.
From: ACHILLES.

Intend sailing for Bermuda at 1400Z/10 passing through following positions - (A) 09.50 N. 79.50. (B) 18.00 N. 68.20. (C) 18.30 N. 68.00. (D) 32.11 N. 64.36 entering by Q.J.B.1 and 3, S. of A. 23 knots, E.T.A. Bermuda 1830Z/13. Last Q message received Q.J.B.6, Q.J.E.120, Q.J.F.2. Radio watches in accordance with A.F.O 'S' 1/42 Section A.C. area E and constant watch on N.B.A. Balboa. Fuel required on arrival 1000 tons and following fresh provisions(list)
(Radio Washington, 0810/10 to Admty., S.B.N.O.W.A.)

NORSEMAN. NORSEMAN arrival 9th. Working on St. Thomas cables.
(B.R.L.O. St. Thomas, 0902/10 to Admty.)

EMPIRE LIGHT. My 1630Z/9, amend position of EMPIRE LIGHT to read 054° 08' N. 044° 34' W. My P.C. and S. at 0900Z/10 051° 50' N. 046° 40' W., 210°, 9 knots, weather report.
(PENNYWORT, 1105Z/10 to F.O.N.F., (R) Connav, etc.)

ARCOLA, TAIGETE. Your 0819/10 to S.B.N.O. Curacao only. Have these tankers received loading orders or are they in ballast? In either case ships are not to sail without further orders from Admty. Admty. is requested to confirm my 1133/8 and

forward loading instructions.
Transfer of communication ratings is being arranged.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1125QR/10 to Aruba, (R) Admty., S.B.N.O.W.A.)
Your 1125QR/10th complied with.

2. No loading orders received.
3. U.S.A. Routeing Officer directed me to sail tankers in compliance C.A.F.A.C. 1800/9 and C. on N.A.V. 1640/8.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1515/10 to S.N.O. Curacao, (R) Admty.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary, 1800 G.M.T. 10th March.	8 L.C.I.(L)s	27½° N. 48½° W. (position doubtful)	060°	5½
	23 L.C.I.(L)s	35° N. 71° W.	118°	10
	40th E.G.	48½° N. 47° W.	256°	10½
	(D.O.D.(F), 1150Z/10 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)			

/CLEMATIS ...

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

CLEMATIS, Ice. Left field ice at 0230Z/10th in position 050° 53' N. 049° 05' W. sighted 8 icebergs between last position and 051° 29' N. 048° 20' W. U. Weather report.
(CLEMATIS, 1236Z/10 to F.O.N.F., (R) C.O.A.C., C.T.24, BEVERLEY, PENNYWORT.)

C.U.1. Your 1205/7. E.W. SINCLAIR and ESSO PATERSON have been nominated as escort tankers for U.C.1. Temporary equipment is being provided by American authorities.

2. Your para. 2. Only the spare gear on board SAN AMBROSIO and KAIA KNUDSEN should be discharged in accordance A.M.2241/18 February.

3. No oiling at sea gear is ever to be removed from tankers arriving Curacao unless previous instructions received from Admty.
(D.T.D., 1245A/10 to B.R.L.O. Curacao, (R) Cdre. i/c Bermuda.)

B.Y.M.S. San Francisco arrived 9th March B.Y.M.S. number 11, 12, 20 and 23.
(N.S.H.Q., 1256Z/10 to Admty., (R) B.A.T.)

U.C., C.U. Convoys, escort, maintenance. A.M. 1954/16/10. Maintenance party for British escorts of U.C. C.U. convoys are due to arrive St. Johns N.F. with the 40th Group today Wednesday.

2. They have orders to proceed to Curacao, but this destination is being reconsidered.

3. Request you will arrange for them to be held as convenient until their ultimate destination is confirmed or decided.
(D.O.D.(H), 1311A/10 to B.A.D., (R) F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

WOLFE. Sailing WOLFE Norfolk to New York when ready ?(E.T.A.) March 13th. Sailing onward in next suitable H.X. Convoy ultimate destination Clyde.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1315/10 to C.E.S.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

U/B. My 1826/9th (re S/M sighted 47.08 N. 55.49 W.) Classification B.4.
(C.O.A.C., 1330Z/10 to C.T.F.24, (R) Connav, etc.)

ARETHUSA. Admty. 1508A/8th. A.S. Chatham has been requested to forward by air defects list and list of alterations and additions. Admty. pass to B.A.D. (Passing action being taken by W.R.)
(ARETHUSA, 1342Z/10 to B.A.D. for B.A.M.R.)

/ACHILLES ...

War Diary.

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

ACHILLES. Departure 10th March ACHILLES 1600 G.M.T.,
E.T.A. Bermuda 13th March.
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 1402R/10 to Admty., S.B.N.O.
W.At., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

S/M Estimates, (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1500/10, 1501/10, 1550/10,
10th March, 1551/10, 1552/10, 2347/10.)
U.S. S/M
Notice.

E. G. 40. MOYOLA E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. a.m./11th.
LANDGUARD E.T.A. Argentia a.m./12th. ABERDEEN
liners WAVENEY, LULWORTH E.T.A. St. Johns N.F.
between 1600 and 2200/11th. Request pilots
for last 14 ships if not arrived before dark. My P.C. and S.
48.45 N. 46.00 W. (231°?) 10. Weather report.
(E.G.40 in ABERDEEN, 1510P/10 to C.T.24, (R) 40th E.G., N.O.I.C.
St. Johns N.F., N.O.I.C. Argentia, C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C.,
F.O.N.F., Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., N.S.H.Q.)

Canadian Corvettes. A.M. 1330/7th, C. in C. W.A. 1731/8th and
N.S.H.Q. 2156/8th. Corvettes returned from
"Torch" operations are to be transferred to books
of STADACONA. 2. C.O.A.C. is to report
proposed allocations to Canadian Authorities and refitting
programme.
2. Allocations are to conform as close as possible to proposed
disposition dated 10th March 1943.
(N.S.H.Q., 1543Z/10 to C.O.A.C., (R) Admty., etc.)

A/S Trawlers. Six A/S trawlers mentioned in Admty. 2006/9th
are allocated on arrival at Halifax to Halifax
Force. Accounting base H.M.S. CANADA.
(N.S.H.Q., 1544Z/10 to Admty., C.O.A.C., (R)
CANADA, C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., F.O.I.C.N.I.,
N.O.I.C. Halifax.)

U.S. Transports. T.W. DRENNAN (U.S.A.T.) arrived Curacao March 9th.
(N.S.H.Q., 1632Z/10 to Admty.)
STATE OF MARYLAND (U.S.A.T.) arrived Kingston,
Jamaica 8th.
(N.S.H.Q., 1829Z/10 to Admty.)
Mobile March 8th ROANOKE (U.S.A.T.) for Colon.
(N.S.H.Q., 1956Z/10 to Admty.)
San Francisco arrival 8th U.S.A.Ts SEC, WITCH, KLIPFONTEIN (Du.)
Departure 9th U.S.A.T. MOUNT VERNON for San Diego.
(N.S.H.Q., 2355Z/10 to Admty., C.O.P.C.)

TAMESIS, ALCOA GUARD, collision. My 1649/9 March (TAMESIS in collision with
ALCOA GUARD, American, proceeding in convoy
U.G.S.6.) W/T Operator now states first attempt

/to ...

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.TAMESIS,
ALCOA GUARD,
collision.
(Contd.)

to pass position signal was made at 0200 G.M.T. March 6th and second attempt, when signal was broadcast without contact being established, was as 0035 G.M.T. 7th.
(B.R.L.O. Bermuda, 1437Q/10 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., N.S.H.Q.)

Jamaica
Troop
Reliefs.

Your 1422/13/2 (re relief of battalion at Jamaica by one from Canada). U.S. War Department state no difficulty is anticipated in carrying out movement, if situation in Caribbean remains as at present. 2. They will advise B.A.S. as to sailing arrangements later.
(B.A.D., 1725Z/10 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty., etc.)

T.U.
24.4.1,
ex H.X.228.

Detached from convoy H.X.228 at 1500Z/10th at 050° 44' N. 031° 07' W. Proceeding to base R. Your 0135/10th proposed route passing through points - A. 049° 35' N. 031° 00' W. at 2100Z/10th then course 254° to point B. 045° 48' N. 050° 00' W. at 1600Z/13th then course 286° to point C. 046° 22' N. 053° 02' W. at 0300Z/14th. E.T.A. Base R 1330Z/14th. S.O.A.12. Weather report.
(C.T.U.24.4.1, 1754Z/10 to C.T.24, (R) C. in C. W.A., etc.)

L. 23,
NANAIMO.

1. My 1505/6. S/M L.23 escorted by NANAIMO now sails St. Johns 1430Z/12 for Philadelphia through A 47.33 N. 52.33 W. B 46.37 N. 52.53 W. C 44.58 N. 56.58 W. D 44.45 N. 61.03 W. E 43.13 N. 65.24 W. F 43.05 N. 68.56 W. G 42.22 N. 70.16 W. H 41.50 N. 70.20 W. thence by Cape Cod Canal and Long Island Sound and coastwise to Philadelphia. Speed 10 knots, E.T.A. Philadelphia 17th March.
2. Request total bombing restrictions en route.
3. C.E.S.F. is requested to provide onward escort from vicinity of Cape Cod Canal in accordance with C.O.A.C. 1639/7.
4. W/T watch.
(F.O.N.F., 1831Z/10 to No.1 Group R.C.A.F., N.B.C., C.T.F.24, Canadian Army H.Q., C.O.A.C., A.O.C.E.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Cominch, C.E.S.F., B.A.M.R., (R) F.O.C. Subs., Admty., NANAIMO, L.23.)
Amended F.O.N.F. 1350Z/12.

Movements,
Trinidad.

Trinidad departures March 10th AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, YESTOR, H.M. Tug ORIANA.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1832Q/10 to S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) Admty., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

French
Desertions
in U.S.A.

My 1843/6.
I have the impression that Navy Dept. expect an early reply from us. Therefore requested that I may receive guidance on this matter.
(B.A.D., 1845Z/10 to Admty.)

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

GEORGETOWN. Boston sailed 1600Z/9th GEORGETOWN for Charleston.
(N.S.H.Q., 1902Z/10 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., etc.)

Canadian Construction, Minesweepers and E/Vs. Your 1930Z/17th Feb.
Overall requirements of minesweepers and Escort vessels can only be met by integrating all building programmes of United Nations. Evident Canada can build more minesweepers than are required in Canadian areas of responsibility and fewer Escort vessels than she needs.

We are therefore examining possibility of building Corvettes in this country with some or all of the capacity at present devoted to building "Algerines" and relying on Canadian production for our "Algerines".

Request you make no drastic alterations to your "Algerine" programme until we can lay before you definite proposals for construction, manning and operation.
(Sec. to Controller, 1959/10 to N.S.H.Q.)

Fuel Stocks, Newfoundland. Your 2034/10th Dec. Petroleum Board are willing that their tankage should be used in connection with naval reserves so long as storage either in Petroleum Board or Imperial Oil Company's tankage remains available for 30,000 tons of black oil and 22,000 tons of clean oil on their account.

(2) Request details be agreed with Imperial Oil Company.

(3) It is considered that tankage constructed and under construction at St. Johns (44,000 tons) should suffice to meet requirements in view of - (a) availability of Halifax tankage.
(b) stocks of naval fuel maintained in New York.

(c) possibility in emergency of diverting to St. Johns tankers ex convoy.

(Head of M.(2), Approved 4th Sea Lord, 2019A/10 to N.S.H.Q.,
(R) B.A.D., etc.)

Oiling at sea. Can details be supplied of temporary oiling at sea equipments being provided for ESSO PATERSON and E.W. SINCLAIR?
(D.T.D., 2022A/10 to B.A.D.)

Shipping, Routeing. U.S. Officers informed U.S. controlled vessels speeds 10 knots and over bound Red Sea, East Africa and South Africa, shall be routed via Panama, Calaland, Cape Horn or Magellan origin Cominch C. & R.
(U.S. Navy Com., 2049/10 to Admty.)

L.S.Ts. Admty. pass to C. in C. Med. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) Sail H.M. L.S.T. 324, 412, 421, ready on the 12th in N.G.349 and onwards

/in ...

LON.

10. 3. 1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

L.S.Ts. in next G.A.T. for unloading at Curacao.
(Contd.) C.C.S.F. sail onward when ready in next T.A.G. and T.B. convoy and detach for Georgetown, British Guiana. Onward routing to destination Freetown will be signalled later. These L.S.T are required to carry B.M.W.T. cargo from New York to Curacao and load lumber at Georgetown for destination. Ships urgently needed at ultimate destination.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2051/10 to C.E.S.F., C.C.S.F., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.), etc.)

Sub. attack Para. A. MALANTIC torpedoed area 58.37 N. 22.20
and sighting W. 2128Z/9. NAILSEA COURT, BONNEVILLE torpedoed
summary. 58.45 N. 21.57 W. 0005Z/10. Plane sights sub.
57.42 N. 20.21 W. about 1414Z/10. Plane sights
sub. 50.45 N. 31.31 W. about 1000Z/10. Action
to Admty. for O.I.C. from Cominch.

Para. C. Sub. attacked 20.02 N. 74.38 W. 0812Z/10. Plane
sights sub. 20.30 N. 74.23 W. 1327Z/10. Plane sights sub.
course 080, 11.00 N. 61.00 W. 1540Z/9.

Para. D. Y.P.447 attacks sound contact 43.53 N. 67.20 W. about
0330Z/10. Fishing vessel sights sub. 40.52 N. 72.00 W. 0345Z/10.
Coast watchers sight sub. course North area 47.08 N. 55.49 W.
1530Z/9.
(Cominch, 2112/10 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

HIGHLANDER. Request dome type A/S 8 and dock for fitting
may be made available. E.T.A. 1900Z/11th.
(HIGHLANDER, 2115Z/10 to F.O.N.F., (R) C.T.24.)

Movements. Norfolk arrived 2200Z/9 M.T.B. 333, 341, 343,
and L.S.T. 426.
(N.S.H.Q., 2115Z/10 to Admty.)

Convoy Ref. B.A.D. 2155/3rd. (1) Proposed that O.N.S.
Commodores. Commodore should continue to be in charge of X.B.
convoy and that S.C. Commodore should take charge
from New York of B.X. convoy as convenient.
(2) To assist with additional B.X., X.B. convoy,
R.C.N. is endeavouring to provide 2 commodores and staff who
will work between Halifax and Boston as necessary.
(N.S.H.Q., 2116Z/10 to Admty.)

ASSINIBOINE. ASSINIBOINE's 2354/2 (requesting ship may be
detailed to stand by). Request information if
ship reached U.K. and brief details of damage
may be signalled.
(N.S.H.Q., 2128Z/10 to Admty.)

Attack Connav, 2136/10.
on B.T.6. See South Atlantic.

/CYRUS ...

War Diary.10.3.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.CYRUS FIELD,
cables.

CYRUS FIELD ordered to make further repairs in 45.10 N. 60.58 W. Upon completion of repairs in Dover Bay at approx. 2200Z intend remaining with cable ship in position indicated.
(WESTMOUNT, 2146Z/10 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Signal
Communi-
cations.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 515. Ref. C.O.S.(W) 440 (1545/15/1). We have now received copy of report on lessons in signals communications prepared by Allied Force H.Qs. and are producing a summarised version which we intend to circulate to Cs. in C. at home and abroad. A copy will be sent to you. 2. Meanwhile you should inform U.S. Chiefs of Staff of our action and suggest, if you see fit, that they take similar action in respect of their own theatres of responsibility, e.g. S.W. Pacific area.
(Air Min., 2200Z/10 to Britman, Washington.)

U/B.

R.C.A.F. Kittyhawk reports submarine sighted 5 miles west Tofino at 2200/10. 1 Bolingbroke, 2 Stranraers and CARAQUET investigating.
(C.O.P.C., 2249Z/10 to N.S.H.Q., Admty., etc.)

A.C.V.40.

Lorsa 7773. Ref. Lorsa 7744.
A.C.V.40 has been firmly assigned to U.K.
(B.A.D., 2255Z/9 to Admty.)

Rescue
Tugs.

A.M. 2343/8 (re A.T.R.41 ADVANTAGE be allocated to St. Johns, A.T.R.42 ASPIRANT to Bermuda. B.A.T.14 WEAZEL to C. in C. E.F.)
Request name of base ship for vessels allocated and final destination of WEAZEL.
(B.A.D., 2309Z/10 to Dep. C. in C. E.F., F.O.N.F. S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty.)

War Diary.

10.3.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

GRAYSON. Departure: Wellington. U.S.S. GRAYSON on escort duty to vicinity 170° W. thence be directed by Comsopac.
(D.N.I. Wellington 0535Z/10 to Admty.)

Movements. Departure Suva MONOWAI, U.S.S. SHELDRAKE escorting H.T. WAHINE for Noumea E.T.A. 1200Z/12.
(D.N.I. Wellington 0608Z/10 to Admty.)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. 0620Z/10 March NIEUW AMSTERDAM San Francisco 22nd March knots (A) 19 (B) 21, Days 32 San Francisco Oil Fuel 3,000 tons. Section 2. (Route.)
(D.N.I. Wellington 0740Z/10, 2048Z/10 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival Milne Bay 9th March KAPUNDA. Cairns 9th BALLARAT, WARRAMUNGA. Townsville 8th U.S. S/M Tender SUMNER. Brisbane 8th STUART. Sydney N.S.W. 8th BUNDABERG, MILDURA, WAGGA, 9th U.S. Dest. SELFRIDGE, DELORAINÉ, WARRNAMBOOL, Geelong 9th BUNGAREE. Fremantle 9th ADELAIDE U.S. OTUS. Departure Milne Bay 9th KAPUNDA for Townsville. Port Moresby 9th KATOOMBA for Oro Bay. Cairns 8th WARRAMUNGA for Port Moresby. Townsville 8th BROOME for Port Moresby. Brisbane 5th STUART for Sydney N.S.W.
(A.C.N.B. 1213Z/10.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/Ms Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1405A/10, 1421A/10.)

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TIRPITZ
reported at
sea.

1. It is reported (B.2) that the TIRPITZ with 2 destroyers and 2 T.Bs. passed Agdenes (approaches to Trondheim) outward at 0850 today. Consequent upon this, Force H was ordered to remain at Gibraltar (Force H was due to leave Gibraltar p.m./12th for Mers-el-Kebir, and in the event it sailed as arranged) and HOWE was brought to short notice in the Clyde.

The state of the German main units is as follows:-
TIRPITZ, fully effective but has not been docked for 15 months.

SCHARNHORST, probably effective, now in Baltic. Has a bad record of mechanical breakdowns.

GNEISENAU undergoing extensive repairs in Baltic, unlikely to be ready before August or later.

LÜTZOW, fully effective, in Norway.

SCHEER, refitting at Wilhelmshaven and expected to be fully effective shortly.

PRINZ EUGEN, now repaired and effective, in Baltic.

HIPPER, damaged and probably out of action for 2 or 3 months.

2. UGANDA sailed from Plymouth this afternoon for patrol for convoy protection and Operation "Regulation" on the U.K. - Gibraltar route.

3. M.T.Bs. 94 and 96 (both manned by Free French), whilst on patrol off Les Sept Iles last night sighted and engaged an enemy westbound convoy of 2 or more escorted merchant ships. At 0247 M.T.B. 94 fired 2 torpedoes at the larger of the two ships and reports one or possibly two hits. Our forces suffered no damage or casualties.

4. 30 aircraft of Bomber Command last night laid 53 mines in the Gironde River and 62 mines in the Baltic. Two aircraft are missing.

South Atlantic.

5. CILICIA reported an unidentified ship in 05.35 S. 11.48 W. at 0445/11. No United Nations or neutral ship is known to be in this vicinity. Air search by the U.S. at Ascension was arranged, and the following ships were ordered to search: CARNARVON CASTLE, CILICIA, French Cruiser GLOIRE, and DESPATCH.

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

6. S.S. AELYBRYN (Cochin for Durban and U.K.) was torpedoed and sunk at 1910Z today in 28.30 S. 34.00 E.

Mediterranean.

7. 20 B.17s escorted by 33 P.38s attacked a convoy at 1225 and near missed one ship. 30 enemy aircraft attacked the bombers before taking the bomb run. 17 were destroyed and a further 18 destroyed or damaged. Our forces had no losses.

Seven Siebel ferries and 4 E/V were bombed today 4 miles west of Marittimo by U.S. Marauder aircraft, and 3 of the ferries were hit. A heavy attack was made on docks and railway centres at Sousse today.

8. Convoy K.M.S.10 was attacked by bombers and torpedo bombers as it was entering Bone at 1859 today, but there were no casualties. VANOC shot down one aircraft, VERITY possibly a second, and fighters a third.

9. Six German R mines were swept in the approaches to Bone yesterday and today.

* and 20 attacked the fighters.

America & West Indies.

Convoy H.X. 228 attacked again. HARVESTER and U.432 sunk. 3 more ships torpedoed, making 5 in all.

10. The following ships of H.X. 228 were sunk last night, in addition to ANDREA F. LUCKENBACH and TUCURINCA:- WILLIAM A.C. GORGAS, BRANT COUNTY and LAWTON B.EVANS. JAMAICA PRODUCER reports an internal explosion but only superficial damage. HOPECREST is missing, but ESCAPADE thinks she has gone on ahead deeming the neighbourhood of the convoy unhealthy. HARVESTER (see 10th March) was reported broken down and stopped at 0800 today in 51.23 N. 28.42 W. Tugs SAMSONIA and EMINENT were diverted from the assistance of ships of S.C. 121 (see Home Commands 10th March) to proceed to HARVESTER, escorted by

J
/AUBRETIA...
A

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Convoy H.X.228 AUBRETIA, and RHODENDRON^{OP} was ordered to be sailed attacked again. from Greenock. HARVESTER was torpedoed twice about HARVESTER and 1100 and sunk in 51.23 N. 28.40 W. at about 1300Z U.432 sunk. 3 F.S. ACONIT, proceeding to assist, forced the U-Boat more ships to the surface with depth charges, hit the enemy torpedoed (U.432) repeatedly with gunfire and finally rammed making 5 in all. and sank it, at 1415Z and took a number of prisoners, (Contd.)

and also took on board survivors from HARVESTER and U.444. NARCISSUS (which arrived at 1630Z) also has survivors. The corvettes left the neighbourhood at 1730Z to rejoin H.X. 228. ACONIT reports her A/S out of action and damage to hull forward.

Liberators joined at daylight and made some attacks on U-Boats around the convoy.

A Liberator attacked a U-Boat which had been sighted on the surface in 52.05 N. 27.03 W. The U-Boat left a trail of oil 3 miles long after the attack.

From aircraft sightings and H.F.D/F reports there appear to be a large number of submarines in the neighbourhood of the convoy. At 1700Z ESCAPADE asked that the escort might be augmented and at 2330A SABRE was ordered to be sailed from Londonderry to reinforce. No further attacks developed. A noticeable feature of the attacks on H.X. 228 was the absence of warning by R.D/F or A/S.

11. A ship, reported to be Honduran S.S. OLANCHO (2493 tons) (Tampa 2nd March for Puerto Barrios and Tela, Honduras) reported that she was torpedoed at 0717 in 22.08 N. 85.14 W. (in the Yucatan Channel.) Cominch C. and R. reports that she was torpedoed on 10th March.

Australia & New Zealand.

12. VICTORIOUS has arrived at Pearl Harbour.

410

11.3.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Arrived SPORTSMAN.
 Movements. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0745/11.)
 Arrived SEA NYMPH.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0840A/11.)
 Intend to sail TUNA, SPORTSMAN and SIMOON
 escorted by KING HAAKON VII 0700A/12 for Holy Loch routed
 (A) 090° Sumburgh Head 5 miles. (B) 359° Fair Isle 10 miles.
 (C) 001° Noup Head 5 miles. (D) 059° 17' N. 003° 40' W.
 (E) 058° 45', 004° 48'. (F) 058° 40', 005° 44' thence via the
 Minches. E.T.A. 1800A/14.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0955A/11.)
 Intend sail H.34 escorted by KIHNA from Rothesay at 2000A/14
 to Londonderry. E.T.A. Lough Foyle Buoy 0800A/15.
 (Capt. S.7, 1459A/11.)
 Arrived SIMOON.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1641A/11.)
 Positions of submarines at 0800A/12 and movements for the
 following 24 hours.
 (A) JUNON 66° 43' N. 05° 25' E. probably on the surface through
 69° 01' N. 08° 52' E. and 70° 12' N. 12° 10' E., then to S.E.
 (B) DZIK vicinity Trevoise Head expected time of arrival 360°
 Round Island 7 1800A thence through 49° 50' N. 09° 01' W. course
 270 diving by day 105 miles in 24 hours.
 (C) SHAKESPEARE 180° Bishop Rock 10 at 0800 then diving by day
 through 49° 30' N. 09° 01' W. and 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W. 120
 miles a day.
 (D) ULTOR 48° 40' N. 13° 22' W. diving by day through 47° 01'
 N. 13° 22' W. and 47° 00' N. 12° 54' W. then course 180° 110 miles
 per day.
 (E) TACTICIAN 47° 02' N. 12° 54' diving by day through 47° 01'
 N. 13° 22' W. then course 180° 140 miles per day.
 (F) URSULA 49° 10' N. 09° 01' W. diving by day to R/V ASIE
 180 Bishop Rock 10 at 0700/13th for escort to Portsmouth.
 (G) HERRING 44° 33' N. 11° 01' W. diving by day to pass through
 44° 10' N. 09° 01' W. at 0200/13th to patrol in zones K.505
 and K.501 South of 44° 25' N.
 (H) SHAD 44° 40' N. 10° 13' W. diving by day to pass through
 44° 10' N. 03° 30' W. at 0330/14th.
 (J) TRESPASSER escorted by TEKOURA 58° 15' N. 05° 48' W. to
 Rothesay 10 knots.
 (K) TUNA, SPORTSMAN, SIMOON escorted by KING HAAKON VII leave
 Lerwick 0700A/12 for Holy Loch routed through 59° 17' N. 03°
 40' W. and Minches.
 (F.O.S., 1704A/11.)
 TRUCULENT arrived.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1725A/11.)
 My 1258A/10.* All times one and a half hours early.
 (A.C.O.S., 1743A/11 to Capt. S.7.)
 * TRESPASSER.
 TRESPASSER escorted by TEKOURA sails from Scapa at 2000A/11
 for Clyde, speed 10 knots.
 (C. in C. W.A., 1801A/11 to VALSE, THIRLMERE.)
 My 1258A/10 and 1743A/11. Sailed. (TRESPASSER).
 (A.C.O.S., 1834A/11.)

/My ...

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M
Movements.
(Contd.)

My 1704/11. Add para. (L) TUNA, SPORTSMAN and SIMOON escorted by KING HAAKON leave Lerwick 0700/12 for Holy Loch west of Orkneys and via Minches. E.T.A. 1800/14.
(F.O.S., 1851A/11.)
Cancel my 1851A/11. My 1704A/11 para. (K). Add S.O.A. 8 knots, E.T.A. 1800/14.
(F.O.S., 2001A/11.)

Destroyers
for Scapa.

Propose sailing destroyers to work up at Scapa approximately as follows:-
ANTHONY and LEWES 16th March till April 10th.
STEVENSTONE 19th March till April 24th.
ARROW, LAUDERDALE, ACTIVE 1st April till 1st May.
(Admty., 1203A/11 to R.A.D.H.F.)

INDOMITABLE.

Intend to sail INDOMITABLE to arrive Scapa a.m. 21st. Request screen.
(V.A.A.H.F., 1501A/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

NORFOLK.

NORFOLK proceed to Clyde passing Hoxa Gate 2045A/11. Route via Minches.
(2) On arrival disembark R.A.F. personnel.
(3) N.O.I.C. Greenock is then requested to sail NORFOLK for Portsmouth to refit. Latitude 50° N. is not to be crossed before daylight 14th owing to possible encounter with E-Boats.
(C. in C. H.F., 1602A/11 to NORFOLK.)
Scapa departure NORFOLK. E.T.A. 1700/12.
(A.C.O.S., 2146A/11 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

HOWE.

Arrived HOWE escorted by MIDDLETON.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2306A/11.)
Night leave is not to be granted until further orders. After arrival ship is to be at 4 hours notice for steam.
(C. in C. H.F., 2352A/11 to HOWE.)

Operations.

Coastal
Patrols.

My 2020A/10. "Device" returned to Harbour at 0707/11.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0742A/11.)
1. Intend R.M.L.516 (S.O.) and M.L.246 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. to 02° 25' W.
2. Leave Portland at 1900 via Q.Z.S.382 to patrol line, returning at dawn.
3. Object: Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1151A/11.)

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
Patrols.
(Contd.)

- (1) N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail force as follows and give latest intelligence.
- (2) Three M.G.Bs to patrol 10 miles to southward of C.E.160 between longitudes of C.3 and C.2 buoys during its passage and then if weather permits to carry out following sweep.
- (3) Object destruction of enemy patrols and small coastal shipping.
- (4) Execution. Proceed through passage 2 in Q.Z.X.771 to sweep enemy coastal route between Cap D'Antifer and Le Treport.
- (5) Return through passage 2 to arrive off Newhaven at daylight.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1214/11.)
1. 3 M.G.Bs patrolling 10 miles to southward of C.E.160 during passage between C.3 and C.2 Buoys, and then carrying out independent patrol.
 2. Chasseurs 13 and 14 to patrol southward of E.A5 Buoy.
 3. KINGSTON TOPAZ at St. Helens. KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth.
 4. 2 M.Ls from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 1° 45' W. 2° 25' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1415A/11.)
Intend to sail M.G.Bs 316 (S.O.), 608 and 613 at 1930/11 to carry out instructions in accordance with your 1214/11.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1511A/11 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
M.Ls 143 and 141 patrolling at Bullock Bank.
- M.Ls 104,,102, 107 and 128 and M.G.Bs 110 (S.O.), 114, 108, 113. From Dover carrying out operation N.L.82. Route via 'V' Buoy each way. E.T.D.0001/12. E.T.R. 0720/12.
(V.A. Dover, 1705A/11.)
My 1151A/11. "Device" sailed 1909/11.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1921A/11.)

Biscay
Patrol.
Operation
"Regulation".

- A.M. 1214/28 para. 4.
Request you will sail KENYA for Gibraltar on 12th March en route for Freetown.
(D.O.D.F., 1204A/11 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
UGANDA is to pass the Gate at 1400/11 and proceed by following route. S.O.A. 20 knots.
2. Route. By Q.Z.X.278 and 389 to position
(A) 050° 10' N. 006° 01' W. (B) 050° 10' N. 006° 56' W.
(C) 049° 10' N. 010° 40' W. (D) 043° 59' N. 012° 59' W.
thence to patrol as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.
3. Objects - (A) protection of convoys. (B) operation "Regulation".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1237/11 to UGANDA, (R) KENYA.)
My 1237/11. Sailed UGANDA for patrol.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1521A/11 to Admty.)
My 2320/10, para. 2. Convoy M.K.F.10B will also be in the area between 11th/15th March.
(D.O.D.H., 1710A/11 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Intend sailing KENYA with MUSKETEER and METEOR at 1600/12 routed north of Scilly Isles and through (A) 50.10 N. 06.01 W.
(B) 50.10 N. 13.01 W. (C) 48.31 N. 14.30 W. (D) 43.01 N. 14.31 W. KENYA to Gibraltar. MUSKETEER and METEOR to be

/detached ...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay Patrol. Operation "Regulation". (Contd.) detached to return to Plymouth on reaching 44° 00' N. unless ordered later by C. in C. Plymouth to join UGANDA. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to signal onward route from (D). Codeword "Warrant". S.O.A. 18 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2041A/11.)

Enemy Convoy attacked. One M/V damaged by French-manned M.T.B.94. Following is brief report of action by M.T.Bs night of 10th/11th. Begins. M.T.Bs 94 and 96 proceeded in accordance with instructions. At 2245 when 6 miles north of 320° Les Sept Iles 3' changed to auxiliary engines. At 2300 M.T.B.96 auxiliaries broke down and S.O. decided to drift down on to the patrol position. Sept Iles and Triagoz lights were burning. At 0230 in 48° 57' N. 3° 35' W. navigation lights were observed to the eastward approaching M.T.Bs. At 0243 a convoy of 2 or more ships with escorts was sighted proceeding west. At 0246 M.T.B.96 started main engines. Unfortunately ship was in a bad firing position, cut under the stern of M.T.B.94, proceeding to the north heavily engaged by the enemy. This apparently created a successful diversion. At 0247 on auxiliary engines M.T.B.94 fired 2 torpedoes at the larger of 2 merchant ships, estimated 2000 tons which was clearly seen at very short range. Both C.Os report one and possible both torpedoes hit. Explosion was not loud but there was a big flash and a column of black smoke. M.T.B.94 disengaged to the northward at high speed being pursued by the escorts for about 7 minutes. Enemy fire consisted of starshell, a few 4-inch but chiefly heavy machine-gunfire. The W/T of M.T.B.94 was out of action. M.T.B. 96 returned to look for her and in the hope of attacking convoy but could not see anything but black smoke. The night was very dark with slight drizzle, sea slight, wind S.W. force 2. M.T.Bs report no casualties or damage. Ends. Admty. pass to F.N.L.O. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1451A/11 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

R/C of Altafiord and Narvik. Your 1535/10. Every effort is being made but present weather most unfavourable. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0854A/11 to Admty.) My 0854/11. Altafiord will be attempted as soon as possible but Russians say Narvik out of range. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1031A/11 to Admty.)

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

M.G.Bs.
40 & 41
attacked.

At 1750/10 in 137° Dungeness 12 miles M.G.Bs 41 and 40 were attacked at long range with cannon-fire by three F.W.190. Fire was inaccurate and caused no damage or casualties to our craft. Only M.G.B.40 opened defensive fire, aircraft not being within range of M.G.B.41. No hits are claimed on the enemy. (V.A. Dover, 1715A/11.)

Night 24th/
25th Jan.

Your 1000/2nd March. Investigation shows a possibility only that low-flying aircraft were co-operating with E-Boats on night 24th/25th January. (H.Q.F.C., 1900A/11 to Air Ministry.)

PORT
WYNDHAM.

Attack by aircraft see B.R.L.O. New York 2205Z/11 in America and West Indies.

Mining.

SCOTT.

Arrival SCOTT.
(Trelawney, 1102/11.)

Dover.

Sweeping 10th March. One red mine detonated in 50° 51'24" N. 0° 56'58" E. (V.A. Dover, 1119A/11.)

Clearance
off
Yarmouth.

Your 2258/28th Feb. Sweeping now completed. It is considered safe to bring new channels into force as stated in your 1654/9. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1606/11 to C. in C.Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown
Ship.

Small merchant vessel 500 markings ERLE in 49° 13' N. 10° 36' W., course 215°, 8 knots. (A/C 110 Sqdn., Duty E, 1107/11 to 19 Group.)

TIRPITZ.

B.2 report received that TIRPITZ, 2 destroyers and 2 torpedo boats passed Agdenes outward bound at 0850/11th March. (D.D.I.C., 1133A/11 to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47, H.Q.C.C.)

TIRPITZ, 2 destroyers, and 2 T.B. passed Agdenes outward at 0850/11. Grade B.2. (F.O.S., 1437A/11 to S/MS.)

/Bordeaux ...

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Bordeaux. P.R.U. of Bordeaux 1400/9 shows three NARVIK class destroyers present.
(D.D.I.C., 1745A/11.)
P.R.U. p.m. March 11th shows three NARVIK class destroyers in same position at Bordeaux; they are now heavily camouflaged.
(D.D.I.C., 1952A/11.)

Enemy Unit. By D/F at 1743Z unknown enemy unit probably surface craft in approx. 67° 20' N. 13° 00' E.
(D.D.I.C., 2235A/11 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 52° 00' N. (? longitude).
(A/C 338 Sqdn. Duty B, 1008/11 to 19 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with 7 depth charges and estimate 3 hits.
(A/C 338, 1009A/11.)
Am over enemy S/M in 52° 05' N. 27° 03' W.
(A/C N3J Duty B, 1224A/11 to 15 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 338 Sqdn. 1225A/11.)

U.444 See Shipping.
sunk.
U.432
sunk.

U-Boats reported. Am investigating suspicious object intermittent brown smoke in 58° 05' N. 15° 30' W.
(A/C RSJ Duty B, 1230/11 to 15 Group.)
Smoke not from ship and possibly diesel. Visible five minutes with Blipi. Both disappeared at 3 miles in good visibility.
(A/C 206 Sqdn. Duty B, 1240/11 to 15 Group.)
Brown smoke was U-Boat.
(A/C R5J Duty B, 1255/11 to 15 Group.)
One S/M on surface 58° 07' N. 13° 34' W.
(A/C NGCS, 1302Z/11 to Whitehall W/T.)
Am over enemy S/M in 52° 41' N. 26° 30' W.
(A/C Duty B, 1331A/11 to 15 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 52° 08' N. 26° 56' W.
(A/C 3QK Duty R, 1354/11 to 15 Group.)
Am investigating wake or swirl. Have obtained A.S.V. contact probably a S/M in 58.04 N. 13.00 W.
(A/C RSJB, 1740A/11 to 15 Group.)

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

Search for Lifeboat. Your 2230Z/10. Regret no A/C available. (C. in C. W.A., 0057A/11 to COWSLIP.)
Have searched area for 150 miles 35 miles wide on bearing 065° from 048° 47' N. 020° 58' W.
Nothing to report, no A/C contacted. Have the following defects. Now steaming on one boiler. Both boilers primed while steam at 155 revolutions. My position 2000Z, 049° 23' N. 017° 40' W., maximum speed 10 knots.
(COWSLIP, 2000Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
Return to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 2332A/11 to COWSLIP.)

ARIGUANI. Your 1842A/9. Third tug not available. You should proceed when weather permits as far as Stornoway when third tug will be provided for passage through Pentlands.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs, 0136A/11 to ARIGUANI.)
Your 1134A/11. Third tug is not available for tow from Bloody Bay. Admiralty has directed that ARIGUANI is to be sailed to Aultbea when weather permits. Third tug will be provided there for passage through Pentlands.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1256A/11 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

GRIMSTAD. GRIMSTAD arrived Falmouth with engine defect 0545/11.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0655/11.)

CULEBRA. Endeavouring to make Stornoway. Suggest anchoring CULEBRA outside Arnish Point. CULEBRA requires coal and repairs. Adjustments to towing gear necessary before proceeding further.
(BUSTLER, 1030Z/11 to A.C.O.S.)
Your 1030Z/11. Approved.
(A.C.O.S., 1326A/11 to BUSTLER.)

LONDONDERRY. A.M. 2059/22. Intend sailing LONDONDERRY towed by Tug HUDSON and escorted by PARRSBORO from Lough Foyle at 1300A/12 by standard routes. S.O.A. 6½ knots, arriving Plymouth 1800A/15 weather permitting.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1107A/11.)

SKATE. Your 1027/11. SKATE reports one boiler out of action and leaking tubes in other boiler. Consider her unsuitable if high speed is required.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1740A/11.)

/MOSLI ...

War Diary.

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

MOSLI.

My 1147/9 and your 1754/10.

2. FERNCOURT and BENTE MAERSK are both non-starters. The various reasons which will postpone completion date of MOSLI coupled with the opinion attributed to Master that he has no need to proceed Merville are disconcerting. It is understood also that the repairing firm is working to a completion date 13th, but it is not known who has given this date to the firm.

3. MOSLI will be the only escort tanker in O.N.173. Request you will ensure that no misunderstandings exist as to necessary repairs and need for early completion, and that you will despatch vessel to Merville if by any means practicable.

4. M.W.T.R. has been informed in above sense and is making enquiries.

(D.T.D., 1900A/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ACONIT,
INGHAM,
JAMAICA
PRODUCER,
MORSKA WOLA,
BRITISH
FREEDOM.

See Shipping.

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

R.A.53. Sailed Rescue Tug HORSA escorted by BUTE at 0035 to assist J.H. LATROBE in accordance with message T.O.O. 1900/10. Proceeding south of Iceland.
(A.C.I.C. 0051A/11 to Admty.)

Akureyri arrivals SCYLLA, MILNE, ORWELL, ORKAN at 1300/10.
(A.C.I.C. 0132A/11 to C. in C.H.F.)
Following is a repetition of H.M.S. ORWELL's 0003/11 to Capt. D. 3. Capt. D.8's 2100 and your 2300. Expect to be clear of Akureyri by 0400 today. Request instructions.
(A.C.I.C. 0434A/11 to Capt. D.3.)
VIVACIOUS's 2334/10. Intend to send OLIGARCH into Seidis Fjord p.m. today to fuel Corvettes, FURY, and INGLEFIELD. Propose she should be taken to Plymouth by ST. ELSTAM and (one) Corvette from R.A. 53.
(Capt. D.8 0506A/11 to C. in C.H.F.)
Scapa arrival BELFAST, NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND.
(A.C.O.S. 0509/11.)
Your 1842/10. Liberator aircraft will search between 066° 00' N 067° 20' N. 010° 30' W. 014° 30' W. from 1100 until 1700.
(A.C.I.C. 0515A/11 to Capt. D.3.)
Rear half of RICHARD BLAND afloat in 051° Langanes light 12½. Salvage might be possible.
(ECLIPSE 0819A/11 to R.N.O. Seidisfjord.)
Scapa arrival INTREPID, OBEDIENT, OBDURATE.
(A.C.O.S. 0832/11.)
A.C.I.C. 2317/10 and VIVACIOUS 2334/10.
I can be at Seidisfjord at 1630A today. Can I help you with 500 tons fuel.
(SCYLLA 0951A/11 to Capt. D.3., Capt. D.8.)
Your 1412A/10. Expect to complete embarking 150 tons fuel as ordered by Capt. D. or S.O. 8th D.F. from OLIGARCH at Seidis Fjord 1500A/11. Total fuel then 220 tons. Request instructions. Due to weather and (ice?) Asdic is only 20% efficient with bad leak in Dome and number 4 O.F. Tank has small crack in "A" strake but tank can be used if necessary.
(INGLEFIELD 1009A/11 to S.O. 3rd D.F.)
ECLIPSE 0819/11. Trawler HAZEL sailing from Seidis Fjord to assist.
(A.C.I.C. 1133A/11 to C. in C.H.F.)
Following is a recoded version of OPPORTUNE 1146A/11. Begins. Addressed Capt. D.8. Your 1112. J.H. LATROBE in tow. My P.C. and S. 058° Glettinganes 20 miles, 3 knots. Intend to proceed Seidis Fjord. ST. ELSTAN in company. Ends.
(Capt. D.8 1330A/11 to A.C.I.C.)
ECLIPSE 0819A/11 and your 1133A/11. 100 feet only of RICHARD BLAND with lumber cargo still afloat. Shattered forecastle awash in 066° 37' N. 013° 55' W. Consider salvage impracticable except by tugs. Intend to postpone attempt at destruction until tomorrow pending possible decision to send tug. 4 survivors in ECLIPSE, 31 in IMPULSIVE. My position 067° 00' N. 012° 30' W. at 1330/11.
(Capt. D.3 1415A/11 to A.C.I.C.)

/Akureyri...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.R.A.53.
(Contd.)

Akureyri departures at 0800/11. (i) SCYLLA, E.T.A. Scapa 0800/13. (ii) MILNE, ORWELL, and ORKAN in accordance with Capt. D.8's 1842/10. (A.C.I.C. 1421A/11 to C. in C.H.F.) Your 0951A/11. No thank you. (Capt. D.3 1516A/11 to SCYLLA.)

My 1415A/11. IMPULSIVE now reports wreck slowly sinking. (Capt. D.3 1535A/11 to A.C.I.C.)

Destinations are as follows. BOADICEA Greenock. BERGAMOT Liverpool. LOTUS, STARWORT, and POPPY Londonderry. ST. ELSTAN, NORTHERN PRIDE Belfast.

(C. in C.W.A. 1555A/11 to C. in C.H.F.)

NORTHERN PRIDE remaining Seidis Fjord with boiler defects.

Estimate she will be ready for sea p.m. 13th.

(F.O.C.Reykjavik 1624A/11.)

Seidisfjord departure at 0700/11 VIVACIOUS, PYTCHLEY. At 0900/11 BOADICEA with CORNELIUS HARNETT.

(A.C.I.C. 1632A/11 to C. in C.H.F.)

My 1535A/11. IMPULSIVE now reports ship has only settled a little

(Capt. D.3 1745A/11 to A.C.I.C.)

My 1842A/10. Intend remaining in same area during daylight tomorrow. Request Air search of following sectors to maximum depth.

a. Between 035° and 075° from 067° 00' N. 010° 00' W.

b. Between 045° and 070° from 066° 50' N. 015° 00' W.

Sector (A) to be given preference.

A.C.I.C.'s 0515A/11. No sighting or communication was obtained with aircraft today.

(Capt. D.3 1930A/11 to C. in C.H.F.)

Seidis Fjord arrival 1215/11 FURY, LOTUS, POPPY, BERGAMOT, STARWORT, R.F.A. OLIGARCH.

(A.C.I.C. 1948A/11.)

J.H.B.LATROBE has reached Seidis Fjord. Proceed to 066° 37' N. 013° 55' W. to salvage part of RICHARD BLAND awash with Lumber Cargo. ECLIPSE and HAZEL standing by.

(A.C.I.C. 2021A/11 to HORSA, BUTE.)

Your 1415/11. Trawler HAZEL sailed from Seidisfjord at 1225/11 and should arrive about 2100/11. Rescue Tug HORSA escorted by BUTE on passage from Reykjavik being ordered to 066° 37' N. 013° 55' W. E.T.A. about 1630/12.

(A.C.I.C. 2023A/11 to Capt. D.3.)

Seidisfjord arrival OPPORTUNE towing J.H.B. LATROBE with ST. ELSTAN.

(A.C.I.C. 2056A/11.)

Following is a recoded version of FURY's 1730A/11th addressed to Capt. D.8, Capt. D.3 A.I.G. 47. Sailed to rejoin R.A.53.

(A.C.I.C. 2125A/11 to Capt. D.8., Capt. D.3., H.F.)

INGLEFIELD 1000A/11. Rejoin Capt. D.8 who is requested to detach you to Scapa if not required for R.A.53.

(Capt. D.3 2140A/11 to INGLEFIELD.)

Your 1825A/11. Is RICHARD BASSET with you. Reference number 32 and ORWELL's 1410A/11. Please confirm 32 is still missing.

(Capt. D.3 2310A/11 to FAULKNER.)

Following from MEYNELL: Addressed Capt. D.8., Capt. D.3. A.I.G. 47. Sailed to rejoin R.A. 53 T.O.O. 2015/11.

(A.C.I.C. 2324A/11 to D.8., D.3.)

/Following...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.R.A. 53.
(Contd.)

Following from IMPULSIVE addressed HAZEL repeated Capt. D.3. Position of wreck 105° Langanes 11 miles. T.O.O. 1830A/11. (A.C.I.C. 2359A/11 to Capt. D.3.)

H.X. 228.
TUCURINCA,
ANDREA F.
LUCKENBACH,
W.C.GORGAS,
BRANT COUNTY,
LAWTON B.EVANS
sunk. U.444
sunk by
HARVESTER.
U.432 sunk by
ACONIT.
HARVESTER
sunk. ACONIT
damaged.

HARVESTER has rammed U-Boat and is considerably damaged. ACONIT is standing by. ESCAPADE has taken over S.O. of group. Prisoners report 12 U-Boats in the vicinity of convoy. (HARVESTER 0100Z/11 to C. in C.W.A.)

A.C.I. 39. Para. 5.
A. 0110Z/11, 051° 38' 029° 18' 048° 9 knots.
B. 2 surface. C. Either beam, one on starboard beam rammed by HARVESTER. Port Beam not contacted.
D. and E. Information not available further signals will be made.
F. F.S. ROSELYS. G. NARCISSUS may have to tow HARVESTER. Further attacks are expected. (ESCAPADE 0130Z/11 to C. in C.W.A.)

U-Boat transmissions from your general vicinity have been on Series 7.
(D.D.I.C. 0235A/11 to Escorts H.X. 228.)
Details of 1st attack on U-Boat (a) 2025Z/10 051° 20' 029° 29' (b) one submerged (c) between 6 and 7 columns (d) AF. LUCKENBACH 69 survivors (e) TUCURINCA underway. Further signal will be made re tug (f) 2 14-charge patterns dropped by HARVESTER on good contact. No evidence. (g) On resuming stations HARVESTER forced U.444 to surface with 14-charge pattern and rammed. ACONIT also rammed. U-Boat sunk. 5 prisoners. Weather 9080 3075.

(HARVESTER 0340Z/11 to A.I.G. 303.)

A.C.I. 39 (A) 0346Z/11, 051° 38' N. 029° 05' W., B. 1, unknown. C. Unknown. D. 1 ship believed Tanker exploded. E. Blank. F. Nil. G. No contact made.

(ESCAPADE 0445Z/11 to C. in C.W.A.)

See also ESCAPADE 2015Z/12.

Cancel my 1708/10 and 2147/10. EMINENT and SAMSONIA escorted by AUBRETIA proceed to HARVESTER broken down and stopped in 051° 23' N. 028° 42' W. at 0800/11. CLOVER to await arrival of ADHERENT at Merville, thence to ROSEWOOD reported at 1230/10 in 058° 28' N 022° 35' W.

(C. in C.W.A. 1014Z/11.)

C. in C.W.A.'s 1014Z/11. Sailed AUBRETIA, Tugs EMINENT, SAMSONIA (Cmdre. Londonderry 1410A/11.)

S/M sighted astern of convoy position 052° 29' N. 026° 49' W. (ESCAPADE 1430Z/11 to C. in C.W.A.)

From A/C sightings and H/F D/F reports there appear to be a large number of submarines in the vicinity of convoy.

(ESCAPADE 1432Z/11.)

My 1014/11. Sail RHODENDRON when ready to join AUBRETIA, EMINENT and SAMSONIA proceeding to assist HARVESTER.

(C. in C.W.A. 1458A/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/HARVESTER...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

H.X. 228. HARVESTER sunk by submarine.
 TUCURINCA, ACONIT has sunk submarine and is now searching
 ANDREA F. for HARVESTER's survivors. ACONIT W/T out of
 LUCKENBACH, action.
 W.C. GORGAS, (ESCAPADE, 1545Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
 BRANT COUNTY, NARCISSUS and ACONIT in 051° 23', 028° (? 44')
 LAWTON B. searching for HARVESTER's survivors. ACONIT
 EVANS sunk. has sunk U.442 and U.432 today.
 U. 444 Request reinforcement of escort in view of large
 sunk by number of U-Boats in vicinity. My P.C.S. are
 HARVESTER. 052° 32', 026° 40', 074°, 9.5. Weather 5478
 U.432 sunk 0974.
 by ACONIT. (ESCAPADE, 1700Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
 HARVESTER On arrival of NARCISSUS at 1630Z ACONIT reported
 sunk. HARVESTER torpedoed and sunk in 051° 23', 028°
 ACONIT 40' at approx. 1300Z. U.432 sunk by ACONIT in
 damaged. vicinity at 1415Z. Now has prisoners from U.444
 (Contd.) and U.432 and survivors on board. NARCISSUS also
 has survivors. Left vicinity 1730Z to rejoin
 H.X.228. No further survivors visible. ACONIT
 reports A/S out of action also damage to hull
 forward. Number of prisoners 26.
 (NARCISSUS, 1731Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
 Sailed RHODODENDRON in accordance with your 1458A/11.
 S.O.A. 12 knots.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1758A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
 Your 1841A/11. No. TUCURINCA sank.
 (ESCAPADE, 1924Z/11 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 Following ships of H.X.228 were sunk during night 10th/11th:
 TUCURINCA, ANDREA F. LUCKENBACH, WILLIAM L. SMITH, BRANT COUNTY,
 LAWTON B. EVANS. JAMAICA PRODUCER reports internal explosion,
 only superficial damage. HOPECREST missing. Consider this ship
 thought it healthier away from convoy and will arrive U.K. well
 in advance of main body. HENRY WYNKOOP in 052° 05' N. 027°
 35' W. at 1530Z/11 steering for BB at 10½ knots. This ship
 started to abandon when last casualty exploded. 10 men still
 missing. ROSELYS has entire crew and passengers numbering 82
 of TUCURINCA. TETELLA has 22 survivors from LUCKENBACH. No
 other survivors yet accounted for. No further information
 regarding HARVESTER's survivors.
 (ESCAPADE, 2040Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
 W.D. Note: For WILLIAM L. SMITH read W.C. GORGAS.
 See ESCAPADE, 2030Z/12.
 We congratulate HARVESTER on the destruction of a U-Boat
 on March 11th.
 (1st S.L., 2122A/11 to HARVESTER.)
 Sailing SABRE as soon as ready to reinforce escorts of
 H.X.228. Estimated P.C.S. at 1200A/12 53° 43' N. 20° 52' W.,
 075°, 9 knots.
 (C. in C. W.A., 2330A/11 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

/S.C.121 ...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

S.C. 121. Your 1815Z/10. While rejoining S.C.121 BIBB was detached to screen ROSEWOOD in position given in my 1215Z/10. Following from BIBB at 2055Z/10th "good high frequency D/F bearings on submarine at 1630Z/10th same as that of ROSEWOOD. My asdic permanently out of commission. If ROSEWOOD afloat do not plan to close her until daylight". My 1330Z/10, position 058° 54', 020° 07' W. at 1025Z/10th verifies and repeats.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 0120Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0936Z/11. My P.C.S. at 0800Z, 061° 43' N. 022° 40' W. 178°, 10 knots. Your 2043/10 not received. Request repetition.
(VIZALMA, 0911C/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
S.C.121 convoy is no longer considered threatened..
Return to Reykjavik.
(C. in C. W.A., 0935Z/11 to BABBITT, INGHAM.)
CLOVER to await arrival of ADHERENT at Merville, thence to ROSEWOOD reported at 1230/10 in 058° 28' N. 022° 35' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 1014Z/11.)
Following from BIBB - "At 1000Z/11 in 058° 30' N. 021° 00' W. located after-half of unnamed tanker. Port lifeboat and starboard lifeboat not launched M.O.M.P. No sign of life aboard. Am searching to windward on course 290° for possible survivors".
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 1105Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
A/C report ROSEWOOD in 58.30 N. 20.31 W. at 1430A/11.
(C. in C. W.A., 1406Z/11 to BIBB, VIZALMA, CLOVER.)
EMPIRE BUNTING reported able to steam at 10 knots.
VIZALMA proceed to assist ROSEWOOD in 58° 30' N. 20° 31' W. at 1430A/11.
(C. in C. W.A., 1410Z/11 to VIZALMA.)
INGHAM and BABBITT depart S.C.121 at 1220Z. P.C.S. 58.13 N. 13.39 W., 321°, 12 knots. Sound dome of INGHAM holed again and equipment inoperative.
(INGHAM, 1419Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
Proceeding North Channel with EMPIRE BUNTING. In jury rig, hand steering. Recommend (? tugs) stand by. Have 3 days fuel. Position 1330Z/11 by observation 58.46 N. 20.00 W., course 115°, speed 10.
(TRILLIUM, 1445Z/11 to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3.)
Motor Vessel MORSKA VOLA of S.C.121 proceeding Belfast for urgent rudder repairs. Motor tanker BRITISH FREEDOM proceeding Clyde for urgent machinery defect.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 1450Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
SS. COULMORE 058° 30' N. 019° 31' W. at 1637Z/11 definitely worth salvaging. Wrecks destroyed in 058° 30' N. 020° 50' W. and 058° 36' N. 020° 12' W. believed stern and bow of ROSEWOOD.
(BIBB, 1710Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
BIBB reports that BONNEVILLE was torpedoed aft starboard side about 0003Z/10 and sank in 15 minutes with all hands abandoned. 2 survivors were rescued by BIBB from Commodore's raft which drifted from vessel so that Commodore and Master were unable to reach raft after jumping into water. 40 Crew plus about 8 in Commodore's staff.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 1725Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

/BIBB ...

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War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

S.C. 121. BIBB at 1033Z/11 reported ROSEWOOD not yet located. At 1515Z/11th BIBB reported bows of tanker located in 58.36, 20.12 and both derelicts damaged with gunfire and depth charges and left sinking. 15 miles on either side search with negative results. BIBB now joining EMPIRE BUNTING. GREER and SPENCER holding publications.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 1810Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Stand by COULMORE until tugs or VIZALMA arrive.

2. As ROSEWOOD reported all boats gone, wrecks reported in your 1105/11 and 1710/11 would not appear to be two portions of ROSEWOOD.

(C. in C. W.A., 1935Z/11 to BIBB.)

Cancel my 1014/11. Proceed with EMINENT and SAMSONIA to SS. COULMORE derelict in 58.30 N. 20.50 W. at 1637Z/11. BIBB standing by.

(C. in C. W.A., 1941Z/11 to AUBRETIA, RHODODENDRON.)

Cancel my 1410/11th. Proceed to COULMORE derelict in 058° 30' N. 020° 50' W. at 1637Z/11.

(C. in C. W.A., 1944Z/11 to VIZALMA.)

Cancel my 1455Z/11. At 1900Z/11 BIBB relieved TRILLIUM escorting EMPIRE BUNTING in 58.21 N. 18.15 W., course 115°, speed 10. Jury rig hand steering, making good about 8 knots. TRILLIUM proceeding to Lough Foyle.

(TRILLIUM, 2100Z/11 to T.U. 24.1.3.)

CAMPION detailed Loch Ewe escort. MALLOW for Liverpool portion. E.T.A. position A (? 2000)Z/12. E.T.A. Loch Ewe portion off Barra Head 1800Z/12. E.T.A. Loch Ewe 0900Z/13. 36 ships present, 14 for Loch Ewe.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 2140Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 1935Z/11. My position reports, today were from observations ROSEWOOD not in 058° 30' N. 020° 30' W. or that vicinity. Planes reported 2 vessels later identified as COULMORE and EMPIRE BUNTING but did not report a third vessel. (? Visibility) excellent. EMPIRE BUNTING steering erratically not considered safe unescorted. Shall I drop her and return to COULMORE.

(BIBB, 2240Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 1941Z/11. COULMORE in 058° 30' N. 019° 31' W. at 1637Z/11.

(BIBB, 2245Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

TRILLIUM 1445/11. Report whether tug is required now for EMPIRE BUNTING.

(C. in C. W.A., 2310Z/11 to BIBB.)

Your 1441Z/10. Following 7 ships not in company with S.C.121. EMPIRE LAKELAND, FORT LAMY, LEADGATE, DILWORTH, ALCOA LEADER, (corrupt group) ERATA, MALANTIC. Last named has been torpedoed and sunk. Others are stragglers whereabouts unknown.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 2355Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Aircraft sighted following ships abandoned today.

(1) 5000 tons cargo vessel - seaworthy - large hole in bow in 58.30 N. 20.31 W. at 1430A.

(2) Ship abandoned, bow half submerged in 58.26 N. 21.02 W. at 1454A.

(3) Stern part tanker blazing and abandoned in 58.19 N. 21.30 W. at 1540.

(C. in C. W.A., 2358Z/11 to VIZALMA, AUBRETIA, RHODODENDRON.)

/M.K.F.10A ...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- M.K.F.10A. Convoy M.K.F.10A is due U.K. about 14th March comprising the following troopships:-
(a) To Liverpool - FRANCONIA, ATHLONE CASTLE, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA.
(b) To Tail of the Bank - BATORY, LETITIA, CIRCASSIA, BOISSEVAIN, NIEUW HOLLAND, CAMERONIA.
3. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and CAMERONIA require extensive damage repairs.
4. As far as is known here no personnel or cargo are on board the above vessels except CIRCASSIA 318 personnel, ATHLONE CASTLE 750 miscellaneous, CAMERONIA 270 miscellaneous.
(D.S.T., 0502A/11.)
See also D.S.T. 1722A/13.
- O.N.S.172. At 0350/12 in 056° 43' N. 013° 06' W. MAYFLOWER reported sighting S/M on port quarter of convoy. Dived. JED, MAYFLOWER searching. Convoy present speed 8½ knots. Your 2058/11. ANGLO INDIAN not in company, request she be informed by B.A.M.S. MACEDONIA returning Belfast with engine trouble.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.13, 0801Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N. 70. Nothing found. Rejoining convoy. P.C.S. 061° KATY. 22' N. 028° 27' W., 090°, 7.
(DAHLIA, 0900Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
- W.S. 28. A.M. 1429/6. MALCOLM S.O. from Londonderry and WITCH from Liverpool are to R/V in Irish Sea on March 14th as arranged by Cdre. Londonderry and proceed at economical speed by Q.Z.L.18 thence to (P) 50° N. 14° W. (Q) 45° N. 15° W. (R) 40° N. 15° W. (S) 35° N. 14° W. (T) 34° 09', thence to Casablanca.
(C. in C. W.A., 0932Z/11.)
- BEACONSTREET. Intend sail in F.N.65 to 22 Buoy and independently onward to Moville speed of advance 9¾ knots. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange air protection.
(N.O.I.C. Sunderland, 1025/11 to Admt.)
- Russian Convoys. C.A.M. Ships. Your Air 416, 9th March. It is not intended to operate C.A.M. ships with North Russian convoys this summer.
(Air Ministry, 1100Z/11 to 30 Mission.)
- X.K. 2. Arrived COREOPSIS.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1125A/11.)

/Atlantic ...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Atlantic Convoy Escort Groups. / A.M. 2203/10.
 (1) Anticipate H.M.S. HONEYSUCKLE and the 4 corvettes of 24th Group will be available for 2 (C), (D) and (E) provided 4 ships of 16th M/S Flotilla can be made available for K.M.S.12. These 4 ships are required as additional escorts with 44th Group to replace R.C.N. corvettes which are returning to Canada.
 (2) New construction Trawlers allocated to my command will be required as escorts to Rescue Tugs on Mid-Ocean Convoys. (C. in C. W.A., 1240A/11 to Admty.)

D.S. 38. (LETITIA) Admiralty 1658A/9. ITCHEN S.O., and SABRE detailed for D.S.38. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1602A/11.)

Channel Convoy Escorts. Amend my 1825/19th November, 1942 to read: M.Ls are to be used as close escort to convoys between Dartmouth and Falmouth.
 (2) M.Ls to join their respective convoys before dark and to leave at daylight and proceed to either Falmouth or Dartmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1829A/11.)

J.W. 54. Your 1912A/10. Confirm that both ships are fitted with emergency oiling at sea gear and have heating coils.
 GULFCREST fitted with rubber hose.
 PRESIDENT DE VOGUE with canvas hose. (D.T.D., 1953A/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

FAIRLAND. Inform Master that U.S.A. Naval Authorities desire him to sail independently.
 2. If Master still objects sail ship in next O.N. fast. (D.T.D., 2005A/11 to N.C.S.O. Avonmouth.)

MONARCH OF BERMUDA. Sailed 1755/11. (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 2300/11.)

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Portuguese Trawlers. Your 1157/4. Press report is correct. Distinction is that trawlers in Sweden are thought to have been specially designed for minesweeping and not for fishing. There is nothing unneutral in Portuguese disposing of fishing trawlers to us which we afterwards may or may not convert to war-like purposes.
(Admty., 0206A/11 to N.A. Lisbon)

U-Boat. Following received from W N U (Kenner Radio) wake believed to be that of torpedo raced 150 feet astern broached twice position $34^{\circ} 11' N.$ $12^{\circ} 38' W.$
(Burnham Radio, 0330/11 to Admty.)

Dispositions. Situation 1956A/11. C.G.17 U.S. Destroyer 34.40 07.12 through 35.03 06.51 and 35.36 06.23 to Gibraltar 10. (2) ST. NECTAN, ARCTIC RANGER sail 1900/11th to R/V 4 merchant ships off Horn at 1900/12th and escort Coastwise to Guadalquivir 8. (3) Two Motor Launches one Merchant ship 36.37 06.29 through 35.56 06.20 to Gibraltar 8. (4) M.K.F. 10 B CHURCHILL passing Europa Point at 0400/12th thence to 36.20 10.01 13. (5) LORD HOTHAM sailing 0700/12th to R/V with one merchant ship off Port Arthur 13 p.m. 8 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1046A/11) Amended 1647A/11.

G.U.S.5. Intend sailing. List 19 ships. Request pendant numbers and destinations. Agreed M.W.T.R. and S.T.O.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1112A/11 to S.N.O.C.A., F.O. Oran.)

OXFORDSHIRE Sailed 0200/11 with 88 tons medical stores and 79 Qaimns on board will require 600 tons water on arrival.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1140A/11 to P.S.T.O. Med.
(R) D.S.T.O. Algiers., D. of S.T. London.)

BURWELL Your 1617/10th. BURWELL is required to arrive in U.K. by 22nd in order to join her Group for mid-ocean escort. Request she may be sailed accordingly if defects permit.
(C. in C. W.A., 1305A/11 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar., Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O.C. W. Af.)

S.L.126. F.O.C. W. Af. 1326Z/9. Request route S.L.126.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1307A/11 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. W.Af.)

TRIDENT/ ...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic (Contd.)

- TRIDENT. Arrival.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar, 1513A/11 to Admty., F.O.S.)
- M.K.S.10 and 11, BELNOR, CLIVE. Request (a) Indication probable sailing date M.K.S.10 and 11. (b) Intention regarding return of BELNOR and EMPIRE CLIVE both urgently required in U.K. My 1836/24th Feb. refers. (D.T.D.1539A/11 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med.)
- UNA. Intend to sail UNA p.m. 13th for U.K.
(2) UNA passing through
(T) 035° 49' 00° 06' 30" at 1730 13th.
(U) 035° 53' 006° 15' at 1830 13th.
(V) 036° 37' 007° 24' at 0310 14th. (W) 036° 51' 009° 13' at 0040 15th. (O) 042° 59' 013° 50' at 2300 18th.
shift W/T watch at 2300 18th thence as ordered by F.O.(S)
(3) W/T watch in Atlantic S1/42 section N.A. table 2 (1) line 5. On home station S2/43 table 2 (3). (4) UNA is painted dark blue. (?5). F.O.(S) 1149/8th Jan. 1942 (A) 2 mark VIII and 2 mark 2 (B) 8.2 knots (110 miles per day) (C) ready for patrol 100% fuel (D) (1) nil (2) 8.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1801A/11 to Admty., F.O.S.)
- M.L.564. M.L.564 in tow M.L.s 557, 560 in company.
P. C. and S. 035° 49' N. 006° 07' W. 079° 6 knots.
E.T.A.0230A/12th.
(PIROUETTE, 1810A/11 to F.O.C.Gibraltar.)
- U-Boat. Submarine sighted on surface 4 miles from Corvo Island Azores on 10th March, time and course unknown. A/O.
(N.A.Lisbon, 1840/11 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty., N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
- ST. LUCIEN. My 1735/10 (N.T. in W.R.). German controlled French ST. LUCIEN at Alicante reported ready for sea tonight Thursday. Destination Marseilles.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1845A/11 to S.O.(I) Med., S.O.(I) Malta.)
- S/M Sanctuary LA PERLE. Request submarine sanctuary be established during daylight hours 12th March in area bounded as follows 33.50 North 07.30 West 33.41 N. 07.20 W. 33.37 N. 07.40 W. 33.45 N. 07.40 W, for exercises French submarine LA PERLE and surface escort.
(S.N.O.C.A., 2115/11 to A.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C.Oran, Admty., etc.)

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (Contd.)

Gibraltar Arrivals AVONDALE in tow of JAUNTY escorted by
Movements. VENOMOUS, FELIXSTOWE from Oran. LORD NUFFIELD
escorting one M/V from Algeria. HAARLEM
escorting two M/Vs from Melilla. Departures
M/Ls 175, 307 escort duties west. ACUTE,
ALBACORE, KATHIAWAR, KUMAON on M/S sweep west LORD NUFFIELD
to Almeria to escort one M/V to Gibraltar M/Ls 483 to Oran,
238 and 444 for Algiers. HUSSAR CIRCE (?POLRUAN) ST. NECTAN
ARCTIC RANGER on escort duties west. LA SETOISE on escort dut-
ies to Huelva.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar, 2258Z/11 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

SANDANGER, Norwegian Mission advised from Casablanca that
Temporary tanker SANDANGER before discharge finished was
depot Ships. loaded with 2000 tons ex U.S. tanker and is now
being used as temporary depot ship. (2) In
future please advise us when such arrangements
are made for British controlled tankers.
(3) Requested that both this vessel and SOLOR should be sailed
for New York with G.U.S.5.
(M. of W.T., 2307A/11 to S.N.O.C.A.)

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

W.S.27. Ref. A.M.1532/1 para.10 (C). Following is proposed allocation of ships of W.S.27 between Capetown and Durban. RUYS, SIBAJAK, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, LEOPOLDVILLE, BERGENSFJORD and ORBITA to Capetown. Remainder to Durban. (D. of S.T., 0458A/11 to D.S.T.O. W.Af.,(R)F.O.C.W. Af., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban).
Convoy sailing telegram. (10) ORBITA, 14½ knots; BERGENSFJORD, 15; CAPETOWN CASTLE, 18; STRATHMORE, 18; SIBAJAK, joining from Lagos, ALMANZORA, 14½; STRATHAIRD, 20; LEOPOLDVILLE, 14½; ANTENOR, 14; CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, 16; JAMES PARKER, joins from Marshall, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND joins from Lagos, RUYS joining from Lagos. (11) Troops equipment and stores. (12) Destinations to be signalled by C. in C. S.A. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1051Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Takoradi, F.O.I.C. Ceylon. D.C. in C. E.F., Cdre.i/c. Durban.)
(1) W.S.27. (2) 0830/11th. (3) S. of A. 12½ knots. (5) (A) 07.46 N. 14.20 W. (B) 04.38 N. 10.00 W. (C) 02.58 N. 08.26 W. (D) 03.07 N. 00.29 E. (E) 00.47 S. 05.58 E. (F) 04.48 S. 09.56 E. (X) 20.01 S. 09.57 E. thence as ordered by C. in C. S.A.
All ships have approaches to Walvis Bay, Saldanha Bay, Capetown, Simonstown, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban. Three ships from Lagos will join convoy in position 03.05 N. 00.10 W. at 1700/14th March. One ship from Marshall joining convoy in position 05.06 N. 10.37 W. at 1300/12th March this ship will be detached at dusk on 13th March to proceed to Accra.
(6) SUSSEX S.O. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1115Z/11 to Admty.)
Departure 0919B/11th March SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, QUAIL, PETUNIA, CROCUS with W.S.27. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2220Z/11 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

ARETHUSA

Departure from Pointe Noire 1730Z/10th
ARETHUSA routed in accordance with your 0848/9th E.T.A. Freetown 0900Z/15th.
(B.N.L.O.W.Af., 0835A/11 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

B.T.6.

U-Boat Attack. My 1744P/10th. Convoy was attacked in 007° 11' N. 052° 30' W.
KELVINBANK, JAMES SMITH and JAMES K. POLK sunk. TABITHA BROWN, THOMAS GRIFFIN, MARK HANNA, GEORGE MEADE and JAMES R. DRAKE damaged.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 0906P/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. W.Af., N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Kingston.)

Dispositions.

Situation at 2000Z/11, BURDOCK, BIRDLIP, BUTSER escorting 08.33 14.18 to 08.37 15.40 thence 322 7.5.

French/ ...

War Diary.

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions (Contd.) French Sloop M.S. LA GRACIEUSE escorting 10.40 16.50 to 11.10 17.16 thence 359. 6.
M.L.244 escorting off Dakar to Bathurst 8.
2 M/L's escorting Port Etienne to Bathurst 8.
F.C. GLOIRE off Dakar to S.W. 20.
Fleet Unit WOLVERINE, ADRIAS 08.39 13.57 to 08.57 15.34 thence 308° 14.5.
(R.A.W.Af., 0941Z/11.)
SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, PETUNIA, CROCUS with W.S.27
007° 15' 015° 38' 126° 13.
QUAIL 007° 15' 015° 36' to Marshalls 20.
DESPATCH about 005° 00' 019° 00' to Freetown 19.
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about position 004° 00' 021° 30' 15½.
CILICIA (?003°) 00' S. 012° (?01') W. 304° 14.
ARETHUSA about 002° 35' S. 005° (?04') 287° 17.
(F.O.C.W.Af, 1458Z/11)

BOREAS, Amend my 1204Z/10th. (1) BOREAS has developed defects. Date of completion uncertain.
MALAYA, (2) Intend sailing MALAYA escorted by ADRIAS
ADRIAS, and WOLVERINE at 1700Z/11th. (3) CITY OF CAPE-
WOLVERINE, TOWN will be escorted to position L where she
CITY OF will be detached to proceed independently to U.K.
CAPETOWN, (4) MALAYA speed made good from position L 16
QUADRANT. knots. E.T.A. A.M. 17th. (5) N.O.I.C. Bathurst
Gambia sail QUADRANT to join escort in 011° 33' N.
017° 47' West at 1700Z/12th. (6) After
QUADRANT joins WOLVERINE will proceed to Dakar to refuel then
rejoin escort. ADRIAS will not repetition not refuel on
passage. (7) Shift W/T organization at 0800Z/15th.
(F.O.W.Af., 1210Z/11 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)
After fuelling BOREAS proceed to overtake MALAYA and join
escort. After WOLVERINE rejoins from Dakar MALAYA detach
BOREAS to return at best speed to Freetown. BOREAS report
(?position) and E.T.A. when well clear. My 1148/11th not to
Admiralty is passed to BOREAS.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1858Z/11 to BOREAS, MALAYA, (R) Capt.(D) (?13),
Admty.)
Expect to R/V in position (F) at 1000Z/12th.
(BOREAS, 2308Z/11 to MALAYA, (R) N.O.I.C. Freetown).

JONATHAN Cancel my 2317/8th. Vessel arrived Port
EDWARDS. Elizabeth 13th Feb.
(Asst. S.O.I. Recife, 1343Z/11 to Admty.)

CYCLAMEN E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0700Z/12.
(CYCLAMEN, 1401Z/11 to B.N.L.O. W.Af. (R) N.O.I.C.
W. Af., Capt. D. Freetown. Escort Force.)

Convoy/ ...

War Diary.11.3.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoy C.N.12. Convoy Sailing telegram.
 (2) 1500Z/11th from 033° 13' S. 017° 36' E.
 (3) Group A (X) 026° 35' S. 014° 37' E.
 Group B (Y) 24° 30' S. 014° 08' E.
 Group C (Z) 023° 30' S. 014° 00' E.
 (4) 8 knots. (5) Coastal passing through (W) 030° 00' S. 016° 52' E. and dispersal points. (6) CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN DAWN, WELLARD. Code word "Packet".
 (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1402Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

SHEAFCROWN A.M. 2150A/8. Consider ship was abandoned (torpedoed without sufficient cause. Order to abandon was 3/3 in D.N.21). given by Master soon after torpedo struck because: (A) He considered ship was in sinking condition. (B) He believed torpedo had struck in region of hold containing 2,000 tons of high explosive. (2) When survivors were picked up by SONDR A, Master asked to be put back on board to investigate ship's condition. As SONDR A was ordered to rejoin convoy Master was given time only to recover books and papers.
 (C. in C. S.A. at Durban, 1404Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Suspicious Vessel. Unidentified vessel passed 35000 yards North East of Island heading South East 1200 to 1330. Estimate 6 to 7000 tons speed 14 knots. Cruiser stern, flush deck raked bow, 2 masts, one funnel, large bridge structure, gun mounted aft.
 (Gen., St. Helena, 1408Z/11 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty., F.O.C. W. Af., Naval Ottawa, Connav.)
 Gen. St. Helena's 1408/11th.
 CLAN MACNELL bound St. Helena is only ship known to be in vicinity but description does not agree exactly. Request check.
 (C. in C. S.A., 2315C/11 to Admty. (R) F.O. W.A. Gen. St. Helena).

D.N.21 U-Boat attacks, 4th March. A.M. 1446/6 not to C. in C. E.F., N.C.S.O. Durban refers. (2) No full convoy conference previously held as NIGELLA (S.O.) and NORWICH CITY only joined convoy at sea. Night very dark, cloudy with slight swell. Escort, as in R.A.C.I. diagram D.E.5, consisted of NIGELLA on starboard bow SONDR A on port bow, VIVIANA on starboard beam, NORWICH CITY on port beam. Last named reported not able to do more than 8 knots. Station keeping up to first attack was good. (3) At 2324 numbers 32 and 42 were torpedoed almost simultaneously. Followed closely by number 43. All hits on port side. (4) Cdore. ordered emergency turn by lights of 45° to port and a further turn of 45° to port a few minutes later. Not all ships saw both or either

signals/ ...

War Diary.11.3.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.D.N.21
U-Boat
Attacks,
4th March.
(Contd.)

signals, but all except No.52 observed that course was being altered to port and endeavoured to conform. NIGELLA and SONDRRA took up position on starboard and port bow respectively on new course. VIVIANA passing close to sunken ship had her speed considerably reduced by underwater explosion and was ordered to remain to assist damaged vessels. NORWICH CITY saw neither of Commodore's signals and, proceeding towards scene of torpedoing was unable to catch up convoy again. (5). No.51 then rear ship of (? be) was hit at 0100. at 0350, Nos. 12 and 22 were torpedoed in quick succession, these two ships being some way astern of the others Commodore altered course by lights 45° to starboard, and again 45° to starboard a few minutes later. There were no further attacks and No.52 rejoined convoy at daylight. No attacks by escort were made on submarine, nor were Snowflakes fired. Admiralty 15A of 1816/5th January refers. (6) Air escort left convoy at 2100, it being then very dark. No aircraft with A.S.V. available after that time. (7) No merchant vessel fired rockets to indicate attack. Not one escort vessel saw or heard a torpedo hit. (Only first ship torpedoed gave any information at all and that was an S.O.S. from HARVEY W. SCOTT. Para 8. Comments. (A) Screening diagram Q.C.4 of W.A.C.I. (as received) should have been adopted. (B) When margin of speed of escorts over convoy is so small, large alterations of course together prevent escorts taking up new stations) (C) On each occasion Submarine came up from astern on a bearing which probably by chance precluded RDF bearings being obtained by NIGELLA, the only ship fitted to take them. (F) Failure of Merchant ships to fire rockets when torpedoed left S.O. escort completely ignorant as to what was happening. (9) These lessons are being applied to other convoys.
(C. in C. S.A. at Durban, 1419Z/11.)

QUAIL,
JAMES
PARKER,
W.S.27.

F.O.C. W. Af. 1710Z/9th March para. 4. QUAIL is to be detached to escort JAMES PARKER to Takoradi arrives P.M. 14th, QUAIL rejoining convoy after fuelling.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1459Z/11 to SUSSEX, (R) Admty. B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C.Lagos.)

Suspicious
Ship,
CILICIA,
CARNARVON
CASTLE,
GLOIRE,
DESPATCH.

Unidentified ship in 005° 35' S. 011° 48' W. at 0445Z 11th. Route N.W. Speed unknown. Request air search and confirm this can be carried out. CILICIA searching in area.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1530Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Ascension for U.S.A. Authority, (R) Comsolant, Admty. CILICIA.)
CILICIA reports unidentified ship in 05° 35' S. 11° 48' W. at 0445/11. Request check from shipping plot that no United Nations or Neutral ship should be in this vicinity.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1605Z/11 to Admiralty, C. in C. S.A., Connnav.)

Confirm/ ...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Suspicious
Ship,
CILICIA,
CARNARVON
CASTLE,
GLOIRE,
DESPATCH.
(Contd.)Confirm no merchant vessel plotted within 450
miles of 05° 35' S. 11° 48' W. at 0445Z/11.
Your 1605Z/11 refers.
(Cominch C. & R., 2107/11 to F.O.C. W.Af
(R) Admty.)Your 1605/11. Mate suspicious.
(C. in C. S.A., 2204C/11 to F.O.C. West
Africa. (R) Admty.)

Return Freetown at best speed.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1545Z/11 to DESPATCH (R) Admty.,
CARNARVON CASTLE, Comsolantfor.)

My 1830/11 (1530/11 intended)

(1) CILICIA proceed to arrive position 001° 09' S.
013° 34' W. at 0500Z/12th and search westward, estimated S. of A.
of unidentified ship as 12 knots. (2) CARNARVON CASTLE
search from westward to arrive position equator 016° 00' W.
at 2000Z/12th estimated S. of A. of unidentified ship as
11 knots. (3) Search by aircraft will be carried out during
daylight in this area. Sight report will be transmitted on
8885 K/cs in R.A.F. Syko reference datum equator 016° W.(F.O.C.W.A., 1810/11 to CARNARVON CASTLE, CILICIA (R) Admty.
C. in C.S.A., Comsolant.)Search for unidentified ship sighted in 005° 35' S. 011°
48' W. at 0445Z/11th March as follows: (1) CARNARVON CASTLE
commence in 000° 48' S. 018° 15' W. at 0500Z/13th March
proceeding to arrive 002° 55' N. 017° 40' W. at 2000Z/13th.
(2) CILICIA commence in 000° 55' N. 014° 10' W. at 0500Z/13th
March proceeding to arrive 000° 58' N. 017° 40' W. at 2000Z/13th.
(3) French Cr. GLOIRE will commence in position equator 20.10 W.
at 0600Z/13th and proceed to arrive 05.00 N. 19.32 W. at
2000Z/13th. (4) DESPATCH will be sailed from Freetown to com-
mence in 03.05 N. 16.26 W. at 0700Z/13th proceeding to arrive
03.08 N. 20.55 W. at 2000Z/13th. (5) Aircraft will carry out
cross-over patrol to cover estimated S. of A. of ship 10½ knots
to 12½ knots. (6) Report by aircraft will be transmitted on
8885 K/cs. in R.A.F. Syko, reference data 03 N. 19 W.
(7) French information on allied M/Vs in area of search will be
signalled.(F.O.C.W.A., 1843Z/11 to CARNARVON CASTLE, GILICIA (R)
Comsolantfor, C. in C. S.A. Admty., Commar, Dakar. A.O.C.
W.Af. DESPATCH.)F.O.C. West Africa's 1605Z/11th not to all addressees
and St. Helena's 1408Z/11.Admiralty plot shows no ship in vicinity of CILICIA at 0445Z/11
or off St. Helena at 1200/11.

(Duty Capt., 2120A/11 to F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A.)

EMPRESS OF
CANADA,
BOREAS.Your 1035/10 (Proposal to retain BOREAS as
escort) EMPRESS OF CANADA. Approved.
(D.O.D.(F), 1531A/11 to F.O.C.W.A.)

CHESHIRE/ ...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CHESHIRE
A.F.D.
Escort. Ref. Admty.1625/10th. My 1227/8th was based on assumption that speed of towing would be about 5 knots and that CHESHIRE would steam at 12 knots whilst acting as escort. Her endurance vide C.B.01815 (?B) gives her only 28 days at that speed. Distance to be covered by towing is 4130 miles.
(C. in C. S.A. 1607C/11 to Admty.(R) R.A.W.Af.)
(R) Reply Admty. 1840A/13.

QUADRANT. Arrival 1400/11th.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1835Z/11 to F.O.C.W.A.
(R) Comdr. Dakar, Admty.)

Movements,
Pernambuco. Departure 9th March Brazilian Sub. Chaser C.S.53.
Arrival 11th U.S. Destroyer ERICSSON U.S.
Sub. Chaser P.C.488, 577 and 593. Departure
11th Brazilian minelayers CARAVELAS and CARIOCA
and Sub. Chaser C.S. one, 51 and 52.
(R.O.Pernambuco, 1908Z/11 to Admty. as amended
1935Z/12).

(?) U-Boats off Brazil. U.S. Army plane has reported sighting submarines off Victoria (Brazil) yesterday 10th. No confirmation yet.
(B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro, 1927Z/11 to Admty.
(R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements,
Takoradi. Arrivals 11th BELLWORT, ARMERIA, ARIAN, (?ADRIAS)
M/L.290, 256.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1951Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

BUTSER. Following is a repetition of my 1955Z/11th addressed N.C.S.O. Cape St. Vincent for B. Con.,
(R) N.A. Lisbon, Capt. (D) Freetown, Admty.,
BUTSER from R.A.W.Af. (Begins): Intend
Trawler BUTSER to arrive St. Vincent (C.V) with Mail p.m. 22nd
March. Request Portugal Authorities be notified. (Ends.)
(F.O.C.W.A., 2101Z/11, to Admty.)

BARWIND. PORTSDOWN's 0350Z/26th Feb. (BARWIND escorted
by M.L.277 arriving Dakar at 290). Request
information movements BARWIND.
(D.B.D., 2139A/11 to F.O.C.W.A.) Reply 1603/13.

ELIZABETH-
VILLE. Your 1253/7. Request report of details of
refit required by ELIZABETHVILLE in view of fact
that vessel has been reported as repairing for
five out of last nine months.
(D. of S.T., 2301A/11 to D.S.T.O. Durban).

U-Boat
Ascension. American Authority in Ascension reports American
Aircraft sighted S/M on surface 10 miles off
Ascension at approx. 1815Z/11th.
Air search being carried out from Ascension.
(F.O.C.W.A., 2347Z/11 to Admty., Connav etc.)

War Diary.11.3.1943.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Following received. Addressed Air H.Q. Malta.
From A/C BUN/R:-
P.C. and S. of 1 tanker, 1 M/V, 3 destroyers,
38.15 N. 14.20 E. 270° 8 knots.
(Alexandria 0010/11 to Admty.)

Following received. Addressed A/C BUN/C, From Air H.Q. Malta:-
Shadow 1 tanker, 1 merchant vessel, 3 destroyers estimated to
be in 38.15 N. 14.20 E. at 0020A until 0400. Return direct.
(Alexandria 0115/11 to Admty.)

Following received. Addressed Air H.Q. Malta, From A/C
BUN/V:-
P.C. and S. of 1 tanker, 1 M/V, 3 destroyers, 38.20 N. 13.40 E.
270° 8 knots.
(Alexandria 0150/11 to Admty.)

Following received Addressed A/C BUN/R From Malta.
My 0020. P.C. and S. of 1 tanker, 1 M/V, and 3 destroyers 38.15
N. 13.38 E. 280° 8 knots.
(Alexandria W/T 0200A/11 to Admty.)

Following received Addressed Air H.Q. Malta, from BUN/C:-
P.C. and S. of convoy 38.15 N. 13.42 E., 270° 10 knots.
(Alexandria W/T 0235A/11 to Admty.)

Following received. Addressed A/C BUN/C, BUN/R, BUN/V
From Air H.Q. Malta. Own air striking force about to attack at
0310. Call Sign of strike aircraft is GLJ BUA.
(Alex. W/T 0250A/11 to Admty.)

UNBENDING. Endeavour to be in position 322° "SS" 18 by
0800 today.
(Capt. S.10 0455A/11 to UNBENDING.)

E-Boats. 11 E-Boats bearing 018° distant one mile
position 37.28 N. 12.12. E. course 080°.
(A/C GKP/A 0455A/11 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

THUNDERBOLT. Large enemy tankers and merchant ships reported
SIBYL. by aircraft East of Palermo at 0200 may not make
passage to Tunis until after dark tonight Thursday.
If circumstances permit remain in vicinity of your
present position until daylight tomorrow Friday.
(Capt. S.8 0836A/11 to THUNDERBOLT, P.217 (SIBYL)
(R) 8th S.F. Capt. S.10.)

P.R.U. indicate enemy Merchant ships including tankers may proceed
to Tunis during next 48 hours.

2. P.37 is on patrol south of Messina.
3. Cancel my 0408/10th. P.217 maintain patrol near position given
para. 2 my 1242/9th, as circumstances permit until further
instructions.
4. Cancel para. 3 my 1242/9th. After daylight tomorrow Friday
THUNDERBOLT is to proceed towards Messina passing as close as
circumstances permit off Straits and Cape Gallo.
(Capt. S.8 1220A/11 to THUNDERBOLT, P.217 (SIBYL) (R) 8th S.F.
Capt. S.10.)

/Spain...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean- Contd.Spain,
Balearics.Re possible Axis attack. C.O.S. W. 514.
(0920Z/11) See America & West Indies.Movements,
Alexandria.Arrivals 10th March, M.L. 358, Greek Destroyer
SPETSAI. Departures 10th March, MAGNET, PRIMULA,
LINNET, ST. MONANCE, PROTEA, SOUTHERN ISLE,
KAI, GLOXINIA, FALK, ROMNEY, M.L. 1046.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 0923B/11 to Admty. C. in C.
Levant.)

ALBA JULIA.

My 1051C/6. ALBA JULIA now at Salonica, expected
Istanbul about March 18th. B.3.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1012C/11 to C. in C. Levant,
S.O.I. Levant, S.I. D.N.I.)

M.K.F. 10B.

Sailing telegram. 3. 1730/10. 4. 13 knots.
5. and (8) as in C. in C. Med's 1555/7.
6. CHURCHILL, (S.O.) RESTIGOUCHE, BRANDON, AMHERST,
CELANDINE, COLLINGWOOD.
(Cmdre. Algiers 1019A/11, 1024A/11 to Admty.
Connav.)P.R.U.
March 11th.Visuals. a.m. Taranto, Messina, no results -
10/10 cloud.
(V.A. Malta 1036A/11.)
P.R.U. March 11th visual. 1630 Taranto 2
battleships, 2 cruisers.
(V.A. Malta 1916A/11.)

GRADISCA.

My 1841/9. (N.T. in W.R.) Italian Embassy
informed Turkish Government this morning GRADISCA
leaves Bari 14th March, arriving Messina 19th
March. Time of sailing from Bari as in original
programme. Please repeat to Admiralty.
(B.N.A. Ankara 1046B/11 to C. in C. Levant.)

ST. LUCIEN.

My 1000/10th.* ST. LUCIEN will be ready for sea
tonight Thursday, destination Marseilles.
(*Load of fruit pulp for Germany.)
(Alicante 1100/11 to Admty.)

OXFORDSHIRE.

Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE is due Oran March 14th
to embark invalids and sail for Avonmouth.
Request route.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 1110A/11 to Admty.)

/ADVENTURE...

War, Diary.

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

ADVENTURE
minelaying.

Your 1350/9th. Para. 2, concur.
Para. 3, ADVENTURE will be required to be commissioned for one further trip. Estimated date of completion for acceptance of unassembled units will be reported shortly. 500 and 1,000 fathom moorings would be of value, request proportion may be included.
(C. in C.Med. 1110A/11 to Admty.)

KATSONIS.

Following is a repetition of my 1118/11 (begins) Addressed A.I.G. 76 N.O.I.C. Tripoli (S) C.F.E. G.S. PAPANICOLIS Cmdre. (D) S.S. KATSONIS delayed due to defect time required for repairs unknown at present. Postpone my 0904/9 (N.T. in W.D.) and 1808/10. Further signal will be made. (Ends.)
(Capt. S.1 1121B/11 to PAPANICOLIS.)
My 0904/9 and 1808/10 cancelled. (Capt. S.1 1637B/18.)

TIRPITZ
report.

B.2 report received that TIRPITZ, 2 destroyers and 2 torpedo boats passed Agdenes outward bound at 0850/11th March.
(D.D.I.C. 1133A/11 to A.I.G. 21, A.I.G. 47, H.Q.C.C. C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O. Force H. etc.)
See 1444A/11 for order to Force H.

UNSEEN.

Surface force sailing at 0900A will be exercising South West of Malta during daylight 12th. They have been warned of your movements.
(Capt. S.10, 1141A/11 to P.51 (UNSEEN) (R)
C. in C.Med. V.A.Malta, 10th S.F. F.O.15th C.S.)

UNBENDING.

Keep west of 016° during darkness tonight. Friendly M.T.B. from Malta will be operating East of this longitude.
(Capt. S.10 1143A/11 to P.37 (UNBENDING) (R)
C. in C.Med. Capt. S.1st S.F. Capt. S.8. 10th S.F. C. in C.Levant.)

EINTRACHT
(ex Greek
VASSILIKI.)

My 1623/10 Para. B. Reported EINTRACHT will proceed to Bourgas. B.3.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1144C/11 to C. in C.Levant, S.O.I. Levant, S.1. D.N.I.)

/UNRUFFLED...

War Diary.

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNRUFFLED.

On arrival in your new area concentrate your patrol in the N.E. corner.
(Capt. S.10 1145A/11 to P.46 (UNRUFFLED.))

Ships Repair
Materials.

My 2252/2nd March to S.N.O.C.A. and Cominch only and my 1651/27th Feb., not to S.N.O.C.A. The provision of ship repair materials from U.S.A. for Allied pool at Oran and Casablanca referred to in my letter Med. W/373/7 dated 4th March to Cominch only is becoming very urgent, particularly in view of increased U.S. Naval and Amphibious forces to be expected in near future.
2. To date it has been possible to keep Oran going by supplies from Gibraltar on a hand to mouth basis but Gibraltar is badly stretched to meet her own requirements. All supplies coming from U.K. are required for Algiers and ports to eastward including Bizerta.
3. Request I may be informed when first shipments may be expected (C. in C.Med. 1150A/11 to Cominch, (R) S.N.O.C.A. etc.)

TROOPER.

Cancel my 0906/10th. Patrol at your discretion off Cape Milazzo or off Northern entrance to Straits of Messina until further instruction. My 1200 refers.
(Capt. S.8 1208A/11 to TROOPER, (R) 8th S/M Flot. Capt. S.10.)

GRADISCA.

Your 1841/9th March to me only, and my 1805/9th. March not to Admiralty. It appears GRADISCA may not have sailed. No intercepted signals have been received giving her position as is normally the case with Italian Hospital Ships. Have you any further news?
(C. in C.Levant 1256B/11 to B.N.A. Ankara, (R) Admty. Min. of State.)

G.U.S.5.

Intend to sail (list) (14 ships).
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 1325A/11 to C. in C.Med.)

Force H.

Ref. A.M. 1133/11. Remain at Gibraltar.
(C. in C.Med. 1444A/11 to S.O.Force H. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Oran.)
My 1444/11th. Request you will have steam at one hours notice by 1200 tomorrow Friday so that if situation permits original programme may be carried out 24 hours late. Further signals will be made.
(C. in C.Med. 1837A/11 to S.O.Force H. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Oran.)

/REGENT...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- REGENT. F.O.C.Gibraltar's 1906/10 not to S.8. Onward routing through $038^{\circ} 10' 02'' 17'$ at 2230/14 to R/V with escort for Algiers in $036^{\circ} 57' 003'' 00'$ at 0700/15.
2. All positions N. and E. 3. F.O.C.Gibraltar pass REGENT. (Capt. S.8 1502A/11 to REGENT, (R) N.O.I.C. Oran, S.8. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cmdre. Algiers, S.O.(S) Gibraltar.)
- K.M.S.10. Algiers Section arrived. (25 ships) plus AUDUN from Oran, ORKLA and SIDI IFNI from Gibraltar. JADE and COXWOLD diverted to Philippeville, JOHN DAVENPORT to Algiers. (Cmdre. Algiers 1534A/11 to Admty.)
- K.M.S.10, arrived TOPDALSEFJORD, JADE, COXWOLD, and PORT ST. JOHN. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1539A/11.)
- S/Ms. 1. My 0324, not to all addressees. Escort will be trawler CAVA. First S/M to arrive is to identify herself to escort and enter harbour unescorted, 2nd S/M to arrive will be escorted into harbour.
2. P.228 (SPLENDID) leaving Algiers 1830/11th through $038^{\circ} 25' 004'' 10'$ thence 090° and can meet P.(?212) (?SAHIB) a.m. 12th.
3. Hospital ship due Algiers from westward at 0800/12th.
4. P.54 (UNSHAKEN.) will be exercising in swept channel from 1000/12th. (Capt. S.8 1534A/11 to P.211 (SAFARI) TRIBUNE, (R) P.212 (SAHIB) Cmdre. Algiers, X.D.O. C. in C.Med. CAVA.)
- Tripoli Discharges. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Tripoli discharged 10th March 3400 tons and 3260 personnel. Benghazi 1120 tons. Bad weather still interfering with shipping. (Mideast T.O.O. Nil. Recd. 1535Z/11.)
- Axis Shipping. My 1321/2nd Feb. (N.T. in W.D.) Ship not yet returned to Valencia. (B.N.A.Madrid 1559/11 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. F.O.Gibraltar.)
- Movements, Malta. Sailed M.T.B. 84, 95, and 264, P.42 (UNBROKEN.) (V.A.Malta 1627A/11 to Admty.)
- SILHOUETTE. White Ensign struck, Norwegian Flag hoisted SILHOUETTE 1715B/11th March. (N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports 1733B/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant, S.N.O.L.A.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,
Tripoli.

Arrival WHITEHAVEN, APHIS, CROMARTY, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, EXMOOR, L.C.T. 139, BARFORD, TREERN. Departure JAVELIN, BELVOIR, ROCKWOOD, TETCOTT, F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINE, PINDOS, IMHOFF. (N.O.I.C. Tripoli 1801/11 to Admt. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Enemy
Tanker.

A/C reported at 1610A today P.C. and S. of one unescorted tanker 037° 40' (?016°) 10' - 300 - 12. (Capt. S.10 1824A/11 to S/MS on patrol. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, Capt. S.1 Capt. S.8. My 1824A/11th. (?Tanker) appears to have a dummy funnel amidships. (Capt. S.10 2328A/11 to S/MS. etc.)

Landing craft.

Your 0925/15th Feb. Personnel requirements will be met as follows (details). (Head of M.II 1836A/11 to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Malta Air
Report.

A.I. 577 11th March. C.S.R. T.O.O. 1845Z. Part 1 Offensive. Night 10th/11th March. 3 special equipment Wellingtons on shipping search in Palermo area sighted 0050 hours 1 M/V 6000 tons 1 unidentified vessel 5000 tons escorted by 3 D/Rs. 38° 20' N. 13° 40' E. course W. speed 8 knots. Dive torpedo carrying Wellingtons and 2 bomb carrying Wellingtons were despatched to attack but were unable to locate convoy because it had probably entered Palermo. Severe A.S.V. jamming was experienced. (A.H.Q. Malta 1921Z/11.)

Movements
Haifa.

Arrivals 11th March Greek Destroyer AETOS, BURRA, CUMBRAE, M.Ls. 1156, 1226, 1005, 357 Norwegian Minesweeper PARA, WILLIAMSON, ISLAY, FIRMAMENT. Departure 11th March CUMBRAE, AETOS. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 1923A/11 to Admt. C. in C. Levant.)

Movements,
Casablanca.

March 11th. Arrivals U.S.S. McCORMICK, OVERTON from Gibraltar. U.S.S. BROOME from ANDES Escort. Departures U.S.S. BAINBRIDGE with SEAKAY for T.O.2 U.S.S. MURPHY, SIMPSON, P.C. 472 and 482 with C.G. 17. (C.M.S.F.F. 2000Z/11 to Admt. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cominch.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Arrived SIDI IFNI L.C.I. (L) 246, LIGHTNING,
Algiers. LOYAL, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN.
Departures BICESTER, ZETLAND, LAMERTON,
WILTON, OAKLEY, L.C.I. (L) 6,7,97,163,210,246.
(Cmdre. Algiers 2011A/11 to Admty. etc.)
Arrived DOLFIJN, (P.47.) UNSHAKEN (P.54). departure SPLENDID
(P.228.)(Cmdre. Algiers 2012A/11 to Admty. etc.)

12th R.A.F. For Eaker, From Spaatz.
Report. 1. Convoy attacked at 1225 hours by 20 B.17s
escorted by 33 P.38s at 12,000 feet. B.17s attacked
by 30 enemy aircraft before taking bomb run.
Near misses on one ship. Fighters at 14,000 feet
were attacked by 20 enemy aircraft. 17 were destroyed including
2 Me. 109s which collided, 12 probably destroyed and 6 damaged.
All our planes returned safely.
(12th Air Force 2150Z/11 to Etousa.)

Tripoli Your 1633/4 (re C. in C.Levant has ruled minimum
Convoys. speed Tripoli convoys 9 knots) noted and agreed.
(D.S.T. 2258A/11 to P.S.T.O. Middle East.)

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

GAMBIA, E.T.A. in GAMBIA Grand Port for fuelling 0400Z/13.
F.O.4th C.S. (F.O. 4th C.S., 0033Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius,
(R) C. in C. E.F.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Am proceeding Mauritius for fuel arriving 13th.
2. QUEEN OF BERMUDA proceeding direct Durban
passing through (E) in my 2203/27th. E.T.A. 1100Z/
16th. Request local escort for her if possible.
3. N.O.I.C. Durban acknowledge to QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
(C.S.4, 0055Z/11 to C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Durban, (R) C. in
C. S.A. QUEEN OF BERMUDA.)

Movements. Departure TRAVANCORE escorting STORNORDISKE.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0235Z/11 to Admty.)
Departure TAMWORTH at 1200Z/10th.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0248Z/11 to Admty.)
Departure 0515Z. MARGUERITE, PANGKOR with B.P.(? 72),
0720Z DAUNTLESS.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 1029Z/11 to Admty.)
CARNATIC arrived a.m., left.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 1000Z/11 to Admty.)
Left CARADOC, KIRRIMOOR. Arrived MAURITIUS.
(F.O. E.A. and Zanzibar, 1301Z/11 to Admty.)
BIRMINGHAM, RESOURCE arrived.. Left (? WARSPITE),
QUILLIAM, FOXHOUND, NEPAL.
(F.O.I.C. E.Af., 1306Z/11 to Admty.)
CERES arrived.
(F.O. E.A. and Zanzibar, 1402Z/11 to Admty.)

Convoy Escorts. Following is repetition of my 0937/7 (not
previously received). (Begins): Amend 0907/4th
for SOBKRA and SOLVRA read MADRAS. (Ends).
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0533Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz,
C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O. Ceylon, Com.
R.I.N., Cdre. i/c. Aden, N.O.I.C. Karachi.)

B.P. 72. Sailing telegram.
2. 0530/11th. 3. E.T.A. R/V Karachi portion
position (A) 08(?30)Z/13th March. 3A. E.T.
crossing 062° 1030Z/14th. 3B. E.T.A. west of
Quoin Is. 0130Z/16th. 4. 9½ knots. 5. (R) 022° 19', 068° 23'.
(S) 024° 17', 066° 33'. (T) 024° 21', 062° 13'. Thence P G W
(U) to (Z). 6. MARGUERITE, PANGKOR.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0551Z/11, 0553Z/11 to Admty.)

Labour Situation E. Africa. Proposals in my 0921/5 (re supplement of civilian
rations from naval stocks), may still be necessary
for a short period to prevent discharge of labour.
Matter is still under discussion with Kenya Govt.
and I request covering approval to issue
provisions from naval stocks if necessary to tide
over until restoration of full civilian rations should

/this ...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Labour
Situation
E. Africa.

emergency arise. A.M. 2218/9 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 0721Z/11 to Admty.)

DUMANA
Flying Boat
Base Ship.

A.299, 11th March.
Ref. Air H.Q. India signal A. 248 (Requirements
for S.S. DUMANA.) 5th March repeated to you
following recieved from (C. in C. E.F.?)
" I understand that S.S. DUMANA would be useful
in the North Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf as a
Flying Boat Base Ship to extend the operational radius of air-
craft detached to these areas".
(A.H.Q. India 1018Z/11 to Air Min.)

Malaya
evacuation.

Continuation my 99913 8th July 1942.
Now decided commencing date official evacuation
from Malaya 7th Dec. 1941. Service families
eligible special evacuation allowances from such
date. My 55000 23rd Feb. addresses Imcon Durban refers.
Above date also applies entitlement free passages and messing
en route reception area.
(W.O. 1145A/11 to Land Forces Melbourne for Hordern, (R)
Milms Pretoria, Impay and Imcon Durban, G.O.C. Ceylon,
Armindia.)

Convoy
Escorts.

(? Intended for escort. SUTLEJ and BENGAL P.B.31
MADRAS P.A. 29 sailing 0230Z/16th. Ocean Route
No. 1. MARYBOROUGH and MARGUERITE P B 32
HINDUSTAN P A 30 sailing 0800Z/22nd (?ocean)
route number 3. This (?amends) my 0907/4th.
2. SOBKRA to act as additional escort to P B 31 until
dispersal then escorting KILINDINI tanker direct to North
Australia.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1234Z/11 to N.O.I.C.Hormuz, C. in C.
S.A. F.O. Ceylon, Com. R.I.N. G.i/c Aden, N.O.I.C. Karachi, C. in
C. E.F.) See 1336Z/12 and 0618Z/13.

Routeing
East Indies
Station.

The (?advantage of) having adequate reference
positions for (?diversion) purposes is usually
negatived by length of convoy signal thereby
involved. To overcome this difficulty the
(?following) procedure is to be adopted for
routeing shipping on or from the East Indies
Station (details).
(C. in C. E.F., 1422Z/11 to F.O.N.I.C. (R)
Admty. C. in C. S.A., AC.N.B., N.Z.N.B., Connav,
F.O.R.S.C.A.)

Destroyers,
reinforcements

C. in C. E.F. 1843/7th.
Approved to send the first destroyer forthwith
but absence of two Fleet destroyers from mid
June to mid July is not acceptable.
2. We appreciate your difficulties and it is

/assumed...

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Destroyers, assumed that by interchange of personnel you
reinforcements have obviated sending NAPIER.
(contd). 3. Request reconsideration and further proposals
on the basis of all destroyers being available
for operations from mid-June at the latest. It
is realised that the return of at least one
destroyer to Australia may have to be postponed.
(D.O.D.(F) 1438A/11 to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B.,
(R) Com. (D) E.F.)

Fairmiles Burma R.N.V.R. will be in a position to man 3
manning. Fairmiles by 1st July and an additional 3 by
1st September, 1943. Can these craft be provided?
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 1628Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
E.F.)

Eastern Fleet Following are present dispositions of E.F.
destroyers, destroyers.
dispositions. 1. At Kilindini QUILLIAM, NEPAL, FOXHOUND,
and NIZAM. First three to escort WARSPITE to
Durban sailing 11th. NIZAM sailing for
Australia 17th.
2. On passage to Kilindini from Cape QUICKMATCH, and QUIBERON
escorting ALBATROSS and CARTHAGE respectively.
3. In South Africa waters (A) Temporarily attached to C. in C.
S.A., CATTERICK and BLACKMORE (B) refitting ROTHERHAM, NAPIER,
NORMAN (C) Local convoy duty QUALITY, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS.
4. On passage in (?Atlantic) (A) with W.S.27 QUEENBOROUGH,
QUAIL, RAIDER (B) with W.S.28 QUADRANT, REDOUBT.
5. My intentions are as follows: (A) QUILLIAM, FOXHOUND and
NEPAL to remain on South Atlantic station after escorting
WARSPITE to Durban (B) On completion of refit about 19th
ROTHERHAM to remain on South Atlantic Station.
(C) NAPIER and QUALITY to sail from Durban with C.M.40 for
Kilindini. RELENTLESS and RACEHORSE to remain on south Atlantic
station.
(D) Destroyers with W.S.(?27) to remain on South Atlantic
Station if enemy submarine activity still persists.
6. This will leave QUIBERON and QUICKMATCH at Kilindini to
provide escorts being joined by NAPIER and QUALITY during
latter half of March. Remainder of Eastern Fleet destroyers will
operate on South Atlantic Station in following numbers (for as
long as U-boat threat remains). March 15th - 5. March 20th - 10.
March 25th - 11.
(C. in C. E.F., 1656Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., S.O.
Destroyers E.F.)

War Diary.

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

ARCOLA,
TAIGETE. Your 1133/8 to S.B.N.O.W.At. Loading instructions are being prepared and will be forwarded by M. of W.T.
(Hd. of M. Br. I. 0203A/11 to S.B.N.O. Curacao,
(R) S.B.N.O. W.At. B.A.D., B.R.L.O. Aruba)

B.Y.M.S. San Diego departed 2100Z/8 B.Y.M.S. 9 22, 26 and 27 for Balboa via Monzanillo 11.5 knots.
(N.S.H.Q. 0248Z/11 to Admty).

E.G.40
ABERDEEN,
sweep. Have carried extensive sweep following H/F D/F bearings of U-boats in estimated position 48° 50' N. 26° 20' W. No result. Amended E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 0800/12th less LANDGUARD and MOYOLA already detached, weather report.
(E.G.40 in ABERDEEN, 0449Z/11 to C.T.24 (R)
C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., Admty.
N.S.H.Q., N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., LANDGUARD,
S.B.N.O.W.At. MOYOLA).

?OLANCHO
torpedoed. Intercept de Amagansett Radio SSSS BRYF
(?OLANCHO) 22.08 N. 85.14 W. torpedoed (ends).
(Valentia Radio, 0717/11 to W/T Admty).

Movements Kingston Departure 9th P.C.465.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0848R/11 to Admty).
Arrival 10th U.S.A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA.
(B.R.O. Aruba 1151QR/11 to Admty) Amended 1101QR/13
Arrival U.S. Ship YEATON from Trinidad.
(Harbour Master Barbados 1525/11 to Admty).
My 1525/11th vessel left St. Lucia.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 2123/11 to Admty).
New York arrived 9th March L.S.T. 411, 416 414, 415, 422
from Norfolk.
(N.S.H.Q., 1545Z/11 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)
New York departed 9th BAYNTON for Bermuda.
(N.S.H.Q., 1546Z/11 to Admty)
Armed Yacht S.C.655 left a.m. on 11th.
(R.O. Barranquilla 1659/11 to D.N.I. London)
Trinidad departure 11th WOODRUFF.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1822Q/11 to S.B.N.O.W.At).
Bermuda departure U.S. S/M R.15.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 2033Q/11 to Admty).
KIT CARSON (U.S.) arrived San Francisco March 10th. DEL
BRASIL (U.S.) sailed San Francisco for Espirito Santo. Both A.T.
(N.S.H.Q., 2040Z/11 to Admty)

/Spain...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Spain policy if Axis attack. Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S. (W)514. Ref. N.A.F.170 (Algiers No. 5067) (see 1915/8). We have consulted F.O. and see no useful purpose in approaching Spanish Government on lines suggested.

2. You should point out to U.S. Chiefs of Staff, if and when this question is raised, that in event of an Axis attack, Spain would either side with the Axis, in which case there would be no invitation to us to use airfields in Balearics, or she would resist attack, in which case we should expect to be invited in. We have not yet reached the stage of Staff Conversations with the Spaniards to cater for this latter contingency.

(Air Min. 0920Z/11 to J.S.M. Washington)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	8 L.C.I.(L)s	29½° N. 44° W.*	059°	5½
1800 G.M.T.	23 L.C.I.(L)s	32½° N. 67° W.	126°	10
11th March.	ACHILLES	15½° N. 72° W.	054°	23
	A.T.38	36½° N. 60½° W.	107°	26½
	4 ships of 40th			
	E.G.	48° N. 49½° W.	256°	10½
	2 ships of 40th			
	E.G.	Approaching St. Johns position doubtful.		

(D.O.D. (F) 1115Z/11 to Opnav (R) Comnav)
*Position Doubtful.

TENACITY, EMPIRE LIGHT. Passed by CLEMATIS. Commencing search for EMPIRE LIGHT at 0830Z/11 around last reported position. If practicable aircraft would be most useful. Weather report. (TENACITY 1155Z/11 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C., C.T.24).

O.N.170. O.N.170. Have altered course to 220° in order to increase progress of convoy. Destroyers running short of fuel having been unable so far to refuel due to weather.

(M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, 1212Z/11 to Connav, (R) A.C.I.C., C.T.G. 24.6 H.Q.C.C., C.T.F.24, Admty. etc).

O.N.170. WHITEHALL detached to St. Johns having reached prudent limit of endurance VANESSA will need to leave shortly. Iceberg sighted in position 059° 06' N., 038° 04' W. at 1300Z/11. (M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, 1705Z/11 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24, Admty.)

/Washington...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Washington
Conference,
Convoy
Carriers and
escort
groups.

Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.
Your 1615/10 (Hush Most Secret) Admiral King is
away today but I have just seen Admiral Edwards
who tells me King's views are as follows:-

(2) They will hand over one escort carrier with
escort of working strength of 5. This support
group would be under our control to place where
we think necessary.

(3) Their second escort carrier with escort of two
will be allocated to U.G. convoys which they expect will also
be endangered. As more escort carriers become available they
intend to put them on to these convoys.

(4) The above arrangements to continue to July when they think the
whole situation will have to be reviewed.

(5) I consider this is the best they will offer. They are
undoubtedly anxious over our combined weakness in Atlantic
and are particularly worried about their weakness in Brazil area.

(6) Their Operational Planning Staff from Pacific Fleet arrive
for big discussion tomorrow. Edwards tells me he knows they will
press for even more destroyers in Pacific on grounds that some
of their old ones in the area have been running so hard without
proper refits that they are breaking down.

(7) Next meeting of Conference is arranged for 1500 G.M.T.
tomorrow Friday but this will be dependent on your reply as
Edwards and I agree we will not bring this before Conference
unless agreement has been reached.

(B.A.D., 1515Z/11 to Admty).

S/M estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1529/11, 1530/11, 1611/11,
11th March. 1612/11, 1613/11, 2116/11)
U.S. S/M
Notice.

Technical
Mission for
Russia.

/ C.O.S.(W) 518 11th March. Ref. C.O.S. (W) 488
para. 5. (1927/21).

W.O. agree that all radio devices on their
original list attached to Radio (43) 19 may now
be disclosed to the Russians.

2. Admiralty considers that following items
should at present be withheld from the Russians:-
(a) Radio proximity fuze; (b) Research and development work on
equipment using wavelengths shorter than 3 c/ms;
(c) Gunnery equipment in connection with 10 c/m R.D.F;
(d) A.I.X. and A.S.V.X.

3. Air Min. consider that following information should be
withheld:- (a) Cm. R.D.F. bomb-sight. (b) S.B.B. (separate band
beaconry);- (c) Impulse signalling; (d) Window.

4. Radio Board memorandum containing the reasons why these
should be withheld will follow by first bag.

5. You should invite Americans to agree that the above items in
para. 2 and 3 should not be disclosed to the Russians, and
discover whether they have any objections to disclosure of
other items not mentioned in this list.

6. On receipt of your comments on the complete inter-service
lists, final decision will be taken as to the question of what
shall be withheld.

(Air Min. 1600Z/11 to Britman, Washington).

/Washington...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- Washington Conference, Escorts for North Atlantic Convoys. Personal for 1st S.L. from Vice C. of N.S. My 1841/9th. I learn from Brodeur that Canadian Authorities idea is that the 6 corvettes released would be used to form basis of Canadian support group. They will no doubt want to keep it under their control.
(2) Ottawa Authorities will decide this afternoon whether they will agree to send minesweepers round from west coast of Canada. If this is agreed they should be in Halifax about mid April and corvettes would then be released.
(B.A.D., 1625/11 to Admty).
- LADY NELSON. Your 0301/9. Para. (4) Anticipate Hospital ship LADY NELSON ready to sail from Halifax about 15th April. Destination in U.K. will be notified later. (N.S.H.Q., 1912Z/11 to D. of S.T. (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C.)
- "Captain" class frigates. To enable us to forecast additions to Western Approaches Command escorts during the early summer request you will signal estimated dates of arrival in U.K. of individual "Captain" class Frigates.
(D.O.D. (H), 2015A/11 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. W.A.)
- H.H.X.229 A. 1. H.H.X. 229 A. sailing telegram. 2. Gate 1900Z/11. 3. "Homp" 1500Z/12. 5. As C.E.S.F. 2210/4.
(C.O.A.C., 2020/11, 2025/11 to Admty).
- "Bangors" Personal for V.C.N.S. and 1st S.L. Your 1841Z/1 (?The Six) R.N. "Bangors" now on west coast Canada will be moved to East coast in immediate future. This leaves West coast with very little protection. Please give copy of this signal to Brodeur.
(C.N.S. Canada, 2022Z/11 to B.A.D. (R) Admty)
- Suspicious Ship. Cominch C. and R. 2107/11. See South Atlantic.
- Shipping Casualties. Serial 11 K.W.123 attacked 10th VIRGINIA SINCLAIR, JAMES SPRUNT torpedoed sunk 19° 49' N. 74° 38' W. OLANCHO torpedoed 10th 22° 08' N., 85° 14' W. (Cominch C. and R. 2125/11 to Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces in Europe).

/U/B...

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

U/B destroyed by ASSINI-BOINE 2nd March. AETOS. (D.A/S.W., 2130Z/11 to Cominch (R) Comnavu N.S.H.Q., C.N.J.S.M., B.A.D.)

Your 2119/8. Admiralty believe that the 2 attacks referred to are in fact one and same attack confusion being due to corrupt signals. For information Greek destroyer AETOS is in Med. (D.A/S.W., 2130Z/11 to Cominch (R) Comnavu N.S.H.Q., C.N.J.S.M., B.A.D.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. A. OLANCHO torpedoed 22nd 08° N. 85° W. about 0706Z/11. TUCHURINCA torpedoed area 51° 18' N. 29° 20' W. on 10th. ANDREA F. LUCKENBACH torpedoed sunk area 51° 18' N. 29° 20' W. on 10th. VIRGINIA SINCLAIR torpedoed sunk area 20° N. 74° 10' W. 0510Z/10.

JAMES SPRUNT torpedoed sunk 19° 49' N., 74° 38' W. 0812Z/10.
ROSEWOOD torpedoed 58° 37' N. 22° 32' W. about 2128Z/9.
Surface craft sights sub 52° 29' N. 26° 49' W. about 1420Z/11.
Plane sights sub on course 320° 52° 08' N. 26° 56' W. 1254Z/11.
Plane sights sub 52° 41' N. 26° 30' W. 1230Z/11.
Plane sights sub course 117° 52° 05' N. 27° 03' W. 1124Z/11.
Plane sights sub course 065° 52° 25' N. 26° 30' W. 0942Z/11..
Plane attacks sub course 067° 52° N. 27° 10' W. 0908Z/11.
HARVESTER attacks sub area 52° N. 29° 40' W. on 11th.
C. U.S.S. GOLDBOROUGH attacks periscope 19° 44' N. 74° 36' W. about 2010Z/10.
P.C. Boats attack contact 06° 30' S. 34° 29' W. 1630Z/10.
C.G. - 74323 sights periscope 27° 02' N. 82° 40' W. 1800/9.
D. Y.P. - 261 makes sound contact 37° 04' N. 74° 56' W. 2005Z/10.
SS. HENRY W. STONE sights sub on surface 45° 29' N. 56° 44' W. 1530Z/9.
Two fishermen sight sub course N. Area 20° 44' S. 40° 25' W. 0600Z/9.
Two subs sighted course North 20° 44' S. 40° 19' W. 2100Z/9. (Cominch, 2135/11 to Admty).

PORT WYNDHAM attack by A/C. (2) Port Line. (3) 0945Z/1st 044° 22' N. 019° 40' W. (4) One A/C bearing N.E. and steering S.W. (5) One A/C proceeding in low clouds (6) No damage to ship, 2 ratings wounded. (7) None (8) 4-engine F/W monoplane painted blue grey (9) Gunfire and 5 bombs dropped. (10) C.B. not disposed. (B.R.L.O. New York, 2205Z/11 to Admty. Cominch (R) N.S.H.Q.)

L.C.I.(L)s Ref. C.O.S. (43) 75 O of 23 Feb. para. 2. L.C.I.(L) 35 in number are earmarked for the U.K. and 96 in number for Mediterranean all by 1st June making a total of 131. Number allocated 150. 2. Request destination date and any other pertinent information regarding the 19 L.C.I.(L) which are not included in the above C.O.S. paper. (B.A.D., 2221Z/11 to Admty. (R) C.C.O.)

/Stationing...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Stationing
of Ships in
Convoy.

Your 1532Z/9 (Commencing with O.N.173, ships are to be stationed 4 cables apart) Request advice whether you wish this applied to H.X. and S.C. convoys. If so suggest Admiralty take up with Connav. Suggest any amendment be included in para. 3 Art. 30 in I.C.O.C. (N.S.H.Q., 2224Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

SOVETSKAYA
LATVIA,
VESHERA
collision.

11th. Astoria SOVETSKAYA LATVIA Soviet collided with VESHERA Soviet both vessels require dry docking. (Astoria Routeing Grabbag New York, 2302/11 to Admty).

Contribution / Your 1637/28th Jan. Para. 2 stated that you of R.C.N. would probably welcome the loan of two experienced to war effort. escort group Commanders.

2. Although you will fully appreciate our serious shortage of such officers we should, of course, do our best to assist you should you decide to make this request.

3. As it takes some months to train an escort group Commander we could only meet your requirement after doing so, and we should appreciate an early intimation if and when these officers will be needed, so that we can adjust our training programme accordingly.

4. These officers would presumably be used to train R.C.N. Group Commanders and would then be returned to the R.N. (Head of M. Branch II (Approved by 1st S.L.) 2356A/11 to C.N.S. Ottawa, (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

Departure Espiritu Santo 1900Z/10th U.S.S. TAURUS for Auckland E.T.A. 2000Z/16th.

J. 20.00 S. 176.30 E. K. 30.00 S. 175.30 E.

Departure Wellington 0312Z/11 U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY for Noumea E.T.A. 1900Z/14 direct route S. of A 14.1 knots. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0409Z/11 to Admty).

Arrivals 10th. Townsville victualling store issue ship MERKUR. U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT. U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER. Hired transport TAROONA arrived and departed Cairns 10th due Cairns 11th. Hired Transport KATOOMBA departed Brisbane 10th due Townsville 13th. Dutch Naval store ship SOEDOE departed Gladstone 10th due Brisbane 13th. U.S. Transport MAET-SUYCKER, departed Cairns 11th due Brisbane 13th. R.F.A. BISHOP-DALE and U.S. transport BANTAM departed Sydney 10th due Townsville 16th.

(A.C.N.B., 1104Z/11 to Admty).

/Arrivals...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements Arrivals Brisbane 9th U.S. Destroyer HENLEY
Contd. undocking 10th LATROBE Milne Bay 10th WHYALLA,
KATOOMBA.
Departures Port Moresby 10th SWAN for Cairns. Milne
Bay, 10th PIRIE on escort. Townsville 10th U.S.
S/M Tender SUMNER for Milne Bay area.
(A.C.N.B., 1246Z/11 to Admty).

Digest Morning R/C. Fortress reported great activity in
Serial No. rivers on North Coast New Britain.
414 March 2. 4 Fortresses attacked shipping and buildings
10th. Wewak at dawn one merchant vessel left smoking.
Photos later in morning revealed two 400 ton
vessels in harbour also development of Military
stronghold in area.
3. Further barge activity Lae, Labu Malahang afternoon 9th.
6. Liberator midday unsuccessfully attacked two 7000 ton
Merchant vessels 3° S. 125° 45' E. course 225°. Another reported
sighting two cargo vessels 5° 48' S. 126° 05' E. course 45°
morning and at noon attacked two Merchantmen 5° 45' S. 123° 10' E.
course 225° leaving one estimated 6 to 7000 tons ablaze.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0839Z/11).

TRINITY My 1213Z/3. U.S.A. TRINITY has been directed
to proceed Bombay for dock via following route.
(A) 027° 45' S. 097° 19' E. (B) 015° 11' S.
084° 49' E. (C) 005° 16' S. 075° 30' E.
(G) 008° 45' N. 076° 14' E. (H) 011° 52' N. 074° 53' E.
(J) 015° 46' N. 073° 08' E. (K) 018° 41' N. 072° 00' E.
E.T.A. Bombay 21st. S. of A. 9.5 knots.
(A.C.N.B., 1237Z/11 to Admty. Connav, S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I)
Bombay)

STAR KING, My 1349Z/11 Feb. 1. (a) SS. STAR KING (U.S.A.)
torpedoed 9th (b) 034° 15' S. 154° 20' E. 1915Z/9th Feb.
Feb. (c) Sea smooth weather fine. (d) One 5 inch 6
machine guns.
2. Torpedoed. 3. Submarine remained submerged.
4. (a) (i) 4. (ii) 2 starboard quarter and port
quarter. (iii) Yes. (b) No.
5. Machine gun fire only directed at torpedo.
6. (a) No (b) no.
7. All of crew rescued by WARRAMUNGA.
8. Vessel was not under escort.
(A.C.N.B., 1556Z/11 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., N.B. Wellington).

VICTORIOUS Has arrived at Pearl Harbour.
(D.O.D. (H), 2003A/11 to C. in C. H.F., (R) V.A.A.
H.F.)

War Diary.

11.3.1943.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1400A/11, 1414A/11).

12.3.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

1. In a personal message from the First Sea Lord to the C.N.S. Canada today, asking for the assistance of the latter in forming 4 support groups for the North Atlantic,* without which he is sure we shall be riding for a fall, the First Sea Lord emphasises the following points in the situation in the next few months, about which he has the greatest anxiety:-

(1) Convoys will consist of 60 ships.

(2) Very long range air protection will not be built up.

(3) We shall undoubtedly have to fight our way through the U-Boat packs, which, in view of the weak escorts with the convoys can only be successfully achieved by the use of support groups.

* C.N.S. Canada agreed to remove 6 Bangors from the west coast for this purpose.

Home Commands.

R.A. 53.

2. At 1031A today 20 M/Vs of the 30 which sailed in Convoy R.A.53 were in 62° 32' N. 13° 10' W. The British Tanker SAN CIPRIANO is still missing and MILNE is searching for her in the bays between Langanes and Glettinganes.

S.C.121,
COULMORE.

3. The British COULMORE, torpedoed on 9th March in Convoy S.C.121, was sighted by A/C at 0925A today in 58° 28' N. 19° 29' W. and AUBRETIA and CLOVER with the Tugs EMINENT and SAMSONIA are proceeding to assist her.

H.X.228.

4. ESCAPADE with Convoy H.X.228 reports today that during the U-Boat attack on the Convoy yesterday the French Corvette RENONCULE considers that she certainly damaged U.213 with depth charges; and though the Convoy appeared to be shadowed until 0220Z today. no further attacks upon it have been made.

Coastal
Force
operations.

5. At 0112 this morning M.T.Bs 38, 35, and 24 were despatched from Dover to attack a large escorted M/V leaving Boulogne northbound. M.T.Bs 38 and 35 achieved undetected attacks and each fired 2 torpedoes at the M/V, claiming one hit, after which the M/V proceeded at only 5 knots. Our Coastal batteries also engaged the enemy from 0227 until 0342, and about 40 rounds in reply from the enemy coastal batteries caused some damage to Naval property in Folkestone and Dover.

/M.T.Bs ...

12.3.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Coastal
Force
operations.
(Contd.)

M.T.Bs 619 and 631 sailed from Lerwick at 1210 for an operation on the Norwegian Coast (see 15th March); and it is reported today that during operation V.P.-2 the Norwegian LYGNFIORD laid mines in the shipping channel West of Olaskjaer on the night of 5th March.

6. KENYA with MUSKETEER and METEOR, left Plymouth at 1755A today for a patrol in the southern Biscay area and for Gibraltar.

Convoy
M.K.S.9.

7. A F.W. attacked Convoy M.K.S.9 in 44.20 N. 15.00 W. at 1430A today but made no hits. A Liberator was in company.

8. The sailing barge ALARIC was machine-gunned by enemy A/C at 0745A in the mouth of the River Crouch, her skipper being killed.

9. 4 mines were exploded by Sweepers off Spurn Point today.

North Atlantic.

10. A Hudson aircraft from Agadir escorting Convoy T.O.2 attacked with depth charges and gunfire a U-Boat on the surface in 27.32 N. 14.05 W. at 1925Z today (near the Canary Is.) Only one depth charge exploded, 5 ft. astern and slightly to port of the U-Boat which submerged 20 seconds after the attack. One possible body was seen in the sea.

Mediterranean.

Free
French
S/Ms.

11. The Admiralty have agreed that Free French submarines in the U.K. shall be sent to the Mediterranean where French North African S/Ms are now operating. The Free French S/Ms in the

/Mediterranean ...

12.3.1943.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Free
French
S/MS.
(Contd.)

Mediterranean will work under British operational control in association with British flotillas and under the Commands of British Captains (S). MINERVE and JUNON, when ready, will be based on Beirut and LE CURIE on Malta. RUBIS will be retained in Home Waters.

LIGHTNING
sunk.

12. The Destroyer LIGHTNING sank after being hit by two torpedoes from a German E-Boat at 2218 today in 37.53 N. 09.50 E. during a sweep by Force Q. No other enemy ships were encountered during the sweep. LIGHTNING reports having shot down one of 12 T/B aircraft which attacked the force between 1851 and 1936 today.

13. E-Boats operated in the Gulf of Bone last night, probably minelaying. Shore battery dispersed them. M.T.Bs endeavoured to intercept, but did not succeed in making contact.

Air
Operations.

14. 8 Halifaxes and 33 Wellingtons bombed shipping and harbour installations at Palermo last night.

A westbound convoy of one tanker and 3 merchant ships, escorted by destroyers was attacked by Malta aircraft off the north-west coast of Sicily today. A Beaufort hit a merchant vessel amidships with torpedo at 2025 and at 2040 another Beaufort torpedoed a large tanker which was seen five minutes later down by the bows and listing. At 2146 an Albacore hit with torpedo a large vessels, probably the tanker already hit at 2040. The entire convoy turned back, probably to Palermo or Trapani.

15 escorted U.S. Mitchells (B.25), successfully attacked 11 Siebel ferries off Cape Bon today.

America and West Indies.

15. The Convoy Conference at Washington is breaking up. The results have been:-
(a) Agreement as regards division of command (the forces protecting the Northern Trade Convoys in the Western Atlantic are to be transferred from U.S. to Canadian Command).

/(b) ...

War Diary.

12.3.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

(b) Adoption of Cycle proposed in A.M. 1743/27/2/1943.

(c) Re-allocation of escorts - not so good as we hoped.

(d) Some improvement in the V.L.R. aircraft situation.

Resulting from the Conference, Cominch today made certain proposals to the Admiralty and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, concerning convoys only. These became effective on 1st March q.v.

Australia and New Zealand.

- ✓ 16. Three Liberators attacked shipping and wharf installations at Ambon this forenoon, and made direct hits on a 6/7000 ton vessel.. Six to 8 enemy fighters attempted to intercept, and 2 were shot down and 2 damaged.

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

PRODIGAL

Commodore Western Isles 1642/10. In view of adverse report on PRODIGAL's equipment etc., ship is to remain at Greenock pending investigation and adoption of Commodore Western Isles recommendations.
(D.O.D. M., 1225A/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Admiral Miles.

My 1714/22. Admiral Miles has returned to Moscow.
(Ad. Miles 1414C/12 to Admty).

Movements.

S/M Movements.

My 0955/11 (TUNA, SPORTSMAN, SIMOON).
Para. 1, for E.T.A. 1800/14 read 1200A/14.
Para. 2 for 8 knots read 9 knots.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0128A/12).
My 0955/11. Sailed. (TUNA, SPORTSMAN, SIMOON)
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0715A/12 to A.C.O.S.)

My 1704/11. Para. E. for 13° 22' W. read 12° 26' W.
(F.O.S., 0806A/12).

Following is a repetition of my 0925/12 to URSULA. Begins. F.O.S. 1126/4 and 1529/4. On arrival in position X proceed under escort of ASIE to Portsmouth to arrive Needles 0900/14, passing through 180° Lizard Head 10 miles. Thence by A.M.Q.Z. S. 347 to D.l. buoy, thence through positions PP 333° Eddystone 4 miles, Q. 180° Start Point 4 miles, thence by A.M.Q.Z. S. 390, 391, 386, 284.

(Capt. S.5., 0937A/12 to URSULA).

Intend sail UNRULY and CUTTY SARK from Clyde at 2000A/14 by standard route to 000° Round Island 7 miles. E.T.A. 1800A/16. 2. Thence UNRULY westward. CUTTY SARK to Plymouth for escort duty with P.34 as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.

(Capt. S.3., 1345A/12).

Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/13 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) JUNON, 70° 12' N., 12° 10' E. proceeding to patrol vicinity 69° 37' N., 17° 02' E.

(B) TUNA, SIMOON, and SPORTSMAN escorted by KING HAAKON VII vicinity Cape Wrath through Minches, due Holy Loch 1800/14.

(C) TRESPASSER escorted by TEKOURA arriving Rothesay from North Channel.

(D) URSULA due R/V in 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0700/13 from westward. Thence escorted by ASIE to Portsmouth.

(E) DZIK 49° 55' N. 07° 48' W. dived by day through 49° 50' N. 09° 00' W. and 49° 50' N., 12° 34' W, daily advance 105 miles.

(F) SHAKESPEARE 49° 30' N. 09° 28' W. dived by day through 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W, daily advance 120 miles.

(G) ULTOR 47° 00' N., 12° 54' W. dived by day due 43° 01' N. 12° 54' W. at 2100/15.

(H) TACTICIAN 45° 10' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day due 43° 01' N. 12° 26' W. at 0330/14.

(J) HERRING in zones K.505 and K.501 S. of 44° 25' N.

(K) SHAD 44° 21' N., 06° 40' W. dived by day to patrol in zone K.508.

(F.O.S., 1702A/12).

/AMARAPOORA...

12.3.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

AMARAPOORA Intercept 0827 G.M.T. de GBKP Hospital ship AMARAPOORA. Position at 0800 hours G.M.T. 45.56 N. 13.24 W, course 002° speed 11 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0929A/12 to Admty).
Intercept 1628 G.M.T. de AMARAPOORA. Position at 1600 hrs. G.M.T. 47° 23' N., 13° 28' W. course 004° speed 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots. (C.C.O. Plymouth, 1731/12).

Destroyers for Scapa. Your 1203A/11. Quite convenient, but dates of completion must depend on progress of working-up. (R.A.D. 0935A/12 to Admty).

DUKE OF YORK C. in C. Rosyth's 2140/6. Request you will sail three destroyers accordingly. (C. in C. H.F., 1239A/12 to R.A.D.)
Your 1239A/12. FORESTER, BLANKNEY, ECHO detailed. (R.A.D., 1530A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

EMPIRE NED, EMPIRE FRED. My 1247/11. Sailed speed 7 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 21st March. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1529A/12).

NORFOLK Clyde arrival NORFOLK. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1804A/12).

VIMY Request you will sail VIMY when ready p.m. tomorrow to Reykjavik to fuel. Further instructions for joining B.4 group escorting H.X.229 will be signalled. (C. in C. W.A., 2042Z/12 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 1151A/11 "Device" arrived 0807A/12. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0816A/12)
Intend M.L. 205 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 518 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
(2) Leaving Portland at 1900 via Q.Z.S. 382 for patrol line and leaving patrol line at dawn.
(3) Object anti-e-boat patrol. Codeword "Advent". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1130A/12).
1. 2 M.G.Bs. 2 M.T.Bs. from Newhaven patrolling to south eastward.
2. Chasseurs 14, 10 patrolling south of E.A.5.
3. 2 M.Ls. at St. Helens. KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth.
4. M.L. 205 R.M.L. 518, from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 25' W. and 01° 45' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1359A/12).

12.3.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
Patrols.
(contd).

1. M.G.Bs. 10, 6 and 330 are to patrol 8 miles 270° and 090° from 210° Start Point 10 miles.
2. Object to intercept enemy forces attacking convoys.
3. Execution. Leave Dartmouth for patrol at 1930/12. Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth by 0600/13. 6. Codeword "Stencil".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1509A/12).

M.Ls. 139 and 137 patrolling at Bullock Bank.

M.G.Bs. 41 and 40 at V buoy from 2000 to 0600/13.

(V.A. Dover, 1705A/12).

Intend to sail M.G.Bs. 616 S.O., 312 M.T.Bs. 86, 242 at 1930/12 to carry out instructions in accordance with your 1355A/12.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1727A/12 and 2022A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

My 1355/12. Operation is postponed. Force is to remain at short notice tonight.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1853/12).

My 1721. Cancel M.G.B. Patrol.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1903A/12)

My 1130A/12. "Advent" sailed 1901/12.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1917/12)

Cancel my 1903A/12. M.G.B. patrol sailing now in accordance with my 1509A/12.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 2225A/12)

Your 1509A/12. "Stencil" sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 2327/12 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Attack on
Enemy Convoy
One enemy
M/V
damaged.
Folkestone
and Dover
shelled.

At 0112 today R.D.F. plotted one large vessel, presumably the 320 feet merchant vessel which arrived at Boulogne on night 1/2 March from Dieppe, escorted by one medium vessel, possibly a Sperrbrecher, and six smaller vessels of trawler type leaving Boulogne northbound at about 9 knots.

2. M.T.Bs. 38, 35 and 24 were despatched immediately to V Buoy and thence to attack near Dunkirk B.W. Buoy.

3. Our coastal batteries engaged the enemy firing 58 rounds of 15 inch and 73 rounds 9.2 inch between 0227 and 0342, but no hits observed. Enemy batteries replied with about 40 rounds which fell in Folkestone, Dover, and South Foreland Areas causing some damage to Naval property in Folkestone and Dover but no casualties yet reported.

4. Four Albacores of 841 Squadron under Swingate Ground Control were flown off to attack and to cause a diversion near Dunkirk A.W. Buoy but, although A.S.V. contact was obtained, they were unable to see the target and were withdrawn according to plan to allow M.T.Bs. to attack.

5. M.T.Bs. 38 and 35 achieved undetected attacks each firing two torpedoes. One hit on main target is claimed by M.T.B. 38 and confirmed by other craft in company who also report an underwater explosion, such as would be caused by a mine, twenty minutes after the torpedo attack and in the direction of the receding enemy, M.T.B. 24 failed to locate target.

/Plot...

12.3.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Attack on
Enemy convoy
One enemy
M/V damaged.
Folkestone
and Dover
shelled.
(contd).

Plot shows enemy proceeding eastward at reduced speed of five knots after the attack.
6. M.G.Bs. in support did not attack until M.T.Bs. were engaged but failed to find suitable targets owing to heavy tracer and starshell. While searching action area they detected smell of oil but no signs of wreckage or survivors.
7. All our forces returned safely with only minor damage. M.G.Bs. sustained casualties one rating killed and one officer slightly wounded. No casualties in M.T.Bs.
(V.A. Dover, 1044/12).

Operations
V.P. - R
V.P. - X

My 1858A/10. M.T.B. 619 and 631 sailed at 1210/12 for V.P. - R.
(2) V.P. - X sail postponed until 15th to avoid clash with merchant ship ANDHOLMEN.
(A.C.O.S. 1255/12 to Admty).

Operation
V.P. - 2.

My 1702/3 and 1155/7.
LYGNFJORD laid mines in shipping channel west of Olaskjaer night of 5th March.
(A.C.O.S., 1304/12 to Admty).

Biscay
Patrol.

After passing position (d) 043° 59' N. 012° 59' W. patrol as necessary to cover O.S.44 and M.K.S. 9 after dark tonight. From daylight 13th remain within 60 miles of M.K.S.9 and keep west of 014° W.

(2) Estimate position at 2000A/12 O.S.44 043° 48' N. 012° 42' W. 169° 8½ knots. M.K.S.9 042° 54' N., 015° 03' W. 003° 7½ knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1447A/12 to UGANDA, (R) KENYA, CARLISLE)
Sailed KENYA, MUSKETEER, METEOR. E.T.A. 0600A/16.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1755A/12 to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

Allied Air Activity.

Trondheim
R/C.

P.R.U. Trondheim now in operation GruinStadt to Kristiansand.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1209A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

Western
Channel
Patrols.

Swordfish aircraft will fly patrols X and X.A. as in my 1411/8, from 2000/12 until dawn/13.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1327A/12 to Escorts P.W. 307, W.P. 307)

12.3.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

- ALARIC attacked. Sailing Barge ALARIC machine gunned position mouth of River Crouch at 0745A/12. Skipper died of injuries.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1034A/12).
- Scapa Flow. One Ju.88 from Stavanger probably carried out a R/C of Scapa Flow at 0820.
(D.D.I.C., 1227A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)
- Convoy O.S.44. You were probably reported by enemy aircraft at 1220 today.
(D.D.I.C., 1307A/12 to Escorts O.S.44)
- Jan Mayen Following from Jan Mayen. A/C observed far away east of island 0918, course N.E. Heard returning 1120.
(A.C.I.C., 2011A/12).
- Mining.
- Operation Q.L. 1 A. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.L. 1 A. tonight as ordered in my 1052A/6.
(C. in C. Nore, 1002A/12 to BEEHIVE)
- S.O. 90 A. SCOTT. Sail SCOTT in accordance with R.A.M. 1210/8.
(TRELAWNEY, 1308/12 to A.C.I.C.)
- Clearance off Humber. No mines as far West as 000° 10' E. Expect to complete area 1200A/13.
(9 M/S 1830A/12 to N.O.I.C. Humber).
- Spurn Point. Following 4 Mines exploded by sweepers:-
At 0756/12 in 254° Spurn Light 2.4 miles.
At 0758/12 in 254° Spurn Light 2.4 miles.
At 1018/12 in 249° Spurn Light 2.5 miles.
At 1018/12 in 249° Spurn Light 2.5 miles.
(F.O. Humber, 1830/12).
- Iceland. My 1804/18 was completed on 11th March. Para. (1) and (2) as already reported in my 1157/27th Feb. Para. (3) 25% search of the Areas between two and seven miles off the Headland (?was) reduced through Straumness Passage. All with negative result.
(A.C.I.C., 2121A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.TIRPITZ,
SCHARNHORST.(a) TIRPITZ eventual destination believed
Bogen. Graded A.3.

(b) SCHARNHORST?.

Large war ship escorted by two destroyers passed northbound through Kattegat March 7th. Vessel was sighted from Swedish coast in latitude 57° 50' N. at 1615 with hull down. Graded Z b. (N.A. Sotckholm, 1711/12 to Admty).

Swedish
fishing
vessels for
Germany.

My R.S.431 March 11th. Since question of accepting a further German order for this type of fishing craft is now reported to be contemplated by Swedish boat building agency I shall be grateful for your very early remarks. (N.A. Stockholm, 1741/12 to Admty).

U-boats.U.444
and U.432
sunk on
11th March.

At 0130 G.M.T. U.444 surfaced after depth-charge attack by HARVESTER was rammed and sunk by ACONIT. 4 prisoners taken. At 1204Z HARVESTER torpedoed and again at 1210 G.M.T. and sunk. Few minutes later S/M was sighted on the surface range (?12,000 yards) and dived at 1220 G.M.T. A/S contact obtained and counter-attacked immediately with depth-charges. Hedgehog attack tried, no result observed. Still in contact and second depth-charge attack made. At 1310Z S/M surfaced and was engaged with all armaments. U.432 finally rammed and sunk at 1317 G.M.T. in 051° 35' N. 028° 30' W. 21 prisoners taken. Proceeded scene of HARVESTER's sinking and picked up 2 officers 27 men, also 16 survivors from American HENRY WYNKOOP and 2 from American GORGAS. NARCISSUS joined and rescued remaining survivors. My stem damaged and Asdic out of action. (ACONIT, 0123Z/12 to Admty).

U-boat
reported.

Following from A/C N of 21 Squadron addressed 19 group. Am over enemy S/M in 47° 17' N. 08° 45' W. Periscope only sighted. (Plymouth, 1234/12 to Admty).

U-boats
attacked.

Following addressed 19 Group H.Q. from A/C C/S Z3VN begins: Have attacked enemy with depth charges, estimate no hits. (Plymouth, 1405/12 to Admty).
Asdic contact obtained by MAYFLOWER (convoy O.N.172) at 1100Z, position 056° 35' N., 014° 23' W. confirmed by JED. MAYFLOWER expended all but 5 depth charges and 183 shells carried out 4 Hedgehog attacks. Hedgehog projectiles exploded each attack 20 to 27 seconds after striking water. Some oil on surface. Hunt abandoned 1730 as contact persisted and (corrupt group) submarine suspected. (JED. 1755Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

12.3.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Oiling
at Sea.

Although it is understood there is difficulty in fitting escort carriers with buoyant hoses for fuelling escorts I should be grateful if the matter is further investigated should you concur. N.O.I.C. Greenock has technical experts on fuelling on his staff. I suggest your staff might get in touch with them and consider possibilities. They could also inspect the gear as fitted in an escort oiler.
(C. in C. W.A., 1306A/12 to R.A.A. H.F.)

Casualties & Defects.

CULEBRA.
ARIGUANI.

Your 1530Z/11. Tugs FREEBOOTER and EMPIRE PIXIE will be off Chicken Head from 0630A/12 to assist.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0035A/12 to BUSTLER)
Arrivals BUSTLER, FREEBOOTER, EMPIRE PIXIE,

and SS. CULEBRA.

(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1040A/12 to Admty).

CULEBRA should be sent to Clyde for discharge of deck cargo.

(D.T.D., 1641A/12 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

Request that following alterations and arrangements be made regarding towage of ARIGUANI and SS. CULEBRA. Tugs ABEILLE IV and ABEILLE XXI to proceed to Stornoway and take over towage of SS. CULEBRA to Tyne.

BUSTLER to proceed to Aultbea and take over towage of ARIGUANI to Tyne. ARIGUANI should proceed with sea anchor at stern. BUSTLER to request A.C.O.S. for additional Tug for passage through Pentlands if considered necessary.

(Capt. Rescue Tugs, 1906A/12 to C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S.)

ROSTHERN

E.T.A. Merville 1500Z/12. One cot case dangerously ill. Boiler hours 1150. Water filter box cracked. M.P. valve red scored. Main air pump and feed water pump number one boiler defective. Required new ship's boat.
(ROSTHERN 0225Z/12 to C.T.G. 24.7)

MOSLI

Your 1900A/11. Every effort is being made to expedite completion of repairs. Every prospect of ship being ready to sail noon 13th.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1016A/12 to Admty).

PENOLVER

PENOLVER ex Convoy X.K.2 bound Lamlash. Ashore on Sand at Saltcoates Bay. Attempt will be made to re-float p.m. today.
(N.C.S.O. Ardrossan, 1104A/12).
My 1104/12. PENOLVER refloated and proceeding into Ardrossan harbour.
(N.C.S.O. Ardrossan, 1714A/12).

/M. Ls...

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

M.Ls. 1154, 1166, 1228. M.Ls. arrived Ardrishaig p.m. 11 March. M.L. 1154 no officer has done A/S Course and boat cannot be considered an effective A/S vessel unless full working up period of three weeks is allowed. M.L. 1166 various A/S defects which will take several days to rectify boat has a very raw and undisciplined crew. Considered full working up period essential. M.L. 1228 has defects in engines which require at least a week to put right if spares are immediately available. A/S defects will require several days to rectify. Consider none of these boats fit to be sent abroad at present. (SEAHAWK, 1521A/12 to Admty).

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.172. Sailed PORT ARTHUR at 0015A/12 to overtake O.N. 172.
(C.T.G. 24.7., 0020A/12).
ANGLO-INDIAN returned from O.N. 172.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0855/12 and 1310/12).

S.C.121. My 1305Z/10. BIBB report COULMORE of S.C. 121 torpedoed in peak tank port side at 0010Z/10 and 5 survivors rescued from 2 rafts at 0830Z/10. Ship afloat in good trim at 0925Z/10 in 58.44, 21.32. Ship abandoned too quickly, 1 boat drifted empty, 1 capsized alongside with 14 men. Survivors report crew of 43 with following known dead. (12 names).
Rescue ship MELROSE ABBEY reports COULMORE torpedoed 0007Z/10 and has 21 survivors on board.
DAUPHIN has 2 survivors making total 28 known survivors. 15 unaccounted to date. Assuming 0010/10 as time torpedoed the position of ship dead reckoning was 58, 45, 21, 57.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3., 0030Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1944/11. Amend position to read 58.30 N. 19.31 W.
(C. in C. W.A., 0158Z/12 to VIZALMA)
My 1941/11. Amend position to read 58.30 N. 19.31 W.

2. BIBB no longer standing by.
(C. in C. W.A., 0205Z/12 to AUBRETIA, RHODODENDRON)
Your 2240/11. Continue escort of EMPIRE BUNTING.
(C. in C. W.A., 0255Z/12 to BIBB)
On arrival at 12° 00' W. if satisfied that EMPIRE BUNTING requires no further assistance return to Reykjavik. Inform EMPIRE BUNTING that Tug ADHERENT will meet her in Inistrahull 360° 10 miles 1700/13. Report if she cannot make this R/V suggesting alternative R/V. Commodore Londonderry requested to sail ADHERENT accordingly.
(C. in C. W.A., 1012Z/12 to BIBB)
Destination of EMPIRE BUNTING is Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 1144Z/12 to BIBB)
Sailed CLOVER.
(Cdre. Londonderry 1230A/12).

/Join...

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. (cont)

S. C. 121. Join AUBRETIA and Tug EMINENT and SAMSONIA, (contd). estimated position 2000/12 057° 21' N., 016° 03' W. proceeding to 058° 30' N., 019° 31' W. at 12 knots to assist COULMORE.
(C. in C. W.A., 1524A/12 to CLOVER)
RHODODENDRON is to remain at Londonderry until further orders.
(C. in C. W.A., 1526A/12 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
My P.C.S. 1400Z/12, 057° 08' N. 014° 25' W. 110° 8.2 knots.
Suggest tug ADHERENT R/V same position at 2130Z/13.
(BIBB 1550Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 0030Z/12. MELROSE ABBEY original report of COULMORE survivor in error. MELROSE ABBEY now reported no survivors from that ship. This makes 36 crew unaccounted for from COULMORE.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3., 1604Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
COULMORE not found after 12 hours search. Request instructions. Only 5 days coal remaining. Will continue W/T watch until reply is received.
(VIZALMA, 1635Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
A/C reports COULMORE sighted in 058° 28' N., 019° 29' W. at 0925Z/12.
(C. in C. W.A., 1726A/12 to AUBRETIA, CLOVER)
BIBB's 1550/12. Request you sail ADHERENT in time to contact EMPIRE BUNTING before dark. If not met ADHERENT R/V with EMPIRE BUNTING in 360° Inishtrahull 10 miles at 2130Z/13.
(C. in C. W.A., 1749Z/12 to Cdre. Londonderry).

R.A. 53 Seidisfjord departure at 2030/11 MEYNELL, BERGAMOT LOTUS, STARWORT. At 1800/11 FURY.
(A.C.I.C., 0129A/12).
Sailing Seidisfjord 0200A/12 to join you in accordance with your 1825A/11.
(LEDBURY 0135A/12 to Capt. D.8)
Your 1930/11. Liberator A/C will search in area enclosed by following position (A) 067° 00' N. 010° 00' W. (B) 068° 18' N. 010° 52' W. (C) 068° 57' N. 004° 30' W. (D) 067° 40' N., 003° 35' W. starting from (A) at 1140 and sweeping north and south until P.L.E. A/C will report to you if anything is sighted.
(A.C.I.C., 0203A/12 to Capt. D. 3).
Following is recoded version of INGLEFIELD's 0130A/12.
Capt. (D) 3rd 2140A/11. Intend sailing at 0330A/12.
(A.C.I.C., 0551A/12 to Capt. D.3., Capt. D.8)
My 2021/11. Position RICHARD BLAND at 1830/11 was 105° Langanes Light 11 miles. For ECLIPSE read IMPULSIVE.
(A.C.I.C., 0925A/12 to BUTE)
Your 2310A/11. RICHARD BASSETT and OREMAR present. SAN CIPRIANO still missing.
(Capt. D.8., 1001A/12 to Capt. D.3)
Proceed Scapa. R.A.53. 20 ships, 062° 32' N., 013° 10' W. 7½ knots. FURY, ORWELL, MEYNELL joined.
(Capt. D.8., 1031A/12 to INGLEFIELD)
Seidisfjord departure OPPORTUNE at 0845/12.
(A.C.I.C., 1115A/12 to Capt. D.8)
My 0203/12. A/C has had to return to base owing to weather.
(A.C.I.C., 1159A/12 to Capt. D.3)

/A.C.I.C...

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

R.A.53 (contd). A.C.I.C. 1421/11 para. (2). 90 minutes early. (SCYLLA, 1356A/12 to A.C.O.S.)
A.C.I.C. 0203A/12. If nothing further is reported by A/C today intend ORKAN and IMPULSIVE proceed Scapa routed through Q.Z.L. 45 and west of North Rona/Faeroes Islands mine barrier.
MILNE to search bays between Langanes and Glettinganes for SAN CIPRIANO, recover anchor and cable at Seidisfjord p.m./13th, thence returning to Scapa. My P.C.S. are 066° 40' N. 010° 50' W, 090° 13 knots.
(Capt. D.3., 1430A/12 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C.)
R.A.53. Request following amended destinations be passed to Escort and ships named. EMPIRE EMERALD and GULFWING to Clyde for orders. RICHARD BASSETT and WEST GOTOMSKA to Mersey.
(D.T.D., 1656A/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
Return to Scapa with ORKAN and ORWELL.
2. Use your discretion regarding IMPULSIVE.
(C. in C. H.F., 1806A/12 to Capt. D.3)
Have intercepted RICHARD BLAND and HAZEL. Will ascertain what salvage operation can be carried out at daylight tomorrow. Consider unwise to board wreck during the night. Wind increasing.
(HORSA, 2115Z/12 to R.N.O. Seidisfjord).

H.X.228 / Arrived RHODODENDRON.
(Cdre, Londonderry, 0605A/12)
A.M. 1102A/12. U-boat transmissions at 1451Z/12 and 1601Z were made from your immediate vicinity on Series 7.
(D.D.I.C., 1813A/12 to H.X. 228)
ACONIT has cable-locker and asdic compartment flooded. I have instructed her to proceed independently to Greenock at best speed which is 13 knots under present weather conditions. Following survivors and prisoners on board 2 officers 26 ratings ex HARVESTER, 5 officers 11 ratings from HENRY WYNKOOP, 2 ratings from W.C. GORGAS one officer 24 ratings prisoners ex U-boat. My P.C.S. at 2000Z/, 053° 37', 019° 48', 074° 9½ knots.
(ESCAPADE, 2001Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 0445/11. The following information has now become available. (c) Starboard Beam (d) BRANT COUNTY (f) French Ship RENONCULE (g) U-boat 213 attacked with 10 charge.-pattern by RENONCULE a few seconds after torpedoes were fired. C.O. considers attack accurate and U-boat at least damaged. No further attack carried out by RENONCULE as both Asdic and R.D/F put temporarily out of action as result of depth charges. No attacks made during night 11/12th although by D/F bearings convoy appeared to be shadowed from either quarter until 0220Z/12. Cancel my 0935/11.
(ESCAPADE, 2015C/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 2040/11. For WILLIAM L. SMITH read W.C. GORGAS. Following is latest information received about survivors. In NARCISSUS. One Officer, 24 ratings, from HARVESTER. 2 ratings from W.C. GORGAS.

/In...

12.3.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- H.X. 228. In ACONIT. Two officers, 26 ratings from
(contd). HARVESTER. Five officers, 11 ratings from
HENRY WYNKOOP. Two ratings from W.C. GORGAS.
One German officer and 24 ratings prisoners.
In ROSELYS. Whole ship's company of TURCURINCA
except third engineer (Total 81). One officer HENRY WYNKOOP.
RFA ORANGELEAF In PETELLA. Master and 21 of A.F. LUCKENBACH.
See p. 511 In STUART PRINCE (straggler). 23 from BRANT COUNTY. Four
JAMAICA PRODUCER.
(ESCAPADE, 2030Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
- J.W. 54, Request following W.A. escort may be detailed
R.A. 54. for convoy J.W. 54 - R.A. 54. 4 destroyers,
2 corvettes, 2 trawlers, one A/A ship.
2. CAMELLIA, BLUEBELL, LORD AUSTIN return
with R.A. 54 being relieved by corvettes and
trawlers with J.W. 54.
3. Expected sailing date J.W. 54, 27th March.
(C. in C. H.F., 1029A/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1029/12. 1. Regret BULLDOG is only destroyer
available.
2. Corvettes allocated BERGAMOT, BRYONY, RHODODENDRON, OXLIP.
Request BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA, BERGAMOT and BRYONY may return with
R.A. 54. RHODODENDRON and OXLIP can remain at Murmansk and
return with R.A. 55.
3. Trawlers allocated LADY MADELEINE and NORTHERN REWARD.
4. No A/A ship is available. ULSTER QUEEN is to be taken in
hand for conversion to a fighter direction ship. A.M. 1829/7
refers. ALYNBANK does not complete refit until April 15th.
(C. in C. W.A., 1844A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)
- X.K. 2 Clyde portion arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1128A/12).
- O.N. 171 AGIOS VLASIOS returned from long. 18.30 W.
having lost convoy in heavy weather and unable to
rejoin.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1310/12).
- Atlantic Convoy Escort Groups. Your 1240/11. Concur. 16th M.S.F. will remain
under you control for the present. Request you
arrange escorts accordingly.
(D.O.D. H., 1313A/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Use of A.N.D. gear. Pass to N.C.S.Os. at Ocean Convoy assembly ports.
Repeats C. in C. W.A., 2312A/10, para 2.
2. In all cases where it is found that a ship is
unable to maintain convoy speed with both nets
streamed, the fact is to be included in the
Commodore's report.
3. Commodores of convoys are to be informed accordingly.
(D.T.D., 1541A/12).

/Cape...

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- Cape Horn Route. Your 2049/10. Cape Horn route is it desired to apply same rule to U.S. ships in reverse direction.
(D.T.D., 1541Z/12 to Connav).
- W.S.28 C. in C. W.A., 0932/11. Request you sail WITCH to R/V with MALCOLM at 1900A/14 in 270° Skerries light 13 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1618A/12 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)
- K.M.F.11 RANGITATA. Your 1342A/6th, part 2, para. 4. RANGITATA declares maximum speed 13.7 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1750A/11 to Admty).
A.M.1342/6. Amend para. 4 to read - Speed of slowest ship RANGITATA 13.7 knots.
(D.O.D. H., 1944A/12).
- K.M.S.M.11 For Gibraltar EMPIRE GARETH, MARSA, NORDFLINGE, BRUSE JARL.
For Algiers EMPIRE KANGAROO, STAD HAARLEM, CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH, JUNECEST MARS, RICHARD HENRY LEE, NAIRUNG, CLAN MACBRAYNE.
For Bone EMPIRE MARIOTT, FORT HALKETT, JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS.
For Philippeville WILLIAM FLOYD, OCEAN VISTA.
For Oran. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, ST. CLEARS.
Pendants and speeds.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1852A/12).
- X.K.2 attacked on 4th and 5th March. Following preliminary report from COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE, LOCH OSKAIG all times British summer time.
1. General (A) Convoy circled by F.W. Kurier at 1530A/3 and attacked at 1230A/4 by similar A/C. 2nd attack delivered 10 minutes later by different type A/C. (B) Only other indication of convoy having been sighted was Admty's 1455A/5, but U-boat attack took place at 1750A/5.
2. Attacks by aircraft. (A) First attack at 1230A/4. F.W. Kurier sighted circling convoy very low and disappeared into clouds astern. Approx. 5 minutes later aircraft bombed convoy from height above range of short-range weapons, having approached from direction of sun which was astern of convoy. CHATEAUROUX received bomb which did not explode in No. 2 hold, while 2 near-misses to starboard caused flooding. Ship subsequently reached Milford Haven.
(B) Second attack delivered approx. 10 minutes later. Bombs fell between 6 and 7 columns doing no damage.

War Diary.

12.3.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys

X.K.2
Attacked on
4th and 5th
March.
(contd).

3. Attacks by submarine. (A) Escorts in D.E. 5
1750A/5 EMPIRE TOWER leading ship of starboard
wing-column was torpedoed, and almost immediately
TREFUSIS, GERTY-BRYN, and FIDRA were torpedoed
in that order.

(B) It appears from most of the evidence that all
ships were torpedoed on the starboard side but
this is not definite. It is considered that

U-boat possibly penetrated the screen on starboard bow when
escort were at their maximum distance apart on the outer zig.
(C) The convoy made an emergency turn to port. "Artichoke" was
begun but was abandoned because convoy carried out emergency
turn. JONQUIL and COLUMBINE remained with convoy. COREOPSIS
and ANCHUSA carried out search in area where U-boat was
thought to be. COREOPSIS obtained contact and carried out two
attacks at 1821 and 1837 with no apparent result. Contact
was lost after 2nd attack and search was abandoned at 1930A/5
to rejoin before dark. (D) After attack convoy kept well to
westward of track for 24 hours and was not reported or attacked
again.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 1853A/12).

12.3.1943
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic

TACTICIAN. After crossing 43.01 N at 0330A/14th pass through following positions at time stated (p) 36.51 09.13 at 0115/17th (q) 36.37 07.24 at 2030/17th (r) 35.53 06.15 at 0800/18th (s) 35.49 18.06 06 $\frac{1}{2}$ at 0840/18th thence Gibraltar by Q.K.A.87. All times Zone minus one position N and W.

2. Diving by day S. of A. 140 miles per 24 hours. After passing position (q) proceed on the surface at your discretion at 6 knots increasing speed to 12 knots after passing position (r).

3. Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged until 2030/17th thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern your estimated position. Report if you are not able to (?keep within) your bombing restrictions.

4. You should not pass position (r) before 0800/18th. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0116A/12 TACTICIAN (R) F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. (S) 3, (S) 8, UNA, ULTOR.)

ULTOR. After crossing 43.01 N at 2100 15th pass through the following positions at time stated (T) 36.51 09.13 at 0600/19th. (U) 36.37 07.24 at 0330/20th (V) 35.53 06.15 at 1030/20th (W) 35.49 18.06 06 $\frac{1}{2}$ at 1115/20th thence Gibraltar Q.K.A. 87 all times Zone minus one positions N. and W.

(2) Diving by day S. of A. 110 miles per 24 hours. After passing position (U) proceed on surface at your discretion at 10 knots.

(3) Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged until 0330 (?20th) thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side of your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern your estimated position report if you are not able to keep within your bombing restrictions.

(4) You should not pass position ?. (V) before 1030/20th. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 0121/12 to ULTOR (P.53) (R) F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth (? UNA), C. in C. Med. (S) 3, (S) 8, TACTICIAN (P.314)

Bombing Restrictions ULTOR. TCAO 16. (A) Submerged (B) ULTOR (C) 2000/15 43.01 12.54 0600/19 36.51 09.13 0330/20 36.37 07.24 (D) 8.2 knots. (2) TCAO 16. (A) Total (B) ULTOR (C) 0330/20 36.37 07.24 1030/20 35.53 06.15 1115/20 35.49 06.06 $\frac{1}{2}$ to arrival Gibraltar 1530/20. (D) 10 knots all times Zone minus one positions N. and W. (F.O.C. Gib. 0122/12 to R.A.F. Gib. H.Q.C.C. (R) Admiralty, F.O.S., S.N.O.C.A. pass to Port Lyautey.

Situation reports. Situation 2002A/18th. T.O.2 U.S. Destroyer ROPER 28.08 13.30 through 24.56 17.03 thence 254° 13. (see amendment 2121/12) (2) O.S. 44 ROCHESTER 43.48 13.42 169° 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. (3) M.K.S.9 ST.CROIX (E) 42.08 15.04 003° 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. (4) M.K.F. 10 B CHURCHILL 36.17 09.40 through 36.20 10.01 and 37.40 (?13) 30 thence 317° 13. (N.O.I.C. Gib. 1047A/12.)

/My...

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Situation My 1047/12th para 1 amend to read (E) 027°
reports 10' 014° 19' through 024° 56' 017° 03' thence
(Contd.) 254° 16.
(F.O. Gib. 2121A/12)

Situation 2002A/12th.

UNA sail 1230 13th through 35.49 06.06 $\frac{1}{2}$ at 1730 13th and 35.53
06.15 at 1830 13th thence 308° 8.2 knots on surface until
0630/14th then dived by day 2 knots.

(2) ST. NECTAN, ARCTIC RANGER 4 merchant ships 36. (?59) 06.41
coastwise to Guadalquivir thence through 35.56 06.20 to Gib.8.
(3) IMPERIALIST 36.18 07.32 direct tactic 9 to R/V 2 merchant
ships 2100 13th.

(4) M.K.F. 10 B CHURCHILL 36.17 09.40 through 36.20 10.01 and
37.40 13.30 thence 317° 13.

(5) M/L 341 MIRROR sailing 0800/13th to repair cable in 35.51
05.37.

(V.A. Gib. 1139A/12.)

Situation 1958A/12th. U.G.S.6, T.F.33, 37.12 38.51 60° 9.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1143A/12)

Convoy Intend sailing C.D.4 and Dakar ships as follows
C.D.4. MEDIE (2) ALSACE and EL BIAR escorted by French
Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, COMMANDANT DE (?L) AGE
and U.S. Destroyer GHERARDI departing Casablanca
1500A/12th (route).

S. of A. 9 knots. F.O.C. W.Af. request furnish escort to relieve
GHERARDI at 1600A/15 26.10 N 15.05 W and to confirm onward
routeing. GHERARDI departing Casablanca arriving (corrupt group)
Light 17 March. (W/T communications) Comfairwing provides normal
coverage to (?31) N. Mission 49. Convoy codeword "Bangtail".

(S.N.O. Casablanca 1115/12 0900/12 to F.O.C. W.Af. C.T.F. 37 (R)
Admty. A.H.Q. Gib. C.F.W.15, N.C.S.O. Freetown)

My 1115/12th C.D.4 sailed 1700 today plus FINISTERRE.
(N.O.I.C. Casablanca 1704Z/12.)

C.G.17. C.G.17 arrived 6 ships.
(F.O.C. Gib. 1151A/12.)

LARIAT. Request information when H.M. R.T. LARIAT may be
expected at Gibraltar.
(Admty. 1218A/12 to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

KENYA. C. in C. Plymouth 2041/11th. Onward route from (D),
(E) 40.01 N 17.01 W. (F) 38.01 N 17.01 W thence
direct Q.K.A.87.
(2) Paravanes are to be hinged as convenient before
crossing 07° W.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1227A/12 to KENYA (R) C. in C.
Med. Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.,
H.Q.C.C.)

/My...

War Diary.

12.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATION.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- ST. LUCIEN. My 1845/11.
Ship left Harbour midnight 11 March.
(S.O. (I) Gib. 1547A/12 to S.O. (I) Med. S.O. (I) Malta.)
- U-Boat. Am over enemy S/M in 27° 50' N 14° 8' W.
Enemy S/M previously reported periscope only sighted.
When first sighted was on course 220° speed 3 knots.
(A/C 5YP 1740/12 to A/C 1 NBN N.O.I.C. Gib. 1950A/12 to U.S. Destroyers DECATUR, ROPER.)
- Movements. March 12th U.S.S. BROOME for Safi.
(S.N.O. Casablanca area. 1931Z/12.)
Arrivals. 175, 307 with one M/V from Seville.
KUMAON from M/S sweep. U.S. Ships SIMPSON, MURPHY, P.C's 472, 482, with convoy C.G.17.
Departures. IMPERIALIST. Escort duties Lisbon/Gib. VELOX to Oran. REGENT to Algiers. F.O.H. in NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, LAFOREY, ESKIMO, ASHANTI, LOOKOUT, TARTAR, ILEX, CALPE, HOLCOMBE, HAYDON, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA for Mers el Kebir.
(F.O. Gib. 1955A/12 to Admty. C. in C. Med. Cominch.)
- ALMAACK. Further to my 1814/6/3. Electrical damage ALMAACK.
All electrical equipment in engine room below evaporator platform has been submerged in sea water (Details.)
(C.S. Gib. 2016A/12 to Admty.)
- U-Boat. Following received from aircraft (begins)
Agadir from aircraft "N". Am over enemy S/M in 027° 32 mins. N 014° 05 mins W. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge 190° speed 15 knots.
(F.O. Gib. 2322A/12 to Escort T.O.)
Aircraft report U-boat on surface in 027° 32' N. 014° 05' W. course 190° 15 knots at 1925. U-boat dived.
(V.A. Gib. 2345A/12 to S. & A. in Area X of N.A.S. (R) Admty.)
- Air Report. AI. 236 12 March. Opsum 131 for 24 hours ended 12th March. (G) U-boat sightings and attacks Hudson (?) (Agadir Detachment) on escort to C T.O.2 sighted periscope of U-boat in 27.50 N.14.08 W. at 1740/12 course 220/3 knots.
End of Part 1 Part 2 follows.
(Gib. 2350Z/12th to Air Min.)

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War Diary.

12.3.1945.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- DESPATCH. Present position 006° 26' N. 015° 56' W.
E.T.A. 1100Z/12th, S. of A. 22. 80 tons drinking
water 50 tons distilled water required.
Weather report.
(DESPATCH, 0155Z/12 to F.O.C.W.A.(R) Admty.)
- MAURETANIA. My 0150/10. As EMPRESS OF CANADA will now be
used for personnel ex West Africa, MAURETANIA
may be used up to full capacity from Capetown.
(D.S.T., 0450A/12 to P.S.T.O. Capetown.)
W.D. Altered after EMPRESS OF CANADA was sunk
see 1508A/14.
- GENISTA
M.L's. Departure 0410Z 12th GENISTA escorting M.L.380,
382, 383, 829 expected time of arrival Durban
0415Z/13th S. of A. 11½ knots.
(N.L.O. East London, 0532Z/12 to Admty., etc.)
- W.S.27
(Lagos
portion). F.O.C. W.Af's 1710/9th, expected time of sailing
1300Z/13th March Lagos portion of W.S.27 consist-
ing of DUCHESS OF RICHMOND (Commodore)
RUYS, SIBAJAK, escorted by BELLWORT (S.O.) 258°
through (Z) 005° N. 003° 20' E. (Y) 003° 08'
002° 17' (X) 003° 05' 000° 10' W. S. of A.
12½ knots E.T.A. at R/V at position (X) 1709Z/14th March.
Wireless call sign A.S.D.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 0906Z/12 to Admty. SUSSEX etc).
- CYCLAMEN Arrival Pointe Noire 0700Z/12th.
(B.N.L.O.W.A., 1035A/12 to F.O.C.W.A.)
- Situation
Reports. Situation at 2003Z/12th. SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH,
RAIDER, QUAIL, PETUNIA, CROCUS with W.S.27
004° 04' 009° 29' to 002° 58' 008° 26' thence 089°
13.
PORTSDOWN about 006° 40' 012° 08' to Freetown 10.
ARETHUSA 000° 12' S. 002° 10' W. 288° 17½ knots.
CARNARVON CASTLE 000° 01' 016° 01' to 000° 48' S. 018° 15'
thence 003° 15½.
DESPATCH off Freetown to 003° 05' (?016°) 26' at 0700Z/13th thence
276° 20.
CILICIA 000° 50' S. 015° 30' to 000° 55' 014° 10' at 0500Z/13th.
thence 275° 15.
F.S. GLOIRE 003° 30' 020° 01' to 000° 01' 020° 10' at 0600Z/13th
thence 001° 20.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1042Z/12).
Add to my 1042Z/12th BELLWORT, ARMERIA about 005° 01' 001°
00' East to Lagos 12½.
(R.A.W.Af., 1130Z/12).

/Situation...

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Situation at 2002Z/12th.
 Reports. 2 M.L.'s escorting Port Etienne to Bathurst 8.
 (Contd.) M.L.244 escorting off Dakar to Bathurst 6.
 BURDOCK, BUTSER, BIRDLIP escorting 009° 53' 016°
 40' 328° 7. 241°.
 F. Sloop M/S LA GRACIEUSE 012° 59' 017° 16'
 359° 6.
 2 M.L.'s escorting 010° 13' 016° 06' to Freetown 8½.
 Fleet Unit QUADRANT, BOREAS, ADRIAS 012° 12' 018° 00' 359° 14½.
 WOLVERINE about 012° 32' 017° 40' to Dakar 20.
 PELICAN, WEAR, SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN, COMMANDANT DROGOU, F.S.,
 with S.L.126, 008° 55' 014° 09' 297° 7.
 French Submarines ARETHUSE, ATALANTE, SULTANE escorted by
 F. Sloop M/S COMMANDANT BORY 015° 008' 017° 05' to North within
 10 miles of coast 9½.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 1045Z/12).

MATANG. Sailing M.L. 1141 and 1209 escorting MATANG from
 Port Etienne to Bathurst 1700Z/11th. Speed
 made good 8 knots E.T.A. 0800Z/14th.
 (2) Route.
 (Comar Dakar., 1048Z/12 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Admty.,
 N.O.I.C.Bathurst.)

Convoy Intend to sail convoy D.69 composed of following
 D.69. ships 1800Z/17th for Casablanca escorted by
 French Sloop Minesweeper GAZELLE S.O. and
 ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ. (2) FORT ARCHAMBAULT, MONT-VISO,
 PARAME, JANINE, ARGONNE. Also MARY KINGSLEY
 for Port Etienne if ready. (3) Speed made good 6 knots (route)
 Convoy will keep 10 miles from coast to latitude of Agadir thence
 5 miles. E.T.A. position (K) 1200Z/27th. (4) French air
 cover throughout. (8) No British Liaison personnel embarked.
 (Comar Dakar, 1142Z/12 to F.O.C.W.A.(R) Admty. etc.)

Personnel in Your 0226/25/2. After departure from Durban of
 S. Africa, C.M.40 (including DILWARA dropped out of W.S.26)
 transport. there will be no Mideast personnel remaining in
 Union but there will be about 7000 for India and
 P.A.I.C. of whom 2000 will be at Capetown remainder
 at Durban. (2) Dechief now informs me that the
 6th South African Armoured Division has been increased to
 Europeans 9800, non Europeans 6700, to which must be added
 reinforcements for non divisional personnel Europeans 2000,
 non Europeans 2000, making a grand total of Union troops of
 20,500. (3) For oncarriage of Imperial personnel no plans
 can yet be made owing to uncertainty regarding returning C.M.
 ships from India and Mideast. P.S.T.O. India's 0559/10 refers.
 (4) For Union Troops only provision yet made is ILE DE FRANCE
 carrying 7000. Ship is due Durban 29th March and should be
 available about 10 days later after carrying Italian ?P.O.W.

to Capetown/ ...

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Personnel in S. Africa, transport. to Capetown. Request early indication of shipping possibilities and priorities for above moves.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1147C, 1150C, 1155C/12 to D.S.T.)

Movements, Bahia. Dept. 12th U.S. Dest. KEARNEY U.S. Dest. HUMBOLDT Braz. Light Cruiser BAHIA Minelayer CABADELLO CAMAQUAM to escort north bound convoy.
(R.O. Bahia, 1250Z/12 to Admty.)

LORETO Have you any news of LORETO due Montevideo 5th March from Capetown?
(D.T.D., 1255A/12 to A.S.O.(I) Recife)
Your 1255, vessel arrived Montevideo.
(A.S.O.(I) Recife, 1651Z/12 to Admty.)

Dakar, development. Following is a paraphrase of a communication received from B.N.L.O. Dakar. "Director of Public Works, Dakar, has presented Economic Mission with huge demand for cement and necessary shipping space which is required for port development to meet requirements of Joint Chiefs of Staff. M.W.T.R. has been asked by M. of W.T. for remarks. M.W.T.R. considers there is no justification for further construction within commercial port. Submit there is little military justification. M.W.T.R. is deferring his reply to M. of W.T. pending further information." (2) Whilst development and use of Dakar is still under consideration, it cannot be used as a main convoy assembly port in place of Freetown, and I do not feel in the circumstances that breakwater between Dakar and Goree is justified. Your 2259/4 refers.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1448Z/12 to Admty.) As amended 1540Z/14.

QUADRANT Departure 0830Z/12th QUADRANT to R/V in 011° 33' N. 017° 47' W. at 1700Z/12th.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1502Z/12 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) (? ANCHUSA), Admty.)

Movements, Freetown. Departures 0721/11th March, BURDOCK, BUTSER. BIRDLIP escorting.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1530Z/12 to Admty., etc.)
Arrival 0710/11th March, ORFASY, HYDRANGEA escorting.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1532Z/12 to Admty. etc.)

T.S.32/ ...

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South Atlantic (Contd.)

- T.S.32. Arrivals 1407 10th March. CORINTHIAN, SARABANDE, M.L. 272, 278 with T.S.32. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1531Z/12 to Admty. etc.)
- JAMES PARKER. JAMES PARKER, request you comply with 2046/11 from Cominch C. and R. (request JAMES PARKER be sailed independently from Takoradi). (D.T.D., 1550A/12 to F.O.C.W.A.)
- NEWFOUNDLAND. Allocation of NEWFOUNDLAND to West Africa is cancelled. (2) Intended that NEWFOUNDLAND should join flag of C. in C. Med. when she is no longer required for operation "Regulation". (D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 1705A/12 to F.O.C.W. Af., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. H.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- W.S.28. QUADRANT and REDOUBT being the only through
W.S.29. escorts, request you will arrange to relieve destroyers from West Africa in Pointe Noire area. (2) Similar arrangements will be necessary for W.S.29 due to leave U.K. 15th April. (D.O.D.(F), 1710A/12 to C. in C.S.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A. C. in C. E.F.)
- T.B.6. BAGE and RIO BRANCO both Brazilian joined T.B.6. off Pernambuco a.m. 11th for Bahia. (?INPOLE) Brazil to join off Macelo for Bahia. (A.S.O.(I) Recife, 1814Z/12 to Admty.)
- Convoy S.L. 126. List, Cargoes, destinations. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1820/12 to Admty.)
- Movements, Pernambuco. Arrival 12th March U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW. (R.O.Pernambuco, 1935Z/12 to Admty.)
- SONTAY, move of Belgian Personnel. Your 0436/4 and Milwestaffs Queen 44249/8/3. D.S.T.O. Durban reports crew of SONTAY whose articles expire 1st July are definitely unwilling proceed West Coast although offered bonus for doing so. As there are no substitutes available in Union request instructions whether ship should now proceed to India in accordance with previous arrangements and change crew there or whether

crew/ ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic

SONTAY,
move of
Belgian
Personnel.

crew could be sent to Union from England or
India to take ship to West Coast.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 2011C/12 to D.S.T.(R)
F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

TRENTON.

U.S. Cr. TRENTON arrived Punta Arenas 8th
from Pacific.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 2024Z/12 to Admty.)

Floating
Dock.

Dock expected to sail 16th March.
(N.A.Montevideo, 2035Z/12 to Admty.)

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Tripoli and Benghazi, Maintenance. Your 1557/7. (a) We shall be glad to receive breakdown particulars of turnround of Tripoli and Benghazi services showing average period occupied in loading discharging and waiting for convoy. (b) Repair position is chief obstacle preventing full use of coasters and other small ships. We know you keep in mind (i) desirability of effecting only temporary repairs in order to get vessels away to other areas, and (ii) postponing long jobs with object of getting slightly damaged ships back into service. We presume you are satisfied better priority for repairing ships for this operational service would not be in the general interest. (c) We are making enquiries into possibility of obtaining additional coaster tonnage from India and from this country. (D.S.T., 0229A/12 to P.S.T.O.M.E.) Reply 1305/21.

Malta M.T.B's. 84, 95 and 264 returned from operation. (V.A.M.0543A/12 to Admty.)

Movements, Beirut. 11th March departure FIRMAMENT M.L.1005 M.L.357. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 0830B/12 to Admty.)

SPLENDID, SAHIB. Spring cover, striker spring, and striker of P.228 gun has been found in MAIDSTONE. P.228 since you carry no spare spring covers return to Algiers pass $038^{\circ} 25' 004^{\circ} 10'$ at 2030/12th to R/V escort for Algiers in $036^{\circ} 58' 002^{\circ} 58'$ at 0700/13th. (2) P.212 is due same R/V at same time. (Capt. S.8, 0852A/12 to P.228(SPLENDID), P.212 (SAHIB), (R) 8th S/M.F., C. in C. Med., Comdr. Algiers.) Your 0852. Covers made, gun fired correctly, am proceeding. (SPLENDID, 1943A/12 to Capt.S(8), (R) 8th S.F. P.212 (SAHIB)) (I) Your escort will be JULIET. First S/M to arrive is to identify herself to escort and enter harbour unescorted, second S/M will be escorted into harbour. (2) Convoy due Algiers from eastward at 0600/13th. (Capt. S.8, 1442A/12 to P.212 (SAHIB) P.228 (SPLENDID) (R) Cdre. Algiers, X D O.)

ST. LUCIEN My 1100/11th. ST.LUCIEN left harbour midnight 11th. Repeated to Intelligence Centre. (Alicante, 0900/12 to Admty.) German controller ST. LUCIEN may have left Alicante night of 11th for Marseilles. (Capt. S.8, 1005A/12 to P.339 (TAURUS)).

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 11th. ANTWERP (? ABDIEL) (? HURSLEY) CROOME, PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS, M.L.359, 1032, departure 11th BULLFINCH, M.L.349, 354, SPETSAI. (S.O.(I) Alex, 0924B/12 to Admty., C. in C. Levant)

GONCALO VELHO/ ...

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War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

- GONCALO
VELHO. Portuguese GONCALO VELHO sailed Gibraltar 11th for Marseilles. Not to be molested on approved route.
(Capt. S.8., 0941A/12 to P.339 (TAURUS)).
- Tripoli
Discharges. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Discharges 11th March Tripoli 3300 tons, Benghazi 1070 tons, Zarsis 210 tons.
(Mideast, T.H.I.1015Z/12)
- UNSEEN Arrived P.51 (UNSEEN).
(V.A. Malta, 1111A/12 to Admty.)
- RORQUAL. Capt. (S) 1st 1217/8th. Your onward route course 277° to 035° 22' 014° 34' thence round Q.K.B 6 to R/V sweepers at 0830A/16th. Proceed up harbour unescorted if sweepers are not there.
(Capt. S.10, 1114A/12 to RORQUAL, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, 10th S.F.)
- T.E.18. T.E.18 arrived less EMPIRE DACE.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1130A/12 to C. in C. Med.)
T.E.18 Bone section arrived.
(S.O.I.S., 1601A/12 to N.O.I.C. Bougie.)
- Free French S/M's to operate in Med. F.N.F.L. London have renewed request first made by them early in 1942 that Free French submarines should be sent to Mediterranean, and Admiralty have agreed, as (a) French North African submarines are now operating in Mediterranean; (b) Free French Naval Authorities are confident that they can overcome difficulties of maintenance and provision of spare gear, which have been fully represented to them; (c) Free French submarines in Mediterranean will work under British operational control in association with British flotillas and under the commands of British Captain's (S). MINERVE will be based on Beirut after conclusion of refit and will subsequently be joined by JUNON. LE CURIE will be based on Malta. RUBIS will be retained in Home Waters.
(Head of M.II, 1206A/12 to C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)
- P.R.U. P.R.U. March 12th Visuals.
1000 Taranto no result - heavy rain and cloud.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1226A/12 to C. in C. Med., etc.)
- P.42.
UNBROKEN) Concentrate your patrol on Sousse.
(Capt. S.10, 1227A/12 to P.42.)

THUNDERBOLT/ ...

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

THUNDERBOLT, My 1220/11th, P.217 (SIBYL) patrolling in
SIBYL. position 252° focal point F 39 miles, from 2300
until daylight tomorrow Saturday keeping east
of 12° E. Freedom 315° 24 miles sector 4.
P.217 subsequently proceed to operate South of
(9038°) 42' between 013° and 014° E. (2) THUNDERBOLT proceed
as in para. 4 of my 1220/11th keeping W. of 15° E. (3) Force
Q, two cruisers and two Destroyers, will be operating close
North of Q.K 34 as far east as 12° E. but will be West of 10° E.
by daylight tomorrow Saturday.
(Capt. S.8, 1350A/12 to THUNDERBOLT, P.217 (SIBYL) (R) 8th S.F.
Capt. (S) 10).

Aircraft searching in your areas tonight, commencing
2000A. Co-operation in accordance with Capt. (S) 8th S/Fs
1734 3rd. Torpedo bombing strikes also on any target
discovered.

(Capt. (S) 10, 1824A/12 to P.217 (SIBYL) THUNDERBOLT,
(R) Capt. (S) 8th S/F, C. in C. Med.)

Force H. Your 1144/12th (N.T. in W.D.). Intend to pass
Europa Point at 1700A today, passing north of
Alboran and arrive position 109 about 1100A/13th
for target firings prior to entering Mers-el-
Kebir. (2) N.O.I.C.Oran pass to N.O.I.C.
Mers-el-Kebir.
(S.O.Force "H", 1410A/12 to C. in C. Med., Admty.,
(R) N.O.I.C.Oran., N.O.I.C.Gibraltar.)

P.54. Intend sailing P.54 for Malta 1700/14th routed
(UNSHAKEN) through 038° 06' 004° 38' at 0630/15th, 038°
10' 011° 13' at 0400/18th, position (P) at 0600/
18th thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.
(2) P.54 is carrying stores and is therefore
unfit for patrol.
(Capt. S.8, 1444A/12 to C. in C. Med., Capt. (S)
10., (R) 8th S/M F., P.54 (UNSHAKEN), V.A. Malta,
Capt.(S) 1, C. in C. Levant, Cdre. Algiers).

SAFARI P.211 (SAFARI) reports. (1) R D F station for
surface vessel detection on Mongerbino Point
approximate 038° 07' N. 013° 30' E. (2) 2 ves-
sels observed in appearance like large deep
laden tankers but in fact about 2000 tons shallow draught
carrying tanks, length about 300 feet speed about 14 knots,
funnel aft.
(Capt. S.8, 1536A/12 to Submarines on Patrol, (R) C. in C. Med.
V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10 S.F.)

Greek My 1543/9 (Publication of U-Boat sinking by
Navy Greek destroyer ADRIAS and discipline of Greek
Discipline. Navy). Greek C. in C. has issued official
communique without authority which appeared in
local French papers here last night 11th March*
An early reply to my 1543/9 would greatly assist.
(C. in C. Levant, 1536B/12 to Admty.)

* W.D. Note - also published in the Times, 15th March.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Gibraltar Stores. ✓ Your 2024/8; requirement for Naval Stores from Gibraltar is at present being met by using space remaining in Admiralty colliers which have discharged aircraft at Gibraltar and have been diverted to North Africa. It is intended that this arrangement shall continue while colliers with aircraft as part cargo are being sent to Gibraltar. (C. in C. Med., 1603A/12 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements, Port Said. 12th March Port Said arrivals - BULLFINCH, M/L 349, M/L 354, AETOS, CUMBRAE, SPETSAI. Departure SPETSAI. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1637B/12 to Admty. etc.)

Air Report. To: CG 8th Air Force. For: Eaker. From: Spaatz. 1. 11 B-26's escorted by 20 P-38's attacked Siebel Ferry Convoy making direct hits on 4 Ferries, 1 of which exploded. In the encounter with escorting enemy aircraft 3 were destroyed. 1 B-26 was lost although rafts dropped to 7 of crew seen swimming. (H.Q. Allied Air Force, 1653Z/12 to Etousa).

P.R.U. March 12th. Visual, 1430, Messina, No Major Naval unit. 1440, Taranto, 2 Battleships, 2 Cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 1710A/12 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

14 R.A.F. Squadron. O.205 March 12th, 14 Squadron ceased to be Operational in Middle East Command with effect from March 1st, 1943, upon departure of Air Echelon to Telergma Algiers. (H.Q.M.E., 1752Z/12 to Air Ministry)

M.N.B.D.O. No.1. The delays in concentration and training. (C. in C. Levant, 1800/12 to C. in C. E.F.) See Lion Copy.

Movements, Malta. Sailed R.F.A. CHERRYLEAK, PETARD, G.S. QUEEN OLGA. (V.A. Malta, 1819A/12 to Admty. etc.)

Middle East Tonnage for Cereals and Nitrates. ✓ For Q.M.G. from L.G.A. M.E.S.C. today received from M.W.T. London request to include in April loadings at expense of military stores if necessary tonnage considerably in excess of our agreed figure as already reported. All here agreed that our notified tonnages cannot be reduced with

safety/ ...

MOST SECRET

481A^{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.

1800/12 March.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From: C. in C. Levant.

Date: 13.3.43.
Time: 1723.

INT. GEN (K) BY W/T.

M.N.B.D.O. No. 1 - Training.

Addressed: C. in C. F. Rent. Arminidia, Mideast, Admiralty, C.O.C. M.N.B.D.O. Number One.

REMARKS:

I have seen General Weston and am concerned about the troubles of M.N.B.D.O. Number One. Present situation is that he has:

Place.	Officers.	Other Ranks.
Mideast G.	154	2953
Indian Ocean	113	2330
On way out in U.S. 28 destination		
India	Nil	300
In U.S. 29 (Promised)	Nil	400
In U.S. 30 (Promised)	Nil	300
In U.S. 31 (Promised)	Nil	300

SECRET

C.I.C. ...

(S) (S) (S)

(S) (S) (S) (S)

2. Weston points out that by latest reports his camp in India will not be ready before August First and that there is nowhere for his reinforcements, who come out untrained, or any of his units from Middle East, to go. He is particularly worried about the L and M 2 Unit which is still at Addu Atoll and is suffering badly from sickness. If he waits to concentrate in India on the 1st August then he will not be able to operate till 1944.

3. The obvious solution is for higher priority to be given in India to the construction of his camp.

4. If this can not be done then clearly the quickest way to get this Force trained would be to do it here. This would mean sending H.T. MATLANA with her equipment and land unit, and also in some way to get his first Coast Defence Regiment R.M. to Middle East. If you could do this he could train here and we might possibly be able to arrange for his reinforcements from U.K. to come here also, though not at sacrifice to Middle East requirements which at present are barely being met. But then again, it means that although his Force will be trained here, there will be a large number of men and stores to move to India in the future. This commitment would not necessarily be very big since before M.N.B.D.O. could be used operationally a considerable quantity of shipping would be required in India to mount an assault.

5. I suggest the main factor, shipping permitting, would be to get them together and get the training started. If it cannot be done in India for months then we must do our best in Middle East.

6. General Weston is leaving Cairo by air on Saturday 13th for Kilindini to see you.

7. Request your views.

8. Mideast pass to Arminia and G.O.C. M.N.B.D.O. Number One.

1800/12

Advance copy sent D.C, D.D.I.C. D. of P.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1st Lord. | D. of P. (2) | Hd. of N. |
| 1st S.L. (2) | D.O.D. (H) (2) | Hd. of C.W. |
| D.F.S.L. | D.O.D. (F) (2) | D.T.D. (3) |
| 2nd S.L. | D.C. (2) | D.T.D. (M) |
| V.C.N.S. | D.D.I.C. (2) | D.T.S.D. |
| A.C.N.S. (F) (2) | Hd. of M. | D. of P. (Q) |
| A.C.N.S. (U) (2) | D. of L.D. | I.P. (2) |
| A.C.N.S. (W) | A.G.R.M. | W.D. |
| U.V.R. | | Adm. Blake (4) |

RN

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Tonnage for
Cereals and
Nitrates.

safety in any commodity, civil or military. Situation in respect of cereals and nitrates is however critical. Minister of State is telegraphing Prime Minister urging allotment of additional tonnage. Impossible send cereals to Turkey unless replaced ton for ton and nitrates must be shipped or cereals will not be available in Egypt. Closest co-operation here with all departments civil and military and every possible adjustment already made in agreement. It is not a question of living on reserves; we are asking for things we have not got. Think you should be aware of Minister's request to Prime Minister.
(C. in C. M.E., 1845B/12 to W.O.)

Evasive
Action by
U-Boats
from A.S.V.
Aircraft.

P/W signals rating recently captured from German U-Boat in Mediterranean states while detecting our A.S.V. only action taken was evasive action and then only when gradually rising signal strength indicated aircraft approaching, but if sudden drop in strength heard U-Boat immediately crash dived. Suggest this drop in strength due change from beam to homing aerials.

Strongly advise on making contact beam aerials to switch off until within 2 miles of estimated position S/M as suggested by Air Ministry signal AX.750 Oct. 9 repeated in our A.191 Oct. 10. Note, P/W had not operated in Atlantic.
(R.A.F., H.Q. M.E., 1904Z/12 to 201 Group, (R) A.H.Q. Malta, Med. Air Command, Air Ministry.)

NEBOJSCA.

Departure 12th March Yugo-Slav S/M NEBOJSCA. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 1905B/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements,
Philippeville.

Arrival FLUELLEN, MISOA, BACHAQUERO, tug NIMBLE. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1924A/12 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Malta
Air
Report.

A.1.582 C.S.R.
Night 11th/12th March. 4 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols Trapani Castelvetro area to cover bombing attack on Palermo by Middle East aircraft. No enemy aircraft was found. R/C aircraft found no shipping target. Day 12th March. 16 Spitfires on offensive sweep over Southern Sicily encountered 3 M.E.109s which avoided combat.
Part 2 Enemy air activity. Nil.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1947Z/12)

Enemy / ...

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

Enemy M/V's. Following has been read: 226 from 77 GP1 NR 1. Position of one enemy M/V $37^{\circ} 37' N, 8^{\circ} 45' E$. Position of three enemy M/V's $37^{\circ} 30' N 9^{\circ} 40' E$. (Alex. W/T, 2000/12)

Movements, Oran. Today's arrivals: CIRCE, HUSSAR, VELOX and M.L's 483, 238 and 444. (Com. N.O.B.Oran, 2009/12 to Admty., etc.)

C.S.12. My 1408/12th (No record of receipt in W.R.) Amend latitude of second position given to read $038^{\circ} 01' N$. (2) 12 Spitfires will sweep from a position 12 miles North of Galitaon course 70° between 0615A/13th and 0630A/13th. When they locate you six Spitfires will remain as escort. (C. in C. Med., 2023A/12 to C.S.12, (R) F.O.I.S., V.A.Malta, (Passed to Admiralty for information by Gibraltar.))

Tripoli Convoys. My 1633/4th. Para. 2, KAIKOURA not now required. Movements informed. (P.S.T.O.Egypt, Port Said, 2032B/12 to D.S.T.)

Attack on Enemy Units, Tanker Torpedoed. P.C. and S. of 4 M/Vs, 4 destroyers $38^{\circ} 13' N, 13^{\circ} 08' E, 270^{\circ} 10$ knots. (A/C.FDS/V, 2050A/12 to Air H.Q.Malta.) P.C. and S. one M/V, two unknown and three destroyers $38^{\circ} 12' N, 13^{\circ} 04' E, 270^{\circ} 10$ knots. (A/C. FDS/H, 2055A/12 to Air H.Q. Malta.) P.C. and S. one tanker one destroyer, $38^{\circ} 14' N, 13^{\circ} 10' E, 090^{\circ}, 7$ knots. (A/C.FDS/H, 2140/12 to Air H.Q. Malta.) Have attacked one tanker in $38^{\circ} 13' N, 13^{\circ} 08' E$. with torpedoes and estimate one hit. (A/C.FBO/A, 2150A/12 to Air H.Q. Malta.) My 2050, $38^{\circ} 13' N, 13^{\circ} 12' E$. two M/Vs, two destroyers, four M.T.B's, $090^{\circ} 10$ knots. (A/C, F.D.S/V, 2220A/12 to Air H.Q. Malta.) My 2050. Remainder of convoy CZKD 1350 (undecipherable) two M/Vs, two destroyers, $270^{\circ} 10$ knots. (A/C.FD.S./V, 2245/12 to Air H.Q. Malta.) Aircraft claim one torpedo hit on tanker which has turned back. P.C. and S. at 2245A $038^{\circ} 11' 013^{\circ} 21' 090^{\circ}, 7$, probably going into Palermo. Remainder of convoy proceeding westward. (Capt.(S) 10, 2330A/12 to 8th S/M.F. (R) Capt.(S) 8) (Two unknown ships, two destroyers, $38^{\circ} 10' 12^{\circ} 40' E$. course 230° speed 10 knots. (A/C. F.D.S./H, 2330A/12 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrivals hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE. Submarines TRIBUNE, SAFARI. Departures: ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN LIGHTNING LOYAL Tug. RESTIVE. (Cdre. Algiers, 2112A/12 to Admty. etc.) ...

Movements / ...

War Diary.

12.3.1945.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Movements, Arrived AMBER, SOUTHERN SEA, MAGNET, SOUTHERN
Tobruk. MAID, T.L.C. 3, DELPHINIUM, PRIMULA. Sailed
SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN SEA.
(N.O.I.C.Tobruk, 2215B/12 to Admty., C. in C.
Levant.)

Proposed Russian Visit to North Africa. Further my 50927 of 8th Feb.
In agreement with U.S. Chiefs of Staff and
Gen. Eisenhower we consider visit of Soviet
Military Mission to North Africa is undesirable
at this time. We therefore reiterate that you
should not now press for a reply to our invitation
for visit of Soviet Military Mission to Libya.
No effort should be made to further the project.
If, however, Soviet General Staff should subsequently accept the
invitation no objections will be interposed on visit to present
Africa theatre of operations provided Mission is a strictly
military one.
(W.O., 2220A/12 to 30 M.M.(R) C. in C. M.E. Freedom. Algiers)

Movements, Bone arrivals. LIGHTNING, LOYAL, ROYAL
Bone. SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ALGOMA, TYNEDALE, LID-
DESDALE, KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA.
Departures. AURORA, SIRIUS, LIGHTNING, LOYAL,
BICESTER, ZETLAND, OAKLEY, ROYAL SCOTSMAN,
ROYAL ULSTERMAN, VANOC, VERITY, FARNDALE, PUCKERIDGE, L.C.I.161,
L.C.T.135.
(F.O.I.S., 2356A/12 to C. in C. Med. Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET

484A
Lion

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WARNING. This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1715Z/12th March IN

From Algiers

Date 13.3.43.

CYPHER

Addressed Usfor

H.M. Ambassadors, Madrid)
(pass to U.S. Ambassador)) Passed by
Britmilat Ankara) Foreign Office
(for Marshal Chakmak))

Resident Minister, Achimota) Passed by Colonial
Office.

Minister of State, Cairo)
Britman Washington) Passed by Air
(for Dill)) Ministry Special
Arindia (for Wavell)) Signal Office.
P.A.I.C.)
Force Nairobi (for Platt))

Landforces Melbourne)
(for Blamey)) Passed by
Defender Wellington) War Office.
(for Puttick))
Dechief Pretoria)
(for Sauts))

IMPORTANT

Tunisia. Situation Report.

Reference No. 6125 LINREP No. 28
Summary of operations 8th - 10th March, 1943.

1. 8th Army patrol activity continued throughout the period. Fifty two German tanks have now been destroyed by our troops as a result of the fighting on 8 March. On 10th March the enemy attacked Ksar Rhilane and fighting continues in that area.
2. French troops have occupied Metlaoui and Tozeur and have captured some Italian prisoners in these areas.
3. First Army. The enemy continued to press his attacks west of Sedjemane without success and our positions in the vicinity of Stonde Tamera have been held. Over two hundred prisoners have been taken in this area.

/4. H.Q. 18th

4. H.Q. 18th Army Group has assumed direct command of two (US) Corps. First Army now consists of Five (BR) Corps and Nineteen (FR) Corps.

5. Naval. Mines were laid off Bizerta and in Sicilian Channel on 8th March. Enemy aircraft was active in attacks on shipping. Two ships in convoy were torpedoed but both have arrived at Algiers.

6. Air. Bad weather hampered bombing operations on 8th and 9th March. On 10th March airdromes at Tunis and the town of Gafsa were attacked. Fighter bombers and fighters of Western Desert Air Force harried the retreating enemy and attacked enemy transport in the area Ksar Rhilane. Our aircraft supported the ground forces in Northern Tunisia.

7. Liaison. The French War Committee began its monthly session on Monday, the 8th and will terminate on Thursday, the 11th. All of the Anti-Semitic laws and decrees promulgated by Vichy, more than sixty in number, have been abrogated. No announcement has yet been made on this action as it is planned that on Sunday, the 14th, General Giraud will make a public statement before the Alsation Committee.

1715Z/12

Advance copy Duty Capt.
D.O.D. (F)

Recd. in War Reg. at
1605/14th March

* A paraphrased version of this message was passed to all addressees as indicated.

Circulation
Brig. Jacob
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord
C.S. Tels War Office
A.M.C.S. (1)
Mr. Strang, Foreign Office
Mr. Radcliffe, Ministry
of Information.

1st Lord
1st D.L. (2)
4th D.L.
5th D.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (1)
A.C.N.S. (A)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
S.A.S. (5)
U.V.R.
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)

D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (3)
D.F.D. (3)
D.F.D. (1)
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
D.D.O.D. (1)
Hd. of H. (2)
C.N.I.
D.P.D.
Ad. Blake
Ad. Mack (4)
V.D.
I.P. (2)

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12.3.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

India Air Report. (B) Offensive R/C 11th. 4 Hurricanes started fire at oil derricks in Yenanghat, small launch left sinking, several sampans damaged Irrawaddy River. No opposition. 1 Hurricane missing. 2 Mohawks attacked buildings in Gangaw Area. 4 Hurricanes attacked sampans at Lemro and Kaladan Rivers. 5 Hurricanes patrolled over Akyab Island area without incident. (A.H.Q. India, 0220Z/12 to Air Min.)

VITA. Arrival 12th. Hospital Ship VITA. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0236Z/12 to A.I.G.88.)

Movements. Departure 11th British gunboat for P.A. convoy for Aden NURANI for P.B. convoy for Karachi. (N.C.S.O. Abadan, 0513Z/12 to Admty.) Arrival ASTER.

(S.O.(I) Bombay, 0618Z/12 to Admty.)
Colombo departures 12th 0800Z TAMWORTH. Arrivals 0100Z TAMWORTH, 0130Z SCOUT.
(F.O. Ceylon, 1205Z/12 to Admty.)
Left CAIRNS.
(F.O. East Africa, 1401Z/12 to Admty., (R) F.O. Ceylon.)

Programme of Troop Movements. Para. H of my 1201/10th. FELIX ROUSSEL (delayed) now sails 18th March and will call Mauritius en route to Capetown. Expect to sail returning W.S.26 ships to Capetown about 24th, ships will be carrying service and civilian passengers up to the maximum allowed for unescorted ships. (P.S.T.O. India, 0655Z/12 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.J.O. Ceylon, N.C.S.O. Bombay, D.S.T., P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.E.T.O. Durban, Armindia.)

Raider situation No. 26. No further information German or Japanese raiders. 2. Following ships at Bordeaux probably ready to sail for Far East HIMALAYA, OSORNO and PORTLAND. (C. in C. E.F., 0755Z/12 to E.F.222Y, F.L.O. Delhi.)

M.B.29 Convoy sailing telegram. (1) M.B.(N.B.) 298 (?M.B.29 intended) (2) 0730Z/12/3/43. (4) 9.5 knots. (5) N. 07° 48' N. 78° 02' E. 0. 08° 01' N., ?27° 10' E. thence 10 miles off shore to destination. (6) TAMWORTH. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1036Z/12 1037Z/12 to Admty.)

/Troop...

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12.3.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

- Troop movements. Is SALWEEN making a voyage to Gulf before proceeding Mombasa. Vessel is urgently required here for A.A.P.C. to Suez. Your 1201z/10 to C. in C. E.F. para. B refers.
(D.S.T.O. Kilindini, 1148Z/12 to P.S.T.O. India)
- Convoy Escorts. Amend my 1234/11th to read MARYBOROUGH proceed with P.B.31 and SUTLEJ with P.B.32.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1336Z/12 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O. Ceylon, Com. R.I.N. Cdre. i/c Aden, N.O.I.C. Karachi, (R) MARYBOROUGH, SUTLEJ)
- Diversions of Merchant Shipping. (1) The control of all merchant ship movements in Indian Ocean is vested in the C. in C. E.F.
(2) Diversions on account of the presence of enemy ships are made either by use of "A.F." messages or by signals of a revised route and, if necessary new destination. Such signals are made by C. in C. E.F. (Adm. Mombasa to Merchant Ships) except when F.O. Ceylon has already provided action under the terms of C. in C. E.F. 1312/7th Sept. 1942, and E.F.G.O. No. 4 para. 4.
(3) In (?restricted) (?traffic) lanes in Gulf of Aden and in Gulf Oman and Persian Gulf where use of an F message is not suitable, (?immediate) warning of the presence of enemy vessels is passed in P/L to merchant ships by Cdre. Aden and S.N.O. Persian Gulf respectively under terms of C. in C. E.F. 1513/30th Sept. 1942 and 0931/22nd Nov. 1942.
(4) Diversions for mercantile or trade reasons. To avoid uneconomical diversion of ships through ignorance or imperfect knowledge of precise cargo stowage signals requesting a diversion are to be made to C. in C. E.F. and repeated to following authorities: (A) For a ship loading in U.K. to Admty.
(B) For ships loaded abroad, to M.W.T.R. or S.T.O's of areas in which alteration took place.
If a ship is known to be in Indian coastal waters on Indian port traffic the request for diversion should be addressed to F.O. Ceylon and repeated to C. in C. E.F. for information in addition to authorities given in (A) and (B) above.
(5) Signals requesting diversion must contain:
(A) The authority on whose behalf request is made.
(B) Reason for diversion.
If cargo, then what cargo and whether all or part - priority must be prefixed.
(6) C. in C. E.F. or F.O. Ceylon will order diversion after waiting long enough for the authority in para. 3 (A) and (B) to intervene if necessary.
(C. in C. E.F., 1519Z/12 to E.I. Station (R) Admty).
- Visual Alarm signal. C. in C. Levant's 1941/6 is concurred with.
(C. in C. E.F., 1513Z/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A.)
- SEVERN F.O.S. 1614/10 Jan. and my 1453/12 Jan. On completion of working-up towards the end of March SEVERN will be retained temporarily in Home waters.
(D.O.D. (F) 1827A/12 to C. in C. E.F. etc).

War Diary.

12.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Oiling at Sea. Your 2022/10 U.S. Authorities supplying 1000 feet canvas hose to each ship with adaptors to British 3½ inch connections.
(B.A.D. 0121Z/12 to Admt.)

Washington
Conference,
Canadian
Corvettes.

Personal for C.N.S. Canada, from 1st S.L.
I have been informed by V.C.N.S. that you had a meeting this afternoon to decide whether you could send minesweepers round from the west coast in order to release six corvettes which I understand would form the basis of a Canadian support Group. I hope very much that you have

decided to do this, as it is, as far as I can see, the only way in which we can obtain four support groups for the North Atlantic without which I am sure we shall be riding for a fall.

B. I have the greatest anxiety regarding the Battle of the Atlantic in the next few months, as the situation will be as follows:-

(i) Convoys will consist of 60 ships. (ii) Very long range air will not be built up. (iii) We shall undoubtedly have to fight our way through the U-Boat packs, which, in view of the weak escorts with the convoys can only be successfully achieved by the use of support groups.

C. Please help us all you can regarding the support group.
(1st S.L. 0244A/12 to N.S.H.Q.)

A/S aircraft /
Gibraltar
Casablanca.

Personal for V.C.N.S. from 1st S.L.
A. The directive to Adm. Cunningham which was concurred in by General Eisenhower was as follows:-

During the assault phase you will exercise command through the subordinate Naval Officers of all warships, shipping and craft for the operation in conformity with the general directions and plan of the Allied Commander-in-Chief. When the military and air forces are firmly established ashore you will have a dual function. You will be responsible to the Allied Commander-in-Chief for security of the sea communications of the expedition in the theatre and the support of the Army in further amphibious operations along the African coast and in the seaward defence of that coast and its ports.

You are also responsible direct to the British Admiralty for the Naval forces in the Western Mediterranean and North Atlantic additional to those required for the above purpose used for:-

(a) Security of sea communications. (b) Offensive action against the enemy's naval forces.

B. From A. you will see that C. in C.Med., has two responsibilities one of which he is responsible to C. in C.Allied Forces, and the other to the Admiralty.

C. The Admiralty cannot surrender to anyone their responsibility for the general security of sea communications which would be the case if the formula given in your 2225Z/10 were adopted.

/D...

12.3.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

A/S aircraft
Gibraltar,
Casablanca.
(Contd.)

D. We must, therefore, ask that the formula given in your 1851Z/8, para. 4, be adopted.
E. As you are aware, the formula referred to in the above paragraph is contrary to the ideas of the Air Staff for reasons I have already given you. The Air Staff have, however, as a special case waived their objections in order that we may get on

with the war in the most efficient manner.

F. I suggest you see Dill and explain the matter to him and see whether he cannot persuade Marshall to take as broad-minded a view as the Air Staff have.

G. It is not clear why Marshall should object to placing Army air forces under a British Naval Officer in view of the fact that on the east coast of the U.S.A. and in the Caribbean Army Airunits are employed on A/S duties under the operational control of the local Naval Commanders.

(1st S.L. 0246A/12 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C.Med.)

Personal for V.C.N.S. from 1st S.L. Your 2201Z/10.

1. It is not clear to whom these recommendations are being made.
2. We do not know what is at the back of para. 1 but it is surely a contravention of the agreement at Casablanca that the U/B war is the first call on our military resources. If we cannot get enough on the present production schedules then they should be adjusted in spite of other theatres.
3. C.A.S. agrees with the above.

(1st. S.L. 1350A/12 to B.A.D.)

Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.

A. Your 0246/12. Dill is away till Monday.

B. I was unable to get agreement and therefore it was decided that the sub-committee report must be withdrawn.

C. The following was agreed. (Begins). "The conference decided to invite the attention of the High Command concerned to the situation that exists but to make no recommendation other than that operational control of A.S.W. operation be co-ordinated in the area in question." (Ends.)

D. I felt that to continue the discussion would make the Army think we had some ulterior motive whereas I anticipate Adm. Cunningham will be able to reach a satisfactory working arrangement with Eisenhower.

(B.A.D. 1947Z/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

Personal for 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.

Your 1350/12. Text given in my 2201/10 has been amended considerably as a result of further discussion. I will signal this as soon as I can get amended copy from Navy Office.

2. I understand Adm. King as Chairman of the Conference will send the recommendations to you and C.A.S. also to C.N.S. and C.A.S. Ottawa for necessary action.

(B.A.D. 1949Z/12 to Admty.)

First 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.

Your 1350/12 and my 1949/12. The first 5 paras. of text given in my 2201/10 has been amended as follows - (begins) -

1. "Recommendation. It is recommended that measures to accelerate production (up to 1st July 1943) of "immediate minimum requirements" of A/S aircraft be limited to such action as the services

/concerned...

War Diary.

12.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

A/S aircraft Gibraltar, Casablanca. (Contd.) concerned can take without interference with production schedules. There should be no large diversion of aircraft earmarked for other theatres of war but 128 V.L.R. aircraft in addition to 132 now in sight as set forth in paras. 4 and 5 below are needed with such urgency as to warrant recommendation that the C.C.S. arrange to supply them immediately by diversion from other planned deployments.

2. It is recommended that countries concerned estimate A/S aviation requirements for the period subsequent to 1st July 1943 for their respective areas of A/S air responsibility and take steps to ensure procurement as rapidly as possible.

2. It is recommended that countries concerned estimate A/S aviation requirements for the period subsequent to 1st July 1943 for their respective areas of A/S air responsibility and take steps to ensure procurement as rapidly as possible.

3. Comment. Special equipment for A/S planes is not prospectively available in quantity materially exceeding the planned output of A/S aircraft up to 1st July 1943 but enough possibly can be found to equip the planes referred to above. However planes can be used with a reasonable degree of effectiveness without Radar and other special A.S.W. equipment.

4. In view of the shortages of aircraft in all theatres of active operation it would be most undesirable to divert to A.S.W. any large number of aircraft now earmarked for these theatres but the urgent need for a total of 260 V.L.R. for A/S operations justifies the recommendation that the C.C.S. explore the possibilities of diverting 128 to A.S.W. in addition to the 132 which are to be assigned by 1st June in accordance with present plans.

5. Present plans provide for concentrating in the most critical areas - the North Atlantic convoy route and N.W. Africa all V.L.R. to become available (ready to operate) within the next few months. This will provide for the following distribution which is not only adequate for these areas but leaves the less critical areas unduly exposed." (Ends.) Then as in my 2201/10.
(B.A.D. 2249Z/12 to Admty.)

U.C./C.U. Convoys, carriage of depth charges. Ref. A.M. 0100/13th Feb. and A.M. 2125/26th Feb. para. 4. As it is now anticipated C.U.1 will consist of only 9 fast tankers it is presumed you will arrange with Superintendent C.A.F.A.C. the number of spare depth charges to be carried for British and U.S. escorts respectively.

2. W.S.A. are agreeable tankers shall carry these spares.
(B.A.D. 0249Z/12 to S.B.N.O. Curacao, (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A.)

Movements. Charleston arrived 1400/11th from St. Johns N.F. GEORGETOWN.
(N.S.H.Q. 0302Z/12 to Admty.)
Arrival Vieuxfort 12th U.S.S. YEATON.
(B.R.O. St. Lucia 0903Q/12 to Admty.)
Trinidad arrival 12th, M.S. VAN KINSBERGEN.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1722Q/12 to S.B.N.O., W.At.)

/Norfolk...

War Diary.

12.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements. Norfolk arrived 11th March, L.S.T. 423 and 429,
(Contd.) L.C.I.(L) 114, 117, 180, 187, 268. Norfolk
arrived 12th L.C.I.(L) 264.
(N.S.H.Q. 2130Z/12 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

STANSBURY, U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F at
U/B. 0221Z/12th has made sighting report of a convoy
or important unit. 3920 k/cs. B.E.P. 51 N.
(?37°) 30' W.
(Cominch 0401/12 to U.S. Dest. STANSBURY, C. in
C.W.A. (R) C.T. 24, Admty.)

Unidentified Ship. Com. General St. Helena reports unidentified
ship passed 35,000 yards north east of Island
heading south east 1200 to 1330 March 11th
estimate six to 7,000 tons speed 14 knots cruiser
stern flush deck raked bow two masts one funnel
large bridge structure gun mount aft report ends description
resembles OSORNO German Flag.
(Cominch C. and R. 0414/12 to Comsolant, (R) C. in C.S.A. Admty.)

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed.
summary	8 L.C.I.(L)s.	31° N. 42° W.	059°	5½
1800 G.M.T.		Position doubtful.		
12th.	23 L.C.I.(L)s.	30° N. 63° W.	128°	10.
		Position doubtful.		
	ACHILLES	23° N. 67° W.	013°	23.
	A.T. 38.	40° N. 48° W.	062°	26½
			altering at approx. 2100/12 to 080°	
	ANDES	29° N. 25½° W.	252°	19.
	(D.O.D.(F) 1117Z/12 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)			

Dispositions. Operational units in North Atlantic.
Area Iceland (C): ANSON, BERMUDA, BERWICK, KENT,
6 destroyers.
Area Scapa: KING GEORGE V, BELFAST, CHARYBDIS,
CUMBERLAND, GLASGOW, SCYLLA, 11 destroyers.
Area Clyde: HOWE, FURIOUS, INDOMITABLE, NORFOLK.
Area Plymouth: KENYA, NEWFOUNDLAND 2 destroyers.
Passage to Gibraltar: CARLISLE.
On patrol: UGANDA.
Area Gibraltar : NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, SIRIUS,
PENELOPE, ABDIEL, ADVENTURE 7 destroyers.
(D.O.D.(H) 1210A/12 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

/IROQUOIS...

War Diary.

12.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

IROQUOIS Your 1938 (?11th) approved IROQUOIS 19th to sail from St. Johns N.F. in accordance with A.M. 1046/8th.
(N.S.H.Q. 1256Z/12 to C.O.A.C. (R) Cmdre. Cmg. Canadian Ships in the U.K. IROQUOIS, F.O.N.F. Admty. C. in C.H.F. N.O.I.C. Londonderry, R.A.D. H.F.)

L.23 My 1831/10. Amend as follows: Para. one 1430/12
NANAIMO. read 1430/13 speed 7 knots E.T.A. Philadelphia 21 March.
(F.O.N.F. 1350Z/12 to No. 1 Group R.C.A.F. St. Johns N.F. Base Command Canadian Army Fire Command C.T.F. 24 C.O.A.C. A.O.C. E.A.C. N.S.H.Q. Cominch C.E.S.F. B.A.M.R. (R) F.O.C.Submarines, Admty. NANAIMO L.23.)

EMPRESS OF CANADA, MAURETANIA military transport. Your 0450/12. All available space in EMPRESS OF CANADA is being used for R.A.F. in accordance with Admiralty's 1650/8. At present 1,000 military are waiting here for U.K. Essential MAURETANIA be allocated to lift Army personnel as previously intimated in your 0150/10. Army transit camps desperately strained.
(D.S.T.O.W.At. 1449Z/12 to D. of S.T. (R) D.S.T.O. Capetown, C. in C.S.At. F.O.C.W.Af.)

Submarine Estimate March 12th. U.S.S/M Notice. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1511/12, 1512/12, 1536/12, 1537/12, 1538/12, 1955/12.)

O.N. 169 Due to delay O.N. 169 and early sailing H.X. 229
H.X.229 request F.O.N.F. take following steps necessary
M.O.E.U. to augment M.O.E.U. 24.1.18.
24.1.18. 1. Present status demonstrates 3 corvettes of group will join at West O.M.P.
2. Sail VOLUNTEER to remain with H.X. 229 until remainder of regular group join or until detached by me to rejoin own unit.
3. Sail MANSFIELD and WITHERINGTON(without Asdic) to join at West O.M.P.
4. Sail HIGHLANDER, BEVERLEY and remaining corvettes of group to overtake at earliest practical time.
5. Ships of Western Local Escort herein directed to make every effort fuel at sea in view of possibility of late relief.
(C.T. 24 1525Z/12 to F.O.N.F.,(R) M.O.T.U. 24.1.18.C.T.U. 24.18.9 Cominch C. and R. Admty. C.T.U. 24.1.19 C. in C.W.A. C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q.)

/S.C.123...

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- S.C.123. 1. Sailing telegram S.C. 123 part 1.
2. Position F. at 1700Z/13th.
3. 5. 8. Routes and R/V as per Comeastseafrons 2200/9 except all times 2 hours earlier.
6. Task Unit 24.18.2. SASKATOON.
(Port Director New York 1540/12 to Admty. (R) Cominch.)
- U/B. Submarine contact 19° 48' N. 75° 2' W. at 1424 G.M.T.
(Guantanamo Bay Radio 1548R/12 to Admty.)
- WOODRUFF. Your 1822/11. Request time of departure, route speed and destination.
(N.S.H.Q. 1527Z/12 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad, (R) S.B.N.O. W.At. Admty. S.O.(I) Kingston.)
Your 1527/12. Departed 2030Z/11 S.O.A. 12 knots for area 07° 07' N. 53° 05' W. passing through 08° 00' N. 55° 01' W. and to join movement reported in my 1832/10.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1852Q/12 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
- B.T.6. Following only arrived in convoy B.T.6 BERA (Swed) CITY OF ST. LOUIS (U.S.) MARINA (U.S.) MATHURA (Br.) OAKWORTH (Br.) OLGA E. EMBIRICOS (Grk.) OLIVEBANK (Br.) REAPER (U.S.) WARFIELD (Br.)
(R.L.O. Trinidad 1604Q/12 to Admty.)
- Dispositions. Section East O.N. 169 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.5 and T.U. 24.12.2 (E) 47.34 48.09 225° 7 alter to 242° in 46.00 N. ANEMONE due St. Johns N.F. p.m.12th from O.N. 169 ABELIA escorting two M/Vs 48.17 49.18 en route St. Johns N.F. 7 HAMILTON depart St. Johns N.F. 2030Z/12th. to join O.N. 169 at 1000Z/13th. S.C. 122 T.U. 24.1.19 (E) 47.25 49.24 062° 7.5 altering to 031° in 44.58 W. H.J. 39 KENTVILLE, STRATFORD 45.36 54.46 061° 7.5 alter to 014° in 52.38 W. UNGAVA escorting EMPIRE NORSE towed by FOUNDATION FRANKLIN and OCEAN EAGLE 45.23 58.47 255° 6.5. H.X. 229 T.U. 24.18.9 43.15 54.51 070° 9 alter to 019° in 50.19 W. CHELSEA 45.43 54.22 042° en route St. Johns. SS. JOHN CABOT 46.06 55.43 256° 6.5.
(C.O.A.C. 1625Z/12 to Admty.)
See 0205Z/13.
Section South West. H.X. 229 A W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.1 (E) 043° 27' 060° 09' 082° 9.5 altering to 062° in 059° 20' W. Halifax position H.X. 229 A SNOWBERRY, DIGBY, GANANOQUE, BARRIE vicinity 043° 45' 061° 28' en route for Halifax 9.5 O.N. 168 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8 042° 25' 070° 20' en route for Cape Cod Bay. J.H.41 WASAGA, VEGREVILLE 045° 18' 060° 07' 257° 7 altering to 243° in 060° 48' W. WESTMOUNT screening CYRUS FIELD 045° 10' 060° 58' effecting cable repairs W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8 depart Cape Cod Bay at about 2200Z/12th en route Halifax 12 knots. KATANZA (Belgian) 043° 20' 049° 10' 269° 8.5. S.S. CONTESSA (Honduras) 040° 05' 050° 40' 269° 14 S.S. RAPHAEL SEMMES (U.S.) 043° 30' 050° 01' 270° 15 altering to 252° in 055° 10' W. S.S. PANCHITO vicinity 045° 30' 060° 28' 146° Halifax 7.5.
(C.O.A.C. 1655Z/12 to Admty.)

/RAFAEL...

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

RAFAEL
SEMMES,
Route
compromised? Following from RAFAEL SEMMES (Begins) latitude
43° 30' N. longitude 51° 35' W. course 269°
Speed 16 knots to position Q 2200 G.M.T/11 (ends.)
2. As latitude and longitude were given using
general recoding table 23 consider route may be
compromised.
(D.T.D. 1635A/12 to Connav, B.A.D.)

ARCOLA,
TAIGETE. A.M. 0203A/11 M.W.T. state that arrangements
have been made with local company at Amba, that
ARCOLA should load 8,000 tons fuel oil and
TAIGETE 6,000 tons marine diesel oil.
(Head of M.Branch 1637A/12 to S.B.N.O. Curacao, (R)
S.B.N.O.W.At. B.A.D., B.R.L.O. Aruba.)

U/B. Following read, one S/M on surface 065 4 020
52.15 N. 28.00 W.
(Ship at sea 1650Z/11 to Admty.)

French Fleet
Re-armament Comments regarding air sections of signal
of 1st March.
(Air Min. 1700Z/12 to Britman, Washington.)

CAIRO. Your 1837/24th Feb. Derrick Barge CAIRO will
not now proceed to Freetown but will be
employed in Western Atlantic.
(D.O.D.(F) 1716A/12 to B.A.D. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.
S.B.N.O.W.At. S.B.N.O. Trinidad, N.S.H.Q.)

Visit to
Ottawa. / Personal for 1st S.L.
Am visiting Ottawa for two or three days next
week in case you have anything you would like me
to discuss with Nelles.
(B.A.D. 1743Z/12 to Admty.)

For 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S. I hope to leave New York on Monday
15th by American Export Airline via Foynes.
(B.A.D. 2253Z/12 to Admty.)

H.X. 229,
M.O.E.T.U.
24.1.18. H.X. 229. 1. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18 H/F D/F
(S.O.) ABELIA, PENNYWORT, SHERBROOKE, ANEMONE,
BEVERLEY, HIGHLANDER H/F D/F designated Ocean
Escort for H.X. 229.
2. HIGHLANDER sails about 36 hours late to
overtake and will assume S.O. on joining. BEVERLEY sails 24
hours late to overtake.
3. T.U. 24.12.3 WITHERINGTON (S.O.) MANSFIELD sail as support
Unit.
(C.C.N.F. 1744Z/12 to Cominch C. and R. (R) C.T. 24. C.O.A.C.
N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. VOLUNTEER, WITHERINGTON, HIGHLANDER,
Admty. Cmdre. Londonderry, C.T.G. 24.7 C.T.G. 24.6 T.U. 24.18.7)

/O.N....

12.3.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

O.N. 170 O.N. 170, your 1644Z/12, (N.T. in W.D.) negative in view C.T.U. 24.1.16 dispatches 1212Z/11 and 1705Z/11 also prevailing weather conditions. (Cominch C. and R. 1825/12 to Admty.)

My 1536/12th. In view of U-Boat concentration area 52 to 56 N. 40 to 46 W. Advise reinforcing escort group O.N. 170 as practicable Comtask 24 has for action by other means. (Cominch 2352/12 to C.T. 24 (R) C. in C.Lant. Admty. C.T.U. 24.1.16.)

Oiling at Sea. A.M. 1735/1st March. Proposed measures. (Admty. 1828A/12 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C.W.A.)

BUTTERMERE, 5 sweeps. BUTTERMERE and 5 Sweeps departed Salinas 1100Z/12 for Recife E.T.A. 17th. Coastal route. Speed Advance 8 knots. Sweeps 57 and 58 depart Salinas 2000Z/12 routed through:
O. 00.22 S. 44.18 W. P. 02.27 S. 40.07 W.
Q. 05.02 S. 34.56 W. R. 07.39 S. 34.28 W.
thence Recife S.O.A. 9 knots E.T.A. Recife 17th. (Comsolant 1916/12 to Cominch, (R) Cinclant, N.O.B. Trinidad, B.A.D. Admty. Cominch C. and R. F.O.C.W.A.)

S/Ms for A/S training. Cmdre. i/c 1615/10 and previous correspondence on the subject of submarines for A/S training on the Atlantic coast of Canada and Newfoundland. 2. Request an early decision on N.S.H.Q's Memorandum N.S.G. 1037 - 1937 dated 7th Jan. 1943.

3. As a temporary measure the following allocations are proposed: A. P.544 to remain at St. Johns for training of Air and Surface Escort Groups. B. SEAWOLF to remain under the orders of Capt. D.Halifax for working up ships after refits and for training of air and surface escort groups. C. P.512 to Digby N.S. On completion of refit in U.S.A. about 31st March this submarine will be under operational orders of C.O. CORNWALLIS or A/S school training. D. P.553 to Bermuda when required. 4. An additional submarine for the East Coast is considered essential to assist at Halifax or Digby and as a spare when one of the other three submarines is out of action or refitting. (N.S.H.Q. 1921Z/12 to Admty. (R) F.O.S. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. S.B.N.O.W.At. Cmdre. i/c Bermuda B.A.D.)

Washington Conference, Results. For 1st S.L. from V.C.N.S.
A. The conference is breaking up.
B. Results have been (a) Agreement as regards division of command. (b) Adoption of cycle proposed in A.M. 1743/27th Feb. (c) Re-allocation of escorts. Not as good as we hoped but nothing more was forthcoming. See my 1941Z/12. (Hush, most secret.) (d) Some improvement in the V.L.R. aircraft situation. C. I am hoping to tidy up the final papers with Admiral Edwards this afternoon and to make suggestions for implementing the

/recommendations...

War Diary.12.3.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West IndiesWashington
Conference,
Results.
(Contd.)recommendations of the conference.
D. I understand Admiral King will eventually
bring the conference papers before the Combined
Chiefs of Staff for formal noting.
(B.A.D. 1945Z/12 to Admty.)U/B.
QUEEN
ALIZABETH
(A.T.38.)U-Boat estimated your vicinity by D/F at
1741Z/12 probably has made sighting. Report
of a convoy or important unit. 12260 k/cs.
Estimated position of U-Boat 39 N. 47 W.
(Cominch 2020/12 to Action QUEEN ELIZABETH, for
information C. in C.Lant, Admty.)

LINCOLN.

LINCOLN expected to be ready to sail a.m. 22nd
March. Request destination.
(B.A.R.M. 2024Z/12 to F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. LINCOLN,
C.O.A.C. Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At.)

CHELSEA.

E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1100Z/13th.
(CHELSEA 2100Z/12 to F.O.C.N.F.)Sub.Attack
and sighting
summary.A. BRANT COUNTY, LAWTON B. EVANS, WILLIAM L.
SMITH torpedoed sunk area 52.05 N. 27.35 W,
night 10/11. Navy Plane sighted sub. 22.20 N.
85.2 W. 2025Z/11. ACONIT attacks two subs
area 51.23 N. 28.44 W. about 0100Z/11.
HARVESTER sights sub. submerging 51.20 N. 28.25 W.

2025Z/10. Surface Craft sight two subs. 58.54 N. 20.07 W.

1025Z/10. Action to Admiralty for O.I.C. From Cominch.

B. HARVESTER attacks Sound Contact Area 51.20 N. 28.25 W.
night 10/11th.C. PBY SAKES RADAR contact 19.30 N. 75.08 W. 1222Z/12. Sound
contact reported 19.48 N. 75.02 W. 1424Z/12. ATC plane
sights sub. Area 08 S. 14.30 W. 1815Z/11. S.S. SCORTON attacks
sub. 58.54 N. 20.07 W. 1025Z/10.

D. YI 24 attacks sound contact 32.37 N. 78.37 W. 0305Z/12.

C.G. 80014 makes sound contact 42.08 N. 70.02 W. 1730Z/12.

ATC plane sights two subs. 28.30 N. 84.25 W. 1605Z/11. NELSON
attacks sound contact 40.23 N. 69.02 W. 2322Z/11. S.S. CORNELL
reports two torpedo misses 28.52 N. 94.02 W. about 1830Z/11.
(Cominch 2137/12 to Admty.)*atlantic*
N.W. ~~attack~~
Command,
Appt. of
C. in C.Personal from Adm. King to Adm. Nelles.
I assume that approval will be given by all
concerned to the recommendation of the Convoy
Conference that forces protecting the Northern
Trade Convoys in the Western Atlantic be
transferred from U.S. to Canadian Command. In
order to facilitate and expedite arrangementsfor the turnover of command I suggest that you immediately
appoint the officer to become C. in C. Canadian North West
Atlantic Command as Deputy to Commander Task Force 24 until
the former relieves the latter.

(Cominch 2216/12 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. C. in C.Lant, C.T.F.24.)

Reply: 17022/14.

/BAZELY...

War Diary.

12.3.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

BAZELY. When ready about 14th sail BAZELY Boston to Bermuda. Advise T.O.D.route, S.O.A. (Cominch 2217/12 to C.E.S.F. (R) Com. I.Cinclant, S.B.N.O.W.At. Admty. N.O.B. Bermuda.)

ACHILLES. Direct N.O.B.Bermuda sail ACHILLES Bermuda to Plymouth England when ready about March 14th via A. 35.02 56.01 B. 37.30 44.05 C. 41.35 32.56 D. 44.10 22.30 E. 50.10 16.50 F. 49.40 06.15 thence destination. (Cominch 2218/12 to Cinclant, (R) info. N.O.B Bermuda, C. in C.W.A. Admty. N.Z.N.B. S.B.N.O. W.At.)

Atlantic Convoys, Schedules, Designations. F.O.I.C. Oran pass to C. in C.Allied Force C. in C.Mediterranean B.A.D. and Comsolant also have. As result of convoy conference propose following concerning convoys only.

1. Retain present designations for North Atlantic Trade Convoys but renumber O.B.N.Convoys with new serial numbers.
2. Establish Halifax as terminal for S.C. and O.N.S.Convoys.
3. Sail North Atlantic Convoys on following schedule.
 - (A) 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. 123 from New York March 13th S.C. 124 from New York March 20th S.C. 125 from Halifax March 31st then eight day intervals.
 - (C) O.N. 173 March 13th O.N. 174 March 21st, O.N. 175 nine knots March 24th, O.N. 176 March 31st then six day intervals to O.N. 178 April 12th then five day intervals.
 - (D) O.N.S.1 March 15th O.N.S. 2 March 28th then eight day intervals.
4. Established Boston Halifax (H.X/X.B) Convoys with sailings B.X. 38 from Boston March 23 then four day intervals. X.B. 38 sails Halifax about March 23rd upon arrival O.N.S. 171 then four day intervals.
5. Continue U.C/C.U.Convoys on approx. a 54 day interval under U.S. Escort. Tankers to make unescorted Shuttle Trip to supply oil to New York Pool during Western end layover.
6. Continue O.T/T.O.Convoys from Aruba under U.S.Escort on 28 day interval tankers to make Shuttle Trip as in para. 5 (o)
7. Continue U.G.Convoys under U.S.Escort fast Convoys as at present on about 5 day interval slow Convoys to be changed to fifteen day interval, sailing schedule later. K.M.Convoys to be synchronized with arrivals of U.G.Convoys at Gibraltar if practicable.
8. Discontinue Iceland (C) Shuttle and sail Iceland (C) shipping to U.K. to proceed thence to Iceland (C) in U.R.Convoys.
9. North Russian Convoys to sail as required under British Escort.
10. U.S.Coastal Caribbean Gulf and South Atlantic Convoys to continue on present 5 and 10 day intervals but with some changes in sailing dates by separate despatch.

/11....

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12.3.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

Atlantic
Convoys,
Schedules,
Designations.
(Contd.)

11. U.S. Ships in A3 Mid-ocean Group to be returned to U.S. Control as British new construction permits.

12. Mid-ocean Escorts to be composed of 14 British and Canadian Groups.

13. Western Locals to be composed of eleven Canadian Groups and to escort Transatlantic Trade Convoys between New York, Halifax and

Westomp and in addition to escort Boston, Halifax Convoys Para. present Command and "Chopline" to remain in effect until date to be announced later Para. request your early concurrence.

(Cominch 2219/12 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. (R) Cinclant, C.T.F.24. C. in C.W.A. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. B.A.D. Cmdres. All Seafrontant, C. in C.Allied Forces, C. in C.Med. Comsolant, F.O.I.C. Oran.) Amended see Cominch 1540/13. *Effective 18.3.43, see 1540/18/3, p. 749.*

U/B C.T.F.
33.

At 2030Z/12th U-Boats estimated 36.15 N. 38 W. 12 260 k/cs.

(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 2221/12 to C.T.F. 33, (R) C. in C.Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) Admty.)

W.L.E.T.U.
24.18.8.

E.T.A. 2200Z/13th. TRAIL, COBALT, TIMMINS. Fuel required.

(W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8 2255Z/12 to C.O.A.C. (R) Capt. D. N.S.H.Q.)

"Captain"
Class
Corvettes.

A.M. 2015/11. Estimated arrival dates of Capt. Class Corvettes in U.K. all as follows:

BAYNTUN and BAZELY mid April.

BERRY, BLACKWOOD and COCKBURN third week in May.

BENTINCK and BYARD first week in July.

BURGESS and CALDER first week in August.

DUCKWORTH first week in September.

DUFF end of September. ESSINGTON mid October.

(B.AD. 2303Z/12 to Admty.)

"Bangors."

Personal from 1st S.L.

Your 2022Z/11 is very good news and will help a lot.

(1st S.L. 2317A/12 to C.N.S.Canada.)

U/B U.G.S.6.

A.M. 2245A/12. D/F bearings at 2030Z/12 indicate U-Boat in your vicinity has probably reported you.

(D.D.I.C. 2340A/12 to Escorts of U.G.S.6.

(R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. F.O.I.C.Gib. F.O.C.W.A.F. S.N.O.C.A. C. in C.Med.)

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War Diary.12.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest
Serial
No. 415
March 11th.

Morning R/C. Liberator reported 1 very large Warship, 1 Heavy Cruiser, 1 Destroyer, 5 Small Cargo Vessels anchored Kavieng, and three small merchantmen heading towards Kavieng. Three bombers airborne, 2 landing, 3 in Blast Pens. Blurred photos reveal 2 probable Heavy Cruisers. 19 Bombers dispersed on aerodrome additional dispersal lanes and 18 dispersal bays under construction. (2) 2 Zeros including 1 landing sighted Lorengau Aerodrome mid-morning also small cargo vessel in harbour. (3) Two Convoys each comprising minimum 5 vessels with escorts reported noon position 1° S. 148° 20' E. course 310°. (5) Forenoon R/C. Bombed and straffed ground and apparently abandoned cargo vessel Open Bay. (6) 2 Destroyers including 1 damaged Wewak Harbour morning. (11) Photos (? Amboina 2nd) March reveal 1 5,000 ton Transport, 2 2,000 ton Transports, 1 500 ton Vessel.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0636Z/12.)

TRINITY.

U.S.S. TRINITY amended expected time of arrival Bombay 0700Z/20. My 0831/6 and 0520/20 refers. (N.O.I.C. Fremantle, 0931Z/12 to A.C.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. E.F., D/G of Shipping and Repairs).

SWAN,
KATOOMBA.

Your 2211A/10th arrival Port Moresby 7th SWAN, KATOOMBA (not ALAUNIA).
(A.C.N.B., 1031Z/12 to Admty.)

Movement.

Arrivals 11th.
Townsville Hired Transport TAROONA. Port Moresby Hired Transport DUNTROON. Portland Roads U.S. Transport (corrupt group) Orobay U.S. Transport

BONTEKOE.

12th: Brisbane Dutch Naval Store Ship SOEDOE. Townsville R.A.A.F. Store ship WANAKA. Port Moresby Hospital Ship MANUNDA.

Victualling Store Issuing ship MERKUR departed Townsville 12th for Palm Island.

(A.C.N.B., 1046Z/12 to Admty., Connav.)

Arrival Port Moresby 11th BENDIGO, BROOME, WARRAMUNGA, departure Sydney N.S.W. 9th BUNDABERG, WAGGA, WARRNAMBOOL for Brisbane. Milne Bay 10th WHYALLA for Cairns.

(A.C.N.B., 1111Z/12 to Admty.)

Arrival Tongatabu U.S.S. CYGNUS.

(D.N.I. Wellington, 2332Z/12 to Admty.)

War Diary.

12.3.1943.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1440A/12, 1447A/12)

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

1. Photographic R/C of Trondheim at noon today showed that TIRPITZ was not present. The Russians were asked to carry out R/C of Alten Fiord and Narvik; they have not yet succeeded in the former, and they state that Narvik is outside their range.
- M.T.B. attack on convoy. 2. M.T.Bs 624 (S.O. Lieut. K. Gemmell R.N.V.R.), 628 and 617 on patrol from Nore encountered an eastbound convoy in 52.40 N. 05.30 E. (off Terschelling) at 0216 today, consisting of 3 or 4 merchant vessels, one of them large, with 5 trawler type escorts. The large vessel and one small vessel were torpedoed and when last seen were heavily on fire. The enemy did not open fire.
- Convoy M.K.S.9. 3. PRESCOTT attacked two U-Boats at 2149A today in 45.05 N. 15.00 W. No results are reported.
- SS. OCEAN FREEDOM damaged at Murmansk. 4. There were persistent air raids on Murmansk by a small number of aircraft from 1930C/12 until 0600C/13 but there were no British or American casualties or damage. During a raid this afternoon SS. OCEAN FREEDOM was hit at No.6 berth; there were no casualties, but 3 holds, the stoke hold and engine room were flooded and the possibility of moving the ship for some months is very remote.
- Convoy O.S.44 attacked. 5. Convoy O.S.44 was attacked at 0440Z today in 42.45 N. 13.50 W. (about 200 miles west of Cape Finisterre). SS. SEMBILANGAN (ex WASGENWALD), CLAN ALPINE, MARCELLA and OPORTO were torpedoed and sunk. DJAMBI and SILVERBEECH were in collision at 0705Z; the former sank and the latter is keeping up with the convoy at present, with a damaged bow. TORDENE is 25 miles astern of the convoy with boiler defect.

13.3.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - Contd.

6. SS. KEYSTONE, a straggler from Convoy U.G.S.6 was torpedoed in 37.59 N. 37.40 W. at 2229 today (about 450 miles west of the Azores).

South Atlantic.

7. SS. EMPRESS OF CANADA (21,517 tons) reported that she had been torpedoed by an Italian U-Boat at 2359Z today in 01.13 S. 09.57 W. (about 580 miles S.S.E. of Freetown). The ship sank and F.O.C. W.Africa sent CROCUS, PETUNIA, BOREAS and CORINTHIAN to search for survivors with the assistance of aircraft.

The ship was proceeding unescorted at 17 knots or over. F.O.C.W.Af. considers that the possibility of leakage of information exists on the Capetown to Freetown northward bound route, on which so far as is known the only fast transports proceeding at 17 knots and over unescorted have been torpedoed, viz.: DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, LACONIA, ORONSAY, ORCADES and EMPRESS OF CANADA.

As far as the EMPRESS OF CANADA was concerned, however, the Admiralty considered that her encounter with a U-Boat was fortuitous.

Mediterranean.

8. S.O. Force H in NELSON with RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, ASHANTI, HAYDON, TARTAR, ILEX, HOLCOMBE, CALPE and RESTIVE arrived at Oran at 2010A today.

9. TAURUS sank a tug and a lighter by gunfire near Toulon today.

10. 828 Squadron from Malta obtained one hit on a tanker off the north coast of Sicily last night; one Albacore is missing.

13.3.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

11. 8 Ju.88s bombed Tripoli between 2340A/12 and 0310A today. Minelaying is suspected.

12. M.T.Bs. laid further mines inside Zembretta (Gulf of Tunis) last night. Three E-boats were encountered; one was left stopped and on fire and the others were last seen firing at each other.

13. Three mines were swept today off Cape de Garde.

East Indies.

14. SOBKRA, A/S whaler, attacked with depth charges at 1336Z in 25.48 N. 56.59 E, an object suspected to be a U-boat. Further attacks on the same object were made by SOLVRA, A/S whaler at 1315Z/14, and by SUTLEJ, R.I.N. sloop, at dawn on the 15th. Bubbles and oil came up all night on 13th/14th, and a sample of oil recovered by SOBKRA proved to be diesel. S.N.O. Persian Gulf considers that if the object was a U-boat it was definitely destroyed.

15. During patrol in the Andamans - Junkseylon Island area Dutch S/M 021 sank a 4,000 ton merchant ship off Port Blair today.

America & West Indies.

16. Convoys H.X.229 and 229 A sailed with only 39 ships each instead of 60.

U/B attack
on G.A.T.49.

17. The U.S. tanker CITIES SERVICE MISSOURI and Dutch SS. CERES were torpedoed in 14.50 N. 71.46 W. at 0845 G.M.T. Both sunk.

13.3.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

18. At noon today a convoy probably consisting of 5 medium merchant vessels escorted by 3 destroyers and Zero fighters was sighted in 03.15 S. 144 E. steering west. Seven Fortresses attacked the convoy after dark near Wewak. One vessel exploded violently and was left burning fiercely; and a destroyer and a 4,000 ton tanker were hit with 500 lb. bombs from 200 ft the tanker possibly sank.

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M
Movements. My 1834/11. Delayed by weather and defect to escort. E.T.A. Cumbræ 1700/13. (TRESPASSER). (A.C.O.S. 0937/13 to Capt. S.7.) SICKLE is to leave Sheerness as ordered by Bungay tomorrow and proceed with C.W.163 to Portsmouth.

2. Bungay is to detail one M.B.B.V. to act close escort to vicinity north east Spit Buoy when a M.L. to be detailed by N.O.I.C. Ramsgate and sailed as necessary to take over escort to destination.

3. Escorts are to take station astern of starboard column of convoy with SICKLE astern of escort.
(C. in C.Nore 1028A/13.)

1. Request you will arrange for O.14 to proceed Scapa for A/S training on completion of repairs.

2. On relief by O.14 USURPER is to proceed to Lerwick for short stand-off, followed by a working-up patrol.
(F.O.S. 1428A/13 to Capt. S.9.)

My 1459/11. Add thence H.34 as ordered by N.O.I.C. Londonderry.
(Capt. S.7 1452A/13.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/14 and movements for following 24 hours.

(a) JUNON off Andford.

(b) SPORTSMAN, SIMOON, and TUNA escorted by KING HAAKON VII vicinity Ailsa Craig due Holy Loch 1200/14.

(c) URSULA escorted by ASIE vicinity St. Albans Head for Portsmouth 8 knots.

(d) UNRULY escorted by CUTTY SARK leaves Clyde 2000/14 due 360° Round Island 7 miles at 1800/16th.

(e) H.34 escorted by KIHNA leaves Rothesay 2000/14th due Londonderry 0800/15th.

(f) DZIK 49° 50' N. 10° 26' W. dived by day through 49° 50' N. 12° 34' W. 49° 10' N. 13° 22' W. thence to southward daily advance 105 miles.

(g) SHAKESPEARE 49° 23' N. 12° 40' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W. and 43° 01' N. 12° 54' W. daily advance 120 miles.

(h) ULTOR 45° 08' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day due 43° 00' N. 12° 54' W. at 2100/15th.

(j) HERRING in zones K.505 and K.501 South of 44° 25' N.

(k) SHAD in zone K.508.

(l) SICKLE, leaves Nore 14th in C.W. 163 for Portsmouth

(m) TRESPASSER towing X.6 escorted by ALECTO leave Rothesay 0700/15th for port H.H.Z. speed 8 knots.

(n) X.5 and X.7 towed by TEDWORTH and FIDELE leave Rothesay 0730/15th for port H.H.Z. speed 6 knots.
(F.O.S. 1719A/13.)

Your 1028/13. M.L. 291 detailed. (for SICKLE.)
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1907A/13 to C. in C.Nore.)

/DUKE...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.DUKE OF
YORK.

Sail at 1800/14th and proceed by searched channels to Scapa.
Destroyer escort will R/V at Inch Keith (R.A.D.H.F.'s 1031/13th refers.)
(C. in C.Rosyth 1835A/13 to DUKE OF YORK.)

Home Fleet.

My 1721/1st. Cancel para. 1 and 2. Following are revised intentions.
20th March F.O.C. 10th C.S. BELFAST with HOWE, GLASGOW leaves Scapa 0800 for Hvalfjord. V.A.2. in ANSON with F.O.C. 1st C.S. in KENT, BERWICK, BERMUDA leaves Hvalfjord for Scapa.
2. R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to detail 3 destroyers to screen HOWE.
(C. in C.H.F. 1846A/13 to Admty.)

Operations.Coastal
Patrols.

Intend M.G.Bs. 55 (S.O.) and 53 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
2. Leaving Weymouth at 1915 via Q.Z.S. 382 for patrol-line and leaving patrol line at dawn/14.
3. Object: Anti-E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device."
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1032A/13.)
Weather permitting sweep as in my 1355/12 to be carried out tonight by 2 M.G.B. and 3 M.T.B.
Possible merchant vessel movements from Le Havre to Boulogne. There are indications that enemy traffic now keeps close inshore.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1205A/13.)
Cancel my 1032A/13 owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1703A/13.)

Unknown
action on
night 11th/
12th. M.G.B.
114 damaged.

Following damage was sustained by M.G.B. 114 in action on night of 11/12 March. 37 M.M. H.E. incendiary projectile detonated on planking on starboard side under gunwhale in way of tank space. Heavy base of projectile caused a fire in tank space which was extinguished before much damage was occasioned. Damage to hull structure is small but removal of damaged petrol tanks necessitates removal of canopy W/T office and section of bridge armour. Estimate that repairs will take 3 or 4 weeks.
(WASP 1245A/13 to Dutch Naval Liaison Officer.)

Enemy
Convoy
attacked.
2 M/Vs.
damaged.

M.T.B. 624 (S.O.) with M.T.Bs. 628 and 617 reports encountering an eastbound convoy in 52° 40' N. 05° 30' E. at 0216/13. Convoy consisted of three or four merchant vessels, one large, with five trawler-type escorts.
Unit fired five torpedoes, two hits being observed on two separate targets, but three explosions were felt. Column of water was observed on main target, a ship of about 4,500 tons, followed by highfall of smoke and steam. A

/large...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Enemy
Convoy
attacked.
2 M/Vs.
damaged.
(Contd.)

large quantity of smoke observed on smaller target of about 1000 tons. Two fires were seen five minutes later. When last seen both targets were blazing fiercely. Our casualties and damage nil. No gunfire from the enemy. (C. in C. Nore 1448A/13.)

Biscay
Patrol.

UGANDA, MUSKETEER, and METEOR are to R/V at 0800A/14 in 048° 45' N. 010° 52' W. and return in company through 180° Bishop Rock 10 to Plymouth.

2. UGANDA to leave vicinity of M.K.S.9 at dark today, steering pass north of ULTOR, and destroyers to part company with KENYA as necessary after dark today.

3. Daylight 14th. KENYA is to remain within 60 miles of M.K.S. 9 estimated to be in 046° 36' N. 014° 50' W. at 0800/14 steering 002° 7½ knots. KENYA to operate West of 14° W.

4. At dark 14th KENYA to proceed passing through position P. 045° 40' N. 021° 55' W. Q. 043° 02' N. 021° 56' W. and thence Gibraltar.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to signal onward route. (C. in C. Plymouth 1651A/13 to UGANDA, KENYA, (R) CARLISLE) (F.O.S. 2136A/13 to S/MS.)

Allied Air Activity.

Altenfjord
R/C.

My 1031/11. R/C of Altenfjord attempted today but prevented due to weather. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1131A/13 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Biscay Area.

At least 6 F/W A/C active from Bordeaux at 0825/13. (D.D.I.C. 0906A/13 to Escorts O.S. 44, M.K.S.9, CARLISLE, KENYA, UGANDA.)

Murmansk
bombed.

Persistent raids by small number of planes 1930C/12 till 0600C/13. Slight damage in town and railway yards. No British or American damage or casualties. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1222A/13 to Admty.)

Homing
U/Boats.

F.W. 200 aircraft are probably homing U-Boats on to convoy M.K.S. 9 or O.S.44. (D.D.I.C. 1236A/13 to Escorts M.K.S.9 O.S.44.)

/Scapa...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Scapa. At 1204 today hostile A/C was plotted by R.D.F. 120° A Buoy 155 miles. At 1250 it was 120° A buoy 45 miles. Turned N.E. and then E., height 32,000 feet. Fighters failed to intercept. Photographs to Flow improbable. (A.C.O.S. 1515/13 to Admty.)

Scapa on 12th Your 1227/12. At 0808 an unidentified A/C was March. detected by R.D.F. 87 miles E. of Kirkwall flying E. at 2,000 feet plotted until 0811 when track faded 100 miles E. of Kirkwall 8,000 feet.

It is not considered likely that a high-flying A/C could have escaped R.D.F. detection or, in view of cloud conditions prevailing (4/10) a low reconnaissance possible without visual detection. (A.C.O.S. 1656/13 to Admty.)

Mining.

S.O.90A. R.A.M. 1204/8. Para., 2 CHARYBDIS detailed. (C. in C.H.F. 1952A/13 to R.A.M.) Your 1952A/13. Intend sailing 2230A/15. (CHARYBDIS 2242A/13 to C. in C.H.F.)

Q.L.1A. My 1204/1. Operation Q.L. 1A postponed until Q.R.7A. next dark period. Prepare to carry out operation Q.R.7A with centre in 052° 17' 30" N. 004° 19' 30" E. on 1st suitable night with mines ordered for Q.L. 1A. (C. in C.Nore 2136A/13 to BEEHIVE.)

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ. Photographic R/C of Trondheim at 1200/13 shows TIRPITZ not present. (D.D.I.C. 1750A/13.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. D/F bearings at 0002Z/13 indicate U-Boat within 60' of 67° 30' N. 05° 40' W. (D.D.I.C. 0915A/13.) My 2227. Submarine sighted and chased ahead of convoy M.K.S.9 PRESCOTT and NAPANEE searching area. (ST. CROIX 2348Z/13 to C. in +C.W.A.)

/U-Boat...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - Contd.U-Boat
attacked.

On day 12th March. 1 Whitley sighted a U-Boat 180 miles S.W. of Bishops Rock. An attack was made with depth-charges which fell 100 yards ahead of the U-Boat and 200 rounds were fired. No results were seen.
(H.Q.B.C. 1630A/13.)

Technical.Oiling at
Sea.

Your 1306/12. Admiralty informed me on 26th January that investigation had shown buoyancy hose method to be impracticable in escort carrier. Nevertheless I am fully in agreement that further investigation should be made. BITER will be at Tail o' the Bank 14th/19th March.
(R.A.A.H.F. 1334A/13 to C. in C.W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

BORAGE.

My 1250A/12. BORAGE defective.
(F.O.I.C. M.I. 1051A/13.)

BUSTLER.

Admiralty 1906/12. BUSTLER delayed at Stornoway by defect. E.T.D. 0700/14.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1200/13.)

NORTHERN
PRIDE.

C. in Cs. 1555A/11. Have new propeller in Greenock awaiting fitting. Permission is requested to proceed to Greenock to collect same en route Belfast.
(NORTHERN PRIDE 1515A/13 to C. in C.W.A.)

ACTIVITY.

Since ACTIVITY may become operational at short notice I would be grateful if certain urgent defects could be taken in hand now to fit her for service.

(R.A.A.H.F. 1931A/13 to Admty.)

CAPETOWN.

Steam trawler CAPETOWN H. 998 anchored off Stepper Point to pump out ship owing to fire having occurred on board, will then proceed on to Milford Haven.
(R.N.O. Padstow 1952A/13 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- S.C. 121. Following from MALLOW. Your 2052/12 has been complied with. My wireless transmitter defective.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 0025Z/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
SPENCER 2400Z/12 P.C. and S. 055° 48' N. 007° 11' W. 114° 7.5'
At 0200Z/14 117°. E.T.A. Altacarry 0520Z/(?16.)
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 0030Z/13 to C. in C.W.A. KIRKELLA.)
At 0030/13 ceased escorting EMPIRE BUNTING in 056° 43' N. 011° 58' W. BIBB heading for 057° 52' N. 013° 05' W. thence to Reykjavik. Speed 10 knots.
(BIBB 0200Z/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. in SPENCER, plus GREER, DIANTHUS, ROSTHERN, DAUPHIN, TRILLIUM arrived from S.C. 121.
(C.T.G. 24.7 1900A/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
Report situation. VIZALMA proceed to Belfast.
(C. in C.W.A. 2339A/13 to AUBRETIA.)
- O.S. 44. Convoy attacked in 042° 46' N. 013° 33' W.
SEMBILANGAN, (ROCHESTER 0440Z/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
CLAN ALPINE, SSSS torpedoed.
MARCELLA, (Ship No. 84 T.O.R. 0440 G.M.T/13 to Convoy
OPORTO, O.S. 44.)
DJAMBI, My 0440Z/13. Accurate position of attack 042°
sunk. 45' N. 013° 50' W. SEMBILANGAN, CLAN ALPINE,
SILVERBEECH MARCELLA, OPORTO, torpedoed and sunk. Operation
damaged. by escorts failed to contact U-Boats of which it
is considered that at least 2 attacked from
starboard side. DJAMBI and SILVERBEECH in collision
at 0705Z. Former sunk. SILVERBEECH bow damaged
but able to maintain convoy speed at present, intend detaching
her with Gibraltar Section. TORDENE is 25 miles astern of
convoy with boiler defect and following stragglers route.
Entire complement of DJAMBI is aboard FLEETWOOD. SCARBOROUGH has
67 survivors from CLAN ALPINE and one from SEMBILANGAN. SPIREA
has one from OPORTO. Intend to transfer survivors to Gibraltar
Section if circumstances permit. My P.C. and S. at 1300Z/13
041° 35' N. 013° 15' W. 140° 8 knots.
(ROCHESTER 1355Z/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
- IRISH WILLOW. A.M. 1552/15 January. Cominch C. and R. draw
attention to N.C.S.O. Swansea 1555/3 March which
does not appear to conform.
(B.A.D. 0457Z/13 to Admty.)
- R.A. 53. Scapa arrival SCYLLA.
(A.C.O.S. 0701/13.)
HORSA and CEILING located RICHARD BLAND after
dark on 12th and intend to report on
possibility of salvage at daylight today Saturday.
(A.C.I.C. 0902A/13 to Admty.)

/Have...

13.3.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- R.A.53
(Contd.) Have detached IMPULSIVE to Scapa via Seidisfjord at 1100A today owing to serious condition of one survivor and shortage of fuel. I am continuing to search until dusk, then proceed to Scapa in accordance with your 1937A/12. Weather 5371 9155.
(ORKAN 1120A/13 to Capt. D.3.)
- J.H.LATROBE now at Seidisfjord ex R.A.53 can steam 2 knots and 4 knots for short period. Rudder damaged and part missing. Steering by tackle and winch. Master is satisfied she can make U.K. with assistance of tug. Intend sailing her in tow of HORSIA as soon as convenient. Latter is available on conclusion of salvage attempted on RICHARD BLAND. One Iceland Command Trawler will be provided as escort. Request destination.
(A.C.I.C. 1239/13 to Admty.)
Scapa arrivals Capt. D.8 in FAULKNER with ECLIPSE, FURY, ORWELL.
(A.C.O.S. 1326/13.)
Your 1120A/13. Return to Scapa forthwith.
(Capt. D.3 1339A/13 to ORKAN.)
My P.C. and S. at 1600A, 066° 29' N. 010° 05' W. 153° 17'. Routed east of Faroe Islands.
(?ORKAN 1613A/13 to Capt. D.3.)
Scapa arrival OPPORTUNE.
(A.C.O.S. 1618/13.)
Your 1613A/13. Proceed through Q.Z.L. 45 and west of mine barrier as in my 1430A/12.
(Capt. D.3 1755A/13 to ORKAN.)
Following is a repetition IMPULSIVE 1300/13 to A.C.I.C.
- E.T.A. Seidisfjord 2000/13 with 2 surgical cases. Is any fuel available.
(A.C.I.C. 1831A/13 to Capt. D.3.)
Seidisfjord MILNE arrived 1300/13, departed 1435/13.
(A.C.I.C. 2140A/13 to C. in C.H.F.)
- M.K.S.9. One enemy A/C shadowing convoy. Height 1,000 feet position 45° 52' N. 14° 57' W. course 006° speed 8 knots.
(ST. CROIX 0910Z/13.)
Submarine sighted (?on surface) (?and) forced to dive. Convoy position (?045°) 05' N. 014° 57' W.
(ST. CROIX 2227Z/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
My 2227. Submarine sighted and chased ahead of convoy. PRESCOTT and NAPANEE searching the area with orders to rejoin at daylight.
(ST. CROIX 2348Z/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
- H.X. 228. D/F bearings at 0756Z/13 on 7640 k/cs indicate U-Boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1001A/13 to Escorts H.X. 228.)

/1. Ships...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- H.X.228.
(Contd.)
1. Ships bound Clyde and Mersey capable of 12 knots are to be detached at dark tonight escorted by SABRE and further escorts at S.O's discretion to 007° W. thence independently. Designation H.X. No. 228F.
3. Loch Ewe section be escorted to 057° N. thence independently. (C. in C.W.A. 1538A/13 to Escorts H.X. 228.)
- ~~My~~ My 2030Z/12. STUART PRINCE has rejoined convoy. Delete all references to TETELA. Add in ORANGELEAF, 16 U.S. merchant service officers, 46 others which includes 16 U.S. Naval gunners. Master and 21 of ALF LUCKENBACH included in above. Have been unable to ascertain ships of remainder. Have instructed RENONCULE to embark these survivors in vicinity of Barrahead weather permitting for passage to Clyde. If weather unsuitable ORANGELEAF to inform N.O.I.C. Loch Alsh. (ESCAPADE 2034Z/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N. and
O.N.S.
Convoys.
(STOCKPORT.)
- No information was received that STOCKPORT had been overdue Halifax since 28th February. 2. It is submitted that Connav be requested to signal a summary for each O.N. and O.N.S. convoy in a similar manner to that adopted by Admiralty for H.X. and S.C. convoys. This signal should disregard ships which are detached for Southerly ports. (C. in C.W.A. 1109Z/13 to Admty.)
- K.M.F. 11
and W.S.28.
- Intend to sail WOODPECKER escorting JAN VAN OLDENBARNEFELDT, CUBA, BRITANNIC, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, ONTES, OTRANTO and WAIPANA 2300Z/15 for R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles. E.T.A. R/V 1500/16. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1116A/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
- K.M.F. 11.
- RANGITATA delayed with engine defect. Uncertain can sail tonight. Propose keeping escort ready in Barry Roads. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1132A/13 to Admty.)
- Cancel my 1239/10 (RANGITATA)
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1148A/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Your 1132A/13. Concur.
(C. in C.W.A. 1304A/13 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)
A.M. 1702/9. Now intend sail RANGITATA escorted by TRENT at 1400/14 March from Breaksea Light Vessel by standard route to Clyde. E.T.A. 1600/15.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1616A/13.)
My 1221/10. SKATE is to escort Clyde portion and is to return to Rothesay from Oversay R/V.
(C. in C.W.A. 1723A/13.)

/R.U....

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- R.U. 64. Your 1905/4. BENJAMIN WILLIAMS sailed for U.K.
R.U.66. in R.U. 64 but returned to Reykjavik on 10th
BENJAMIN March owing to cargo shifting.
WILLIAMS. 3. Intend sailing vessel again in R.U. 66.
(A.C.I.C. 1206A/13 to Admty.)
- T.A.38. Convoy T.A. 38 consisting of S.S. QUEEN
ELIZABETH will be ready to leave Clyde p.m. 19th
March for Halifax N.S.
2. Ship will sail independently and maximum A/A
and A/S air protection is to be provided.
3. Route B. 270° Oversay at 0800Z/20. C. 55.05 18.02
D. 46.01 23.58 E. 43.00 33.04 F.43.10 45.03 G. 42.58 60.01
thence to Halifax.
(D.O.D.H. 1600A/13.)
- Atlantic Convoy Escorts. At present have but 3 serviceable escorts
INGHAM, BIBBCAHT, BABBITT which will be increased
to 4 on arrival of UPSHUR from S.C. 122.
SCHENCK on undocking in about one week is sche-
duled to sail for U.S. with returning N.Y.7.
2. Immediate commitments can be met as follows (A) Two escorts
for O.N.S.J. one composed of 9 to 11 ships will also meet
S.C. 122. It appears at this time that "Chop" for O.N.S.J.
one will be sailed more to eastward than usual to cover same
escort meeting S.C. 122 so will sail O.N.S.J. one accordingly.
B. One escort for H.X.L. 229A (S.S. NORTH KING) (designations
of escorts to follow.)
(C.T.G. 24.6 1640Z/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
ASSINIBOINE is expected to be out of action for at least
6 weeks.
2. JED is required if possible to join her proper group on
return with S.C. 124.
3. Do you anticipate being able to provide a substitute from
your side to sail with O.N. 179 on April 17th?
(C. in C.W.A. 2251Z/13 to F.O.N.F.)
- X.K.3. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1928/12. BORAGE, DIANELLA,
LUNENBURG are to be sailed March 16th to
reinforce X.K.3 escorted by MOOSEJAW, VILLE DE
QUEBEC, KITCHENER, IMPERIALIST.
(C. in C.W.A. 1656A/13 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
- M.K.F.10A. My 0502/11. para 5. Details are as follows:
Survivors ATHLONE CASTLE. 974. CAMERONIA 379. LETITIA 114,
from EMPIRE including survivors 1 from EMPIRE MORDRED and 50
MORDRED from FORT BATTLE RIVER. Details.
and FORT (D.S.T. 1722A/13.)
BATTLE RIVER.

/K.M.S.11...

13.3.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.S.11. My 1106A/11. Codeword "Coupling" sailed. My 1108A/11. also refers.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1738A/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
- K.M.S.12. My 1655/17. Escort of K.M.S.12 is to consist of 44th Group plus 4 ships of M/S F.16.
(C. in C.W.A. 1820A/13 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Atlantic Convoys. Destroyer Escorts for Escort Carriers. / Whilst fully appreciating the general shortage of escort vessels I am loath to relinquish proposal contained in my 2357/20 Feb. and reaffirmed in para. 5 of my 1807/5 March that two long-legged destroyers be provided for the protection of each of the first escort carriers. Much depends on the successful employment of these carriers, especially of the first two who must initiate and try out tactics for those that follow.

2. It would be a severe setback to lose either or both prematurely, not only for the intrinsic loss of valuable ships and men but also because it would delay the gaining of essential experience from which, if new Swordfish weapons prove as successful as anticipated, a shrewd blow with all the elements of surprise may be struck at the enemy in the battle of the Atlantic.
3. The support-groups also have much to learn tactically before they can hope to obtain maximum killing efficiency and it would hamper and confuse them to add the protection of an aircraft carrier as a first call on their energies whilst bent on developing purely offensive activities.
4. The use of only two destroyers with each carrier is in any case regarded as the bare minimum to ensure safety and I consider that a paper strength of three to each carrier is really essential. It is proposed to employ PATHFINDER, PENN, and PANTHER, with ARCHER or BITER whichever is ready first. Three other destroyers are therefore required at once to provide for the other carrier.
5. With the commitments anticipated it is quite impossible to provide these three escorts from W.A. resources and it is requested therefore that three long-legged destroyers may be obtained for this purpose from some other source.
(C.in C.W.A. 1848A/13 to Admty.)

A.T.38. From S steer for new position W. 45.01 N. 23.58 W., new X 54.30 E. 18.00 W. thence to V.
(D.O.D.H. 1908A/13 to QUEEN ELIZABETH.)

M.K.F.10B. M.K.F.10B. Items 10,11,12. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, DUCHESS OF YORK, DURBAN CASTLE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
(D.F.D. 2111A/13 to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B reports. D/F bearings on 12260 k/cs at MMM 2052Z indicate U-boat in vicinity of 28° 30' N. 15° W. (D.D.I.C., 0155A/13 to F.O.I.C. Gib. F.O.C.W.Af)

Escort of Transports. Re escort for ANDES, etc. (C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, 0650/13 - See America & West Indies).

C.D.4 My 1115Z/12th, add convoy codeword "Bangtail" for C.D.4. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 0900Z/13 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C.T.F.37).

U.S. Ships and Landing Craft. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 0330/9, S.B.N.O.W.A.'s 2125Q/3 and 2129Z/4 (re departures of U.S. Ships and Landing craft) situation not clear. Request composition and estimated P.C. and S. for each group. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1012A/13 to Cominch (R) Admty). Reply: 1705Z/13 See A.W.I.

Situation Reports. 2002A/13th. O.S.44 ROCHESTER (E) 040° 58' 012° 18' through 040° 01' 011° 30' thence 168° 8½. 2. M.K.F.10 (B) 038° 59' 015° 03' through 040° 01' 016° 15' thence (?310°) 13. 3. C.D.4 F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE 030° 44' 010° 20' through 029° 22' 010° 50' and 028° 22' 012° 53' thence 215° 9. 4. CARLISLE 043° 53' 015° 23' through 043° 01' 015° 28' and 040° 1' 017° 01' thence 180° 17. 5. (4) TACTICIAN through 043° 01' 012° 26' at 0330/14th thence 158° diving by day 2½ surface at night 10½ 140 miles per day. 6. KENYA 048° 03' 014° 30' through 043° 01' 014° 31' thence 212° 18. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1015A/13).
Situation 2000A/13th. IMPERIALIST R/V 2 M/Vs off Tagus 2100A 13th and escort coastwise to Guadalquivir 8. 2. UNA 036° 01' 006° 28' through 36.37 07.24 at 0310/14th thence 279° dive by day 2 surface by night 8.2 110 miles per day. 3. G.U.S.5. Oran (?for) WISHART passes Europa Point 1500/14th Westbound 8. 4. M.L. 341, MIRROR working cable vicinity 35.51 05.37. 5. C.G.18, 2 U.S. destroyers, 2 P.C's sail from Casablanca 1100A/14th through Q.K.A.92 thence 043° 9. 6. 2 U.S. destroyers, 2 P.Cs. sail 1800/13th through 35.30 08.40, 34.20 08.40 and 33.58 07.35 thence to Casablanca 15. 7. BURWELL sail 0700/14th through Q.K.A.87 thence 276° 20. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1032A/13).
My 1032/13th add new para 8. NASTURTIUM, CONVULVULUS sail at 1100/14th 275° 12½. (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2032A/13)

/NYASSA...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

NYASSA

Ministry of Marine communicated that SS. NYASSA will leave Lisbon 17th March with troops and war materials for Azores and Madeira, returning to Lisbon with troops.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1029/13 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar,
(R) Admty. (D.N.I.))

BURWELL,
HORORATA.

Intend to sail BURWELL a.m./14th to proceed direct Ponta Delgada to fuel E.T.A. p.m./16th thence Horta E.T.A. a.m./17th to transfer stores and C.B. to HORORATA.

(2) BURWELL will then escort HORORATA to U.K.
(3) B.N.A. Lisbon is requested to report if Portuguese authority have any objection to BURWELL entering Horta after fuelling at Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1101A/13 to R.O. Horta, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada. B.N.A. Lisbon (R) Admty).

U/B attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 26° 29' N., 15° 30' W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 300° estimated speed 6 knots.
(A/C HG7/F, 1140A/13)
My 1140A, have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C HG7/F, 1210A/13)

GHERARDI

Comply with my 1115/12 in regard to return to Casablanca as early as daylight 17th March, whether or not relieved, in order to prepare return escort U.G.S. convoy.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1144Z/13 to GHERARDI (R) F.O.C.W.A. C.T.F.37) See also South Atlantic, 0055/13.

ANTHONY,
ARROW,
VERITY,
VANOC.

F.O.C. Gib. 1942/10 Feb. and N.C.X.F. 1137/11 Feb.
ANTHONY and ARROW should be ready to leave U.K. 15th April and 1st May respectively.
2. VERITY can be taken in hand at Portsmouth dockyard and VANOC at Thornycroft's, Southampton, both about mid April.

3. Request you will sail VERITY and VANOC to comply and inform addressees as soon as possible anticipated date of arrival.

(D.O.D. (F), 1224A/13 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., A.S. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Southampton, Capt. (D)13)

CARLISLE

On crossing 43° N. proceed through new positions Q 040° 01' N., 017° 01' W. R. 038° 01' N. 017° 01' W. thence direct to Q.K.A. 87 omitting O and I 2½ Paravanes are to be streamed as convenient before crossing 007° W.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1241A/13 as amended 1455A/13 to CARLISLE (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Med).

/UNA...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

UNA My 1801/11. Sailed S/M UNA,
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1251A/13 to Admty. F.O.S. (R)
C. in C. Med. etc).

G.U.S.5 Intend sail G.U.S.5 Casablanca section consisting
of 10 ships (list) escorted by Task Force 35,
PARKER (Capt. Wattles) BOYLE, LAUB, MGLEISH
McCORMICH, OVERTON at 0600A/15th to R/V with
Mediterranean Section position (F) 34.24 N. 08.22 W. at 1400A/15
thence routed accordance Admty. 1900/6. S. of A. 9 knots,
destination all ships New York. First "Chop" 10° West 0200Z/16.
Second "Chop" 40° W. 1900Z/23rd.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1325/13 to Connav, Admty. C. in C. Med., (W),
(R) Cinclant, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Coms. N.O.B. Oran, N.O.B. Casa.
etc).

MANXMAN Your 2334/10 (requesting when MANXMAN can be made
available for passage to U.K.)
1. Latest docking priorities include docking
PRINSES BEATRIX and QUEEN EMMA before MANXMAN.
2. If these priorities are maintained, anticipate MANXMAN
available for passage to U.K. 2nd week in May.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1409/13 to Admty).

UNRULY UNRULY leaving Scilly Is. at 1800A/16th March
diving by day route Red to 043° N., E.T.A. 0500A
22nd. 105 miles a day.
2. Communications.
3. S.Ps. carried.
4. UNRULY is painted grey with light grey numbers on C/T.
(Capt. S.3., 1411A/13 to F.O. Gibraltar)

T.E.19 Intend sailing for Algiers (list) Oran (list)
and Philippeville (list).
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1512A/13 to C. in C. Med., (R)
Admty. etc).

PRESIDENT Arrived Gibraltar 2100A/11 March.
HOUDUCE. (PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, 1700A/13 to F.N.F.L. London)

Stores Following Naval Armament stores shipped to
Gibraltar in SS. WANDERER sailed U.K. loading port
11th March 1943. (list).
(D.D.A.S.(L) 1703A/13 to F.O. Gib. etc)

MADOERA My 1237/8th (Re survivors from SS. MADOERA adrift)
survivors. Ministry of Marine communicate that aircraft
search failed to locate survivors.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1713/13 to Admty).

/Movements...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.Movements
Gibraltar.

2. Arrivals: LA SETOISE from escort duties Melilla. ST. NECTAN, ARCTIC RANGER with 4 M.Vs. from Melilla. LORD?NUFFIELD with one M/V from Almeria.

Departures: CADMUS, ESPIEGLE M/S Sweep. Cable ship MIRROR escorted by M.L. 341 Tangier/Gibraltar, cable repairs. U.S. ships SIMPSON, MURPHY P.Cs. 472, 482 for Casablanca.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1950A/13 to Admty. etc).Air
Report.

A.I. 238 13 March. Op. Sum. No. 132. for 24 hours ended 1800 hours 13 March.

(G) Sightings and attacks. Hudson N.233 (Agadir Detach) on escort T.O.2 attacked with D/Cs and gunfire a U-boat on surface at 1925/12

27.32 N. 14.05 W. Co. 190° 15 knots. Only 1 explosion 5 feet astern and slightly to port. U/B submerged 20 seconds after attack. 1 possible body in sea. Hudson F.233 (Agadir Detach) escort to T.O.2 attacked with E.C.F. a U-boat at 1140/13

26.29 N. 15.30 W. Co. 300° 6 knots, no further details.

Ref. Opsum 131 12 March periscope sighted by Hudson V.233 (Agadir detach) at (?) 1740/12 27.50 N. 14.08 W. Hudson dropped 4 D/Cs 45 yards ahead of swirl 7 seconds after submersion. No results seen.

(H. Q., R.A.F., Gibraltar, 2135Z/13)

KEYSTONE
torpedoed.

SSSS KEYSTONE 39.59 N. 37.40 W. torpedoed. (Burnham Radio, 2229/13 to Admty) (C. in C. Portsmouth - from Seaforth Radio, 2240/13 and Humber Radio 2334/13, both give latitude as 37.59 N. not 39.59)

Area 2A B.A.M.S. Submarine attacking 37.59 N. 37.40 W. at 2230 G.C.T./13.

(Cominch 2256/13 to Admty).

KEYSTONE, U.S. 5565 tons was a straggler from convoy U.G.S.6. (D.O.R., 1303)

Navigation.

Following received Addressed Admiral Portsmouth from Niton Radio intercepted at 2220 G.M.T. From Cadiz to all ships and stations. Navigational Warning.

R.N.O. Palamos reports that gale in the east has extinguished beacons marking Pereira Shoal and the dock light.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2320/13 to Admty.)

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- GHERARDI, C.D.4
LA GRACIEUSE. 1. S.N.O. Casablanca 1115Z/12th has been passed to Comar, Dakar.
2. Comar, Dakar, is requested to sail French escort to relieve GHERARDI in 023° 05' N. 017° 12' W. at 1600Z/16th March and join escorts to Dakar.
3. Regret owing to short notice, no British or French escorts can R/V earlier.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0055/13 to Comar, Dakar, S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) C.T. 37, C.F.W. 15 Admty.)
Your 0045/13th (0055 intended) French Sloop M/S LA GRACIEUSE will make R/V. Sailing 0200/15th route direct speed 14½ knots, keeping group F.T., messages should be sent Com. Dakar for issue of French call signs.
2. Request escort for OUED FEZ from Dakar to Port Etienne 19th March to release F.S. LA GRACIEUSE. Suggest 2 M.Ls. My 1151/9th (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(Comar, Dakar 1513Z/13 to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)
- S.L. 126. Departures 1330/12th PELICAN, WEAR, COMMANDANT DROGOU, F.S. ROTHER, SPEY, SENNEN with S.L. 126.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 0226Z/13 to Admty. etc.)
- MARIPOSA. U.S. Transport MARIPOSA sailing 1015Z/13th March destination Clyde E.T.A. position (B) of traffic lane 055° 19' N. 006° 00' W. 1315Z/29th. Speed (A) 17½ (B) 20. (Route) First "Chop". C. in C.S.A. to F.O.C. West Africa 16th March. Second "Chop". (?F.O.C. West Africa) to Admiralty 23rd March. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 0731Z/13 to Admty. etc.)
MARIPOSA sailed 13th March E.T.A. Clyde 29th. Numbers on board, etc.)
(S.T.O. Capetown 0951Z/13 to Admty. etc.)
- Movements. Capetown arrivals 12th RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, QUALITY.
(C. in C.S.A. 0824C/13 to Admty. etc.)
- French S/Ms. Sailed French S/Ms LA SULTANE, ARETHUSE, and ATALANTE escorted by COMMANDANT BORY 1400Z/12th as in my 1151Z/10th.
(Comar, Dakar 0826Z/13 to F.O.C.W.A. Admty. etc.)
- W.S.27. Convoy W.S.27 sailed 11th. Details, numbers, destinations, etc.)
(D.S.T.O. W. Africa 0904Z/13 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) D.S.T.O. Durban, P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. Middle East, C. in C.S.A. D. of S.T. F.O.C.W.A.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. Weekly statement S.A. Station 13th March, 1943.
 Capetown to Pointe Noire, HERO.
 Capetown to Walvis Bay FOWEY, NORTHERN DAWN,
 CAPE WARWICK, WELLARD.
 Capetown area ROCKROSE, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY.
 Durban area SONDRRA, LE TIGER, INDIAN STAR, NORWICH CITY,
 VIVIANA, SPHENE, GENISTA, NIGELLA.
 Walvis Bay, NORTHERN ISLES.
 Saldanha Bay FERNMOOR, SPINDRIFT, MANCHESTER CITY.
 Capetown NORTHERN DUKE, DRANGEY, CHALLENGER, HERTFORDSHIRE,
 FRITILLARY, M.L. 830.
 Simonstown CHITRAL, NORMAN, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, LADY
 ROSEMARY, ST. ZENO, BLACKMOOR, WAYLAND, QUALITY, S/Ms. P.552,
 P.614, M.L. 381, 1150.
 Port Elizabeth, KHETI (British) PACHECO (British), CECILE
 MAPLESON.
 East London, SARKA, SATSA, STORMWRACK.
 Durban, EREBUS, NAPIER, CANTON, CATTERICK, JASMINE, FREESIA,
 MEAD, INTEGRITY, ROTHERHAM, HILDESAY, ETHIOPIAN, (?PRUDENT),
 COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, ARCTIC EXPLORER, LADY ELSA.
 (C. in C.S.A. 1027C/13.)

JAMES B. STEPHENS (torpedoed 8th Mar.) JAMES B. STEPHENS attacked with two torpedoes from U-Boat in 28° 53' S. 33° 18' E. at 1998Z/8 March. Ship broke in two and caught fire. When last seen by master was still afloat. Master considers C/Bs. burnt by fire. 14 men unaccounted for.
 (N.C.S.O. Durban 1047Z/13 to Admty. C. in C.S.A.)
 W.D.Note: JAMES B. STEPHENS, U.S. 7176 tons, Port Said to Durban and U.S.A. (See amendment N.C.S.O. Durban 0817/15.)

MONTEREY. Arrivals 13th U.S. Army Transport MONTEREY.
 (R.O. Para. 1116/13 to Admty.)

CHARON, PIERRE LOTI. Departure 0915Z/13th H.M. Tug CHARON E.T.A. 0818/16th for fuelling then Corisco Bay for purpose of refloating PIERRE LOTI and tow to Lagos through position X. 003° 54' N. 005° 50' E. Y. 005° 20' N. 004° 25' E. Z. 006° 15' N. 003° 24' E.
 (N.C.S.O. Duala 1148/13 to Admty. etc.)

Search for Suspicious Ship. Further to my 1843/11th.
 1. DESPATCH commences to search in 007° 35' N. 022° 01' W. at 0700Z/14th March and proceed to arrive 007° 42' N. 025° 59' W. at 1900Z.
 2. French Cr. GLOIRE will commence in 008° 20' N. 021° 51' W. at 0700Z/13th March and proceed to arrive 008° 34' N. 025° 51' W. at 1900Z.
 3. CARNARVON CASTLE commences in 005° 17' N. 020° 13' W. at 0800Z/14th and proceeds to arrive 005° 22' N. 023° 19' W. at 2000Z.

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Search for
suspicious
ship.
(Contd.)

4. CILICIA commence in 000° 59' N. 020° 28' W. at 0800Z/14th and steer 299° at estimated speed made good 14 knots.
5. Details of air search will be signalled.
6. APOLO (Spanish EL SATURNO (Spanish) and MONTE ABRIL (Spanish) are proceeding to north east from the St. Paul's Rocks area.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1207Z/13 to CILICIA, CARNARVON CASTLE, DESPATCH, (R) Admty. Comsolantfor, Comar Dakar, A.O.C.W.Af.)

Movements,
Lagos.

Arrival and departure 13th March BELLWORT, ARMERIA.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 1357Z/13 to Admty.)

Situation
Reports.

Situation at 2004Z/13.
U.S. Destroyer ROPER, Convoy T.O.2 about 23.56 21.12 to 22.59 24.57 thence 257° 16.
2 M.Ls. escorting 14.40 17.35 to Bathurst 8.
Fleet Unit ADRIAS, (?DESPATCH) WOLVERINE 18.(?02) 18.00 thence 017° (?10½).
BOREAS about 11.01, 17.02 to Freetown, 18.
BURDOCK, BUTSER, BIRDLIP escorting 12.31 17.(?31) to 13.17 17.13 thence to Northward 7½.
French Submarines ARETHUSE, ATLANTE, SULTANE escorted by French Sloop M/S COMMANDANT BORY 18.38 16.25 through 20.00 17.16 at 0600Z/14th to North within 10 miles of coast, 9½.
PELICAN, WEAR, SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN, COMMANDANT DROGOU with S.L. 126, 10.13 16.40 to 10.25 17.10 thence 352° 7.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1402/13.)
MY 1402Z/13th. Add F. M/S LA GRACIEUSE off Dakar to North 14½.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1941Z/13.)
CILICIA 00.58 17.40 to 01.00 20.27 thence 299° till further orders.
CARNARVON CASTLE 02.55 17.40 to 05.16 (?20).12 thence 274° 16.
DESPATCH 05.40 18.20 to 07.32 22.01 thence 276, 20.
F.Cr. GLOIRE 05.01 19.33 to 08.18 21.52 thence 276 20.
ARETHUSA 02.05 08.46 316 17½.
SUSSEX, PETUNIA, CROCUS, RAIDER, QUEENBOROUGH with W.S.27 03.01 04.46 089° 13.
QUAIL escorting 03.01 04.46 to Takoradi 16.
BELLWORT, ARMERIA escorting 04.59 03.19 E to 03.08 02.17 E. thence to join W.S.27.
CYCLAMEN off Pointe Noire to Takoradi 12½.
HERO about 11.10 S. 11.10 E. to Pointe Noire. 15.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1415Z/13.)

Movements,
Freetown.

Arrival 1511/9th March THYME and BURDOCK escorting ALMANZORA.
S.O.(I) Freetown 1453Z/13 to Admty. etc.)

SIREN.

Arrival 11th March U.S. Patrol Vessel SIREN (P.Y.13.)
(R.O.Pernambuco 1455Z/13 to Admty.)

/s.T...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

S.T. 59. Intend to sail Convoy S.T.59 at 1730Z/14th March. "Red" Route. Estimated speed made good 9 knots. E.T.A. Takoradi a.m. 19th March. Escort PORTSDOWN, RUMBA, SARABANDE and DUNCTON. RUMBA and SARABANDE are for duty under N.O.I.C. Lagos in Lagos Takoradi Area. PORTSDOWN and DUNCTON available as escort to Freetown.
(F.O.W.A. 1545Z/13* to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos, S.O.(I) Freetown, PORTSDOWN, Admty.) * As amended 1205/14.

BARWIND. A.M. 2139A/11th. BARWIND is laying mooring at Bathurst and will be sailing Freetown on completion. Date of completion uncertain.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1603Z/13 to Admty.)

Escort by DUNKERQUE etc. My 1648Z/10th para. 7. Information received from S.N.O. Casablanca that escort will be provided.
(R.A.W.A. 1607Z/13 to Comar, Dakar, (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, C. in C.Med. F.O.Gibraltar, Admty.)

EMPRESS OF CANADA, BELLWORT, ARMERIA, BOREAS, CYCLAMEN. 1. EMPRESS OF CANADA should be sailed p.m. 15th March for Freetown escorted by BELLWORT and ARMERIA.
2. BOREAS will be sailed from Freetown to relieve the two corvettes escort who will join T.S. 33 at sea.
3. CYCLAMEN is to be sailed in T.S. 33.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1620Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, D.S.T.O. W.A. Admty.)
W.D.Note. EMPRESS OF CANADA was torpedoed early 14th March, q.v.
(2359Z/13K)

OUED FEZ. Arrival 1200Z/13th M.L. 244 escorting S.S. OUED FEZ.
(?N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1731/13 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Comar Dakar, Admty.)

CHESHIRE A.F.D. Escort. Your 1607/11th. (Speed and endurance of CHESHIRE while acting as escort.)
We are reluctant to take an A.M.C. from anti-blockade runner patrols in Atlantic Narrows.
2. Anticipated that speed of tow will considerably exceed 5 knots but if C.O. CHESHIRE confirms that ship's endurance is insufficient to complete this duty, you should arrange with C. in C.Eastern Fleet for loan of an A.M.C. to cover last part of passage.
3. If no relief A.M.C. available, destroyer escort should join as far west as possible.
(D.O.D.(F) 1840A/13 to C. in C.S.A. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.E.F.)

HERO. After refuelling HERO is to be sailed direct to Takoradi. Report E.T.A.
(R.A.W.A. 1906Z/13 to B.N.L.O.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, HERO, Admty.)

/TRENTON...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

TRENTON. U.S. Cruiser TRENTON left Punta Arenas yesterday for Pacific.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1928Z/13 to Admty.)

Freetown development, U.S. withdrawal from Scheme. J.S.M. 808, 13th March.
(J.S.M. Washington 2001Z/13 to War Cabinet Offices, London.)
See America & West Indies.

BURDOCK, Dakar, Convoy. Ref. F.O.C.W.Af. 1705Z/10th. E.T.A. position A. 1400Z/14th. Fuel required 56 tons. Lieut. Priddy staff officer (g) on board taking passage to Dakar.
(BURDOCK 2013Z/13 to Comar Dakar, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Dispositions. Weekly state 13th March.
Dakar Area. MALAYA, ADRIAS, QUADRANT, WOLVERINE.
Freetown Area. PELICAN, ROTHER, SPEY, WEAR, SENNETT
CDT. DROGOU with S.L. 126. BURDOCK, DESPATCH,
CARNARVON CASTLE, CILICIA, ARETHUSA, BOREAS.
Freetown. CORINTHIAN, BRIDGEWATER, HYDRANGEA, THYME. S/M P.615.
Takoradi area SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER, QUAIL, PETUNIA
with W.S. 27, CRADD (sic) CROCUS.
Lagos Area, BELLWORT, ARMERIA.
Pointe Noire area. CYCLAMEN, HERO.
(F.O.C.W.A. 2053Z/13 to Admty. etc.)

COMMANDANT DROGOU. E.T.A. 1400Z/14th.
(COMMANDANT DROGOU 2107Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

SPLENDID Cancel my 0852/12th. P.228 (SPLENDID) is to proceed as in my 1740/8th and is not to return to Algiers.
(Capt. S.8., 0104A/13 to 8th S.F. (R) Cdr. Algiers, etc).

Movements, 12th March arrival of F.F.M. Launch 1123.
Beirut. Departure REINE DES FLOTS.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 0810B/13 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of enemy 3 medium vessels 1 aeroplane 38.18 N. 16.26 E. 200 7.
(A/C FFU/S, 0820A/13 to A.H.Q. Malta).

Air Attack on Enemy Convoy. Westbound convoy of 1 tanker and 3 M/Vs and escort of destroyers was attacked off N.W. Coast of Sicily by torpedo aircraft from Malta on March 12/13. Beaufort attacked M/V at 2025 G.M.T., second Beaufort attacked tanker at 2040 G.M.T., Beauforts attack on tanker was followed by Albacore attack at 2146 G.M.T. All aircraft claim hits.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 0830Z/13 to Air Min. etc).

ORISSA Departure.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0921Z/13 to Admty.etc).

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 12 March WOLBOROUGH. Departures 12 March DERWENT, HURWORTH, HURSLEY, CROOME, POOLE, ORION, KANARIS, SAKTOURIS.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0923/13 to Admty. C. in C. Levant)

G.U.S.5 G.U.S.5 sailed in accordance with your 1615/9, ships as in my 1335/11 Outcon, 428 issued. Escorted by WISHART (S.O.) VELOX, CIRCE, HUSSAR, CLACTON, BUDE.
(Com.N.O.B. Oran, 0925A/13 to C. in C. Med., (R) Comorseafron, Connav, Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q.)

Convoy A.P. 24. (1) A.P.24 (10) and (12) 11½ ATHELCHIEF Abadan, 11 EMPIRE CORAL Abadan, 11 EMPIRE TROPHY Abadan, 11½ FRANCHE COMTE Bahrein, E.T.A. Bahrein p.m./20th Rooka a.m./21st.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0927Z/13th to Admty etc).

E.T.13 E.T.13 X. arrived.
(Cdre. Algiers, 0945A/13 to S.O.I.S.)

/Bi-Weekly...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Bi-weekly Night 11/12 March. 8 Halifaxes 33 Wellingtons
Opsum. No. bombed shipping and harbour installations at
107, Part 3. Palermo. Low cloud and effective smoke screen
seen through cloud gaps prevented identification
of targets and observation of damage. 3 Medium
fires started in Town area 1 of which burning
well at end of attack. 1 Wellington bombed 2 ships in bay
north of harbour no hits. 2 Wellingtons bombed Comiso and gun
positions Porto Empedocle results unobserved. 1 Wellington
landed Malta through petrol shortage.
Between 2340A and 0310A hours about 8 Ju.88s bombed Tripoli
Harbour. No damage reported on land. 1 Ju.88 caught in
searchlights appeared to be minelaying North of harbour. 4
Beaufighters 4 Hurricanes up. 1 Beaufighter shot down 1 Ju.88
in flames, another Beaufighter contacted 1 enemy aircraft which
jettisoned bombs.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1006/13).

UNRIVALLED Arrived UNRIVALLED (P.45)
(V.A. Malta, 1037A/13 to Admty. etc).

UNBENDING, Leave patrol as necessary by reverse of outward
RORQUAL. route to R/V with sweepers at 0830/16th.
RORQUAL is to arrive at same time in accordance
with my 1114/12th. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) has
returned to Malta. S/MS may be attacked north
of 036°.
(Capt. S.10., 1048A/13 to P.37 (UNBENDING) (R)
Cs. in C. Med. Levant, RORQUAL, Capt. (S) 1,
Capt. (S) 8, S. 10) Cancelled by 1208A/14, q.v.

E.T.15 My 1817/27th Feb. Convoy E.T.15 will not be
sailed until after M.K.S.10.
(C. in C. Med., 1125A/13 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
N.O.I.C. Oran etc). Cancelled by 1745/15 q.v.

OXFORDSHIRE. Intend sailing hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE at
1600/13, speed over the ground 12½ knots, routed
through 100, 39, 109. E.T.A. Oran 0800/14.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1129A/13 to Com. N.O.B. Oran,
(R) C. in C. Med., etc).
My 1129A/13. Sailed at 1700/13.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1841A/13).

ROCKWOOD ROCKWOOD has developed a general lubrication
defect and will require docking. Present safe
limit of maximum speed 15 knots.
(Capt. D.5., 1130B/13 to F.O.C.D.F. Med., Fleet
(R) C. in C. Levant).

/SPLENDID...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

SPLENDID, SIBYL, TROOPER, THUNDERBOLT.

1. P.228 (SPLENDID) proceed to patrol west of 013° E. keeping north of Q.K.B.20 and south of 038° 42' N.
2. P.217 (SIBYL) patrol between 013° 00' E. and 014° 00' E. south of 038° 42' N.
3. TROOPER is to be north of 039° 30' by 0300/14 and is then to patrol in an area north of 039° 30' and East of 013° 30'.
4. After 0300/14th THUNDERBOLT has freedom of movement east of 014° 00' E. south of 039° 30'.
(Capt. S.8., 1230A/13 as amended 0923A/14 to P.217 (SIBYL) P.228 (SPLENDID) THUNDERBOLT, TROOPER, (R) 8th S/M F. Capt. (S) 10)

EASTON

EASTON is to join 22nd D.F. She will be administered by R.A.(D) Med., and maintained by WOOLWICH with accounts in NILE.
(C. in C. Levant, 1239B/13 to F.O.C.D.F. Med. (R) Admty. etc).

LAFOREY,
LOOKOUT.

Sailed LAFOREY and LOOKOUT for Algiers routed through positions 34 and 100 E.T.A. 2100A/13th March.
(S.O. Force H. 1300A/13 to C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) Capt. (D) 19, C.S.12, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Oran).

Operational
Control of
Aircraft.

Personal for 1st S.L.

It is a fundamental for successful planning and execution of any operations that forces at disposal of Commanders should be stable and not subject to fluctuation at the order of outside authority.

2. The actual system of administration supply and reinforcement of R.A.F. aircraft is of course a matter for decision by R.A.F. authority.

3. Operational control is however a matter of urgent concern, and must rest in the hands of authority with whom I and my staff can consult and confer daily or hourly.

4. It appears that there must be some yard stick by which the comparative aircraft requirements of individual areas can be weighed thereby giving a balanced distribution of available resources with possibly a reserve at the disposal of Chief of Staff.

5. The disposal of resources within the individual areas must be in the hands of the operational authorities on the spot.

6. Reinforcement either temporary or permanent to meet changing situations would be a matter for supply and demand adjudged by the Chiefs of Staff.

7. It is evident that Slessor has in mind the exercise of actual executive operational control within an area for which Tedder and I are responsible and I feel that, with all the good will in the world, this situation would become intolerable.
(C. in C. Med., 1404A/13 to Admty).

/Situation...

War Diary.

13.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation report No. 70.

1. Convoy K.M.S.10 was attacked by U-boat at 1918/9 in position 36.51 N. 01.09 E. Two ships were torpedoed both have arrived Algiers. Same convoy attacked by bombers and torpedo bomber aircraft as it was entering Bone at 1859/11 no casualties. One enemy aircraft claimed certain by VANOC one possible VERITY, third by fighters.
2. Algiers harbour attacked by enemy aircraft at 1932/9 as K.M.F.10 B was entering, no damage or casualties.
3. Ferry service was attacked by torpedo bomber aircraft at 0804/10 without success.
4. E-boats operating in Gulf of Bone on night 11/12th March probably minelaying were dispersed by shore battery. M.T.Bs. endeavoured to intercept but did not make contact.
5. Six German "R" mines swept in approaches to Bone on 10th and 11th March.
- 6.* LIGHTNING hit by E-boat torpedo 2218/12 in 37.53 N. 09.50 E. during a sweep by Force Q. LIGHTNING subsequently sank. About 170 survivors including C.O. were picked up by LOYAL. (See also p. 527) (C. in C. Med., 1528A/13 to Admty) See also 1936/13 for LIGHTNING

* Addition to para 6, on 2010A/17, page 698

Air attack on Enemy Convoy, information for S/Ms. My 2330/12th. Air strikes last night scored hits on 2 ships. The whole of convoy turned back probably to Palermo or Trapani. P.R.U. today of the latter shows 1 7,000 ton ship entering at 1225. No P.R.U. of Palermo. Air search in your area tonight and co-operating from 2100 with you. Torpedo bombers will attack also if targets are found.
(Capt. S.10., 1632A/13 to THUNDERBOLT, P.217 (SIBYL) (R) Capt. (S) 8).

Movements, Port Said. 13th March Port Said arrivals ORION F.F.S. REINE DES FLOTS.
Departures ORION, AETOS, CUMBRAE, M/L 349, M/L 354.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1656B/13 to Admty etc).

Convoy T.X.3. Your 2131?B/5th (N.T. in W.D.) T.X.3 Port Said Section escort detailed MIAOULES, PINDOS, H.M.S. BELVOIR.
(DULVERTON 1730B/13 to C. in C. Levant (R) N.O.I.C. Alexandria, N.O.I.C. Port Said, F.O.C. D.F. Med., Group 201, Group 219).

Movements, Morocco. U.S.S. BROOME P.C.471 one S.C. departed Safi with convoy for Casa.
(Comorseafron 1900Z/13 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gib, Admty. Cominch)

/TROOPER...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

TROOPER, Southbound traffic to Sicily or by coastal route information. appears to leave Naples on Thursday late afternoon or dark hours. A patrol well to seaward and to southward is likely to be more profitable than a close patrol since enemy patrols are active in Approaches particularly at night. Northbound traffic usually arrives off Approaches to Naples shortly after daylight when an occasional visit is recommended in particular if aircraft report indicates ship northbound. (Capt. S.8., 1900A/13 to TROOPER (R) 8th S.F., Capt. (S) 10)

LIGHTNING My 1314/13 to C. in C. Med., only. LIGHTNING (sunk 12 March). sank after being hit by 2 torpedoes from a German E-boat at about 2230/12th March. Second torpedo hit about 10 minutes after first and ship then disintegrated and sank rapidly. Majority of missing probably killed by explosions and remainder drowned except that at least one rating is known to have been picked up by E-boat. N.O.I.C. Bone 2048/13 which follows gives classified casualty lists. All wounded are in 5th General Hospital Bone. Officer Casualties are Lieut. J.S.P. Cundell R.N. and Temp. Sub. Lieut. D.H. Callow, Special Branch R.N.Z.N.V.R., both missing presumed killed. (F.O. 12th C.S., 1936A/13 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc).

Malta Air / A.I. 598 13th March. C.S.R. Report. Part 1 Offensive. Night 12/13 March. Successful attack was made on enemy shipping off Palermo in spite of A.S.V. jamming and unfavourable weather. 2 special equipment Wellingtons found 4 M.Vs. escorted by 4 D/Rs and several M.T.Bs. 1950 hrs. 38° 13' N. 13° 08' E. course West speed 10 knots and 6 torpedo carrying Beauforts and 3 torpedo carrying Albacores R.N.A.S. were despatched to attack. At 2025 hrs. Beaufort scored hit amidships on 1 M/V. At 2040 hrs. another Beaufort scored hit on a large tanker causing continuous glow: five minutes later tanker was seen down at bows and listing to port. At 2146 hrs. Albacore scored hit on large vessel which was probably the tanker already hit by Beaufort. Flash and column of smoke was seen and patches of oil appeared in wake of tanker now 8 miles west of Cape Gallo. Intense flak was encountered and 2 Beauforts and 1 Albacore are missing. 5 Intruder Mosquitoes were airborne to cover this shipping strike 3 patrolling Castelvetro Trapani and 2 patrolling Comiso Catania Area. No enemy activity was found. Day 13th March. 8 Spitfire bombers escorted by 8 fighter Spitfires attacked Railway Yards at Ragusa scoring hits on railway Station sidings and railway buildings. 2 Beaufighters on Navigation exercise attacked with machine gun and cannon fire 600 ton schooner 13 miles east of Lampedusa Schooner was left with list of 45° and is believed sunk. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1940Z/13, 1027Z/13).

/Ore...

13.3.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

Ore ships for Valencia. Your 1946/9. Consider it would be feasible for ships to be sailed via Spanish territorial waters at least for a period until Axis became aware of what was going on. Sailings from Valencia would undoubtedly be reported to them. It seems doubtful if they would consider target worth any special submarine effort.
(C. in C. Med., 1946/13 to Admty (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar).

Movements Bone arrival AURORA, SIRIUS, LOYAL, NIMBLE.
Bone. Departures TYNEDALE, LIDDESDALE, ALGOMA, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, STELLA CARINA, LADY HOGARTH, REIGHTON WYKE, KING SOL, VISENDA, NIMBLE.
(F.O.I.S. 1958A/13 to C. in C. Med., Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q.)

French S/Ms My 2016/1st, not to Admiralty French Minelaying S/M PERLE is being retained at Casablanca for A/S training. French S/Ms now nominated for basing at Oran are LA VESTALE, ANTIOPE, LA SULTANE and ARETHUSE.
(C. in C. Med., 1958A/13 to N.O.I.C. Oran (R) S.O. Force H. Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, Capt. (S)8)

Movements, Tripoli. Arrived and sailed PETARD, G.S. QUEEN OLGA, EL HANNEN.
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli 2010A/13 to Admty).

Movements, Oran. Received following ships today: NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, ASHANTI, HAYDON, TARTAR, ILEX, HOLCOMBE, CALPE, RESTIVE. Following departed: WISHART, VELOX, CIRCE, HUSSAR, BUDE, CLACTON, ADVENTURE, HAYDON, ASHANTI, M.L.444.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2010A/13 to Admty etc).

Movements, Algiers. Arrived LAMERTON, WILTON, FOXTORT, TANGO, OAKLEY, FARNDALE, PUCKERIDGE, VANOC, VERITY, ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BICESTER, ZETLAND. Departure Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 2119A/13 to Admty etc).

SAHIB Arrived SAHIB (P.212).
(Cdre. Algiers, 2123A/13 to Admty etc).

/Movements...

13.3.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,
Benghazi.

Arrived IMHOFF sailed M.T.B. 62, 73, 261 and 309.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2133B/13 to Admty).

Movements,
Tobruk.

Arrived EASTON and COMMANDANT DOMINE F.S. sailed
EASTON, and PRIMULA ex Tobruk, AGHIOS GEORGIOS
ex Derna.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2258B/13 to Admty. (R)
C. in C. Levant).

E.T.14

E.T.14 sailed less EMPIRE DACE, OCEAN SEAMAN,
now proceeding to Gibraltar, MISOA, Commodore
JOHN MCLOUGHLIN, Vice Commodore, all have K/B
except the 2 U.S. ships.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 2315A/13 to C. in C.
Med., etc).

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. CARTHAGE, QUIBERON arrived.
 (F.O.E.A., 0802Z/13 to Admt.)
 DEVONSHIRE arrived a.m., left.
 (N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 1100Z/13 to C. in C. E.F.,
 S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay, Admt.)
 Colombo arrival 13th March 0230Z WORCESTERSHIRE.
 (F.O. Ceylon, 1318Z/13 to Admt.)

C.S.4 C.S.4 in GAMBIA arrived.
 (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0459Z/13 to Admt., F.O.
 Ceylon, S.O.(I) Bombay, C. in C. E.F., C. in C.
 S.A., S.O.(I) Aden, S.O.(I) Kilindini.)

Convoy Amend my 1234/11th to read SUTLEJ and HINDUSTAN
 Escorts. P.B.32, MARGUERITE P.A.30.
 (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0618Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz,
 C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O. Ceylon,
 Com. R.I.N., Cdre. i/c Aden, N.O.I.C. Karachi.)

B.P. 72. Karachi portion B.P.72 sailed 0520Z/13th to R/V.
 0551Z/11th (? from) (? not to) N.C.S.O. Bombay
 refers. FALKEFJELL knots 9½, 22 23 one ship
 pad 957.
 (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 0729Z/13 to Admt.)

Military Transport ROHNA, RAJULA, NARINGA, BARJORA,
 Transports. BELPAREIL arrived 12th.
 (S.T.O. Karachi, 0801Z/13 to P.S.T.O. India
 (Bombay, (R) D. of S.T.)

Australian / In order to comply with A.M. 1438/11th (N.T. in
 Destroyers, W.D.) and to exchange and give early leave to
 relief of as large a proportion of Australian destroyer
 personnel. ship's companies as is possible, it would appear
 that best plan is for two destroyers to be sailed
 for Australia immediately. Local adjustment of
 ship's companies being made before leaving East
 Indies Station.
 2. These destroyers to return to East Indies Station after being
 at Sydney (N.S.W.) for 6 weeks only.
 3. The feasibility of this plan would appear to depend largely
 on what proportion of these ship's companies are recommissioning,
 but if acceptable would result in about 60% of destroyers ship's
 companies getting their promised leave now. The leave of
 remainder must be deferred.
 Request your early concurrence as two destroyers concerned must
 sail before 20th March.
 (C. in C. E.F., 0927Z/13 to A.C.N.B., (R) Admt., Cdre. D.)

/C. in C. E.F. ...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

C. in C.E.F. / Personal for 1st S.L.
 proposed visit to Cape re A/S measures. I feel that benefit would result if I proceeded to the Cape with selected members of my staff to discuss A/S measures with Tait.
 (ii) If you agree I suggest it is preferable for Admiralty to instruct me to proceed to the Cape to discuss with C. in C.S.A. what further action can be taken to (?deal) with U-Boat with the force available for the purpose in South Africa and those from Eastern Fleet and to forward joint recommendations on this and any other matter covering the safety of shipping.
 (iii) BIRMINGHAM sailing for Durban on 18th March provides a convenient opportunity for passage.
 (C. in C. E.F. 0944Z/13 to Admty.) *Approved (pax 579)*

Programme of troop movements. Para B. of my 1201/10th. RAJULA will only proceed as far as Karachi.
 (P.S.T.O. India 0955Z/13 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Hormuz, D. of S.T. Arminia.)

O.W.2. Colombo portion convoy O.W.2. arrived 13.
 (N.C.S.O. Colombo 1026Z/13 to Admty.)

B.P.73, embarkation of Polish families. Request you use following ships of B.P.73 for Polish families to Karachi due yours about 29th March. KOSCIUSZKO for about 400 SALWEEN 300 YOMA 400 ASCANIUS 460 and suggest 2 of these ships be used for Polish families who are intended for Mexico.
 (P.S.T.O.I. 1055Z/13 to D.S.T.O. P.G. (R) S.N.O.P.G., D.S.T.)

CHEBASSA. 1. CHEBASSA is being detached from W.S. 26B a.m./14 to proceed independently to Colombo E.T.A. 18 March.
 (C. in C. E.F. 1730Z/13.)

India Air Report. (b) Offensive R/C. 12th March. 2 Hurricanes attacked river craft and rolling stock in Monywa Area. 2 Hurricanes sank a large Sampan and damaged several more in Myingyan Area.
 (A.H.Q. India 1845Z/13 to Air Min.)

CAPE CHARLES. Reference A.C.N.B. 1046/8 M.W.T. has again stressed importance of safe arrival Abadan of cracking plant loaded in CAPE CHARLES which will enable 100 per cent output as against 25 per cent. 2. Delay is acceptable to ensure escort right through.
 (D.T.D. 2007A/13 to C. in C. E.F. (R) A.C.N.B.)

War Dairy.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

British Minesweepers. Alusnob Belem reports: Four British Minesweepers 5, 6, 7, 8, departed 0900Z/12. N.O.B. Trinidad has for information.
(Comsolantfor, 0014/13, 0015/14 to Admty., Cominch (C & R) Cinclant, F.O.C. W.Af. B.A.D. S.B.N.O. W.At. Comgulfseafon.)

Washington Conference. Personal from 1st S.L.
Please arrange that the results of the Conference are not brought before the Combined Chiefs of Staff until British Chiefs of Staff here have had an opportunity to discuss final reports with Moore and Durston.
(1st S.L., 0035A/13 to B.A.D.)

Movements. Bermuda arrivals 12th March. BAYNTUN, U.S. Submarine R.15.
(S.B.N.O.W.At, 0113Z/13 to Admty.)
Departure 13th U.S.S.C.522 Trinidad 14th.
(B.R.L.O.Georgetown, 0620/13 to Admty.)
Seattle departed 1300Z/13 TRACKER escorted by U.S.S. DENT.
Due Panama Canal A.m. 24th 15 knots.
(N.S.H.Q., 2058Z/13 to Admty.)

Dispositions. My 1625Z/12th Add U.S. ship BARNEG at 46.06 55.17 247 15.
(C.O.A.C., 0205Z/13 to Admty.)

U.S.S/M Notice. S/M Estimate, 13th March. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0223/13, 1537/13, 1538/12, 1602/12, 1603/13, 1604/13, 1802/13)

Spain, policy if Axis attack. For: Eisenhower Freedom Algiers.
From: The Combined Chiefs of Staff.
Ref. Your NAF 170 (0920/11)
(1) In the event of an Axis attack it is considered that Spain would either side with the Axis, in which case there would be no invitation to us to use airfields in the Balearics, or she would resist attack, in which case we should expect to be invited in, but Staff conversations with the Spanish Gov. have not yet reached a stage which makes desirable an approach.
(Agwar Washington, 0230Z/13 to Hq. Etousa, Algiers.)

O.N.170, U/B's. F.O.N.F. (?requested to) sail CHELSEA and SALISBURY to reinforce O.N.170 as soon as fuelled.
(C.T.24, 0235/13 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q. C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.16, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty., SALISBURY, CHELSEA.)

O.N.170. Indications by H/F D/F bearings that convoy has been reported by U-Boat. My P.C. and S. 054° 17' 044° 34'
(B) 220° 9.5 weather report.
(M.O.E.T.U.24.1.16, 1129Z/13 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. (R) SALISBURY, CHELSEA.)

O.N.170/ ...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.O.N.170,
U/B's.
(Contd.)

O.N.170. My 1129Z U-Boat sighted at 1141Z observed to dive. Convoy altered to 180° while HEATHER remained keeping U-Boat down.
(M.O.E.T.U.24.1.16, 1204Z/13 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. SALISBURY, CHELSEA.)

O.N.170. T.U.24.12.4 CHELSEA sails St. Johns N.F. 1630/13th joining O.N.170. SALISBURY will be sailed a.m. 14th when defect made good.

(F.O.N.F., 1415Z/13 to M.O.E.T.U.24.1.16 (R) C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Connav, Admty. C.T.24.)

O.N. No. 170. My 1415Z/13th. SALISBURY has developed defects which will require 3 days to complete.

(F.O.N.F., 1805Z/13 to C.T.24 (R) C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty.)

Your 1129/13th confirmed by transmission at 1400Z/13th on series 8. Several U-Boats fixed by D/F ahead of you on earlier transmission not believed to be sighting. Report between 0016 and 1251 G.M.T.

(N.S.H.Q., 1510Z/13 to Ships escorting O.N.170. (R) C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F., Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, S.B.N.O. W.At.)

O.N.170 U-Boat again sighted and seen to dive by HEATHER at 1355Z. HEATHER hunted until 1530Z and then steered to rejoin. No contact. This U-Boat estimated to be 40 miles astern of convoy. 2nd U-Boat detected by H/F D/F at 1520Z estimated to be 32 miles astern of convoy. Visibility now 5 miles only. Intend altering for convoy route (DD) at dark.

(M.O.E.T.U.24.1.14., 1554Z/13 to Connav, (R) C.T.F. 24, Admty. CHELSEA etc.)

WESTON,
FOLKESTONE,
TOTLAND,
Convoy,
C.U.1.

As maximum speed of WESTON, FOLKESTONE and TOTLAND is 13½ knots they will be unable to escort C.U.1. without very considerably delaying S.O.A. Propose that these ships sail early at a speed of 12 knots oiling at Azores. Subsequently either reinforcing escorts of C.U.1 as long as their speed permits or proceeding independently. Request R/V and time of convoy leaving sailing

may be indicated. Senior Officer of escort intends transferring to GORLESTON.

(WESTON, 0417/13 to B.A.D., C.A.F.A.C., Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Your 0417/13th Navy Dept. agree that you should act as you suggest, fuelling at Azores, then as directed by Admty.

(2) WESTON is to report to Com. Carib: Sea Fron: for sailing orders. Cominch is giving him the necessary information.

(B.A.D., 2025Z/13 to WESTON, (R) C.A.F.A.C., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

WESTON's 0417/13th is passed to you for information.

(B.A.D., 2113Z/13 to C. in C. Med. Fleet, V.A. Gibraltar. (R) Admty., WESTON.)

Your/ ...

War Diary.

13.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

U.C./C.U. Convoys, carriage of spare depth charges. Your 0100/13th Feb. Navy Dept. after further consideration has decided not to embark spare depth charges in tankers of CU - UC convoys for replenishment of American escort vessels. (2) Reduction of speed for transfer and intention to carry deck cargo are main objections. (3) In order to meet Admiralty wishes for C.U.1 where British escorts are concerned they are willing to permit the 2 escorting oilers to carry as many British spares as can be conveniently stowed. (4) Instructions to local authorities outlined in my 1621/18th Feb. will be amended accordingly by C. in C. U.S. Fleet. My 0249/12th is hereby cancelled.
(B.A.D., 0505Z/13 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., B.N.O. Curacao.)
A.M.2220/2 not to Curacao and your 0249/12.
Request information whether U.S. Authorities in Curacao have been instructed to arrange depth charge stowage in C.U.1 vessels.
(D.T.D., 1620A/13 to B.A.D., (R) S.B.N.O. Curacao).

CITIES SER- Kingston Radio reports intercepted "S.O.S.
VICE MISSOURI, CITIES SERVICE MISSOURI torpedoed 14.50 N.
Torpedoed. 71.46 W. at 0845 G.M.T".
(Bushel, Kingston, 0545R/13 to Admty.)

Escort of Transports. Cominch directs that if practicable and provided their return with G.U. convoys is not thereby delayed destroyers attached to Atlantic Fleet task forces or groups in African waters or Gibraltar escort following vessels during the last 400 miles of their respective voyages to Africa: ANDES, EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND, PASTEUR, MARIPOSA, WEST POINT.
(C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, 0650Z/13 to Cdr. N.W. Africa Sea Frontier, (R) Cominch, C. in C. Med.)

TRACKER. Following is Commorwestseafro's 0147/13.
"Colon departed Port Townsend 0000Z/13th.
TRACKER Balboa 25th. Q.S.A. 3 Q.P.D.10 (Route).
S. of A. 15 escorted by DENT as far as San Francisco".
(Radio Washington, 0859/13 to Admty.)

Convoy C.U.1. Oiling at Sea. Request immediate information of type oiling at sea gear provided in E.W.SINCLAIR and ESSO PATERSON your 1245A/10th refers.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 0958QR/13 to B.A.D.(R) Admty.)
Your 0958/13th U.S. authority supplying one thousand feet 2½ inch canvas hose to each ship with adapter to British 3½ inch connections.
(B.A.D. 2349Z/13 to B.S.N.O. Curacao, (R) Admty.)

Movements/...

War Diary.

13.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Movements Summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T. 13th.	ACHILLES	Approaching Bermuda	013°	23
	S.S. ANDES	28° N. 36° W.	300°	19
	8 L.C.I (L)'s	32° N. 39° W. (Position doubtful)	059°	7½
	23 L.C.I (L)'s	27½° N. 59½° W. (Position doubtful)	128°	10
	A.T.38.	42° N. 34½° W.	080°	26½

altering to 036° at about 2200.

(D.O.D.(F), 1048Z/13 to Opnav (R) Commaveu)

U.G.S.6,
U/B.

D/F bearings at 0630Z indicate U-Boat probably still in contact.

(D.D.I.C., 1133A/13 to Escorts of U.G.S.6, (R) Cominch, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C. W.Af., S.N.O.C.A., C. in C. Med.)

EMPIRE
LIGHT
Search.

Passed by CLEMATIS. Have made systematic sweep in company with CLEMATIS covering an area of 7000 square miles without revealing any trace of EMPIRE LIGHT. Sweeping to-day North and North West of present position 052° 38' N. 042° 10' W. Weather report.

(TENACITY, 1150Z/13 to F.O.N.F., (R) C.O.A.C. C.T.24.)

Passed via CLEMATIS sighted 4 rafts of similar pattern, a large quantity of wreckage bedding etc. in 052° 58' N. 042° 02' W. Continuing search.

(TENACITY, 1458Z/13 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C. C.T.24.)

Stationing
of Ships
in Convoy.

Commencing with O.N.173 ships in column will be stationed four cables apart instead of the normal two cables. This is for trial purposes and Commodores may at their discretion revert to two cables. As it is desired to obtain early reports request the next two H.X. and S.C. convoys may be sailed in this formation. (D.T.D., 1210Z/13 to Connav, (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, B.A.D, C. in C. W.A.)

Rescue
Tugs.

Your 2343/8 and 1716/12 as need for rescue tug at Bermuda is pressing can consideration be given to ADVANTAGE being sent temporarily until ASPIRANT is ready.

(S.B.N.O.W.At., 1232Q/13 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

LINCOLN.

Your 2024/12. Destination LINCOLN St.Johns. (F.O.N.F., 1307Z/13 to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. Admty., S.B.N.O. W.A., C.T.F. 24.)

U.C., C.U/ ...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

U.C., C.U. Convoys, Escort Maintenance. Your 1311/10 (Re Maintenance Party for British Escorts of U.C., C.U. Convoys arriving St. Johns for onward routing). In view of Cominch 2219/12 (Conference results) propose party should return to the U.K. (B.A.M.R. 1408Z/13 to Admty., (R) F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

Bermuda Movements. Bermuda Arrivals V 170, 101, 103, 104, 105, 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 116, 119, 182, 183, 184, 186, 240, 248, 251, 252, 254, 256, ACHILLES. (S.B.N.O. W. Af., 1439Z/13 to Admty.) Amended 1009Q/15)
Refers to L.C.I. (0909 Q/16)

W.H.X. 229 A. (1) W.H.X. 229 A. (2) 1030Z/14th (3) 1800Z/14 in 46.59 N. 51.41 W. (4) 11 (5) As per C.E.S.F. 2210/4th. (6) RIMOUSKI. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F., 1445Z/13 to Admty.)

Convoy Conference, W.L.E.F. cycle, Sailing of X.B and B.X Convoys. Cominch 2219/12 para. 4. (Convoy Conference results). To maintain W.L.E.F. cycle with 11 groups it is necessary to sail X.B convoys from Halifax 2 days before B.X convoys sail from Boston. Therefore intend to sail X.B 38 from Halifax March 21st then four day intervals. (C.O.A.C., 1501Z/13 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty., Cominch, C.T.F. 24, F.O.N.F., C.E.S.F.) Ref. para 4. C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 2219/12th in order to arrange boiler cleaning of W.L.E.F. groups it is necessary to sail X.B convoys from Halifax 2 days (group omitted) B.X.S sail from Boston Therefore X.B 38 should sail from Halifax March 21st then at 4 days intervals. (2) Reference Para. 11 destroyer for a 3rd group can be provided on completion of working up of GRIFFEN, DECOY early May. (3) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa concur with remainder of C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2219/12th. (N.S.H.Q., 1821Z/13 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) Admty., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.T.F. 24 C.C. N.F., C.O.A.C. Abdacom N.M.C.J.S Washington).

L.23. L.23 sailed 1430/13th in accordance with my 1831Z/10th and my 1350Z/12th. E.T.A. Cape Code Canal 0001Z/19th. (F.O.N.F., 1517Z/13 to C.T.24, C.O.A.C., A.O.C. Eastern Air Command N.S.H.Q., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.E.S.F., B.A.M.R. (R) F.O.S. Admty. NANAIMO, L.23.).

Atlantic/ ...

War Diary.13.3.1945.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

- Atlantic Convoys, Schedules, Designations. Admiralty pass to C. in C. Med. and C. in C. A.F. Correct Cominch 2219/12 all after para.12 to read "(12) Mid Ocean Escorts to be composed of 14 British and Canadian Groups. (13) Western Locals to be composed of 11 Canadian Groups and to escort Transatlantic Trade convoys between New York Halifax and WESTOMP and in addition to escort Boston Halifax convoys. Present Command and "Chop" line to remain in effect until date to be announced later. Request your early concurrence." (Cominch, 1540/13 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A. C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)
- Solops 7. Solops 7 photo R/C of the Buin-Faisi area on March 10th shows 4 light cruisers 3 destroyers and 7 merchant ships. Also observed in same area 66 land based fighters, 19 floating fighters and 4 bombers. (B.A.D., 1545Z/13 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)
- Washington Conference. Personal for 1st S.L. King does not intend to bring this before C.C.S. until you have received final papers from conference and agree upon action. (B.A.D., 1559Z/13 to Admty.)
- S.C.122, O.N.170, U/B's. Over 6 U-Boats estimated in area 051° to 055° N. and 041° to 048° W. by D/F on series 8, Some of these in contact with O.N.170. (N.S.H.Q., 1600Z/13 to Ships escorting S.C. Convoy 122. C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F. (R) Admty. etc.)
- S.C.122, Route. S.C.122 N.K. alter course forthwith for new position (C) 50.20 39.10 thence to (L) omitting (B). Cancel stragglers route position (X) substitute (Y) 49.50 38.45 thence to (S). B.A.M.S. sent. Amend (Chop?) 1100Z/17th. (Connav, 1601/13 to C.T.U.24.1.19 (R) C.T.24, C.T.G.24.6. Admty. C. in C. W.A., S.O.P.A. Greenland, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)
- H.X.229. Route. H.X.229 from position (J) 49.02 N. 47.59 W. steer for new (V) 49.10 N. 38.01W. Thence to (M) 60.02 N. 28.01 W. Stragglers route cancelled (Q) and (R) substitute (AA) 50 N. 40 W. Amend "Chop" to 2000Z/16th. (Connav, 1602/13 to C.T.U.24.18.9, M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, C.T.U. 24.12.3., HIGHLANDER, BEVERLY (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. C.T.24. C.O.A.C. C.T.G., 24.6., S.O.P.A. Greenland)

Vessels/ ...

War Diary.

15.3.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Vessels sunk in St. Lawrence in 1942. / Due to recent allegations by former Cabinet Minister that upwards of 30 vessels sunk by enemy action during 1942, in Saint Lawrence and resultant tension in Quebec, despite Minister's denial, it is desired to settle matter finally by publishing names of vessels. As these include British, U.S. and other Allied flags your concurrence is sought. Considered essential to restore now Quebec confidence before this year's expected enemy action develops.
(N.S.H.Q., 1613Z/13 to Admty., Cominch).
Concur - see Cominch 0436/19.
Do not agree - Admty., 1234/19.

BAZELY. Direct BAZELY proceed when ready to New York via Long Island Sound. Report C.E.S.F. for onward routing to Bermuda. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2217/12)
(C.E.S.F., 1659/13 to C.T.G.90.1 (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, S.B.N.O. W.At., Admty, N.O.B. Bermuda, C.T.G.90.2, C.T.G.90.3).

U.S. Ships and Landing Craft. / Your 1012A/13. Ships S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic 2125Q/3. Comprise TaskForce 32 routed.
(A) 24.05 41.45. (B) 24.05 30.02 (M) 27.01
25.03 (N) 31.10 21.10 (O) 34.30 17.40
(P) 35.30 10.55 then Gibraltar.
Estimated 2000Z/13 position 24.05 N. 30.55 W. 8 British L.C.I., C.O. L.C.I.(L) 169 holds S.P.02404(7) Position 2000Z/13 estimated 32. 30 39.40 speed probably 5.5 en route
(C) 34.01 35.59 (N) 31.10 21.10 (O) 34.30 17.40
(R) 40.55 15.40 (S) 46.30 13.45 (T) 50.10 12.15 then Plymouth.
May make for Gibraltar.
(Cominch, 1705Z/13 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty.)
Passing action being taken by War Registry.

U.G.S.6, A.T.38, (QUEEN ELIZABETH) U/B. Inconclusive D/F bearings at 1544Z/13 indicate U-Boat may have reported convoy U.G.S.6 or A.T.38. (D.D.I.C., 1737A/13 to Escorts of U.G.S.6, Escorts of A.T.38. (R) Cominch, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C. W. Af., S.N.O.C.A., C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A.)

H.X.229 Escorts. My 1744/12 ABELIA, SHERBROOKE both delayed and will sail to overtake. BEVERLEY now sails with group.
(F.O.N.F., 1833Z/13 to Cominch, C. and R. (R) C.T.F.24, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A. Admty. Com. Londonderry, C.T.G. 24.7.)

Freetown/ ...

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)Freetown
development,
U.S. with-
drawal from
Scheme.

J.S.M.808. 13th March.

The development of Freetown was discussed yesterday by C.C.S. U.S. Chiefs of Staff adhered to their original decision to withdraw from Freetown project, and we could not shake them. Admiral King stated that U.S. commitments had already been accomplished except as regards supply of all machine tools. He said that there were no buildings available in which to instal the machine tools. Consequently they could not be used and undelivered tools and construction battalion now at Freetown should be more profitably utilised elsewhere. (2) We stressed essential need for U.S. built motor generators, and Navy Dept. promise to investigate this question. (3) C.C.S. took note:-
(a) That U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff adhere to their decision to withdraw from participation in development of Freetown base unless later developments indicate necessity for resuming participation in this project, at which time it will be reconsidered. (b) That United States Navy would investigate present states of motor generators required for base with a view to providing these if possible. (c) That fifty per cent of machine tools originally required for this project would not be furnished by United States and that detachment of seabees now at Freetown will be withdrawn. (4) We feel that U.S. Chiefs of Staff have possibly been influenced in their decision by the urgent necessity for providing machine tools and construction personnel at North African ports in preparation for coming operations.

(J.S.M.Washington, 2001Z/13 to War Cabinet Office, London)

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.A. CITIES SERVICE MISSOURI and one unidentified torpedoed 14.50 N. 71.46 W. 0845Z/13. Surface craft sight sub. submerging area 54.17 N. 44.34 W. about 1114Z/13. Surface craft attack two subs. 37.06 N. 40.19 W. 0000Z/13.

Para.D. CGR 3048 sights sub. on surface 40.42N 71.18 W. 0000Z/13. CGR 85394 makes sound contact 40.32 N. 71.04 W. 0330Z/13. Fishing boat sights sub. area 41.N 71.W. 1226Z/13. Sub. reported 11.30 S. 37.15 W. 1630Z/12. Plane sights oil bubbles and slick 06.24 S. 29.59 W. 1335Z/11. (Cominch, 2048/13 to Admty.).

M.T.B. 15th
Squadron.

Miami arrived 1700Q/11 group A of M.T.B. Squadron 15th departed 0500/12 for Norfolk via Mayport and Charleston. (N.S.H.Q., 2057/13 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

Convoys/ ...

540

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

Convoys, adjustment of dates to Sail maximum number of Ships. Please pass following to Salter from M.O.W.T. The sailing of convoys H.X.229 and 229A with only 39 ships in each convoy has caused considerable disappointment in view of the efforts required to lay on the extra convoy (sic) for anticipated presenters. The following questions arise -

(a) Was it possible for Sparks Central Shipping Intelligence Division to foresee this small number of ships in time to suggest an adjustment of dates to ensure these two convoys taking nearer 60 ships each.

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, is it possible to organise the Intelligence Division to enable forecasts to be made sufficiently accurately and in time to enable a warning to be given to Naval Authorities of either unduly large or small numbers of ships for particular convoys so that slight adjustment of sailing date or escort strength might be made.

(c) The advance sailing telegrams have at present a considerable margin of error the reasons for which we fully appreciate. At the same time the increasing numbers of ships makes it essential to devise ways and means of more accurate and even earlier forecasts. We are experiencing the same difficulties at this end and would appreciate your remarks or suggestions after consultation with Sparks and Huband.

(d) The situation would be helped by any further steps which can be taken for expediting completion of individual ships which may otherwise miss convoys by narrow margins. (D.T.D., 2140A/13 to B.A.D.)

WESTMOUNT. Your 1403Z/8 (N.T. in W.D.) E.T.A.1000Z/14. (WESTMOUNT, 2150Z/13 to C.O. Atlantic Coast.)

Attacks on O.N.166, 21/2 to 25/2. Comtaskforce 24.09.19.33. Summary of attacks on O.N.166. First attack 2135Z/21. (A) No.21, EMPIRE TRADER, torpedoed port bow. (B) Believed attacked from port bow by single U-Boat which approached undetected and fired from outside screen. (C) 4 escorts stationed similar A C I DE one. Convoy 10 columns. Calm sea. Moonlight. Visibility 15 miles. Six U-Boats contacted and put down near convoy just prior sunset. None contacted during or immediately following attack. Ship remained afloat. 106 survivors. None lost. Second attack O.N.166 0351Z/22 Feb. (A) No.25 NIELSEN ALONSO, Nor, torpedoed in stern. (B) Believed attacked from port quarter single U-Boat which penetrated screen. (C) 5 escorts stationed similar A C I DE 5. 10 columns. Moderate sea. Visibility 15 miles. Night zombie and illumination. No U-Boat detected before, during, or after attack. Ship abandoned, sunk by escort. 60 survivors. None lost. Third attack on O.N.166 2125Z/22nd Feb. (A) Number 11, EMPIRE REDSHANK, port bow. No.21, EXPOSITOR, port beam. No.22, CHATTANOOGA CITY, starboard bow. (B) Believed attacked from port bow and ahead by several U-Boats which approached undetected and penetrated screen.

(C) /...

541

13.3.1945.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

Attacks on O.N.166, 21/2 to 25/2. (C) 5 escorts similar A C I DE 5. 9 columns. Moderate sea. Visibility 6 miles. Prior torpedoing 1 U-Boat 4 miles ahead attacked with depth charges. During night zombie and illumination sighted U-Boat port bow and detected 1 port beam, both attacked also depth charged, 1 starboard bow. Violent underwater explosion followed. No.11 abandoned and sunk by escort. 48 survivors. None lost. No.21 abandoned and sunk by escorts. 54 survivors. 6 lost. No.22 sank immediately. 57 survivors. None lost.

Fourth attack O.N.166, 0625 to 0656/23rd Feb. (A) No.63, WINKLER, torpedoed port beam. No.12, HASTINGS, Port bow. No.75, GLITTRE, starboard quarter. No.41, EULIMA, port bow. (B) Believe attacked by 3 or 4 U-Boats from ahead port bow and starboard quarter. (C) 4 escorts similar ANIPL DE 1. 9 columns. Moderate sea. Visibility 6 miles. No U-Boats detected immediately prior attack. During night zombie and illumination, 4 attacks made on 1 Radar 3 sound contacts. 32 survivors WINKLER. 64 HASTINGS. 35 GLITTRE with 1 missing. EULIMA crew unaccounted for. All 4 ships sunk.

5th attack O.N.166. 0723Z/24 Feb. (A) Number 83, INGRIA, port beam. (B) Believe attacked from many directions and aggressive action by escorts thwarted all except 1. (C) 4 escorts similar A C I DE 1. 9 columns. Moderate sea. Visibility 4 miles. Convoy evaded 80° at dark. Escorts patrolled at high speed. Threw sightings one Radar 5 sound contacts immediately prior to and during attack. 9 attacks made with guns and depth charges. During night zombie one U-Boat sighted and put down by gun fire. No illumination, ship abandoned and sank. 37 survivors. None lost.

6th attack. O.N.166. 0725Z/25 Feb. (A) No.71, MANCHESTER MERCHANT, starboard bow. (B) Attack from starboard bow. (C) 4 escorts similar A C I DE 1 patrolling high speed. Another escort patrolling 5 miles astern. Even columns. Calm sea. Visibility 15 miles. Convoy evaded 80° at dark. 2 U-Boats attacked near convoy at dusk. 1 sighting and 1 sound contact before torpedoing attacked with guns and depth charges. During night zombie attacked 2 sound contacts. No illumination. Ship exploded. 32 survivors. 36 unaccounted for.

(C.T.U.24.1.5, 2245Z/15 to C.T.F. 24, (R) Connnav, Admty.)
C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7,
H.Q.C.C., (R) Alusna, London.)

Helicopters, assignment, training. My 1855/8. We have been assigned second and fifth YR - 4A helicopters off production, U.S.N. the third and sixth. (2) Formal proposal has been made by U.S.N. that we pool these YR - 4A and that trials be carried out by joint board of Navy Dept. and Admiralty representatives U.S. Maritime Commission providing a Merchant ship with platform. (3) Stated unofficially that joint action could be extended to include training of pilots. (4) Consider that acceptance of proposal would facilitate conduct of our trials and overcome

difficulty/ ...

War Diary.

13.3.1945.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Helicopters, assignment, training. (Contd.) difficulty quoted in para. 1 of your 1402/5. Many advantages in our arriving at same answer as U.S.N. particularly in regard to future design and development of helicopters. Use of U.S.N. training facilities which is probably dependent on joint trials has many advantages over training arrangements proposed in Marcus 123 1st Feb. (5) U.S.N. proposal is therefore recommended. Request your views. (6) We are anxious to start helicopter training of special trials party at Sikorskys on arrival. Request Treasury approval for cost of this training asked for in Marcus 123 1st Feb. be given as soon as possible. (B.A.D., 2251Z/13 to Admty.)

ACHILLES. ACHILLES (departing?) Bermuda about 1300Z/15th speed (8.5?) routed through following points.
(A) latitude 35.02 longitude 56.01.
(B) latitude 37.30 longitude 44.05.
(C) latitude 41.35 longitude 32.56. (D) latitude 44.10 longitude 22.30 (E) latitude 50.10 longitude 16.50
(F) latitude 49.40 longitude 06.15 thence to Plymouth, England. E.T.A. 1500Z/22nd.
(U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, 2310/13 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., N.Z.N.B., S.B.N.O. W.At.)

Australia and New Zealand.

MONOWAI. Departure Noumea MONOWAI for Auckland E.T.A. 1900Z/15. Direct route 15 knots. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0300Z/13 to Admty.).

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Your 0730/10. Earliest possible opportunity will probably be in NIEUW AMSTERDAM sailing San Francisco early May. It is not yet certain that this can be arranged but is there any really serious objection to this proposal from your point of view. Recent diversions have made the position regarding sailings of the large fast troopships to the Indian Ocean very difficult. (2) Agreed. (D. of S.T., 0438A/13 to N.Z.N.B. (R) A.C.N.B.)

Movements/ ...

543.

War Diary.13.3.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.(Contd.)

Movements. Arrivals (?Sydney N.S.W.) 11th STUART Townsville
12th KAPUNDA U.S. VICTORIA. Departures
Port Phillip 12th BUNGAREE for Port Patrick
Townsville 12th VENDETTA for (Mil(?n)e Bay
Cairns 11th BOWEN for Mil(?n)e Bay Port Moresby
11th WARRAMUNGA for Kranji Mil(?n)e Bay 11th KATOOMBA for
Port Moresby.
(A.C.N.B., 0556Z/13 to Admty.)
Hired Transport KATOOMBA arrived Townsville 13th.
Hired Transport DUNTROON departed Port Moresby 12th due
Cairns 13th.
Hospital ship CENTAUR departed Melbourne 12th due Sydney 15th.
Hospital ship MANUNDA departed Port Moresby 12th due Brisbane
16th.
Hired Transport TAROONA departed Townsville 12th due Fall
River 14th.
(A.C.N.B., 1102Z/13 to Admty.)

Digest (2) Partial photos Rabaul forenoon reveal 60
Serial 416, vessels including 36 merchantmen totalling
March 12th. 153,000 tons, 8 tankers, 6 destroyers, 3 patrol
craft, 1 minesweeper, 3 submarines, 1 submarine
tender, 2 destroyer tenders. 83 fighters,
10 bombers including 6 dive bombers Lakunai,
1 flying boat, 6 float planes Malaguna, 41 bombers Rapopo and
17 bombers in small section of Acunakanau Aerodrome photographed.
(4) 3 unidentified vessels sighted Wewak Harbour midday.
(6) Morning R/C aircraft over Milne Bay. (7) Three Liberators
attacked shipping and wharf installations Ambon during forenoon
scoring direct hits on Vessel estimated 6000 to 7000 tons.
6 to 8 enemy fighters attempted interception and 2 shot down,
2 damaged. (8) At Lautom (Timor) one small coastal type vessel
and personnel strafed.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0709Z/13)

ATREUS. Your 0642Z/2nd. Approval for ATREUS to remain
in S.W. Pacific Area for the present.
(2) Request you will review situation in one
month's time.
(Director of Torpedoes and Mining, 1102A/13 to
A.C.N.B.(R) N.Z.N.B.)

Solops 7. (B.A.D.1545/13 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)
See America and West Indies.

ROAMER. Departure Ackland U.S.S. ROAMER Espiritu Santo
2300Z/18. (U) 21° 20'S.173° 40' E.
(V) 16° 37' S. 170° 42' E.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1848Z/13 to Admty.)

War Diary.

13.3.1945.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C, 1338A/13, 1415A/13)

14.3.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Oiling at
Sea.

1. All suitable tankers are now being fitted to carry spare depth charges for the replenishment of escorts.

O.S. and
K.M.S.
convoys.

2. Commencing with O.S.46 and K.M.S.13 it is intended to combine O.S. and K.M.S. convoys as O.S. convoys, sailing on a 15 day cycle, commencing with O.S.46 sailing 15 April.

Operation
Upsilon IV.

3. F.S. JUNON ^(submarine) completed a special landing operation on the coast of north-west Norway tonight. (Page 629)

Home Commands.

4. UGANDA returned to Plymouth at 2221A from patrol, with METEOR and MUSKETEER.

Enemy main
units.

5. It is reported (B.2) that a large warship escorted by two destroyers passed through the Kattegat northbound p.m./7. This was possibly SCHARNHORST which has not been located in Gdynia and Kiel since the date of this report. As TIRPITZ left Trondheim on 11th March apparently for the northward and as no main units were at Trondheim yesterday it is possible that a concentration of main units may now be in northern Norway. The Russians attempted air R/Cs of Alten Fjord today, but were unsuccessful owing to low cloud.

Convoy
R.A. 53.

6. Of the 30 ships (including tankers) in R.A.53, which left Kola Inlet on 1 March 22 arrived at Loch Ewe today, 4 having proceeded to Iceland. Three were torpedoed and one sank on account of weather damage.

Oban to be
convoy assembly
anchorage.

7. In order to relieve anticipated congestion at Loch Ewe it is proposed to re-open the Lynn of Lorne, Oban as a convoy assembly anchorage for vessels for O.S., O.G. and O.N.S. convoys. It is anticipated that the first convoy to sail from Oban will be O.S.(O) 45 on 26 March. It is not intended that homeward-bound convoys should call at Oban. Oban is also to serve as an overflow anchorage for the Clyde when necessary. (Orders to this effect were given on 20th March).

8. A Sunderland aircraft attacked a U-boat in 51.30 N. 21.00 W. today. Six depth charges straddled the U-boat whilst the conning tower and stern were still visible.

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands. - Contd.

9. 42 out of 71 aircraft of Bomber Command laid 127 mines last night in The Baltic, Heligoland, Frisian, Elbe and Biscay areas. Three of our aircraft are missing.
- Minefield off Orfordness. 10. Minelaying by E-boats last night was suspected off the coast of Norfolk, and at 0400 today "O" trawlers near 54 B Buoy exploded 5 mines in sweeps. H.M.T. MORAVIA was sunk by a suspected mine in 52° 03' 15" N. 01° 48' 18" E. at 1245 today (about 10 miles E.S.E. of Orfordness). Further mines were found later, and the 9th M.S.F. are to clear the area.
11. 21 enemy aircraft operated last night off and over the S.E. coasts, mainly sea mining.

North Atlantic.A/S
co-ordination
in "Torch"
area.

12. The sailing of shipping for Operation "Torch" has resulted in creating in the sea area bounded by 43° N. 2° W, 26° 10' N., 40° W. a focal area similar to those in the U.K., north west Atlantic, and Caribbean. In each of the three latter areas control of surface and A/S forces has been centered in one commander with subordinate air and surface forces. In the case of the Casablanca/Gibraltar area this has not been done and there exist in that area three authorities, namely F.O. Gibraltar, A.O.C. Gibraltar and Commander Moroccan Sea Frontier who function on a common mission without complete co-ordination. C. in C. Med., Air C.M. Tedder and U.S. Admiral Hewitt (See 16 March) intend to apply themselves to seeing whether better A/S co-ordination can be achieved. The C. in C. U.S. Fleet agreed to the A.S.W. Naval and Air forces in the Gibraltar - Casablanca area being placed in co-ordinating control of one officer for the protection of all shipping, including Freetown convoys. (28 March).
- Convoy K.M.F. 10 B. bombed. 13. Convoy K.M.F.10 B was bombed in 42.17 N. 16.13 W. at 1245Z today DUCHESS OF YORK was hit by one bomb which did not explode, and superficial damage only was caused. The convoy was bombed again at 1345Z by 3 F.Ws, but no damage was caused. The only effective H.A. guns

/in...

14. 3. 1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Convoy
K.M.F.
10 B.
bombed.
(contd).

in the escort or convoy were one 3" in RESTIGOUCHE and one 3" in SS. STAFFORDSHIRE. * At the times of attack the convoy was out of range of air cover from both Gibraltar and England and was 700 miles from Bordeaux.

*The meaning probably is that the enemy aircraft bombed from a very high level.

South Atlantic.

/ 14. C. in C. U.S. Fleet reports that a clipper sighted 3 submarines and a tender at 2000Z/13 in 20 N. 17.16 W. (off Cape Blanco) steering 360°.

Mediterranean.

Boom
working
vessels.

/ 15. C. in C. Levant reports that for eight important and vulnerable ports between Tripoli (S) and Tripoli (L) he has available only 6 boom working vessels, of which 4 are trawlers. At the moment there is no vessel at Alexandria or Haifa. In view of prospective increased defence requirements at ports he asks that new vessels may be sent out as early as possible. He notes that 110 vessels are allocated to the 15 defended ports in the U.K. C. in C. Med., points out (16 March) that the Western Mediterranean is also short of boom working vessels, and he requests that the requirements for the Mediterranean as a whole may be reviewed as compared with the numbers in U.K.

The Admiralty reply (30 March) was that the shortage of boom craft is world wide and that few of the boom vessels employed in U.K. ports are suitable for passage overseas. Seven or 8 vessels are being made available for the Med. from the U.K. and Eastern Fleet.

/Air...

War Diary.

14.3.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air
operations.

16. Three torpedo carrying naval Albacores, 6 torpedo carrying Wellingtons and 2 bomb carrying Wellingtons covered by Mosquitoes patrolling over Sicily, were despatched from Malta to attack a convoy consisting of one 3/4000 ton and 3 unidentified vessels and 2 destroyers sighted at 2315/13 in 37.56 N. 12.24 E. At 0140/14 an Albacore of 828 Squadron from Malta made a torpedo hit on a probable ammunition ship of 6000 tons, which was seen to blow up. One unidentified vessel was apparently hit by bombs; another merchant ship was seen down by the stern emitting black smoke; and another merchant ship was seen with a heavy list to starboard. One Albacore is missing. U.S. and R.A.F. Liberators bombed the estimated position of Naples harbour through cloud last night.

17. T/B aircraft attacked Force Q and the Ferry Service off Cape de Garde p.m. today; fighters and A/A fire shot down one, probably shot down 3 more and damaged two.

East Indies.

18. At the suggestion of C. in C. Eastern Fleet the Admiralty today requested him to proceed to the Cape at his earliest convenience, to discuss with C. in C. S.A. what further action can be taken to deal with U-boats with the forces available for the purpose in South Atlantic and those from the Eastern Fleet, and any other matters concerning the safety of shipping.

19. It is proposed to use the short titles C.X. and X.C. for convoys between Ceylon and island bases in the Maldives and Laccadives.

20. An R.A.F. Beaufort flying low reports sighting a submarine at 1303 in 25.06 N. 63.16 E. (Arabian Sea), which submerged when sighted.

21. 4 B.24s bombed Moulmein docks today.

14.3.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

22. Rear Admiral L.W. Murray, Canadian Navy, is to take over command of U.S. escort vessels in the Canadian north west Atlantic as C. in C. on 31st March.

23. Aircraft sighted 7 S/Ms and made 2 attacks in the area 50.30 to 51.30 N. 47.30 to 48.30 W. today.

At 1918 G.M.T. an aircraft dropped 4 depth charges on a U-boat in 49.58 N. 45.34 W. and considers the U-boat probably damaged and possibly destroyed.

24. U.S. S/M S.32, operating in the Aleutians, reported that she definitely sank a submarine today.

Australia & New Zealand.

25. 15 enemy aircraft attacked Oro Bay (160 miles S.E. of Lae) this evening, causing damage to the dock area but no casualties.

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Arrived TUNA, SPORTSMAN, SIMOON escorted by
Movements. KING HAAKON VII.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0918A/14.)
My 1719/13. Cancel para (L). Sailing postponed
24 hours. (SICKLE.)
(F.O.S. 1114A/14 to Admty.)

My 1012/5. Ship delayed. Now anticipate sailing 20th (ULTIMATUM)
(C. in C.Plymouth 1116A/14 to Admty.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/15 and movements for
following 24 hours.

A. SHAD in zone K.508.
B. HERRING in zones K.505 and K.501 south of 44° 25' N.
C. ULTOR 43° 30' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day due 43° 00' N. 12°
54' W. at 2100/15, thence to Gibraltar.
D. SHAKESPEARE 47° 25' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day due 43° 01' N.
12° 54' W. at 0001/18.
E. DZIK 49° 30' N. 12° 53' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N.
13° 22' W. due 43° 00' N. 13° 22' W. at 2200/18.
F. SICKLE leaves Nore with C.W. 163 for Portsmouth.
G. UNRULY escorted by CUTTY SARK 54° 10' N. 05° 10' W. due 360°
Round Island 7 miles at 1800/16.
H. H.34 escorted by KIHNA arriving Londonderry from Eastward.
J. TRESPASSER towing X.6 escorted by ALECTO leaves Rothesay
0700/15 for port H.H.Z. speed 8 knots.
K. X.5 and X.7 towed by TEDWORTH and FIDELE leave Rothesay 0730/
15 for port H.H.Z. speed 6 knots.
L. JUNON vicinity Andfjord.
(F.O.S. 1721A/14 to Admty.)
My 1459/11 and 1452/13 sailed (H.34.)
(Capt. S.7 2001A/14.)
Sailed UNRULY escorted by CUTTY SARK.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2034A/14.)

INDOMITABLE, Cancel my 1501/11.
HOWE, 1. Intend sailing (A) INDOMITABLE and HOWE.
ARCHER. (B) ARCHER on 17th March.
2. Request screen at Clyde light vessel for (A)
1530A/17 (B)1200A/17.
3. S. of A. and E.T.A. Hoxa Gate (A) 18 knots 1100/18 (B)
15 knots 1130/18.
(R.A.A.H.F. 1217A/14 to C. in C.H.F.)

DUKE OF Rosyth arrivals FORESTER, BLANKNEY, ECHO.
YORK. Rosyth departures DUKE OF YORK, FORESTER,
BLANKNEY, ECHO. E.T.A. 0600/15.
(C. in C.Rosyth 1920/14 to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

E-Boats on Suspected E-Boat activity F.
East Coast. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0246A/14 to Yarmouth.)

/E-Boat...

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

E-Boats on East Coast. (Contd.) E-Boat bears 170/3 approx. from W. by D/F. (C. in C.Nore 0310/14 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)
E-Boat bears 185 approx. from W. by D/F. (C. in C.Nore 0314A/14.)
WHITSHED reinforce patrol 7 remain Dorfleet South.
(Nore 0315A/14 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

Am proceeding to cover seaward quarter of F.S. 61.
(MONTROSE 0315A/14 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

E-Boat bears 153/3 approx. from W. by D/F.
(Nore 0320/14 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

Shift to No. 8 patrol.

(C. in C.Nore 0327A/14 to SHELDRAKE.)

Enemy unidentified by R.D.F. 158 Orfordness 9.

(Nore 0333A/14 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

F.S. 61 is to reduce speed to the minimum.

(C. in C.Nore 0403A/14 to WORCESTER, WOOLSTON.)

Departure M.G.Bs. 59, 61, 63.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0410A/14.)

Do not proceed south number 3 buoy.

(C. in C.Nore 0415A/14 to SHELDRAKE.)

F.S. 61 is to anchor between 3 and 3 A buoys. Destroyers and corvettes on patrol proceed Gt. Yarmouth at daylight. Do not go south of number 3 buoy.

(C. in C.Nore 0419/14 to S.E.E.C.C.D. WOOLSTON.)

Following is preliminary report of E-Boat activity night 13th/14th March.

NORLAND picked up 5 E-Boats on her type 271 set bearing 025° 6000 yards at 0210, her position 1.5 miles south of 54 B buoy Range closed to 2400 yards at 0227 when fire was opened with Starshell, but nothing sighted, plot showing that E-Boats made off to Northward. This information was received at 0253. Destroyers and C/F units were "flected" south but no contact was made.

2. No R.D.F. fixes were obtained, K.138 set going off their about this time.

3. Southwold and Felixstowe picked up speech and carriers, but bearings from Southwold were unreliable being over 160° no bearings obtained from Felixstowe.

Minelaying suspected.

4. At 0400/14 "O" trawlers near 54B buoy exploded 5 mines in sweeps. F.S. 61 was anchored between 3 and 3A buoys and traffic suspended until sweeping of diversion is completed.

(C. in C.Nore 1238A/14 to Admty.)

Coastal Patrols.

1. Intend R.M.L. 511 (S.O.) and M.L. 246 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

2. Leaving Portland at 1900 via Q.Z.S. 382 for patrol-line, and leaving patrol-line at dawn.

3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Advent."

(F.O.I.C. Portland 1047A/14.)

1. Weather permitting sweep is to be carried out tonight as in my 1355/12 by M.G.Bs. 316, (S.O.) 312 and M.T.Bs. 243, 242.

2. Merchant vessel of 2-3000 tons is expected to sail from Havre eastward soon.

3. Codeword "Device."

(C. in C.Portsmouth 1200A/14.)

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
Patrols.
(Contd.)

1. M.G.Bs. 330, 324, and 7 are to patrol 8 miles 270° and 090° from 210° Start Point 10 miles.

2. Object. To intercept E-Boats.

3. Execution. Leave Dartmouth 1930/14 for patrol. Leave patrol line to arrive Dartmouth by 0600/15. Codeword "Limited."

(C. in C.Plymouth 1343/14.)

1. M.T.Bs. 316 (S.O.) 312, M.T.Bs. 243, 242, patrolling Southward from Newhaven.

2. Chasseurs 11 (S.O.) 13 patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy.

3. R.M.L. 511 (S.O.) M.L. 246 from Portland patrolling on 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

(C. in C.Portsouth 1522A/14 and 1650A/14.)

M.Ls. 140 and 293 patrolling at Bullock Bank.

M.T.Bs. 38, 221, 35 and M.G.Bs. 110, 108 and 117 patrolling at No. 4 buoy from 2359 to 0430/15.

M.G.Bs. 41, 40 and 42 from Dover patrolling at "V" buoy from 1945 to 0600/15.

(V.A.Dover 1650A/14.)

Your 1200/14. M.G.B. 316, 312 and M.T.B. (S.O.) 243 and 242 harbour. Weather too bad to carry out orders. Vessels will remain in harbour at immediate notice.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 2210/14 to C. in C.Portsouth.)

Operation
V.P.- L.

Carry out V.P.- L.

(i) Through 060° 30' N., 002° 00' E. and 20 miles west of L. to patrol L.

(ii) 627. (iii) 1300A/15 or first suitable day thereafter.

(iv) 6. (v) No. (vi) No. (vii) 0700A 065° Out Skerries 110 miles.

(A.C.O.S. 1706A/14 to C. in C.Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

Biscay
Patrol.

Cancel Para. 4 of my 1651/13 and substitute.

At dark 14th KENYA is to proceed to cover M.K.F. 10B reported in 043° 30' N. 016° 30' W. at 2000/14, routed through 045° 01' N. 017° 30' W. thence 001° at 12 knots.

KENYA keep to westward and within 60 miles of convoy.

2. At 1200/15 unless otherwise ordered KENYA is to continue passage passing through position (R) 043° 01' 018° 29' thence Gibraltar.

(C. in C.Plymouth 1951/14 to KENYA.)

Arrived UGANDA, METEOR, MUSKETEER.

(C. in C.Plymouth 2221A/14 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.Lyme Bay
Patrol.

Tonight Swordfish aircraft will fly patrols as in my 1411/8.

(C. in C.Plymouth 1331A/14 to Escorts W.P.308, P.W.308.)

/Altenfjord...

War Diary.14. 3. 1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - Contd.Altenfjord
R/C.Air R/C Altenfjord attempted today, but unsuccessful owing to low cloud.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1525A/14 to Admty.)Enemy Air Activity.Murmansk
bombed.
OCEAN FREEDOM
damaged.Two short low-level attacks afternoon 13th. During raid (? 1932C/13) OCEAN FREEDOM hit at number 6 berth. No casualties. Two bombs into numbers one and two holds, deck and sides split in way of number one hold amidships and abaft engineroom. Numbers 1, 2, 3 holds, stoke-hold, and engine-room flooded. Possibility of moving ship for some months very remote.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1054A/14 to Admty.)

UGANDA.

Your approx. position and course have been reported by enemy aircraft.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1237/14 to UGANDA.)Mining.

M/S F.9.

Available ships of 9th M.S.F. are to proceed as soon as practicable by normal searched channels for southbound traffic to Yarmouth roads and await further orders.
(C. in C.Nore 1026A/14 to M/S 9.)My 1026/14. Proceed to Harwich. Reduce speed to pass number 3 buoy at 0530. Proceed number 3 direct 52 buoy.
(C. in C.Nore 2224A/14 to M/S 9.)

S.O.90A.

My 1204/8. SCOTT sheltering in Broad Bay.
(R.A.M. 1102/14 to A.C.I.C.)
Cancel my 2242/13. Intend to sail 2230A/15.
(CHARYBDIS 1250A/14 to C. in C.H.F.)

Your 1040/14. Operations postponed. Proceed to Langstone Point beacon as soon as weather permits. Keep me informed of your intentions and movements.

(R.A.M. 1326A/14 to SCOTT.)

My 1204/8. Due to weather operation is postponed.
(R.A.M. 1330A/14 to H.Q.F.C. etc.)East
Coast.At 0400/14 "O" Trawlers near 54 B Buoy exploded 5 mines in sweeps.
(C. in C.Nore 1238A/14 to Admty.)

/C. in...

War Diary.

14.3.1943.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

East Coast. C. in C.Nore 1238/14. Para. 4. commenced routine
(Contd.) sweep with 4 "O" trawlers at 54 B, swept to No. 3 east of buoys turned and swept down west side of buoys. At 0400 in position 1/2 to 1 cable west of 54 B leading ship detonated 2 mines in sweep. One minute later 2nd ship detonated 3 mines in sweep. Continued sweep to 52 buoys. Ships then turned north and started clearance of diversion as already reported in 1738. Deplete detonated at end of my 1748, read exploded.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2247/14 to Admty.)

MORAVIA
(M/S Trawler
sunk.)

MORAVIA sunk by suspected enemy moored mine in 52° 03' 15" N. 01° 48' 18" E. at 1245 today. 28 of crew rescued, one missing.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1512A/14 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Two unknown
ships.

Following from Liberator A.M. 911 begins. 2 ships 6,000 tons G.C. funnel 2 corrupt group heading 125° T.R.U., 10 knots, position 48° 55' N. 09° 50' W. T.O.O. 1220 G.M.T.
(O.A.C. Glos. 1422/14 to Air Ministry.)

Pilot of Liberator A.M. 911 confirms two ships 3000 to 4000 tons, loaded, each one funnel two masts in 48.35 N. 09.00 W. at 1210 G.M.T. heading 125° true at 10 knots.
(O.A.C. Glos. 1628A/14 to Air Ministry.)

Northern
Norway.

A large warship escorted by two destroyers passed northbound through Kattegat p.m. 7th March (Graded B.2.)
Comment: Possibly SCHARNHORST which has not been located in Gdynia and Kiel since date of this report. As TIRPITZ left Trondheim on 11th March apparently for northward, and as no main units were at Trondheim on 13th March, it is possible that a concentration of main units may now be in Northern Norway.
(D.D.I.C. 1555A/14 to A.I.G. 21 etc.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats
attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 51.21 N. 20.41 W.
(A/C J.A.5.U 0843/14 to 15 Group.)
Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges.
Enemy was on course 180° speed 10 knots.
(A/C J.A.5 U 0905A/14 to 15 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 57° 05' N. 24° 50' W.
(A/C 206 Sqdn. 1010A/14 to 15 Group.)

/Have...

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boats
attacked.
(Contd.)

Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges.
(A/C ?U.9 D.G. 1010A/14 to 15 Group.)
Aircraft reported attacking U-Boat on course
090° at 1120 in 048° 07' N. 016° 49' W. 2nd
A/C reported attacking U-Boat on course 120°
in 047° 42' N. 015° 02' W. at 1415.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1631/14 to KENYA.)

U-Boats
sunk by
HARVESTER
and ACONIT
on 11th
March.

Interview with C.O. ACONIT and Senior surviving
officer HARVESTER indicates possibility that U
444 sunk by ACONIT about 0137Z/11 distant about
800 yards from HARVESTER was a different U-Boat
from that rammed by HARVESTER at (?00)20Z/11,
and that 2 U-Boats were sunk at this time.
HARVESTER picked up one prisoner from many in
the water. This prisoner was rescued from
HARVESTER by ACONIT when former was torpedoed and
was placed with survivors from U.444. He first stated he was
from U.81 which was later corrected to U.444. ACONIT reported
U.444 was under-way when sighted. It is highly improbable that
U-Boat rammed by HARVESTER would be able to steam. Prisoner's
name is Wilhelm Gors. Recommend careful interrogation on
this subject.
(Capt. D.Greenock 1908A/14 to Admty.)

U-Boats
reported.

Am over enemy submarine in 48.13 N. 16.50 W.
(A/C W.P.9 R 1330A/14 to 19 Group)
Am over enemy submarine in 47 N. 16 W.
(A/C 5BP.U. 1415A/14 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 48.04 N. 16.44 W. Periscope
only sighted.
(A/C 502 Sqdn. 1418A/14 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine 47.59 N. 16.39 W. Periscope only sighted.
(A/C of 502 Sqdn. 1519A/14 to 19 Group.)

Casualties & Defects.

CAPETOWN.

My 1952/13. Proceeding westwards.
(R.N.O. Padstow 0710/14.)

MALCOLM.

Starboard condenser tubes leaking, engine
stopped to prevent rise of density. Anticipate
12 hours to make good. Am proceeding to
Bangor Bay.
(MALCOLM 1145A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)
My 1145A/14th. Defective condenser tube is being plugged.
E.T.D. Bangor Bay 2100/14. E.T.A. at R/V with WITCH by route
ordered at 0230/15th. Have topped up with fuel.
(MALCOLM 1830A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

/CAPE...

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- CAPE ARGONA. My 1224A/14. A localised fire has occurred in CAPE ARGONA causing damage to W/T office and equipment and A/S house and equipment. Repairs will take approx. three weeks.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 1241A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)
- M.T.B. 639. Arrived M.T.B. 639 with engine defects.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1545A/14 to V.A.Dover.)
- ACTIVITY. Your 1931/13. Strongly urge ship be sent to a port where berthing alongside or in dock is possible. No prospect of undertaking alteration and additions at Tail of the Bank is envisaged.
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1545/14 to R.A.A.H.F.)
- BORAGE. Cancel my 1402A/14. BORAGE has developed further defects.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 2101A/14.)
- ACTIVITY. Your 1931A/13 para. 2 confirmed.
2. Defects which can be remedied as in para. 3 may be undertaken.
3. ACTIVITY will be required to start D.L.T. on 30th March.
(D.O.D.H. 2110A/14 to V.A.A.H.F.)
- MORAY sunk. My 1529A/12. MORAY foundered. EMPIRE MINNOW returned with all crew.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2321A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- H.X. 228. E.T.A. 1100Z/14. Request accommodation and clothing for 71 survivors. Escort for 21 uninjured prisoners. Main defect stem, hull, and asdic. Survivors are from HARVESTER, HENRY WYNKOOP, GORGAS, ASTORIA, and prisoners from U. 444 and U.432.
(ACONIT 0001A/14 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- S.S.VAV and SAMUEL F.B.MORSE in collision at 0415Z/14. VAV rejoining convoy 9½ knots, superficial damage. SAMUEL F.B.MORSE holed. Number 2 hatch 6 feet of water which is being cleared by pumps. Hole probably above waterline in calm water, no important damage to superstructure, consider she should proceed under own power to repair port not Loch Ewe as in your 1444/12. P.C. and S. at 0710Z 055° 03' N. 011° 06' W. 074° 10 knots. NARCISSUS standing by.
(ESCAPADE 0815Z/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

/Arrived...

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War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

H.X. 228. Arrived ACONIT.
 SAMUEL F.B. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1236A/14.)
 MORSE Inform Commodore and ship named, GULFGEM is to
 damaged. proceed to Londonderry.
 (Contd.) 2. Your 0815/14. NARCISSUS is to continue to
 escort SAMUEL F.B.MORSE proceeding towards
 N.Channel.
 (C. in C.W.A. 1339A/14 to Escorts H.X. 228.)
 My 0500Z/14th. (B) and (C) 4 hours late. SAMUEL F.B.MORSE
 reports her degaussing gear out of action.
 My P.C. and S. at 1300Z 055° 12' N. 009° 26' W. 068° 8 knots.
 (ESCAPADE 1400A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)
 Sailed Norwegian Whaler NARVIK to meet H.X. 228.
 (Cmdre. Londonderry 1835A/14.)
 E.T.A. 0600A/15. BURSA and NARCISSUS in company. Have
 one Lieutenant, R.N. for DOLPHIN Ex P.554, one P.O. for
 SWEETBRIAR, and 7 ratings. All ex AVALON. BURSA reports abnormal
 noises from starboard propeller. Request divers on arrival.
 GARLAND escorting SAMUEL F.B.MORSE. Acknowledge.
 (ESCAPADE 2135A/14 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
 INGHAM and BABBITT arrived 2230Z/12. T.U. No. 24.6.3
 dissolved.
 (C.T.G. 24.6 2300A/12 to C.T.F. 24.)

S.C. 121. My P.C. and S. at 0030A/14 57.37 N. 15.38 W.
 295° 9½ knots.
 (CLOVER 0100A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)
 Clyde arrivals ADHERENT with S.S. EMPIRE BUNTING
 in tow.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1528A/14.)

R.A.53. Seidisfjord arrival IMPULSIVE at 2028/13.
 (A.C.I.C. 0216A/14.)
 Seidisfjord departure at 2303/13 IMPULSIVE.
 (A.C.I.C. 0401A/14.)

Scapa arrival LEDBURY.
 (A.C.O.S. 0442/14.)
 Scapa arrivals VIVACIOUS, PYTCHLEY, MEYNELL.
 (A.C.O.S. 0813/14.)
 R.A. 53 arrived: TEMPLE ARCH, DAN-Y-BRYN, OCEAN FAITH,
 EMPIRE SNOW, EMPIRE ARCHER, EMPIRE CLARION, EMPIRE TRISTAM,
 OREMAR, JEFFERSON MYERS, CHESTER VALLEY, R.W.EMERSON, DELSUD,
 NICHOLAS GILMAN, CORNELIUS HARNETT, COLOBRER, EL ORIENTE.
 (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1410A/14.)
 VIVACIOUS with PYTCHLEY, MEYNELL proceed passing Switha
 1100A/15 to arrive off Flamborough Head 0700/16. Thence to
 Sheerness at 22 knots to rejoin Nore Command.
 (R.A.D. 1703A/14.)
 Weather considerably moderated. Towing R.BLAND more
 favourably now although number one hatch has stove in. My
 position uncertain. Anticipate sighting land and reporting
 position 10 tomorrow.
 (HORSA 2130A/14 to A.C.I.C.)

/Scapa...

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- R.A. 53. Scapa arrival - D.3 in MILNE.
(Contd.) (A.C.O.S. 2236/14.)
- K.M.S.11. Clyde portion sailed at 0218/14 as follows.
13 ships pendants. CITY OF CHRISTIANA did not sail.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 0645A/14.)
For Philippeville, INVENTOR, EMPIRE NIGHTINGALE.
For Algiers. LORIGA, BAIUO CHICO, STAD MAASLUIS, LOCHEE, AGWIDALE, FORT CONFIDENCE, TEMPLE INN, SOBO FRANCIS.
For Bougie, ALCINOUS, OCEAN WANDERER.
For Bone, ARTEMUS WARD, LAMBROOK.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 0715A/14.)
Convoy sailed as in A.M. 1410A/5 and 1705A/11 with following exceptions.
(A) NOLISEMENT and CITY OF CHRISTIANA did not sail.
(B) BARRHILL sailed in convoy and SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA as additional escort.
Commodore in SAINT ESSYLT. Vice Commodore DORELIAN, Rear Commodores INVENTOR and OCEAN MESSENGER.
Following ships sailed from Clyde with degaussing off in accordance with Admiralty Message 1624A/1st January. SAINT ESSYLT, EMPIRE DRIVER, PRINS WILLIAM THIRD, OCEAN MESSENGER, DORELIAN.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1036A/14.)
Sailed BROADWAY, MORDEN, PRIMROSE, CHAMBLY, DRUMHELLER, SHIPP, DORNOCH, TADOUSSAC, ILFRACOMBE, SHERWOOD, LAGAN for K.M.S.11.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1445A/14.)
COWSLIP who returned to Londonderry with defect from O.S.44 is to sail when ready to overtake K.M.S.11 and is to proceed with convoy to Gibraltar for onward routing to Freetown.
(C. in C.W.A. 1817A/14.)
SHERWOOD type 271 Variac burnt out, set inactive, returning Moville to repair and overtake. My position 0001/15, 055° 25' 007° 56'.
(C.2 2325Z/14 to Cmdr. Londonderry.)
- M.K.S.9. Convoy being shadowed by one enemy aircraft distance one mile in 46° 31' N. 14° 49' W. Course and speed of convoy 006°, 8 knots.
(ST. CROIX 0915Z/14.)
At least 6 F.W. aircraft are active from Bordeaux. Your position was probably reported before 1005 today.
(D.D.I.C. 1342A/14 to Escorts M.K.S.9.)
- W.S.28. Sailed MALCOLM at 0615A/14 to R/V WITCH and
K.M.F.11. comply C. in C.W.A. 0932/11. E.T.A. 19th March.
(F.O.I.C. Londonderry 1031A/14 to N.O.I.C. Casablanca.)

SHIPPICAN .

/Intend...

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- W.S. 28 Intend sailing Clyde portion escorted by SKATE
K.M.F.11. passing Clyde Boom 0500A/16 to R/V Liverpool
(Contd.) portions and escort from Londonderry in 270°
Oversay 6 miles at 1600A/16, thence in accordance
with A.M. 2115A/6.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1238A/14.)
My 1616/13. Sailed (RANGITATA.)
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1431A/14.)
- C.W. 163. C.W. 163 postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C.Nore 1031A/14.)
- O.N.S.J. C.T.G. 24.6 1640/13 VISCOUNT and one corvette
S.C. 122 are to arrive at Reykjavik p.m. 18th and will
escort O.N.S.J. one to proceed from I.C.O.M.P.
in 60.45 N. 22.01 W. at 0800Z/21. This will
release escorts in C.T.G. 24.6 1640/13 para. 2A
to proceed direct to S.C. 122.
(C. in C.W.A. 1046Z/14 to C.T.G. 24.6.)
C. in C.W.A.'s 1046Z/14. Request you sail VISCOUNT to comply
and arrange R/V for ROSE from Londonderry.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1540A/14 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- H.X.B. 228. Request you sail NARVIK to 000° Altacarry 3
miles to meet H.X.B. 228. E.T.A. position A
2100A/15.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1133A/14 to N.O.I.C.
Londonderry.)
- J.W. 54. Your 1459/11 ENDEAVOUR is to be made to work
up DASHER in time to sail with J.W. 54 with
the same outfit of aircraft as for J.W. 53.
(C. in C.H.F. 1133A/14 to V.A.A.)
- Ruse for M.T.B. Escorts. M.T.Bs. sailing in convoys to Gibraltar should
be reminded that in the event of their convoy
being attacked by enemy surface forces it may be
a valuable ruse to act as though they had
torpedoes embarked.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1155A/14 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- O.N.S. 171. LAUTARO arrived Reykjavik with engine defects.
BLAIRESK is returning Reykjavik speed 2 knots.
(A.C.I.C. 1207A/14 to Escort O.N.S. 171.)

/Atlantic...

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.- Contd.Atlantic
Convoy
Escorts.

C. in C.Mediterranean has been asked to comment on N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's request that, in view of their need of extra escorts as the St. Lawrence becomes navigable, consideration should be given to the sailing of NASTURTIUM, CAMROSE, REGINA, and ALGONIA direct from Gibraltar to Halifax (A.M. 2004/9 refers.)

Request you will arrange to sail the remainder of the R.C.N. Corvettes ex operation "Torch" from U.K. to Halifax as early as possible.

(D.O.D.H. 1343A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

At present have but three serviceable escorts INGHAM, BIBB and BABBIT which will be increased to four on arrival of UPSHUR from S.C. 122. SCHENCK on undocking in about one week is scheduled to sail for U.S. with returning N.Y.7A.

2. Immediate commitments can be met as follows:-

(a) 2 escorts for O.N.S.J. 1 composed of 9 to 11 ships will also meet S.C. 122. It appears at this time that I.C.O.M.P. for O.N.S.J. 1 will be slightly more to eastward than usual to (?cover) same escort meeting S.C. 122 so will sail O.N.S.J. 1 accordingly. (b) 1 escort for H.X.L. 229A (S.S. NORTH KING). (C.T.G. 24.6.24 1640/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

Oban.

To relieve anticipated congestion Loch Ewe it is proposed to reopen the Lynn of Lorne, Oban, as a convoy assembly anchorage for vessels for O.S. O.G. and O.N.S. convoys.

2. Additional Naval Control D.E.M.S. and kite balloon staffs are being appointed, and small craft etc. provided and it is anticipated that the first convoy to sail from Oban will be O.S. (O) 45 on 26th March.

3. It is not intended that homeward-bound convoys should call at Oban as this would entail the extension of the W.N/E.N. convoys; but all outward-bound ships from the East Coast for the above ocean convoys should, after receipt of a further signal be routed to Oban instead of Loch Ewe, proceeding independently when South of Loch Ewe.

4. Oban is also to serve as an overflow anchorage for the Clyde when necessary.

(D.T.D. 1408A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

IRISH WILLOW.

Your 0457/13. This matter has been rectified. N.C.S.O. Swansea's 1515/4 and A.M. 1557A/8 refer.

(B.A.D. Washington 1535A/14 to Admty.)

M.K.F.10B.

1. Alter course forthwith for new V 45.01 N. 17.30 W., new W. 50.05 N. 17.28 W., thence to T.
2. Amend stragglers route. Stragglers are to follow new convoy route lettered H.J.F.
(D.O.D.H. 1652A/14 to Escorts M.K.F.10B.)

/Spare...

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War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Spare Depth Charges. / All suitable tankers are now being fitted to carry spare depth-charges for the replenishment of escorts. Racks for the stowage of 60 depth-charges with flotation-gear will be provided for each ship but, pending production of the racks, improvised stowage for 60 depth-charges without flotation-gear is being fitted. The aim is that each convoy shall carry 300 spare depth-charges.

2. Prior to the sailing of an outward-bound convoy the Admiralty will signal to all concerned the names of tankers expected to sail in that convoy which are available for the carriage of depth-charges. These names will be subject to constant amendments.

3. As soon as possible after receipt of this signal all F.Os.I.C. and N.Os.I.C. in whose area any of the named tankers are berthed or expected are to signal to Admiralty a report stating:-
 (a) Type of stowage fitted - flotation gear or improvised.
 (b) If none fitted, is the ship suitable or unsuitable for fitting improvised stowage. Is improvised stowage now being fitted. (But see para. 5.)
 (c) Number of depth charges which can be carried, number required to complete to full stowage, are these requirements available in the port.
 (d) Will the tanker be ready as regards stowage of depth charges and in all other respects to sail in convoy.

4. On receipt of this information the Admiralty will in conjunction with C. in C. Western Approaches select the vessels which are to carry spare depth-charges in the convoy, and will signal the names to all concerned. Instructions will also be sent by the Admiralty for the discharge of any depth charges which would be surplus to the requirements of the convoy.

7. A.M. 1800/8th March which deals similarly with escort tankers is being repeated to B.A.D. Washington and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa who are requested to take appropriate action in respect of both messages.
 (D.T.D. 1728A/14.)

M.K.F.10A.

Clyde arrivals: BATORY, LETITIA, CIRCASSIA, BOISSEVAIN, FRANCONIA, NIEUW HOLLAND, CAMERONIA, ATHLONE CASTLE, TAWALI. Codeword "Collins."
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2226/14.)

War Diary.

14.3.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- BURWELL My 1115/13. Sailed BURWELL.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 0740A/14 to Admty. etc)
See 1300/14.
- GHERARDI Remain with C.D.4., Convoy as long as possible
or until relieved after daybreak, still return
Casablanca prior to 1200A/18th. Signal needed
supplies prior to arrival Casablanca. Cancel
my 1144/13th. F.O.C.W.Af. inform Comar Dakar.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 0955Z/14 to U.S. GHERARDI,
(R) F.O.C.W.Af).
- KENYA C. in C. Plymouth 1651/13th. Cancel my 1227/13th
Onward route from (Q), (F) 38.01 N. 17.01 W.
thence direct Q.K.A. 87.
2. Paravanes are to be streamed as convenient
before crossing 007° West.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1023A/14 to KENYA (R) Admty. C. in C.
Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Med).
- X.K.3 Intend sailing (list). Also WIVERN in tow of
tug DESTINY. Request destinations. Agreed
M.W.T.R. and S.T.O.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1051/14 to Admty).
X.K.3. As convoy will now consist of 32 ships including
WIVERN in tow of DESTINY intend including CAMROSE as additional
escort to U.K.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1555A/14 to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C.
W.A., Admty).
- Situation Area X.A. at 1955A/14th. UNA 036° 45' 008° 30'
Report. through 36.51 09.13 at 0040/15th thence 330°
diving by day 2 surfacing by night 8.2.
(2) IMPERIALIST two merchant ships 36.56 07.47
coastwise to Guadalquivir thence 35.56 06.20 to
Gibraltar 8.
(3) G.U.S.5 (O) WISHART 035° 49' 006° 08' through 35.16 07.45
to R/V Casablanca section in 34.24 (708 or 04) 22 at 1400/15th
thence 237° 9. After R/V Mediterranean escort returns Gibraltar
12.
(4) G.U.S.5. Task Force 35 sails Casablanca 0600/15th through
34.24 08.22 at 1400/15th thence 237° 9.
(5) C.G.18 U.S. destroyer 34.37 07.(725 or 06) 35.01 06.40 and
35.50 06.33 to Gibraltar 9.
(6) One escort 3 merchant ships 38.40 10.29 to Tagus thence
escort 186° 12.
(7) NASTURTIUM, CONVULVULUS 35.53 07.28 through 35.55 08.01
and 35.57 10.30 thence 348° to (R/V with) O.S.44 in approx.
36.28 10.36 at 0840/15th and escort Gibraltar section through
35.57 10.30 thence 85 (736) 9½.
(8) French Sloop M/S LA BOUDEUSE, French submarines LA VESTALE,
ANTIOPE sail Casablanca 1600/15th through Q.K.A.92 thence 043° 9.

/(79)...

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Situation (79) CARLISLE 037° 50' 016° 11' Gibraltar 17.
Report. (10) ANTELOPE sailing 1100/15th through Q.K.A.87
(contd). thence 224° 20.
(11) ADVENTURE sails 2008/14th through 36.46
10.(?12) and 37.30 12.20 thence 000° 20.
(12) ARCTIC RANGER one merchant ship sails 1700
/14th through 35.56 06.20 thence coastwise to Lisbon 9.
(13) One M.L. cable ship MIRROR cable repairing vicinity of
35.51 05.37.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1135A/14)
Situation 2000A/14th area X.B.
O.S. 44 ROCHESTER 38.07 11.02 168 8½.
(2) C.D.4 French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE 28.18 12.04 Southbound
coastwise to Cape Bojador thence 235° 9.
(3) S/M TACTICIAN 41.59 11.53 158 diving by day 2½ surface
by night 10½.
(4) S/M ULTOR through 43.01 12.54 at 2100/15th thence 155°
dived by day two, surface by night 8.2
(6) BURWELL 36.10 10.30 276 20.
(8) (?H.M.S. BEGONIA) ESCORT, French Submarine ATALANTE,
SULTANE crossing 26.10 N. at 1730/15th Northbound coastwise 9.
(9) Fleet unit 4 destroyers 23.42 17.07 through 24.26 16.52 to
28.08 13.27 14½ thence (?307°)16.
(11) One escort 3 merchant ships 38.40 10.29 to Tagus thence
escort 186° 12.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1156A/14)
Situation 2002A/14th. Area Y. U.G.F.6, Task force 34,
025° 59' 025° 05' 039° 13½.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1232A/14)
My 1232/14th add new para. 3. L.S.(?T) convoy, C.T.U.
32 025° 06' 028° 28' 058° 8.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1426A/14).
Situation 2005A/14. Area Z. U.G.S.6 Task Force 33,
039° 20' 034° 19' through 040° 35' 031° 30' thence 102° 9.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1302A/14)

Search for My 1604/8th seaplane searched the area covering
survivors of 780 miles searching in the direction 220 miles
SS. MADOERA. North West Fayal time in flight 7.2 hours.
Nothing seen.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1136C/14 to Admty.
(R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar)

TACTICIAN, D/F bearings on 11,068 k/cs at 1008Z/ indicate
U/B. U-boat may be in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 1146A/14 to TACTICIAN (R) F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, F.O.(S))

ADVENTURE Intend to sail ADVENTURE to U.K. at 2015/14
routed through Q.K.A.87 thence M. 36.46 10.12.
N. 37.30 12.20. O. 40.01 12.20 P.43.01 14.01
S. of A. 20 knots.

2. Admty is requested to signal destination and C. in C.
Plymouth onward route. 3. Codeword "Dumbo".
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1217A/14 to Admty. C. in C. Plymouth (R)
V.A. Minelayers, C. in C. W.A., F.O.S., C. in C. Med. H.Q.C.C.,
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, ADVENTURE)

/My...

14. 3. 1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic

- ADVENTURE (contd). My 1217A/14. Sailed ADVENTURE. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1957A/14)
- ANTELOPE, EMPRESS OF CANADA. Intend sailing ANTELOPE at 1100/15 for Dakar routed through (A) 30.41 12.06 (B) 28.(?11) 13.39 (C) 23.55 17.18 (D) 14.44 17.48 thence Q.L.A. 151 S. of A. 20 knots.
2. Comar Dakar is requested to sail ANTELOPE on completing of fuelling to R/V with EMPRESS OF CANADA as arranged by F.O.C.W.A. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1244A/14 to F.O.C.W.Af. Comar Dakar (R) Admty. C. in C. Med., ANTELOPE, N.O.I.C. Casablanca).
- M.K.F.10 B. Air attack. One enemy aircraft dropped bomb no hit. My P.C. and S. 042° 17' N., 016° 13' W. 356° 12 knots. Weather report. (C.4., 1250Z/14 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)
My 1250Z/14th. 2 aircraft shadowing DUCHESS OF YORK hit by one bomb, superficial damage only. (C.4., 1310Z/14 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)
My 1310Z/14th. 3 Focke Wolfes. Enemy are bombing. (C.4., 1345Z/14 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)
- BURWELL, HORORATA. Your 1101/13th. Ministry of Marine raised no objection re-calling at Horta to transfer stores to HORORATA. I think they would prefer armament stores if any to be suitably camouflaged.
They would also prefer that BURWELL after discharge of stores would wait for HORORATA on approx. limit of territorial waters. (N.A. Lisbon, 1300A/14 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. Vice Consul Horta, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada)
- Aircraft Control. In Gibraltar - Casablanca area. (C. in C. Med., 1303A/14) See Mediterranean.
- U.G.S.6, U/B. Continuing W/T transmissions on 12260 k/cs indicate two or more U-boats in contact with the convoy. (D.D.I.C., 1505A/14 to Escorts of U.G.S.6 (R) Cominch, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar etc).
- U-boat hunt. At 0433/14th Rock R.D/F. sets obtained possible U-boat contact eastbound through Straits at 17 knots.
(2) Contact lost in position 130° Europa Point 13 at 0500. At 0332 QUANTOCK on U-boat patrol obtained very doubtful R.D/F contact no asdic contact in position 118° Europa Point 21.
(3) VENOMOUS, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, ATHERSTONE, HAYDON hunting. HAYDON returns to Mers-el-Kebir at 2100/14th. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1505A/14 to C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H).

/G.U.S. ...

War Diary.

14.3.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

G.U.S.5 Ships sailed as in my 1112/11 less MANA, CHARLES CARROLL plus G.C. BROVIG (Tar.) ATHOS II, COLOMBIE. All destinations New York. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1534A/14 to S.N.O.C.A., F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. Connnav, N.S.H.Q.) G.U.S.5 arrivals FORT RUPERT, MAHOUT. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1536/14 to F.O.C. Oran (R) C. in C. Med., Connnav)

ROCHESTER, SPIREA, O.S.44. Your 1812A/13 (N.T. in W.D.) SPIREA detached with Lisbon ship at 1530Z/14. On completion of this duty intend SPIREA to proceed direct to Casablanca for fuel. E.T.A. daylight 16th. My P.C.S. at 1500Z/14 038° 40' N., 011° 20' W. 167° 8 knots. SPIREA will maintain W/T watch on Gibraltar Broadcast. Weather report. (ROCHESTER, 1545Z/14 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty C. in C. W.A., SPIREA, N.O.I.C. Casablanca, French Admiral Commanding Dakar F.O.C. W.A., NASTURTIUM)

WIVERN Intend sailing WIVERN towed by DESTINY in X.K.3. 2. WIVERN has W/T D/G or W/T. 3. Request you will signal destination. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1558A/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., etc).

Movements Casablanca. U.S.S. BROOME P.C.471 and S.C.517 arrived Casa. from Safi. U.S.S. MURPHY, SIMPSON P.C.472 and 482 arrived from Gibraltar. Departed U.S.S. BROOME JEFFERS P.C.474 and 475 from Casa. with C/V C.G.18. (Commoseafon, 1928Z/14 to Admty).

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals: ADVENTURE, ASHANTI, HAYDON from Oran, KATHIAWAR from M/S sweep West. Departures VENOMOUS, ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, HAYDON on A/S sweep East. Thence HAYDON proceeds to Mers-el-Kebir, CONVULVULUS, NASTURTIUM to R/V O.S.44 and escort Gibraltar Section, HAARLEM on escort duties to Melilla. ARCTIC RANGER on escort duties to Lisbon. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2129A/14 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

Air Report. A.I. 240/14th March. Op. Sum. No. 133 for 24 hours ended 1800 hours 14th March. (G) Sightings and attacks - Reference Opsum 132 F/233 attacked 5 seconds after U-boat had submerged. Explosion seen 15 feet starboard side of swirl. 10 seconds later blot oil observed. (H.Q., R.A.F., Gibraltar, 2150/14).

/SHAKESPEARE...

14.3.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

SHAKESPEARE. After crossing 042° 59' N., at 0001/17 pass through following positions at time stated.
(T) 36.51 09.13 at 0530/20th.
(U) 36.37 07.24 at 0220/21st.
(V) 35.53 06.15 at 0920/21. (W) 35.49 18.06 06½ at 1010/21st.
Thence Gibraltar by Q.K.A. All times zone minus 1 positions N. and W.
(2) S. of A. diving by day 118 miles per 24 hours. After passing position (U) proceed on surface at your discretion at 10 knots.
(3) Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged until 0220/21st thereafter total bombing restrictions from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of your estimated position 10 miles either side of your route. Report if you are not able keep your bombing restrictions.
(4) You should not pass position (V) before 0920/21st.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 2311A/14 to P.221 (SHAKESPEARE)(R) F.O.S.
Capt. (S) 5, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8,
Capt. (S) 3, UNA, DZIK, (?ULTOR) TACTICIAN)
Modified by 1744/15, q.v. and by 1822A/18 q.v.

War Diary.14. 3. 1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.EMPRESS OF
CANADA
torpedoed.Following read from Simonstown (St. Helena) W/T:
(Following message received on 500 K/cs; passed
to you for necessary action.)
SSSS EMPRESS OF CANADA.01.13 S. 09.57 W, torpedoed at 2400 G.M.T./13.
(Simonstown W/T, T.O.R. 0010Z/14.)

EMPRESS OF CANADA torpedoed in 001° 13' S. 009° 57' W.

Detach CROCUS and PETUNIA to search for survivors.

(F.O.C.W.A. 0300Z/14 to SUSSEX (R) Admty, CROCUS, PETUNIA.)

W.D. Note; SUSSEX escorting W.S.27.

Have you anything to report?

(F.O.C.W.A. 0903/14 to Area 3A, EMPRESS OF CANADA) (Pass to
Admty. for information by F.O.C. W.Af.)(1) Ships should arrive in 001° 13' S. 009° 57' W. to
search for survivors of EMPRESS OF CANADA as follows:-

- (a) CROCUS and PETUNIA from N.E. about 1700Z/15th March.
- (b) BOREAS from Freetown 1600Z/15th March.
- (c) CORINTHIAN from Freetown about 0945Z/16th.

(2) R/T communication with aircraft on 2410 kc/s.

(3) (? Progressing) reports will be made in R.A.F. Syko
reference datum 001° S. 009° W.(4) Except during period 10 to 20 and 40 to 50 minutes
past the hour ships may request aircraft direct to carry
out D/F homing procedure on 500 kc/s.(5) Callsigns of aircraft searching and time on task will
be signalled.(6) 24 lifeboats were sighted by aircraft at 1515Z/14th.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1657Z/14 to CORINTHIAN, PETUNIA, CROCUS,
BOREAS (R) Admty, Comsolant 238, A.O.C. W.A.)British ship EMPRESS OF CANADA made distress signal
torpedoed in 01.13 S. 09.57 W. at 2359/13th March. Aircraft has
sighted 24 lifeboats in 01.42 S. 09.46 W. a.m. 14th March.
(S.O.I. Freetown 2037Z/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)QUAIL, Sailed 1100/14th, JAMES PARKER in Company.
JAMES PARKER. (QUAIL 0201Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R)
N.O.I.C. West Africa.)

QUAIL sailed to rejoin W.S.27 S. of A. 20 knots.

(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1700Z/14 to SUSSEX (R) F.O.C. W.A.
N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty, B.N.L.O.W.A.)BELLWORT,
ARMERIA,
W.S.27.My 1710Z/9th not to BELLWORT para 5.
BELLWORT and ARMERIA are to join escort of
W.S.27 from R/V until after destroyers have
refuelled at Pointe Noire. BELLWORT and ARMERIA
are then to proceed Pointe Noire.
(?F.O.C.W.A. 0325/14 to SUSSEX (R) Admty.
N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos, B.N.L.O. W.A.)

SARKA.

Sailed 0736Z/14th SARKA S. of A. 11 knots E.T.A.
Durban 0800Z/15th routed close inshore.
(N.L.O. E.London 0738Z/14 to Admty. etc.)

/From...

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

GILICIA. From position 002° 20' N. 022° 53' W. at 2000Z/14 proceed direct to Freetown. Estimated speed made good 14 knots.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0926Z/14 to CILICIA (R) Admty, Comsolant Zone 236, CARNARVON CASTLE, DESPATCH.)

RICHARD D. SPAIGHT. RICHARD DESPATCH (? RICHARD D. SPAIGHT) sunk by two torpedoes at 1622Z/10 March in 28° S. 37° E. Sunk 10 March. C.B. thrown over side by Master and seen to sink. Eight men as yet unaccounted for. Submarine said to be German, 300 feet long and about 1000 tons.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0938Z/14 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

LA GRACIEUSE. My 1513/13th para 1. Amend speed and time of sailing French Sloop Minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE to read 11 knots 2000Z/14th owing to weather conditions.
(2) Your 1905/13th to B.N.L.A. only, R/V position 2305 at 17.12 W. at 1600Z/16th acknowledged.
(Comar, Dakar, 1017Z/14 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) S.N.O.C.A. etc.)

Situation Reports. Position at 2000Z/14th. NORTHERN DAWN, CAPE WARWICK WELLARD, with C.N. 12.025° 05' S. 014° 00' 070° to Walvis Bay 7. NIGELLA, NORWICH CITY, VIVIANA, with D.N. 24.030° 00' S.035° 45' E. to 031° S. 038° E.8 GENISTA, SPHENE, off Inhaca to Durban, 10.
(C. in C. S.A. 1131C/14.)

Situation at 2000Z/14th.
RUMBA, SARABANDE, PORTSDOWN, DUNCTON with S.T. 59 08.22 13.36 to 07.38 14.30 thence 140, 9. BOREAS off Freetown to S.E.20. CORINTHIAN about 06.30 13.20 157,13. ARETHUSA 06.40, 13 (?15) to Freetown 17. SUSSEX (?ARMERIA), QUEENSBOROUGH, QUAIL, BELLWORT. RAIDER with W.S.27 03.07 00.30 E. 126,13. PETUNIA, CROCUS, 01.15 05.38 140, 14. CYCLAMEN about equator 05.30 E. to Takoradi 13. HERO off Pointe Noire to Takoradi 15. CILICIA 02.20 22.52 058° 14. CARNARVON CASTLE 05.20 23.21 to N.W. 15½.
(R.A.W.A. 1158Z/14)

Situation at 1958Z/14 Fleet Unit French S/M THETIS, QUADRANT, ADRIAS 23.35 17.09 to 24.26 16.52 thence 040° 15 U.S. Destroyer ROFER convoy T.O.2 22.21 27.55 257.16. French Sloop Minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE off (corrupt group) to North 14½. BUTSER BIRDLIP escorting 15.28 17.40 001° 7½. French S/As ARETHUSE, ATALANTE, SULTANE escorted by French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT BORY 22.13 16.57 through 24.56 15.04 at 0900Z/15 to N. within 10 miles of coast. (? French S/M DAUPHIN) WEAR, SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN (? with) S.L. 126 12.18 17.26 352.7 DUNKERY, ORFASY, escorting 08.33 13.42 285.8½. COMMANDANT DROGOU F.S. 12.18 17.26 to Bathurst 12½ DESPATCH 07.42 26.00 to northward 20 French Cruiser GLOIRE 08.35 25.52 to northward 20.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1219Z/14.)

/MALAYA...

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

MALAYA escorted by QUADRANT, ADRIAS and WOLVERINE arriving position K. 024° 26' N. 016° 52' W. at 2300Z/14th and proceeding through L. 28.08 N. 13.27 W. M. 33.29 N. 08.47 W. and A. 035° 49' 18" N. 006° 06' 30" W. to Gib. Estimated speed (corrupt group) 15 knots to L and subsequently 16 knots. 2. Request GHERARDI may join escort of MALAYA from vicinity of Cape Bojador being detached to arrive Casablanca at daylight 17th.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1203Z/14 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. Med. MALAYA, GHERARDI, Admty.)
Departures 1730/11th March MALAYA, QUADRANT, BOREAS, WOLVERINE, ADRIAS escorting.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 2314Z/14 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty, C. in C. Med. Comar, Dakar.)

B.T.7. Serial No.20, following ships sailed Bahia 1500Z/12th March in convoy B.T.7 (list).
(A.S.O. (I) Recife 1212Z/14 to Admty. etc.)

ADRIAS. ADRIAS received following training at Freetown (details). Other intended H.A. Firings could not be carried out owing to crash of only sleeve towing Aircraft.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1343Z/14 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

S.L.126. Cancel reference to BIAFRA's endurance.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1400/14 to Admty.)
S.L.126. COMMANDANT D'ORISE masthead height 102 feet fixed masts cannot pass under bridges Manchester Ship Canal Admiralty's 2140A/5 March refers.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1408/14 to Admty.)

Search for Suspicious Ship. Further to my 1207/13th.
(1) CARNARVON CASTLE proceed from 005° 22' N. 023° 19' W. at 2000Z/14th to patrol area bounded by following points: A. 008° 46' N. 031° 28' W. B. 010° 54' N. 027° 28' W. C. 013° 01' N. 029° 32' W. D. 010° 31' N. 032° 28' W. commencing at point A. Speed making good 15½ knots.
(2) DESPATCH recommence search in 005° 50' N. 028° 08' W. at 0500Z/15th proceed toward 010° 15' N. 028° 30' W. as far as endurance permits thence proceed Bathurst. Report at 0800Z/16th position, speed made good, E.T.A. Bathurst.
(3) French Cruiser GLOIRE will recommence search in 007° 54' N. 028° 12' W. at 0500Z/15th and proceed on course 02° at (?20) knots to limit endurance thence proceed Dakar.
(4) Details of air search(s) and independent shipping will be signalled to ships addressed.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1420Z/14 to CARNARVON CASTLE, DESPATCH. (R) Admty. CILICIA, Comsolant, Comar, Dakar, A.O.C.W.Af.)

/Para...

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Search for Suspicious Ship (Contd.) Para 4 of F.O.I.C. West Africa's 1420Z/14th. Estimate positions of independent ships at 200Z/14th. (1) ESSO WASHINGTON (U.S.) 010° N. 029° W to 009° 38' N. 023° 24' W. thence Freetown Westward and Southward 13 knots. (2) MALABAR (U.S.) 010° 30' N. 020° 00' W. to 012° 00' N. 027° 00' W. to 013° 00' N. 037° 00' W. 9 knots. (3) TAMBERLANE (Norwegian) 018° 01' N. 032° 03' W. to 009° 55' N. 023° 10' W. 15 knots. (F.O.C.W.A.1431Z/14th to CARNARVON CASTLE. DESPATCH (R) Admty.) See also GLOIRE 1855Z/14.

BURDOCK. Arrived BURDOCK escorting MARY KINGSLEY.
DUNKERQUE. 2. Intend to sail BURDOCK escorting HOGGAR, CHELMA and DUNKERQUE 0630Z/15th to comply with F.O.C.W.A. 1648/10th para 3 not to WEAR. French Air cover to (?R/V).
(Comar, Dakar, 1431Z/14 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty. WEAR, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, S.N.O. Casablanca, PELICAN, C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Arrival a.m. 14th March M.Ls 1209 and 1141
Bathurst. escorting S.S. MATANG.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1501/14 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Comar, Dakar, Admty.)

MAURETANIA. Ref. D.S.T.O. West Africa's 1449/12. As EMPRESS OF CANADA will not now be available to lift any personnel from West Africa request you will leave accommodation available for 3000 in MAURETANIA from Freetown to cover R.A.F. and military requirements.
2. This alteration at short notice is regretted but is due to circumstances beyond anyone's control.
3. Hoped that there will be opportunities in early April to clear all personnel outstanding from South Africa.
(D. of S.R.1508A/14 to P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

PANORAMA. Admty. 1850Z/17th Feb. Request approval of
CONSBRO. American authorities (requesting PANORAMA and
INTENT. CONSBRO be sailed for Gibraltar. INTENT'S present orders forbid work on passage other than Ocean Salvage. CONSBRO can only steam three knots unassisted. INTENT considers towing speed up to eight knots possible. Pause of two days necessary at Dakar, transferring crew and stores to PANORAMA. PANORAMA speed six knots would sail in company from Dakar.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1654Z/14 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)
Reply: C. in C. Med. 1947A/19.

U/B Your 1255/8. Attack not assessed as only report
Assessments. received is that in para 73 of your No.1124/032 of 11th No. Tracking evidence tends rather to negative than to corroborate the claim.
(D.A/S.W.1655A/14 to F.O.C.W.A.) Reply:1426Z/17.

/American...

War Diary.

14.3.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

U/B American aircraft reports S/M in 02° 50' N
03° 30' W at 1544Z/14. Reliability unknown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1732Z/14 to Admty.)

GLOIRE. Having no further instructions intend
continuing (? sweep) laid down in your 1208Z/13
1207Z/13 intended until 2300Z/14 then because
of lack of fuel remaining returning to Dakar
direct route. E.T.A. 0900Z/16.
(GLOIRE 1855Z/14 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Convoy Sailing telegram.
S.T.59. (ii) 1730/14th March (iii) Knots 9.
(iv) HAI LEE, MOKAMBO, LACONIKOS, TANAFIORD
EMPIRE ROACH. H.M. Tug MASTERFUL, Takoradi.
19th March. 175. (v) Route.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 2117Z/14 to Admty.)

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Allocation of Destroyers. C. in C. Med.'s 2003/25. The following re-allocation of destroyers is to take place. (a) SLAZAK to relieve BLYSKAWICA in Mediterranean Fleet on completion of refit about end of April. (b) BLYSKAWICA to relieve One Hunt detailed by C. in C. Home Fleet. (c) The Hunt detailed in (b) to join Mediterranean Fleet after refit and fitting of Type 271 and A.B.U. (2) C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to report name of ship detailed. (D.O.D.(H), 0021A/14 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Home Fleet, (R) R.A.D., C.O.S. Polish Admiralty, London. F.O. Force 'H').

Enemy Units, attacked by A/C. P.C. and S. of 1 M/V, 2 destroyers and 3 unidentified vessels 37.56 N. 12.24 E. 315° 10 knots. (A/C GLZ/R, 0025/14 to Air H.Q. Malta.) Following read: Have attacked enemy 3 destroyers 3 medium vessels with torpedoes, estimated 2 hits. Position of enemy force is 311° 38° N. 12° E.

6 miles, line of advance 045°. (A.C. via Malta, 0245A/14.)

A.507 14th March.

Malta based torpedo aircraft attacked a convoy of 4 M/V's with heavy escort last night. An Albacore attacked an M/V which immediately blew up and a bomb-carrying Wellington reports hits on another M/V. Later aircraft report sighting 1 M/V circling with considerable list and 1 M/V with a pall of smoke over it.

(A.H.Q.Malta, 0820/14 to All Addressees of Malta Daily CSR.).

Movements, Malta. Arrivals PRINCESS KATHLEEN, PETARD, G.S. QUEEN OLGA. (V.A. Malta, 0908A/14 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 13th, JERVIS, NUBIAN, ISIS, Greek Dest. SPETSAI, departure ABDIEL, WOLBOROUGH. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0922B/14 to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Visible Alarm Signal. C. in C. Levant 1941/6. Concur in use of short flashes on masthead flashing lamp. (C. in C. H.F., 1003A/14 to Admty.)

UNBENDING. Cancel my 1048/13th. Concentrate your patrol on the Toe of Italy until further orders. (Capt. S.10, 1208A/14 to P.37 (UNBENDING) (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, RORQUAL, 10th S.F.)

Valencia / ...

War Diary.

14.3.1945.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Valencia Shipments. My 1559/11th. Owing to difficulties over payments orange shipments from Valencia seem to be suspended for moment.
(B.N.A.Madrid, 1246/14 to Admt. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Italian Repatriations From Tripoli. OET/21697 cipher 14 March. From Civaffairs. Petition received by D.C.P.O. Tripolitania from Roman Catholic Bishop Tripoli praying that H.M.G. will endeavour to make arrangements for Italian women old men and children now in Tripolitania to be repatriated to Italy as in case of Eritrea etc. Petition acknowledged. Direct nature of reply to be given.
(C. in C. M.E.1300B/14 to W.O.) Reply 1200A/22.

Aircraft Control, Gibraltar-Casablanca Area. Personal for 1st S.L. V.C.N.S. 1947A/12. Eisenhower received following from Marshall. (Begins) Operations "Torch" have served to create in the sea area bounded by 43° N. 2° W, 26.10 N. and 40.W. a shipping local (?focal) area similar to those in U.K., N.W. Atlantic and Caribbean. In each of the latter three local areas, control of surface and anti-submarine warfare forces has been centered in one Commander with subordinate air and surface forces. In the case of the Casablanca - Gibraltar area this has not been done and there exists in that area three Authorities, namely, F.O. Gibraltar, A.O.C. Gibraltar, and Commander Moroccan Sea Frontier, who function on a common mission without complete co-ordination. As a means of correction this situation it has been proposed by members of Atlantic Convoy Conference, *(1) That you designate the area in question as an area of anti-submarine warfare control under the operational direction of an officer subordinate to C. in C. Med. who in turn is under the command of C. in C. Allied Forces in North Africa. (2) That the officer designated for this A/S warfare control have complete responsibility for all shipping and A/S measures and exercise operational direction of all A/S forces both air and surface of all Allied Nations in the area."
Please have reply expedited as your comments on above proposal are desired. (Ends.)
(2) I discussed question with Eisenhower and assisted by Tedder I think convinced him that he must not expect to include Atlantic area outside Gibraltar in his Command. He replied to Marshall as follows - (Begins) Your message 3630. I understand from Cunningham he has been informed that it has been decided by Atlantic Convoy Conference to withdraw instruction you quote and instead "to invite attention of the High Command concerned to situation that exists but to make no recommendation other than that operational control of A/S operation be co-ordinated in the area in question"*
The working of the A/S organisation is in fact satisfactory, but Tedder and Cunningham are discussing any further adjustments desirable to ensure closer co-operation. (Ends.)

(3) / ...

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Control,
Gibraltar-
Casablanca
Area.

(3) When U.S. Admiral Hewitt arrives Tedder and I will apply ourselves to seeing if better co-ordination cannot be achieved. It may not be too easy as U.S. Army Air, U.S. Navy Air, and R.A.F. are all concerned with us, a very interested party in seeing that an efficient system is arrived at.* (4) I presume Slesser's suggestions are now dead. I am completely opposed to them for the reasons set out in my following signal timed 1404/14.

(C. in C. Med., 1303A/14 to Admt.)

* Marshall's reply see C. in C. Med., 1835A/15.

* Admt. reply 1323A/28.

CASABIANCA.

(1) CASABIANCA ordered to pass through 042° 00' 006° 25' at 2330/15th thence through 037° 56' 003° 07' at 0015 17th to R/V escort 000° Cape Caxine 15 miles at 0700 17th but may be unable to comply strictly. (2) All positions N. and E.

(Capt. S. 8, 1340A/14 to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers.)

French
Naval
Aircraft.

Your 2020/6. Admiral Amanrich agreed to almost the whole of my 2235/3. (2) Treasury's present policy is that French are to be debited with all supplies made from British sources. (3) No objection is therefore seen to addition of sentence in 4 (b) of your 2020/6 being made to para. 2 of my 2235/3. (4) Re negotiation of agreement in form proposed. (5) Your para. 5. We are not clear what is the alleged general policy from which the Admiralty are said to diverge. The Treasury have given us a ruling which applies equally to the Army and R.A.F. that payments may proceed either way on basis of agreed prices. (Head of M.(I) *.1341A/14 to C. in C. Med.) *Approved A.C.N.S.(A)

Enemy
Units.

Aircraft report 3 medium sized merchant ships at 0820 P.C. and S. 038° 18' 016° 26' 200° 7. (Capt. S.8, 1357A/14 to THUNDERBOLT, P.217 (SIBYL)).

TAURUS.

Leave patrol to pass 041° 50' 004° 49' at 0300/16th 038° 18' 004° 49' at 2000/17th and R/V escort for Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 13' at 0700/18th. (2) Attention is called to my 1340. (Capt. S.8, 1442A/14 to P.339 (TAURUS) (R) C.in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers, 8th S.F.)

P.R.U. / ...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

P.R.U. P.R.U. March 14th visuals 1225 Taranto one battleship outer harbour. Inner harbour covered by cloud.
(V.A.Malta, 1445A/14 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

P.R.U. March 14th visuals. 1600 Taranto 2 Battleships, 3 Cruisers. 1525 Naples 10/10 cloud. 1520 (?Castellamare) 1 Cruiser.
(V.A. Malta, 1925A/14 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

R.D.F. Your 1446A/28th Feb. paras. 3 and 4. Details of fitting R.D.F. in French ships rearming in U.S.A. are being decided by American Authorities, and from a security point of view we are not suggesting any restrictions.
(2) Existence and capabilities of type 271 and similar coastal warning sets may be revealed to those officers of French Forces who may require this information in the course of their duties.
(Head of M.II,* 1536A/14 to C. in C. Med., (R) Cominch, F.O.C. W.Af)
* Approved A.C.N.S.(W)

Enemy Tank Carrying Ships. Your 1536A/13th. March not to Admiralty (re shallow draught ships carrying 300 ft tanks). Request full particulars of the two vessels mentioned in Para. 2 especially regarding type of bows and cranes for unloading tanks.
(N.I.D.(3), 1626A/14 to Capt. S.8)
Reply 1338A/16.

EMPIRE PRIDE. S.S. EMPIRE PRIDE did not sail with M.K.F.10B but will arrive at Gibraltar tomorrow 15th March for onward passage to U.K. (2) There are already 140 passengers on bank (? board) apart from any that may join the ship at Gibraltar. It would therefore seem undesirable that the ship should sail unescorted. (3) Propose that she should await M.K.F.11 unless Admiralty considers that urgency of her return justifies unescorted passage.
(C. in C. Med., 1757/14 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar)
Concur (D.T.D. 1221A/16)

M.T.B's Arrived M.T.B's 62 and 73.
(V.A.Malta, 1810A/14 to Admty.)

MALTA. Intelligence Summary 2000A/13 to 2000A/14.
Naval: A troopship escorted by two D/rs reached Malta from Tripoli this afternoon 8 Spitfires escorted incoming convoy from South.
(3) Strikes. Night 13th/14th March. Successful attack was made on four M/Vs with D/R escort sighted 2315 hours 37° 56' N. 12° 24' E. At 0140 hours one Albacore torpedoed

probable / ...

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta (Contd.) probable ammunition ship 6,000 tons which blew up. One Wellington's bombs caused blue flashes and much black smoke from unidentified vessel. After attack in addition to probable ammunition ship one M/V was seen down by stern omitting black smoke and a third vessel had a heavy list to starboard. One enemy night fighter was seen to blow up. Five intruder Mosquitoes covered strike by patrolling over Sicily. Day 14th March. Eight Spitfire bombers and eight Spitfire fighters attacked Pozzalo factory area. Results unobserved owing to cloud.
(Govn. Malta, 1920Z/14)

Movements Arrivals 14th March ABDIEL CUMBRAE Greek
Haifa. Destroyer AETOS. Departures 14th March M/L
1005 M/L 357 Greek Destroyer AETOS, ABDIEL,
CUMBRAE.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa), 1934B/14
to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

GRADISCA. From: Niton Radio; Following intercepted at
1852 G.M.T. Italian Hospital Ship GRADISCA
position at 2000 40° 51' N. 18° 17' E. course
118° 8½ knots.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1952/14 to Admty.)
(C. in C. Levant, 2219B/14 to all concerned).

Boom Ref. Med. 206/00105/3/5 of 21st Jan, 1943 to
Defences. Admiralty only. I am anxious with regard to
facilities for laying and maintaining boom
defences for harbours in Levant Station.
(2) Excluding BURGONET now allotted to Malta
there are three boom working vessels and six boom working
trawlers; two of latter are in Red Sea and one is at Suez.
Thus for the eight important and vulnerable ports between
Tripoli (S) and Tripoli (L) inclusive six vessels are
available of which four are trawlers. At the moment there
is no vessel at Alexandria or Haifa. (3) In view of
increased defence requirements for new fuelling berths at
Haifa and Tripoli (S), of the establishment of defences at
three captured ports, and of likely future increase in
commitments, I earnestly request more vessels be sent out as
early as possible. (4) According to my latest information
I note that 110 vessels are allocated to the fifteen defended
ports in the U.K. (5) Foregoing takes no account of vessels
which we have promised to supply to Turkey.
(C. in C. Levant, 2015B/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

North AUDUN arrived. Intend to sail at 0530/15th in
Africa, accordance with Cdre. Algiers, 1601A/13th with
Shuttle additional escort of RYSA and H.D.M.L.1233 to
Service. R/V with Shuttle Service BELGRAVIA from
Philippeville in position (?Y) at 1200A/15th.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 2045A/14 to N.O.I.C. Algiers,
N.O.I.C. Philippeville, S.O.I.S. (R) N.O.I.C.
Bone, C. in C. Med., Admty. etc.)

War Diary.14.3.1945.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

Malta Air Report. A.1513. Night 13/14th March. Part 1. Offensive Successful attack was made on enemy shipping west of Marittimo. At 2315 hours a special equipment Wellington sighted one M/V 3/4000 tons three unidentified vessels and two D/Rs 37° 56' N. 12° 24' E, course north west, speed 10 knots. 3 torpedo carrying Albacores R.N.A.S., 6 torpedo carrying Wellingtons and 2 bomb carrying Wellingtons were despatched to attack and in spite of A.S.V. jamming found convoy at 0115 hours 7 miles west of Marittimo, course south west. At 0140 hours 1 Albacore scored torpedo hit on probable ammunition ship 6000 tons, which was seen to blow up by our intruder Mosquitoes. Another Albacore attacked one M/V 2/3000 tons. Although torpedo ran well no definite results were observed. 1 Wellington aimed 11x250 and 4x100 lb bombs at unidentified vessel causing bright blue flashes and cloud of black smoke after attack, in addition to M/V which blew up. Another M/V was seen down by the stern emitting black smoke and a third vessel was seen with heavy list to starboard. 1 enemy night Fighter was seen to blow up when on the tail of a Wellington. 1 Albacore missing probably shot down by flak. 5 Intruder Mosquitoes were airborne to cover this strike 4 patrolling Castelvetro (Trapani) and 1 patrolling Comiso Catania area. No activity was (?found) (A.H.Q. Malta, 2125Z/14).

Movements, Arrived SOUTHERN ISLES, SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN
Benghazi. MAID, PROTEA, PUNNET, ST. MONANCE, KAI, M.L.1046,
AGIOS GEORGIOS.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2127B/14 to Admty.)

M.T.B's. Sailed M.T.B.'s 309, 264 and 61 on operations.
(V.A.Malta, 2145A/14 to Admty., C. in C. Med.
C. in C. Levant.)

Enemy Following received: P.C. and S. of 2 enemy
Units. (? M/Vs) 37.50 N. 16.05 E. 180° 10 knots.
(A/C BWW/Z via Alexandria W/T, 2250A/14)
Following read. My 2250, P.C. and S. 37.54 N.
16.08 E. 360° 12 knots.
(A/C BWW/Z via Malta W/T, 2324A/14)

Movements, Bone. AURORA, DIDO, LAFOREY, LOOKOUT,
Bone. BICESTER, OAKLEY, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTER-
MAN.
Departures. AURORA, SIRIUS, LOYAL, ROYAL
SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BICESTER, OAKLEY.
(S.O.I.S., 2308A/14 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

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War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Arrival 0145Z/14th TULIP escorting M.S.ZUIDERKRUIS.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0256Z/14 to Admty.)
Arrival 0449Z BALUCHISTAN departure 0855 PUNJAB escorting
one ship through focal area.
(S.O.I. Bombay 0858Z/14 to Admty.)

NEVASSA, Sailing telegram 0900/14 NEVASSA.
PUNJAB. Suez via Aden, 20th March escorted through
focal Area by PUNJAB. Knots 12 13 $\frac{1}{4}$.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0526Z/14 to A.I.G.89, N.O.I.C.
Aden.)

F.O.C. F.O.C. 4th Cruiser Squadron in GAMBIA sailed.
4th C.S. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0529Z/14 to Admty. F.O.I.C.
Ceylon, S.O. (I) Bombay, C. in C. S.A., C. in C.
E.F., S.O. (I) Aden, S.O. (I) Kilindini.)

Cocos Island SONAVATI left Trincomalee at 1505Z/13 March
stores, with stores and reliefs for Cocos Island E.T.A.
SONAVATI. 0001Z/19. Route direct. SONAVATI returns direct
to Colombo after embarking personnel and cargo
copra. Anticipate duration of visit 48 hours.
(F.O. Ceylon 0600Z/14 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.
A.C.N.B. F.L.O. Delhi.)

Convoy Propose to use short title CA and reverse for
titles. convoys between Ceylon and Island bases in
Maldives and Lhagos (as received).
C.A.F.O. 2492/42. TJ convoy title is not in use.
Convoy in past between Aden and Colombo has been
known as AJ. Request you will amend in due course.
(C.in C. E.F. 0723/14 to Admty (R) F.O. Ceylon.)
W.D. Note: Amended by A.M. 2024A/15.

Dispositions. Eastern Fleet disposition signal No.27
(A) WARSPITE to Durban RESOLUTION, REVENGE at
Kilindini (C) 8 inch cruiser DEVONSHIRE Kilindini
(D) 7.5* inch and 6 inch cruiser BIRMINGHAM,
MAURITIUS, CERES at Kilindini. FROBISHER and ARMERIA escorting
convoy to Aden and Bombay respectively. DAUNTLESS to Persian
Gulf to relieve CAPETOWN latter to Bombay CARADOC Madagascar
area DURBAN refitting Bombay. (E) Available units to continue
training exercise off Kilindini during week commencing 15th.
(C. in C. E.F. 0832/14 to C. in C.S.A. C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.
Red Sea Force, C. in C. Med. Fleet, A.C.N.B. F.O.I.C. Ceylon
Admty, Ships Levant Area.) * as received.

/Final...

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War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.Rescue
Tugs.

Final destination of WEAZEL at present uncertain.
When ready request you will sail her for Kilindini.
Name of base ship will be communicated later.
Your 2309/10th refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 0941Z/14 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

U-Boat

R.A.F. Beaufort reports sighting a submarine at
1303 hours 25° 06' N. 63° 16' E. submarine dived
on seeing aircraft. Beaufort was flying low.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi 1707Z/14 to C. in C.E.F.
(R) F.O.C. R.I.N. S.N.O. Persian Gulf F.O. Ceylon.)

India
Air Report.

(C) R/C 13th. 3 Blenheims escort 6 Hurricanes
abortive submarine search off Mayu Peninsula.
(D) P.R.U. results. One U.S.A. sortie 12th.
Rangoon docks no shipping. One M/V 400 ft. Rangoon
River.
(A.H.Q. India 1920Z/14 to Air Min.)

C. in C. E.F.
proposed
visit to
Cape re
A/S measures.

Personal from 1st S.L.
Request you will proceed to the Cape at your
earliest convenience to discuss with C. in C.
South Atlantic what further action can be taken
to deal with U-Boats with the forces available
for the purpose in South Atlantic and those
from Eastern Fleet and forward joint
recommendations on this and any other matter
covering the safety of shipping.
(1st S.L. 2005A/14 to C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A.)

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War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

EXE defects. Temporary repairs by cement boxes to reserve feed tanks have proved ineffective. All 4 tanks are leaking badly after 6 hours at sea. Consider it essential that ship be dry docked at Curacao for re-rivetting and caulking where necessary before proceeding on long ocean passage.
(EXE 0301Z/14 to C.A.F.A.C. (R) WESTON, C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A., Admty. B.A.D. Comcarib Sea Fron, N.S.H.Q.)

Movements Norfolk arrived 12th L.S.T.430 departed 1600/13 WOLFE.
(N.S.H.Q. 0314Z/14 to Admty).
Arrival 13th and departure 14th U.S.A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA due Trinidad 16th.
(B.N.S.O. Curacao 926QR/14 to Admty).
Arrived from Trinidad U.S. M/S A.M.C.40.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 1230/14 to Admty).
EL LIBERTADOR (U.S.A.T.) arrived Port of Spain March 12.
(N.S.H.Q., 2012Z/14 to Admty).
U.S.A.T. KING arrived New Orleans 13th March.
(N.S.H.Q., 2050Z/14 to Admty).
Bermuda arrivals U.S.S. TILLMAN U.S.S. ENGAGE.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 2220Q/14 to Admty).

S.C.122,
H.X.229,
O.N.170,
U/Bs. U-boat by D/F at 0329Z/14th within 60 miles of (052° ?) N. 048° W. 1st sighting report Enigma 15 groups. At least 3 U-boats are estimated to be in contact with you or in your immediate vicinity using series 8.
(N.S.H.Q., 0520Z/14 to Ships Escorting O.N.170 convoy, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F. (R) Opnav, Ships escorting S.C. 122 convoy, Ships escorting H.X.229 convoy, Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Connav). See also 2222/14.

PENNYWORT Sailed St. Johns N.F. 0500Z. My course and speed 075° 14 knots. Intend to join you at 1530Z/15th in 49° 08' N., 42° 00' W.
(PENNYWORT, 0640Z/14 to VOLUNTEER (R) A.I.G. No. 302, C.T.F.24, Connav, Admty. etc).

UPSHUR This is recoded version of U.S. destroyer UPSHUR's 2355Z/13th (Begins). From U.S. Destroyer UPSHUR. E.T.A. 0600Z/14 at 51° 30' N. 45° 25' W. on course 022° speed 20.
(C.T.24., 0745Z/14 to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.15)

NORSEMAN Departure 14th British Cable Repair Ship NORSEMAN due San Juan 14th for docking and repairs main engine.
(B.R.L.O. St. Thomas, 0844/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Jamaica, British Consul San Juan)

/T.B....

War Diary.

14.3.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

T.B.8 Sailing telegram.
2. 1330Z/14. 4. 8 knots. 5. Route.
6. U.S.S. BARRY, U.S.S. SPRY, U.S.S. T.C.493
P.C.574.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 0954Q/14 to Admty).

WESTON,
C.U.1 slow
escorts. Originator WESTON B.A.D. 2025Z/13 orders WESTON
to report to Cdr. Caribbean S.F. for sailing
orders for slow escorts. Request immediate
instructions in order that slow escorts may be
sailed in time to R/V with C.U.1 after oiling
at Azores.
(C.A.F.A.C., 1001QR/14 to Cdr. Caribbean S.F.,
(R) Admty. B.A.D., C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A.,
V.A.C. Gibraltar).

Movements Summary 1800 G.M.T. 14th.	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
	8 L.C.I.(L)s	33° N. 36½° W. (position doubtful)	074°	7½
	23 L.C.I.(L)s	27° N. 56° W.	090°	10
	SS. ANDES	31° N. 44° W.	289°	19
	(D.O.D. (F) 1020Z/14 to Opnav (R) Comnav)			

Oiling at
Sea. B.A.D's 2349/13 and ref. A.M. 1245/10 ESSO
PATERSON has no fuelling at sea gear. U.S.A.
Authorities here have none. SAINTONGE has
complete set on board. Request instructions.
(Willemstad, 1045QR/14 to Admty).

U/B attacked. Following intercepted on 6666 k/cs no call sign
used (begins) Sub attacked at 51° 26' N. 48° 20'
W. 0953. (ends).
(Halifax, W/T, 1310Z/14 to A.I.G.302)
My 1310Z/14 attacked carried out by U.S. Army B.17
considered poor, submarine sighted in the same area one hour
later, no attack carried out.
(Halifax, 1730Z/14 to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C.
W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.G.24.7 H.Q.C.C., C.O.A.C.)

Search for
EMPIRE LIGHT. 1. TENACITY and CLEMATIS have searched an area
of 7000 square miles in vicinity of last reported
position EMPIRE LIGHT without result. Ships
have been ordered to abandon search and return
St. Johns.
2. Third Officer Chief Steward and two men still on board.
N.C.S.O. St. Johns 1731Z/11 para. (B) refers.
3. Four rafts and wreckage were sighted in 52° 58' N., 42° 02'
West.
(F.O.N.F., 1322Z/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch C. and
R. C.T.F.T. 24., C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

O.N.169 Cominch C. and R's 2017/13th. LEONIDAS remaining and proceeding to Halifax to effect repairs to engine. C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1602/12th Cdre. intends to enter Halifax by Q.J.A.51 after passing SAMBRO Light Vessel. 28 ships present P.C. and S. at 1400Z/14th 045° 02' N. 052° 13' W. 250° 7 knots. Weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.18.5., 1430Z/14 to Cominch C. and R. C.O.A.C., (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

Atlantic Convoys, Schedules. Designations. Cominch's 2219/12th, concur.
2. Ref. para. 7 commencing with O.S.46 and K.M.S.13 it is intended to combine O.S. and K.M.S. convoys as O.S. convoys.
3. It is desired to sail O.S. convoys on a 15 day cycle commencing with O.S.46 sailing 15th April.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to confirm that proposal in para. 3. can be implemented.
5. Cominch is requested to say whether proposed O.S. sailing dates will suit U.G.S. schedule.
(D.T.D., 1509A/14 to Connav, C. in C. W.A., (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.I.C., Gibraltar, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C. in C. S.A.)

Submarines estimate 14th. U.S. submarine Notice. (Cominch, 1530/14, 1531/14, 1618/14, 1619/14, 1620/14).

U.C/C.U. Convoys, Escort maintenance. Your 1408/3 (1408/13 intended) Concur. Request you will arrange.
(D.O.D. (H), 1532A/14 to B.A.M.R., (R) F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

S/Ms for A/Q training. 5 A.M. 1120/12th Jan. para. 1. B.A.D. is requested to inform necessary authorities of date of arrival of first A/S vessel at Bermuda for full working up.
2. N.S.H.Q. is requested to arrange for P.553 to be sailed accordingly.
(D.A/S.W. Approved A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 1538A/14 to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., (R) C.O.A.C., Capt. (D) Halifax, S.B.N.O.W.At., Cdre in Charge, Bermuda, F.O.S. SOMERS ISLES. F.O.N.F.)

/C.U.1...

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

C.U.1. B.A.D. is directing WESTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND
Escorts. to report to Cdr. Caribbean S.F. When ready
sail and route these vessels to Azores for
fuelling. Subsequent orders will be issued by
Admiralty.

Sail C.U.1 when ready escorted by ATTACKER, 4 U.S. destroyers
GORLESTON, EXE and NESS. Connav will furnish routeing.
(Connav, 1601/14 to Cinclant, Cdr. Caribbean S.F., (R)
C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty. C.A.F.A.C., F.O.I.C. Gib)

Dispositions. Section East. O.N. 170 M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16
(E) plus CHELSEA 49.54 46.20 215° 9 altering
to 205° in 47.55 N.

Western Local E.T.U. 24.18.6 departs St. Johns N.F. 2030Z/14 to
join O.N. 170 in 47° 20' 48° 51'.

H.X.229 M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18 plus T.U. 24.12.3 (E) 49.01 46.52
089° 10.

PENNYWORT 48.53 48.20 to overtake H.X.229.

Task Unit 24.18.9 (?48°) 00' N. 50° 30' W. en route (?St. Johns
N.F.)

H.X.(?229) A Western Local Escort T.U.S. 24.18.1 (E) 47.15 51.18
042° 10 altering to 023° in 49.00 N.

O.N.169 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.5. 44.45 53.44 242° 6.5 altering to 269°
in 54.00 W.

H.M. S/M L.23 on surface escorted by NANAIMO 45.57 54.28 240°
6.5 altering to 266° in 56.50 W.

LANARKSHIRE 41.50 56.15 087° 14.5.

MOSDALE 45.20 53.10 265° 13.

KATANGA 43.00 58.20 269° 8.5 altering to 301° in 60.01 W.
(C.O.A.C., 1635Z/14 to Admty).

My 1635/14 section East add NIPIGON escorting BURGEO and
BACCALEU 47.05 54.18 224° 11 altering to 255° in 56.11 W. and to
280° in 56.59 W.

(C.O.A.C., 2004Z/14 to Admty).

U/B Intercept from Guantanamo W/T Submarine sighted
20° 05' N., 74° 10' W., at 1945 G.M.T./14th.
(Kingston 1645R/14 to Admty).

N.W. Atlantic Command, Appointment of Deputy to C.T.F. 24 and C. in C. Your 2216/12th. We very much appreciate your
proposal and R.A.L.W. Murray (?now) C.O.A.C.
Halifax is appointed as Deputy to C.T.F.24 as
of today 14th March 1943.
2. R.A. L.W. Murray is prepared to take over
command of Canadian North West Atlantic as C. in C
as of (?31st) March.
(C.N.S. Ottawa, 1702Z/14 to C. in C. U.S.
Fleet, C.O.A.C., (R) Admty. C. in C. Atlantic
Fleet, (U.S.) C.T.F.24).

U/Bs and Tender; Clipper sighted three S/Ms and one tender at
2000Z/13th 20° N. 17° 16' W. course 360.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1715/14 to Admty).

War Diary.14.3.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

S.C.123 Ref. my 1540/12 S.C. 123 Part 1. Add 24 hours to all times. C.E.S.F. pass to C.O.A.C. for information. N.O.B. Iceland pass to Comtaskgroup 24.6.
(Port Director, New York, 1844/14 to Admty).

U/B attacked by Canso. Following received from Canso. (begins)
Attacked submarine in 49° 58' N. 45° 34' W.
(C.O.A.C., 2005Z/14 to G.B.7 A. C.T.F.24 (R)
Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.
C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C.)

Shipping Casualties. Serial 14. KEYSTONE reports torpedoed 13th 37° 59' N., 37° 40' W. convoy U.G.S.6 CERES also torpedoed 13th 14° 50' N. 71° 46' W. serial 13.
(Connav, 2025/14 to Comnav).

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. A. Plane attacks sub. course 180° 51.23 N. 20.41 W. 0745Z/14. Plane attacks sub course 270° 57.05 N. 24.50 W. 0910Z/14. HEATHER sights sub. area 54.N. 44.50 W. 1355Z/13. RENONCULE attacks sub. area 51.38 N. 29.05 W. about 0400Z/11.
Para. C. Sub. attacked 51.26 N. 48.20 W. 0953Z/14
surface craft sights sub. on surface 20.43 N. 74.50 W. 1900Z/12.
Para. D. C.G.83346 makes sound contact 40.29 N. 73.48 W. 0230Z/14. S.C. 684 makes sound contact 40.23 N. 73.48 W. 1623Z/14. Y.368 makes sound contacts 40.07 N. 72.48 W. 1545Z/13 and 40.03 N. 73.06 W. 1758Z/13. C.G.R.46005 makes sound contact course West 40.34 N. 73.17 W. 1625Z/13. SS. INDIANA sights torpedo wake 09.18 N., 60.30 W. 2350Z/12.
(Cominch, 2030/14 to Admty).

O.N.170, S.C.122, H.X.229, H.X.229 A. U/Bs. W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.1 pass to ships escorting H.X. convoy 229A.
Aircraft sighted 6 S/MS in area 50.30 to 51.30 N. 47.30 to 48.30 W. on March 14th.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2222/14 to F.O.N.F.
C.O.A.C., ABERDEEN, Ships escorting O.N. 170, Ships escorting S.C.122. Ships escorting H.X. 229 and ships escorting H.X. 229 A.Comtask 24).

STEPHEN C. FOSTER. STEPHEN C. FOSTER proceeding to St. Johns N.F. for repairs escorted by OAKVILLE. E.T.A. 1130Z/15th.
(OAKVILLE, 2230Z/14 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.T.24).

War Diary.14. 3. 1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Movements

Departure Wellington U.S.S. HENRY T. ALLEN.
Sydney 2400Z/17 route direct. S. of A. 14 knots.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0442Z/14 to Admty)

Arrivals Brisbane 12th. BUNDABERS, WARRNAMBOOL.
Townsville 12th, SWAN, 13th WARRAMUNGA. Cairns 13th WHYALLA,
Port Moresby 13th KATOOMBA. Departures Darwin 12th LATROBE
for (?Thursday Island). Port Moresby 13th BENDIGA for Townsville
Milne Bay 13th PIRIE for Townsville. Brisbane 12th U.S.
Dest. HENLEY for Palm Island. 13th BUNDABERG, WARRNAMBOOL
for Sydney (N.S.W.). Townsville 12th ARUNTA for Port Moresby.
(?A.C.N.B., 1159Z/14 to Admty).

Arrival 13th Brisbane U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER: Cairns
Hired Transport DUNTROON. (VSIS) MERKUR arrived and departed
Townsville 13th due Brisbane 17th. Hired Transport KATOOMBA
departed Townsville 14th due Port Moresby 16th.

(A.C.N.B., 0917Z/14 to Admty).

Digest
serial No.
417, 13th.

Morning R/C Fortress reported 3 destroyers posi-
tion 020° S. 145° 34' E. course 110°.

(4) Blurred photos Wewak early afternoon 12th
show four probable aircraft on aerodrome and
one patrol craft two 400 ton vessels in harbour.

(5) Convoy probably comprising 3 destroyers, 5
medium merchant vessels with Zero cover sighted position 03°
15' S. 144° E. course 270°, noon 13th 7 fortresses attacked
convoy after dark vicinity Wewak. 2 aircraft hit 8,000 ton
cargo ships possibly same vessel with 500 pounders from 200
feet. One vessel exploded violently and left burning fiercely.
Similar hits on destroyer and 4,000 ton tanker. Latter possibly
sank.

(8) Cloudy photos a.m. on 12th reveal 6 medium 6 small merchant
vessels totalling 24500 tons plus possibly other vessels
including destroyers seen by crew but not visible photos S.(9)
Recco Liberator afternoon 13th sighted 1 large and 1 small
merchant vessel off Babo also 15 small merchant vessels in
three groups along southwest Coast Dutch New Guinea between
Kaukenau and Kaimana (?03°) 35' S. 133° 45' E. 6 Zeros intercep-
ted over Babo and 1 destroyed.

(G.H.Q., S.W. P.A., 0747Z/14).

SAN DIEGO,
LOUISVILLE.

U.S.S. SAN DIEGO departed Espiritu Santo 1900Z/13
for Auckland E.T.A. 0500Z/16, U.S.S. LOUISVILLE
from Havannah harbour in company to position
30° 00' S. 172° 00' E. at 0930Z/15 thence
Wellington E.T.A. 2200Z/16.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 2249Z/14 to Admty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1355A/14, 1419A/14).

15.3.1943.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

1. The weather prevented air reconnaissance of Alten Fiord again today.

Search for
suspected
blockade
runner.

2. A F.W. 200 made a distress message from an area 44° - 45° N. 19° - 20° W. at 1347A today. It is suspected that this aircraft's activities so far west may have been in connection with an inward bound blockade breaker or supply ship. UGANDA sailed at 1615A to cover Convoy K.M.F.10B and search for suspected ship, and KENYA, on passage to Gibraltar, was ordered to sweep westward along latitude 44° 30' N. until midnight today.

S/MS SHAKESPEARE, ULTOR and HERRING were sailed after dark to patrol in the approaches to Biscay ports.

3. U.S. EXMOUTH and Greek EVGENIA CHANDRI were in collision early this morning off the Tyne. The former was towed to the Tyne, the latter was beached at low water but was later refloated and is reported to be badly damaged.

4. Aircraft bombed and machine-gunned Eddystone lighthouse at 1851 today; there were no casualties or damage from bombing, but damage was caused to the lenses by machine gunfire. Between 2100/15 and 2220/15 about 25 hostile aircraft operated between Falborough Head and the Wash. Minelaying is not suspected, but extra sweeping precautions are being taken.

M.T.B.
Operation
on Coast
of Norway.

m76631

5. M.T.B.619 laid mines last night in the convoy channel west of Aarebraat (61° 37½' N. 04° 59½' W.) At 2240/14 M.T.Bs 619 and 631 attacked shipping in Floroe Harbour with torpedoes and sank a 10,000 ton and a 3,000 ton ship. Whilst withdrawing M.T.B.331 ran aground on a rocky shoal in 61° 36'36" N. 05° 03'46" E. (off Brejvik) and became a total loss; all her crew were saved. There were no casualties in either M.T.B. and only weather damage to M.T.B.619.

15.3.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

6. Amagansett reports at 2321 G.M.T. intercepting a submarine distress signal from a ship in 38.48 N. 30.48 W.

7. SS. WYOMING (French, 8062 tons) in Convoy U.G.S.6, was sunk by 2 torpedoes at 2000Z in 40.18 N. 28.56 W. (about 90 miles N.E. of Flores).

South Atlantic.

8. A ship reported a torpedo track aft in 24.30 S. 10.36 E. at 0420 G.M.T. today.

Mediterranean.

Tripoli (L)
convoy
attacked.

9. The destroyer DERWENT was attacked by 12 Ju.88 bombers at last light, between 1833 and 1900, whilst escorting a convoy of 9 store ships and a tanker westbound about 45 miles north of Misurata. Two or possibly 3 of the enemy were shot down. DERWENT reports no damage to the convoy.

U/B attack
on Convoy
E.T. 14.

10. Convoy E.T.14 was attacked by U-Boat at 1842 today in 36.55 N. 01.59 E. (55 miles west of Algiers) SS. OCEAN SEAMAN was hit but reached Algiers.

11. 20 escorted U.S. Fortresses attacked a convoy 80 miles W.N.W. of Trapani today. A direct hit was made on one merchant ship and another was damaged.

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15.3.1943.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.

12. As from noon today the U.S. Fleet is re-organised into numbered fleets with a new Task Force organisation.

13. EMPIRE PUMA, a straggler from Convoy O.N.170 is jammed in the ice in 52.00 N. 50.25 W.

14. Cominch reports that on some unspecified day during the week ending 2400Z/14 8 U.S. Naval aircraft attacked a fully surfaced U-Boat in 12.38 N. 54.49 W. and that the U-Boat broke in two and sank, at least 11 men being seen in the water..

Australia and New Zealand.

15. A.C.N.B. on 30th March communicated to the Admiralty a new U.S. Task Force organisation in the S.W. Pacific area, which became effective at noon G.M.T. today.

Titles for
Battles in
Solomon
Islands.

16. From The Times, Monday, March 15th:-
Official designations have been given to the major sea and air naval engagements fought between United States and Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands area from August 8th, 1942 to February 7th, 1943. The period covers the six months' phase of operations during which United States units made their initial landing in the Solomons, seized Guadalcanal's partly completed airfield, consolidated their gains, and finally crushed all enemy resistance on Guadalcanal. The following are the names assigned to the engagements, and the dates on which they took place:-
Battle of Savo Island. - Night surface actions of August 8th/9th, 1942;
Battle of the Eastern Solomons. - Air versus surface actions of August 23rd/25th, 1942;
Battle of Cape Esperance. - Night surface actions of October 11th/12th, 1942;
Battle of Santa Cruz Islands. - Air versus surface actions of October 26th, 1942;
Battle of Guadalcanal. - Air and surface actions, day and night November 13th/15th, 1942;
Battle of Lunga Point. - Night surface action, November 30th - December 1st, 1942.

/In ...

War Diary.

15.3.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Titles for
Battles in
Solomon
Islands.
(Contd.)

In addition to these engagements, there were scattered naval actions from January 29th to February 7th, 1943, which preceded and accompanied the final collapse of Japanese resistance in Guadalcanal.

Air raid
on Darwin.

17. 44 enemy aircraft (apparently 24 bombers escorted by 20 fighters) attacked Darwin Naval oil fuel installation and other targets today and caused damage. The enemy lost from 7 to 14 machines as well as 5 damaged. Four Spitfires were destroyed, but 3 pilots are safe.

War Diary.

15.3.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

DUKE OF YORK. Scapa arrival DUKE OF YORK with FORESTER, BLANKNEY, ECHO. (A.C.O.S., 0657/15).

S/M Intend to sail SHAKESPEARE escorted by ASIE from
Movements. Needles at 1100/10 to position (A) 180° Lizard Head 10 miles by standard convoy route thence position (X) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. E.T.A. position (X) 0800/11.

2. Escort then proceed Falmouth. F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail her to R/V URSULA at 0700/13 in position (X) to escort URSULA to Portsmouth.

3. SHAKESPEARE proceed diving by day to position (B) 49° 30' N. 09° 00' W, thence by Green route to position (C) 43° 01', 12° 54'. E.T.A. position (C) 0001/17. Thence as ordered by F.O.C. Gibraltar.

(Capt. S.5., 0930A/9)

My 1428/13. Cancel para. two and substitute on relief by O.14, USURPER is to proceed Holy Loch.

(F.O.S., 1551A/15)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/16 and movements for following 24 hours.

(a) JUNON off Andfiord.

(b) TRESPASSER towing X.6 escorted by ALECTO vicinity 57° 16' N. 06° 46' W, speed 8 knots for Port HHZ.

(c) X.5 and X.7 towed by TEDWORTH and FIDELE vicinity Three Passage proceeding West of Canna and Skye speed 6 knots to Port HHZ.

(d) UNRULY escorted by CUTTY SARK vicinity Hartland Point due 360° Round Island 7 miles at 1800/16, thence unescorted dived by day through 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W., and 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W.

(e) SICKLE with C.W.163 for Portsmouth.

(f) DZIK 47° 50' N. 13° 22' W. dived by day due 43° 00' N. 13° 22' W. at 2200/18.

(g) SHAKESPEARE 45° 32' N., 12° 54' W. dived by day due 43° 01' N. 12° 54' W. at 0001/18.

(h) HERRING in zones K.505 and K.501 south of 44° 25' N.

(j) SHAD in Zone K.508.

(k) SURF escorted by JAN VAN GELDER leaves Liverpool 1100/16th, E.T.A. Cumbraes 0700/17.

(F.O.S., 1721A/15).

My 1721/15. Amend para. (g) SHAKESPEARE patrolling vicinity 44° 57' N., 13° 50' W.

Add para. (l) ULTOR patrolling vicinity 44° 23' N. 13° 50' W.

Amend para. (h) HERRING, patrolling vicinity 44° 40' N. 12° 30' W.

(F.O.S., 1958A/15)

F.O.C. Gibraltar 1217/14. Destination is Milford Haven.

(D.D.O.D. M., 1037A/15 to F.O.C. Gibraltar)

On arrival at Milford Haven ADVENTURE is to embark outfit Z.57 and forty A Mark I-IV mines and components.

2. C. in C. W.A., is requested to sail ADVENTURE for Gibraltar when ready.

(A.C.N.S. H., 1229A/15)

/F.O.I.C...

War Diary.

15.3.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1217A/14 and Admiralty 1037/15.
Movements. Onward route from P through Q. 044° 02' N.,
(contd). 015° 20' W. R. 048° 58' N., 015° 21' W.
S. 180° Fastnet Rock 10 and by Q.Z.L.18 to Milford
Haven.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2009A/15 to ADVENTURE)

INDOMITABLE, R.A.A. 1217/14. Para. 2 (A) MIDDLETON is to
HOWE, escort ARCHER. (B) R.A.(D) H.F., is requested
ARCHER. to sail 5 destroyers.
(C. in C. H.F., 1038A/15 to V.A.A. R.A.D.)

Operations.

Coastal Your 1343/14. "Limited" arrived.
Patrols. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0808A/15)
My 1047A/14. "Advent" returned to Harbour
at 0747.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0809A/15).

(1) Intend M.G.Bs. 55 (S.O.) and 53 to patrol tonight
on latitude 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
(2) Leaving Weymouth at 1930 Via Q.Z.S.382 for patrol-line and
leaving patrol-line at dawn/16.

(3) Object anti-E-boat patrol. Codeword "Advent".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1030A/15).

Weather permitting C/F dispositions tonight are:

1. (A) One unit MIDGE M.G.B., each Z.51, 52, 53. Units shifting
to Z.53, Z.54, Z.55 at 2230.

(B) One Unit MIDGE M.Ls. Z.12. (C) One Unit MIDGE, R.M.L.s Z.18.

2. (A) One Unit MANTIS M.G.Bs. Z.15.

3. (A) One Unit BEEHIVE M.G.Bs. Z.50. Unit shifting to Z.52 at
2230.

(C. in C. Nore, 1212A/15).

3 M.G.Bs 2 M.T.Bs. from Newhaven patrolling 10 miles to
southward of C.W.163 during passage between C.2 and C.3. Buoys
these are carrying out independent patrol prior to passage of
convoy.

Chasseurs 13 and 14 patrolling to southward of E.A.5 Buoy.

6. ALBRIGHTON, KINGSTON TURQUOISE, KINGSTON TOPAZE at Yarmouth.

7. M.G.Bs. 55, 53 from Portland on 50° 20' N., between 1° 45' W.
and 2° 25' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1315A/15)

N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail force as follows
and supply latest intelligence.

2. Object. Destruction of enemy shipping.

3. Force. M.G.B.613 (S.O.) 615, 608 M.T.B.86, 242.

4. Execution. Leave Newhaven 1930/15 and proceed through
passage two in Q.Z.X.771 to carry out sweep on enemy coast
between Le Treport and Cap D'Antifer.

5. Withdrawal. Force is to withdraw through passage two in
time to take up patrol 10 miles to Southward of convoy C.W.163
while it is proceeding between the longitudes of C.2 and C.3
Buoys and thence return to Newhaven. Convoy passes C.2 0335/16.
This withdrawal is at S.O.'s discretion and he may continue sweep
if he considers that this might be profitable. In either case
force is to be within 20 miles of English Coast by daylight.

Codeword "Cadger".

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1335A/15).

/Patrols...

War Diary.15.3.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (contd). Patrols tonight.

1. Group A. M.T.Bs. 203, 202, 204. Group B. M.T.Bs. 94, 227, 239.
2. Group A to patrol between 323° Sept Isles Light 5 miles and 063° Sept. Isles Light 9 miles. Group B to patrol between 035° Ile de Bas Light 11 miles and 325° Ile de Bas Light 8 miles.
3. Object. To intercept enemy on coastal passage.
4. Execution. Groups are to leave Dartmouth 1900/15 and proceed to patrol lines at speed not exceeding 20 knots. Leave patrol as required to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light.
5. Information enemy. One NARVIK destroyer and one T.B. at Havre E-boats at Cherbourg.
7. Codeword Group A. "Arena" Group B. "Arena 1".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1457A/15).
Departure M.T.Bs. 72, 69, 34, M.G.Bs. 61, 65, 59, 115, 112, 111.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1907A/15)

Biscay Patrol Operation "Regulation". C. in C. Plymouth 1951/14. Cancel my 1023/14th. On crossing 43° N. steer (F) 38.01 N. 17.01 W, thence direct to Q.K.A.87.

2. Paravanes are to be streamed as convenient before crossing 007° W.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1016A/15 to KENYA)
Intend to sail UGANDA at 1600/15 to Freetown carrying out operation "Regulation" en route. Routed through
A. 050° 10' N., 006° 02' W. B. 050° 11' N., 016° 01' W.
C. 045° 45' N., 027° 40' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth and F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1213/15 to Admty).
Operation "Regulation". Endeavour to reach latitude 044° 30' N. as soon as possible. Then sweep westward along 044° 30' N. until 2359/15, thereafter resuming passage.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1551A/15 to KENYA)
My 1213/15. UGANDA sailed. S.O.A. not less than 19 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1615A/15)

S/M Patrol. After dark tonight following submarines are to proceed with despatch patrol
A. SHAKESPEARE 044° 57' 013° 50'. B. ULTOR 044° 23', 013° 50'. HERRING 044° 40', 012° 30'.
(2) Endeavour to reach position by 0800/16.
(3) Total bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.S. 1933A/15 to S/Ms)
(F.O.S., 2043/15 to KENYA, UGANDA)

War Diary.15.3.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.Oiling at
Sea Trials.
BULLDOG.
GULF CREST.

F.O.I.C. N.I. 1916/14th being passes to C. in C.H.F. by Admiralty. On completion of exercises on 20th request you sail BULLDOG to Belfast to carry out oiling at sea trials with tanker GULF CREST. BULLDOG will be required to sail for escort duty from Clyde about March 27th. (C. in C.W.A. 1741A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Home Fleet
Exercise.

My 1846/13th. Following exercise is to be carried out. (C. in C.H.F. 2019A/15 to V.A. 2, H.Q.C.C, C.S.10.)

Allied Air Activity.R/C of
Altenfjord.

Weather still prevents air R/C Altenfjord. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1021A/15.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Scapa.

At 1134/15 enemy A/C was plotted 103' E. of N. Ronaldsay, 32,000, 50' N.N.E. of "A" buoy at 1209. Then 12' N. of Papa Westray and to W. of Hoy. Crossed Flow 32,000 feet 1223 - 1227. 130' E. of "A" buoy at 1250. Cloud conditions 10/10 at 3,000. Satisfactory photographs of Fleet anchorage improbable. No fighters airborne. One A/A gun fired 18 rounds. (A.C.O.S. 1515/15 to Admty.)

Biscay Area.

A F.W. 200 made a distress message from an area 44°-45° N. 19° - 20° W. at 1347A/15. Comment: It is suspected that this aircraft's activities so far west may have been in connection with inbound blockade breaker or supply ship. (D.D.I.C. 1531A/15 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Jan Mayen.

Following from Jan Mayen. F.W. R/C south coast westward 0944. 1125 aircraft observed far off east coast of Island, course S.E. (A.C.I.C. 2113A/15.)

Eddystone
Lighthouse
damaged.

Following from Eddystone Lighthouse. At 1851/15 aircraft machine-gunned lantern. 2 sections of upper lens destroyed, 4 diamond panes smashed. 4 bombs dropped near tower. No damage from bombs, no casualties. Ends. T.O.O. 1940/15. (C. in C.Plymouth 2249/15.)

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15.3.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Q.U.7A. 1. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.U.7A as ordered in my 2136/13 tonight.
2. Supporting forces (A) Close escort one unit 8th M.G.B. Flotilla.
(B) One unit M.T.Bs. vicinity Q.J.W.Z. 1010 timed to arrive one hour before datum times for operation.
Both units have freedom of action after M.Ls. are clear.
(C. in C.Nore 1106A/15 to BEEHIVE.)

East Coast My 1748 and 2247/14. Further lap made West of clearance. line, Eastern limit of 400 Q.Z.S. and centre line 401 Q.Z.S. between 2 miles south of 54B and No. 3. One mine detonated in sweep 180° 3 cables 54B.

Summary of mines to date:- 5 - detonated in sweep - $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 Cable West of 54B. 1 - detonated in sweep - 3 cables south of 54B. 1 - exploded by rifle fire - 1 cable south west 54B. 1 - exploded by rifle fire - 2 cables south west of 54B. 1 - sunk by rifle fire - $1\frac{1}{2}$ cables south of 54B. 1 - struck by MORAVIA - 1 cable south of 54B (P.A.) 1 - sunk by rifle fire $\frac{3}{4}$ miles W.S.W. of 54B (floating.)

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1257A/15 to Admty.)

Moored enemy mines have been found in Q.Z.X. 940 and further extent of minefield is unknown. 9th M.S.F. is to clear this minefield to the eastward of a line drawn 025° and 205° from a position 6 cables west of Number 54B Buoy. Some mines are shallow and have been seen on surface. Vessels should return to Harwich harbour or to anchorage at Rough Buoy for night.

(C. in C.Nore 1640A/15 to M/S 9.)

My 1257/15. Swept to westward of line joining 54A 54B No. 3 buoys. Of 3 mines found alongside 54B buoy, 1 out, two exploded. Area to west of buoys now considered clear. Total mines 14.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1937A/15 to Admty.)

Your 1640A/15. Intend slipping with 5 fleet sweepers at 0600/16 and arriving at 54A buoy 0830. R/V with SPINA start clearance of area bounded on west as in your 1640/15 between 54A buoy and line drawn 115° from No. 3 buoy. Clearance will be continued until two clear laps have been swept east of Q.Z.S. 351. Risk to leading ship passing 54 A buoy must be accepted if buoy is not sunk or area attacked from some unspecified position to eastward. Anchor for night north of Q.Z.S. 263 in longitude Rough Buoy. Have requested F.O.I.C. Humber in my 2025A/15 to sail BRIDPORT to join me in above anchorage.

(M/S 9 2123A/15 to C. in C.Nore.)

Your 2123. In view of the fact that numbers of mines have been found close to 54B Buoy, the risk of leading ship being in unswept water is unacceptable, and Buoy moorings should be parted or Buoy sunk if necessary.

(C. in C.Nore 2834A/15 to M/S 9.)

/S.O. 90A...

War Diary.

15.3.1943.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - contd.

- S.O.90A. I do not intend to abandon operation at present Comply with my 1326/14. Meanwhile shelter at Broad Bay or Stornoway as desired. (R.A.M. 1326A/15 to SCOTT.)
- RUBIS. 1. RUBIS should be available for minelaying early in April on completion of refit.
2. In view of reduction in hours of darkness on Norwegian coast consider she should not lay mines north of latitude of Trondhjem after 7th April or north of Stadtlandet after 16th April and cease minelaying on Norwegian coast after 25th April.
3. Propose F.S. RUBIS join 5th Submarine Flotilla at Portsmouth to carry out mining in Bay of Biscay either (a) on completion of refit or (b) after one lay on Norwegian coast if suitable area can be found. (F.O.S. 1622A/15 to Admty.)
- Weston Channel clearance. Width increased to 3.3 miles from N.W. limit. One German "R"-type mine cut and sunk in 50° 11' 00" N. 03° 19' 24" W. (M/S4 1931A/15 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

- Alesund Prohibited Area. Alesund announced that from March 5th coastal area north of Giske is closed to all traffic and shipping. (N.A. Stockholm 1821/15 to D.N.I.)
- Possible Blockade-breaker. A distress message intercepted from a Focke-Wulf 200 in an area 044° 045° N. 019° 020° W. at 1347/15. A/C being so far West indicates possibility of inward-bound blockade breaker. (F.O.S. 2339A/15 to S/MS.)

U-Boats.

- U-Boats attacked on 14th March. On day 14th March one A/C detected a wake one mile away and then sighted a fully surfaced U-Boat travelling at an estimated speed of 12 knots the A/C attacked from 90° on the U-Boat's starboard beam, dropping six depth charges about 2 seconds after the U-Boat had submerged. The depth charges were observed to explode across the middle of the swirl, but nothing further was seen. A second Whitley sighted a surfaced U-Boat and dropped six depth charges about five seconds after the U-Boat had disappeared. Nothing was visible except the explosion marks of the depth charges and a patch of foam in the same position two hours later. (H.C.B.C. 1400A/15.)

War Diary.

15.3.1943.

Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Brightlingsea. Port closed owing to fog.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 0815/15.)
Port open.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1130/15.)

Yarmouth. Port is closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0825A/15.)
Port is now open.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1002A/15.)

Workington. On and after 18th March, Port of Workington will be open for vessel up to 20 ft. draught at spring tides. Pilotage for Coasters except those trading with Eire will be optional. Navigation at night will be allowed under favourable conditions.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1435A/15 and 1447A/17.)

Casualties & Defects.

SKJOLD. SKJOLD hove to in 061° 20' N. 014° 28' W. with damaged steering-gear. Immediate assistance not required. WINDERMERE standing by.
(NORTHERN GIFT 0128Z/15 to C. in C.W.A.)

M.L. 214. Departure BROCK towing M.L. 214 for Sheerness.
(V.A.Dover 0527A/15.)

ROBERT
REDHEAD. Following from SORATA first grade bearing 132°
ROBERT REDHEAD.
(Gallon Head Radio 0829 G.M.T/15 to A.C.O.S.)
Intercept at 0828 G.M.T. de ROBERT REDHEAD begins:
0925 F.O.I.C. Tyne. Steamer ashore Outer Head, danger of sinking.
(Wick 0930 B.S.T/15 to A.C.O.S.)

CULEBRA. Admiralty's 1906A/13. CULEBRA has no propeller and only one anchor. Stornoway is being swept by continual gales. Request tugs be sent immediately.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0845A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0854A/15. BUSTLER is urgently required to proceed to Stornoway and tow SS. CULEBRA to Aultbea. Request you sail her accordingly.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1004A/15 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

/PRESIDENT...

15.3.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

PRESIDENT
BRIAND.

Weather permitting intend to sail Tug FAIR PLAY towing salvaged vessel PRESIDENT BRIAND at 1800/15 to join up astern of HAULABOUT Group 14 and proceed in company.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1015A/15).

EXMOUTH.
EVGENIA
CHANDRIS.

SS. EXMOUTH and SS. EVGENIA CHANDRIS bound Newcastle in F.S.63 were in collision off Tyne at approx. 0320/15. EXMOUTH entered Tyne 0935/15 in tow. EVGENIA CHANDRIS was beached at low water on sands south of Tyne South Pier, now afloat badly damaged. Salvage officer in attendance.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1325/15 to Admty).

LONDONDERRY

Arrived LONDONDERRY in tow of HUDSON, escorted by PARRSBORO.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1529A/15).

L.T.C. with
cased A/C.

At 1000Z/15 in 060° 05' N., 014° 25' W. passed centre section of tank landing craft with 3 cased aircraft on board. Craft and planes in good condition. Considered salvable. My P.C.S. 060° 43' N. 016° 10' W, 315° 16 knots.
(VIMY, 1600Z/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

EMPIRE OPAL.

My 1647A/15. EMPIRE OPAL read collision damage to stem.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2115/15).

War Diary.15.3.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.H.X.228.
S.C.121.

BIBB arrived 0100Z/15.
(C.T.G. 24.6, 0147Z/15 to C.T.24)
Clyde arrivals VISCOUNT, ESCAPADE, BOADICEA,
BURSA, NARCISSUS, and RHODODENDRON.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0746A/15)

Preliminary report. Convoy consisted of 61 ships in 14 Columns escorted by B. 3 Group. HARVESTER (S.O), ESCAPADE, GARLAND, BURZA, NARCISSUS, ROSELYS, ACONIT, RENONCULE. All times G.M.T. (1) Ocean Escort took over Convoy at 1000/6. BOGUE escorted by BELKNAP and BADGER joined at 1345/6th. (2) When not flying off BOGUE was stationed in centre of Convoy, destroyers reinforced screen. When flying off BOGUE was screened by U.S. Destroyers attended by GARLAND. (3) Convoy course North-Easterly until 1930/7 when course was altered to 097° by Admiralty in view of U-Boat situation. Aircraft from BOGUE provided A/S patrol on this day. (4) Weather prevented flying on the 8th and 9th. (5) At 0500/10 an H/F D/F bearing was obtained within 50 miles. BOGUE's aircraft attacked U-Boat 10 miles on port beam of Convoy. Depth charges jammed and aircraft crashed on landing. Carrier and Escort then left convoy. (6) As a result of this sighting ESCAPADE was stationed 10 miles on port beam of Convoy during daylight. No further H/F D/F reports received. (7) At 2125/10 (dusk) moon bearing 300°. Moon set 0200/11. Wind N.W. Force Four. Escorts in N.E.6 RENONCULE and three stragglers 10 miles on port beam rejoining. When Escorts were assuming right stations 2 ships believed Numbers 71 and 74 were torpedoed. "Artichoke" ordered. HARVESTER ran down the columns from position A and made accurate attack on A/S contact in vicinity of torpedoed ship. Then swept astern for 6 miles. (8) At 0115/11 a second attack developed and appeared to be synchronised from both beams, numbers 131 and 25 being torpedoed, no contact port side. While taking up station HARVESTER sighted U-Boat on starboard beam of Convoy. U-Boat dived but was forced to surface, by depth charges and finally rammed by HARVESTER, 1 prisoner being taken. ACONIT closing HARVESTER shortly afterwards rammed and sank U.444 about 1,000 yards from HARVESTER also taking prisoners. It is not clear whether these were the same or different U-Boats. (9) HARVESTER seriously damaged, speed reduced to 9 knots. ACONIT ordered to rejoin as Convoy was still being attacked. (10) At 0345/11 third attack developed from starboard beam, ship believed Number 135 was torpedoed. "Half-raspberry" ordered. RENONCULE on starboard beam made promising attack on first A/S contact. (11) Convoy remained on original course throughout these attacks. (12) HARVESTER stopped about 0800/11 and was torpedoed twice about 1100/11 and sank rapidly. ACONIT proceeding to assist sighted a U-Boat in vicinity of HARVESTER. U-Boat dived at about 1200/11, ACONIT obtained A/S contact, attacked with depth charges, forced U-Boat to surface, hit U-Boat repeatedly with gunfire and finally rammed and sank U.452, taking prisoners. (13) a.m. 11th ACONIT followed by NARCISSUS proceeding to assist HARVESTER,

ROSELYS/ ...

War Diary.15.3.1945.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- H.X.228.
S.C.121
(Contd.) ROSELYS rejoining from standing by Number 71. Leaving only 4 Escorts with Convoy. Liberators joined daylight, made several sightings and some attacks on U-Boats around Convoy. Escorts made short sweeps in direction of aircraft reports. No further attacks developed although H/F D/F bearings indicated that Convoy was shadowed until 0200 13th and again at dusk 13th. (14) Considerable difficulty was experienced in communication with Commodore. (Capt. D. Greenock, 2346A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S.C.1. Your 0929/12. In view of 5 trawlers sailing as additional escort special rescue ship ACCRINGTON is not to be sailed in this convoy. (C. in C. W.A.1136A/15 to N.C.S.O. Clyde).
- O.S.
Convoy
Cycle. A.M. 1509/14. 15-days cycle for O.S. convoys can start with O.S.46 sailing April, 15th. (C. in C. W.A. 1308Z/15 to Admty.)
- W.S.28. Arrived S.S. RANGITATA escorted by TRENT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1508A/15 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff)
- R.A.53. Scapa Arrival. ORKAN. (A.C.O.S., 1525/15)
- H.X.226. Average speed 9.5 knots. Arrived off Oversay 0900Z/23/2. All arrived. (D.T.D.1648A/15 to Connnav.)
- X.K.3. My 1656/13. BORAGE will arrive Londonderry about 1800A/16. Request you sail BORAGE, DIANELLA, and LUNENBURG when ready to reinforce X.K.3. Estimate position 1600A/19 39.58 N. 15.10 W. routed through 49.20 N. 14.35 W., 55.00 N. 10.00 W. Speed seven knots. (C. in C. W.A., 1652A/15 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
- C.W. and
C.E. Convoys. Your 1252/27/2. To facilitate connexions with W.P. convoys it is requested that the 24-hour delay to C.W.163 and C.E.161 may be extended to the remainder of the C.W/C.E. programme. (D.T.D.1747A/15 to C. in C. Nore.)
- X.K.2. Your 1853/12 Para. 1. Request further description of the different type of aircraft which made second attack on convoy on 4th March. (D.D.I.C., 1750A/15 to Cdre. Londonderry).
- O.N.172. My 0319 H. Sailed at 1748/16 to rejoin. (A.C.I.C., 1801A/15 to Escort O.N.172.)

War Diary.

15.3.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

O.N.S.J.

Slip as soon as ready and proceed independently at best speed to Reykjavik. VISCOUNT will sail to overtake. Keep her informed.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 2050A/15 to ROSE).

Eddrachilles
S/M
Sanctuary
Area.

A.G.M.339 AZ of 15 March.
Shipping in convoy, independent coastal shipping, and convoy escorts are to be warned that friendly submarines may be encountered in the area and that no submarines are to be attacked unless proved to be hostile. (2) The sanctuary in the first instance will be in force with total restrictions from 0600A/16th March, to noon 4th April.
(A.C.N.S.H., 2115A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

601

15.3.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

EMPIRE
PRIDE.

Your 0943A/14 (Sailed EMPIRE PRIDE for Gibraltar) arrived.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 0732A/15 to Cdre. Algiers)

DZIK.

After crossing 43.01 N. at 2200/18th pass through following positions at time stated:
(t) 36.51 09.13 at 2200/22nd. (u) 36.37 07.24 at 2030/23rd. (v) 35.53 06.15 at 0630/24th.
(w) 35.49 18.06 06½ at 0745/24th, thence Gibraltar by Q.K.A.87. All times Zone minus 1. Position N. and E. (2) S. of A. diving by day 105 miles per 24 hours, after passing position (u) proceeding on surface at your discretion at 7 knots.
(3) Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged until 2030/23rd, thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side of your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of your estimated position. Report if you are not able to keep your bombing restrictions. (4) You should not pass position (v) before 0630/24th.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 0924/15 to DZIK) Amended by 1931/18

NORDFELS.

German 62 left for France 0030 G.M.T. 14th.
(Consul Bilbao, 1015/15th to Admty., D.N.I. M.E.W., B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib.)

U.G.S.6,
U/B's.

A.M.1505A/14. Subsequent transmissions on Series 3, the latest at 0852Z on Line 1, indicate that at least one U-Boat is in contact with convoy.
(D.D.I.C., 1016A/15 to Escorts of U.G.S.6.
(R) Cominch, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar etc.)

A.M.1016A/15. Transmissions on Series 3, up to 1828Z, indicate U-Boats still in contact.
(D.D.I.C., 2032A/15 to U.G.S.6 etc.)

Situation
Reports.

Situation 2002A/15.
UNA 37.54 09.56 330 8.2/2.
(2) S/M TACTICIAN 39.48 10.44 158 10½/2½.
(3) S/M ULTOR 43.01 12.54 at 2100 15th thence to 155 8.2/2. (5) U.G.F.6 T.F.34, 30.08 21.13 through 33.40 17.50 thence 067 13½. (6) O.S.44, ROCHESTER 35.01 10.14 through 34.02 10.04 and 32.59 10.01 thence 205 8. (7) French Sloop M/S COMMANDANT BORY 3 French S/M 26.25 14.29 through 28.15 13.15 at 1045 16th thence Northbound Coastwise 9½. (8) Fleet unit, 4 destroyers, 28.20 13.16 037° 14½ (9) ADVENTURE 39.27 12.22 through 40.01 12.20 and 43.01 14.01 thence northbound 20. (10) G.U.S. 5, T.F.35, 33.55 09.11 through 33.01 11.01 thence 248° 9. (11) KENYA 44.10 18.11 through 43.01 18.29 and 38.01 17.01 thence 104° 17.
(V.A.Gib., 1056A/15)

Situation/...

War Diary.15.3.1945.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Situation
Reports.
(Contd.)

Situation report Area XA.

(4) O.S.44 (Gibraltar) NASTURTIUM 35.56 09.01 through 35.55 08.01 to Gibraltar 9½.
 (6) CARLISLE 36.10 07.73 to 155 17.
 (8) French Minesweeper LA BOUDEUSE, one P.C.2 French submarines 34.05 07.42 through 35.01 06.40 and 35.50 06.33 to Gibraltar 9. (9) ANTELOPE 034° 42' 007° 31' to Gib.20. (10) ARCTIC RANGER 1 merchant ship off Cape St. Vincent coastwise to TAGUS thence ARCTIC RANGER to Gib.9. (11) SPIREA 35.39 08.34 to Casablanca 11½ rejoin O.S.44 after fuelling. (12) X.K.3 VENOMOUS sails 1500 16th through Q.K.A.87 thence 283° 6½.

(N.O.I.C. Gib., 1147A/15, as amended 1840A/15)

My 1147/15th. Add new para.13. Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE passes Europa Point westbound about 0400A/16th through Q.K.A. 87 thence to 036° 31' 009° 02' 13 knots.

(F.O.Gibraltar, 2336A/15)

Situation 2002A/15.

BURWELL 37.02 20.18 to Ponta Delgada 20. (3) U.G.S.6, T.F.33, 40.22 30.10 102 9. (4) L.S.T. convoy, C.T.U. 32, 27°03' 24° 038° 8.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1153A/15).

Situation 2001A/15th.

(2) British L.C.I.(L) convoy (033° ?) 50' 035° 01' 102° 5½.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1203A/15)

ANTELOPE.

My 1244/14th sailed. Q.L.A.165.

(2) F.O.C.W.Af. pass to Comar Dakar.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1122A/15 to F.O.C.W.Af.

Comar Dakar (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. S.N.O.C.A.)

Return to Gibraltar by reverse route. Acknowledge forthwith.

(F.O.Gibraltar, 1737A/15 to ANTELOPE (R) F.O.I.C. Af. S.N.O. Casablanca Area C. in C. Med. Admty.)

Your 1737 received. E.T.A. 0700A/16th. Acknowledge.

Weather report.

(ANTELOPE, 1910A/15 to F.O. Gibraltar.)

LIVADIA.

German 63 arrived 14th.

(Consul Bilbao, 1250/15 to Admty. (D.N.I.)..,

M.E.W., B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

ROCHESTER,
MIGNONETTE,
O.S.44.

Intend to detach MIGNONETTE to Casablanca for fuel at 1845Z/15th. E.T.A. Casablanca 0700Z/16th

MIGNONETTE will maintain W/T watch on Gibraltar

Broadcast while detached. My P.C. and S. at 1200Z/15th 035° 57' N. 010° 30' W. 167° 8 knots.

Weather report.

(ROCHESTER, 1300Z/15 to F.O. Gibraltar, (R)

C. in C. W.A., R.A.W.Af., S.N.O. Casablanca)

ZE MANEL / ...

War Diary.

15.3.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (Contd.)

- ZE MANEL. Portuguese ZE MANEL 926 G.T. speed 8 knots, usual markings on sides, sails 1410/15th for Marseilles by approved route. Not to be interfered with this voyage. (F.O.C.Gibraltar, 1415A/15 to S. and A. Area G. etc.)
- U-Boats. Two U-Boats may be between latitude 39½ and 43 North. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1524A/15 to P.314 (TACTICIAN) UNA, P.39, P.221 (SHAKESPEARE)).
- NASTURTIUM. O.S.44. In company CONVULVULUS and 6 merchant ships. SILVER (?BEACH) damaged in collision and diverted to Gibraltar. GENERTON with 68 survivors from JAMBETHEN(sic)&1 from OPORTO Apoplectic, no hospital cases. E.T.A. Gibraltar, 1415A/16. (NASTURTIUM, 1600A/15 to F.O. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med.)
- CALIFORNIA STAR. (torpedoed 4/3.) Admiralty requested to pass to M.W.T. and owners. Portuguese Authorities state Capt. Faulkes and 22 crew of CALIFORNIA STAR arrived in lifeboats Lagos, Flores. Ship torpedoed March 4th 2130 G.M.T. 042° 32' N. 037° 44' W. 2nd Officer Smart taken prisoner. 4 rafts missing. Names of survivors following to M.W.T. Next Portuguese mail steamer to Flores early April. (R.O., Fayal, 1610/15 to Admty. for D.N.I. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
- SHAKESPEARE. Add 24 hours to all times in My 2511/14th. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1744A/15 to P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) (R) UNA, P.314 (TACTICIAN) Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 5, F.O.S. Capt. (S) 5, DZIK, C. in C. Plymouth, P.53 (ULTOR) C. in C. Med.)
- ARGONAUT. B.A.M.R. Washington, 1344/13th. Estimated date ARGONAUT arrival in U.S. is April 15th. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1746A/15 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., B.A.M.R. Washington). For Philadelphia (1526Z/17).
- Movements Gibraltar. Arrivals VANOC, VERITY with two M/V's from Algiers, VENOMOUS, ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY from A/S sweep, IMPERIALIST with two M/V's from Lisbon. U.S. Ships' JEBJERS BROOME P.C's 474, 475 with convoy C.G.18. Departure LORD NUFFIELD escort duties Melilla. (F.O.Gibraltar, 1940A/15 to Admty. etc.)

Type.

War Diary.

15.3.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (Contd.)

Type
251 M
in Convoys.

In view of the inevitable interval between fitting type 251 M and amendments to S.P.02449 reaching this station it is requested that the fact that escorts are so fitted may be stated in your sailing signal of southbound convoys. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1953A/15 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty.)
This will be done (C. in C. W.A., 1224A/17)
List of ships fitted (C. in C. W.A., 1519A/17)

CARLISLE.

E.T.A. 1630Z/16th.
(CARLISLE, 2001A/15 to F.O. Gibraltar).

Movements,
Casablanca.

Casa March 15th warships arrived VELOX, CIRCE, WISHART, CLAYTON, HUSSAR, BUDE. Departed U.S. P.C.480 and French LA BOUDEUSE escorting French subs VESTALE and ANTIOPE. Departed Task Force 65 with G.U.S.5. (C.M.S.F.F., 2020Z/15 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

WYOMING
U.G.S.6
sunk.

Cominch reencyphers C.T.F.63 152031 "Cominch please pass to Admiralty and other interested authorities. WYOMING on starboard quarter of convoy U.G.S. 6 sunk by 2 torpedoes at 2000Z, 40.18 N. 28.56 W." (Radio Washington, 2200/15 to Admty.)

War Diary.15.3.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

PIERRE S. De Slangkop radio. SSSS PIERRE S. DUPONT 24.30
DUPONT. S. 10.36 East, torpedo track aft at 0420 G.M.T./15.
attacked by (Valentia Radio 0437/15 to Admty.)
U-Boat. Following read from PIERRE S. DUPONT. Cancel my
SSSS distress message made at 0430 G.M.T. 15th, no
damage, but torpedo fired. W/T Call sign KHAY.
(C. in C. S.A. 0540/15 to Admty.)

JAMES B. Amend my 1047Z/13th March, para. 3, to read. Ship
STEPHENS broke into three sections and caught fire. Midship
(attacked section consisting of bridge W.T. Office and
8 March.) engine room sank but other two portions when last
seen by Master were still afloat. C.B's were in
(?black) steel box on bridge and sank with midship
section, if not previously burnt by the fire.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0817Z/15 to Admty. C. in C.S.A.)

M.L's. Sailed M.L.380 M.L. 383 coastal to Lourenco Marques
E.T.A. 1000C/16th.
(Cdre. Durban 0854C/15 to C.S.A. Lourenco Marques,
C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.)

HERO. Report whether HERO can provide escort to JAMES
JAMES PARKER. PARKER to longitude of Freetown whence JAMES PARKER
to proceed independently to New York and HERO to
Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0918Z/15 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R)
HERO, Admty, B.A.D.) Reply 1331Z/16.

THRUSH. Arrival 14th U.S. Aircraft Tender THRUSH.
(R.O. Para. 0947/15 to Admty. (R) B.N.S.O. Rio
de Janeiro.)

ARMERIA. F.O.C. W.A. 0325Z/14.
BELLWORT. 1. After Destroyers rejoin escort, SUSSEX detach
SOLARIUM. ARMERIA to proceed Takoradi for escort duty to
Freetown. 2. B.N.L.O. West Africa sail BELLWORT
from Pointe Noire as escort to SOLARIUM to 013° W.
whence SOLARIUM is to proceed independently to
destination and BELLWORT to Freetown. B.N.L.O. West Africa pass
to Matadi.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1116Z/15 to SUSSEX, B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire. (R)
BELLWORT, Admty. ARMERIA, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos,
Vice Consul Matadi.) BELLWORT orders amended. See 1204Z/17.

/CHESHIRE...

War Diary.15.3.1943
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

CHESHIRE. Arrived Montevideo 1230 G.M.T. 14th.
(N.A. Montevideo 1130Z/15 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
S.A. B.N.S.O, Rio de Janeiro.)

EMPRESS OF CANADA. EMPRESS OF CANADA torpedoed and sunk in 01.13 S
09.57 W at 2359Z/13th.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1133Z/15 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C.
Gib., ANTELOPE.)

Am recovering survivors in 001° 21' S 010° 10' W.
(BOREAS 1900Z/15 to F.O.I.C. Freetown (R) CORINTHIAN,
CROCUS, PETUNIA.)

Situation Position at 2000Z/15th.
Reports. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, CATTERICK 030° 55' S. 035°
10' E. to Durban, 14.5.
NIGELLA 030° 45' S. 036° 20' E. to Durban, 12.
NORWICH CITY, VIVIANA 030° 50' S. 036° 45'
E to Durban, 9.

WARSPITE, QUILLIAM, NEPAL, FOXHOUND 028° 40' S. 036° 45' E.
to Durban, 16.5.
SPHENE off Durban.
(C. in C. S.A. 1145C/15 as amended 1825C/15.)
Situation at 2000Z/15th.

U.S. Destroyer ROPER, convoy T.O.2, 20.57 34.25 252.16.
French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE French Sloop M/S CMDT. DELAGE
U.S. Destroyer GHERARDI with convoy C.D.4 25.34 15.29 212.9.
French Sloop M/S LA GRACIEUSE 19.36 17.51 to join C.D. 4.11.
BUTSER, BIRDLIP escorting FORTOL 18.14 17.37 01.7½.
PELICAN, BURDOCK, CMDT. DROGOU, WEAR, SPEY, ROTHER, with S.L.126,
15.25 17.45 03.7.
SENNEN Dakar to join S.L.127.12.
DUNKERY, (?OR) FASY, escort, 09.31 16.56 335.8½.
DESPATCH about 10.02 25.55 to Bathurst, 19.
CARNARVON CASTLE 07.44 29.02 to 08.(746) 31.28 thence to patrol
about 11° N. 30° W. 15½.
French Cruiser GLOIRE about 12.05 20.58 to Dakar, 20.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1227Z/15)
CILICIA 05.24 18.12 to Freetown 14.
RUMBA, SARABANDE, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN, 05.50 12.58 140.9.
BOREAS, PETUNIA, CROCUS searching 0.13 S. 09.57 W. (*Empress of Canada sunk*)
CORINTHIAN about 01.48 11.18 156° 13.
SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER, BELLWORT, ARMERIA, 00.16
04.31 E. of 00.47 S. 05.58 E. thence (?184), 12½.
HERO 02.05 02.22 E. of Takoradi, 24.
CYCLAMEN about 02.00 05.00 E. of Takoradi 10¾.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1415Z/15)

Movements, Arrived PELICAN 0845 sailed 1206Z/15th to
Dakar. rejoin S.L.126.
2. Sailed BURDOCK escorting HOGGAR, CHELMA and
DUNKERQUE 0700 joined S.L.126 1030Z/15th.
3. Sailed Fr. M/S LA GRACIEUSE 2000Z/14th to
reinforce escort of Convoy C.D. 4.
(Comar, Dakar, 1232Z/15 to F.O.C.W.A.)

/SARKA...

15.3.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

- SARKA. Arrived.
(Cdre. Durban, 1307Z/15 to Admty. etc.)
- BIRDLIP. Comar, Dakar, 1009Z/13th. (N.T. and W.D.)
Regret no additional escort can be provided from
Dakar but trawler BIRDLIP will join convoy in
Port Etienne Area until relieved by escort from
Dakar.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1356Z/15 to Comar, Dakar, (R) S.N.O.
Casablanca, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)
- Movements, Bahia. Arrivals 15th U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI U.S. Des.
JOUETT. Departure 15th Brazilian Light Cruiser
RIO GRANDE DO SUL, Brazilian Destroyer MARANHAO,
Minelayers CARAVELLAS, Sub. Chaser GURUPY.
(R.O. Bahia 1740²/15 to Admty.)
- SENNEN. Arrived SENNEN 1400 and sailed 1811/15th to
rejoin S.L.126.
(Comar, Dakar, 1837Z/15 to F.O.C. W.A. (R)
FELICAN, Admty, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Casablanca)
- Movements, Recife. Arrivals 14th March U.S. Destroyers GOFF and
KEARNEY Brazilian Light Cruiser BAHIA Brazilian
Minelayers CABEDELLO and CAMAQUAM.
Departures 14th U.S. Destroyers WINSLOW,
ERICSSON, U.S. Patrol vessel SIREN (PY13) and
Submarine Chasers P.C.488, 577 and 593.
(R.O. Recife 1930Z/15 to Admty.)
- Movements. Arrivals. 1033/14th March BOREAS from escort
duty.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 2031Z/15 to F.O.C. Gib. (R)
Admty. etc.)
Departures 1746/14th March, DUNKERY, ORFASY escorting
CAP PADARAN.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 2032Z/15 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst)
Departure 1404/14th March. RUMBA, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN,
SARABANDE with S.T.59.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 2033Z/15 to Admty.)
Arrival ARETHUSA at 0712/15/3/43.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 2351Z/15 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)
- HUMBOLDT. Natal arrival 15th U.S.S. HUMBOLDT.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 2049Z/15 to Admty.
(R) S.O. (I) Freetown.)

War Diary.15.3.1945.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- E.T.14. Following is a repetition of my 1551/14 (Begins)
E.T.14. Intend sailing the following: (3 ships)
Cdre. Algiers is requested to signal Pendant
numbers. (Ends.)
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 0405/15, to C. in C. Med.
(R) Cdre. Algiers etc.)
- AUDUN. My 2045A/14th to Cdre. Algiers, sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 0600A/15 to N.O.I.C. Philippe-
ville (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.I.S., C. in C.
Med. etc.)
- P.A.28. Convoy P.A.28 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0605Z/15 to Admty.)
- M.T.B's. Motor torpedo boats 264 and 61 returned from
operations.
(V.A.Malta, 0707A/15 to Admty. etc.)
Returned M.T.B. 309 from operations.
(V.A.Malta, 1032A/15 to Admty. etc.)
- UNBENDING. P.37 (UNBENDING) returning to Malta from Messina
arriving end of searched channel 1500A/16th.
S/MS are not to be attacked west of 017°.
(Capt. (S) 10, 0807A/15 to RORQUAL (R) P.37,
(UNBENDING), C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1,
Capt. (S) 8.)
- W.S.26A. Convoy W.S.26A arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0843Z/15 to Admty.)
- Movements,
Alexandria. Arrivals 14th March M.L's 356, 349, 354.
Departures 14th March RAINSTORM, M.T.B's 65,
75, 76, SPETSAI.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0904B/15 to Admty. C. in C.
Levant.)
- OXFORDSHIRE. Sailed 0915A/15 to Avonmouth routed as follows:
(details) Speed 13.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 0925A/15 to Admty. etc.)
- Bi-weekly
opsum
108 part 2. Night 13/14 March.
21 B.24's left to bomb shipping in Naples
Harbour. 3 returned early, 1 landed Malta
on outward journey owing to technical troubles.
Remainder found Naples area completely obscured
by cloud. 15 B.24's bombed estimated position

of /...

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Opsum
108 part 2.
(Contd.)

of Harbour with unknown results. 2 returned with bombs at 1740Z hrs. Report from further B.24's awaited. Liberators attacking Naples later during night found same weather conditions and bombed through cloud with unobserved results. Details awaited.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1016Z/15)

EILDON
damaged.

EILDON rammed by Tug ST. LOUIS on 10/3. (Damage) Vessel discharged and necessary repairs to render vessel seaworthy carried out. Reloaded with 950 iron ore and sailed 1514 to Gibraltar for onward routing.
(D.S.T.O. Algiers, 1051A/15 to D.S.T.)

TRIBUNE.

Intend sailing TRIBUNE 1830/16th through 038° 11' 004° 50' at 0530/17th 038° 24' 010° 00' at 0100/19th thence patrolling in Tyrrhenean Sea. (Capt. (S) 8, 1102A/15 to C. in C. Med. (R) Capt. (S) 10, 8th S/M.F., Cdre. Algiers.)

French Navy,
Allied
Policy.

Reply to Admty., 1650/13 (N.T. in W.D.) As regards supplies to French Navy, and local arrangements at Oran consequent on all the harbour defence craft being British.
(C. in C. Med. 1112A/15 to Admty. (R) Cominch, N.O.I.C. Oran).

TASSOS.

My 1623/10th March. TASSOS probable sailing date March 17th or March 18th. B.4.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1119C/15 to C. in C. Levant, (R) S.1, D.N.I.)

UNRUFFLED,
UNBROKEN.

You have freedom of action in your respective areas.
(Capt. (S) 10, 1147A/15 to P.46 (UNRUFFLED), P.42 (UNBROKEN))

UNSHAKEN
(P.54.)

Capt. (S) 8 + 1144 12th. Proceed by approved route P.Q.R. to R/V with minesweepers at end of Malta searched channel at 0830A/20th. Do not approach within 20 miles of Malta before 0400A. S/M's are not to be attacked unless identified as enemy.
(Capt. (S) 10, 1219A/15 to P.54 (R) 10th Subs., C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8)).

U.G.F.6.

Request you will sail SOUTHDOWN, VELOX, BUDE, QUORN, CIRCE and HUSSAR as necessary to R/V with U.G.F. 6 and escort Mediterranean section to

destination / ...

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U.G.F.6 (Contd.) destination. (2) Onward route from R/V through (aa) 35.45 N. 07.01 W. thence by Q.K.A.87 to Europa Point positions 57-50-109 letters (bb) to (dd) to Oran. S. of A. 13½ knots. Stragglers route as convoy. (3) Request you will report E.T.A. of convoy at Gibraltar and Oran. (4) Gibraltar section will detach in position 57 with local escort. (5) F.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail VANOC and VERITY as additional escort to Oran. (6) Fighter protection priority 2 codeword "Rigmarole". (C. in C. Med., 1501A/15 to N.O.I.C. Casablanca (R) F.O. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Oran, S.O. Force H, Capt. (S) 8, Admty., Escorts of Convoy U.G.F. 6, Connnav.)

Minelaying by M.T.B's. Your 2033/5. Standard moored and ground mines of types supplied or being supplied to Mediterranean are suitable for laying from Coastal Craft stiffened for the purpose. C.A.F.O's 244/42 and 1082/42 refer. (2) Sweep obstructor are also available. Maximum length of mooring is 50 fathoms. (3) Your para. 3, material for stiffening these two Flotillas can not be made available for despatch from U.K. until July and then only at expense of new construction. To incorporate stiffening at least one month would be required per boat from time of receipt of material on Station, using skilled labour. (4) In view of para. 3 above, do you still wish stiffening material to be sent to Bone for these two Flotillas as soon as it is available? (Reply: 2032A/17) (5) By Admiralty records, a proportion of the Coastal Craft now in Mediterranean are already stiffened and chutes and traps for ground and moored mines are available on Station. (6) A further signal will be made giving details as known here* (D.T.M., 1529A/15 to C. in C. Med. (R) C.C.F. etc.) * (D.T.M. 1532A/15)

P.R.U. P.R.U.458 15th visuals 1400 Taranto 1 Battleship 2 cruisers. Other battleships uncertain owing to cruisers (sic). 1440, Messina, No major naval units. (V.A.Malta, 1641A/15)

Movements, Port Said. 15th March Port Said Arrivals AETOS, M/L.357, CUMBRAE, M/L.1005 R.F.A. BARDAPUR, RAINSTORM, SPETSAL. Departures M.T.B.79 SPETSAL. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1703B/15 to Admty. etc.)

R.C.N. Corvettes, ALGOMA. Your 1343/14 (Return of R.C.N. corvettes to Canada). With departure of R.K.3 tomorrow 16th March only ALGOMA will be left. She could be sailed direct to Halifax at any time after 17th March. (C. in C. Med., 1717A/15 to Admty.)

Movements / ...

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Movements, Aden. Arrival FROBISHER 0710Z FLAMINGO.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1719Z/15 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Port Said. 14th March Port Said arrivals Yugoslav S/M
NEBOJSA, WOLBOROUGH.
Departures BULLFINCH, WOLBOROUGH, H.M.R.T.
FAVOURITE, MALINES.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1729/14 to Admty. etc.)

DERWENT Survey sighted by shadower at 1715/A, my position
A/C Attacks. 32.50 N. 15.57 E.
(DERWENT, 1731A/15 to S.N.O. Inshore Squadron,
Eastern Med.)
(Have been?) attacked by 12 bombers between 1833
and 1900. 2 possibly 3 shot down. No damage reported.
(DERWENT, 1927A/15 to C. in C. Levant, (R) Inshore Squad., Eastern
Med.)
Unknown aircraft 32.50 N. 15.25 E.
(DERWENT, 2031A/15 to Malta.)
Enemy A/C bombing.
(DERWENT, 2044/15 to Malta.)
Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft, 32.50 N. 15.15 E. 180°
6 knots.
(Naval General call sign Block 5 Via Burnham W/T, 2211/15 to
Malta.)
W.R. Note. - The word "Survey" appears in text of signal.
W.D. Note. - DERWENT escorting convoy for Tripoli (L) see
C. in C. Levant, 2016B/16.

E.T.15. Cancel my 1125/15th. E.T.15 will sail from
Bone March 18th.
(C. in C. Med., 1745A/15 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
N.O.'s I.C. Oran, Bone, Bougie, Philippeville,
S.O.I.S.S., N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Casablanca,
F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. Connav.)

SARACEN. (SARACEN) P.247 leaves Malta 1500A March 16th by
approved route R.Q.P. to arrive "P" at 0001A/18th
thence to patrol as ordered by you. She will shift
to Algiers broadcast at 0001A/18th.
(Capt. (S) 10, 1832/15 to Capt. (S) 8th, (R) C. in C.
8th S.F. 10th S.F.)

Aircraft Control, Gibraltar-Casablanca Area. Personal for 1st S.L.
My 1303/14th. Marshall replied to Eisenhower as
follows (begins). Understanding on A/S operations
you now have is correct as stated in your telegram
of 13th March. Request information be furnished
us as further developments occur. (Ends.)
(C. in C. Med., 1835A/15 to Admty.)

Malta / ...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

Malta
Air
Report. Part 1. Offensive Night 14/15 March.
Bad weather and A.S.V jamming hampered offensive operations. 1 special equipment torpedo carrying Wellington on search in Taranto Area sighted at 2030 hrs. 2 unescorted M/Vs 3/400 tons 37° 50' N. 16° 05' E. course south speed 10 knots and attacked with 1 torpedo at 2200 hrs. but results could not be observed owing to bad visibility and evasive action necessitated by flak. 2 Intruder Mosquitoes were airborne 1 patrolling east coast of toe of Italy to cover our shipping strike and 1 patrolling Castel Vetrand area. (A.H.Q., Malta, 1957/15)

Movements,
Algiers. Algiers arrivals LIDDESDALE, REIGHTON WYKE, KING SOL, VISENDA, MISOA, BACHAQUERO, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, BICESTER, OAKLEY, L.C.I.(L)'s 176, 243. Departures LINNET, M.M.S's 171, 133, POLRUAN, M.L.444, L.C.I.(L)'s 242, 176, 243.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2003A/15 to Admty. etc.)

REGENT. Algiers arrival.
(Cdre., Algiers, 2009A/15 to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Oran. Vessels arrived, PUCKERIDGE, FARNDALE, HAYDON.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2013A/15 to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Cyrenaica. Sailed SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN MAID, ST. MONANCE, L.C.T.138.
(S.N.O. Cyrenaica, 2052B/15 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements,
Libya. Departure BEAUFORT and EXMOOR.
(N.O.I.C. Libya, 2151A/15 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Philippeville)

French
Naval
Air
Personnel. My 1957/9 (Movement programme for French Naval Air personnel proceeding to U.K.). Detachments mentioned in para. 1 left Algiers 10 and 11th March but are held at Marrakesh awaiting onward air passage. (2) Detachments mentioned in para. 2 may thus arrive first (in DUCHESS OF YORK) and without much preparation for them.
(3) Adm. Amanrich represents that difficulties, particularly financial, are involved as such matters were entrusted to party travelling by air.
(C. in C. Med., 2246A/15 to Admty.)

Enemy / ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Enemy P.C. and S. four unknown 40.22 N. 14.05 E.
Units. 180° 8 knots. Request instructions.
(A/C. GLZ/H., 2300B/15 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
My 2300 enemy has altered course to approx.
035° 7 knots. Request instructions.
(A/C. GLZ/H., 2320A/15 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of four unknown 40.30 N. 14.10 E., 035° 2 knots.
(A/C. GLZ/H., 2355/15 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

U.S. Air For: Arnold, Spaatz, Bissell, Andrews.
Report. From: Brereton.
(1) When 18 Liberator aircraft 98th Group
dropped 90 bombs of 1,000 pounds each on Naples
Harbour night of March 13th, cloud coverage of
10/10th over target obscured results. 21 aircraft 98th
Group and 12 aircraft 376th Group started on mission originally.
All of 376th Group turned back due to weather. 2 aircraft
98th Group returned early due to weather and mechanical
failures. (2) Later same night 6 Liberators 178th Squadron
R.A.F. operating under 9th Bomber Command Control dropped 20
bombs of 1,000 pounds each on Naples. Results again not
observed due to clouds.
(Cairo, No.T.O.O/15, to H.Q. Etousa.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

P.B.30. Convoy P.B.30 Bombay portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0518Z/15 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy M.B.28. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0638Z/15 to Admty.)

C. in C.E.F. In view of number of officers taking passage
visit to U.K. in BIRMINGHAM, I intend to embark in
to Cape MAURITIUS and proceed in accordance with the
re A/S instructions contained in your 2005/14th
measures. sailing from Kilindini on 18th.
2. I intend to return to Kilindini in SUSSEX
leaving Durban early in April.
3. C. in C.S.A. is being asked if he can dock
MAURITIUS in view of my 0759/12th and your
2040/4th.
(C. in C.E.F. 0901Z/15 to Admty.)

P.B.30 Arrival 0345Z JUMNA, BATHURST, SEA BELLE with
M.B.28. P.B.30. 0445Z RAJPUTANA with M.B.28.
(S.O.I. Bombay 0903C/15 to Admty. etc.)

Movement 1. GAMBIA left Mauritius 14th due Kilindini 17th.
summary 2. WARSPITE and destroyers QUILLIAM, FOXHOUND,
No.48 15th. NEPAL left Kilindini 11th due Durban 16th.
3. CERES left Kilindini 15th escorting one
transport to Aden.
4. DAUNTLESS left Bombay 11th for Bahrein.
5. KANIMBLA escorting 2 ships left Fremantle 8th due Colombo 19th.
7. CAIRNS left Kilindini 12th due Tulear 18th March.
8. SONAVATI left Trincomalee 13th due Cocos Is. 19th.
9. CARNATIC left Seychelles 11th due Bombay 17th.
Following Y message is cancelled 217 Y of 3rd March.
(C. in C.E.F. 0917Z/15 to Eastern Fleet (224 Y) Admty. (R)
C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. R.3.F. C.A., N.O.I.C. Aden.) Amended
1346Z/16.

BILLOW. Arrival BILLOW with 4 I.W.T. Craft.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi 1336Z/15 to Admty. (R)
C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N. etc.)

Movements. ALBATROSS, QUICKMATCH, DEVONSHIRE arrival. Left
CERES.
(F.O. East Africa 1406Z/5 to Admty.)
Colombo departures 15th. 0945Z BARMILL 1130Z SCOUT.
(F.O. Ceylon 1507Z/15 to Admty.)

Suspected C. in C. Pacific Fleet reports that at 1900
German G.M.T. 10th D/F gave position 043°. S. 056°.
Ships. E. of suspected German Ships.
(C. in C. E.F. 1434Z/15 to F.O. Ceylon C. in C.
S.A. (R) Admty. (for D.N.I.).

/Your...

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German Ships.
Contd.

Your 1434Z/15. This transmission was originally made at 1753Z/10 on U-Boat frequency 12260 K/cs and was fixed in approx 37° 30' S. 23° E, being repeated at 1900Z/10 and 1923Z/10 on Dan frequencies.
(D.D.I.C. 2015A/15 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon C. in C.S.A.)

Convoy
Titles.

Your 0723/14. Short title C.A. is in use already propose to promulgate C.X. and X.C. instead.
2. T.J. will be amended to A.J.
(D.T.D. 2024A/15 to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon.)
Concur C. in C.E.F.1221Z/16 to Admty.

Um
Qsar
Port
Facilities.

M.G.A/57254 Cipher 108322. 15 March.
Personal Q.M.G. from M.G.Q. In view changing position here (?my) proposals regarding Um Qsar Port as follows.
1. Propose to cancel orders for construction of third berth. This will avoid extension Holloway's contract beyond present period.
2. Propose to open one berth only to ensure that possible troop moves do not interfere with ship discharge over next few months. Also to get port machinery run in in case wanted later and allow improvements to No.10 berth Basra to be carried out as already planned.
3. Grateful your views. In judging position you may wish to know (a) (?Im Qsar) now working to 5-6,000 T.D. and further increase possible. (b) Progress being made on reduction shipping hold up which now expected to be completely clear early May.
(C. in C. Persia and Iraq No.T.O.O. Recd. 0400/16.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

WESTON, WESTON is originator. Ref. (corrupt group)
C.U.I. my 1601 (?Z/14th) (1001/14 intended) FOLKESTONE,
slow escorts. WESTON and TOTLAND are now at 2 hours notice
for sea. Request sailing instructions.
(C.A.F.A.C. 0303/15 to Cmdre. Caribbean S.F.
C.A.F.A.C. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C.
in C.Atlantic Fleet and C. in C.Atlantic Fleet,
pass to following C. in C.W.A. S.B.N.O.W.At.)

ANNAPOLIS. E.T.A. 1030Z/15th.
(ANNAPOLIS 0303Z/15 to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. D.)

U/B. Following received from Lands End Radio.
Intercept. 0400 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. De P.J.C. SSS
De P.J.X. submarine sighted 13° 38' N. 72° 41' W.
at 0220/15Z.
(Plymouth C.C.O. 0502/15 to Admty.)

A.T.38. D/F at 0045Z indicates U-Boat in your vicinity.
(QUEEN (D.D.I.C. 0635A/15 to A.T. 38 (R) C. in C.W.A.
ELIZABETH.) H.Q.C.C. Cominch.)

Air Report. A.746 Z.98.
(B) A/C O.B.O.E/5 Br. Sqdn. sighted and attacked
U-Boat in position 49° 58' N. 45° 34' W. at 1918
G.M.T/14th. 4 D/Cs dropped - attack believed
probable damage possible kill. U.S. operations
sighted 7 submarines and made 2 attacks in area
50° 30' to 51° 30' N. 47° 30' to 48° 30' W.
(A.O.C.E.A.C. Halifax 0910/15 to Air Min (R)
Admty. etc.)

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed
summary.	8 L.C.I.(L)s.	34½° N. 31½° W.	074°	10
1800 G.M.T.		(Position doubtful)		
15th.	S.S. ANDES	35° N. 51½° W.	297°	19
	(D.O.D.(F) 0946Z/15 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)			

Movements. Arrival 1834QR/14th FOLKESTONE arrival 0917QR/
15th EXE.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao 0955QR/15 to Admty.)
Arrival Vieux Fort U.S. C.G. 352.
(B.R.O. St. Lucia 1303Q/15 to Admty.)

Departure IROQUOIS for St. Johns N.F. VEGREVILLE, WASAGA
escorting H.J. 40.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 1800Z/15 to Admty.)

/TENACITY...

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- TENACITY. Passed by CLEMATIS. On arrival TENACITY should be berthed before fuelled to blow down boiler and effect immediate repair to boiler tubes. My P.C. and S. 048° 14' N. 049° 12' W. 250°. 9 knots. weather report.
(TENACITY 1020Z/15 to C.C.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C. C.T. 24.)
- O.N. 170.
CHELSEA. F.O.N.F. 1815Z/13th (1415/13 intended). Shall we leave convoy now 24.18.6 has joined.
(CHELSEA 1125Z/15 to C.T.F. 24. (R) F.O.N.F.)
- H.F. 42. Sailing telegram. 2. Halifax 1200Z/15.
3. E.T.A. St. John N.B. 1300Z/17. 4. 7.5 knots.
5. S. 43.11 N. 65.23 W. T. 43.12 N. 66.10 W.
U. 43.46 N. 66.44 W. V. 44.20 N. 66.40 W.
6. MILLTOWN, SWIFT CURRENT,
(N.C.S.O. 1145Z/15, 1147Z/15 to Admty.)
- B.Y.M.S. San Pedro arrived 1530Z/14 B.Y.M.S. 11, 12 and 20.
(N.S.H.Q. 1234Z/15 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)
Departure Bermuda ACHILLES in accordance with N.O.B. Bermuda's 2310/13th.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 1300Z/15 to Admty.)
- H.X. 229A. Arrivals SNOWBERRY, BARRIE (?ELK), H.X. 229A.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 1304Z/15 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Connav, B.A.D. C. in C.W.A. F.O.N.F. C.T.F.24.)
- H.X. 229
Escort. Estimate HIGHLANDER, ABELIA, SHERBROOKE will not join H.X. 229 until 18th. In view of weakness of escort (A) VOLUNTEER continue with H.X. 229.
(B) MANSFIELD, WITHERINGTON make every effort to refuel. Continue with convoy until HIGHLANDER, ABELIA, SHERBROOKE join or to prudent limit of Endurance fuelling at Iceland.
(?C) If required.
(C.T. 24 1345Z/15 to VOLUNTEER, (R) HIGHLANDER, C. in C.W.A. Cominch C. and R. WITHERINGTON, MANSFIELD. C.O.A.C. C.C.N.F.)
- A.T. 39
(EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND) Convoy A.T. 39. Request you will sail EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND so as to cross 10° W. at daylight 31st thence to Clyde.
2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange maximum air protection.
3. Fighter protection codeword "Sleeve."
(D.O.D.(H) 1417A/15 to Connav, (R) C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.H.F. F.O.I.C. Greenock, H.Q.F.C. H.Q.C.C.)

/U.S....

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

U/S S/M (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1455/15, 1456/15, 1545/15,
Notice, 1546/15, 1547/15.)
Submarine
Estimate
15th March.

IROQUOIS. At 1500Z/15 sailed IROQUOIS to St. Johns N.F.
through A. 44.35 N. 62.00 W. B. 45.00 N. 59.30 W.
C. 46.15 N. 52.40 W. D. 47.30 N. 52.15 W.
speed 20 knots E.T.A. 2000Z/16.
2. Request ship be sailed to Scapa in accordance with
Admiralty 1046/8.
(C.O.A.C. 1535/15 to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

Dispositions. Section east. H.X. 229A 40th escort group 50.22
49.28 340° 9. Altering to 000° in 51.05 N.
W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.1 48.28 50.40 en route St.
Johns N.F.
O.N. 170 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.6 (E) 46.07 49.40 204° 9 alter to
267° in 43.50 N.
M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16 47.30 51.35 255° 12 en route Argentina.
O.N. 169 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.5 44.35 56.54 269° 7 alter to 248°
in 60.40 W.
CHELSEA escorting one merchant ship 47.38 50.01 en route St.
Johns N.F.
ABELIA 48.30 49.40 to overtake H.X. 229.
U.S.S. CAMPBELL towed by NORTHLAND escorted by LEAMINGTON,
FAUNCE, JUNALUSKA, ACTIVE 46.48 52.50 194° 5 en route Argentina.
H.M. Submarine L.23 on surface escorted by NANAIMO 44.55 57.42
266° 6.5 knots altering to 244° in 44.45 61.03. (Amended
see 1855Z/15.)
FREDERICTON 45.38 56.46 en route to Halifax 12 knots.
BACCALIEU BURGEO 45.50 59.28 to Louisburg as ice permits.
J.H. 42 STRATFORD, KENTVILLE departed St. Johns 1830Z/15th
for position 47.32 52.32 thence 194, 8.
TENACITY 47.50 50.25 en route to St. Johns speed 12.
SS. LANARKSHIRE 42.10 48.25 087° 14.5
EROS 40.45 53.55 265° 13.
(C.O.A.C. 1640Z/15 to Admty.)
Amended 0215Z/16.
My 1640/15th amend NANAIMO escorting L.23 044 32' 058° 59'
278° 8 alter to 244° in 044° 45' 061° 03' add U.S.S. KENDRICK
044° 08' 054° 44' 256° 27' altering to 270° in 060° 00' W.
(C.O.A.C. 1855Z/15 to Admty.)

N.W. Atlantic C.N.S. Canada's 1702/14th. If and when C. in C.
Command, Canadian North West Atlantic takes over from
designations C.T.F. 24 it is proposed that U.S. Navy Task
of groups. Unit designations should be replaced by Group
Numbers as follows Mid Ocean Canadian Groups
C. One to C.7 British Groups B.8 to B.20
Western Local Groups W. One to W.14.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

N.W. Atlantic Command, designations of groups. (Contd.) / 2. The present A.3 groups to become C.5 groups following will maintain 5 effective groups in mid-ocean and 2 additional groups refitting or working up in Western Local 11 effective groups will be maintained and 3 additional groups refitting or working up.
3. The above arrangements will allow all escort vessels to be allotted a definite group and will avoid present uncertainty as to which ships are effective in (?each) group. Complete group will be withdrawn or serviced for refit and for working up as a team and not as at present indiscriminately (?from) all groups.
4. Request your earliest comment.
(N.S.H.Q. 1714Z/15 to Admty. (R) Cominch, C. in C.W.A. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. Naval Member Canadian Joint Staff Washington.)

NANAIMO. L.23. At 1600Z/15th my P.C. and S. are 044° 28' N. 058° 16' W. 278° 8 knots. Escorting L.23. Weather report.
(NANAIMO 1716Z/15 to C.O.A.C. C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.)

COPIAPO (Chilean.) (Group omitted) Vessel COPIAPO aground about three miles W.N.W. Madinga Point, Guayas River. Condition now serious as Sandbanks building around her. Have issued instructions that all confidential and secret books be withdrawn.
(S.O.I. Callao 1730R/15 to Admty. (for D.N.I.))

Oiling at Sea. Your 1045/14. Oiling at sea gear for ESSO PATERSON was placed on board CARIBBEAN at New York for transfer in Curacao.
2. CARIBBEAN is to load at Curacao but report of sailing from New York gives destination Aruba. If vessel therefore arrives Aruba she is to proceed to Curacao to load and to transfer oiling at sea gear to ESSO PATERSON.
3. Gear should not be removed from SAINTONGE.
(D.T.D. 1733A/15 to B.R.L.O. Curacao, (R) B.R.L.O. Aruba, B.A.D.)

U/B. R.C.A.F. Harvard trainer reports periscope sighted five miles west Cape Beale at 1735/14. 2 Kittyhawks, 2 Bolonabrokes and H.M.C. ships investigated with no results.
(C.O.P.C. 1746Z/15 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. S.B.N.O.W. At. Cominch, Opnav, C.N.W.S.F. (R) G.O.C. in C. A.O.C. W.A.C.)

/American...

War Diary.

15.3.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

American ships for Iceland shuttle service. Your 2128/13th, (N.T. in W.D.). 2305/3rd para. 4 confirmed.
2. My 2257/12th refers to their relief from present duties in their capacity as support group. (B.A.D. 1755Z/15 to Admty.)

STEPHEN C. FOSTER. STEPHEN C. FOSTER (U.S.) Hull damage ex H.X. 229. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1806Z/15 to Admty.)

Rescue tugs. S.B.N.O. W.A. 1232/13. (Temporary tug required at Bermuda until ASPIRANT is ready.) Approved. Request necessary arrangements be made. (Capt. i/c Rescue tugs 1917A/15 to B.A.D. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.)

ST. CLAIR, THE PAS, BLAIRMORE, KAMSACK. E.T.A. 1000Z/16. THE PAS, KAMSACK, BLAIRMORE, (Defects.) (ST. CLAIR 1956Z/15 to F.O.C.N.F.)

WYOMING. Sunk at 2000Z. (Radio Washington 2200/15 to Admty.) See North Atlantic.

THORSTRAND (Nor.) Due St. John N.B. March 10th has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. 2010Z/15 to Admty. Connav, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

ACHILLES. information. You may sight following ships a.m. 16th CARITAS Swiss eastbound MARIA CHRISTINA Portuguese westbound p.m. 16th THETIS Swiss westbound p.m. 17th IRISH ROSE Eire westbound a.m. 18th MONTE JARINDO Spanish eastbound. (N.S.H.Q. 2033Z/15 to ACHILLES, (R) Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. A. Plane attacks sub 49.52 N. 45.34 W. 1920Z/14. B. B.18 sights sub on surface course 180 13.38 N. 72.41 W. 0220Z/15. Army Plane attacks one sub 51.25 N. 48.25 W. 1220Z/14 sights another 1320Z/14 same Area. C. Army plane sights sub on surface course 350 05.04 S. 33.40 W. 1110Z/15. Two B.17 sight six subs. attack two Area 50.30 N. 47.30 W. on 14th. D. Y.P. 388 attacks sound contact 34.18 N. 76.29 W. 1720Z/15. K.14 sights oil slack 42.48 N. 70.17 W. 1755/14. (Cominch 2153/15 to Admty.) Asking for details of attack (Admty. 1714A/19 to B.A.D.)

/Solops 8...

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Solops 8. Japanese are reported concentrated on East Coast Bougainville at Numa Numa. Small enemy vessel destroyed by P.38s near Rendova Island on March 13th. (B.A.D. 2225Z/15 to C. in C.E.F. (R) Concentric Colombo, C.O.S. Kilindini, F.L.O. Delhi.)

Bermuda A/S Base. Admiralty's 1538/14 (date of arrival of first A/S vessel at Bermuda for full working up.) Approx. date third week in April. (B.A.D. 2315Z/15 to S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q. (R) Admt. C.O.A.C. Capt. D. Halifax, Cmdre. i/c Bermuda, F.O.(S) SOMERS ISLES, F.O.N.F.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Wellington U.S.S. TRACER? to R/V in Hauraki Gulf at 2200Z/16 and escort BLOEMFONTEIN to Noumea.

(D.N.I. Wellington 0438Z/15 to Admt.)

Arrival Milne Bay 14th VENDETTA, Darwin 14th INVERELL. Departure Port Moresby 14th BROOME for (?Thursday Is.) Cairns 14th SWAN for Port Moresby Sydney 14th (U.S.(D) MUSTIN?) U.S.(D) HUGHES for Noumea Fremantle 14th U.S. Seaplane tender CHILDS for Exmouth Gulf.

(A.C.N.B. 1801Z/15 to A.I.G. 115.)

Hired Transport TAROONA arrived Fall River 14th March. Hospital ship CENTAUR arrived Sydney (N.S.W.) 14th. Hired Transport DUNTROON departs Cairns 15th due Townsville 15th. U.S. Transport BONTEKOE departed Fall River 14th due Townsville 17th. Dutch Naval Store ship MINJAK TANAH arrived Cairns 14th departs 15th due Thursday Island 17th thence Augusta. (A.C.N.B. 1132Z/15 to Admt.)

ILE DE FRANCE, My 0045Z/4th para. 2. ILE DE FRANCE now due to sail from Fremantle 23rd arrive Durban (?2nd) QUEEN MARY, April arrive Capetown 6th April. QUEEN MARY depart Fremantle (?29th) arriving Capetown 6th April. AQUITANIA departs Fremantle 31st arriving Capetown 11th April. (A.C.N.B. 1007Z/15 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. Dep. Chief Pretoria, S.S.T.O. Capetown, S.S.T.O. Durban.)

/Destroyers...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Destroyers,
leave of
personnel.

C. in C.E.F. 0927/15th. Concur. On arrival of 2 destroyers endeavour will be made to relieve all ratings who do not volunteer to recommission. In any case all will obtain leave. (A.C.N.B. 1009Z/15 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. Cmdre. D.)

Solops. 8.

(B.A.D. 2225Z/14 to C. in C.E.F.)
See America & West Indies.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1332A/15, 1405A/15.)

U.S. Weekly
Summary.

Your 1059B/22 July. Following promising attacks reported week ending 2400Z/14 March. 8 U.S.N. aircraft attacked fully surfaced submarine at 12.38 N. 54.49 W. Dropped 4 Mark 44 depth charges in salvo from 75 feet and fired 115 rounds 50 cal. and 30 rounds of 30 cal. Submarine lifted and broke in two then sank, debris, smoke, and water thrown 30 feet in air. At least 11 men seen in water. Not yet reported whether any rescued. * March 10 and 11 preliminary reports from HARVESTER and French ACONIT are that two and possibly three U-Boats were sunk by depth charging and ramming approx. 52.00 N. 29.00 W. Four prisoners from U.444 21 from U.432. U.442 also reported sunk may be confused with U.444. Belated reports from Pacific: Jan. 28 U.S.S. RADFORD obtained Radar contact followed by sighting of submarine 09.24 S. 159.28 E. Submerged before guns could be fired made depth charge attack large quantities of oil resulted. Aerial photographs taken four days later showed submarine beached believed to be the one attacked by RADFORD. Feb. 11 U.S.S. FLETCHER made sound contact while following up attack by plane 14.24 S. 161. 59 E. Made depth charge attack. Five minutes after charges detonated two underwater explosions heard. Diesel oil slick two miles in diameter, large amount of debris, deck planking Colla and cork observed. (Cominch 2135Z/15 to Admty. (R) Comnavu.)
* W.D.Note:- D.O.R. says this occurred on night 14/15 March which seems doubtful.

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.

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